



The Blarney

UPCOMING:

Monthly Meeting:

January 12th 6:00 P.M.

Mickle Center

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

Next Meeting:

February 9th

6:30 P.M.

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@cmbarchitects.com

Tony Schmid –

515-554-1107

tbnoutdoors1@gmail.com

JANUARY (EANÁIR) 2026

BOARD NEWS

All are encouraged to start the year out right: "Re solved, I will renew my FSOSP membership in a timely manner." And this resolution is not nearly as hopeless as your new commitment to the fitness center. Dues are still only \$50 and the meeting next week would be a grand time to take care of that with cash or a check. See Josh Soliday at the front table (where you can also sign up to volunteer at the parade and get Lucky Draw raffle books to sell!) The board will be starting our Queen selection search, if anyone has a great young lady that will be a great representative of our club, please let a board member know.

Treasurer, Secretary, and 2 board positions are up for election at this month's meeting. The board would greatly appreciate a big turnout at the monthly meeting.

Parade Chairman for life, Mr. Colton O'Connor has the parade planning well at hand. Roughly 70 days 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 15th 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.

2025 has come to a close and we are off and running in 26! Pat yourselves on the back's lads, the club gave away \$10,200. In donations. Let's work towards the \$15-\$20,000 range now. Get those raffle tickets and get them sold!

Presidents Pint of View



As the new year begins, it's a perfect time for us to reflect on everything we have achieved together over the past year. Serving as the president of this club has been an immense honor, and I am proud of all that we have accomplished as a team.

Throughout the year, we hosted a series of outstanding events that brought our community together and showcased our club's spirit. We kicked off the year with an exciting new tradition—the Pre Paddy Party at the Shop DSM. If you were unable to attend, you truly missed a memorable occasion. The event was a tremendous success, featuring excellent attendance and fantastic live music. During the festivities, we had the privilege of introducing our Queen, Alison Lancelotti, Irishman of the Year, Mike O'Connell, and our Parade Marshall, Andy Frantz.

Looking ahead, we are planning to make this event even bigger and better, including a live auction for the Parade Marshall position, music by Fat Tuesday, and other surprises.

One of the year's major highlights was the Parade, where we were able to give back by donating \$4,000 to the Children's Cancer Connection. The parade was very wellattended, and it was clear that everyone enjoyed themselves.

In addition, we held several other successful events, such as the Disc Golf Tournament, the Golf Tournament, the Car Show, and the Bags Tournament. All of these activities were met with enthusiasm and will be returning this year.

Our fundraising efforts extended beyond our own events; we participated in several community gatherings where we sold raffle tickets, including the Bike Expo, Bacon Fest, and the Deer Classic. We plan to attend these events again this year. Thanks to all of these events and other fundraising activities, we were able to give away a total of \$10,200 to local charities, all while maintaining strong financial health for the coming year. This represents the largest charitable contribution since I joined the club—a truly remarkable achievement.

None of this would have been possible without the dedicated support of everyone who attended and volunteered at our events. Your enthusiasm and commitment are the reason for our success. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together, and

I am excited to see what we can achieve in the year ahead. Here's to celebrating a fantastic year gone by and to making the upcoming year even more extraordinary!

President

Adam McCarty

FSOSP UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Saturday January 24th Bike Iowa Bike Expo

- Our annual foray into selling a large amount of raffle tickets
- See T-Bone if you would like to help in this one-day event, we have been very successful in our sales before.

March 6th – 8th Iowa Deer Classic

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

Saturday April 25th Annual Disc Golf Tournament

Saturday March 14th, 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 17th, 2026. FSOSP Annual Parade

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

Saturday June 13th, 2026. FSOSP Annual Leprechaun Open

- Toad Valley
- More to come

F.S.O.S.P UPCOMING EVENTS

(continued)

Busch Light Carnival – Mid July

- More to come

Annual Car Show – Sunday September 20th

- More to come

Annual Bags Tourney – Mid October

- More to come



Celtic Music Association

2026 concert season

Dallahan - Sat., Jan. 17, 2026, 7:30pm

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 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 1½ inches larger or smaller from measurements given. #1: Waist 27", Hip 36 ½", Length 20 ½" #2: Waist 29 3/4", Hip 38", Length 22" #3: Waist 29 3/4", Hip 37 3/4", Length 21 1/2" #4: Waist 30 1/2", 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**

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

Irish History

In 1886, Cyrus G. Callison and his wife, Mary, of the Township of Linn in Warren County, sold and conveyed a strip of their farmland to the Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City Railroad Company for the sum of \$754.50. Two years later, Abner Frazier Callison, and his wife, Ollie F. Callison, along with the State of Iowa surveyed the original Plat of the Town of Cumming, Iowa.

The original survey consisted of two blocks, containing 24 lots, and was formally established as the City of Cumming, Iowa on October 26, 1888. Three additions to the original Plat were added over the following five years, such that, by 1893, the Town of Cumming consisted of fourteen blocks and 125 lots. By 1908, the town had grown to include two general stores, three churches, a bank, a physician/drug store, one blacksmith, a barber shop, harness shop, feed mill, meat market, ice house, hardware/implement store, lumberyard and post office. There were approximately 20 -30 families in the town itself with numerous farmers supporting the local businesses.

One of the oldest structures in Cumming, the grain elevator, was built in the early 1900s and was later purchased by a group of farmers and turned into a farmer's cooperative. Another familiar structure, a one-room school house so common in rural Iowa communities, represented the earliest educational facility in Cumming. It taught students from kindergarten through high school.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church is a parish church in the Diocese of Des Moines. The church was built in 1868 and is located southwest of the town of Cumming in rural Madison County, Iowa, United States. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Pope John Paul II visited the church while he was on his first pastoral visit to the United States in 1979. The significance of St. Patrick's Church is its association with the area that became known as Irish Settlement. This rural farm community was settled in the early 1850s by Irish immigrants. It was established by the Rev. Timothy Mullen, who had been sent by Bishop Mathias Loras of the Dubuque diocese to Fort Des Moines to serve the small Catholic community there. He was also to establish an Irish colony in central Iowa, similar to several that had already begun in Eastern Iowa. The first 40 acres were purchased by Bishop Loras. Many of the early families who settled here came from Wisconsin. By 1860, Irish Settlement covered four townships in two counties. Forty of the families resided in Madison County and by 1870 they had increased to 63 families.

There was a rivalry between those who settled on the north side of the North River and those who settled on the south side as to who would get the church. The parish was founded in 1852 with the church on the north side. It was the first parish founded in what would become the Diocese of Des Moines. A log structure served as the first church, which was begun by Mullen but finished by Rev. John Kreckel. Itinerant priests served the parish in its early years. The Rev. Francis McCormick was appointed the first resident pastor in 1857, but he did not stay long. The Rev. John Brazill of St. Ambrose Church in Des Moines had the present frame church built to replace the original log structure in 1868. A monument in the parish cemetery commemorates the old church on the site where it stood. St. Patrick's became a parish in the Davenport diocese when it was established in 1881. The parish was divided in 1884 at the North River with the parishioners who lived to the south forming a new parish at Churchville. Other divisions happened soon after that when parishes were begun at St. Mary's and in Winterset. The parish was transferred to the Des Moines diocese when it was created in 1911.

Wearin' O' The Grin

- With old age comes new skills – You can sneeze, fart, and piss yourself all in one shot!
- I came up with a new saying for one of my favorite drinks – Bourbon: making ice taste better since 1783!
- Irish advice: Never approach a bull from the front, a horse from the rear, or an idiot from any direction.
- Paddy was driving home absolutely hammered. Suddenly he had to swerve to avoid a tree, then another, and another. Eventually the Garda pulled Paddy over and asked why he was driving like a lunatic. Paddy explained all about the trees in the middle of the road. The Garda replied “for feck’s sake Paddy, that’s your air freshener!”
- An Irishman is walking through a field when he sees a man drinking water from a small creek with his hand. He shouts to the man “Na ol an t’uisce ta lan de chac bo! (Don’t drink the water, it’s full of cow shit.) The man shouts back “I’m English, speak English, I don’t understand you.” The old man replies “I’m sorry, use both hands you’ll get more in.”
- So, I’m sitting in a bar and two very large women with accents are sitting across from me. I say “Nice accents, are you two ladies from Scotland?” One of them yells “its Wales, you idiot.” So, I said “Ok, are you two whales from Scotland?” I don’t remember much after that.
- I got so drunk last night I walked across the dance floor to get another drink, and won the dance contest.
- Recently, at an Irish wedding reception, someone yelled. “All the married men please stand next to the one person who has made your life worth living.” The bartender was nearly crushed to death.

- How to speak Irish:
 - WHALE
 - OIL
 - BEEF
 - HOOKED

- Now say it fast