

# 'It's for fun'

Bea the dog is ready for Greenfield's Winter Carnival ... are you?

Story by Kathleen McKiernan

**O**n Sunday, Bea, a four-year-old German short-haired pointer, and her owner, Nate Bernard, will head to Beacon Field in Greenfield, where they will meet dozens of other dogs and owners waiting expectantly for the third annual K-9 Keg Pull during Greenfield's 93rd annual Winter Carnival.

At around 1 p.m., Bea will get strapped into a harness that's tethered to a "half-size," empty beer keg. Then, she will race the length of Beacon Field's outdoor ice skating rink and toward the finish line, where Bernard will be waiting for her. "Her focus is to run to me at the finish line. She has separation anxiety. That's what her advantage is," said Bernard, who lives in Turners Falls.

Bea is the reigning champion with the fastest overall time last year and will be racing to defend her two-time, first-place title in her size class. While some pups need motivation like treats, others, like Bea, are natural athletes. She doesn't train for the race since she is already fit from running alongside Bernard when he mountain bikes and hikes.

"We don't take it too seriously," said Bernard. "It's a great idea to donate and see Bea have fun."

The race, which raises money for the Paws Park of Greenfield, has five categories: full keg, half keg, quarter keg, bubba keg and an empty beer can for the small dogs. There are first-, second- and third-place awards in each category.

Last year, 45 dogs competed, including Tucker, a 2½-year-old mutt who will return this year. His owner, Heather Valeta, and her husband will split up, one will be at the starting line and the other at the finish line. "Once he feels

resistance from the keg, I'll yell to Tucker to come to me," Valeta said.

To help motivate Tucker, Valeta will have a Milk-Bone treat ready.

Megan Edson of the Mighty Clean Mutt, a dog grooming salon, helps owners figure out what size keg is appropriate for their dog. "It's generally based on the size of the dog and what the owner thinks they can pull," said Rachael Kashner, race coordinator.

The race doesn't have strict sizing rules, Kashner added. If a bigger dog has a hip problem, he can pull a smaller keg. Or, if there's a smaller dog that is strong, the owner can try a bigger keg. In general, larger dogs, like a St. Bernard, will pull the full keg.

"It's for fun. If a dog doesn't do it, it's OK. It doesn't matter," said Rachael Kashner, the coordinator. "It's always funny and just as cute."

It is \$10 to register the day of the race, at Beacon Field. You can register in advance online for \$5: [www.greenfieldrecreation.com/wintercarnival](http://www.greenfieldrecreation.com/wintercarnival)

This year, a donation box for the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter will be on hand.

The quirky dog race is one of the popular events during annual three-day festival — Friday, Feb. 6, through Sunday, Feb. 8 — which, if forecasters have it right, will be one of the snowiest in recent memory. The theme this year is "Frozen" and throughout the weekend, characters from that popular 2013 Disney movie will be out and about town.

The Winter Sisters, Anna and Elsa, along with mountaineer Kristoff, will drop by to meet with families Saturday at the Greenfield Youth Center, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

There will be multiple chances to see Bea and Tucker. See CARNIVAL Page D2



Nate Bernard of Turners Falls, and his dog, Bea, shown here at Beacon Field in Greenfield, won the winter carnival K-9 Keg Pull last year. Below, Bea, a German shorthair pointer, in action last year.



Image courtesy of Rachael Kashner





# ■ Carnival: Family friendly fun Friday-Sunday

From Page D1

es to celebrate winter in “Frozen” style, including ice skating to the movie soundtrack and running a 4-mile race named after Sven, the reindeer.

The winter carnival is also adding a new parade of lights in which illuminated vehicles will travel from Newton School to Beacon Field with bright displays. The application deadline has passed. Entries will line up at the Newton School parking lot at 70 Shelburne Road at 4:30 p.m. to be ready to go by 5:45 p.m.

A lot of family fun is planned. Here is the schedule:

## Friday

**5 to 7 p.m.,** Beacon Field bonfire, people can roast marshmallows and hotdogs while warming up.

There will be live ice carving downtown all day. (Voting on best sculptures will take place Sunday, Feb. 8, at 10 a.m., at the Town Common.)

**7 p.m.,** Fireworks display will shoot off from Poet’s Seat Tower, which overlooks Beacon Field.

## Saturday

**9:30 to 10 a.m.,** Greenfield Youth Center, 20 Sanderson St. Families can enter the Lego competition for children in kindergarten through grade 6. Competitors can drop off their creations during that time, along with a \$3 entry fee.

**9 a.m., 10:15 and 11:30 a.m.,** Youth Basketball League will host games at the Greenfield Middle School. Those 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is free.

**10 a.m.,** Sven’s Reindeer Run, a 4-mile road race, will take off from Hope Street and head toward the Highland Park area. Register at the Recreation Department, 20 Sanderson St., 413-772-1553, online at [www.greenfieldrecreation.com/](http://www.greenfieldrecreation.com/) wintercarnival or, on the day of race, at the Hope and Olive restaurant, from 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded for top finishers in each age division. First 75 entrants receive a T-shirt and sleigh bell bracelets. For those who have yet to register, entry will cost \$25 up to and including race day. Youth under the age of 18 are half price.

**11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.,** Greenfield Youth Center, 20 Sanderson St., artwork by Greenfield Middle School students will be on display on the second floor.

**11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,** Greenfield Youth Center, 20 Sanderson St., children can get their faces painted and make “Frozen”-themed crafts. Also, board games provided by Greenfield Games.

**1 p.m.,** Public ice skating at the Collins/Moylan Arena, 41 Barr Ave. (adjacent Greenfield High School). The Winter Carnival special is \$3 admission, \$5 for skate rentals.

**3:30 p.m.,** Cribbage tournament begins on Second Floor of the Greenfield Youth Center, 20 Sanderson St. Open to all ages. \$10



Recorder file/ Beth Reynolds

At noon on Sunday, the Franklin County sheriff’s hockey team will take on the Franklin County firefighters in a pond hockey game at Beacon Field.



Recorder File photo

The weather forecast indicates this will be one of the snowiest Winter Carnivals in recent memory.

registration fee. Registration begins at 3:15 p.m. Boards and cards will be available. Winner and runner-ups will receive custom-made cribbage boards. Pizza and drinks will be available for purchase.

**6 to 8 p.m.,** The 23rd annual David M. Petrin Memorial Alumni hockey game will begin. Greenfield High School students will take on alumni at the skating rink at Beacon Field. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Proceeds benefit the David M. Petrin Memorial Scholarship presented each year to graduating seniors.

## Sunday

**8 a.m.,** Breakfast with Olaf, 99 Restaurant, 17 Colrain Road. Olaf the Snowman will dine with family and friends. Tickets are \$6 per person. Children \$10 and under cost \$4. This popular event often fills up. Tickets are available in advance from the town’s Recreation Department — 20 Sanderson St., 413-772-1553 — or at the door.

**10 a.m.,** A snowshoeing trek will

begin at the Highland Pond parking lot through the Rocky Mountain trails. Free guided walk, 60 to 90 minutes. Bring your own snowshoes.

**1 to 3 p.m.,** Collins/Moylan Arena, 41 Barr Ave. (adjacent Greenfield High School), public ice skating, \$5 admission, \$5 skate rental.

**Beacon Field,** There will be ongoing sledding and outdoor ice skating. Families can also take part in building a snowman for the Arendelle Snowman Village or participate in the Elsa’s Snow Sculpture Contest with judging at 3:15 p.m.

**Noon,** Families can drop off their favorite cookies at Beacon Field for the annual cookie contest. A minimum of two dozen cookies per entrant are required. Also at that time, local restaurants will compete for the title of “Best Chili Around.”

**Noon,** The Franklin County Sheriff’s Hockey Team will challenge the Franklin County Firefighters at the Beacon Field outdoor rink for a pond hockey game.

**Noon to 4 p.m.,** Eastern



Metro Graphics



Recorder file photo

The Cardboard Sled Contest begins at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Beacon Field. In this file photo, Brook Melnik rides Gold Digger in 2011.

Mountain Sports of Hadley will provide free snowshoe and cross-country ski demonstrations. Also, the Tetrault Farm will provide horse-drawn hay rides and pony rides: \$3 for adults, \$2 for children age 2 to 16, children under 2 are free.

**12:30 p.m.,** A traditional tug of war open to anybody.

**1 p.m.,** The third annual K9 Keg Pull will start.

**1 p.m.,** People can attempt to bowl on Beacon Field’s outdoor skating rink.

**2:30 p.m.** The Cardboard Sled Contest begins. Even if there’s no snow — which seems unlikely this year — sleds will be judged on creativity and construction. These are the rules:

■ Sled MUST be made of cardboard. Papier-mache, tape, glue and paint permitted.

■ Sleds may not have plastic wrap, wood or other bottom surface material, or runners (unless cardboard). Tape is OK.

■ Parents may help children build their sleds.

■ One entry per person. Prizes will be awarded for the following categories: Youth (under 16), fastest, most creative, zaniest and best crash; Group (two or more all ages), fastest, most creative, zaniest and best crash; Adults (16 and over, single riders), fastest and most creative; Corporate Challenge, best design; Overall Best “Frozen Theme”; Overall People’s Choice.

**3:45 p.m.,** The carnival will finish with the awards ceremony for winners of the ice carving, card board sled race, cookie bake-off, chili cook-off, sculpture contest, Lego contest, K9 keg pull and parade of light.

For more information: [www.greenfieldrecreation.com/wintercarnival](http://www.greenfieldrecreation.com/wintercarnival).

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