

Murphys Irish Day 2020 – Saturday, March 21

Presented by the Murphys Business Association

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PLANNING FOR MURPHYS IRISH DAY 2020 UNDERWAY POPULAR MOTHERLODE EVENT IS SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Planning is underway for one of the Motherlode’s premiere family events, the eagerly anticipated Murphys Irish Day 2020 that will take place on Saturday, March 21.

“Our committee works hard to put together a day designed to provide a special experience for all members of the family in a friendly small-town environment,” says Michelle Plotnik, the event organizer. “We have made some changes this year including making it more eco-friendly and adding additional kid activities.

“We have also adjusted the hours for the sale of beer and wine on Main St. The new hours are noon to 3 p.m.”

Through the years, the event has attracted thousands of local residents and visitors. It is always staged on the third Saturday in March and is a presentation of the Murphys Business Association. Proceeds fund the many activities of the association as well as community projects and enhancements. One of the MBA’s current projects is the replacing and caring for the trees on Main St.

Among the first orders of business are the securing of vendors that line

historic Main Street and the creation of the crowd-pleasing Irish Day Parade.

Vendors

Once again, the responsibility for securing the vendors is under the aegis of the Murphys Firefighters Association with Jessica Wilkes as the contact person.

The money received from booth rentals is divided between the Murphys Firefighters Association and the Murphys Business Association.

In addition to the regular Murphys merchants, many of which will have booths in front of their establishments, the event will feature vendors from throughout northern California. These exhibitors must produce their own handcrafted items; no factory-produced items will be accepted. Only original art and photography will be on sale. Other vendors will be selling a variety of foods and beverages.

“Many of our vendors come year after year because Irish Day is so well organized and attended,” says Wilkes. “We already have many signed up but we are always looking for new and unique craftsmen who want to sell their wares to our visitors.”

Anyone wishing to be a vendor should not delay since space is limited. Applications and full instructions can be obtained online at visitmurphys.com or by calling Wilkes at (209) 736-7109, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 p.m. The email address is murphysirishday@gmail.com.

Parade

A major focus of the event planners is the creation of the Irish Day Parade that will wind its way down Main St. to the swirl of bagpipes starting promptly at 11 a.m. Recognized as one of the premiere parades in the Mother Lode, it always

presents a wide array of Irish-themed floats, marching bands, youth groups, community organizations, classic cars and other motorized vehicles. Local fire departments and law enforcement are well represented and there is bound to be a leprechaun or two.

“We are grateful that so many crowd-pleasing entries, including the world’s tallest leprechaun, return year after year,” says parade organizer Carrie Nelson. “But we are always looking for new participants who will make the parade even better.”

High on the list of desired entries are ones featuring music and those that pay homage to Murphys Irish heritage. Commercial entries are limited to major financial sponsors of Irish Day.

Any groups or individuals who would like to be considered for inclusion in the 2020 parade should visit the MBA’s website, visitmurphys.com, download an application and read the list of rules and procedures.

“Because of the size of the parade formation area, we are limited to the number of participants we can handle,” states Nelson. “So, we may not be able to accept everyone who would like to enter.”

Entertainment for All

Throughout the day there will be free entertainment to please all members of the family. Plotnik, is lining up a full range of performers in harmony with the Irish theme.

Murphys Irish Day will begin with a hearty pancake breakfast from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Congregational Church. The Main St. festivities featuring music, dancing, and other entertainment will start at 10 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. At 11 a.m. the always popular parade will make its way down Main Street.

A wide variety of foods and beverages will be available for purchase throughout the day. Beer and wine will be on sale on Main St. between noon and 3 p.m.

There is no admission charge for Murphys Irish Day and free parking and shuttle service will be available at Ironstone Vineyards.

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