



Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade



Dogtown Irish Festival

Hibernian St. Patrick's Parade and Dogtown Irish Festival Cancelled

St. Louis--The 2020 Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's Parade and the Dogtown Irish Festival have officially been cancelled. Plans are currently underway to resume both events on March 17 2021.

On March 11, due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Hibernians and Dogtown United announced they were postponing both events (originally scheduled for March 17, 2020) to a later date.

After reviewing the current situation, including government officials discouraging large gatherings of people, "social distancing" continued for the foreseeable future, and medical professionals discussing a potential "second wave" of the virus, the Hibernians and Dogtown United decided the best course of action is to cancel this years' events and focus on 2021.

"Dealing with all of the unknowns of the current situation, it was impossible to look down the road in the next few months and actually determine an specific date we could realistically plan against to mount our parade," said Joe Murphy, Hibernian Parade Committee Chairman.

"This event is a big undertaking, not only for the Hibernians, but also for the Dogtown community, and St. Louis' civic and public safety officials who have been especially taxed over the last two months dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. So we felt the best course of action was to make this decision now, and focus our efforts on 2021," Murphy added.

“We want to thank all of our generous sponsors and vendors who have been patient and understanding through this challenging process,” said Joe Jovanovich, President of Dogtown United. “Their support has been crucial in transitioning from cancelling this year’s event and ensuring we are on a strong financial footing to make the 2021 event the best one yet.” The festival’s flagship sponsors are Bud Light, Tito’s Vodka, and Ezra Brooks Bourbon – with significant support also from Andrew Broombaugh State Farm Agency, the Hibernia Apartments, Dogtown Pizza, Brekendridge Brewery, POWERS Insurance and Risk Management, Lindell Bank and the Dogtown Ecovillage.

Dogtown United also wanted to acknowledge the hardship faced by the local business community and all of the festival’s participating vendors due to the cancellation of the event, followed immediately by a long business interruption due to the COVID-19 crisis. “The timing couldn’t have been worse,” said Jovanovich, “but the Dogtown business community is resilient and will bounce back. We encourage folks to support their favorite Dogtown businesses to help them get back on their feet.”

“Above all, we appreciate the patience and understanding of all the Dogtown residents who look forward so much to this event each year because it helps make our neighborhood so unique,” said Jovanovich. He also noted that 24th Ward Alderman Bret Narayan and officials across numerous departments in the City of St. Louis were very helpful in navigating this situation and coming to decisions that were in the best interests of local residents.

Both committees said they are disappointed that they had to come to the difficult decision to cancel the events. Yet both groups felt it was the best interests of parade watchers and participants, the Dogtown neighborhood and public safety officials that they made their decision now to cancel.

“We know that the thousands of people that look forward to coming to Dogtown every year to celebrate the Hibernian Parade and Dogtown Irish Festival will be disappointed,” Murphy said. “But we can assure them that we will be back bigger and better than ever in 2021. See everyone there next March 17.”

The Hibernians encourage those that were scheduled to march in the 2020 Hibernian Parade to go to the Ancient Order of Hibernians website on Monday, May 18 to receive an update on their marching unit's status for the 2021 Parade. The AOH website is: <http://www.stlhibernians.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 2020 AOH Saint Patrick's Day Parade, visit the Hibernian website at <http://www.stlhibernians.com/> or contact Parade Chairman, Joe Murphy via e-mail: joem@stlhibernians.com

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 is the producer of the Dogtown Irish Festival, and 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 Festival Organizer, Colin O'Brien at 636-486-6431 (cell) or via email Colin@blankslateline.com