

IRELAND NEWS

Consulate of Ireland Newsletter for U.S. Southwest

FÁILTE

A chairde, dear friends,

Welcome to the February 2018 edition of Ireland News.



St. Patrick's week is nearing and in this edition we've included information on parades and events across the region. If an event in your city or state isn't included please let us know and we'll include it in our St. Patrick's week newsletter in March.

The deadline for submitting applications to the Government of Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) is fast approaching. If you or your organisation would like to seek funding for a project in your area please [apply](#) by 16 February. For more information please [contact us](#).

Join us in turning your local landmarks green for St. Patrick's Day. Last year more buildings and bridges were turned green than ever before to celebrate our Irish heritage in every part of Texas and the southwest. If you would like to green your area please [contact us](#) as soon as possible!

Finally, keep up to date with developments in Ireland and this region by visiting us on Facebook (Embassy and Consulates of Ireland USA) or Twitter ([@IrelandCGAustin](#)) – we'd be pleased to feature your photos on our social media pages or in future editions of this newsletter.

Is mise le meas,
Adrian Farrell
Consul General

Apply Now for ESP Funding! Deadline is February 16

The Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) initiative offers funding each year to support the international Irish community. Last year, our consular area was one of the largest recipients of ESP funding – the Kansas City Irish Center received funding for continuing renovations and the Louisiana Hibernian Charity in New Orleans received a grant to construct a Hibernian Memorial Park in the city.

If you have a project of any size that helps promote and support the Irish diaspora, you are welcome to [apply](#)!

An overview of the programme, FAQs, helpful tips, and more can be found [here](#)

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Robert Teas at Robert.Teas@dfa.ie

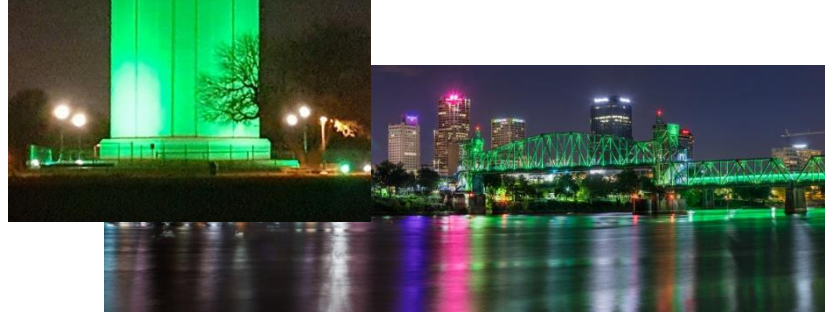


Let's Get Green in 2018

It's that time of year again...St. Patrick's Day is fast approaching, and we're hoping to turn the U.S. Southwest green again!

Thanks to all of you we added more greening sites than ever last year, and we'd love to beat that number in 2018! Let us know if you have a confirmed greening site by **February 9th** to be included in Tourism Ireland's official launch press release.

If you have an idea of a building, bridge, or landmark in your area that could be greened for St. Patrick's Day – send an email to Robert.Teas@dfa.ie and we'll be happy to assist in making it happen.



Global Irish Hub

While in Dublin, CG Farrell met with Ciaran Cannon, Minister for the Diaspora, who looks forward to visiting Texas and the U.S. Southwest soon.

Read Minister Cannon's recent message on the [Global Irish Hub](#), which contains information and resources created to help Irish communities abroad stay connected to Ireland and each other.



Around the Region



Left/Below: CG Farrell visited Dallas and Ft. Worth again and enjoyed meeting with Mayor Rawlings and Mayor Price to discuss trade and investment links as well as Ireland's ties to both cities.



Above: Congratulations to Dr. Jody Barnard, named 2018 Irish Person of the Year by the [Irish-American Society of Dallas!](#)



Below: A lively discussion at the Consulate on foreign policy priorities as part of the Foreign Policy Association's *Great Decisions* series.



Above: The Consulate hosted some of Austin's Irish J1 students with Irish Network Austin.

St. Patrick's Day 2018 Events

We're looking forward to St. Patrick's Week and the great parades and celebrations across the region. If your city is not included in the list below let us know!

Place	Date	More Information
Little Rock, Arkansas	March 17	http://www.irisharkansas.org/parade
Hot Springs, Arkansas	March 17	http://www.shorteststpats.com/
Denver, Colorado	March 17	http://www.denverstpatricksdayparade.com/
Ft. Collins, Colorado	March 17	http://downtownfortcollins.com/events/lucky-joes-st-patricks-day-parade/
Colorado Springs, Colorado	March 17	https://csstpats.com/
Topeka, Kansas	March 17	http://topekastpats.com/
Kansas City, Kansas	March 17	http://www.kcirishparade.com/
Lawrence, Kansas	March 17	http://lawrencestpatricksdayparade.com/paradeinfo.html
Baton Rouge, Louisiana	March 17	http://st-patricks-day.com/baton-rouge-st-patricks-day-parade-2017/
New Orleans, Louisiana	Block Parties & Parades March 10, 11, 16, 17, 18	http://www.stpatricksdayneworleans.com/
Albuquerque, New Mexico	March 17	https://www.cabq.gov/culturalservices/balloonmuseum/events/nm-shamrock-fest-2018
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	March 17	http://www.ocityparade.com/
Austin, Texas	March 17	http://stpatricksdayaustin.com/
Houston, Texas	March 17	http://www.hsppc.org/
Dallas, Texas	March 17	http://www.dallasstpatricksparade.com/
San Antonio, Texas	March 16-18	http://harpandshamrock.org/stpats.php
Corpus Christi, Texas	March 17	https://www.everfest.com/e/st-patrick-s-day-block-festival-at-cassidy-s-irish-pub-corpus-christi-tx

News from Ireland

Speaking to the European Parliament in the first of a series of debates on the Future of Europe, the Taoiseach [stressed the importance of our common values](#) and of remaining united to address the challenges of the 21st century.

The Taoiseach also delivered the [keynote speech](#) on National Holocaust Memorial Day to the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland, concluding "...we can never recover what was lost. All we can do is share a warning from history and send a message of hope that will resonate for all time."

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, undertook a [4-day visit](#) to Cairo, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Ramallah and Gaza where he met with leaders on a range of bilateral and regional issues including the Peace Process.

2018 will be a year of intense activity in support of the Irish language. Bliain na Gaeilge 2018, a year-long programme of events, and a social media initiative on Twitter, #TrasnaNadTonnta, kicked off in style. Dublin City University has also developed a [free online Irish Language course](#) ("Irish 101") for the global diaspora and new immigrants.

CSO statistics confirmed that 2017 was a [record year](#) for overseas visitors to Ireland, up 3.6% over 2016. Visits from North America were up 16.2%.

Tributes were paid to singer Dolores O'Riordan and former Attorney General and EU Commissioner Peter Sutherland following their deaths in January

And the Oscar goes to...

Fingers crossed for the Irish artists involved in these Oscar-nominated films!



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Newsletter: Please send any questions or comments to Robert.Teas@dfa.ie

