



the freebird

VOLUME II

ST PATRICK'S DAY EDITION 2006

The Freebird is the newsletter of the Irish Fair of Minnesota. Its purpose is to keep us connected, provide updates, celebrate successes and share our stories, and to support the mission of the Irish Fair by promoting and cultivating Irish culture.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS SPECIAL EDITION

Announcing the Irish Fair of Minnesota St. Paddy's Day Photo Contest

Capture your favorite moment from this year's celebrations and send it in to win a chance at fame, glory and a gift certificate to your favorite local Irish pub. If entries suffice, 3 prizes will be awarded. Judging by 'The Freebird' editor, Siobhán Dugan at siobhandugan@comcast.net and photos to be published in future editions. Our theme is "The Best of St. Patrick's Day", whether that means for you a spontaneous moment from one of the parades, the captured visage of an old Irish face watching young dancers, an image of blended "Born Irish" and "Irish by Choice" celebrants or---you name it! **Send by April 1st.**

The **Minneapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade** will be held Friday, March 17th, on the Nicollet Mall beginning 6:30 p.m. parade route will start at Nicollet and 13th Street.

March with the parade Royalty: Grand Marshal M.A. Rosko, Irish-American Peace Officer of the Year, Irish Businesswoman of the Year, the Blarney Princess and, of course, the O'Halloran clan (right) who have been in every parade since 1970.

Free parking will be made available to you at the Marquette Ramp on 5th Street and Marquette. Also honoring that evening will be our Grand Marshal, Irish-American Peace Officer of the Year and Irish Businesswoman of the Year. This is a great family event for people who are Irish by birth --or by choice.



on The



40th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade of St. Paul

TIME: The parade will commence precisely at noon regardless of weather.

ASSEMBLY AREA & Route: The parade line up will form toward the east from Sibley St. to Wall St. on 4th Street and the parade will begin at Fourth and Sibley Streets and will proceed West on Fourth Street ending at Market Street (Rice Park). Grand Marshall will be new **St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman** and there will be **89 organized contingents marching** (for a complete list see:

http://www.stpatsassoc.org/Forms/Parade/ParadeResults/parade_signup_2006_public_view.asp). If you are not a member of an organized unit, but wish to march, look for the sign representing the Irish County from which your ancestor's came, or **come join the Irish Fair of Minnesota contingent** or that of any organization with which you would like to march like. Note: for the first time ever the Native Dogs of Ireland from the Fair will also have a contingent!

Both Parades sell commemorative buttons, the proceeds from which go to charitable organizations and both Parades remind participants about ordinances re: drinking on the streets: It's prohibited!



IMDA Hosts the 25th Annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration!

At Landmark Center, St Paul Friday March 17th



The Irish Music and Dance Association proudly hosts its 25th annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration featuring regional and local Irish entertainment; Irish Music, Dance, Celtic Vendors, Food, Irish History Seminars, Language Lessons, Pipe Bands and plenty of Great Family Fun!

The St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration will run 10-7 PM at Landmark Center, 75 West Fifth Street, in historic downtown St. Paul. Tickets can be purchased at the door only and are \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 5-12, and seniors.

Attractions include:

- ❖ Traditional Irish dancers from the top area dance schools and adult dance groups will delight and entertain with high-spirited exhibition style Irish dance. Definitely a must see!
- ❖ The Celtic Marketplace offers authentic Irish merchants, artisans and informational resources. Regional vendors will be serving time-honored Irish fare such as corned beef and cabbage, soda bread, scones, Irish beer and much more.
- ❖ Local and regional entertainment, pipe bands, Irish Theater and History seminars and will take place throughout both days. You can also trace your Irish heritage by visiting the Irish Genealogical Society.
- ❖ Take a break from the crowds in our Irish Tea Room where you will be treated to some of the best in traditional Irish music.
- ❖ Try your luck with our annual Raffle where we will be giving away Roundtrip Airfare for two to Glasgow with a connecting flight to Dublin and a 6 night Land Package for two in the Republic of Ireland. (Courtesy of Icelandair, Terry Flynn Tours and the IMDA). The raffle will be held on Friday, March 17th.
- ❖ On Friday children can delight in our famous Children's Irish Crafts area and take home a souvenir of the day!
- ❖ The Giggin' Síles , a wonderful women's Irish singing group born out of Gaeltacht Minnesota, will be performing at the Landmark Center at 1:50 pm in the third floor tea room. (Gigger *Kia* will also singing & playing with the Roger Anderson Trio at Patrick's Lounge in St. Paul from 7-9.)
- ❖ Gaeltacht MN will be present on the 3rd floor with information about the Irish language and upcoming opportunities to get a *blaisín* (taste) of this tasty tongue.



There will be Irish music & festivities on St. Paddy's Day in the evening at all your favorite pubs in the evening, including:

<http://www.odonovansirishpub.com/>, <http://www.kierans.com/>, <http://www.kipspub.com/>,
<http://www.keeganspub.com/> <http://www.theliffey.com/> <http://www.the-local.com/home.html>
www.dublinerpublishing.com <http://www.halfimerec.com>

St. Patrick's Day 32nd Annual Irish Ceili Dance sponsored by Minnesotans for a United Ireland:

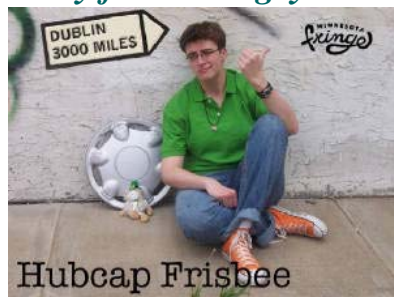
Music by **The Blackbirds**, dances taught and called by Mike Whalen: Friday, March 17 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM, Randolph Heights Elementary School 378 Hamline Avenue, St. Paul. Admission \$8, students and seniors \$5. Children under 5 are free. \$1 off admission with a non-perishable food shelf item. **This is the longest running St. Patrick's Day Ceili in the upper midwest.**

St. Patrick's Day Irish Ceili Dance sponsored by the Minnesota Folk Festival:

Music by **Barra**, dances taught and called by Ann Wiberg: Friday, March 17 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM, CSPA Hall, 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul. \$7.50 advance, \$9 at the door. Seniors and children 5 to 16 are \$3.25 advance and \$4.50 at the door. Children under 5 are free.

Details here: <http://minnesotafolkfestival.org/pats.html>

Ready for a Fringey St. Patrick's Day?



Minnesota Fringe Festival performer Allegra Lingo brings her four- star, sold out 2005 show, Hubcap Frisbee, back to the Bryant Lake Bowl for a special one night engagement on St. Patrick's Day 2006. Hear the story of a young writer with an acute fear of flying and terrible sea sickness tackle Ireland on her own terms, meeting men who talk to fairies, writing love letters to a pile of rocks, and a whole bunch of other blarney. Mainstays of a good St. Paddy's Day--good beer, good stories, and a pint glass full of laughs-- will definitely be on offer. For more information, see <http://allegralingo.tripod.com>.

Absolutely (I mean it!) Last Notice: Minnesota Swarm Go Irish

Irish night at the game at the Minnesota Swarm game at the Xcel Energy Center on March 24. Lacrosse game PLUS hurling, piping, singing & dance performances . Tickets will be discounted ticket to \$12 lower level corner seats (normally \$22). The Irish Fair of Minnesota will also be promoted at the event. For more info:

<https://secure.xcelenergycenter.com/GT/default.asp?Group=Irish98302>.

AN GHAEILGE



Courtesy of Gaeltacht Minnesota <http://www.gaelminn.org/index.htm>

Maireann croí éadrom i bhfad

'A light heart lives long'

There's a lot more to the Irish language than quaint proverbs and hard to pronounce names. Get an introduction to this vibrant, living element of our heritage by joining **GAELTACHT MN and the CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES for an Irish language workshop on April 1st**. See <http://www.gaelminn.org/ceardspring0.htm> for more information.

***Until Next Time,
Best Regards from the***

***Irish Fair of
Minnesota***