

BHA



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Today



A Butterfield Homeowners Association Publication

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Still Searching for that Pot o' Gold



By Doug Elwell, President
Butterfield Homeowners Association

*"Corned beef and cabbage and leprechaun men.
Colorful rainbows hide gold at their end.
Shamrocks and clovers with three leaves plus one.
Steal a quick kiss from the lasses in red.
A tin whistle tune off the top of my head.
Friends, raise a goblet and offer this toast—
'The luck of the Irish and health to our host!'"*
~ Richelle E. Goodrich, *Making Wishes*

Twelve years ago, back in 2006, I published my first book: a travel guide to Ireland called *Mysterious World: Ireland*. In that book I put the sum total of my knowledge of Irish mythology, religion, history and culture, which was not insubstantial as in the process of my research for that book I had accumulated an entire bookcase of books on the subject. This did not include online and library research, nor my knowledge regarding Irish mythology that I have accumulated along the way. My coauthor also put a substantial effort into the book, having traveled to literally every county in Ireland, all 32 of them, searching for the places mentioned in the historical and mythological accounts — plus a lot more that were not, so rich and numerous were the sights to be seen in Ireland. Researching and writing that book was one of the most enjoyable times of my life, a time I look back to when I feel the need to be inspired, to this day.

I was partly inspired to search for the mysteries of Ireland by some Irish friends that I grew up with in Butterfield, all three of which also remain a mystery to me, to this day. They no longer live in Butterfield, nor do their parents, but they left behind a memory and a legacy that imprinted itself on this area forever. Once upon a time, like Ireland, there was something magical about this area. It was something that lay behind the mundane daily routine, something that was special about this area that is now called "Butterfield", and they and the other early settlers in this area, since it was built in 1961, once carried on the spirit of this place, the *spiritus loci*, which has now begun to fade into memory.

Much that once was is lost; for none now live who remember it. Most of the founders of Butterfield have grown old and moved on, and their children have as well, taking away the old spirit of Butterfield with them. One of my motivations for serving as your president is to try to recapture the old magic I felt here when I was growing up, and preserve it for future generations. I am still searching for that mythical "pot of gold" at the end of the rainbow. And if we don't work together to save it, the dream that was Butterfield may be lost. 🍀



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- BHA Website: www.mybhoa.com
- Butterfield Park District: 858-2229
- Butterfield School: 827-4000
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 - Office: 690-9036
 - Highway: 682-4270
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- Vacation home checks: 682-7256
- Voter registration: 629-0475
- Waste Management: 800-747-2278
- Westlake Middle School: 827-4500
- York Township
 - Office: 620-2400
 - Highway: 627-2200

Connie's Corner



By Connie Poulos Loos,
Vice President, Butterfield
Homeowners Association

Homeowner tips from
Coldwell Bankers
Sellers Resources:

Illinois Home Prices Increase in January; Sales Lower Amid Tight Inventory

Illinois median home prices showed strong gains in January compared to previous-year levels while statewide home sales decreased during the same period, according to Illinois REALTORS®.

Statewide home sales (including single-family homes and condominiums) in January 2018 totaled 8,156 homes sold, down 6.1 percent from 8,683 in January 2017.

The statewide median price in January was \$185,000, up 8.2 percent from January 2017, when the median price was \$171,000. The median is a typical market price where half the homes sold for more and half sold for less.

“January homebuyers faced a daunting combination of dwindling inventories and severe winter weather,” said Matt Difanis, ABR, CIPS, GRI, president of Illinois REALTORS® and broker-owner of RE/MAX Realty Associates in Champaign. “Those buyers who were successful in finding a home had to move quickly to make an offer and were definitely willing to pay more.”

The time it took to sell a home in January averaged 65 days, down from 69 days a year ago. Available housing inventory totaled 45,726 homes for sale, a 12.0 percent decline from January 2017 when there were 51,978 homes on the market.

The monthly average commitment rate for a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage was 4.03 percent in January 2018, an increase from 3.95 percent the previous month, according to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. In January 2017, it averaged 4.15 percent.

Continued on page 9 >>

2018 Annual Meeting

The 2018 annual meeting will be held on March 15th at 7:30 p.m. at The Fountain of Life Church. A summary of the meeting agenda can be found on page 6 of this newsletter. 🌻



BUTTERFIELD NEWS

What Is St. Patrick's Day & How to Celebrate

By Doug Elwell

Most folks will wear a bit o' the green on St. Patrick's Day, but not many who still celebrate know anything about its history, or even known anything about St. Patrick himself. So, we have written this short article to fill you in on why this holiday has been so perennially popular, and how best to celebrate the day and still honor the traditions that lay behind it.



St. Patrick was a legendary Irish saint known for using the shamrock's three leaves to illustrate the Christian concept of the Trinity.

person in Irish history. There are varying stories on his origins, but most believe that he was born a Romanized Briton either in Cumbria (northwest Britain) or Scotland. The tradition has it that he was captured in a raid by the famous Irish King Niall Noígallach (Niall of the Nine Hostages), and was sold by the Irish raiders as a slave to a old druid named Milchu, a chieftain of Dalriada, in what is now County Antrim in Northern Ireland.

While he was in captivity, an angel appeared to Patrick who helped him to escape his cruel master and flee back to his family in Britain. Feeling the call into ministry, Patrick

Continued on page 6 >>

WHO WAS ST. PATRICK?

St. Patrick (AD 390-461) is the National Apostle and Saint of Ireland, and probably the most famous and celebrated

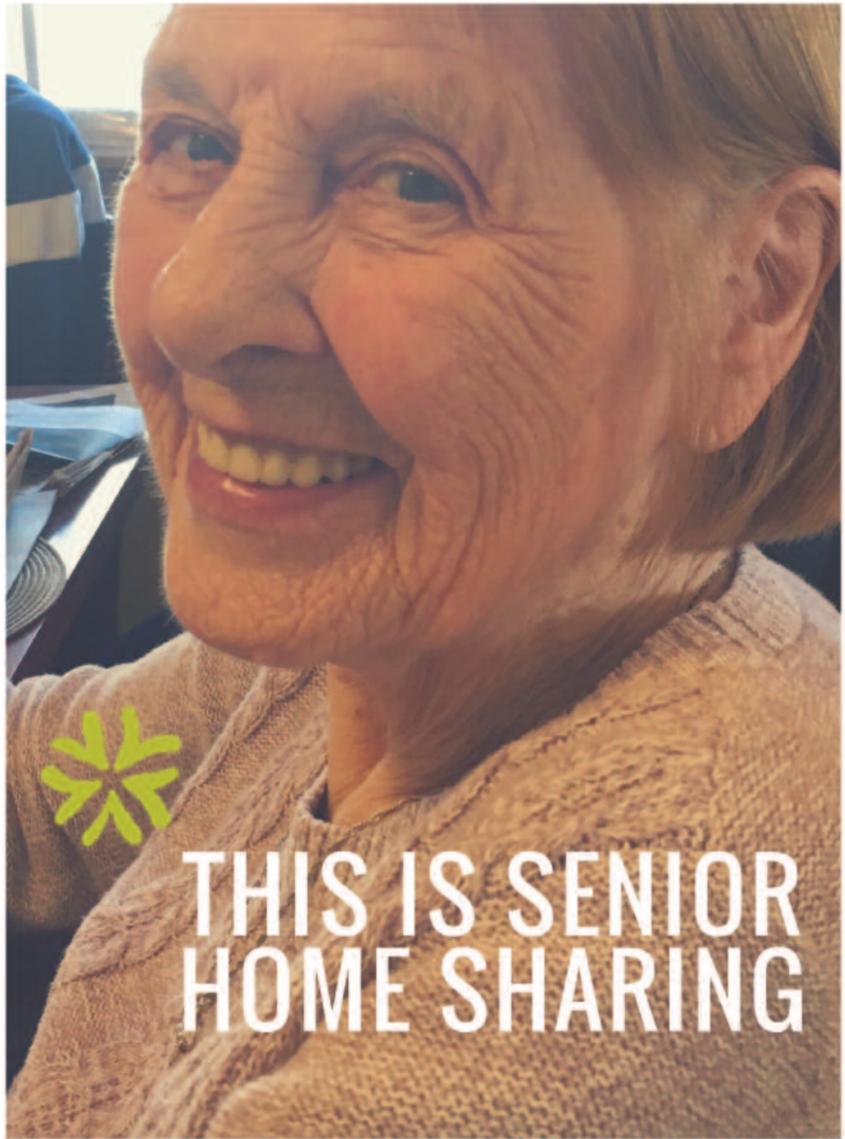



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BHA

Butterfield Homeowners Association Annual Meeting Agenda Summary March 15th, 2018

Election

Police Report

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer

- BHA board members will provide a summary of account activities since the last meeting.

Welcome Wagon Committee

- Jean Paprocki and Sandy Henry will discuss recent activities of the Welcome Wagon committee.

Landscaping Committee

- Discussion of how to handle the entrance lighting going forward.

Marketing Committee

- Discuss purchase of new portable signs for use in announcing meetings.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Open Forum

>> *St. Patrick's Day (Continued from page 4)*

later emigrated to France and joined the monastery at Tours. All throughout his early ministry, Patrick continuously experienced visions of the children of Ireland calling out to him to return and evangelize the island. As a result, Pope Celestine I commissioned Patrick to evangelize Ireland, and around 433, Patrick returned to the island of his captivity to liberate it from the bondage of the druids.

Predictably, the druids resisted him fiercely, yet not with force of arms, but with slander and with magic. Patrick first rested for a time on an island off the Skerries coast now known as Inis Patrick, later moving to the mainland. He then proceeded to Dalriada — where he had spent six years of his childhood enslaved by the druid Milchu — with the intention of repaying his slave price and converting his former master to Christianity. Though Milchu refused to convert, many more people throughout the island did, and by the time Patrick died in AD 461, Ireland had been converted from predominantly pagan to predominantly Christian, and the fight against the sort of slavery Patrick had endured in his childhood had begun. St. Patrick's Day is now a celebration of that great man's life and legacy, of both a liberation from the darkness of paganism of the ancient world, as well a milestone of the fight for individual freedom and liberty in the West — a life and a legacy that continues to be strike a chord with each new generation, to this day.¹

THE HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Some time after the death of Patrick, he was informally sainted by popular acclaim and by general agreement amongst the church leadership that he was an exceptional holy man. This

happened informally as the church in the first millennium A.D. did not have a formal canonization process as it has today.² St. Patrick's Day is now a "feast day", on which the life and legacy of St. Patrick is meant to be celebrated. It takes place on March 17th every year, which is the official death date of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, and is a national holiday in the Republic of Ireland (a bank holiday in Northern Ireland).

St. Patrick's Day was originally more of a sedate occasion, marked by family dinners and church attendance, more similar in scope to that of Thanksgiving or Easter. How-

Continued on page 8 >>



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- *Vinyl Siding*
- *Soffit & Fascia*
- *Trim Work (interior/exterior)*
- *Tile Work*
- *Painting*
- *Bathrooms*

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>> St. Patrick's Day (Continued from page 6)

ever, in America, the Irish immigrants who wanted to promote their culture abroad began to have festivals and parades in honor of their home country's patron saint. The first Saint Patrick's Day parade was first held in New York City on 17 March, 1756 when Irish soldiers marched through the city.³ Over the next couple of centuries St. Patrick's Day grew into larger and more elaborate affairs, with parades, festivals, traditional Irish music sessions, or *céilí*, food, face-painting and the "wearin' o' the green" to the point where the celebrations more and more began to take on more of a carnival atmosphere. In fact, the American celebrations were much larger and more elaborate than the Irish ones, until the expectations of American tourists forced the Irish to build even more extravagant festivals and parades than the Americans — no mean feat, to be sure.

HOW TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY

♣ VISIT AN IRISH PUB

I lived in Wheaton for a number of years prior to purchasing a house in Butterfield, so I still like to visit a local Irish pub named "Muldoon's" (formerly Wheaton Café, 133 W Front St, Wheaton) every St. Patrick's Day. However, being only a fraction Scots-Irish, my Irish cred is limited. So though I don't go all-out for St. Patrick's Day, I have always been drawn to Irish and Celtic music and culture, and do enjoy good Irish music and *craic* (good times) now and again, particularly with my Irish friends, many of whom also grew up in Butterfield. Other Irish pubs with authentic live music near Butterfield include Ballydoyle's, 5157 Main St, Downers Grove, and Shannon's, 428 N Main St, Glen Ellyn. Irish pubs were and are the central meeting place of Irish society, so this is a good place to start learning about Irish culture.

♣ ATTEND A ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

There are literally hundreds if not thousands of St. Patrick's Day and Irish-themed parades and festi-

vals around the world, but the closest large parade for Butterfieldians is the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, which takes place on the Saturday on or before March 17th every year.



A giant, inflatable leprechaun graced the 2007 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. Similar floats and extravagant displays accompany the increasingly larger and extravagant St. Patrick's Day festivals worldwide.

The Chicago River is dyed green starting at 9 a.m., and the parade starts at noon. The parade path begins on the corner of Columbus Drive and Balbo then continues North to Monroe. For more information, visit their official website at <https://www.chicagostpatricksdaysparade.org>

♣ READ A BOOK ON IRISH HISTORY

There is no small amount of books on Irish history, religion and culture, so I can't begin to list them all off here. While researching my travel guide to Ireland, *Mysterious World: Ireland*, I accumulated an entire bookcase of books on Irish history, religion, and culture, most

of which influenced or were referenced in my book, so I suggest you do what I did and search Amazon.com, books.google.com, or your local library for good books about Ireland. I think you will be amazed at how interesting real history is — I know I was. 🍀

ENDNOTES:

¹ Ian Middleton and Douglas A. Elwell, *Mysterious World: Ireland*, (Wheaton, IL: Mysterious World Press, 2006). <https://www.amazon.com/Mysterious-World-Ireland-Ian-Middleton/dp/097608273X>

² IrishCentral Staff, "St. Patrick was never canonized a saint by the Catholic Church", IrishCentral: <http://bit.ly/2oHrH3E>

³ StPatricksDay.com, "Saint Patrick's Day Overview", StPatricksDay.com: <http://bit.ly/214iryX>



Ballydoyle's in downtown Downers Grove is a local Irish pub-style bar/restaurant that features live music.

RESOURCES:

Meghan Evans, "How to Have a Grand St. Patrick's Day: Tips to Celebrating Respectfully", Boston Children's Museum's Blog: <http://bit.ly/2tf38jD>

Elaina O'Brien, "10 Tips To Celebrating St. Patrick's Day The Right Way", Thought Catalog: <http://tcat.tc/1QZoZ0s>

Holly Homer, "How to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Kids", The Spruce: <http://bit.ly/2CYD63y>



>> *Connie's Corner (Continued from page 3)*

In the nine-county Chicago Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA), home sales (single-family and condominiums) in January 2018 totaled 5,777 homes sold, down 8.0 percent from January 2017 sales of 6,277 homes. The median price in January 2018 was \$224,000 in the Chicago PMSA, an increase of 7.2 percent from \$209,000 in January 2017.

"While prices and month-over-month sales are forecast to increase over the next three months, there is some concern about the continuing inventory challenge," said Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, director of the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL) at the University of Illinois. "However, the pending sales index in January found more homes under contract than a year ago."

According to the data, thirty-two (32) Illinois counties reported sales gains for January 2018 over previous-year numbers, including Peoria County, up 20.0 percent with 144 units sold; Madison County, up 17.8 percent with 212 units sold; and Sangamon County, up 6.7 percent with 143 units sold. Fifty (50) counties showed year-over-year median price increases including Will County, up 13.5 percent to \$210,000; Cook County, up 7.1 percent to \$225,000; and Champaign County, up 1.8 percent to \$141,000.

The city of Chicago saw year-over-year home sales decline 10.2 percent in January 2018 with 1,414 sales, compared to 1,574 in January 2017. The median price of a home in the city of Chicago in January 2018 was \$265,000, up 3.9 percent compared to January 2017 when it was \$255,000.

"Based on the present trends in the housing market, we anticipate a competitive spring for buyers," Rebecca Thomson, president of the Chicago Association of REALTORS® and Vice President of Agent Development at @properties, said. "With decreasing market time, sellers will need to be mindful of pricing strategically. If their home is not moving quickly, a proactive price adjustment may help them protect their overall investment without risking the stigma of a longer-than-average market time. With how quickly inventory is moving, an overpriced listing could get left behind."

Sales and price information are generated by Multiple Listing Service closed sales reported by 27 participating Illinois REALTOR® local boards and associations including Midwest Real Estate Data LLC data as of Feb. 7, 2018 for the period Jan. 1 through Jan. 31, 2018. The Chicago PMSA, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, includes the counties of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will.

Illinois REALTORS® is a voluntary trade association whose more than 47,000 members are engaged in all facets of the real estate industry. In addition to serving the professional needs of its members, Illinois REALTORS® works to protect the rights of private property owners in the state by recommending and promoting legislation to safeguard and

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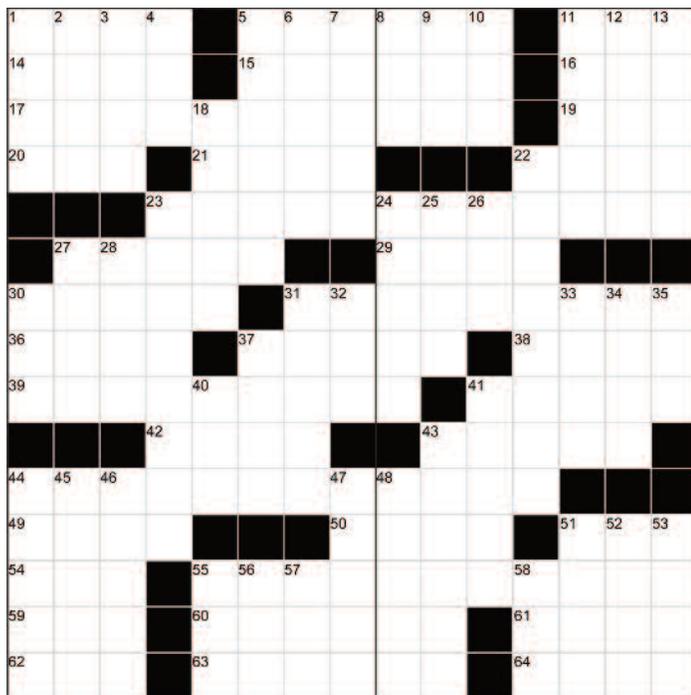
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- **Connie Poulos Loos** offers realtor services as a Coldwell Banker real estate agent. Certified in residential relocation, negotiation, short sales and foreclosures. Phone: 630-400-1212. Email: connieloos21@aol.com. See her ad on page 7 for more information.
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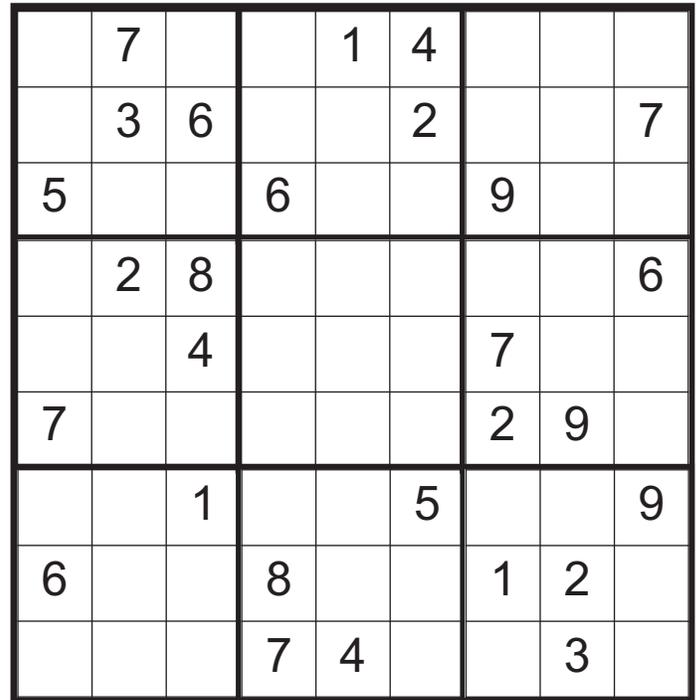
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FAMILY FUN



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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ACROSS

- 1: Antitoxins
- 5: Take in
- 11: Tease mercilessly
- 14: Declare openly
- 15: Sage
- 16: She may get sheared
- 17: Sources of power for the daily grind?
- 19: Confession topic
- 20: Yuletide worker
- 21: Warm up, for short
- 22: Patronize a fine restaurant
- 23: They may be tugged at
- 27: Move like rush-hour traffic
- 29: Tells a whopper
- 30: Bellows
- 31: Stereo plug-in
- 36: Enthusiastic
- 37: Substantial
- 38: It may be Olympic-sized
- 39: Run-down digs
- 41: Brownish eye color
- 42: Break time
- 43: Musical pitches
- 44: Noctambulous types
- 49: Keep an eye on
- 50: Roadside stops
- 51: Lambaste
- 54: Liable
- 55: Express sympathy
- 59: Debussy's 'La ___'
- 60: Perilous
- 61: Type of arch
- 62: Get nosy
- 63: Made a shambles of (with "up")
- 64: Like a dungeon

- 3: Deep-massage developer
- 4: Hole punch
- 5: Having star quality?
- 6: With fewer furnishings
- 7: Emulated Endymion
- 8: Some gametes
- 9: Backboard attachment
- 10: ___-relief
- 11: Paleontological preservative
- 12: Causing wonder
- 13: They're passed on from father to son
- 18: Shoots out
- 22: Kitchen basins
- 23: Made unfeeling, as a heart
- 24: Blind parts
- 25: Neat as a pin
- 26: One's good name, briefly
- 27: Sheltered inlet
- 28: Parade spoiler
- 30: Wharf pest
- 31: Reddish orange dye
- 32: Feed one's face
- 33: Primordial sludge
- 34: Some votes
- 35: Building wing
- 37: Cat call
- 40: Swab
- 41: Buttermilk, to Dale Evans
- 43: Strained
- 44: Impress
- 45: Ostracized person
- 46: Ledger transaction
- 47: Butter beans
- 48: Jam spreader
- 51: Indian music
- 52: Short newspaper piece
- 53: Tiniest protest
- 55: Magna ___ laude
- 56: Undivided
- 57: Mag. submissions
- 58: Abacus part

DOWN

- 1: Identical
- 2: 'Touch of ___' (Welles film)

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