

President's  
Pint of View



As August rolls in with a blast of heat and humidity we start gearing up for the last fundraiser of the year. I'm talking about the Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride.

Make sure you pick up a book of raffle tickets to sell. We need to keep the raffle sales for they make this fundraiser a success. We are signing up volunteers for the event, so please talk to me at the meeting if you can help. If you can't make the meeting, you can still get hold of me at by e-mail or phone, both of which are listed on the front of your Blarney.

Speaking of helping, August is our Friends of Friends meeting where we invite Friends that help us and the Friends that we help to share a dinner with us. It is also our Food Bank drive, so bring cans, boxes and bags of non-perishables and get your dinner for free. Or better yet, donate the 10 bucks you're saving with the food you're bringing and make this an even better evening.

Refresh yourselves and I will see you Monday.

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

*Daffinitions 4U:*

ADULT

A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOR

A place where women curl up and dye.

CHICKENS

The only animals you eat before they are born & after they are dead.

COMMITTEE

A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours

DUST

Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST

Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF

Cold storage.

INFLATION

Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO

An insect that makes you like flies better.

SECRET

Something you tell to one person at a time.

TOOTHACHE

The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW

One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

YAWN

An honest opinion openly expressed.

WRINKLES

Something other people have. Similar to my character lines.



Upcoming:

Monthly Meeting

August 10, 6:30 p.m.

Menu:

Hamburgers / Brats

Sweet Corn / Baked Beans

Tomatoes

Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride

September 19

Next Meeting

September 14



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# The Blarney

AUGUST [LÚNASÁ] 2015

## 'Friends of the Friends' gathering is anon

Chef McCarthy has a stellar, classic Iowa picnic menu planned and ready for our meeting next week when we welcome the donees who we have reached out to in recent years and the folks who have, likewise, helped us out with contributions towards our events.

Get ready to taste the best Iowa can offer for the summer palate: burgers, brats, hot dogs, sweet corn, tomatoes and baked beans.

All washed down with a cold one (or seven...).

Invites were addressed and mailed last week by the board and hopes are that most of those contacted can make it. We're anticipating a good turnout of the membership, as well.

In lieu of our usual meal fee, all members are asked to bring several canned items to donate to the Food Bank of Iowa. (Or plan on making a \$10 cash donation to same.)

Local groceries have pre-packed bags that make that donation even simpler. Pick one up if you're at a loss for what best to bring.

As mentioned in last year's Blarney, Food Bank of Iowa is a private, not-for-profit organization located at 2220 E. 17th in Des Moines. They are committed to alleviating hunger through food distribution, partnership and education.



Amazingly, 1 in 8 Iowans is food-insecure and 20% of Iowa's children do not have enough to eat. This is appalling, especially here in the food heartland of America.

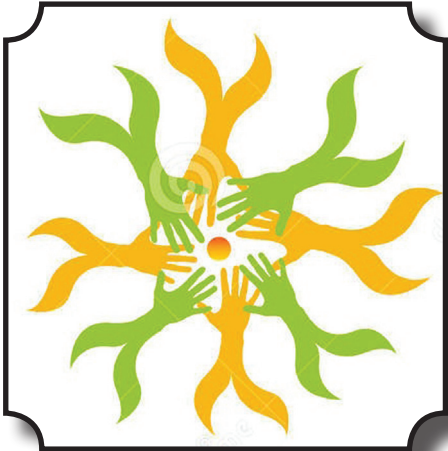
At Food Bank, volunteers receive and distribute donated food and grocery products to 375 partner agencies in 55 counties who directly serve needy individuals within their communities. These agencies include soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless and domestic violence shelters, child and

adult care centers, and youth and senior programs.

Also, it should come as no surprise that the prize committee has spared no expense or effort in amassing a wondrous and delectable store of raffle goodies.

Just a note: At the monthly meetings, a few members always arrive early to help put up tables and chairs and bring trash cans, coolers and extras from the office. They deserve your thanks and appreciation.

But the August meeting always promises to be a big one and usually requires a little extra prep effort, so anyone willing to help with the set-up would be most welcome. 🍀







# Southern IA Celtic tradition abides

Fests for the Irish are underway all over the country and Iowa is no exception. The Cedar Valley Irish Cultural Assn.'s 9th annual event at Lincoln Park in Waterloo just ended this past weekend and soon the 35th annual Milwaukee celebration and the Hooley in Dubuque will take center stage. Kansas City's Labor Day weekend Irish Fest is not too far down the road, either.

Without nearly the hoopla, though, several generations of Irish families from southern Iowa, as well as many members of our club, met once again last weekend for the annual Weller picnic, in an old churchyard along a gravel road a few miles NE of Chariton.

The church is no longer standing but a cemetery and tented pavilions were the backdrop for about 100 members of the "Weller Bunch" who gathered to socialize with music from Bob O'Hern's band, a raffle and a picnic buffet of pork loin, brats with all the sides and extras imaginable.☘



MISSION STATEMENT  
THE MISSION OF THE WELLER BUNCH SHALL BE TO PRESERVE THE SPIRITUAL, FAMILY AND SOCIAL TIES OF THE WELLER COMMUNITY.



# Board News

Amazing news at the last board meeting. The bank says we have \$5,000 more than our computer records show (!) We are looking into getting an updated accounting program (*duh*) and revising/simplifying our monthly report categories. Treasurer Murphy is on it!

☐☐☐

Ride commissioners Mike O'Connell, Tim Schuck and T-Bone have things well in hand, once again, and we're eagerly looking forward to our **Sept. 19 Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride** party.

All of us have one important duty to help assure success: to get in gear selling raffle tickets, gents. Surely someone you know would love to win a cash prize of \$50, \$250 or \$500, eh? Six drawings will be made to give away that money.

(BTW, Kelly reports that two of the six names drawn last year were people he sold tickets to. And, yes, an investigation is underway...)

Luckily, two new bars are open in the Orilla ("halfway on the Halfway") area. Soon we'll alert them to the event and warn them of the biking horde that will descend in mid-September. Better yet, we will try to get them to perhaps help sponsor the ride and offer some drink specials for our crowd.

As in recent years, there will be no pre-registration. Participants usually decide at the last minute to show up so we'll just log in all comers that morning.

Final preparations are underway: Spoon & Spud Races? Check. "Best Irish Theme" trophy? Check. Music at the Cumming Tap from Kelly's "Old School" ragtag band? Check.

(Wait! Renda does know we're coming, right?)

☐☐☐

There is a move afoot to finally update the club's PR flyer. It IS a new century, after all. T-Bone has some graphic designer friends that are about to get the big "ask" to help us out. Film at eleven.

☐☐☐

The board approved a \$500 donation to the **Mentor IA** organization to be used for their "school backpack" program.

Executive Director Marty Lester says over 80 abused, neglected or delinquent court-involved children are helped by trained mentors in the program.

"We thought our source would carry us this fall, but we're about 40 backpacks short and these dollars will help us a lot," he said.

It's a group we're proud to support; learn more about these folks and their mission at [mentoriowa.org](http://mentoriowa.org). ☘

# BLARNEY BITS

Greg Edwards, President and CEO of Catch Des Moines (Greater DSM Visitors and Convention Bureau) and our contact in arranging to change our parade date next year, has passed along a recent press release:

*"The 2016 Des Moines St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Friday, March 18, the day after the holiday. The move is a collaborative effort to enhance both the parade goers' and the NCAA fans' experiences in Des Moines. The 2016 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship first and second rounds kick off on Thursday, March 17 with a break in games on Friday, March 18. Games resume the following day, Saturday, March 19.*

*"We reached out to Friendly Sons of St. Patrick to determine how we could help make these two great events complement each other," says Edwards. "We wanted to find a way for the parade to leverage the additional visitors who will be here, while also ensuring that locals still have an enjoyable experience."*

*The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Central Iowa organizes and executes the parade. In partnership with the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City of Des Moines, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick saw an opportunity to attract more attendees, offer unique performances and alleviate traffic and congestion for locals and visitors coming in to downtown.*

*"The change in date allows us to showcase our parade to thousands of out-of-town visitors," said Mike O'Connell, President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Central Iowa. "We are also hoping to attract NCAA pep bands, spirit squads and teams to participate in our parade, which would provide a really unique entertainment enhancement for those who attend."*

*The parade will begin at noon and will run the same route as previous years. "Our local organizing committee will be reaching out to NCAA to ensure that fans and teams receive proper communication about how they can experience and get involved with this event," adds Edwards.*

# Upcoming events

**AUG. 13-16**  
**35TH ANNUAL MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST**  
ON THE LAKEFRONT  
[irishfest.com](http://irishfest.com)

**AUG. 20-22**  
**DUBUQUE IRISH HOOLEY MUSIC FEST**  
DUBUQUE STAR BREWERY  
[irishhooley.org](http://irishhooley.org)

**SEPT. 19**  
**FSOSP HALFWAY TO ST. PAT'S BIKE RIDE**  
PRE-PARTY & REGISTRATION: ORLANDO'S, 11 A.M.  
TRAIL PARTY: ORILLA & CUMMING TAP

