



Muskegon Irish American Society

NEWS



Summer 2022

We're Back With Our Summer Barbeque

Mona Lake Boat Club, Wednesday, August 24



Enjoy a hearty meal of a grilled burger, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, and cake for \$15 per person. Adult beverages will be available at a cash bar.

The ever delightful *Mona Shores Fiddlers* will entertain us with their upbeat, toe tapping, knee slapping sounds! The Mona Shores Fiddlers is an extra curricular alternative styles ensemble, which performs throughout the Muskegon community, including the *Michigan Irish Music Festival*.

The Fiddlers are under the direction of Mona Shores High School Orchestra Director, Mrs. Kelly De Rose. You won't want to miss the fun!

To make your reservation please call Kathleen Marek at (231) 759-7344 as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday, August 19. (If no answer, PLEASE leave a message!)** We need a reservation, so make that call today!

We can't wait to see you there!

WHAT: Muskegon Irish American Society Summer Barbeque

WHERE: Mona Lake Boat Club • 372 Randall Road • Norton Shores, MI

WHEN: Wednesday, August 24, 2022

5:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:15 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Mona Shores Fiddlers

COST: \$15.00 per person

Reservations are required by **Friday, August 19** to Kathleen Marek at (231) 759-7344 (**PLEASE leave a message!**)



2022 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees



The **Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame** has announced its 2022 class of inductees. The Hall recognizes Irish Americans who have made important contributions in various fields of life in Michigan. The honorees will be inducted at the Michigan Irish Music Festival in Muskegon, on Saturday, September 17.

To see the complete bios of these inductees and other members of the Hall of Fame, please use QR Code or visit the Hall of Fame website at <http://www.michiganirishamericanhalloffame.org/>.

Category of Philanthropy:

Kevin Murphy

Kevin Murphy has owned Murphy's Restaurant in Redford, Michigan, for over 37 years. He is the co-chair of the Motor City Irish Fest, the Building Corporation Manager for the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Hall in Redford Michigan, a member of the AOH Stephen Walsh Division, Fraternal Order of United Irishmen and many Irish charitable organizations. Kevin is a member of the local band, the Jamrocks, and has been playing music at Mass since he was a teenager. Kevin is a past Pallottine Fathers Man of the Year, and a member of the United Irish Societies.

Erin and David Keem

Erin Keem's Irish heritage originates from County Clare, Ireland, and David's from County Mayo, Ireland. Both are co-hosts of the Irish Music Cafe Radio Show. They both have held offices with the Gaelic League Irish American Club of Detroit, and the Irish Genealogical Society. In 2018 they were the Grand Marshals of the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade. They both currently serve on the board of the Motor City Irish Fest.

Category of Education:

Kathleen McNamara

Kathleen (Kitty) McNamara was raised in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, the 10th of 17 children. Her parents, Martin and Evelyn McNamara were from Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Her Irish heritage stems from County Clare, Ireland. After attending Grand Valley State College to become a Social Studies teacher, Kitty started her teaching career on Beaver Island. She took a year off to continue her studies at the National University of Ireland Galway. Upon returning to Beaver Island, she resumed teaching. Kitty taught many subjects, including a Beaver Island History class. She was a founding member of the Northern Lights Athletic League. After teaching for five years, Kitty was promoted to principal/superintendent. She remained in that role for twenty-six years. Kitty inspired generations of Island students to reach their potential, know who they were, and celebrate their heritage.

Thomas A. Powers (deceased)

Thomas A. Powers was a quintessential Irishman -- witty, engaging and fun-loving. But this Irishman who died in May 2019 at the age of 76 was also a religious man, family man and a community man. Tom was an educational leader in every community in which he served and in every school building in which he poured out his kindness and compassion. Tom received his undergraduate degrees from Ohio State University. He began his education career teaching and coaching at Toledo Central Catholic High School before moving into community education leadership in Flint and Muskegon. He furthered his education with advanced degrees from Eastern Michigan University and Central Michigan University. He returned to Catholic education as the superintendent of the Grand Traverse Catholic Schools before returning to Muskegon Mona Shores as an elementary principal. He finished his educational career as the superintendent of the Greater Muskegon Catholic Schools.



2022 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

Category of Business and Industry:

Michael Sean Hennessy

Michael Sean Hennessy, whose Irish roots are from County Cork in Ireland, was born on December 3, 1954, in Chicago. He owned and operated a Baskin Robbins store for 5 years, and then sold it to become a Little Caesar's franchisee in the Muskegon area. In the following years he opened 3 more Little Caesars locations. In 2011 Michael and his wife Nancy opened Hennessy's Irish Pub and Restaurant in Muskegon, which is the home of the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame. In 2014 he also opened the Boar's Belly Brewhouse. During the course of his long hospitality career, Michael was always a hard-working hands-on leader whose example inspired countless young people whose first jobs were in one of Michael's restaurants. Under Michael's mentorship they learned the discipline and dedication they would need to succeed wherever their life's work would take them. In 2021, after more than 45 years in the restaurant business, Michael retired.

Category of Arts and Entertainment:

Sean F. Ryan

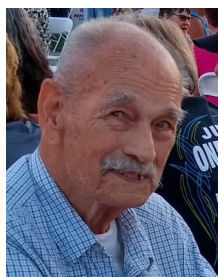
Sean Ryan was born in Clonakilty, Ireland, and raised in Youghal, County Cork, Ireland. As a young boy he played tin whistle in the school marching band. Sean eventually settled near Petoskey, Michigan, to pursue his musical career, including incorporating Irish music and story-telling in his repertoire. For over 40 years Sean Ryan performed his unique style of folk songs and Irish music and story-telling to entertain thousands of residents and tourists throughout northern Michigan and beyond.

St. Patrick's Day Parade and Flag Raising 2022





In Remembrance



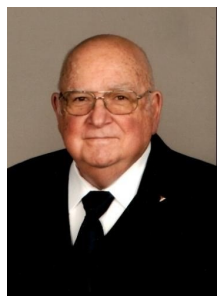
Roger Reynolds Whitman, age 94 passed away peacefully Tuesday December 21, 2021. He was born to Otto Fredrick and Helen Louise Whitman on Nov 29, 1927, in Grand Rapids Mich. He was a decade long member of the Muskegon Irish American Society. Roger is survived by a sister, three daughters, a son, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Roger was preceded in death by his wife of 72 years, Madonna, and his daughter Ladonna Jonio. A funeral was held on January 22, 2022 in Coopersville.

Full obituary can be viewed at <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/23448036/roger-whitman>



Thomas M. Maloy of Grand Haven, formerly of Norton Shores, passed away Thursday, January 27, 2022, at Mercy Hospital in Muskegon. He was loved as a husband, father, brother, uncle, teacher and friend. A member of the Muskegon History Club, he worked on several boards, including Muskegon Ambucs, the Muskegon Irish American Society and the Lakeshore Museum Center. Tom is survived by his wife, son, daughter, brother, sisters, and several nieces and nephews. A memorial mass was held on April 23, 2022 in Grand Haven.

Full obituary at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/grandhaventribune/name/thomas-maloy-obituary?id=32600855>



Robert L. Friel, age 80, passed away November 12, 2021, in Muskegon. While he worked as a teacher in the Ann Arbor School System for over thirty years, he also gave back to the community in other ways. He served as a sheriff's deputy and a paramedic. Wife, Yvonne Lauer survives him along with two children, Shawna (Roger) Martin, Mike (Karen) Friel, three stepchildren, Robin Schroeder, Karen Potter, and Angela Backus; 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held on Saturday, November 20, 2021.

Full obituary at <https://obits.mlive.com/us/obituaries/muskegon/name/robert-friel-obituary?id=31562046>



Thomas A. Harryman died in his hometown of Muskegon on Saturday, May 14, 2022, after a brief illness. For almost seven decades Tom gained near legendary status as a theatre actor, director and designer, as well as a college educator. He passed along his love not only of the stage, but also whoever and whatever else he touched, including the Michigan Irish Music Festival. Tom leaves behind his wife, Francine, his brothers George (Sandi) and Jim, four nieces and one nephew, and more friends than most people can count. A celebration of Tom's great life was held on Thursday, July 14, 2022.

Full obituary at <https://obits.mlive.com/us/obituaries/muskegon/name/thomas-harryman-obituary?id=34997064>

Upcoming Events

From Ireland!

August 16, 2022

7 - 10pm

McGraft Park, Muskegon MI

FREE concert presented by the Michigan Irish Music Festival includes a performance by Aoife Scott!

FREE Event

Milwaukee Irish Fest

August 18-21

Henry Maier Festival Park

Milwaukee, WI

The 41st Milwaukee Irish Fest lineup features more than 50 Irish and Irish American artists and dance schools!

<https://irishfest.com/Tickets>

Michigan Irish Music Festival

September 15-18

Heritage Landing

Muskegon, MI

The MIMF feature four days of outstanding live music, culture, Irish food, beverages, and entertainment.

<https://bit.ly/MIMFtickets>