



CITY OF DUBLIN

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EXPERIENCE ALL THINGS IRISH AT THE CITY OF DUBLIN'S 35th ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION MARCH 17 & 18, 2018

DUBLIN, Calif., February 20, 2018 – No passports are required to experience the Emerald Isle when attending the City of Dublin's 35th 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.

The weekend's festivities will begin on Friday, **March 16**, with dinner and dancing to live music at the Dublin Sister City Association's annual **Green and White Gala** at the Shannon Community Center (11600 Shannon Avenue). A no-host "Irish Happy Hour" bar opens at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner buffet at 7:00 p.m. and dancing until 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person and may be purchased online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3167740> or by calling (800) 838-3006, extension 1. For event information, please call (925) 858-8890.

On St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, **March 17**, 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 Firefighters Association-Local 55 Charity Fund, which supports local non-profit and community-based organizations.

Also on Saturday, March 17, the Dublin Lions Club will present the **35th 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 **35th Annual St. Patrick's Day Festival** takes place on **Saturday and Sunday, March 17 and 18, 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 U2 tribute band *Zoo Station* and *Plastic Paddy*, which combines California rock and country with traditional pub music. Also appearing on the Main Stage during the Festival will be *O'Craven* and *One-Eyed Reilly*. On the Pub Stage are *Avalon Rising*, *McCrae's Battalion*, *O'Craven*, and *Pog Mo Thoin*. In the Irish Tea Cottage, visitors can enjoy the sounds of *Chris Waltz*, *Cularan*, the *Dublin Irish Jam Band*, *Margaret & Kristoph*, and *Michael Mullen & Friends*. 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 tweeds and kilts, beautiful Celtic jewelry, delectable Irish candies, scones, and preserves, 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 Irish stew, fish and chips, bangers and boxty, along with the Irish-American St. Patrick's Day favorite, corned beef and cabbage. Unique Irish-inspired specialties include Irish nachos and Irish egg rolls. Authentic Guinness, Harp, and Smithwicks beers are served on tap, and featured desserts include Irish crème brulee and green shamrock-shaped funnel cakes. 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.

On **Sunday, March 18**, the City of Dublin will host the **20th 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. The top three finishers in each division will win a medallion and, new this year, a gift certificate from race sponsor Dick's Sporting Goods. Register online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Dublin/DublinShamrockRun>. 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 West Dublin or Dublin/Pleasanton 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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