



The Irish Connection



The Irish American Society of Tidewater News

March 2016

The Irish American Society of Tidewater, Virginia, was established in 1980 to promote and preserve Irish culture, and all things distinctly Irish. Membership is open to persons of Irish birth or ancestry, as well as those persons who have an interest in Irish history and culture.

OUR NEXT MEETING:
MARCH 3, 2016



Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at the Church of the Ascension Community Center 4853 Princess Anne Rd Virginia Beach, VA. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., the meeting usually gets underway at 7:00 p.m., ending at 9:00 p.m.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello,
Time goes by when you're having fun.

Looking forward to the March meeting; we are going to have a "Silent Auction Bake-Off", the baker who gets the most money for their baked goods will be the winner. The highest bidder will get to share or take home the baked good they bid on. So bring you entries and hope for the best.

Also it would be a good time to bring friends and show them what good times can be had with our group of people. We are hoping to get a history lesson at the meeting if all goes ok.

I am planning on giving a presentation on "Crime Prevention, Causes and Protection" for the April meeting. Don't forget bring something we can also share after the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all there on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Joe Brady



AT THE MARCH MEETING A COMBINATION BAKING CONTEST AND SILENT AUCTION

Members are invited to bring a baked good of their favorite recipe.

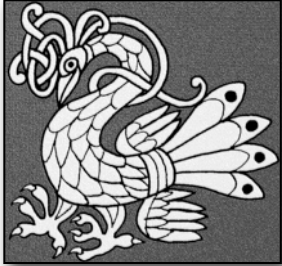
Rather than the usual bake-off and 'tasting,'
we will have a silent auction for all the items.

The highest bid wins the item and the person who made the item
and makes the most money will win a prize.

Members should bring cash or their check book and take home some goodies!

The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614
Virginia Beach, VA
23450



OFFICERS

President

Joseph Brady

Vice President

Jackie Trudell

Treasurer

Kate Sandoval

Recording Secretary

Cheryl Mulliken Brown

Financial Secretary

Katie Morse McCrory

Membership

Betsy Kennedy

Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Hagerty

Past President

Lynnette Fitch Brash

HOSPITALITY

Volunteers Needed

Sunshine Bulletin

email Lori Shea

NEWSLETTER

Lori Shea, editor
lorishea@aol.com

INTERNET NEWS

Vera Dotson

WEBMASTER

Michael Lawler

WEB SITE

IRLUSA.org
look for us on Facebook!



MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2016

- ♣ Start time: 7:10
 - ♣ Moment of silence for John Johnson who passed away earlier this week.
 - ♣ Financial Report: opening balance for Jan 1711.96.
PAID OUT: Jan rent-50.00, website maintenance (three years)-65.73, Stamps-98.00. Income: – 516.00
 - ♣ Mike Bromley has tickets available for Finnegan's wake; it is the Sat March 5th
 - ♣ FYI- Almost all the board members terms are up, please consider volunteering, if people don't step up we are going to have to dissipate.
 - ♣ Anniversary & Birthdays: Sandy MacGregor- 9th, Jack Kennedy-27th, Marion is going to be 84 on the 14th.
 - ♣ New Member: Rachel is from Belfast.
 - ♣ Everyone stood and introduced themselves.
 - ♣ Sunshine Reports- If there is anyone who has news and want it posted in the newsletter- contact Lori Shea. Lori can also give you the address of members that you would like to send a card too.
 - ♣ Heather Esposito is on her way to Derry as her Father has passed away.
 - ♣ This month Katie gave us an informative talk about Presidents with Irish ancestry.
 - ♣ Thanks to all who brought desserts, especially Mary Ann Brady for her Valentine's Day cake.
- submitted by: Cheryl Brown



Mary Ann Brady



Katie McCrory

IAS ELECTIONS THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016

By Jim Hagerty

At our monthly meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2016, the IAS will be voting on those who will lead us through the next two years. We are inviting nominations for the following:

President
Vice President
Second Vice President
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Secretary

The duties of each position can be seen in our official IAS By-Laws which are posted on our website www.IRLUSA.org (click on About Us) and in the IAS Facebook page (click on Files).

You must have your 2014 dues paid in order to nominate, run as a candidate, and/or vote. You must be present at the May meeting to vote.

If you want to nominate someone to run for office, please contact either of the members of the Election Committee, Jim Hagerty, at jimbohagerty@gmail.com or Mike Bromley at thebrom@verizon.net.

Be sure you have asked your nominee in advance whether he or she is willing to serve.



Sailor Jack's Farewell - Sean Healy



JOHN JJ JOHNSON - AN APPRECIATION

by Lynnette Fitch-Brash

In January, the Society lost one of the greatest friends and proudest Irishmen we've ever had. Our former IAS Vice President, "JJ" John Johnson, passed of a heart attack. It's hard to imagine someone so full of life not being with us anymore.

For those who weren't lucky enough to know him, I'll tell ya a few things. The most important thing in the world to JJ were his three children: Carrie, Justin, and Lindsey. He was so incredibly proud of all three of them, and they were his top priority always. Clan Johnson, I am so sorry you've lost your beloved patriarch.

After his kids, JJ was always looking out for his friends. He'd give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. He never met a stranger, and he'd pitch in immediately whenever anyone needed help. His work ethic was incredible: he was always first to show up and last to quit. Salt of the earth. Good people. JJ was such a great ambassador for the IAS as well as all the other Celtic organizations he supported in the area -- the SST, the HRHC, and CnamB.

He had the gift of the gab for sure! He was a proud former sailor, and that USN training stayed with him. He kept things "ship shape"! And fun! JJ was the life of the party! He invented the "Black-o-Lantern" for the first IAS Harvest Hooley - a half & half drink of Guinness & pumpkin ale. He was our beer professor! All the ladies loved JJ, and he loved us right back, even learning to knit with us! He didn't have a mean bone in his body. He loved his cigars, and he loved his hockey. He loved judging our IAS Cook Offs and chatting up the auld ones.

After a rough patch getting work, he climbed back in the saddle and was doing great with a nice new place and his lovely Debra, a wonderfully well-suited Irish redhead, to enjoy life with. Doesn't seem fair they didn't get more time together, and I'm so sorry for her loss. Two of his proudest moments with the IAS were carrying our new banner in the Hogmanay parade with Justin and Lindsey and captaining our Irish potato team to threepeat victories over the Scottish oat team!

JJ, you were one of a kind. We love you, and we'll miss you terribly.



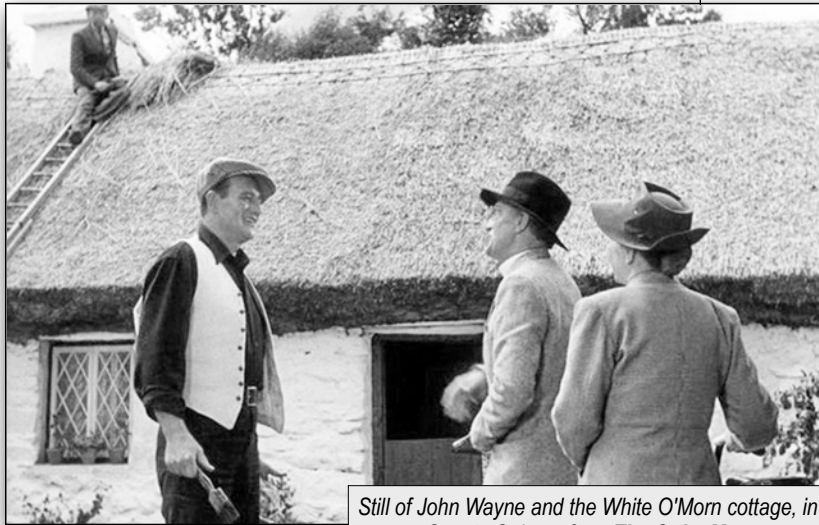
From the pages of . . .

IrishCentral

RESTORATION OF "QUIET MAN" COTTAGE TO BEGIN AS DISPUTE SETTLED

IrishCentral Staff Writers @irishcentral February 23, 2016

The lengthy legal battle over the ownership of **White O'Morn Cottage**, famously featured in the movie *The Quiet Man*, has finally been settled allowing the restoration of the iconic dilapidated building to commence.



Still of John Wayne and the White O'Morn cottage, in County Galway, from *The Quiet Man*

The registered owner, **Greg Ebbitt** of California, told the Irish press he has won his legal battle against local Patrick Keane, a farmer from Tiernakill, County Galway. The American businessman has been named as the rightful owner, *Galway Bay FM* reports.

The cottage, located in Maam, County Galway, was featured in the 1952 movie *The Quiet Man*, which was directed by John Ford and starred Maureen O'Hara and John Wayne. For years fans of the movie have petitioning the local council and the central government for permission to restore and preserve the cottage, which remains a tourist attraction today despite its ruined condition.

In April 2015, Keane had applied for squatters rights to the Property Registration Authority, but Ebbitt said he had made a "gentleman's agreement" with Keane in the 1980s to allow him to graze his animals on the site in return for maintenance work. Last July, due to the ongoing legal battle, the iconic cottage which had fallen into ruins has placed under Irish State protection.

Ebbitt now says he's relieved that the legal battle is over and he can finally begin to restore the cottage.

Previously, Ebbitt had told IrishCentral how much the legal battle had upset him and how he was looking forward to the start of work on the cottage. He said felt betrayed and had spent years trying to restore the cottage.

"I've spent a fortune on architects and engineers, but I've never got anywhere. It's been like hell trying to get this thing off the ground and I've started to feel that there's a big conspiracy to take this property off me," he told IrishCentral.

"I don't trust anybody any more. I really don't. I've never made a penny from this property and I've probably spent over \$100,000 in it ever since I bought it."

Since Maureen O'Hara's death hundreds of people have

stopped by the cottage, which is now just one gable wall. Over the years the cottage remains and most of the other stones have been removed by visitors. Currently, the cottage is only marked on the road by a handmade sign.

Last July, thanks to the backing of Maureen O'Hara along with Liam Neeson and Michael Flatley, White O'Morn cottage was officially granted status as a protected structure by the Galway County Council. Now fans are calling for it to be restored in memory of O'Hara, who died in October 2015.

Patrick McCormick, founder of the White O'Morn Foundation, told IrishCentral, "I made her a personal promise that I would do everything I could to, one day, get the cottage restored. I want to keep that promise now more than ever."

Happily it does seem that everyone involved, including Ebbitt and Keane, are behind the restoration of the cottage.

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Next month: Why The Quiet Man endures



Remains of the White O'Morn



HURLEY HAPPENINGS

Submitted by Lynnette Fitch Brash

Congratulations to the 2016 **Hampton Roads Hurling Club** board, elected at their AGM this month.

- President - **Ryan Norman**
- Vice President - **Josh Parker**
- Treasurer - **Edward Brash**
- Secretary - **Rebecca Norman**
- Public Relations Officer - **Chris Wolkowich**
- Fundraising Chair - **Jason Hall**
- Player Representative - **Seth Miller**

Congrats also to **Cumann na mBan (League of Women) Camogie Club's** 2016 CnamB BORD CRUINN (Leadership Council), elected at our AGM in December.

- TAOISEACH (Chair) – **Lynnette Fitch Brash**
- TÁNAISTE (Vice Chair) – **Jennifer Shafer**
- CISTEOIR (Treasurer) – **Jackie Trudell**
- RÚNAÍ (Secretary) - **Lisa Hunt Burgess**
- OIFIGEACH POIBLÍOCHTA (Public Relations Officer) - **Heather Warren**
- OIFIGEACH ÓIGE (Youth Development Officer) - **Mandi Wolkowich**
- IONADAÍ IMREOIR (Player Representative) - **Kelly White Freno**

This weekend, the two clubs are jointly electing our first **COASTAL VIRGINIA GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION** board! The COVA GAA will be an umbrella organization over the two clubs (HRHC & CnamB) to handle administrative tasks that affect both clubs, such as annual GAA registration of our athletes. Look for an announcement next month of the COVA GAA officers! Both clubs are actively recruiting for the spring 2016 hurling and camogie pub league teams. Shoot us an email and/or visit the clubs' Facebook pages if you are interested! No special equipment or experience required, and all ages, all fitness levels, all ethnicities, etc. are welcome! Camogie757va@gmail.com OR HRHurling@gmail.com We'll see you at **Finnegan's Wake** and the **Ocean View St. Patrick's Day Parade!** Thank you for letting us march again in the parade as part of the IAS & Friends Irish contingent! It's an honor and a pleasure for us to take part. Both CnamB & the HRHC also look forward to working with the IAS again this year on the **COASTAL VIRGINIA CUP Hurling & Camogie Tournament** (July 23, 2016) in Virginia Beach!

Thanks largely to the IAS, last year's amazing CVC tournament is going to be a tough act to follow.

HAMPTON ROADS HURLING CLUB LANDS A MAJOR SPONSOR

by Marcey Hunter

When members of the Hampton Roads Hurling team hit the tournament circuit this season, they'll be wearing the familiar logo of everyone's favorite Irish beer – Guinness! That's right – the HRHC has hit it big with this major sponsor.



"We couldn't be more pleased," said HRHC president **Ryan Norman**. "This raises our team to a whole new level."

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of HRHC player **Jason Hall**, Guinness representatives were eager to lend their brand to this up-and-coming local team.

"It's a good fit for us," said **TJ McCutchen**, the District Distributing Manager for Diageo Guinness USA. "We are pleased to support the HRHC. They are a promising team, and we are excited about this partnership."

The HRHC continues to grow in size. Nearly forty players have signed up for the Spring League, which starts April 3rd. Games will be played most Sundays, and will be held alternately on the Southside and on the Peninsula.

The team enjoyed some success last year, winning a tournament in Charleston and placing second in the shield match division at the Nationals in Chicago. And in partnership with Cumann na mBan Camogie Team and with strong backing from TIAS, the team also co-hosted their first tournament, the Coastal Virginia Cup, in Virginia Beach last July.

Hurling is a three thousand year old sport, and is the national sport of Ireland.

So please be sure to support the HRHC and drink your Guinness!

Hrhurling.com



THE PRINCESS DIARIES, CONTINUED ... FEBRUARY 2016

Happy **February** Birthday to IAS Teen Princess 2012 **Caitlyn Taylor**! Please consider supporting her GoFundMe to raise money for the worthy cause of doing volunteer work in Mexico this summer. Caitlyn, many of you will recall, was an honor grad of the **Bayside Health Sciences Academy** several years ago, and she is now a pre-med student / Neuroscience major at **George Mason University**. This will be her second time going to Mexico to volunteer at schools, in orphanages, and with kids who are either at risk of (or already are) living on the streets. Please visit this link to learn more and/or make a donation. Every little bit helps!

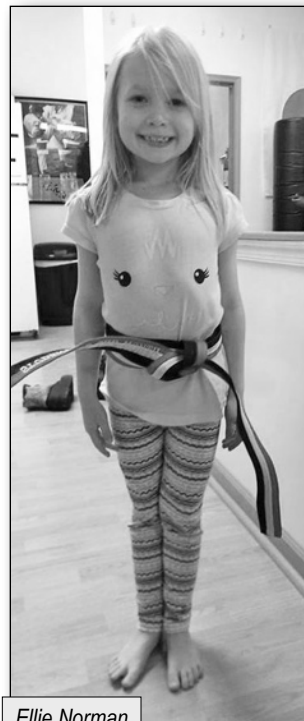
www.gofundme.com/7rttj93a

IAS Adult Princess 2004 **Lynette Gilmour Crouch** and husband **Tommy** are having an Open House immediately following the 2016 **Ocean View St. Patrick's Day Parade** on Saturday, March 19th. Lamb stew and a keg of beer will be provided, but feel free to bring other refreshments to share. Casa Crouch is located walking distance from the parade route at 1401 W. Little Creek Rd., corner of Major Ave. & W. Little Creek Rd. in North Meadowbrook. Look for a blue colonial with plenty of Irish décor out front!



Welcome to Lynette & Tom Crouch's after the parade!

Congratulations to IAS Adult Princess 2000 **Lynnette Fitch Brash** who was recently selected to present a paper at **The Association for Scottish Literary Studies** annual conference this summer in Glasgow! The theme of the conference is "Literature & Religion in Scotland", and Lynnette is writing a paper called "No Love Lost: How Robert Burns Repaid the Scottish Kirk in Verse".



Ellie Norman

IAS Little Miss Princess 2013 **Ellie Norman** was chosen this February as her dojo's Student of the Month at the **Virginia Martial Arts Center** in Chesapeake.

Proud mom **Rebecca Norman**, our IAS Adult Princess 2013, was chosen as the VMAC Female Competitor of the Year for 2015! Congrats all the way around, ladies! (See accompanying pictures of Ellie & Rebecca.)



Rebecca Norman



As per the IAS by-laws, the annual dues are due each January, and they cover that calendar year, ending December 31st, no matter when during the year you join.

Membership dues help pay for our liability insurance, newsletter expenses, the charities we support and our St. Patrick's Day parade floats and festival banners, etc.

You may download membership forms on our website: IRLUSA.ORG or on Facebook.

**A REMINDER:
TO KEEP THESE NEWSLETTERS
COMING - PAY YOUR DUES !**

**Irish American Society of Falmouth
Annual Membership Renewal - 2017**

Please Note: Your IAS membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st.

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____
I would like my Name, Address, Phone, and E-mail to be released to other IAS members. Yes/No _____
I would like to receive the Monthly IAS Newsletter either online or have the IAS newsletter printed. Yes/No _____
Please complete the information above and return this form with your 2017 dues to:
On hand to the IAS Treasurer/Secretary (if absent check) at a meeting.

We need this form completed to ensure we have the current information on members in the society area of 2017 and to the 2017 year ending members will have no computer database. Thank you for your cooperation. (Signature) (Date) (Initials) (Date) (Initials)

2017 dues: \$10.00 (includes 1 year of membership and 1 year of newsletter subscription)

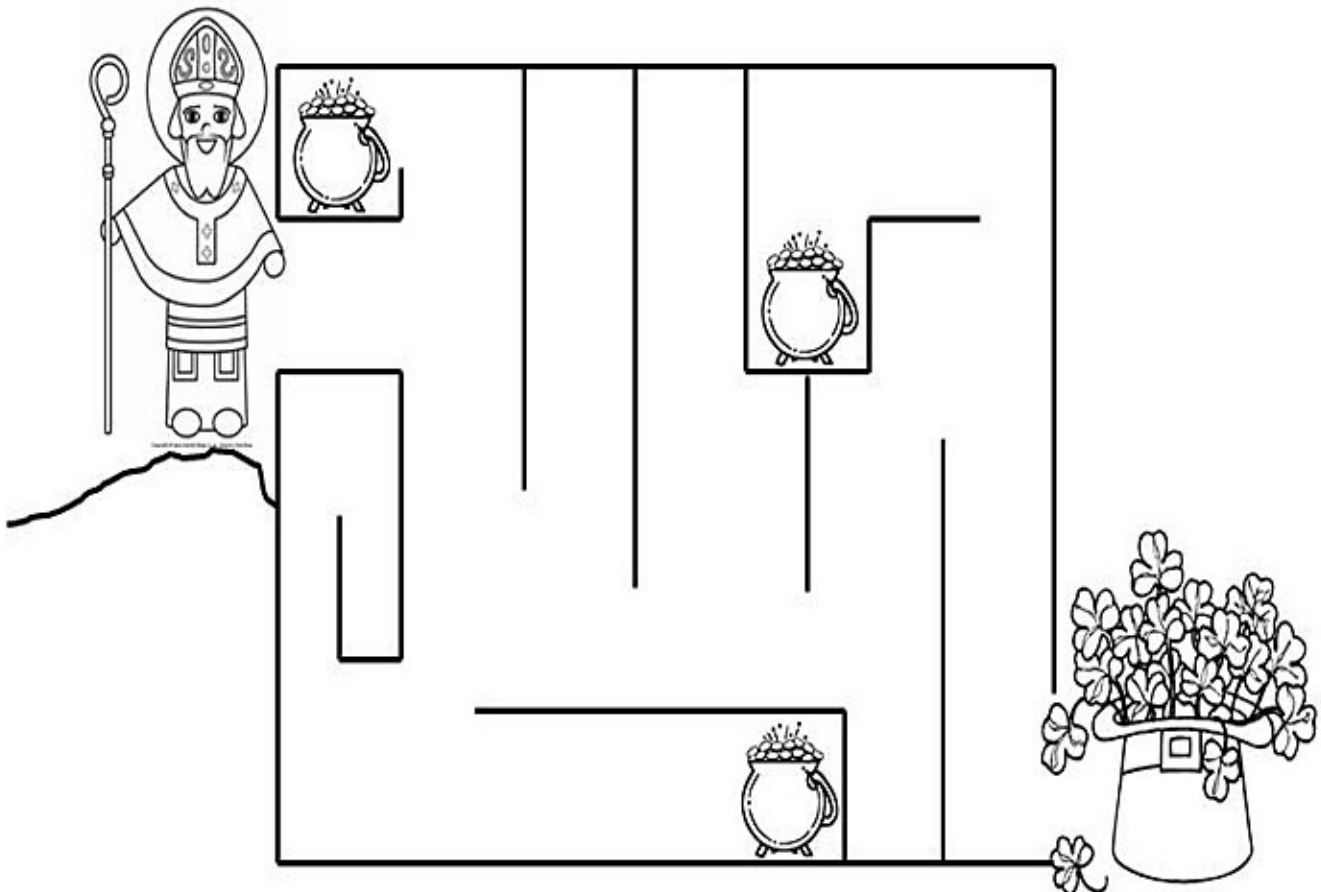
Payment Method: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Debit Card

Our New Coloring Page
From Katie Morse-McCrory

Celtic Kids' Corner

Help St. Patrick Find the Shamrocks!

Don't be distracted by the shiny pots of gold!



2016 OCEAN VIEW SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
March 19, 2016

PARADE ROUTE

The parade begins at Northside Middle School which is located at the corner of Westmont Ave and Granby Street. From that point it travels North on Granby, turns left at A View Ave, turns left on First View Street, and ends at the intersection of First View and Government Ave.

The parade route is approximately 1.5 miles.

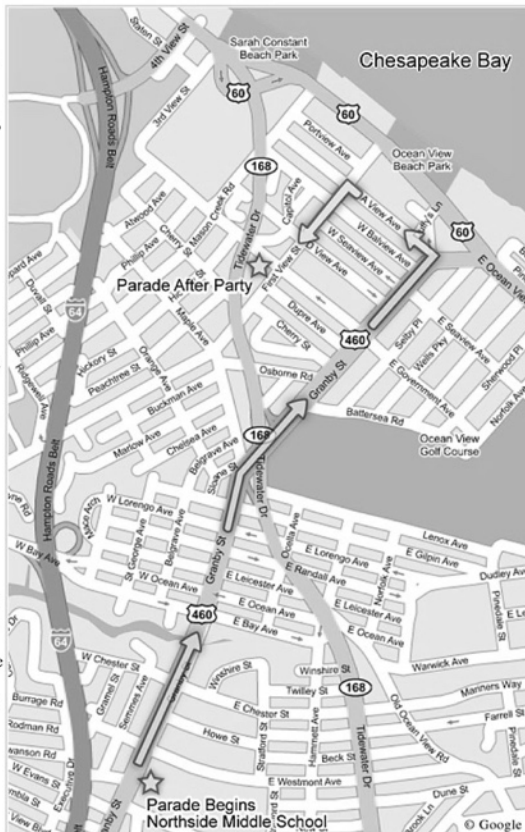
PARKING

On-street parking is available on most of the adjacent blocks along the parade route. Off-street parking is available at the Sarah Constant Beach Park, Ocean View Beach Park, and Ocean View Elementary.

PARTY AFTER THE PARADE

Remember that the parade after-party, thrown by the Columbian Club of Ocean View, is held at 211 W. Government Ave. There will be food, refreshments and live music. Free admission and open to the public. Come join the fun!

Check us out on the web at:
www.NorfolkParade.com



The **49th Saint Patrick's Day Parade** will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2016. We will be placed in position before 9:00 a.m. in front of the Northside Middle school and will step off promptly at 10:00 a.m.

All those who wish to carry flags please contact **Jim Hagerty** at the March 3rd meeting, or at Finnegan's Wake. We will have the Paddy Wagon and Cottage in the parade and hopefully the green Mustang convertible.

There will be a shuttle bus running from Ocean View Elementary at Government and Mason Creek road to the parade area from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., so you can park at the end of the parade.

We will need help decorating the float, please. If you are using carriage or stroller it cannot be put of Paddy Wagon. Please remember to dress according to the weather report.

Folks who cannot walk the parade route are first on the Paddy Wagon, then space available.

hope to see you there, Joe

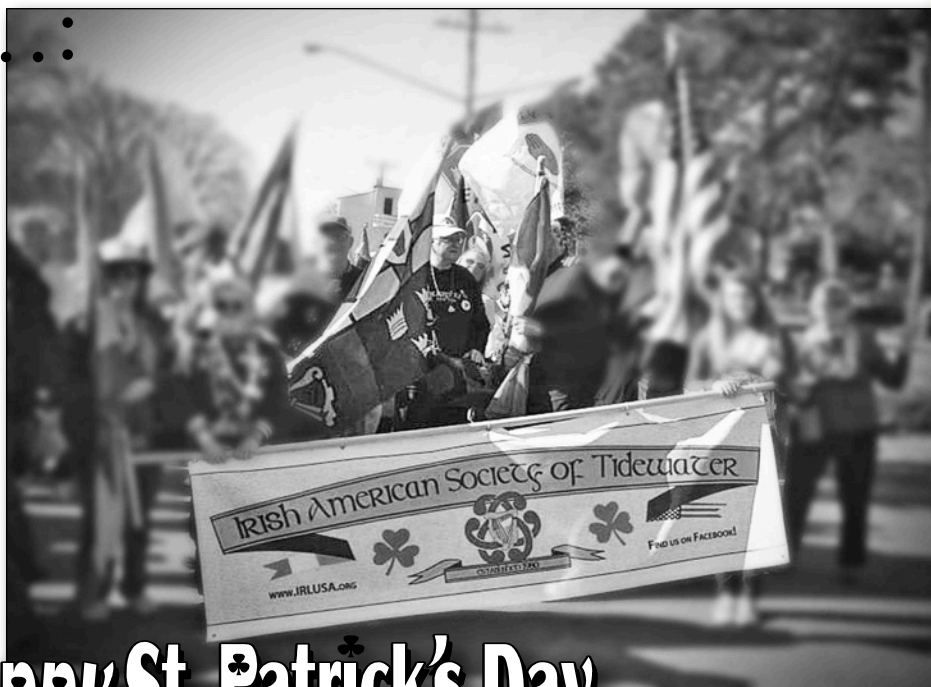
**MAKE A NOTE:**

"Tell folks that poor Jim had a nightmare that no one showed up and he marched the entire parade route all by himself?"

Carrying a flag???

Email Jim at:

jimbohagerty@gmail.com

AN URGENT NOTE FROM JIM HAGERTY:

Happy St. Patrick's Day