

GREENFIELD

# ‘The highlight of summer’



STAFF PHOTO/MARY BYRNE

Dancers from Pizazz Dance Studio put on an hourlong show at Beacon Field in Greenfield on Monday before the fireworks.

## Community excited to be back at Beacon Field for fireworks, festivities

By MARY BYRNE  
Staff Writer

GREENFIELD — The community gathered at Beacon Field Monday evening for the annual Independence Day fireworks show, excited to be back after a year hiatus in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I’ve been going since I was little,” said Jessie Glod of Ashfield, who was there with her children on Monday. “We had to make it work last year, but it’s really nice to be back.”

Her friend, Dasha Hanson of Framingham, said it was nice to see everyone singing and dancing along to the music and stage performances that preceded the fireworks show at 9:35 p.m.

“It’s definitely the highlight of the summer,” she said.

The first to take to the stage for the celebration were dancers from Pizazz Dance



STAFF PHOTO/MARY BYRNE

Members of the community began gathering early at Beacon Field in Greenfield on Monday for the annual Independence Day fireworks.

SEE PEOPLE A8





STAFF PHOTO/MARY BYRNE

Dancers from Pizazz Dance Studio put on a well-received performance at Beacon Field in Greenfield before the fireworks.

## People happy to be out to celebrate

FROM A1

Studio, who put on an hourlong performance. They were followed by the musical group Barely Standing.

"It's so uplifting to see the field full of people, celebrating our Independence Day and about to enjoy an amazing fireworks show," said Recreation Director Christy Moore.

Greenfield residents Kayla and Darren Stover, who were at Beacon Field with their children, said the pre-firework festivities and firework celebration were a first for them, having moved the city just a few years ago.

"We've been trying to do everything we can to see other people," said Kayla Stover.

Sally Dorr drove from her home in Orleans to meet a friend from Springfield for the Greenfield fireworks. It was one of the few Independence Day celebrations she could find, she said, and she was glad to be out in the community again after more than year of a pandemic.

"The camaraderie, the beautiful location, music — it almost reminds me of the '60s," Dorr said. "It's wonderful."

Pre-festivities also included a performance by the local band She Said and a performance by the Greenfield Military Band. Eliza Toponce sang the national anthem. There were vendors selling a variety of food, from smoothies to hot dogs and barbecue items.

Just after 7 p.m., Moore presented the Fortin Family Volunteer Award, which recognizes an individual or family in



STAFF PHOTO/MARY BYRNE

Barely Standing was among the musical acts keeping the growing crowd entertained Monday at Beacon Field before the fireworks celebration.

*“The camaraderie, the beautiful location, music — it almost reminds me of the '60s. It's wonderful.”*

SALLY DORR, Orleans

the community that embodies the qualities of Tina and Ken Fortin, who contributed a significant amount of their time to the Recreation Department and the Friends of Greenfield Recreation. The 2021 award was presented to Rick Roy, a longtime member of the Recreation Department who retired in 2018.

"His generosity extends beyond volunteering at events,"

Moore said. "He continues to amaze us with his one-of-a-kind custom wood trophies for many events that he creates through his business, Pioneer Valley Wood Art. Normally, he carves the award he will be receiving tonight."

She joked that it was a challenge to "dodge inquiries this year."

"Keeping secrets from Rick is not easy," Moore said.

She added that Roy was a "driving force" behind the fundraising drive to put on the fireworks celebration.

"Rick truly embodies the same qualities as Tina and Ken Fortin," Moore said. "For this, we appreciate and honor their dedication to our community."

Mary Byrne can be reached at [mbyrne@recorder.com](mailto:mbyrne@recorder.com) or 413-930-4429. Twitter: @MaryEByrne.