



Muskegon Irish American Society

NEWS



Summer 2021

Welcome Back: Step by Step!

As an Irish song says, “we are moving ahead step by step”. While life is beginning to slowly move forward, our society activities and events remain ‘*on hold*’ for the foreseeable future. The health, safety and well-being of our members is our number one priority!

In March of 2020 life as we knew it came to an abrupt halt! St. Patrick’s Day events were cancelled, holding our Spring Dinner, Summer Picnic, and Fall Movie Night were not an option...the global pandemic stopped us in our tracks!

While we see some light at the end of the tunnel, your Board of Directors continues to exercise caution and is not yet planning a summer or fall event. When we feel it is safe to do so, you will be notified in a timely manner.

How’s Ireland doing with Covid-19?

Ireland had the fastest and highest spike in cases in the world in January. This happened because, in early December, confirmed cases in the community were deemed to be low enough to allow some easing of restrictions. At that stage, Ireland had the lowest incidence of COVID-19 in Europe, which had been achieved with a second lockdown in November. Restaurants and non-essential retail were opened, and households could mix in a limited way.

People began to meet again, both outside their homes and inside. Despite many warnings about household gatherings, as Christmas approached it became clear that case numbers were rapidly rising, followed by hospitalizations, ICU admissions and, sadly, an increase in deaths. The reason was simple: too much contact between people. COVID-19 is a seasonal virus that spreads in winter – just like any other respiratory virus – because we are indoors a lot.

Irish people love Christmas and they had been through a tough lockdown in November. One thing Ireland teaches us is even a limited amount of social mixing – which is what most people did – is enough to allow COVID-19 to re-erupt.

The Irish government reacted quickly. On December 24, nationwide restrictions were reimposed, and by January 6, Ireland was back into one of the most stringent lockdowns in Europe. The party was well and truly over. Schools and construction sites were closed, click-and-collect for non-essential retail was banned.

On January 26, the government extended the lockdown until March 5 at the earliest. Four days later, it was announced that Ireland had more cases in January than throughout all of 2020.

The total number of COVID-related deaths on December 3 was 2,080. It rose to 3,621 on February 5. This means that almost as many people have died of COVID-19 in the weeks since early December than in the entire time up to that point since the pandemic began. The price of Christmas.

The restrictions worked. On January 11, Ireland had a seven-day moving average of 6,363 cases. And from that peak, it has fallen steadily. On February 6, this had hit 1,035 cases – a decline that is among the fastest in the world. The lack of contact between people is the reason for this.

The hope of the vaccination campaign is keeping everyone going, as is the prospect of summer coming when the spread of the virus will be substantially lessened. Being outdoors is well known to decrease spread. We must learn our lesson well and remember it next winter when we move indoors again.

A repeat of what happened last winter is highly unlikely, especially given the mass vaccination programs. But we can't be too careful, especially with the emergence of new variants that are more transmissible, more deadly or better at evading the immune system. Ireland must keep up with public health measures into the foreseeable future. This virus will exploit any weakness and the task now is to learn from mistakes and move to the next phase, with what has become the mantra of these times: cautious optimism.

Source: https://www.tcd.ie/news_events/articles/how-ireland-turned-around-one-of-the-biggest-spikes-in-covid-cases-in-the-world/



2021 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

The **Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame** has announced its 2021 class of inductees. The Hall recognizes Irish Americans who have made important contributions in various fields of life in Michigan. The honorees were inducted at the Motor City Irish Fest, in Livonia, on Sunday, June 13.



Public Service: Timothy Francis Hughes

A Detroit native, Timothy Hughes traces his roots to County Cork, Ireland. He spent more than 40 years in various roles in Michigan's legislative process, including Senate Democratic Communications Director 1973-1983; Legislative Director, Michigan State AFL-CIO 1983-2003; Legislative Director for Governor Jennifer Granholm 2003-2010; Legislative Coordinator, UAW International Union 2011-2015; Legislative Consultant, Michigan State AFL-CIO 2015-2016. He was highly respected by legislators and government officials on both sides of the aisle during his long career of public service.



Business and Industry: Charles J. Rogers

Born 1890 in County Cavan, Ireland, Charles Rogers immigrated to Detroit at age 16, and became a U.S. citizen at age 18. After fighting in the U.S. Army during WWI and returning to Detroit, he founded the CJ Rogers Construction Co., which grew into one of Michigan's largest excavation and road construction contractors. The CJ Rogers Construction Co. built many of the highways and freeways in southeast Michigan. Charles Rogers died in 1971, and he is being honored posthumously. The State of Michigan has named an interchange on I-75 in his honor. He was a prominent member of the Detroit business community and Irish community.



Arts and Entertainment: Erin Shannon Quinn

A native of Battle Creek, Michigan, Erin Quinn's Irish immigrant father introduced her to Irish dancing at age 5. During her dance career she placed highly in dance competitions in Ireland, the U.S. and Canada. She also was a member of the Riverdance tour, and danced at the White House. In 2001 she founded the Quinn School of Irish Dance, which has locations in Kalamazoo and Lansing. Many of her students have earned high rankings as Irish dancers, and she brings her students to many festivals and dance competitions. For several years she was a co-leader of Western Michigan University's study abroad program in Ireland and Northern Ireland. She is a Registered Nurse and is also pursuing a veterinary medicine degree.



Education: John H. McGarry

A native of West Virginia, John McGarry came to Muskegon in 1990 as Director of the Lakeshore Museum. Over the next 25 years he grew the Lakeshore Museum and its exhibits and educational programs into one of the most respected community museums in the U.S. He was a founder of the Michigan Irish Music Festival, and a well-known historian of both Irish and American history. He was a popular folksinger and story-teller of Irish and Civil War tales. He was an influential community leader for Muskegon in many areas. John McGarry died in 2016, and he is being honored posthumously.

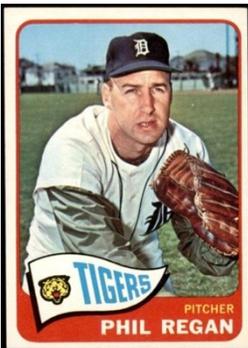


2021 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees



Sports: Elaine Crosby

Elaine Crosby, whose maternal grandparents were from Ireland, is a Jackson native and attended the University of Michigan, where she was member of the women's varsity golf team. In 1980 she won the Bowling Green Invitational Championship, and in 1981 she won the Michigan Women's Amateur Championship. She qualified for the LPGA Tour in 1985, and for the next 15 years she was a top level player, winning two tournaments, and in many others finishing 2nd, 3rd, or in the top ten. Her accumulated winnings exceeded more than 1.5 million dollars. After retiring from the LPGA Tour in 2000, Crosby won back-to-back Michigan Women's Opens in 2001 and 2002. In 2004 she won a tournament on the LPGA Legends Tour. In 2018 she competed in the inaugural U.S. Women's Senior Open. For 18 years starting in 1999, Crosby hosted the Wendy's Charity Classic at the Jackson Country Club, which raised over \$3,000,000 for children's charities. During her long career, her fellow LPGA members elected her to leadership positions within the LPGA. She is a member of the U of M Athletic Hall of Honor, the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame, and the LPGA Legends Hall of Fame.



Sports: Phil Regan

A native of Wayland, Michigan, Phil Regan graduated from Wayland High School with varsity letters in baseball, football, and basketball. Soon after he was a pitcher for the Detroit Tigers (1960-65), for the Los Angeles Dodgers (1966-68), for the Chicago Cubs (1968-72), and the Chicago White Sox (1972). He was named Come Back Player of the year in 1966, and was also named Reliever of the Year in 1966 and 1968. He pitched in the 1966 World Series, and was named to the All Star Team of 1966. After retirement in 1972, he was the Head Baseball Coach at Grand Valley State University until 1982. He also played for the championship amateur team, the Grand Rapids Sullivans. He next was a pitching coach for several major league teams and the U.S. Olympic baseball team of 2000. He was the manager of the Baltimore Orioles in 1995 and the West Michigan Whitecaps in 2002-2003. Presently at 84 years of age, in the winter he is the pitching coach of the championship team of the Dominican Republic Winter League, and during the regular season he is the Minor League Pitching Coach Supervisor of the New York Mets. Phil was unable to attend the induction and he will be inducted at a later date.

Upcoming Events

Irish Music All Stars

August 17, 2021

7 - 10pm

McGraft Park, Muskegon MI

FREE concert presented by the Michigan Irish Music Festival includes performances by Pat Broaders, Pauline Conneely, Jimmy Keane and Lawrence Nugent. The Irish Music All Stars brings together four immigrant Irish musicians who are proud to be part of a great legacy of trad Irish music. The sons, and daughter, of traditional musicians and singers come with years of experience; from solo performances and performing with various bands.

Milwaukee Irish Fest

August 20-22

Henry Maier Festival Park
Milwaukee, WI

The 40th Milwaukee Irish Fest lineup features more than 50 Irish and Irish American artists and dance schools! Feature artists include: The Byrne Brothers, Cherish the Ladies, Gaelic Storm, Jigjam, Scythian, Seamus Kennedy, and more!

Tickets are available online at
<https://irishfest.com/Tickets>

Hackley Hooley

September 18, 2021

11 am - 8pm

Hackley Park, Muskegon MI

Family Financial Credit Union and the Michigan Irish Music Festival presents HACKLEY HOOLEY, a hybrid, one-day event featuring live music by Old Blind Dogs, One For The Foxes, Runa, and Seamus Kennedy.

Limited tickets for Hackley Hooley will be sold online in advance for \$10 (kids 2 and under are free), beginning on August 1 at michiganirish.org



2021 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Induction



2021 Inductees

Erin Quinn, Susan McGarry for John McGarry,
Timothy Hughes, Brian Brennan for Charles Rogers,
Elaine Crosby



2021 Inductees

with MIAHOF Representatives

Eileen Chlebana, Erin Quinn, Lori Buresh, Susan McGarry, Mick Lane,
Timothy Hughes, David O'Connor, Brian Brennan,
Elaine Crosby, James Brandstetter



James Brandstetter, Elaine Crosby,
Kevin Donovan, Phil O'Dwyer



Kevin Donovan, Eileen Chlebana,
Erin Quinn, Phil O'Dwyer



Kevin Donovan, Lori Buresh
Susan McGarry, Phil O'Dwyer



David O'Connor, Brian Brennan,
Kevin Donovan, Phil O'Dwyer



Mick Lane, Timothy Hughes,
Kevin Donovan, Phil O'Dwyer