



upcoming events

AUG. 9-11

IRISH FAIR OF MINNESOTA
@ HARRIET ISLAND IN ST. PAUL
\$30 GEN. ADMISSION
IRISHFAIR.COM

AUG. 15-18

MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST
@ HENRY MAIER FESTIVAL PARK
\$21 GEN. ADMISSION, \$40 FOUR-DAY PASS
IRISHFEST.COM

AUG. 24

IRISH HOOLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL
@ DUBUQUE STAR BREWERY AT PORT OF DUBUQUE
\$12 GEN. ADMISSION
IRISHHOOLEY.ORG

AUG. 30 - SEPT. 1

ANNUAL KANSAS CITY IRISH FEST
CROWN CENTER SQUARE & WASHINGTON PARK
FRI., 5-11 P.M. / SAT. & SUN., 11-11 P.M.
\$35 WEEKEND PASS
KCIRISHFEST.COM

MONTHLY IRISH "SESSION" OPEN JAMS / 7-9:30 P.M.

1ST TUESDAY @ FIDDLE & WHISTLE, MARSHALLTOWN
2ND TUESDAY @ JAVA JOE'S, DES MOINES
3RD TUESDAY @ COONEY'S, DES MOINES
4TH TUESDAY @ DUBLIN BAY, AMES



The Blarney

upcoming:

Monthly Meeting

Aug. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Menu:
Burgers, Hot Dogs
Beans, Tomatoes, Sweet Corn

Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride
Sept. 21

Next Meeting
September 9

august (lunasa) 2019



this month we meet to honor the 'friends of the friends'

At our annual August gathering we invite the organizations that we charitably help support to a picnic-style meal at the Mickle Center.

But in addition to celebrating with our "community of caring" friends, an even better purpose for your attendance is to help support the **Food Bank of Iowa**.

This private, non-profit association is most deserving of our help. Volunteers distribute food and grocery products to 375 partner agencies in 55 counties, agencies that include soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless and domestic violence shelters, child and adult care centers, and youth and senior programs.

It's quite an operation.

"We've been in operation since 1982, but our Des Moines facility completed a total overhaul in July of 2018. Our 53,000-square-foot distribution center is the hub of distributions totaling more than 1 million lbs. of food each month. That food reaches the tables of 175,000 food insecure Iowans thanks to our network of more than 600 partner agencies — food pantries, meal sites, shelters, and more — all dedicated to ending hunger," said publicist Kay Wolfkill.

(Learn more at www.foodbankiowa.org.)

For many years we have waived the usual \$10 meal fee if you bring a box or sack of non-perishable food to be donated to the cause.

A lot of us have usually headed to any of the local grocery chains to buy an already-packed sack of food items to bring as a donation.

However, consider this.

The folks at Food Bank tell us that the store-bought bag will supply roughly 2 or 3 meals to a needy person family, but cash donations to the Food Bank can produce 4 meals...per dollar!

So your \$10 meal/drink donation may be even more valuable to them than groceries. We can't lose. Make your choice and we'll see you at the meeting this month.

As always, we will be setting up additional tables and chairs to handle the increased attendance, so we would appreciate your early arrival to get "all hands on deck". 🍀



FOODBANK
OF IOWA



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TRACE IT BACK, LADS

There has never been a better time to research Irish family history. A revolution in access to Irish genealogical records has taken place over the past decade.

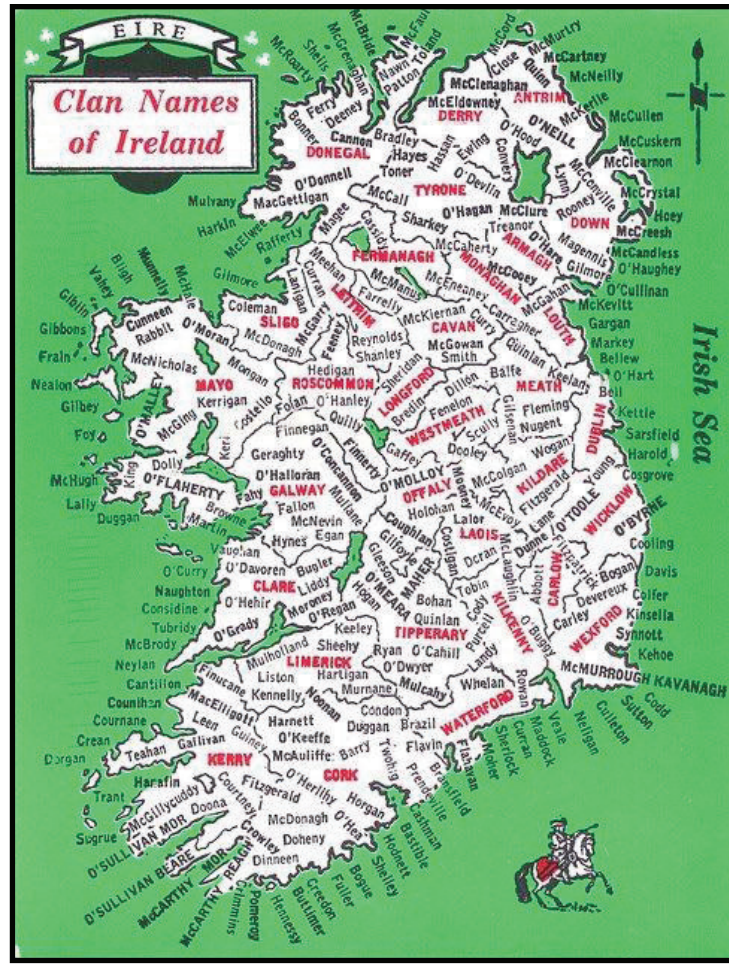
Some credit must go to competition in the marketplace to meet researchers' demands. But most of the change has been driven by the Irish and Northern Irish public sectors. Their increased awareness of the huge numbers who descend from emigrants, and who cherish that historic connection, has had a dramatic effect.

Politicians and public servants now accept that it should be as easy as possible for members of the Irish diaspora to unearth the historical detail of that connection, their family history. Some publicly-funded websites such as *IrishGenealogy.ie* -- *genealogy.nationalarchives.ie* -- *askaboutireland.ie* -- *databases.dublincity.ie* -- and *nidirect.gov.uk/proni* are supplying the tools to make that possible.

The result is that most people of Irish origin can now take their family back to the second quarter of the 19th century quickly and easily and, for the most part, without payment.

To get started, look for an article by John Grenham in the Irish Times (*irishtimes.com*). (Google "how to trace your Irish family history").

There you'll find a step-by-step guide to tracing your background. 🍀



BOARD NEWS

Efforts to help fund our **St. Pat's Parade** are always on the front-burner, but no breakthroughs are in sight yet. And the last we heard, a hoped-for \$5K grant from Polk County doesn't look like it will happen.

Kudos to treasurer **Josh Soliday** for keeping up the search, though!

However, the board is also mulling over a new idea presented by an Iowa fundraising organization that has experience with fests of all kinds in the state. More news on that later, if it happens.

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The **Annual Bags Tournament** held at Sully's last month hosted 19 teams and produced a \$500 profit.

Congrats to **Mike O'Connell** for again smoothly running that fun event.

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The **Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Bike Ride on Sept. 21** is coming together nicely.

Due to the recent closing of Orlando's, a brand new route is in place. Riders will now start at Sully's and use the DM trail system to get onto the path to Cumming.

Posters are up, raffle tickets are available, and bike bags (like those given out last year) are in hand.

Also new this year will be a silent auction held at Sully's one week ahead of ride day.



Wow, summertime just seems to fly by!

As the months pass I'm really pleased to say I feel like we are accomplishing great things as a club!

We had a great day and showed a nice profit for our newest "up and coming" event, the bags tournament. Thanks to all the participants and volunteers who have helped it be a success!

After finding out that we were losing our usual starting point and sponsor of our long-running bicycle ride, we recovered nicely by partnering up with the trusty folks at Sully's Irish Pub. Many thanks to Pat Renda and Orlando's for your support throughout the many years!

We are working on some great ideas to increase the profitability of our parade that could put the club in a comfortable financial situation in the future.

We have added new members to our roster this year who are interested in working on making the club better for all of us and want to see it continue to grow.

With the help of all of our members, our board, our sponsors and our "friends," I feel like we are giving everyone in this club pride in what we can accomplish.

So I will raise a glass and say cheers to you all!

Your honored president, Tony "T-Bone" Schmid

WEARIN' OF THE GRIN



- ♦ I find it ironic that the colors red, white and blue stand for freedom...until they are flashing behind you.
- ♦ When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90% of their body. Men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.
 - ♦ Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?
- ♦ America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote.
- ♦ You know that tingly little feeling you get when you think you love someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.
 - ♦ My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.
- ♦ I think my neighbor is stalking me. She's been Googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.
 - ♦ Money talks...but all mine ever says is good-bye.
 - ♦ You're not "fat," you're just easier to see.
 - ♦ If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.
- ♦ I always wondered what the job application is like at Hooters. Do they just give you a bra and say, "Here, fill this out?"

- ♦ The location of your mailbox shows you how far away from your house you can go in a robe before you start looking like a mental patient.
 - ♦ I think it's pretty cool how the Chinese made a language entirely out of tattoos.
 - ♦ Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch!
 - ♦ Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?
 - ♦ After 65 - if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.
 - ♦ The reason Mayberry was so peaceful and quiet was because nobody was married. Andy, Aunt Bea, Barney, Floyd, Howard, Goober, Gomer, Sam, Ernest T. Bass, Helen, Thelma Lou, Clara and, of course, Opie were all single. The only married person was Otis...and he stayed drunk.
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- Every day, a male employee walks up very close to a female co-worker at the coffee machine. He stops, inhales quite deeply and says that her hair smells nice. After a week of this, the woman can't stand it anymore. She takes her issue to a supervisor in Human Resources and asks to file a sexual harassment grievance against the guy. The supervisor is puzzled and asks, "What's threatening about a co-worker telling you your hair smells nice?" "It's Frank. The midget."

BLARNEYBITS

The **Celtic Music Association concert schedule** for this season is out and the bands look fantastic. As of press time it may be too late to alert you to a show by **Doolin'** on Thursday, Aug. 8, at Hoyt Sherman Auditorium. Day of show admission is \$35 and they play at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming shows:

On Oct. 5 at 8 p.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Hall you can catch a group from Scotland, **Old Blind Dogs**.

Then, on Jan. 11, you can enjoy the music of a Canadian group, **Le Vent du Nord**, also at Holy Trinity at 8 p.m.

An Irish group, **High Time**, will play at Holy Trinity on Feb. 15.

Then the CMA will, for the first time, host a Welsh band called **Calan** at the Franklin Junior High building, a new concert and community venue on the corner of 48th Street and Franklin Avenue.

You can learn more about these bands by checking out their websites and looking for tunes on YouTube.

Also, you can get more information about this 2019-2020 concert series and about the CMA at [facebook.com/celticmusicassociation](https://www.facebook.com/celticmusicassociation) and at thecma.org. 🍀