



The Blarney

UPCOMING:

Monthly Meeting:

March 9th 6:30 P.M.

Marriott Banquet Room

Dinner: Cash Bar and no dinner

Next Meeting:

April 13th

6:30 P.M.

BOARD CONTACT INFO

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Parade Chairman –

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MARCH (MÁRTA) 2026

BOARD NEWS

Embrace yer' heritage, 'tis celebrating yerself!

The time is fast approaching at T minus 13 days; our biggest event of the year will be here. The boards resident weather forecaster, Mr. Soliday says it will be sunny with temperatures in the mid 50's.

If you haven't yet signed up to volunteer that day and you still want to, contact Mr. O'Connor at this month's meeting. Also, if you haven't sold any raffle tickets, (and by the looks of what we have left to sell, most haven't.) Pick up a few books and get them sold. The boards' goal is to secure enough funding through sponsorships, grants, and donations. We are not quite there yet and have big plans to help our community through donations. That's why it's important to get out there and sell a few books!

Our big March events start this Monday at the general meeting. We will introduce the queen, and Irishman of the year, and discuss all the big events for the coming weeks.

The last chance for parade float entries is this coming Saturday March 7th at the Marriott downtown at 2 PM.

The following Saturday March 14th, is our 'Pre Paddy Party' at the Shop DSM from 2 to 6. New this year will be an auction for the Parade Marshall's position. There will be live music, food, and beverages. We will also have our flag raising ceremony that day.

Tuesday March 17th, the culmination for all of Mr. O'Connor's hard work begins. Our traditional member's breakfast at 8 a.m. in the "Windows on 7th" room. That morning you will celebrate our Irishman of the Year, 2026 Parade Marshal, and the 2026 Queen

Dues are due, please get these taken care of by the March meeting.

Presidents Pint of View



As March begins, we're preparing for all the celebrations. Colton is efficiently coordinating with the city and vendors for the parade and Pre Paddy party. We look forward to seeing everyone at these events. Volunteers are always welcome. Please note, the bar at the Pre Paddy party accepts credit cards only, and remember to sell and return raffle tickets by St. Patrick's Day. This month's update is brief as I am recovering from illness.

President

Adam McCarty



May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields.

May the lord smile upon you all the days of your life.

And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.





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



F.S.O.S.P UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- **Saturday Mar. 7th @ 2PM. The last meeting to get your float in the parade.**

March 6th – 8th Iowa Deer Classic

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

Saturday March 14th, 2026. FSOSP Annual Pre-Paddy Party

- The Shop in Des Moines
- 2PM. – 6PM.
- Goodwill donation at the door
- Live Music from Fat Tuesday
- Food trucks
- Auction to set the 2026 Parade Marshall
- Foy Dancers

Sunday March 15th

- Street painting on Grand Contact Colton O'Connor

Tuesday March 17th, 2026. FSOSP Annual Parade

- Downtown Des Moines
- Breakfast at Windows on 7th at 8AM.
- Parade volunteers meeting in the lobby 9AM.
- Donation presentation at the front of the parade 11:45
- Parade starts at Noon sharp same route as last year

Saturday April 25th Annual Disc Golf Tournament

Saturday June 13th, 2026. FSOSP Annual Leprechaun Open

- Toad Valley
- Same entry and sponsorship fees as last year.
- More to come

Busch Light Carnival – July 12th, 2026.

- More to come

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 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 Beaverville 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**



Big News from Howie McGahey

Howie went through surgery Wednesday February 25th, all went well! One of his kidneys, an adrenal gland, part of the vena cava vein, and corresponding lymph nodes were removed. The doctor was pleased with the surgery and the progress he is making. Keep Howie in your prayers.





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)

Web Updates (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 FOR ANY
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR
FORMS. ALL PARADE FORMS ARE ON THE SITE**

St. Patrick's Day Traditions



The 'Wearin' of The Green'

The tradition of wearing a shamrock to celebrate Saint Patrick seems to date from the seventeenth or eighteenth century. This was a very turbulent time in Irish history. The suppression of the Gaelic way of life by the ruling British invaders resulted in many aspects of the Catholic religion in Ireland being forced underground. Strict laws were enforced which prevented the Catholic population from attending schools so "hedge-schools" were operated in secret. These were schools run outdoors in secluded places (sometimes literally "under a hedge!"). The teaching of religion was also forbidden so it is only to be expected that teachers would use naturally available resources to inform their pupils. Thus, the shamrock plant was used to illustrate the message of the Christian Holy Trinity. Saint Patrick was credited with using the shamrock in such a manner so the wearing of the shamrock by the oppressed Catholic population became a means of demonstrating their defiance to the ruling British class. It also imbued a sense of kinship among the native Gaelic people, differentiating them from their oppressors. Wearing a clump of shamrock is now a firmly established tradition throughout the world to celebrate not just Saint Patrick, but Ireland itself. The shamrock symbol is widely used by businesses seeking to associate with Ireland and, along with the harp, is perhaps the single most recognizable symbol of Ireland. It is a shame though that the shamrock is not a blue plant as the color originally associated with Saint Patrick was blue!

Parade -

Saint Patrick's Day is unique in that it is celebrated worldwide. It is most unusual that a country has such an international celebration and is really evidence of the generational effects of emigration that has afflicted Ireland for centuries. After the 1845 to 1849 Irish Famine, emigration soared with as many as a million native Irish leaving their homes in the decades after the famine to settle in places like Boston, New York, Newfoundland, Perth, Sydney and beyond. The US Census Bureau now reports that 34 million U.S. citizens claim Irish descent. Most emigrants like to commemorate their heritage and thus the Saint Patrick's Day Parade came into being. The earliest record of a Saint Patrick's Day Parade was in the year 1762 when Irish soldiers serving in the British Army held a parade in New York City. Earlier records suggest

Wearin' O' The Grin

♣ **Irish** ♣
Women

The sweetest,
most beautiful
loving, amazing
psychotic, evil
creatures you'll
ever meet.

I'm Irish

**My blood has
been at least
40-proof
since birth.**

***We are the sons and daughters of Hibernia,
Proud heirs of an ancient legacy.***

***We've settled every corner of the globe
driven from our homeland by famine and
oppression,
or simply the restless spirit that's our
birthright.***

***Wherever we go, we bring with us a love of
freedom,
a melancholy humor, a biting wit and a
golden tongue***

***But regardless of where destiny may take
us,***

***we're linked to the land of our ancestors
by an ethereal thread that binds the heart
and reminds us always that we are a
unique people.***

WE ARE THE

IRISH