

GREENFIELD

# Winter Carnival: 100 years of ‘making memories’

Celebration begins with a torch lighting on Feb. 4 at 4 p.m.

By MARY BYRNE  
Staff Writer

GREENFIELD — The Centennial Celebration of the Winter Carnival will be as much about reminiscing on celebrations of years past as it will be about looking forward to future ones.

“We want people to reminisce about fun times they’ve had over the years at Winter Carnival and just share memories ... and build memories that last a lifetime,” said Recreation Director Christy Moore. “And what better place to do it than Greenfield?”

After a canceled event last year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the return of the weekend-long event is expected to kick off Feb. 4 with events and activities scheduled throughout the day.

“We’re very happy to be able to offer this special event again, now that we’re familiar with the safety measure we need to do to keep each other safe,” Moore said.

With crafts and entertainment happening earlier in the day, a torch lighting at 4 p.m. at Greenfield Common will mark the official start of the 100th annual Winter Carnival. Later in the evening, a “glow party” will take place at Beacon Field followed by a “warming fire” at 5:30 p.m.

At 6 p.m., the Parade of Lights — a parade of decorated vehicles — will depart from Newton Elementary School and make its way to Beacon Field by way of Main, Federal and Beacon streets. The weekend to follow includes a wide range of in-person and virtual events and activities.

A longstanding tradition, the carnival dates back to the winter of 1922, according to the Recreation Department.



GREENFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The ice palace on the Common during Winter Carnival of January 1923.



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Skijumping circa 1920s.

At its height in the 1920s, an estimated 5,000 spectators attended the 1927 celebration where two ski jumpers leaped through a flaming hoop off the ski jump after dark.

In addition to ski jumping, the event also featured “fancy skating,” speed skaters playing hockey on Highland Pond, a cross country ski race, snowshoe & ski hikes, a Carnival Ball at the Armory, a fireworks display and band at Beacon Field, and ice sculptures at the



FILE PHOTO/DAN LITTLE

Grace Burns, from left, Emerson Waite, Eric Waite, Karin Johnson, and Kaiden Stimson, warm up around the fire during the 96th annual Winter Carnival on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018, at Beacon Field in Greenfield.

common and at private residences, according to the Recreation Department.

“In the 1920s, things were very different as far as the landscape,” Moore said. “We don’t have the toboggan chute that came down at the base of the Poet’s Seat Tower, and we certainly can’t do the ski jump ... but there’s so many outdoor things that we have available, in Greenfield. Some of those things we’ll highlight.”

Reminiscent of carnivals long ago, ice skating will be offered all weekend at Beacon Field, as will a horse drawn sleigh and wagon rides. As part of the vintage snowmobile show and rides on Sunday, people are encouraged to bring their own vintage sleds.

“Our hope is to have people dig out some of the old fashioned sleds that might be in their attics or garages, and have them on display,” Moore said.

And while the ice castle that was built and displayed on the Greenfield common for at least one of the earliest Winter Carnivals, live ice carvings

will take place throughout the weekend. At night, those sculptures will be illuminated.

Overall, this year’s event aims to include a mix of new and old, in an attempt to resonate with how things were a century ago, Moore said. Combining new and old, in particular, will be the Glacier Hideaway, an outdoor ice bar speakeasy outside Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center. “We’re trying to be creative and think about what our little Greenfield looked 100 years ago,” said Recreation Director Christy Moore.

Meg Baker, secretary of the Greenfield Historical Society, said that up until about the 1960s, the Winter Carnival was a major aspect of the winter months in the region.

“In the ‘20s, it was a massive ... social event in town, a little bit like the Fourth of July is now, in terms of big celebrations,” Baker said.

By the 1960s, however, it had waned in popularity, she said. Then, in the 1980s, the event saw a revival.

“If you were a little kid in

## Schedule of events

Staff Report

The following is the schedule of events for the 100th anniversary of the Winter Carnival. For a full list of ongoing events and activities, as well for more information or how to register for individual events, visit <https://www.greenfield-recreation.com/wintercarnival.html> or <https://bit.ly/34gEJNj>.

### Friday, Feb. 4

- 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.: Winter Music with Mandy Leah Oliver (Downtown/Instagram Live: MandyLeahOliverMusic)
- 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.: Take and Make Craft Kits (Greenfield Public Library)
- 4 p.m.: Torch Lighting (Greenfield Common)
- 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.: Warming Fire (Beacon Field)
- 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.: Glow Party (Beacon Field)
- 6 p.m.: Parade of Lights (From Newton Elementary School to Main Street, Federal Street, Beacon Street)
- 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.: The Glacier Hideaway (Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center)
- 6:30 p.m.: LED Glow Show (Beacon Field)
- 7 p.m.: Fireworks (Beacon Field)
- 8 p.m.: No Lens/Whalom Park (Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center) — Western Massachusetts-based folk rock group will be performing at the performing arts venue on Main Street

### Saturday, Feb. 5

Events at 20 Sanderson St.

- 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Family Fun Fest
  - 10 a.m.: Mad Science Show
  - 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.: Free Take-Home Activities
  - 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Face Painting and Crafts for Kids
  - 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Board Game Social – games will be provided by Greenfield Games
- Additional events*
- 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Take and Make Crafts (Greenfield Public Library)
  - 10 a.m.: Virtual Jigsaw Puzzle Contest – Registration required, details can be found at [greenfieldrecreation.com](http://greenfieldrecreation.com)
  - 11:45 a.m.: 12:30 p.m.: Mr. Poppers Penguin’s Family Dance Lesson (Dawn’s School of Dance)
  - Noon – 6 p.m.: Glacier Hideaway (outside Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center)
  - 1 p.m.: Cribbage Tourna-

ment (John Zon Community Center)

- 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.: Beacon Field Blast – a ‘one stop shop for field games and fun’
- 3 p.m.: Fatbike Group Ride (Bicycle World) – participants must bring their own equipment
- 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.: Amazing Race: Winter Carnival Edition (Beacon Field) – teams will have two hours to complete a series of challenges starting at Beacon Field
- 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.: Salsa Saturday at Hawks & Reed – salsa lessons at 3:30, open dance 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- 6 p.m.: The Garden Cinema Presents The Man From Beyond (1922) starring Harry Houdini with accompanist Jeff Rapsis
- 8 p.m.: Soul Magnets – Winter Ball (Hawks & Reed Ballroom)

### Sunday, Feb. 6

- 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.: Adams Donuts with Olaf
  - 11 a.m.: The Garden Cinema presents a Free Showing of Be My Valentine Charlie
  - Noon: Snowshoeing Trek or Winter Hike (Highland Park)
  - Noon – 1 p.m.: Hockey Match (Beacon Field – Franklin County Sheriff’s Office v. Greenfield Fire Department)
  - Noon – 2 p.m.: Vintage Sled Showcase and Ride (Beacon Field)
  - 12:30 p.m.: Community-wide Tug of War (Beacon Field)
  - 1 p.m.: K9 Keg Pull (Beacon Field)
  - 1 p.m.: Ice Bowling (Beacon Field)
  - 1:30 p.m.: Broom Ball (Beacon Field)
  - 1:30 p.m.: Cardboard Sled Check-in (Beacon Field)
  - 2:30 p.m.: Cardboard Sled Contest (Beacon Field)
  - 3:45 p.m.: Awards Ceremony – Announcement of the ice carving, parade of lights, cardboard sled race, vintage snowmobile show, cookie bake-off, chili cook-off and snow sculpture contest winner
- Beacon Field – noon to 4 p.m.**
- Sledding and Outdoor Ice Skating
  - Snowman Village – Bring your own decorations and build your own snowman
  - Snow Sculpture Contest – Judging begins at 3:15 p.m.
  - Warming Fire
  - Music with DJ Jason Antes
  - Snack Bar
  - Cookie Bake-Off
  - Chili Cook-Off (To enter, contact the Recreation Department)
  - Vintage Snowmobiles and Showrides



FILE PHOTO/DAN LITTLE

Slash Dahlstrom-Hakki, from left, Marc Guillaume and Skylar Guillaume work on building a snow castle during the 97th annual Winter Carnival in 2019 at Beacon Field.

the ‘50s, and you remembered it being this cool thing that happened when you were a kid ... it takes the kid growing up, and having their own kids,” Baker said. “There’s a generational pause. You see this in a lot of different things.”

That’s because children

are often what allow traditions to take hold, she said.

“If you bring a 6-year-old to an event, and then again when they’re 7 or 8, it’s enough of their lifetime for it to be a thing they do every year,”

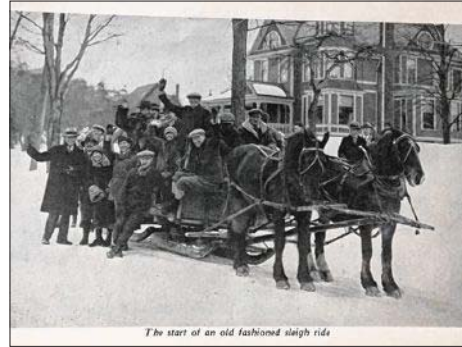
SEE WINTER CARNIVAL C4

# Greenfield winter carnival marks 100 years



**Left:  
Sledding at  
a  
midcentury  
Greenfield  
Winter  
Carnival.**

PHOTO/GREENFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**'The start of an old fashioned sleigh ride' reads the caption of this early photo from the Greenfield Winter Carnival.**

Photo/GREENFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FROM C1

Baker said.

Moore, too, said she's known people who have "aged out" of the activities offered at the annual celebration, only to then start bringing their own families to participate.

"I think that's what making memories is all about, allowing opportunity to create new traditions as well," Moore said.

One newer event that has since become a Winter Carnival tradition, she said, is the ice sculptures that line Main Street each year.

"I think people look forward to that," Moore said. "It's definitely one of my favorite events."

And traditions, Baker said, mean a lot to people.

"We like doing things that are steady and help us ... mark the passage of time through the year," she said. "Especially as we go into year three of the pandemic, it's nice to have things that mark time passing, and to celebrate that we're still here."

For a full list of events, visit [www.greenfieldrecreation.com/wintercarnival.html](http://www.greenfieldrecreation.com/wintercarnival.html). Registration for cer-

tain events, including the Parade of Lights or the Virtual Puzzle Contest, can also be found online.

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