



2011 ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

HIBERNIANS ANNOUNCE NEW PARKING AND TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS FOR 2011 SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

St. Louis - Due to concerns of Dogtown residents and St. Louis City officials about the number of outside vehicles and excess traffic in the neighborhood during the annual Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade on March 17, parade officials have agreed to a plan with St. Louis officials to address the residents' concerns

Under the plan more residential streets in the immediate parade route area would be blocked to traffic by closing access to the parade area from Hampton on the East and Kraft on the West.

"Every year we refine the parade," Mohan said. "We've had cars double-parking and people blocked in. Emergency vehicles can't get through. So we're going to push the perimeter out a little further. We want to cut down on the number of cars flooding the area and lessen an irritant for local folks," Mohan said.

Most of the residential streets in Dogtown will be blocked the morning of the parade with residents with passes will be allowed into the area. (A map of the blocked areas and a listed of the barricaded street are attached to this release).

On the South perimeter of the festival area access from Sproule, Gregg, Graham, Tamm, Dale, Mitchell will be closed. On the West perimeter streets running east from Kraft to Mitchell to Berthold and Clayton on the North are closed. Oakland will also be closed to traffic at Hampton and vehicles traveling east at Fairmount. Traffic restrictions on Wells Avenue in Forest Park will remain the same as previous years.

Parking outside the restricted will be on a "first come/first served" basis. Some businesses in the past have set up paid parking lots at a nominal cost. These businesses charge anywhere from \$10-\$20 to park on their lots. Another option is to park at the St. Louis Zoo South Parking Lot for a fee. There is free parking also in Forest Park, but drivers should be aware that police will ticket vehicles parked illegally.

There are also other parking options in the area. St. James Parish has made arrangements with Forest Park Hospital to rent their surface and garage parking areas and will charging for parking. The North side of Carpenter's Hall will be open to provide access to the Carpenter's parking lot.

Parking is also available at St. Louis Marketplace on Manchester, but only in the areas West of K-Mart. All other areas of lot are “no parking areas” and vehicles will be towed

None of the parking lots are connected to the Hibernians and the organization receives no proceeds from these lots.

This year’s Saint Patrick’s Day celebration will be more “green” than usual. The Hibernians have joined with St. Louis University’s Center for Sustainability to encourage all parade goers to recycle during this year’s parade. Recycling containers from Waste Management will line the parade route. Parade organizers ask that everyone to please clean up their immediate areas and dispose of their trash before leaving.

The Hibernians remind everyone attending the big event in Dogtown on March 17 to plan ahead and please respect the residents of Dogtown by not littering, or doing any other activities that you wouldn’t want to happen in neighborhood or to your home.

Parade organizers are asking everyone to clean up their immediate areas and dispose of their trash before leaving the Dogtown neighborhood. Also in the interest of safety, spectators will not be allowed to view the parade from the Tamm Avenue overpass and glass containers will be banned in the parade area.

“Everyone who attends the parade is a guest of the residents of Dogtown, and we would like to be able to come back next year to put on what has become one of the premier events in St. Louis, but we can only do that with your help,” Mohan said.

Recently the Saint Patrick’s Day celebration in Dogtown placed number four on Metromix’s list of the “101 Things to do in St. Louis during 2011.”

The parade committee and the Dogtown Business Association want everyone to remember this is family event and encourages everyone to drink responsibly. Outside sales will cease at 6:00 p.m. and all business establishments in the Clayton-Tamm area will close at 8:00 p.m. Police officials will also be checking for underage drinking in the Clayton-Tamm area.

The Hibernians also recommend the following to assure a safe St. Patrick’s Day for everyone. Before celebrating designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home. If you find yourself impaired the Hibernians urge parade goers call a taxi or a sober friend or family member.

“Driving impaired is simply not worth the risk,” said parade organizer Jim Mohan. “Not only do you risk injuring or killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash

or an arrest for driving while impaired are significant. Don't depend on luck on March 17, have a plan before you celebrate."

If you need transportation home Hibernians encourage everyone to keep the following numbers handy: 314-993- TAXI or RJC Cabs 314-369-9347 or Laclede Cab 314-652-3456, or ask your bartender for the information.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians wants everyone to have a good time and be safe so they will be available for the 2012 parade.

