

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Owen Johnson of Ashburnham plays a giant Connect Four game at the 10th annual National Night Out at Gardner High School on Thursday. STEPHEN LANDRY/THE GARDNER NEWS

**Stephen Landry**

The Gardner News | USA TODAY NETWORK

The 10th annual National Night Out lived up to its billing as the ultimate community experience. Hundreds of residents turned out for the event at Gardner High School on Thursday, Aug. 3.

The nationwide event, which is sponsored locally by Gardner Community Action Team, is aimed at rais-

ing awareness about crime and drug prevention, and fostering a positive relationship between law enforcement and the community.

The event featured live music, free raffles, a charity dunk tank, a performance from the Supernatural All-Star cheerleaders of Fitchburg, and a pizza contest.

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**A giant inflatable dart board was a popular attraction at the 10th annual National Night Out at Gardner High School on Thursday.**

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## Night Out

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The title of Best Pizza of 2023 was won by the Gardner Ale House. Dunk tank volunteers included Gardner Police Chief Eric McAvane and Mayor Michael Nicholson. Live music was provided by event regulars the Big Ram Dom of Winchendon.

Representatives from several local nonprofits were in attendance providing information about services and resources available to the public. Participating organizations included LUK Inc., the Gardner Domestic Violence Task Force, the Montachusett Suicide Prevention Task Force, Community Health Connections, Mount Wachusett Community College, and GAAMHA.



**Florence Dupuis, left, and Bernice Richard were recognized for their work with Voices of Truth at the 10th annual National Night Out at Gardner High School on Thursday.**

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**Sarah Carmichael of Westminster successfully dunks Gardner Police Chief Eric McAvane at the 10th annual National Night Out at Gardner High School on Thursday.** STEPHEN LANDRY/THE GARDNER NEWS