



CITY OF DUBLIN

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF DUBLIN COMMEMORATES ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH 34th ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION MARCH 18 & 19, 2017

DUBLIN, Calif., February 17, 2017 – All eyes will be smiling at the City of Dublin's 34th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration, which includes a two-day festival, a 5K Shamrock Fun Run, St. Patrick's Day parade, pancake breakfast, and gala dinner dance. This year's event will also include special surprises to mark the City of Dublin's 35th birthday.

The weekend's festivities will begin on St. Patrick's Day, Friday, **March 17**, with dinner and dancing to live music at the Dublin Sister City Association's annual **Green and White Gala** at the Dublin Senior Center (7600 Amador Valley Boulevard). A no-host "Irish Happy Hour" bar opens at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$65 per person and may be purchased online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2803421>. For event information, please call (925) 858-8890.

On Saturday, **March 18**, revelers can start their morning beginning at 7:00 a.m. with a big stack of hot "green" pancakes served fresh off the griddle at the **Annual Firefighter's Pancake Breakfast** at Fire Station #16 (7494 Donohue Drive). Breakfast also includes eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5 per person. All proceeds benefit the Alameda County Fire Fighters Association-Local 55 Charity Fund, which supports local non-profit and community-based organizations.

Also on Saturday, March 18, the Dublin Lions Club will present the **34th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade**, starting at 9:30 a.m. The parade kicks-off at Dublin Boulevard and Amador Plaza Road, traveling east on Dublin Boulevard, north on Village Parkway, and west on Amador Valley Boulevard, ending near the Dublin Senior Center. Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets to watch from along the parade route. The parade features more than 80 entries, including festive marching bands and floats, Irish bagpipes, and equestrian riders.

The **34th Annual St. Patrick's Day Festival** takes place on **Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, at the Dublin Civic Center (100 Civic Plaza). Highlights include three stages of authentic Irish music and dance, an Irish Marketplace, an Irish Tea Cottage, plenty of delicious Irish food and beverages, arts and crafts vendors, and a carnival.

- **Entertainment** at the Festival includes two stages featuring a wide variety of Celtic music, from high-energy Celtic rock and traditional Irish Pub music to iconic bagpipes. Performing on the Main Stage both days is the Celtic folk-rock band *Tempest*. Also appearing on the Main Stage during the Festival will be the traditional Irish folk band *Culann's Hounds*, *One-Eyed Reilly*, *Kavanaugh Brothers Celtic Experience*, and *The Black Irish Band*. On the Pub Stage are *Pog Mo Thoin*, *The Jason Pollack Irish Band*, and *Trio of One*. In the Irish Tea Cottage, visitors can enjoy the sounds of the *Dublin Irish Jam Band*, *Margaret & Kristoph*, and *Mark Abdilla*. The Irish Dance Stage showcases the McGrath Irish Dancers on Saturday and the McBride School of Irish Dance on Sunday. Bagpiper *Jeff Campbell* performs throughout the festival grounds.
- The **Irish Marketplace** features vendors specializing in unique Celtic artwork, Irish tartans, beautiful Celtic jewelry, handmade pewter goblets and steins, delectable Irish whiskey cakes and candies, genuine four-leaf clover jewelry, and much more.
- Visitors craving a wee bit of Ireland can step inside the cozy **Irish Tea Cottage** to enjoy lively music along with tasty shortbread and scones and a steaming cup of authentic Irish tea served in genuine china cups.
- The **Celtic Food Court** features traditional Irish favorites, such as bangers and mash and fish and chips, along with the Irish-American St. Patrick's Day favorite, corned beef and cabbage. Unique Irish-inspired specialties include corned beef sliders with cheddar and spicy slaw. Authentic Guinness, Harp, and Smithwicks beers are served on tap, and featured desserts include Irish Crème Brulee, green shamrock-shaped funnel cakes, and Three Twins Ice Cream with custom Irish flavors. Traditional festival foods and international choices will also be available.
- The **Carnival** will offer exciting rides and attractions for guests of all ages. On Saturday, the Carnival will be open until 7:00 p.m., two hours after the closing of the Festival.
- New to the Festival this year will be demonstrations of Gaelic football and also hurling, the official sport of Ireland. The schedule of demonstrations will soon be posted on www.DublinStPats.com.

On **Sunday, March 19**, the City of Dublin will host the **19th Annual Shamrock 5K Fun Run and Walk**. The race begins at 8:30 a.m. along Dublin Boulevard near the Civic Center, and winds its way through town, finishing at the Festival with live music, awards, and giveaways for participants. Register online at www.dublinrecguide.com. For race information, please call (925) 556-4500.

Festival admission is free, and free parking will also be available in designated lots and on nearby streets. Visitors can also ride BART to either the East or West Dublin BART Stations and connect for free directly to the Festival by taking Wheels Rapid 30R bus. To ride for free, guests must tell the driver they are headed to the Festival. Wheels bus service is also offering half-priced rides within Dublin on Lyft, Uber, and DeSoto cabs. Visit www.WheelsBus.com/godublin for more information. Free and secure bike parking will also be available onsite.

All festivities will be held rain or shine. Please call (925) 556-4500 or visit www.DublinStPats.com for more information.

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