



# The Blarney



*FEBRUARY IFEABHRAI 2024*

## *BOARD NEWS*

### *UPCOMING:*

#### Monthly Meeting:

February 12th

Mickle Center

6:30 P.M.

Menu: Sausage and Meat Ball  
Sandwiches with Fixin's.

#### Next Meeting:

General meeting March 11th

Window's at the Marriott

6:30 P.M.

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### BOARD CONTACT INFO

Pres. – Tim Schuck –

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Vice Pres. – Tony Schmid –

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Treas. – Josh Soliday – 577-0990

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Sec. – Jeff DeMoss – 771-7070

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Parade Chairman –

Colton O'Connor – 770-2419

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Bill McCarthy – 975-5254

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Scott Tilton – 822-2342

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**DUES - DUES - DUES - DUES - DUES - DUES** ...are due now! Help us out. About 20% are paid and if that doesn't include YOU...then next Monday, 'eh?

Parade planning is on track and going well, Parade Chairman for life Mr. O'Connor has got all the details ironed out, and with God willing we will have a fantastic day. Please note parade route will change this year, as well as the date, which is Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Queen selection rooms have been reserved, this will occur on Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. at the Mickle Center. Application is on the web site as well as in the Blarney. So, if you know a fine lass that would be interested, please have her fill out an application.

**Parade Float meeting dates are: Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup> @7P.M. Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> @2P.M. Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> @7P.M.** All meetings will be at Windows on 7<sup>th</sup>.

Breakfast this year is again at Windows at the Marriott. Cost is \$10 and is due this month at the meeting.

Don't forget, we need volunteers for this fine event. Without all of us the parade would not go on.

**There is no smoking and/ or drinking at the front door during meetings.** It must be done out by the grill area.



## Presidents Pint of View'

Well, the Holidays have come and gone, and January is over. The weather seems to be changing. Let's hope that stays with us for the parade!

Our Parade Chairman for Life, Colton O'Connor, has been hard at work making sure our construction mandated change of route will allow our parade to flow smoothly through downtown like the River Shannon flows through Ireland. What a sight it will be!

Speaking of the parade, we are still in search of a Grand Marshall, an Irishman of the year, and Queen candidates. If you have any suggestions for any or all of these positions, please let a board member know at the next general meeting. Remember the Grand Marshall need not be Irish, but it would be nice if they were, and the Irishman of the year does not need to be a Friendly Sons member, just a man of Irish descent that has done some good for the club and/or community.

On another note, we did hold board elections at the January meeting, and thanks to all of the brave souls that ventured out on that snowy night we were able to meet quorum of 20 active members to make it a legal vote according to our Bylaws.

In March we will welcome Christopher "Bubba" Douglas to the board. The other open board position was retained by incumbent Scott Tilton, and the board officer position of Secretary was retained by our current Secretary Jeff DeMoss.

Bill McCarthy will be stepping down from his board post after many years of valued service and insight into the workings, history, and legacy of the club. Thank you, Bill!

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Until then, stay safe out there.

*Thank you,  
President, Tim Schuck*

The Celtic Music Association has announced its new winter concert schedule, the following dates have been announced:

**Heron Valley**

- Saturday, February 24, 2024
- 7:30 PM-10:00 PM
- Holy Trinity Hall

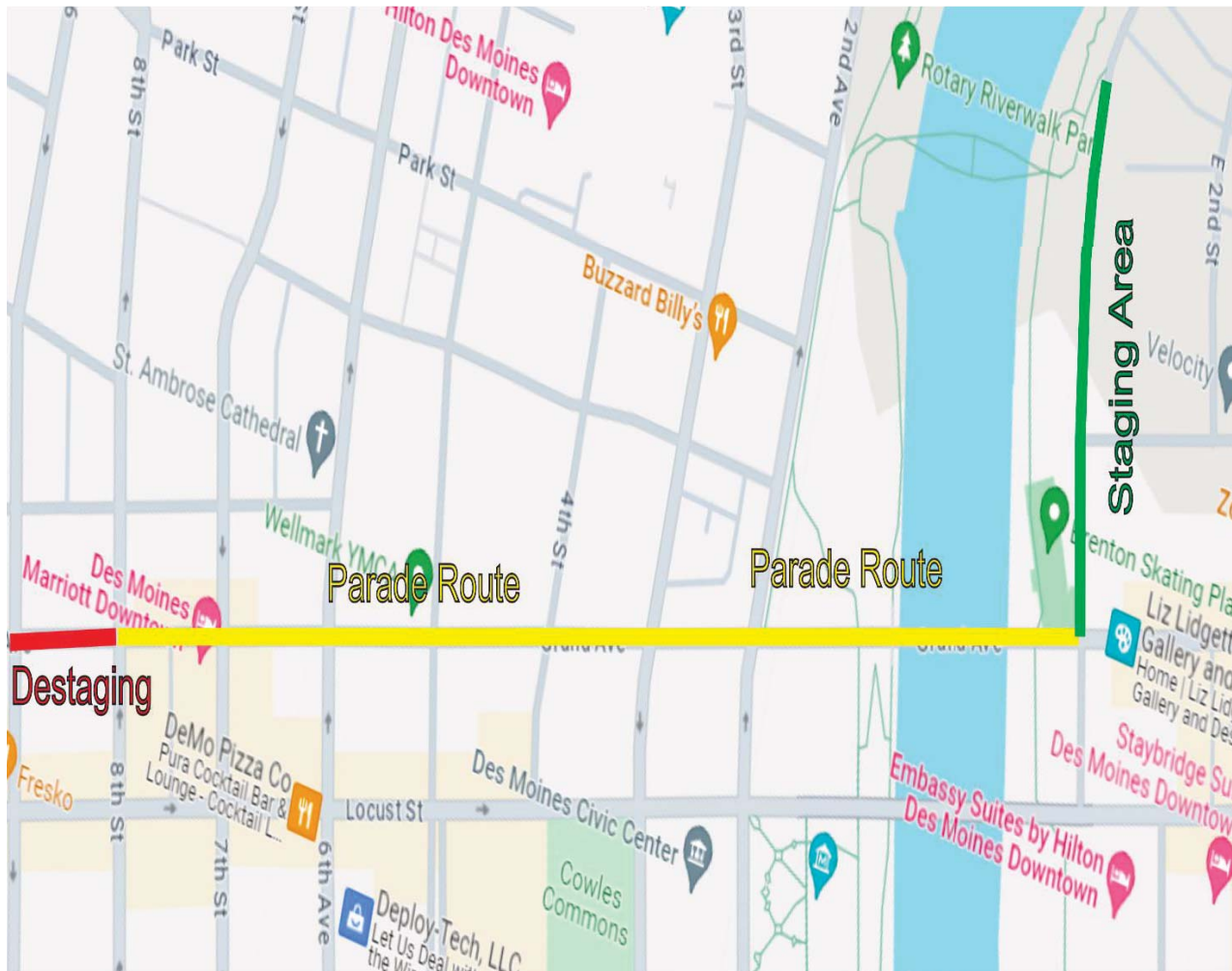
**Dàihm**

- Saturday, March 23, 2024
- 7:30 PM-10:00 PM
- Franklin Junior High Event Center



If you are out selling raffle tickets and someone says they don't have any cash, here is our VENMO QR code. The passcode is 0990.  
We also will have a raffle ticket table set up at Windows the day of the parade that needs volunteers.

## Parade Route



Parade staging will be on Robert D. Ray Drive north towards the Botanical Center. The Parade will go West down Grand and end at 8<sup>th</sup> street. Please remember parade meeting dates are as follows:

**Tuesday February 20th @7P.M. Saturday February 24th @2P.M.**

**Thursday March 7th @7P.M.**

All meetings will be at Windows on 7th.

## *Erim Go Bragh*

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 tells 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 stylish 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.

# ***Friendly Sons of St. Patrick***

## ***of Central Iowa***

**2024 St. Patrick’s Day Parade Queen Application** YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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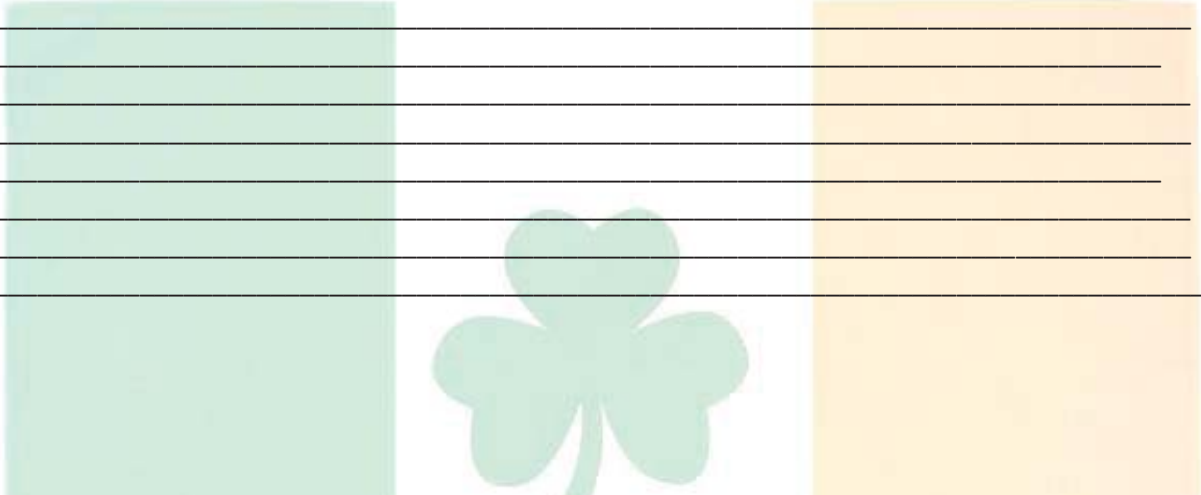
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Why would you like to be the FSOSP St. Patrick’s Day Parade Queen?

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You will be notified about your interview with the Selection Committee. Please contact [webmaster@friendlysonsiowa.com](mailto:webmaster@friendlysonsiowa.com) of your interest to be Queen and bring your completed application with you to the interview. Contact us for interview date and time. Contact [webmaster@friendlysonsiowa.com](mailto:webmaster@friendlysonsiowa.com) with any questions. Thank you for your interest!