



Irish American Society of County Will

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IRISH FEST GRAND MARSHALL AND SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

The 26th Annual Manhattan Irish Fest is will be held on March 6th and 7th in Downtown Manhattan. The Irish American Society of County Will (IASCW) is once again the official Fest host in conjunction with the Village of Manhattan. The always popular parade will begin at 11 AM on Saturday, March 7th beginning on North Street then proceeding to State Street. The parade is led by runners participating in the Irish Fest 5K. The Manhattan Irish Fest Committee is strictly made up of volunteers from the IASCW and local community members and groups. The Manhattan Park District provides activities to make the day fun for families of all ages.

In 2018 the Manhattan Irish Fest Committee officially announced that the King & Queen Scholarship will forever be named the "Michael J. McHugh Memorial King & Queen Scholarship". Mike was a life-long Manhattan area resident and business owner who dedicated himself to the community. He was a founding member of the IASCW in 1981 and one of the original founding organizers of the Manhattan Irish Fest. Mike gave back to his community in many ways and loved to talk about his Irish Heritage.

The Manhattan Irish Fest Committee is proud to announce the 2020 winners of the Michael J. McHugh Memorial King & Queen Scholarship. The King award goes to Ethyn Tibble of Elwood; and the Queen award goes to Abigail Dudeck of Manhattan. Each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward the school of his/her choice. The Manhattan Irish Fest has awarded \$31,000 in scholarships since 2004.

Abigail is a senior at Lincoln-Way West and the daughter of William and Laurie Dudeck of Manhattan. She plans on attending Lewis University and majoring in Nursing, with a minor in Spanish. She eventually wants to earn her Master's degree and become a Nurse Anesthetist.

Abigail is extremely active in activities and with volunteering both at West and in the local community. She is a member of the Poms team, Dance team and the Lacrosse team for the Warriors. She is a current Illinois State Scholar who tutors other students during her advisory hour. Over the past four years she has completed over 200 hours of community service working

with the Manhattan Patriots cheerleaders and with the Lincoln-Way Area Lacrosse team. Her senior year, as a student in the Human and Anatomy program at West, she is currently observing nurses at St. Joseph's Hospital two to three days a week as part of her high school curriculum.

Ethyn is a senior from Elwood who attends Joliet Central and is the son of Laci O'Connell and David Tibble. He intends to become a pilot and has been accepted to both Western Michigan University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Arizona.

Ethyn has been involved with many sports and volunteer activities as a Steelman. He played Football, Basketball and Volleyball his first two years, while concentrating on just Football and Volleyball his final two years. He ended the football season his senior year as the varsity quarterback. He has spent volunteer hours at school working with students with special needs and is one of the founding members of the school's new spirit club, "The Fans of Steel." Outside of school, he has volunteered with The Irish American Society Will County Celtic Fest.

As always, Manhattan Irish Fest will offer the Irish heritage and culture through, bagpipers, Irish dancers, Irish entertainment, food and drink. Activities will take place at the Main Tent on Park Street. The Prairie State Roadrunners will start the parade again by hosting the Manhattan Irish Fest 5-K race. This race continues to be recognized as a USATF-timed course. The Manhattan Park District will be providing youth entertainment in the State Street facility immediately following the parade.

Entrance buttons are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the gate. Net proceeds go back into the community to organizations and clubs that provide volunteers. Each organization donates time to promote the Fest, help run the Fest, and sell raffle tickets--there are no paid workers. Your attendance helps to award scholarships, brightens military lives, create programs for area children and promote local businesses.

Ethyn Tibble – King



Abigail Dudeck - Queen

