



## 2019 ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

### Frequently Asked Questions

**When is the parade?** The parade is always held on March 17, the feast day of Saint Patrick. This year the 17<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday. The parade steps off at **11:00 AM**.

**Who will be marching in this year's parade?** This year's parade will feature over 100 colorful floats and marching units. Leading of the parade will be the World famous Budweiser Clydesdales. The Grand Marshal of the 2019 parade is former St. Louis County Prosecutor, Robert McCullogh. Like traditional Saint Patrick's Day parades held in Ireland, many St. Louis Irish will march under their family crests and banners.

**What is the purpose of the parade?** The parade, sponsored by the St. Louis County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, is held annually on March 17<sup>th</sup> to honor Saint Patrick as the Apostle of Ireland, celebrate Irish culture, heritage and faith and highlight the contributions the Irish and Irish-Americans have made to the United States.

**Will the recent announcement of the closing of St. James the Greater School affect the annual Hibernian Saint Patrick's Day Parade?** No. The Hibernian Parade is operated by the St. Louis County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the group that is totally responsible for putting on the annual event. The announced closing of St. James will have no effect on either the 2019 parade, or future parades. In fact, the parade was established in 1984 by the Hibernians and held in St. Louis County before moving to Dogtown in 1986. The Hibernians goal is to continue to mount a parade in this historically Irish neighborhood for many years to come.

**Is there a cost to attend the parade?** There is no charge to attend the parade itself, but you may have to pay for parking (*see parking below*) and Dogtown businesses, including St. James the Greater parish will be selling food and refreshments through the day.

**What is the parade route?** The parade begins just south of the Tamm Avenue overpass at Oakland Avenue, and travels south on Tamm Avenue, past St. James the Greater Catholic Church. The parade officially ends at Manchester Avenue. As a reminder, spectators are not allowed to view the parade from the Tamm Avenue overpass above Highway 40.

**How long does the parade last?** It takes each unit approximately 90 minutes to travel the parade route. In the past, the parades have lasted a little over two hours.

**Where is the best place to watch the parade?** You can watch the parade from anywhere along Tamm Avenue, but the crowds are usually quite large at the intersection Tamm and Clayton. It is less crowded toward the end of the parade route at Manchester Avenue.

**Where should I park?** There are no designated parking areas for the parade. Parking is on a “first come/first served” basis. The Dogtown neighborhood itself has limited parking and it can be difficult to find a parking spot on St. Patrick's Day. One option is to park for a fee at the St. Louis Zoo South parking lot. There is also free parking in Forest Park, but choose your spot wisely because police will ticket anyone parked illegally. Parking is also available at St. Louis Marketplace on Manchester for a fee, but only in certain areas. All other areas of lot are "no parking areas" and vehicles could be towed. Many other businesses in the area also have paid parking. These businesses charge anywhere from \$10-\$20 to park on their lots. None of the paid parking lots are connected to the Hibernians and the organization receives no proceeds from the lots.

**Will there be increased Security this year for the Hibernian Parade and Dogtown Irish Festival?** Yes, those attending the parade and festival will also see increased security from previous years. Those entering the festival/parade area will be required to go thorough checkpoints. Festival Organizers has contacted for over 75 security guards from Contemporary Services Corporation (CSC) distributed between 25 entry/exit areas and along the parade route. Security will be operational between **6:00 AM to 10:00 PM** to enforce festival policies, direct traffic, marshal the route, and protect street closures. As in prior years, coolers and backpacks are prohibited from the festival area. Any and all outside alcohol and glass containers are also prohibited. Anyone found by security staff with these items will be turned away. An exception will be made for families with young children to bring a backpack or small cooler for childcare purposes. All bags and personal belongings are subject to search by security staff.

**What time do the streets shut down prior to the parade?** There will once again be traffic restrictions in the Dogtown neighborhood and on Manchester Avenue during this year's Ancient Order of the Hibernians' St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17. Residential streets in the immediate parade route area will be blocked to traffic by closing access to the parade area. All of Tamm Avenue and all cross streets one block off in both directions will be closed until **6:00 PM**, with the exception of Oakland, which will open after the parade. At **6:00PM**, Tamm from West Park to Manchester, and all cross streets in between, will reopen, but Tamm north of West Park to Oakland will remain closed until **10:00PM**. All cross streets in that region will remain closed until **10:00PM** as well. 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 streets will remain blocked until cleaning is finished and they are reopened. Potentially as late as **10:00PM**. When departing the festival area, please be advised that east/west traffic through the festival area will be limited on March 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**What about other parking restrictions?** Many cross streets off Tamm will be designated “**NO PARKING**” areas starting Friday, March 15 at **9:00AM**. There will be signs posted in 50’ sections off of Tamm at various cross streets indicating these areas. A map is also available at <https://dogtownunited.org/st-patricks-day-2/>. These areas are for equipment staging in advance of the event.

**How should I dress for the parade?** March is a month that St. Louis transitions from wintertime to spring, so what you wear is really dependent on the forecast for March 17. But there is only one dress code for St. Patrick’s Day—you must wear green!!!!

**Are there any rules for the parade?** As in previous years there is a “no cooler/backpack” rule for those attending the parade. Also in the interest of public safety all glass containers will be banned in the parade area. But the first rule is to have fun. However, the Hibernians ask every parade goer to show respect for the neighborhood, the police and security officials and for your fellow parade goers. Respecting the neighborhood means not littering or doing any other action or activities that you wouldn’t want to happen to your home or in your neighborhood. The police and security officials are there for **YOUR** protection. Please cooperate if one of them asks you to do something. It will make your experience (and everyone else’s) on March 17<sup>th</sup> if you do. Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Committee and the Dogtown Business Association also encourages everyone to drink responsibly on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Designate a sober driver ahead of time, or call a taxi to make sure you get home safely. If you need transportation home you call **Alert Cab at 314-652-TAXI**, or text your pick-up address to **314-403-7000**,

**Yellow Cab 314-993-TAXI** or text your pick-up address to **314-971-8294**. Or use one of the mobile ride request apps.

**What about Underage Drinking?** Police and security officials **WILL** be checking for underage drinking in the Clayton-Tamm area. A minor in possession of alcohol can be charged with a Class D misdemeanor and subject to a \$300 fine.

**What is the Irish Festival?** Immediately following the parade, a portion of Tamm Ave. and numerous side streets are blocked off for the “Irish Festival,” sponsored by Dogtown United, where everyone gathers to continue the St. Patrick’s Day celebration. Outside sales of alcohol ends at 6:00 pm and all restaurants and shops in Dogtown close at 8 p.m.