

GREENFIELD

Fan favorites, new vendors convening at Friday's Independence Day celebration

By MARY BYRNE
Staff Writer

GREENFIELD — The annual Independence Day celebration at Beacon Field is returning Friday, with new vendors and food options joining the ranks of old favorites.

The decades-long tradition of gathering at Beacon Field will begin at 4 p.m. with a selection of mixed music, according to Recreation Director Christy Moore. Music will be followed by performances from Pizzazz Dance Studio and local bands Lakeside Drive and Janet Ryan & Straight Up.

"It's one of my favorite events," Moore said. "So many people fill the field and they're just happy; we all need some happiness."

In addition to some old food truck favorites, such as Cliff's Smokin' Backyard BBQ and All Things Maple, Barts Ice Cream and Cocina Lupita will also be at Beacon Field on Friday evening.

At 7:10 p.m., the annual Fortin Family Award will be presented. The award is named in memory

of Ken and Tina Fortin, and recognizes an individual or family that has dedicated service to the community is support of the Recreation Department.

"Ken and Tina Fortin were members of the Friends of the Recreation Department, and they're the ones ... who brought (the fireworks) back to Poet's Seat Tower," Moore explained. "They contributed over three decades of volunteer service to the city."

The fireworks, set to launch at 9:35 p.m., will be preceded by a performance from the Greenfield Military Band and the national anthem, sung by Frontier Regional School student Adelaide Ehle.

"I'm very excited to hear her, because (Janet Ryan) said she's phenomenal," Moore said, explaining Ryan, of Janet Ryan & Straight Up, is a music teacher at Frontier Regional School in South Deerfield.

Moore said as far as fundraising goes for the event, the department is about \$5,000 short of the \$18,000 goal. Money for the event has been raised through

sponsors and donations, as well as the inaugural Cornhole Tournament at Court Square. The tournament, she said, helped to raise upwards of \$900.

"It was really successful, and I know it's going to be popular next year," Moore said, adding that she hopes the recreation commissioners are on board with holding it again in future years.

Donations can be made online now and after the event, via greenfieldrecreation.com/fireworks.html.

"We also collect that night at the field, at the Recreation (Department) tent," she added.

The rain date for the fireworks is Tuesday, July 5.

"I'm just looking forward to everyone coming and having a great time," Moore said. "This is all organized by the Recreation Department and the Recreation Commission, with support from the Department of Public Works, as far as setting up the stage."

Reporter Mary Byrne can be reached at mbyrne@recorder.com or 413-930-4429. Twitter: @MaryEByrne



STAFF FILE PHOTO/DAN LITTLE

Hundreds gather at Beacon Field to watch fireworks launch from Poet's Seat Tower in Greenfield in 2018. The annual Independence Day celebration is returning Friday, with new vendors and food options joining the ranks of old favorites.