



MEDIA RELEASE

2013 ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A GREAT DAY FOR THE IRISH!

St. Louis--There will be plenty of music, marchers and lots and lots of green at the 30th annual Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Sunday, March 17. The big annual Irish event kicks off at 12:30 p.m. on the saint's feast day, in one of St. Louis' oldest Irish neighborhoods in the Clayton/Tamm (Dogtown) area on the city's south side.

Sponsored by the St. Louis City and County Boards of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the parade was created in 1984 to highlight the many contributions of the Irish people to America. There will be over 100 units featuring floats galore highlighting Irish dancing and salutes to Irish history and culture. Like traditional parades held in the Emerald Isle on Saint Patrick's feast day, a good portion of St. Louis' Irish American community will be marching as clans under their family crests and banners.

Prizes are given for Best Float, Best Irish Heritage theme, Best Family Clan and Best Hibernian Float. The AOH is also sponsoring a contest for the best decorated house on the parade route (Tamm Avenue).

The 2013 AOH Saint Patrick's Day Parade's Grand Marshal is Peggy Skredenske, longtime resident of the Dogtown neighborhood. Parade officials selected Skredenske in recognition of her years of service as a both a member of the Saint James the Greater St. Patrick's Day celebration committee and the AOH parade committee. She has served as liaison between St.

James and the AOH Saint Patrick's Day parade committee for over two decades. She current serves as co-chair of the St. James St. Patrick's Day event.

“Peggy Skredenske is an Irish woman of many hats,” said parade spokesman Jim Mohan. “Peggy is a strong supporter of St. James the Greater Parish, the Dogtown neighborhood and the Hibernians.” He added, “She is the type of woman who selflessly pours her heart and soul into anything she commits to. If she says she'll do it...you better believe it will be done.”

As in previous parades, St. Louis area firefighters and law enforcement officers will be recognized during this year's Hibernian parade. The 2013 distinguished honorees are St. Louis County Police Officer Gary Robertson; retired St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department captain, Henry "Boots" Llewellyn; St. Louis County Firefighter Matt Hogan of West County Fire and EMS and St. Louis Fire Department Firefighter Eugene Floyd.

Also being recognized as the 2013 AOH Labor Leader is ironworker, Tom McNeil. The 2013 AOH Civic Leader honoree is Rich Callahan, U.S. Attorney for Eastern Missouri.

The Dogtown Business Merchants Association and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, in partnership with the Clayton Tamm Community Association, have adopted a “no cooler” rule for this year's parade. This was a result of concerns from the Dogtown residents. The Clayton Tamm Community Association recommended to the Hibernians, that this change be enacted in order to cut down on trash, underage drinking and “binge” drinking.

Also in the interest of public safety, all glass containers will be banned. Police officials will ticket illegally parked vehicles and also will be checking for underage drinking in the Clayton-Tamm area. All business establishments in the neighborhood will close at 8:00 p.m.

More information on the parade and the Ancient Order of Hibernians can be found at:

<http://www.stlhibernians.org>

TIPS FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE 2013 ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNINAS PARADE IN DOGTOWN

PARKING

- Parking is on a “first come/first served” basis on March 17. There are no designated parking areas, although some businesses in the past have set up paid parking lots at a nominal cost. Another option is to park at the South Lot for the St. Louis Zoo. There is also free parking in Forest Park, but choose your spot wisely because police will ticket anyone parked illegally. None of the lots are connected to the Hibernians and the organization receives no proceeds from these lots.
- For those parking on the streets of Dogtown, we remind you that parade participants and everyone who attends the parade (and the Irish Festival that follows), are guests of the neighborhood. Please do not block driveways and alleys. The St. Louis Police Department will ticket and tow vehicles that are illegally parked. This also includes vehicles illegally parked on commercial property.
- Finally, please respect the residents of Dogtown by not littering or doing any other action or activities that you wouldn't want to happen to your home or in your neighborhood. As we said earlier, we are all guests of the residents of Dogtown and we would like to come back next year to put on what has become one of the premier events in St. Louis, but we can only do that with your help.

SAFETY FIRST!

- The members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day want everyone attending this year's parade to have a good time – but also a safe one!
- In the interest of public safety all glass containers will be banned in the parade area. For those bringing coolers, please make sure that they don't block sidewalks or walkways, or present a tripping hazard for those around you. Also, please clean up your area and dispose of your trash before you leave.
- Police officials will be checking for underage drinking in the Clayton-Tamm area.
- Outside sales will cease at 6:00 p.m. and all business establishments in the Clayton-Tamm area will close at 8:00 p.m.
- Finally, the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the Dogtown Business Association encourage everyone to drink responsibly. Remember, this is a family event.
- A big part of drinking responsibly is not driving drunk. So make sure your group has a designated driver, or you have made other arrangements to get home safely. If you need transportation home, please keep the following numbers handy: **314-652-TAXI**, or **St. Louis Designated Driver** at 314-330-6598, or ask your bartender for the information.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians wants everyone to have a good time and be safe so you will be available for the 2013 parade!