

Parade Grand Marshal:

Joe McDermott

King County Councilmember Joe McDermott has been on the King County Council since 2010 and served as Chair for the past three years. His father's family originated from Co Tyrone and his mother's family, the Keohane's, from Co Cork. Having first attended a family gathering in Ireland in 1994, Joe now visits Ireland annually to see family, lead political exchanges, attend film festivals, and conduct genealogical research. He considers watching the sun rise over an ancient stone circle and being locked into a pub after hours to be essential life experiences! In his spare time, he bakes a mean Irish Apple Cake and takes Irish History courses at the University



of Washington. We are delighted and honored to have Joe McDermott as our 2019 St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal.

Parade Honorary Grand Marshal:

Nicole Russeff

Extremely proud of her Irish heritage, 35-year-old Nicole Russeff has participated in our parade for the past thirteen years, and it's always the highlight of her year. Nicole's great grandparents immigrated from Co. Down in 1907 and her great grand-aunt was Lily Kempson who fought in Dublin during the 1916 Easter Rebellion. Because of her pure delight in celebrating St. Patrick's Day every year, and the infectious joy she conveys to all watching, the Irish Heritage Club is delighted that she has agreed to be Honorary Grand Marshal of this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Visiting from Ireland:

Minister Ciarán Cannon

Irish government Minister Ciarán Cannon has special responsibility for the Irish Diaspora (those of Irish birth or descent living outside Ireland) and International Development, which means that a major focus of his visit, in addition to trade and promoting bilateral relations, is to engage with the Irish community, especially at Seattle's St. Patrick's Day Parade. A member of Dáil Éireann (the Irish Parliament) since 2011, he was born in Athenry, Co. Galway, where he still lives with his wife Niamh and son Evan. He is also an award winning musician and songwriter and an avid cyclist. We extend a warm Céad Míle Fáilte (One Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to Minister Cannon on his first visit to the Emerald City.



Galway Mayor Níall McNelis

Mayor McNelis is a native of Galway and became Mayor of Galway in July 2018 after serving on the City Council for 8 years. In addition to his mayoral duties preparing the city of Galway to become the official European Capital of Culture in 2020, he takes a keen interest in European affairs and is a member of the European Union Committee of Regions. He and his wife Aideen also run their own business, Claddagh and Celtic Jewelry Co. A fluent Gaelic speaker and a passionate sports fan, this is the Mayor's first ever visit to Seattle and we wish him a sincere Céad Míle Fáilte (One Hundred Thousand Welcomes) as he visits Galway's sister city of Seattle.



photo by: Chris Picard

2019 Seattle Irish Week

- **Saturday, February 23** – Irish Soda Bread Cooking Class;
- **Saturday, March 9** – Irish Soda Bread Contest;
- **Sunday, March 10** – Matt Talbot Dinner;
- **Friday, March 15** – St. Patrick's Day Mass for Peace; Mayor's Irish Week Proclamation luncheon; Landing of St. Patrick; and Green Stripe Laying on 4th Avenue;
- **Saturday, March 16** – St. Patrick's Day Dash; Irish Flag-Raising; St. Patrick's Day Parade; and Irish Festival Seattle;
- **Sunday, March 17** – St. Patrick's Day Dash; and Irish Festival Seattle;
- **Monday, March 18** – Irish Network Seattle Business Breakfast with Minister Ciarán Cannon;
- **Saturday, March 23** – Irish Genealogy Workshop;
- **Sunday, March 24** – Seattle Gaels Field Day.

For all the details,
visit IrishWeek.org