



Muskegon Irish American Society

NEWS



Winter 2024

IT'S OUR 22nd ANNUAL PUB PARTY!



Join us for our annual pub party!

Sunday, February 4, 2024 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Knights of Columbus, 2915 Fairfield St. Norton Shores, MI

This is our 22nd annual pub party! We'll get the party started with live music by Kevin, David, Natalie and Mick! You'll clap your hands and tap your toes to the sounds of these talented musicians! As usual, a great selection of food and beverages will be available for purchase.

There is no cover charge and reservations are **not** required. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW TO BE SURE YOU DO NOT MISS THIS GREAT TIME!** We can't wait to see you there!



Call for Nominations to the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame - Class of 2024

Criteria for Nomination:

1. Nominations will be accepted for individuals of Irish American Descent, living or deceased, with substantial ties to Michigan who have made contributions in areas such as Public/Community Service, Philanthropy, Business and Industry, Arts and Entertainment, Religion, Education, and Sports.
2. Nominees must have a meaningful connection to the state of Michigan, be of verifiable Irish ancestry, be a citizen of the United States and have made a notable contribution in one of the aforementioned areas.
3. Nomination forms are available through the Muskegon Irish American Society or can be completed online at www.michiganirishamericanhalloffame.org Nominations must include name of nominee, category and brief description of reason for nomination/candidate worthiness.
4. A committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Muskegon Irish American Society will screen nominations and recommend selections to the Board for final approval.

Deadline for Nominations: The completed nomination form and any supporting materials must be emailed or posted on or before **APRIL 1, 2024** Nominations received after this date may be considered for the following year.



Eight Fun Facts About Christmas in Ireland



1. Christmas officially begins on December 8th in Ireland with festive lights and Christmas markets.
2. Historically, holly and ivy were used to decorate homes for the season. The more berries on the holly bush, the better luck to come next year.
3. *The Wexford Carol* is one of the oldest Christmas carols. No one knows when it was composed but it tells the tale of the nativity.
4. Want to wish someone Happy Christmas in Irish? *Nollaig Shona Duit* translates roughly as “Happy Christmas to you”.
5. Homes in Ireland hang mistletoe in doorways to symbolize peace and goodwill. Kisses sometimes welcome, of course!
6. The Christmas Day swim takes place all over Ireland’s coastline, with participants taking the chilly plunge, often for charity.
7. December 26 is celebrated as a public holiday... Boxing Day in Northern Ireland and St. Stephan’s Day in the Republic. Keep your eyes peeled for “Wren Boys” parading the streets in straw suits.
8. Often referred to as Women’s (or Little) Christmas, January 6th is the last day of Christmas. The day when women avoid all housework while the men take down decorations and prepare all the meals.



Highlights From Irish Movie at the Museum



Kevin Donovan named 2023 Irish Person of the Year!

Kevin Donovan is a third generation Irish American on both paternal and maternal sides of the family. His DNA shows 100% Irish, which comes as no surprise! Kevin and Sue share 42 years of marriage, three children and five grandchildren. He also has 11 siblings and 21 nieces and nephews.

Kevin's hobbies include woodworking, playing guitar, and all things Irish! Along with 46 years working in the building trades (residential and commercial), Kevin also serves on several Boards, including the Muskegon Irish American Society, Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame, Michigan

Irish Music Festive, Muskegon Area Intermediate School District and more!

His professional contributions to major projects all over West Michigan is unsurpassed! His accomplishments include Hackley Public Library, Muskegon Community College, Mercy General Health Partners, Heritage Square Townhomes, Terrace Pointe Marina, and nearly every school district in Muskegon County! Congratulations Kevin!

Following Kevin's award and delicious refreshments, members and guests enjoyed the movie *Young Plato*.





St. Patrick's Day Events

**There will not be another newsletter before St. Patrick's Day.
Please note these upcoming events.**



St. Patrick's Day Celebration with *Cherish the Ladies*

Friday, March 15 8:30 - 10:00 pm Frauenthal Center

Presented by the West Michigan Symphony, enjoy beautiful vocals and captivating musical arrangements by this Grammy-nominated Irish American group. Tickets are available at:

www.westmichigansymphony.org



St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday, March 16

Sponsored by Muskegon Jaycees in downtown Muskegon on Saturday morning at **11:00 am**. Line up for the parade near the corner of 6th and Western, at 10:30 am. If you are a member of our club, **please walk with our club** in the parade, we need a good turnout for the Muskegon Irish American Society! More information at www.muskegonjaycees.org



51st Annual Irish Flag Raising

Sunday, March 17

Sunday is St. Patrick's Day itself. Please join our club at **noon** for our 50th annual Raising of the Irish Flag at the Mart Dock. Please join us in this longstanding tradition!

2024 Dues

With this newsletter you will receive your annual dues statement for 2024. Our dues remain a bargain at **\$25** per family. Dues are essential to support our club's programs and the newsletter. Payment by check is always welcome! It is also convenient to pay your dues during the pub party on February 4th.

We are always looking to increase our membership. Please feel free to invite family and friends to join our illustrious group! You don't have to be Irish to be part of the fun!

Go raibh maith agat! (Thank you!)

