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'Season' Starts at Montauk Friends of Erin St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 22



“To bring the dreary winter to an end.” Montauk Friends of Erin St. Patrick’s Day Parade does it again. The 58th parade marches on March 22, 2020, at noon, led by Grand Marshal Charlie Morici, Sr.

“For 58 years the Montauk parade has kicked off the unofficial start of the ‘season’ for our residents and businesses,” explains Laraine Creegan, executive director, Montauk Chamber of Commerce. “Over the decades, whether sunny or blustery, thousands have turned out to cheer on the floats, stay and dine in our establishments and get into the spirit of spring.”

Charlie Morici Sr., a Montauker since 1948, worked as a traffic control officer for East Hampton, while on leave from the Air Force, and served in the East Hampton Police Department becoming Lieutenant until his retirement in 1986. However, he continues serving with the Montauk Fire Department.

The Chamber is a major participant and ladles out hot soup donated by Montauk restaurants for sale in parade commemorative mugs, starting at 10 a.m. on Sunday and the soup is served starting at 11 a.m. Mugs may be purchased in advance at the chamber starting on March 20. Volunteers from the Montauk community are the soup ladlers year after year.

Three Friends of Erin fund-raisers lead up to the big parade. The final two are on March 20, the Grand Marshal lunch and roast at Gurney's Star Island Resort and Marina at noon (hosted by Marilyn Behan); and the cocktail party, on March 21, at Gurney's Star Island, at 4 p.m. The cocktail event includes a buffet, open bar and live music and a raffle, "Pot of Gold." It is one of the main fundraisers for the parade. For information visit <http://www.montaukfriendsoferin.org/> Purchase tickets in advance only at Montauk Laundromat.

During the parade, kids have fun with green face-painting, grabbing foam shamrocks and shillelaghs, and, gathering lucky beads and candy tossed from the floats of hometown businesses and fire trucks. Long Island bagpipe bands come out to march. The parade starts on Edgemere Street, to South Edison Street and enters Main Street at the east end of town.

WLNG Radio broadcasts live from the parade and via a live stream at <http://tunein.com/radio/WLNG-921-s30715/>

Visit Montauk Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for updates on the parade:

www.facebook.com/pages/montauk-chamber-of-commerce/296102421861

Follow the Montauk Chamber on Twitter on parade day, as we will have info and feeds tweeted

Live from the parade route: <https://twitter.com/Montaukinfo>

Montauk Chamber of Commerce is a membership driven business organization dedicated to providing community leadership for developing and sustaining a sound economy, primarily through responsible tourism, for Montauk, NY. It provides leadership in the creation of constructive community action and it is a forum for the exchange of ideas and information for the betterment and care of the hamlet, its residents and visitors.

Photo: Montauk Chamber of Commerce