



# Irish American Society of County Will

Volume 27 Issue 3

May 2008



## 2nd Annual Irish Night at Silver Cross Field

Irish night with the Joliet Jack-Hammers takes place Thursday, July 17, 2008 at beautiful Silver Cross Field! Come out for affordable family fun on a night where we will celebrate all things Irish – even Jammer will even be dressed for the occasion!

Enjoy Irish dancers during our pre-game celebration, IASCW member Brendan Loughrey sing-

ing the Irish National Anthem and practice your best Irish jig to see if you can get on our giant Videoboard's "Jig Cam"!

July 17<sup>th</sup> Irish Night is also "Thirsty Thursday" where you can enjoy \$1.50 drafts! Plus, be one the first 1000 fans over twenty-one that night and receive a free Pint Glass as you enter the gates, courtesy of City Beverage! The gates open at 6:06, and the game starts at 7:05.

Irish night at the JackHammers is a game you won't want to miss! Bring the whole family for the craic & some great minor-league baseball! Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling the ticket office by calling 815-726-BALL (2255). Let's get another great turnout!

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## Dates to Remember

- Mon May 19 Board Meeting
- Mon June 16 Board Meeting
- Mon July 21 Board Meeting
- Mon July 20 Nominations for Citizen of the year are due
- Thu July 17—Irish Night with the Jackhammers— 7:05p
- Mon Aug 18 Board Meeting
- Sun Aug 24 Family Picnic
- Mon Sept 15 Board Meeting
- Sat Sept 20— Awards Dinner
- Mon Oct 20 - Board Meeting
- March 6 & 7 2009 — Manhattan Irish Fest XV
- The monthly Board meetings are held at the Joliet Elks Lodge 1-55 and Jefferson Sts—Joliet
- Consult CountyWillIrish.net for last minute details, changes and corrections

## Citizen of the Year

Nominations are being sought for the 2008 Citizen of the year. Any person of Irish-American descent who has significantly contributed to the common good or a non Irish-American, from Will County, who has significantly contributed to the Irish-American cause, are eligible to be nominated.

Any member in good standing may submit a name or two for this honor. The candidate's name and a brief biography of the nominee should be presented to Jim Lawler, Chair of the Honors and Degrees process by June 16, 2008. After much discussion, the Awards dinner has been moved to "Half Way to St Patrick's Day", in the middle of September.

This award was first presented in 1984, and was won by Judge Charles Connor. Last year's awardees were Mike Dowd, and Pat O'Neill, Will County Coroner.

Nominations may be sent to the Post Office Box on the back of this newsletter, or presented in person at the June Board Meeting, June 16 at the Joliet Elks club.

## Annual Picnic

Members enjoy each other's company at the 2006 Irish Society Picnic. See information on P 2 for this year's Details.



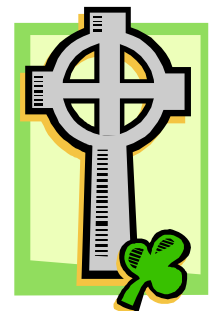
## Awards Dinner

Plans are currently under way for the 24th annual Awards Banquet. A separate mailing will be sent as a formal invitation to the membership, friends and families to attend. Circle your calendars for September 20, 2008 as the date for the banquet. As always, corned beef and other entrees will be served. As this is half way to St Patrick's Day, it is a good opportunity for the membership to come out and participate.

## HELP !

As is evident from the list of Dates to Remember at the right, the Society has much more to offer its membership, in terms of activities, events and cultural affairs. This is your opportunity to become active, as assistance is needed in several different aspects of our organization.

You must have joined the Society for a reason. Education, Social Networking, Community Service. We try to appeal to all aspects of our mission, but we need help! See the list on p 2 to get involved!



## Our new Chaplain

It was like "old home week" for some members as we welcomed Father Jim Lennon as the Society's new chaplain at a reception Sunday April 20. A graduate of Joliet Township High School, Father Jim and his parents knew many of the long-time Irish families of the area. For other members, it was their first chance to meet and get acquainted with him. He and Father Kevin Shanley, O.Carm, were ordained within 2 years of each other and shared many good times in their work in the Joliet Diocese.

About 50 members gathered at the Chicago Street Pub, ate delicious food and exchanged stories as John Condron played Irish music in the background. Father spoke with emotion of his first visit to the Galway area where his grandparents lived before emigrating to Boston. He is looking forward to meeting more members of the Society as we hope to have more meetings of this type during the year. The event was chaired by Dan and Mary Maher of the Cultural Affairs committee.



## New Members

Please welcome the new members who have joined since the last publication of this newsletter:

Dan and Chris Forsythe, Fire Department, Manhattan  
Ben & Bettie Komar, Computer Consulting, Joliet  
Krystin & Paul McGee, Painting Contractor, Shorewood

## Family Picnic

Plans are under way for the Society's annual Picnic. The date is Sunday, August 24th at Mic Brophy's house, 1103 Waverley, in Joliet. Shaun Mojzis and Coley O'Connell, and the Shamrock Rugby team will be hosting this annual event. Although details are somewhat sketchy at press time.

As in years past, the Society will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs. The members who attend should bring a dish to pass (appetizer, salad or dessert). If you are planning on attending, you should also bring your own ... soda pop, or whatever else you anticipate drinking.

Look in the mail this summer for a postcard announcement with details, directions and times.



## Volunteers Really Needed

Get involved in the Society. If you have some talent, any talent or just a desire to help, we can put it to good use. We are not expecting any one to step up and chair an event, unless you wish to, but we desperately need help with the following committees. This is not a full time commitment, but some time is involved.

**Cultural Affairs** needs ideas, locations and input for activities, social, educational or recreational. Contact Dan & Mary Maher, chairs at 815.727.1216 or email them at [xcahill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:xcahill@sbcglobal.net)

**Awards Dinner** would like assistance for reservations, decorations... Contact Jim Lawler, honors and degrees chair at 815.727.7534.

**Irish Fest** — Although ten months away, help is needed in public relations, the cultural tent, facilities, ticket sales... you name it. A great chance to meet fellow Irish, while helping the Society in its principal fund raiser. Contact Brandon Lipke at 815.424.0241 or [blipke@lw210.org](mailto:blipke@lw210.org).

## Area Festivals and Events

**Chicago Gaelic Park** Irish Festival, May 23-26 2008 ( Memorial Day Weekend). Rain or Shine this festival offers anything and everything Irish for South-siders. Step Dancers, Bag Pipers, Gaelic Sports and Irish vendors fill out this great weekend. This year's entertainment includes American English, Black 47, The Makem and Spain Brothers, to name a few who will perform on four Stages at 147th & Ridgeland in Oak Forest. General Admission is \$ 15.00 per person, with free parking. For more details see [ChicogoGelicPark.org](http://ChicogoGelicPark.org).

**Irish-American Cultural Center** is having their festival July 11-13. Featuring the music of The Prodigals, The Fenians, Leahy, Seven Nations and the Young Dubliners, among others performing on five stages throughout the center. The center is located at 4626 N Knox Ave in Chicago. Tickets are \$ 8.00 in advance (\$ 12 at the door) For more details, you may consult [IrishFestChicago.com](http://IrishFestChicago.com)

**Milwaukee Irish Fest** August 14-17 2008. The Grandfather of Irish Festivals, If you have never been to the Henry Meyer Park for the fest, you are missing a volume in your book of life. Entertainers include Gaelic Storm, the Celtic Tenors, The Makem and Spain Brothers, the Omagh Choir and the Saw Doctors. Admission is \$ 15.00 per person, with a separate charge for parking. For more specific information, see their website: [IrishFest.com](http://IrishFest.com).

**Manhattan Irish Fest.** Back again, for the fifteenth year, dates have been set for Manhattan Irish Fest XV, March 6 -7 2009. The committees are meeting now, so please contact them at [ManhattanIrishFest.com](http://ManhattanIrishFest.com) to get involved.

**2007-2008**

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Honors and Degrees  
James W. Lawler

**Irish Way Scholarship Winner**

Dan Malloy, Chairman of the Society's Scholarship committee announced this year's winner of the Irish Way Scholarship. Meghan Elizabeth McGuire, a Junior at Lincoln-Way Central High School in New Lenox, is the 34th high school student selected by the Society to study in Ireland through the Irish way program of the Irish American Cultural Institute. She is an honor roll student, ranked in the top twenty-five percent of her class, and a member of the National Honor Society. Her major academic interest is history and she loves to take pictures as a hobby. She also was involved in the girls volleyball and soccer teams at Lincoln-Way Central.



Meghan has been an Irish step dancer since she was four years old, and is currently dancing with the Keigher Academy of Irish Dance. She also manages to work part-time for the New Lenox Park District and in the summer at the Jackhammers baseball stadium in Joliet. Though Meghan has a busy schedule, she is still able to balance school, work, sports, family, and friends. She loves to go to concerts, Irish dance feis, and skiing with her family and friends.

She is the second child and only daughter to JoAnne Caveney and Tim McGuire. Meghan is also the only step-daughter to Patrick Caveney. Her Great-Grandfather was from County Tipperary and her Great-Grandmother was from County Limerick. She attended St. Joseph Catholic grade school in Manhattan.

Growing up in an Irish Catholic community, Meghan quickly became very proud of her Irish heritage. Her love of Irish dance, music, and her interest in history has given her a keen desire to travel to Ireland. She was eager to write an essay and enter the contest to win a scholarship given by the Irish American Society of County Will to be part of the Irish Way.

She will leave Sunday July 6, and return August 1. We wish Meghan a wonderful trip to Ireland, and look forward to hearing about her experience at the Annual awards dinner.

**Manhattan Irish Fest XIV**

The bills have been paid, the grounds have been cleaned, and the question on the mind of the committee has moved to the bottom line. Manhattan Irish Fest XIV has netted approximately \$ 20,000.00 !

Per agreements with the Village of Manhattan and the Park District, \$ 5,000 will be donated to the Manhattan Park District Foundation for use in a state funded matching grant. \$ 5,000 will be kept by the festival committee to use as seed money for expenses for Irish Fest XV. This year, the Society had to loan the committee money to pay bills from the previous year, as well as to pay expenses to start up the 2008 festival. With the seed money, this will not be necessary for next year's event. \$5,000 will be given away to non-profit organizations in the area. Petitions are being accepted by the Irish Fest board, so if you know of a non-profit organization in the area, they may make a petition for some of that money. Also, the IASCW along with the Village of Manhattan, Manhattan Township and the Manhattan Park District are working on a plan to pave the parking



Jammer, the Joliet Jackhammer's Mascot entertains members Jim Murray and Dick McHugh at last year's Irish Night held at Silver Cross Field in Joliet.

lot that serves as the tent location for the Fest.

The final 5,000 comes to the Society. Per prior agreement, the board of the Society has committed these funds to several areas. One third of it goes to our Irish Way Scholarship fund for next year. One Third goes to the Cultural Affairs Committee budget, and the final third goes to the building fund.

Due to terrible weather in 2007, the festival lost money, and had several thousand dollars in unpaid bills, which had to be taken care of before we could even think about 2008. "This was a rebuilding year," according to Brandon Lipke, co-chair, "I think the committee as a whole did a fantastic job reducing the expenses and expanding revenues. The bottom line for us is that more people enjoyed themselves and we expanding the area's Irish Cultural Heritage, which is the mission of the Society."

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