Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade

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Saturday March 9, 2024 · 12pm · Morristown, New Jersey



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Jack F. Haren Grand Marshal

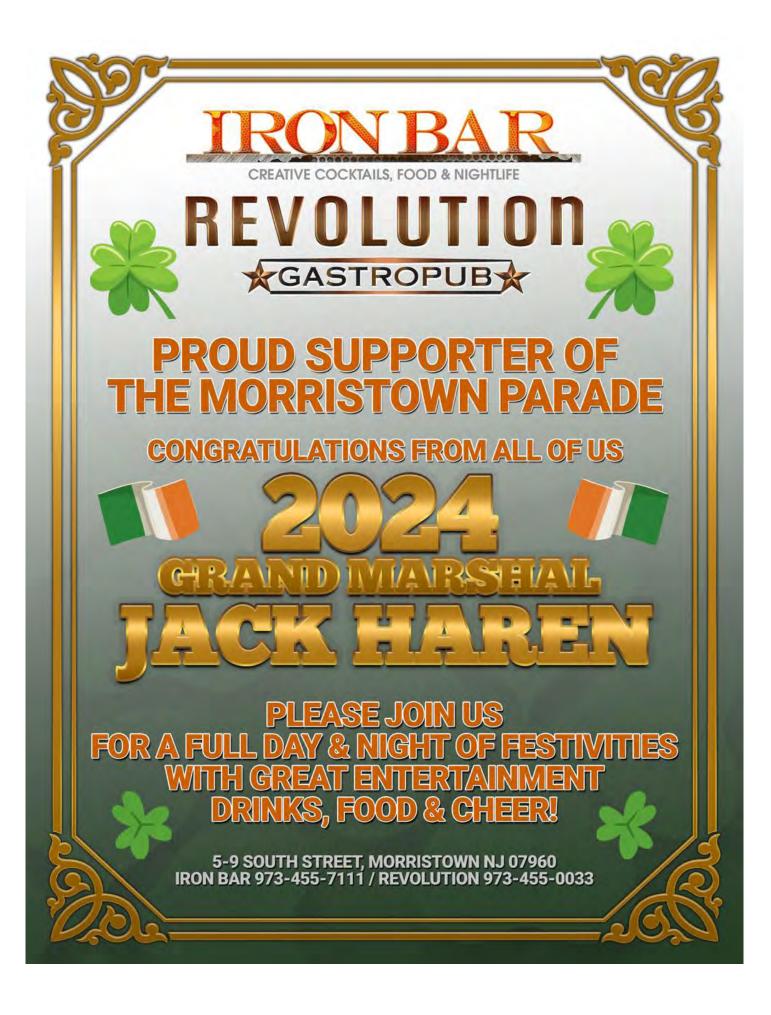
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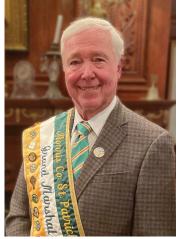
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The Morris County Saint Patrick's Day Parade Trustees have chosen Jack F. Haren (Jr.) as its 2024 Grand Marshal. Jack was born and raised in upper Manhattan, where he spent the first two decades of his life.

His parents, Jack and Nora (nee Donnelly) were born in Ireland. His father was from County Clare, and his mother hailed from Waterville, County Kerry. They both immigrated as young adults but did not meet until after the war in Europe. While in the service, his father earned three battle stars, including the Normandy (Omaha Beach) invasion and the Battle of the Bulge.

After his grammar school graduation, Jack continued with a four-year stint under the guidance and tutelage of the Irish Christian Brothers at Power Memorial Academy, near Columbus Circle in midtown, arriving daily by way of the "A" train. One of his four-year classmates was Lewis Alcindor, who later changed his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Jack's younger brother, Dan, is also an alumnus. In 1965 Jack's horizons expanded with his admission to Fordham University, across the river in the Bronx. He graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a commission as an officer in the United States Army. He served two years on active duty as a Signal Corps Lieutenant, first assigned as Battalion Communications Officer, Field Artillery (Fort Sill), and later as an Executive Officer for a signal training company at Fort Monmouth.

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Jack F. Haren Grand Marshal of the 2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County

It was there that he married his college sweetheart, Eileen Murphy, who had also been his high school prom date! They started their married life in living quarters provided by "Uncle Sam." During his service time, Jack was the recipient of the Army Commendation Medal.

In 1972, he started his business career in the New York office of Arthur Young and Co., an international public accounting firm. He earned his CPA license while there, and in 1975, after the birth of their first daughter, Christine, he decided to enter private industry. He joined Union Camp Corporation (Fortune 300) headquartered in Wayne, New Jersey. He spent the rest of his working career, 42 years, within the Paper and Forest Products Industry. In 1996, he attended the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program, and later that year, he was appointed the Corporate Controller at Union Camp. In 1999, the Company was acquired by International Paper Company.

After a brief stint as a substitute teacher at Morristown High School, he was asked to begin a "short" consulting assignment in Albany, New York at Mohawk Fine Paper, North America's largest privately owned manufacturer of fine writing papers. Seventeen years later, he retired as Company President, a position that he held from 2009 to his retirement in 2017. During his tenure at Mohawk, the Albany Business Review recognized him as CFO of the Year (2014). That same year, he was also named to Irish America Magazine's Business 100 list. In 2015, Jack was recognized by Trust Magazine as a Top Thought Leader.

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Jack's involvement in community activities began in 1983 when he became Scoutmaster for the Boy Scout Troop at St. Virgil's Church. During these years, he also served as Vice President of the Morris Plains Hockey Association. In the mid-1990s, he joined the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County and became a very active member. His passion for history, both American and Irish, placed him as Co-chair of the Heritage Committee. For the past decade, he has added to his knowledge of history by organizing many memorable field trips, among them: the Five Points (lower Manhattan); annual visits to Gaelic Park in the Bronx; the Molly McGuire and Irish Famine museums, battlefields and many other locations of historical significance.

In 2015, his passion for history led him to join the Executive Committee of the Archbishop Hughes Commemorative Project, which recognized the 200th Anniversary of The Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in lower Manhattan. He joined with several other Friendly Sons in commissioning the erection of an 11-foot sculpture of Archbishop John Hughes, which currently stands outside the Basilica as a designated New York City Landmark. It is the work of Rowan Gillespie, an Irish sculptor of international renown.

Since his retirement in 2017, Jack has focused his time on volunteer work with the American Legion Post 59 Morristown and the Knights of Columbus George Washington Council. He currently serves as Finance Officer for Post 59. He is also the site coordinator for Wreaths Across America at Holy Rood Cemetery in Morris Township. Each year, at over 2,700 cemeteries across America, Christmas wreaths are placed on the graves of veterans. With the early support of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County, he began this work in 2019. Over the last five years, the number of wreaths sponsored by the local community has grown from 56 to over 850 at Holy Rood Cemetery. Jack was recently recognized as the 2023 Knight of the Year by the George Washington Council of the Knights of Columbus. He has held the position of Treasurer of the Columbus Club of Morristown for the past six years and, over this same period, has directed the Knights' annual Victorian Christmas Party for Children.

Eileen and Jack have resided in Morris Plains for 48 years. They will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary in April of this year. They are members of St. Virgil's Parish. They have three adult children: Christine, a Special Education teacher; Michelle, a Registered Nurse; and John, in private industry. They have two grandchildren: Tatum, who attends Monmouth University; and Jack, who attends grammar school in Clifton, New Jersey. Their children and grandchildren all live in New Jersey.

Over the years, Jack and Eileen have made many trips to Ireland, visiting family and sites, most recently in July of 2023 with two of their children. Jack is a dual citizen USA and Ireland by way of his parental heritage. Eileen's grandparents (Kiernan and Riley) were Irish born with family ties to Counties Tyrone and Cavan. Eileen is a native of the Bronx.



Patrick Tillyer 2024 Parade Starter

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"Pat Tillyer is a great friend, a great man, and a great Irishman," said Kevin Langan, co-chair of the Parade Starter Selection Committee. "He volunteers for the parade every year, many times driving participants in golf carts when they can't walk the entire route."

"This honor is well deserved," said co-chair Mike Bannon. "Pat has been very supportive of the parade since the beginning. And he has done a lot for the Irish community in Morris County to make it stronger and more vibrant."

Born in Morristown, Tillyer grew up on Atno Avenue and is an alumnus of St. Margaret's School and Bayley-Ellard High School. He was a letter carrier in Morristown for 12 years and a supervisor at the regional mail facility in Whippany for 30 years. He also worked for the Daily Record under legendary sports editors Raymond Goin and Raymond DeGraw.

Tillyer said he was floored when he learned he would be the Parade Starter.

"This is the greatest honor of my life," he said. "I'm as excited as anything. Parade Day is always the best day of the year. I can't wait to cut the ribbon and start the celebration."

In addition to volunteering with the parade, Tillyer is a founding member and former president of the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick of Morris County. He marveled that the group began in 1982 with a handful of friends and now has more than 400 members.

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Tillyer is also a Knights of Columbus Council 359 member in Morristown and a trustee at St. Therese Parish in Succasunna. He was a referee and umpire for more than 50 years with the School and College Officials Association (SCOA) and the New Jersey State Baseball Umpires Association. He led both groups as president and later received Man of the Year honors.

His community engagement includes 55 years as a volunteer firefighter in Morristown, 12 years as president of Humane Engine Company No. 2, and service as a trustee of the Morristown Firemen's Relief Association.

Now retired, he has more time to spend with his family: daughter Kara Lynn, son-in-law Jeffrey, and their children Connor and Kayleigh. Family and heritage have played an important role in Tillyer's life. His mother, Kathleen Jennings, immigrated to the United States in 1928 from Ballinrobe, County Mayo. He knows she would be thrilled over his selection.

Parade Grand Marshal Jack Haren is likewise thrilled. The pair have been friends for three decades and share a deep appreciation for the history and culture of Ireland and the United States. Amidst the mutual esteem shared by the honorees, there is also a good-natured rivalry over their favorite baseball teams.

"I can't believe I'm a die-hard Dodgers fan, and I'll be cutting the ribbon for a Giants fan," Tillyer quipped.

PARADE CHAIRPERSONS/GRAND MARSHALS

- 1979 IAANWJ Executive Board1980 Edward D. Hansberry
- 1981 Edward D. Hansberry
- 1982 Bob Daley
- 1983 Bob Daley
- 1984 Dermot Wood
- 1985 Frank Kelly
- 1986 Kevin B. Finnegan
- 1987 Kevin B. Finnegan
- 1988 Peg O'Donnell
- 1989 Thomas Beirne
- 1990 Thomas Beirne
- 1991 Msgr. John Corr
- 1992 J. Raymond Manahan
- 1993 Michael Halpin
- 1994 Mary Mulholland
- 1995 Col. Peter J. O'Hagan
- 1996 James P. Mongey
- 1997 James E. Dangler
- 1998 Kathleen Hyland
- 1999 Eamonn Long
- 2000 Bishop Frank J. Rodimer

- 2001 J. Robert Tracey
- 2002 Michael Griffin
- 2003 Catherine M. Broderick
- 2004 James Hennessey
- 2005 Patrick Scanlon
- 2006 James V. Loughman
- 2007 Bob Nace
- 2008 Kevin Langan
- 2009 Desmond Lloyd
- 2010 John Butler
- 2011 Willie Quinn
- 2012 Richard F. Smith, Jr
- 2013 Sheriff Ed Rochford
- 2014 Jeff Rawding
- 2015 Al DeBenedictis
- 2016 John Hyland
- 2017 T. Michael Quinn
- 2018 John J. Murphy
- 2019 Father Patrick "Paddy" O'Donovan
- 2020-22 Mary Waller
- 2023 Ryan G. Dawson
- 2024 Jack F. Haren

Here's Cèad Mile Fàilte to friend and to rover.That's a greeting that's as Irish as Irish can be.It means you are welcome - a thousand times over.Wherever you are from, whosoever you be.

Irish Blessing

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The Trustees of the St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County Inc.

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The Trustees of the St. Patrick's Day Parade are pleased to present the forty-fourth St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County and to welcome Jack Haren as the Grand Marshal. The Trustees organize and hold the St. Patrick's Day Parade each year for two simple reasons. First, we want to celebrate our Irish heritage. This parade provides us with a wonderful opportunity to foster and promote the social, cultural, and educational activities that preserve our traditions and enhance the dignity and reputation of the Irish-American community. It also provides a forum for us to recognize and promote the numerous and significant contributions made by Irish-Americans that enhance and support the fabric of Morris County. Second, we can use this parade as a vehicle to provide charitable contributions to local charities, particularly to organizations that help children and preserve and promote Irish culture. The Trustees wish to take this opportunity to thank those who support our Souvenir Journal and the many volunteers for their extraordinary commitment and time that makes the parade possible.

"May you enjoy the parade with the blessings of St. Patrick today and every day."

The Trustees

Board of Trustees

Artie Flinn, Pres

IAANWJ

Matt Kurtz, Pres. Liz Hand Ed Hansberry Glen Hickey Trish O'Keefe Keith Wood Tim Brunnock, V. Pres. Ed Rowe, Treasurer Pamela Ryan, Secretary Brian Carroll, Finance Chair Richard Sweeney, Attorney Jimmy Dangler (in Memoriam)

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FSSP

John P. Conway, Pres. Al DeBenedictis Mike Leavy Sean O'Grady Jeff Rawding Carl Stopper

2024 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

John P. Conway	Parade Committee Co-Chair
Matt Kurtz	Parade Committee Co-Chair
Brian Carroll	Parade Finance Chair
Jim Torney	Parade Journal Chair
Michelle Mongey	Parade Patron Membership Chair
Rob Cavanaugh	Parade Pin Chair
John Bradley	Parade Mass Co-Chair
Anne Cahill	Parade Mass Co-Chair
Sr. BernadettePeter	Parade Mass Co-Chair
Pamela Ryan	Parade Line of March Coordinator
Patricia O'Halloran	Parade Line of March Coordinator
Matt Loughman	Parade Marshals Coordinator
Mike Loughman	Parade Marshals Coordinator
Keith Wood	Parade Band Coordinator
Christine Dangler	Reviewing Stand Master of Ceremonies
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Arthur Flinn	Reviewing Stand Master of Ceremonies
Arthur Flinn Josh O'Neill	
	Reviewing Stand Master of Ceremonies
Josh O'Neill	Reviewing Stand Master of Ceremonies Communications Chair
Josh O'Neill Mike Leavy	Reviewing Stand Master of Ceremonies Communications Chair Publicity Coordinator
Josh O'Neill Mike Leavy Joe McLaughlin	Reviewing Stand Master of Ceremonies Communications Chair Publicity Coordinator Publicity Coordinator

And All The Leprechauns That Make It Happen

Michael Bannon John Bradley Geraldine Briscoe Tim Brunnock Dennis Butler Anne Cahill Brian Carroll Robert Cavanaugh John P. Conway Theresa Davis Ryan Dawson Al DeBenedictis William Duggan Artie Flinn Kathleen Hyland Liz Hand Ed Hansberry John Hendricks Glen Hickey Debra King Harvey Klein Matt Kurtz Kevin Langan Mike Leavy Matt Loughman Mike Loughman Dolly Mabin Joe McLaughlin Michelle Mongey John Murphy Jay Myer Sean O'Grady Pete O'Hagan Josh O'Neill Sr. Bernadette Peter Jeff Rawding Ed Rowe Lisa Ryan Pam Ryan Carl Stopper Jim Torney Keith Wood In Memoriam: James E. Dangler

> Msgr. John F. Corr John Butler

T. Michael Quinn Rowland Lucid

Jimmy Spiniello

Jim Mongey

Brian Conley

Jay Delaney



Sponsored by: aelic Cultural Society

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Al & Mickie DeBenedictis, Ocean County Area Coordinators 70 Pershing Boulevard West Point Island Lavallette, NJ 08735 732-830-8668



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PR &JECT CHILDRE P.O. Box 933 Greenwood Lake, NY · E-mail: projectchildren@opto

February 19, 2024

Dear Members of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committees; Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County; Northwest Irish American Association; Patrons, and Sponsors of the St. Patrick's Day Parade; I again would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the generous donation we received this year.

Project Children has been working hard to promote peace in the North of Ireland for the past 49 summers. This year, 2024, will be our 50th summer. Over all those years 23 thousand young children and University students have experienced the peace and beauty of our Country since 1975.

This past year Northern Ireland celebrated 25 years of relative peace and prosperity because of the **Belfast - Good Friday Agreement**. In these past few weeks, and for the first time in the history of Northern Ireland, a Nationalist is presiding over the **Northern Ireland Executive** as its First Minister. Proof that a lasting peace is well within sight; yet not fully there.

Project Children continues to promote peace by offering University Students the opportunity to experience our American way of life. They learn by participating in meaningful activities, such as Work Placements for seven weeks. These placements are related to their major courses of study. Students are also placed in host homes where they get a better understanding of our way of life in a home environment. We are proud to announce that over the years many of these same students have moved into the north's political arena and positions where they can influence progress towards a lasting peace for all of Ireland.

Plans for the summer of 2024 are to welcome another 15 to 20 students on the program. For more details regarding the <u>Project Children Intern Program</u> visit our website: <u>projectchildren.org</u> then click on "Internships."

On behalf of **Project Children**, all the young children and students who have participated over the years and their families we thank the <u>St. Patrick's Day Parade Committees</u>, <u>Sponsors and Patrons</u>; <u>Friendly</u> <u>Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County</u> and the <u>Northwest Irish American Association</u>; for their continued support.

Sincerely,

Al De Fenedictis



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The St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that meets the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. Besides putting on the parade, our objective is to provide charitable contributions to mostly local programs that benefit children with special needs, other special needs organizations, and programs that foster and enhance our Irish culture. Over the last 44 years, the parade committees have donated over \$600,000 to various organizations.

After all parade expenses are paid each year, the Parade Trustees determine the excess funds available for charitable contributions. Both the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County and the Irish American Association of Northwest Jersey, co-sponsors of the parade, designate recipients.

We want to share with you a list of some charities that have received our support.

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ArcMorris Birthright International Church Youth Ministries Daytop Village Dress for Success Employment Horizons Family Promise of Sussex County Gift for Life House Interfaith Food Pantry Irish Repertory Theatre Jersey Battered Women's Service Joey Bella Fund Lake Drive School for the Deaf The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Loyola House Market Street Mission
Meals on Wheels
Michael Quill Irish Cultural Center
Mrs. Wilson's Treatment Center
Project Children
Project Graduation (multiple schools)
The Rose House
Salvation Army
Special Olympics of New Jersey - Morris County
St. Peter's Orphanage
Valerie Fund
Wreaths Across America
DAWN Center for Independent Living
Department for Persons with Disabilities
Irish American Association of Northwest Jersey

Trustees of the St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County, Inc..

PUTTING ON A PARADE IS FUN BUT HARD WORK

No, seriously. It is fun! But it is hard work too. One might think: How hard could it be for a bunch of people to walk in a straight line? Well, it may look easy above the water, but beneath the surface, we are paddling our little duck feet like crazy. For starters, it takes over 2,000 volunteer hours from over 75 people to organize and stage the parade. Some volunteers work year-round; some put in their hours for three to four months leading up to the parade, and some, especially the parade marshals, work on Parade Day. The volunteers' sole objective is to provide a fitting tribute to our Irish-American culture and heritage and Saint Patrick while simultaneously providing Morris County citizens, young and old alike, a memorable, safe, and fun-filled family day.

On Saturday, March 9, 2024, the 44th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County steps off onto South Street at Noon in Morristown thanks to the combined effort of the entire Parade Team that includes the Trustees of the St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County, Inc., the Finance Committee, and the Parade Committee.

Trustees

The Trustees oversee the entire operation. They establish the parade guidelines to be followed by the two central committees. The Trustees are also volunteers and primarily consist of members of the parade support organizations, The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick (FSSP) of Morris County and the Irish American Association of Northwest Jersey (IAANJ). They ensure that the parade has the necessary support and structure to succeed. The Trustees also select the Grand Marshal each year with input from FSSP, IAANWJ, and all the committees.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is the most visible committee leading up to Parade Day. They are responsible for fundraising before the parade, paying all parade expenses, and distributing charitable contributions to parade beneficiaries. Our beneficiaries include Project Children, Project Graduation, and many organizations promoting Irish culture and preserving Irish heritage. Fundraising is critical since the parade is paid for solely by private contributions and sponsoring companies. Our parade is selfsupporting, with no public funding provided by the town, county, or state. This Parade Journal is our primary fundraiser, followed by the annual Grand Marshal Reception, the sale of parade pins, and our Grand Marshals on Tap event. Starting in August, the Finance Committee meets regularly, organizes fundraising efforts, and solicits donations from individual supporters, local corporations, businesses, and community organizations around Morris County.

Parade Committee

Before each parade, the Parade Committee is almost invisible to the public; on Parade Day, though, it's a whole different story. They plan for the logistics needed to put the line-of-march on the street in an orderly fashion on time. Their goal is to assemble a line-of-march that offers something for spectators of all ages. A smoothly running and on-schedule parade is the surest sign that the Parade Committee has done its job. As noted, much work and coordination over many months take place before the parade steps off. This Committee also meets regularly and is jointly run by members of the FSSP, IAANJ, and community members.

Let's take a quick look at what the different parade sub-committees do.

- Line of March Team: the face of the Parade • Committee, this team spends many months identifying and inviting groups to march, reviewing and approving applications of participants, responding to inquiries and requests for additional information, positioning groups in the line of march, conducting the parade orientation meeting, and completing all tasks needed to make sure that the parade steps off promptly at Noon. They truly appreciate the great Parade Day spectator turnout.
- Band Team: invites bands to participate. Most of the bands return year after year. We usually have over 20 bands in the parade.
- Other subcommittees include: Police and municipal liaisons; the Publicity Team handles news articles, radio and television coverage, and more; the Digital Media Team coordinates our www.paradeday.com website and other social media outlets; the Parade Starter Selection Team; the Parade Day Communications Team makes sure that all of our personnel have all the information they need to keep the parade running smoothly; the Logistics Team ensures that the parade route is appropriately set up and equipped with comfort stations for the benefit of marchers and spectators alike; and so many other teams that handle everything else, from putting the Shamrocks around the Green, raising American and Irish flags, selecting the stand announcers and our Parade Starter. organizing pre-parade entertainment on the Green, helping with the Parade Mass at Assumption Church at 9:30 AM, to the dreaded, but necessary, parade lot set-up and clean-up.

See? All that effort, commitment, and coordination go into putting on this parade, and its success is the sum of all those parts working together. Nothing is taken for granted. The one thing the Parade Team cannot control is the weather; for that we count on your prayers. Even when it has rained, we have had successful parades, so on Parade Eve, don't forget us as you tuck in for the night. The only reason for postponing the parade is that weather conditions are so bad that safety becomes an issue. Safety first!

Parade Day starts the night before with parade lot set-up and again early in the morning with applying (weather permitting) the Shamrocks at The Green. The morning of the parade is hectic before the parade steps off at Noon. Parade Marshals and Coordinators organize the parade lot for the floats, vehicles, bands, and marchers as they arrive. They also position themselves at gates and around the lot to direct and assist parade participants. Last-minute questions are in no short supply on Parade Day, and this team has all the answers. Sure, it gets hectic, but the team is experienced in keeping things in order and making it look easy.

And then, after twelve long months of planning, meeting, discussing, fundraising, organizing, coordinating, and (of course) praying, the Parade Starter cuts the ribbon at Noon, and the parade steps off immediately afterward. Then, a little after 2:00 PM, this year's parade will be history, and planning for the 2025 parade begins. The St. Patrick's Day Parade is a year-round effort, and we are so thankful for our many dedicated volunteers. We hope you enjoyed Parade Day 2024.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY !!!



BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE OF MORRIS COUNTY

St. Patrick was born in Wales, part of the Roman Empire. He was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as an enslaved person when he was about 16. After six years, he escaped back to Britain, but in his time in Ireland, he had been said to have strengthened his bond with God, and after fifteen years of religious study, he returned to Ireland as a missionary. He became the first Bishop of Ireland around 432. Twenty years later, most of the Irish were Catholic. There is much reverence and honor for St. Patrick as the Patron of Ireland to this day. He is very much a part of true Irish Culture.

- March 17, 1780 One of the first St. Patrick's Day celebrations was right here in Morristown. Amid the long, hard winter of 1779-1780 in Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ, General George Washington, in recognition of the support of his Irish militiamen (and there were plenty of them!), gave them the day off to build morale. It was the only holiday the Continental Army enjoyed that winter, not even Christmas! In recognition, a relief organization called the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick made General Washington an honorary member in 1782.
- Nearly 200 years later, on March 17, 1979, thanks to the Irish American Association of Northwest Jersey (IAANJ), the first official modern-day Morris County St. Patrick's Day in Morris County was held in Wharton, New Jersey. Parade marchers processed down a one-mile stretch of Main Street, Wharton, to the cheers of hundreds of spectators.
- In 1981, while on a trip to Ireland, the president of IAANJ commissioned the nuns of the Carmelite Monastery, Tallow, County Waterford, Ireland, to produce a hand-painted banner of St. Patrick and this exquisite work of art has led all Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parades since then.
- From 1979 through 1990, the parade became larger and larger as it grew in popularity. More and more groups joined the parade, and more and more spectators came out to enjoy it. By 1983, there were 48 units in the parade; by 1988, there were 56 units with over 1500 marchers and over 4,000 spectators.
- In 1990, the parade in Wharton had its largest parade, with the greatest number of spectators ever marching down Main Street. The parade had now outgrown Wharton, a small and gracious community.

• In November 1990, IAANJ teamed up with the Friendly Sons of St Patrick (FSSP) of Morris County and began working with the Morristown administration to bring the parade to Morristown.

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- On January 18, 1991, a Certificate of Incorporation for a Nonprofit Organization was issued for the St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County, Inc. A Board of Trustees was formed for the new non-profit organization. It was created to run the parade, pay parade expenses, and, most importantly, provide charitable contributions to promote Irish culture and support various local children's and other organizations that benefit Morris County.
- March 16, 1991, the annual Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade stepped off in Morristown for the first time with 3,000 marchers and 13 bands, and several floats and fire companies. There were thousands of spectators there to enjoy the day.
- From 1991 to 2024, the parade has grown to over 120 diverse groups, including over 20 bands, with over 4,000 marchers with 50,000 to 80,000 spectators enjoying the parade each year, depending on the weather.
- In 2000, the Morris County Parade history was submitted by Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen to the Library of Congress. It was featured in the Library of Congress Local Legacy Program, a high honor and tribute to the efforts of parade organizers and volunteers. Our parade gained national recognition.
- In 2006, to accommodate the parade's growth in size and popularity, the Parade route was extended three blocks by going around the Green instead of just passing through it.
- Since 1991, the parade has voluntarily donated over \$290,000 to the Town of Morristown as part of the parade's good neighbor policy to keep the parade from costing taxpayers anything.
- Since 1991, the Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade, Inc. has donated over \$600,000 to local charitable organizations in keeping with the mission of our Non-Profit organization.

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• Since 1991, Parade Day has begun with Mass at Assumption Church at 9:30 AM. The Mass is a special celebration of Irish culture in honor of St. Patrick.

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- In 2012, the parade added Pre-Parade events to entertain spectators around the Green while waiting for the Parade to start.
- 2024 marks the 44th year of the parade in Morris County, 30th in Morristown.

Additional Parade Facts

The parade is funded solely by generous donations from corporate and individual sponsors. No public money is involved, so there is no cost to taxpayers.

The parade has a very strictly enforced non-alcohol policy for parade participants.

The parade is a "rain or shine" event unless extreme weather conditions render it unsafe to hold. That has occurred twice:

1. 1993 -- The parade was postponed a week due to a snow state of emergency in Morristown.

2. 2010 -- The parade was canceled on Parade Day due to severe weather making it unsafe for participants and spectators. The parade was rescheduled for April 10 that year.

3. 2020 and 2021 parades were canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

The parade organization takes great pride in providing a safe, funfilled day for Morris County residents and their families to enjoy each spring at no cost to Morristown.

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THE EASTER RISING

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In April 2016, the world took note of the Centennial of the Easter Rising, a moment embedded in modern Irish history. The Rising was the opening act in the Irish War of Independence. A singular and desperate act was launched by a band of men who refused to acknowledge the futility of their fight against English rule on Irish soil. The Rising would be Ireland's first major rebellion act since 1798.

The Irish leadership hoped to take advantage of British troops' deployment to World War I's battlefields, leaving fewer to control Ireland. At 11:00 AM on Easter Monday, April 24th, Patrick Pearse, the Irish Volunteers, James Connolly, and the Irish Citizens Army hurried across Dublin City to occupy strategic buildings and control important fields of fire. Less than 1,000 Irishmen were up against the military might of the British Empire. But the dye was cast. The orders had been given.... despite an earlier loss of guns and ammunition that the Volunteers so desperately needed.

The arms shipment lay in 400 feet of water off the coast of County Kerry. Earlier in the week, British Intelligence had intercepted the plot to land armaments from the German freighter, the Aud. The loss was enough to force leaders of the Irish underground to call off the insurrection scheduled for Easter Sunday. Their orders were later countermanded, and a decision to go forward was issued. Unfortunately, however, many units never received the order to organize and proceed. The Plan would now be executed on Easter Monday, April 24th.

What the Irish rebels lacked in materials, they made up for in passion and courage. The yearnings of their forebearers and the spirit of generations before them boiled to the surface. Their sparse ranks, a mere shadow of what they should have been, took up positions at strategic points within Dublin City. Patrick Pearse and James Connolly replaced the Union Jack with the Irish Tri-Color atop the General Post Office (GPO) on Sackville Street. Scattered units of the Volunteers took control of the Four Courts, the South Dublin Union, and the Mount Street Bridge across the Liffey River. Irish Volunteers in Saint Stephen's Green were led by the Countess Markievicz, a Sinn Fein organizer and suffragette.

The GPO was the nerve center of the rebellion. James Connolly, a former soldier who served with the British army, was their commanding officer. The GPO would become the focus of a heavy field artillery assault later in the week. The rebels' stand would later be compared to the American defense of the Alamo. The rebels held the GPO for the next six days under constant small arms and artillery fire.

Units of the British Army (Sherwood Foresters) were dispatched from Richmond Barracks to crush the rebels. In an epic defense at the Mount Street Bridge, 17 Volunteers pinned down two battalions of British infantry for nine hours. At the day's end, British casualties exceeded 200 officers and men. Sadly, the bloodshed only bought them a few more days. On Saturday, April 29th, at 2:30 PM, Patrick Pearse, the Commander-in-Chief of the Irish forces, wearing a heavy overcoat over his uniform, marched to a British barricade and surrendered his troops. Several women nurses were among the groups that surrendered. At great personal risk, Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell (Cumann na mBan) delivered the surrender order to the other leaders around Dublin's outskirts. On Sunday morning, April 30th, the last unit under the leadership of Eamonn Ceantt and Cathal Brugha surrendered at the South Dublin Union.

The Volunteers, under a white flag, marched down Mount Street under a heavy British escort. Fifteen of these Irish soldiers would be executed by firing squad in the next week. Beginning on May 3rd, the executions began in the stonecutter's yard at Kilmainham Jail. All seven signers of The Proclamation of the Irish Republic were included in the number of executed men. Pearse's younger brother, William, would be singled out for execution on May 4th. Three other Irish soldiers would be executed that day, another on the 5th, four more on the 8th, one on the 9th, and two more on the 12th of May.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

The last Irish soldier to die was James Connolly. Seriously wounded in the defense of the GPO, he was transported by ambulance and brought out on a stretcher into the yard at Kilmainham Jail. An English doctor had indicated that with his wounds, Connolly would live only another day. But the execution order was still given. Connolly was raised from his stretcher. Unable to stand, he was tied to a wooden chair. His absolution and last rites were administered by a Capuchin friar, Father Aloysius, who

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

only stepped aside as the firing squad raised their weapons to fire. Moments later, James Connolly was shot dead.

All the executed men were placed in a mass grave behind the English army barracks at Arbor Hill. There were no coffins, only quick lime. The execution of the Volunteer leaders deeply angered the Irish population. Public opinion in Ireland and America turned hard against the British. Connolly's execution caused the most controversy. The manner of his execution raised public awareness of the Irish cause and the movement that they had died for.

In 1963, President John Kennedy traveled to Dublin with his wife on an official state visit. During his visit, the President asked to lay a wreath at the mass grave of the Irish leaders at Arbor Hill. There, he solemnly read each name aloud and walked over to read the Proclamation. It was a gesture not lost on the Irish people throughout the world.

> The Heritage Committee Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Morris County

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Congratulate Grand Marshal

Jack Haien

and the St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County, Inc. on St. Patrick's Day and always,

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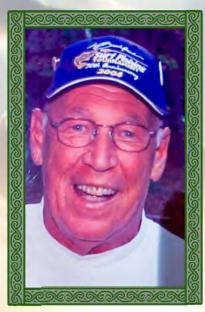


Congratulations to our Grand Marshal Jack Haren!!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!

Congratulations to Jack Haren

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1991 GRAND MARSHAL (First Grand Marshal when parade moved to Morristown)



An Irish Blessing

May the saddest day of the future Be no worse Than the happiest day of your past



The Trustees of the St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County wish to thank the Monsignor and his estate for their generous support of his favorite parade.

> Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam (May he rest in peace)



The Dangler Family is proud to support St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County

Congratulations Grand Marshal Jack Haren!!!

Jimmy will be smiling down from Heaven with pride on Jack, as he is bestowed with this honor.





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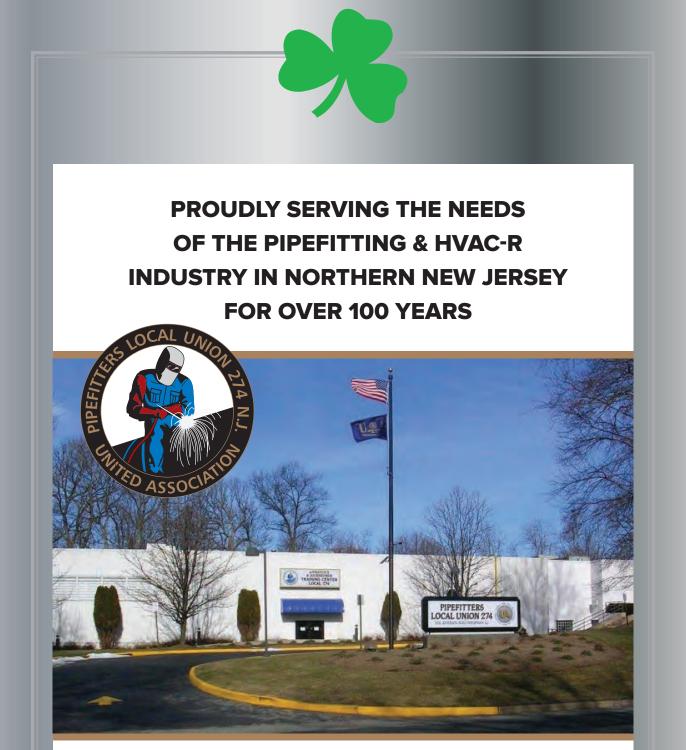
On behalf of the Knights of Columbus George Washington Council 359, we extend our congratulations to Jack Haren, our Knight of the Year and Grand Marshal of the 2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County

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In loving memory of James P. Mongey 1939-2022



Parade Friend and Benefactor 1996 Grand Marshal

The people we love become a part of who we are. When they leave this world, a part of them stays with us always.

"Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand"



The Irish American Association of Northwest Jersey



IAANWJ Cultural Center 352 Richard Mine Road, Rockaway Twp., NJ

The Irish American Association of Northwest Jersey was founded in 1974 to promote and preserve Irish culture and to create an awareness of the contribution the Irish made to building this great country.

IAANWJ Cultural and Social Events

St. Patrick's Parade Day Social held after the Morris County parade.

Session (Seisiun) a gathering of musicians who play tunes using traditional Irish instruments – held monthly

House Concert featuring some of Ireland's legendary traditional Irish musicians.

Ceili (Ceilidh) the traditional gaelic social dance in Ireland – held on 4th Sunday of the month. It's a great way to fulfill that New year's Resolution about getting into shape.

Classes in Irish language, Children Step Dancing, Music, Celtic Art, Ceili and Set Dance are held at the IAANJ Cultural Center.

Monthly meetings followed by a social are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 8:00 P.M. Members and guests are welcome.

For more information: visit www.iaanwj.com





Congratulations to

Parade Grand Marshal

and

Washington Association of New Jersey Member Jack Haren

From Members and Trustees of WANJ



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Congratulations to our good friend Jack Haren 2024 Grand Marshal

"Saol fada agus breac-shlainte chugat" Long life and fair health to you

> Happy Saint Patrick's Day from *The Mongey Family*

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Catholic Charities Diocese of Paterson www.CCPaterson.org

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson congratulates the 2024 Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County, Jack Haren!

Your years of service to the community leads as a great example to many!







With half-damp eyes I stared to the room Where my friends and I spent many an afternoon Where we together weathered many a storm Laughin' and singin' till the early hours of the morn

By the old wooden stove where our hats was hung Our words were told, our songs were sung Where we longed for nothin' and were quite satisfied Talkin' and a-jokin' about the world outside

With haunted hearts through the heat and cold We never thought we could ever get old We thought we could sit forever in fun But our chances really was a million to one

As easy it was to tell black from white It was all that easy to tell wrong from right And our choices were few and the thought never hit That the one road we traveled would ever shatter and split

> How many a year has passed and gone And many a gamble has been lost and won And many a road taken by many a friend And each one I've never seen again

I wish, I wish, I wish in vain That we could sit simply in that room again Ten thousand dollars at the drop of a hat I'd give it all gladly if our lives could be like that Bob Dylan

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Irish American Association of Northwest Jersey



Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day Congratulations to Jack Haren



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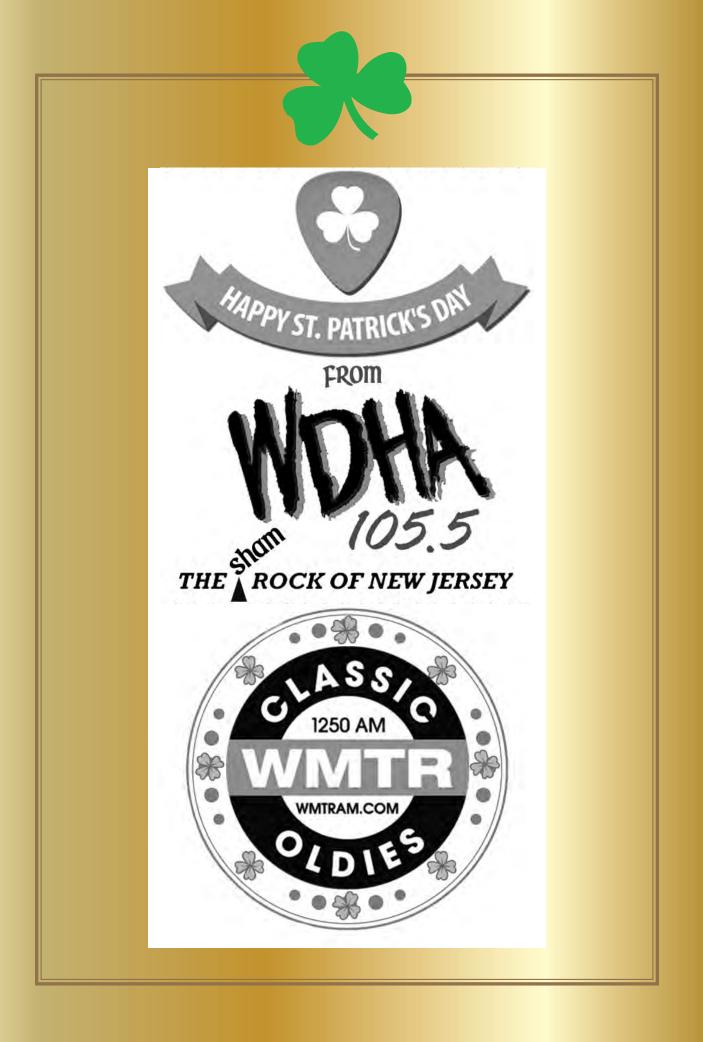
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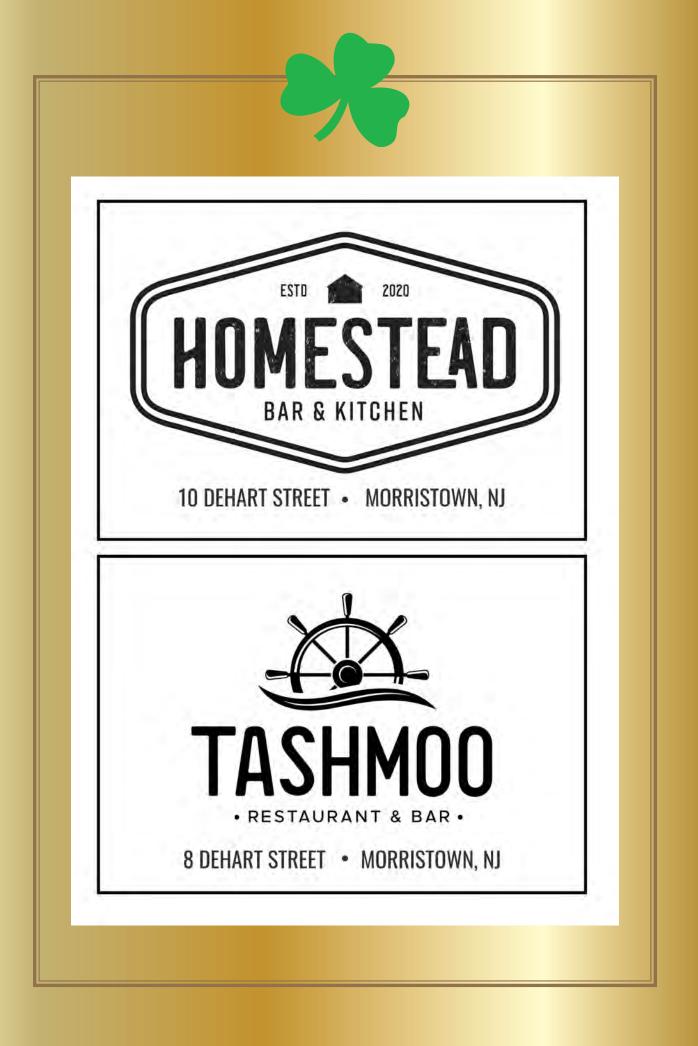
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Trustees Ed Hansberry Rosemary Harrington Michael J. Quinn

The Association organized the first Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade in Wharton in 1979. It outgrew Wharton and in 1991 was moved to Morristown.

www.iaanwj.com







Thank you and Congratulations to Grand Marhsal Jack Haren

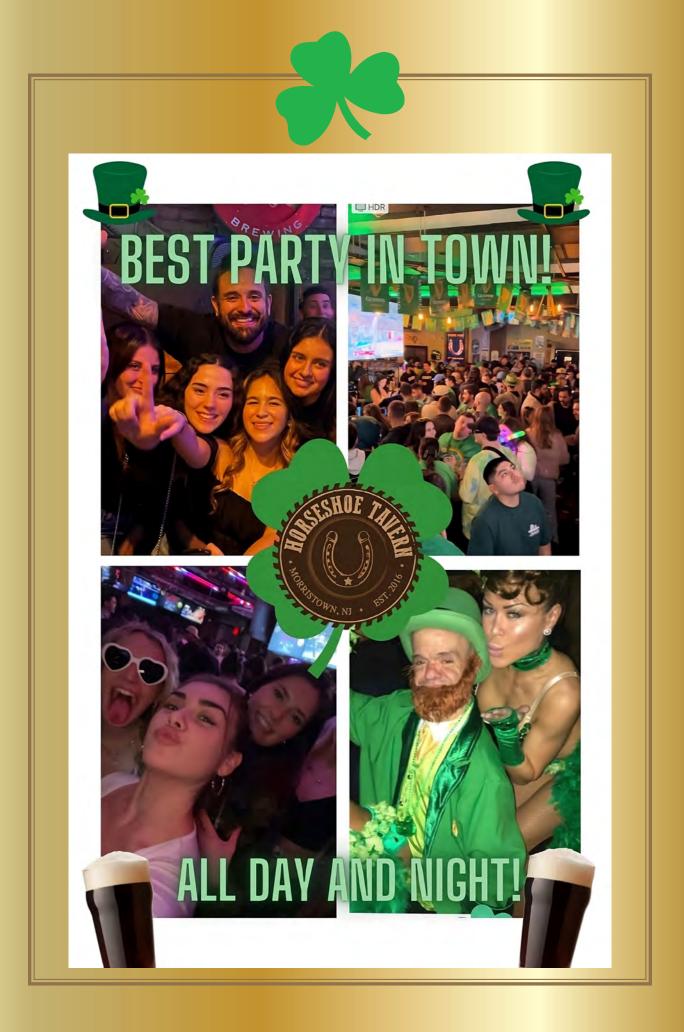


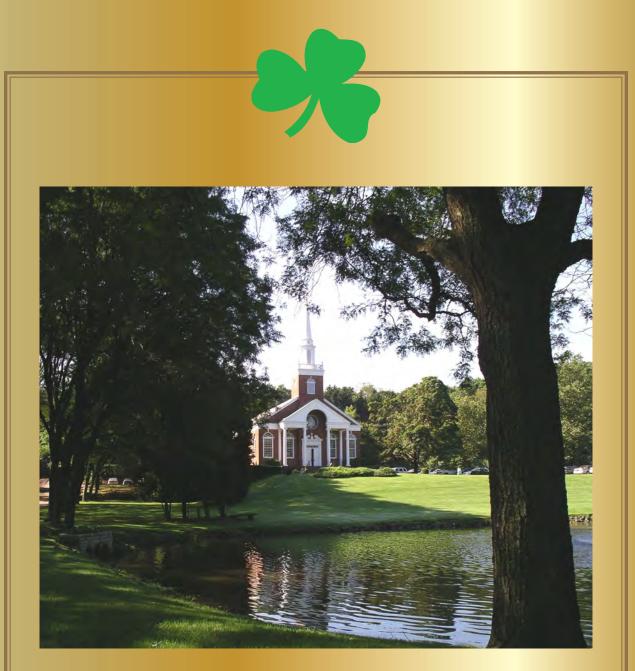
As well as Parade Starter Patrick Tillyer

John and Jennifer Murphy and Family!



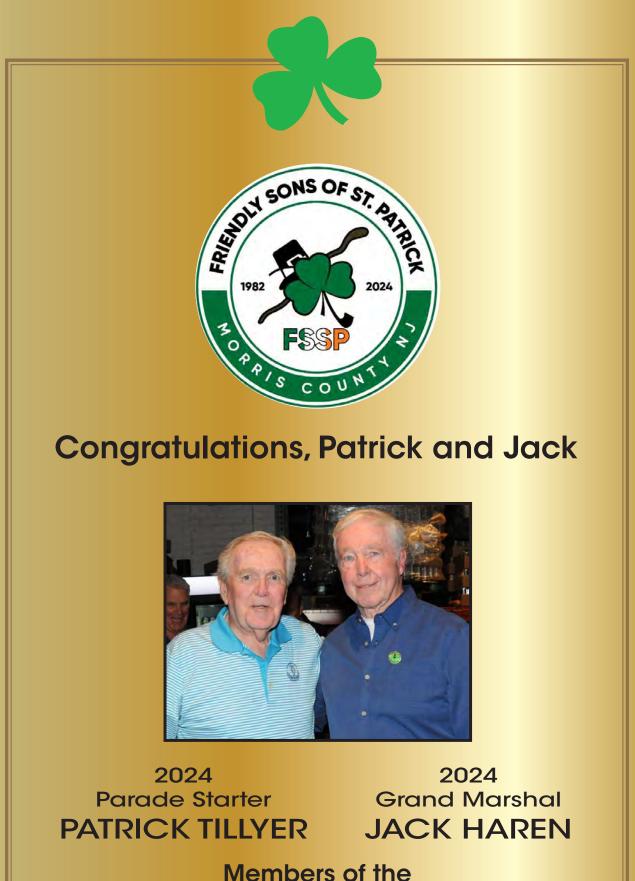






Church of Christ the King New Vernon, New Jersey

Congratulations Jack Haren Grand Marshal Saint Patrick's Day Parade of Morris County March 9, 2024



Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick of Morris County





Jack F. Haren and family

It is a wonderful honor to serve as Grand Marshal of the 2024 Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade.

We deeply appreciate this opportunity to represent the Irish American community as we celebrate our heritage and advance the values and spirit of Ireland's patron saint.

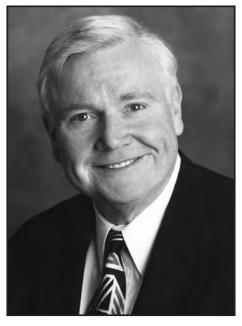
Many thanks to everyone whose dedication helped create an extraordinary Parade Day for hundreds of marchers and thousands of spectators, especially The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Morris County, The Irish American Association of Northwest Jersey, the Finance and Parade Committees, and all of the parade volunteers.

Grand Marshal Jack F. Haren and Family





Don't Cry Because It's Over – Smile Because It Happened.



James E. Dangler 1948 – 2005

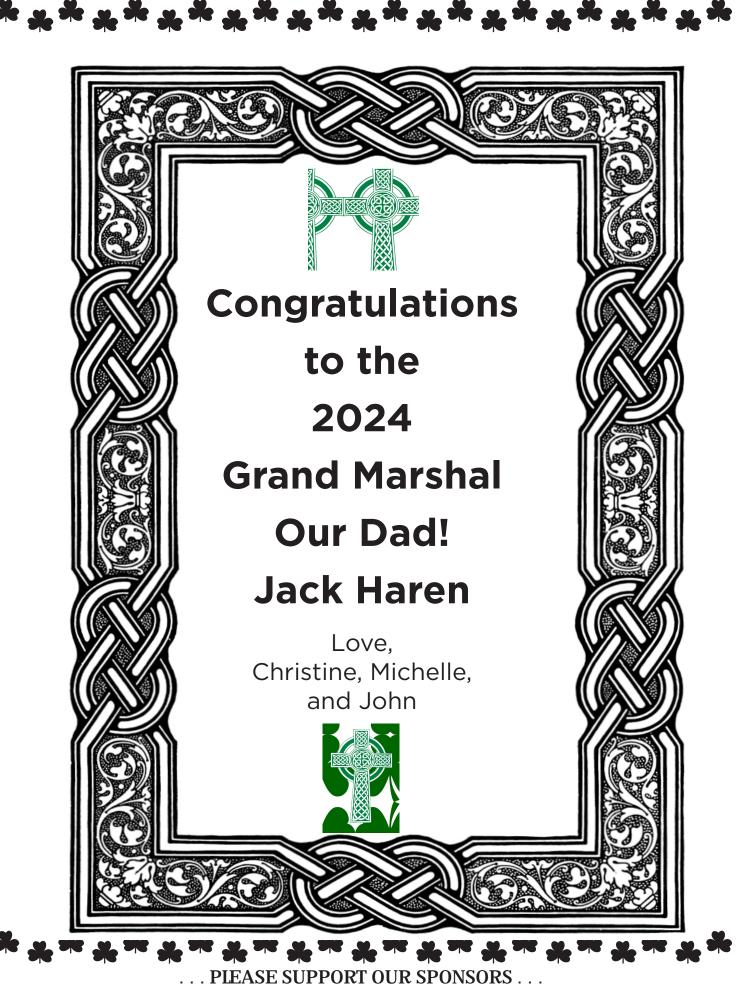




An Irish Blessing

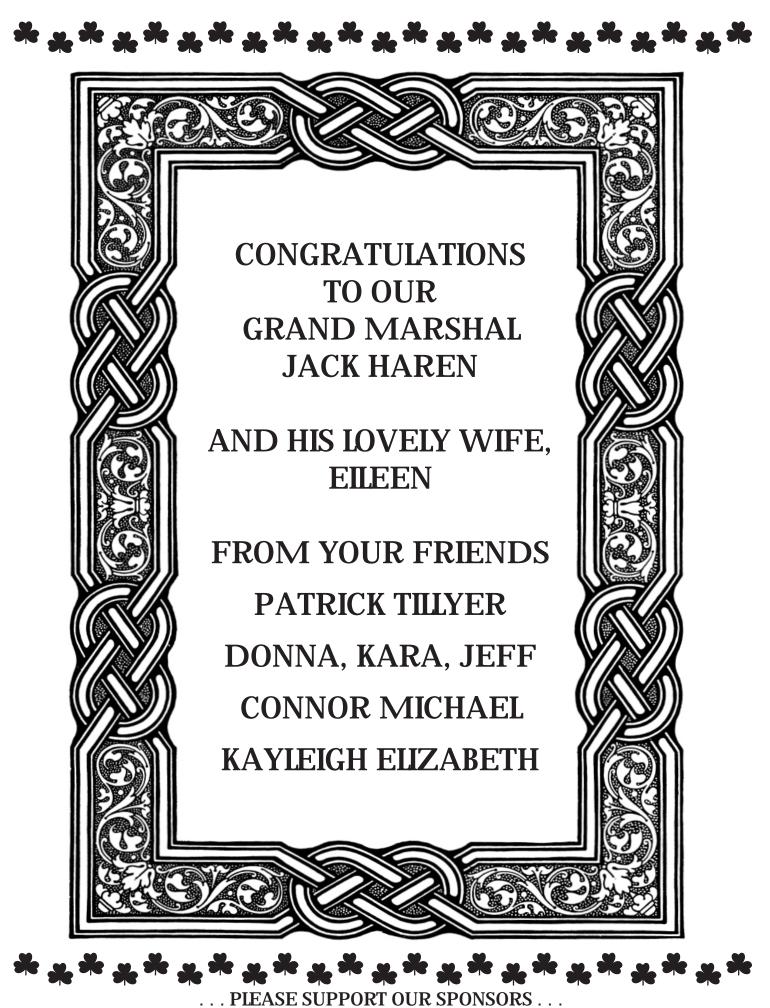
In the name of dear St. Patrick This brings a loving prayer May you forever be within God's tender love and care – May your heart be filled with happiness – Your home be filled with laughter And may the Holy Trinity Bless your life forever after.







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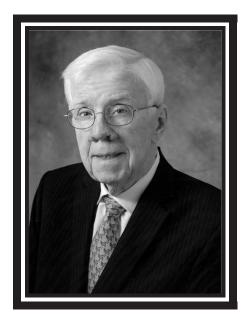
MAY GOD GIVE YOU ...

WITH EVERY STORM, A RAINBOW, WITH EVERY TEAR, A SMILE, WITH EVERY CARE, A PROMISE, AND A BLESSING IN EACH TRIAL. WITH EVERY PROBLEM LIFE SENDS, A FAITHFUL FRIEND TO SHARE, WITH EVERY SIGH, A SWEET SONG, AND AN ANSWER TO EACH PRAYER

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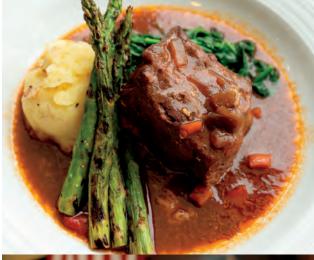
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Happy St. Patrick's Day

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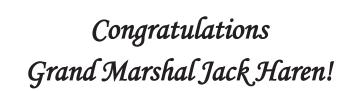
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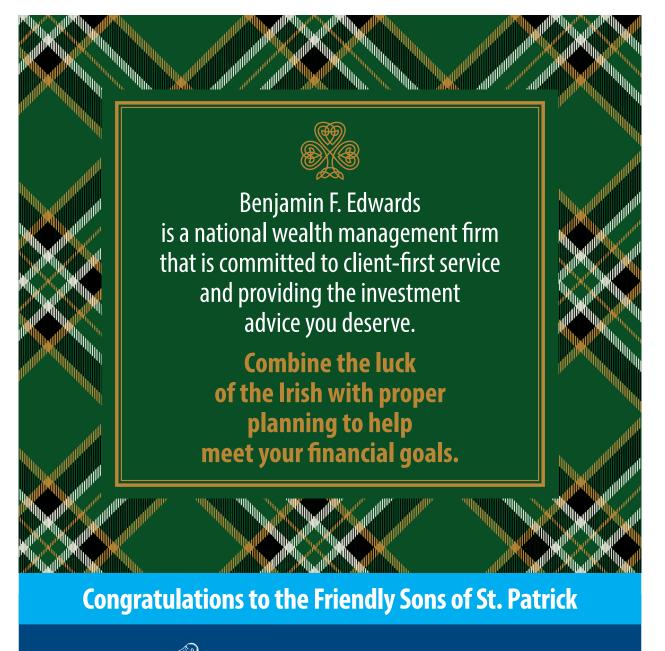


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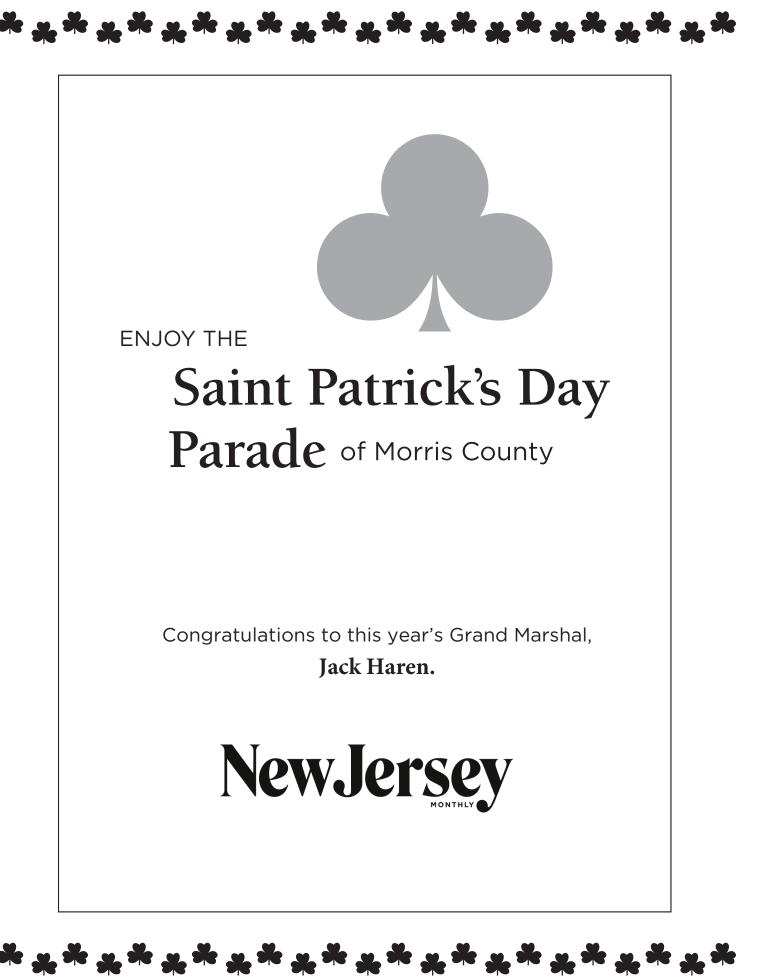
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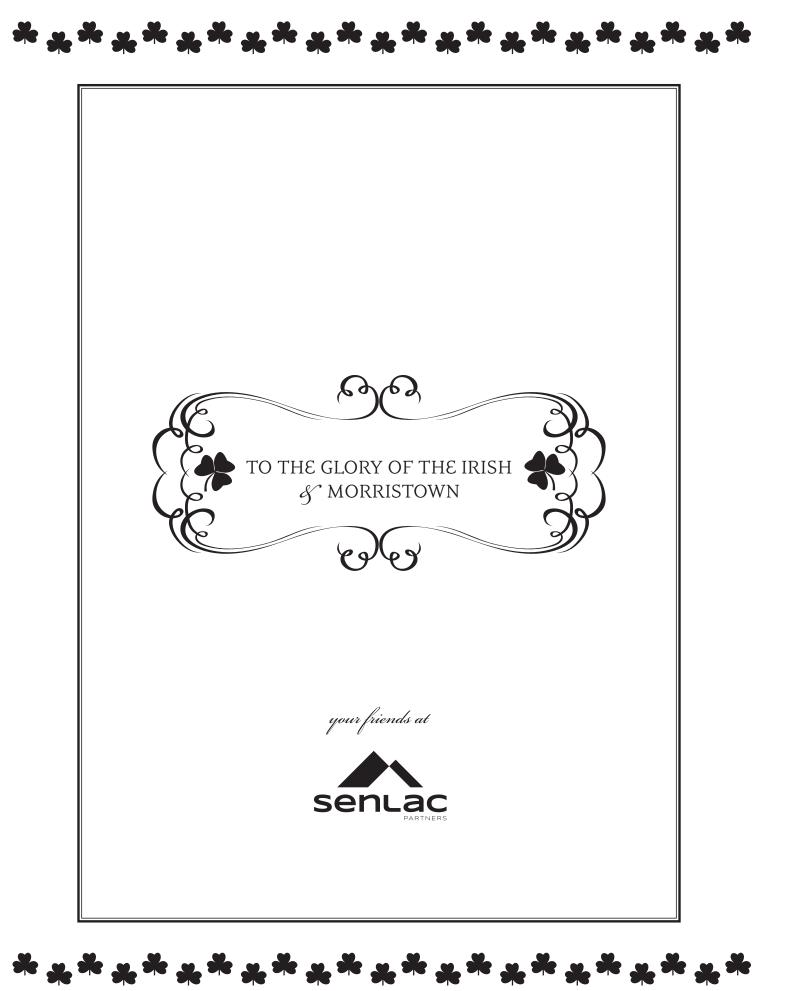
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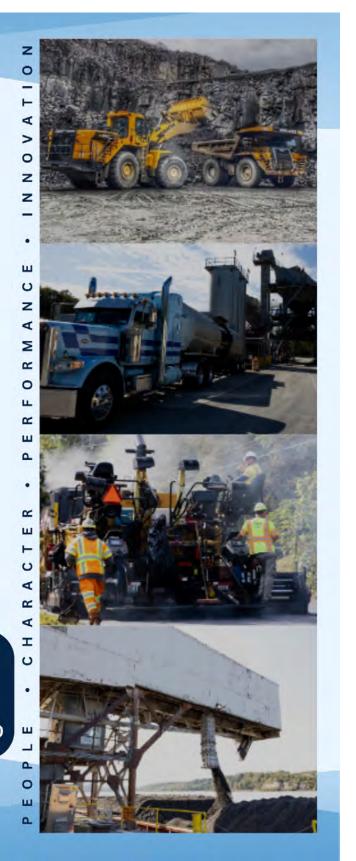




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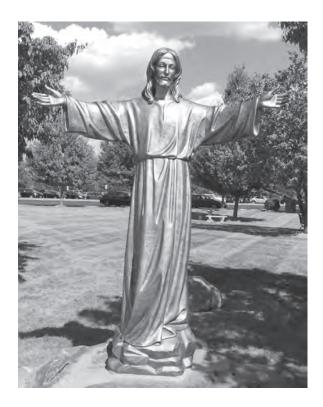
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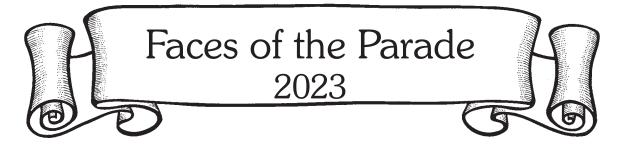
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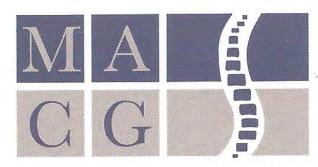
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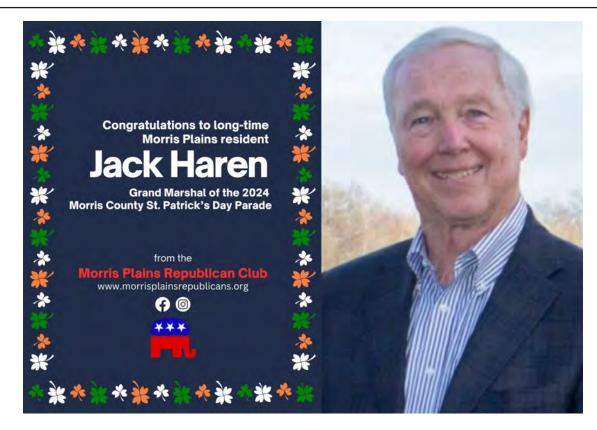
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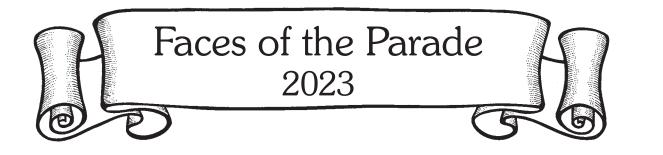
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INDEX OF SPONSORS

А

1776 By David Burke	G
23 South Gift Boutique	22
Affinity Federal Credit Union	28
Arthur's Tavern	.4
An Clar School of Irish Dance	61
Assumption Church	Е
Assumption School	63
The Auld Shebeen Pub	12
B	

В

Bailey Funeral Home	64
Baird	21
Benjamin F. Edwards	20
Bleakley Financial Group	. 6
Brick 46 Restaurant & Bar	65

С

C&L Auto Body 13	3
California Beach Hut 62	2
Catholic Charities	3
Chick-Fil-A	Ξ
Church Of Christ The King	3
C-I-E Tours	Ξ
Coniglio's Old Fashioned 24	4
County Concrete Corporation 44	8

D

_
Dangler Funeral Homes, IncP
Dangler Lewis & Carey
Funeral Home11
Jimmy Dangler Memorial Page 2
Ryan Dawson 58
District 25 Legislators
(Barranco, Bucco, Dunn) 52
Donnelly Minter & Kelly, LLC E
Doyle Funeral Home 50
Dublin House56
Dublin PubG
Duggan Family 55

Ε

Employment Horizons, Inc	62
End of Elm	48
F	
E L Rawding A LA	G

F.J. Rawding, A.I.A.	G
Famished Frog	G
Finazzo Cossolini O'Leary	
Meola & Hager	46
Fraternal Order of Eagles	
Aerie #1311	45
Friendly Sons of St. Patrick	
of Morris County	G

G

James M. Gannon, Sheriff	63
Girl Scouts of Northern NJ –	
Morristown	60
Tom Giblin	9
Glenbrook Brewery	49
Godby Realtors	39
Grasshopper off the Green	P
Green Village Packing Co	50

Η

Haren Family	3
Haren Grand Marshal	1
Kathleen and John Hendricks	66
Hennion & Walsh	E
High Grade Beverage	10
Horseshoe Tavern	G
Hyland Family Memorial	E

I

IBEW Local 102 15
Independent Hose Co. No.1 65
Irish American Association of
Northwest JerseyG
Irish American Association of
Northwest Jersey Cultural CtrG
Iron Bar and Revolution
Gastropub Front Cover

J

J.A. Salerno Sr. & Sons Inc. 55 JAG Physical Therapy...... 51

K L

Knights Of Columbus Council 195464	L
Knights Of Columbus	r
Council 359P)
Kostyak Family 52	2
Lakeland Bank 51	
Langan Family25	5
Leonard Legal Group, Llc 40)
Long's Travel Service, Inc 53	3
Jim and Sue Loughman 53	3

\mathbf{M}

Macculloch Hall
Historical Museum 44
Madison Avenue
Chiropractic Group, Pc 43
Market Street Mission 60
Mayo Performing Arts Center 40
Mayor Timothy Dougherty 47
Vinnie and Judy McShane 62
Mendham Capital ManagementG
John and Debbie Mills 65
Jimmy Mongey MemorialP
Morris Brick & Stone Co 47
Morris County Board of County
Commissioners 61
Morris County Right To Life 63
Morris County Tourism
Bureau Inside Back Cover
Morris Plains Republican Club 56
Morris Plains Rotary Club 46
Morristown & Morris Township
Library 43
Morristown Agway 65
Morristown Diner 57

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Ν

0 P Q

Our Lady
Star of The Sea Parish 64
Parsippany Deli / E Gifts 64
Par-Troy Funeral Home 18
Pavesi Ristorante 49
Peerless Beverage CompanyG
Pipefitters Local Union 274P
Private Advisor GroupE
Michael and Laurie Quinn 61

R

Ralph A. Loveys	
Family Charitable Foundatior	า 36
Riker Danzig LLP	P
Rockaway Township	
Fire Department	60
Rory O'Moore School	
of Pipes & Drums	54

S

Senlac Partners	30
SERVPRO	
Shade Tree Garage	
Sisters of St. Brigid	
•	
Speedwell Printing	7
Sportsmens Barber Shop	66
St. Joseph Church	61
St. Patrick's Day Parade	
of Morris County Patrons	E
St. Peter's Orphanage	63
St. Thomas More Church	35
St. Vincent Martyr Church	8
Richard and Helen Stelletell	66
Stirling Tavern, LLC	37
Stoll Street Tavern	58
Sudler Foundation	45
Swiss Chalet Bakery & Café	65

Т

Tashmoo and Homestead	G
Tavern off the Green	G
Thatcher McGhee's Denville	54
The Grand Café	E
The Quiet Man Irish Pub	62
Tiff's Grill & Ale House	65
Tilcon New York, Inc	34
Patrick Tillyer	5
Tracey, Mary	65
Trinity Financial Strategies	14

UV

United Union of Roofers
Local #416
Visiting Nurse Association
of Northern New Jersey 44
0

W

Waller, Mary and Family	42
Walsh Company	G
Washington Association	
of New Jersey	G
Watnong VFW Post No. 3401	32
WDHA/WMTR	G
Weichert, Realtors	33
Wm. M. Ryan & Company, Inc	17



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