



# *The Blarney*

## **UPCOMING:**

### **Monthly Meeting:**

**January 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00 P.M.**

**Mickle Center**

**Dinner: Cavatelli, Orlando's Salad,  
Garlic Bread, Dessert**

### **Next Meeting:**

**February 9th**

**6:30 P.M.**

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## **BOARD CONTACT INFO**

**Pres. – Adam McCarty –**

**515-802-0141**

amccarty2000@gmail.com

**Vice Pres. – Justin Dye – 641-757-**

**2375**

Justin.dye.23@gmail.com

**Treas. – Josh Soliday – 577-0990**

Jsoliday2323@gmail.com

**Sec. – Jeff DeMoss – 771-7070**

jjdemoss3@gmail.com

**Parade Chairman –**

**Colton O'Connor – 770-2419**

Migilly2010@gmail.com

**Scott Tilton – 822-2342**

Setilton13@gmail.com

**Donnie Corben -**

**515-205-0528**

donaldduck1423@gmail.com

**Tim Schuck –**

**515-778-8390**

schuck.t@cmbaarchitects.com

**Tony Schmid –**

**515-554-1107**

tbnoutdoors1@gmail.com

## **FEBRUARY (FEABHRA) 2026**

## **BOARD NEWS**

Board and officer elections were held this past month; officer positions remain the same. The board is excited to welcome Connor O'Leary to the board. He will take office at the March meeting.

Mr. Soliday is currently awaiting news on grants and he has also expressed the need for more raffle ticket sales. This is the main funding of our beloved parade and we need to get out there and get some tickets sold. (Or a lot.)

Parade Chairman for life, Mr. Colton O'Connor has the parade planning well at hand. Roughly 6 weeks left until the big event. We will once again have our post parade reception and other events at the Marriott downtown. Also, a breakfast will once again be held in the "Windows on 7th" room from 8-9 a.m. that morning. Per tradition, our Grand Marshal, Queen and Irishman of the Year will be on hand and feted there. Important meeting dates and other valuable information is on the following pages.

The Queen selection meeting will be held on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. Here at the Mickle Center. If you know of any deserving young lady that would be honored to be bestowed the title of 2026 FSOSP Queen, please let a board member know.

Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> we will have our pre-paddy party at the shop in Des Moines from 2 to 6. There will be food trucks there, live music provided by Fat Tuesday, and all the Guinness you care to partake. We will auction off the Parade Marshall position at about halfway through the festivities and hope to have the Foy Dancers also. A free will donation is accepted at the door.

Dates and times for parade meetings are on the following pages.

Don't forget, and I know most of you have, dues are now due. \$50 for the year and it helps us do a lot of good, as well as keep the club running.

## Presidents Pint of View



### Parade Planning Progress

As February begins, our preparations for the parade are intensifying. One significant milestone this month is the Queen interviews, which are scheduled for February 15th. Additionally, we have just completed our participation at the Bike Expo, where we operated a booth to raise awareness and support for our upcoming events. The planning for both the parade and the Pre Paddy Party is progressing smoothly. This is largely thanks to the dedication and leadership of our parade chairman, Colton O'Conner. His efforts have been instrumental in keeping all aspects of the event on track and well-coordinated.

### Raffle Ticket Sales: Our Top Priority

Amidst all these activities, it is crucial that we do not lose sight of the importance of selling raffle tickets. This is currently the most vital task for all members. T Bone has informed us that, so far, only 150 tickets have been taken by members. Last year, we collectively sold 1,800 out of 2,000 tickets, which was only possible through everyone's participation and hard work. It is important to note that, due to weather conditions, ticket sales at this year's Bike Expo were approximately 150 less than last year. This shortfall highlights the need for each of us to increase our efforts so we can continue to host the parade and support local charities. To ensure our success, I encourage everyone to attend this month's meeting and pick up a few books of tickets to sell. Our ability to keep the parade tradition alive and contribute to local causes depends on the collective effort of all members.

### Seeking Parade Sponsors

If anyone has contact information for a local business that may be interested in sponsoring the parade, please share it with me. I am eager to reach out and provide them with details about our sponsorship program.

President

Adam McCarty

## *FSOSP UPCOMING EVENTS*

2026 FSOSP Parade Meeting Dates – All meetings will be held at the Marriott downtown 'Windows on 7<sup>th</sup>.'

- Sunday Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> @2PM.
- Thursday Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM.
- Tuesday Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> @7 PM.
- Saturday Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 2PM.

March 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Iowa Deer Classic

- We will be selling our pig raffle tickets at this event

Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. FSOSP Annual Pre-Paddy Party

- The Shop in Des Moines
- 2PM. – 6PM.
- Live Music from Fat Tuesday
- Food trucks
- More to come

Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026. FSOSP Annual Parade

- Downtown Des Moines
- Parade starts at Noon sharp same route as last year
- Breakfast at Windows on 7<sup>th</sup> at 8AM.

Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Disc Golf Tournament

Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. FSOSP Annual Leprechaun Open

- Toad Valley
- More to come

Busch Light Carnival – Mid July

- More to come





# John Patrick McCarthy

July 15, 1971 — January 31, 2026

## West Des Moines

John Patrick McCarthy, 54, of West Des Moines, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Every Step Kavanagh House in Des Moines, Iowa.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with a Rosary at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home in Urbandale. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at Ss. John & Paul Catholic Church in Altoona. Burial will be held at the Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines. Memorial contributions can be made to Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) at St Thomas More Center in memory of John. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.caldwellparrish.com](http://www.caldwellparrish.com).

John was born on July 15, 1971, in Des Moines, Iowa, the son of William “Bill” and Joanna “Jody” (Broderick) McCarthy. He was baptized and later confirmed in his faith at St. Theresa’s Catholic Church in Des Moines. John attended St. Theresa’s Catholic School and graduated from Dowling Catholic High School with the Class of 1990.

John worked at Hy-Vee for many years, serving in a variety of departments along the way. He was a longtime member of Ss. John & Paul Catholic Church in Altoona, where his faith was an important and guiding part of his life. Through his faith, John ultimately met his best friend and wife, Kris Dorf. Together, they shared 19 wonderful years of marriage before her passing in 2023.

John was actively involved in Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) and, in earlier years, participated in youth ministry. John and Kris shared a love for travel and adventure, enjoying drives, sightseeing and adding to their collection of playing cards for different locations, which became worldwide when friends and family added to it. They also traveled across the country to attend many youth conferences together. In recent years John had a goal to see all of the Freedom Rocks across Iowa and got to quite a few.

John is survived by his father, Bill McCarthy of West Des Moines; siblings: Mick (Carolyn) McCarthy of West Des Moines, T.J. (Amy) McCarthy of Ankeny, Marty (Beth) McCarthy of Kansas City, and Tom (Ronda) McCarthy of Windsor Heights; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; father-in-law, Joe Dorf of Altoona; brother-in-law, Bill (Jen) Dorf of Ankeny; along with other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Jody McCarthy; his beloved wife, Kris McCarthy; and his mother-in-law, Kathy Dorf.





T-Bone, Justin Dye, Old Man River, and 'Cole Virgil Cole' O'Connor braved the elements to represent us at the 2026 Bike Expo! Good Job Guys!



## *Celtic Music Association*

### **2026 concert season**

**Runa - Sat., Feb. 28, 2026, 7:30pm**

**Tannahill Weavers - Sat., March 28, 2026, 7:30pm**

**See website: [www.thecma.org](http://www.thecma.org) for ticket outlets and prices**

**All concerts at Franklin Center: 4801 Franklin Ave., Des Moines**

President's Notes - We have a great season lined up of our old favorites from past seasons. Our remaining concerts include: Dallahan, Runa and Tannahill Weavers. All concerts will be at the Franklin Event Center. Tickets are available through Eventbrite or through a board member, our ticket outlets or you can mail a check to our PO box. Jim Duffy at Vintage Cooperative of Beaverdale also sells tickets for us. Regular ticket prices have increased to \$35 in advance at our ticket outlets, or \$40 at the door, on the day of the show. There is no "Will Call" available. Tickets must be paid for before the day of the concert. Season tickets will be \$90 for the remaining shows (\$30 each). I will be selling them at Cooney's open sessions on Tuesday December 2 and 16th, 5:00 to 8:00pm. Or, you can text me at 515-771-2215 to arrange a time to meet. The Franklin Junior High building is now owned by New Plan Learning based out of Schaumburg, Illinois a non-profit that helps charter schools get started. They are fans of our organization and our mission to bring Celtic culture to central Iowa. The Event center will continue to host our concerts. Please consider making a donation as a friend of the CMA. We are a non-profit organization, barely covering our costs to bring you these concerts from all over the world. Please invite your friends to join us for these wonderful Celtic music concerts. We have plenty of room in the comfortable seating of Franklin Event Center. Beverages will be available at all events with a free will donation offering. Performance start times are 7:30 pm. Doors will open an hour before at 6:30 pm. We have a square reader to purchase tickets at the door and merchandise with a credit card. Also, a child under 12 is admitted free with a paying adult.

Slainte, Virgil Kleinhesselink, President

### **Kilts for Sale!**

Custom-Made Iowa Tartan Kilt of approximately 7 to 8 yards of 12 oz. weight 100% wool with heavy metal buckles and black leather straps. Upper one third is lined; lower portion is unlined starting at opening of pleats. Construction is based on the traditional Scottish pattern. (Pleats continue the tartan pattern.) Colors are symbolic of Iowa and bright modern colors. Length is measured from waist to mid-knee. Dry clean only; leather straps hold up when dry cleaned Mint condition – no holes, stains, tears or defects visible. Diameter is adjustable by approximately 1¼ inches larger or smaller from measurements given. #1: Waist 27", Hip 36 ½", Length 20 ½" #2: Waist 29 ¾", Hip 38", Length 22" #3: Waist 29 ¾", Hip 37 ¾", Length 21 ½" #4: Waist 30 ½", Hip 39", Length 22" Remember: You don't have to have ties to Iowa to wear and enjoy this beautiful kilt! Price per kilt is \$150 not including shipping if required. Kilts are available for inspection in Waukee, IA. Please refer question to **Sue Seidenfeld at [pipertoddia@gmail.com](mailto:pipertoddia@gmail.com)**

# Friendly Sons of St. Patrick

## of Central Iowa

### 2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Application

YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

Tell us about yourself (include any ties to Ireland, Irish lineage, charitable work, volunteering, etc.)



Why would you like to be the FSOSP St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen?

Interviews will be on Sunday February 15th 2pm

@ 1620 Pleasant St. Des Moines, IA 50314



# St. Patrick's Day *Parade* *& Party*

The time is upon us for the 2026 St. Patrick's Day celebration. It's our largest event of the year so it requires the largest group of volunteers. We will be painting the staging numbers on Grand Ave. the weekend prior to the Parade and dozens of volunteers will be required on parade day for staging, crowd control, and de-staging. If you can help with the event, please come see Mr. O'Connor at the February meeting or contact Him at:

(Colton O'Connor – 515.770.2419 email: [Migilly2010@gmail.com](mailto:Migilly2010@gmail.com))

Web Updates ([friendlysonsiowa.com](http://friendlysonsiowa.com))

**Sponsorship** levels have been updated on the website with a download link if you wish to print it to share with potential sponsors.

**Pictures** are needed from all of the Friendly Son's events. Please contact me about acquiring any pictures you have.

**GO TO THE WEBSITE: [WWW.FRIENDLYSONSIOWA.COM](http://WWW.FRIENDLYSONSIOWA.COM) FOR ANY  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR  
FORMS. ALL PARADE FORMS ARE ON THE SITE**



### **THE IRISH HARP**

The Irish harp, though not as popularly well known around the world as the shamrock for being an Irish symbol, is the official emblem of Ireland. This status dates back several centuries and the instrument's history talks much about the history of the island.

Today, a representation of the traditional harp is to be found on the Presidential Seal and on many official documents, on passports, on the flag of Leinster (but not the national flag), on Irish euro coins and as a logo for a number of prominent state-supported organizations such as the National University of Ireland. As one of the national symbols of Ireland the harp is also used extensively by businesses and other corporations wishing to convey 'Irish-ness'. Guinness bottle labels are perhaps its most famous gig while a heavily stylized harp puts in an appearance on the tail fins of budget carrier Ryan Air. There are a number of names for the Irish harp. It is also known as the Celtic harp, the Gaelic harp, the clàrsach (in Scotland) or the clàirseach (in the modern Irish language). Purists might argue some minor points of difference, but to the layman, these terms are synonymous. While its earliest origins are lost, the Irish harp has a certain history dating back at least 1000 years. Brian Boru, the last High King of Ireland (d 1014), is said to have been an accomplished player, but while he is attributed with all manner of skills for which there is no evidence, surviving 12-century annals refer to the Celtic harp being the only music played during the Crusades. At this time, the Gaelic harp was revered in Celtic culture (and all over Europe). It was de rigeur for Scottish and Irish kings and chieftains to have their own resident harper who, in turn, enjoyed high status and special privileges. The musician's main duties were to accompany poetry recitations or the singing of psalms. While they may have composed their own music, they did not write them down. The English monarch Henry VIII declared himself King of Ireland in 1531. Such was the fame and prestige of the country's harp; it was chosen as the official national symbol of Ireland and stamped onto the coinage of Henry's new realm. The Celtic social order was on the wane by this time and as the decades pass, harpers lost much of their status, and their numbers declined. Some become travelling musicians, playing their harps and singing, because rich patrons no longer retained them. In many ways, the harp's success became a problem. Still very much recognized as a symbol of Ireland and Irish pride, the Gaelic harp became an emblem of resistance to the Crown and England. As such, it was banned at the end of the medieval period and the old Celtic harp tradition began to die out. By the 18th century, the Scottish clarsach had disappeared. A century later, the Irish harp, too, was extinct. Fortunately, a group of harpers had been lured to Belfast in 1792 for a traditional harp festival where the musician and folk music collector, Edward Bunting wrote down the music they played and the terminology of the harpers. This was the first time traditional Gaelic harp music had been recorded on paper and it is thanks to Bunting that these genuine Celtic tunes were not lost forever



## *Wearin' O' The Grin*

- The priest was waiting on Saturday afternoon for his usual parade of people coming to confession. In comes a man so drunk, he is stumbling down the aisle, bouncing from pew to pew. Finally, he finds the confessional, goes in, and shuts the door. The priest goes in his side and waits. Nothing happens. He clears his throat so the fellow might know he is there and ready. No reaction. Finally, he starts losing his patience and bangs sharply on the wall three times. The drunk fellow in the confessional says, "It's no use knockin'...There's no paper in here either!"
- An Irishman walks into a pub and orders dozens of martinis, removing the olives, placing them in a jar, and drinking the martinis. When the jar is filled with olives and all the martinis drank, he starts to leave. The bartender stops him and asks, "Excuse me but, what was that all about?" The Irishman replies, "My wife sent me out for a jar of olives."
- I went to the liquor store Tuesday afternoon on my bicycle, bought a bottle of Jack Daniels and put it in the bicycle basket. As I was about to leave, I thought to myself that if I fell off the bike, the bottle would break. So, I drank bottle before I cycled home. It turned out to be a very good decision, because I fell off my bike seven times on the way home.
- An English lawyer was sat with his Irish client. 'Marty' he sighed, 'Why is it that whenever you ask an Irishman a question, he replies with another question?' 'Bollocks. Who told you that?' asked Marty.



IF YOU'RE  
LUCKY ENOUGH  
TO BE  
IRISH  
YOU'RE LUCKY  
ENOUGH



Friendly Sons of St. Patrick  
of Central Iowa



# PRE-PADDY PARTY



**LIVE BAND • FOOD TRUCKS • LIVE AUCTION  
CASHLESS BAR**

**Saturday, March 14**  
2-6pm

**The Shop DSM**

901 Cherry St, Des Moines

**Thank You to Our Partners:**

The Shop DSM  
Des Moines Firefighters Local 4  
Laurie Brothers Auction Service

