

# Everyone's Irish on St. Paddy's Day

Whether the name is Flynn or Quinn, Farrelly or Feeney, or even Bernstein, everyone gets a little swept up in the festivities in honor of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Tomorrow is March 17 and St. Patrick's Day is here. Erin Go Bragh!



Irish. This is the top ancestry choice in three states: Delaware, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, and it is in the top five choices in all states but two, Hawaii and New Mexico. There are nearly 10 times the number of Irishmen in the U.S. as there are in Ireland, which boast a population of 3.9 million residents.

Since 1820, 4.8 million immigrants of Irish descent, have come to America to begin new lives.

### What's a leprechaun?

Leprechauns are a type of miniscule make-believe fairy, who allegedly live in the Irish countryside. They are mostly little old men who, according to legend, serve as the shoemakers for the fairies. They usually stand about two-feet tall. Treasure hunters in the know can track down a leprechaun by the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. The legend is that if you catch one you can force him to tell you where he hides his gold.

### What does Erin Go Bragh mean?

In Irish Gaelic, Erin Go Bragh means "Ireland Forever," but in Scottish Gaelic, the same words translate into "Ireland until the day of judgement."

Hmmmm.

## Some St. Patrick's Day myths debunked

**Myth:** St. Patrick drove the snakes from Ireland.

**Fact:** While St. Patrick is most famous for having driven snakes out of Ireland, it was more likely the case that the snakeless country never had any to begin with. Perhaps the truth is that St. Patrick attempted to put an end to pagan practices in Ireland, and symbols of serpents were often worshipped in the pagan rituals.

**Myth:** Corned beef and cabbage is the traditional Irish meal on St. Patrick's Day.

**Fact:** Corned beef is not an Irish dish. No one in Ireland eats the stuff. The more likely protein in a traditional Irish dinner would be either bacon or ham, along with cabbage.

**Myth:** St. Patrick's Day parades and festivals began in Ireland.

**Fact:** The day was originally a holy day to commemorate the day St. Patrick is thought to have died, on March 17, 460 A.D. Pubs were not open, there were no parades. Folks went to church.

Nowadays, St. Paddy's has become a more secular holiday and is celebrated as heartily in Dublin as it is in Boston and New York. Dublin's festival extends this year from March 15 to 19 and includes parades, vintage car shows, and 4,000 performers. Some 1.5 million spectators are expected to attend the events.

**Myth:** Green is a lucky color and should always be worn on St. Paddy's day.

**Fact:** Because green was the color of the former flag of Ireland, during a period when they were controlled by Britain, the Irish consider green an unlucky color and often give a pinch or chastise people found wearing green.

Want to impress friends to-

### tomorrow? Here are some proper Irish toasts:

"Here's to absent friends, and here's twice to absent enemies."

"Thirst is a shameless disease so here's to a shameful cure."

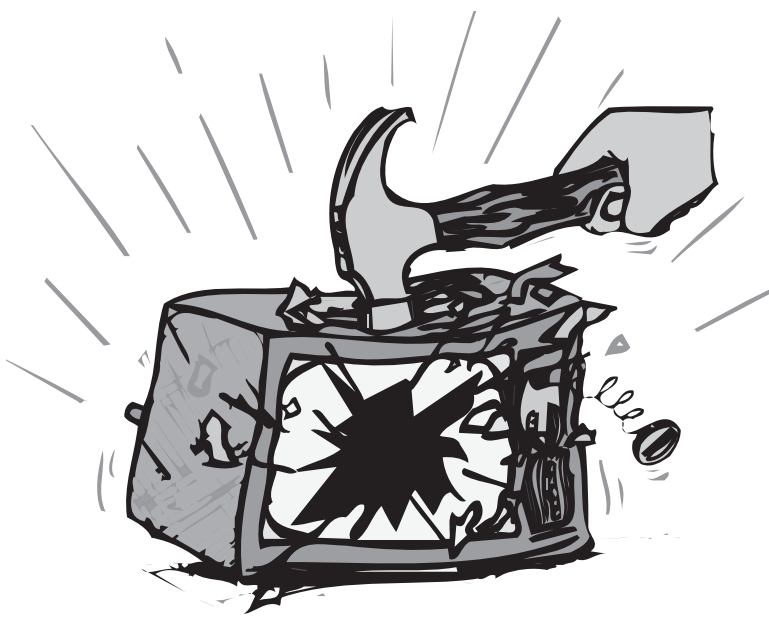
"Here's to a wet night and a dry morning."

"May we always have a clean shirt, a clean conscience, and a bob in the pocket."

"May your glass be ever full. May the roof over your head be always strong. And may you be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows you're dead."

### How many Irish are among us?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, some 34 million Americans list their heritage as



## Events scheduled for TV turn off week

TV Turn-Off Week will take place in Jamestown from Wednesday, March 22, through Tuesday, March 28, with events being held at Melrose school and the Jamestown library.

All events are funded by the Friends of the Jamestown Library, the Jamestown PTO, and the Jamestown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.

- Wednesday, March 22, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., Yoga for Children is for students in kindergarten through grade 2. It will be led by movement educator and yoga practitioner Karen Sacchetti, at the library. Registration is required. Call 423-7280.

- Friday, March 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.: PTO Game Night will be held at the Melrose school multipurpose room. Participants who bring a game night coupon get their first slice of pizza and a drink free. There will be fun for the whole family and children must be accompanied by a supervising adult.

- On Saturday, March 25, from 11 a.m. to noon: Gardening for Children will be held in the library meeting hall. Kids can plant their own mini-garden. All participants, ages 5 and up should bring a clean, empty two-liter soda bottle. Registration is not required.

- Sunday, March 26, from 1 to 3 p.m.: Knitting for all Ages will take place in the children's room of the library. This class is open to all levels of expertise. Participants should bring their own needles and

yarn. Registration is not required.

- Monday, March 27, from 3 to 4 p.m.: an Electricity Workshop will be in the library meeting hall. Insulators, conductors, light bulbs, and light-bulb sockets will be used to design circuits and an on-off switch. Participants will be using the award-winning Young Scientists Club kits designed by biologist Esther Novis of Jamestown. The program is open to children ages 8 to 11. Registration is required. Call 423-7280.

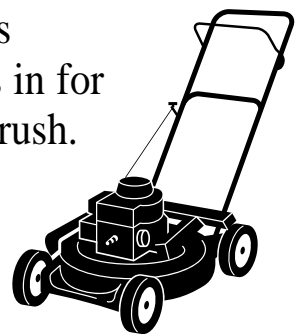
- Tuesday, March 28, from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.: A Visit with Thomas Edison will take place in the library meeting hall. Children in grades 3 through 6 are invited to come meet Thomas Edison, the scientist and inventor, as portrayed by Todd McLeish. Time-travel back to the year 1889 and find out about Edison's many inventions, of which he patented some 1,093 during his lifetime. In 1847, when Edison was born, society still thought of electricity as a novelty, a fad. By the time he died, entire cities were lit by electricity. Registration is not required.

- Tuesday, March 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: a panel discussion on underage drinking will be held at the Melrose school multipurpose room. The panel features members of the local police department, liquor store owners, other professionals, and teens. Refreshments will be provided. For additional information, call Laura Hosley 965-8167 of the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.

## Spring arrives next week!

Bring your lawnmowers and other small engines in for service now before the rush.

Drop them off at the store or arrange for pickup.



5 NARRAGANSETT AVENUE • 423-2722

## Newport Animal Hospital is pleased to welcome Mirka N. Ondris, DVM, to its staff.

### Newport Animal Hospital

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Dr. Ondris is a graduate of Utrecht University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Special interests:  
Feline Medicine • Ultrasonography

Member:  
American Association of Feline Practitioners

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