



Dogtown Irish Festival



Planning for Saint Patrick's Day in Dogtown Underway

Preparations are moving ahead for the big upcoming Saint Patrick's Day celebration in the Dogtown (Clayton-Tamm) on March 17. Those planning to attend the big event in the old South Saint Louis neighborhood on the saint's feast day will see a few changes.

For one, Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade, now in its 35th year, will step off at **10:00 am**, a change from previous years. Hibernians promise this year's parade will be as grand as ever, with over 100 colorful floats featuring Irish Family Clans and salutes to Irish heritage, history, faith, and culture.

Meanwhile, plans are being finalized for a new event, the first ever Dogtown Irish Festival, a joint effort of Dogtown United, a group community and businesses leaders, and the Hibernians. The purpose of the festival is to highlight the unique spirit and celebrated history of the Dogtown neighborhood. The Festival kicks off at the conclusion of the Hibernian Parade.

The festival will feature food and drink from numerous vendors, and there will be a Merchant Village on Clayton just east of Tamm with Irish shirts, jewelry, and organizers promise much more. The festival stage, located at Clayton @ Wise by the gazebo, will feature live music from Rusty Nail from 1pm to 5pm.

All outside sales will cease at 6:00pm and business establishments on Tamm will close at 8:00 p.m.

INCREASED SECURITY AND TRAFFIC CONTROL

Those attending the parade and festival will also see increased security procedures this year. For

one those entering the festival/parade area will be required to go thorough checkpoints.

No Parking along the parade route will be enforced promptly at 6:00 AM on the morning of the 17th. The parade route will be locked down to public traffic at 8:00 AM. All are strongly advised to avoid driving near the parade route after 8:00 AM due to traffic congestion. When possible, please consider carpooling, using a cab, or arranging a drop-off as parking in Dogtown will be **extremely limited**.

A new safety feature this year is the maintenance of a post-parade festival area from Noon to 6:00 PM. Traffic on Tamm will remain closed during this time between Berthold and Nashville to ensure pedestrian safety. As such, parking and traffic along this portion of Tamm will not reopen until later than in prior years.

To prevent unauthorized vehicles from accessing the parade route and festival area, heavy barricades will be placed on most of the streets intersecting with the parade route along Tamm. These barricades will be moved in the afternoon at the determination of the police and festival security staff. Please plan on the re-opening of east/west traffic on streets intersecting with Tamm to take longer than in prior years.

When departing the festival area, please be advised that east/west traffic through the festival area will be limited on March 17th. Manchester will remain open throughout the day. Otherwise, if you are parked to the west of Tamm, please depart the neighborhood heading west toward McCausland or Skinker. If you are parked east of Tamm, please depart heading east toward Hampton.

NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL ALLOWED

NO BOTTLES, NO BACKPACKS, NO CANS, NO COOLERS are permitted along the Parade Route or in the Festival Zone. Families with childcare needs will be admitted by security after a

brief search at a checkpoint.

The rules are in place to discourage over imbibing, to stem underage drinking and to cut down on the amount of trash in the parade area. Mo State Liquor Control Agents in the Dogtown area on Saint Patrick's Day will maintain a zero tolerance policy and are efficient at recognizing offenders. Those caught drinking underage will be issued a summons that will result in a court appearance and a maximum penalty of \$500.00.

The Festival organizers want to remind those attending St. Patrick's Day festivities on March 17 that the Dogtown/Clayton Tamm neighborhood is a residential area and that everyone should be respectful of both local residents and their property.

Trespassing can be punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a significant fine. Vandalism can result in \$250.00 to \$500.00 fine and/or 90 days in jail. Also illegally parked vehicles will be ticketed and towed.

Festival organizers urge all attendees to drink responsibly and drink plenty of water. Please help out the local residents by putting your refuse into a nearby trash bin or recycling bin which will be deployed throughout the area.

THANK YOU TO FESTIVAL STAKEHOLDERS

Joe Jovanovich, one of the festival organizers, wanted to thank those who participated in putting on the "Inaugural" Dogtown Irish Festival.

"The Dogtown Irish Festival is very appreciative of the generous support of numerous sponsors that make this event possible and allow for the increased security and improved trash & recycling clean-up," Jovanovich said.

"Bud Light is the festival's presenting sponsor, and additional support comes from POWERS Insurance, Andrew Broombaugh State Farm Insurance, Pearl Developers and the new Hibernia residential and retail coming soon to Dogtown, and the Dogtown Eco-Village. Thank you to all our local vendors who help generously help underwrite the event," Jovanovich added.

"Also thanks to the City of St. Louis and our first responders for helping to plan this major event. And of course, most thanks goes to the residents of Dogtown for their patience and enthusiasm every year! Happy St. Patrick's Day!"

List of Street Closures and No Parking Areas:

- Wells Drive in Forest Park between Government Dr. and Tamm Ave overpass
- Oakland between Fairmount and Hampton
- Tamm between Oakland and Manchester
- The following streets between Childress and Graham: Berthold, Clayton, Victoria, West Park, Nashville, Wade, and Lloyd and all alleys.
- Childress from Lloyd to Clayton will be re-directed to ONE-WAY traffic heading NORTH; There will be No Parking on the EAST side of Childress in this area
- Graham from Wade to Clayton will be re-directed to ONE-WAY traffic heading SOUTH; there will be No Parking on the WEST side of Graham in this area.

About Dogtown United

Dogtown United, a non-profit organization that seeks to bring together the broader Dogtown community to create a strong, safe and vibrant neighborhood. Dogtown United seeks to represent local residents and business owners to better coordinate efforts with the Hibernians and improve the operations and efficiency of all events taking place in that historic neighborhood on March 17.

For more information on the Dogtown United, visit their website at <https://dogtownunited.org/>, or contact Joe Jovanovich at 314-210-2553 (cell) or via email joe.jovanovich@gmail.com

The Ancient Order of Hibernians

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is an Irish Catholic fraternal organization that seeks to promote Irish heritage, history, culture and faith. It also does charitable work in both the United States and Ireland.

For information on the Ancient Order of Hibernians, or the 2018 AOH Saint Patrick's Day Parade, visit the Hibernian website at <http://www.stlhibernians.com/> or contact Parade Chairman Dennis Pogue via e-mail cptdpogue@gmail.com

