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“Irish” Micky Ward & Siobhan Magnus to headline the 2011 Cape Cod St. Patrick’s Parade

Parade steps off Saturday, March 5 at 11 AM in Dennis/Yarmouth

Yarmouth, Mass (February 3, 2011) – Lowell’s hometown hero “Irish” Micky Ward, whose boxing career is now being played out on the big screen in Mark Wahlberg’s *The Fighter*, will be the Grand Marshal of the 2011 Cape Cod St. Patrick’s Parade. The 6th annual event will take place on Saturday, March 5, less than a week after the Academy Awards, where *The Fighter* is a heavy contender in a slew of categories, including Best Picture.

The famed boxer will headline a star-studded parade cast. He’ll be joined by the Cape’s own American Idol star Siobhan Magnus, the 2011 Parade Queen. Magnus and Ward will also attend the Grand Marshal’s Dinner/Dance on Friday, March 4 at the Irish Village in Yarmouth.

The parade steps off at 11 AM on Route 28 (at School Street) in Dennis and proceeds over the Bass River Bridge into Yarmouth, ending at Forest Road. Now one of the largest and most anticipated off-season occasions on the Cape, the parade drew upwards of 45,000 spectators from all over the country last year. This year’s event, themed “The Music of Ireland”, will feature more than 100 marching units, over a dozen marching bands from all over New England, colorful floats created by local companies, antique cars, and plenty of family friendly entertainment. A prime viewing spot for parade-goers will be at the State Police Barracks in South Yarmouth, where bands will stop to perform in front of the judges reviewing stand.

The line-up includes local organizations, such as the Dennis Yarmouth High School Marching Band and various Boy Scouts Troops, as well as nationally renowned acts like the Ferko String Band Mummies, who have been entertaining world-wide since 1922. The “Mummies” are a crowd favorite and perennial award winner at Philadelphia’s annual Mummies Parade. Another crowd favorite making a return to the parade are the Ancient Mariners Fife and Drum Corps out of Connecticut. This colorful, pirate-themed group is known for delighting parade goers with sea shanties and traditional songs, while marching in their bare feet. They’ve performed in front of Presidents Reagan and Bush.

“Between the addition of the Ferko Mummies, Siobhan Magnus and Micky Ward, and the participation of so many local bands and marching units, this year’s parade stands to be our very best and most entertaining yet,” said John Fallon, Co-Chairman of the Cape Cod St. Patrick’s Parade Committee. “This parade has grown tremendously since its inception six years ago thanks to the dedication of the many volunteers who work tirelessly to put it on and the generous support of so many local companies. It’s become a great annual tradition and tourist attraction for the Cape.”

In keeping with tradition, the annual Colleen Queen and her court will be coronated and ride in a special float. The four winners will also receive college scholarships from the Cape Cod St. Patrick’s Parade committee. Another local honoree this year is singer Chris Henshaw, a native Dubliner who has lived and been performing on the Cape for years. Henshaw will have the distinction of 2011 Parade Mayor. Additionally, Vincent Mannion-Brodeur of Barnstable will be honored with the inaugural “General Thomas Francis Meagher” award. Named after a General in the famous Irish Brigade, the new award is given to a local hero who has demonstrated exemplary character and bravery. Brodeur, a 2006 Barnstable High School graduate, was seriously injured while serving in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S.

Army in 2007. After three-plus years of hospital stays and therapy, he has helped Spaulding Rehab earn a three million dollar grant from the Department of Defense. He has been a constant source of inspiration for thousands of veterans, friends and strangers who have read his story, and was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, CIB and Meritorious Service Medal.

Parade goers are reminded that the parade is rain or shine and are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for the MA Otis Food Pantry at Otis Airforce Base. Representatives from Otis will be riding along the parade route collecting items.

On the eve of the parade, the annual Grand Marshal's Dinner/Dance will take place at 6:30 PM at the Irish Village in Yarmouth. The evening includes a light dinner and refreshments, entertainment from the Andy Healy Band, the opportunity to hobnob with Ward and Magnus, and a presentation of awards. Tickets are \$20 and will be available at the door. Seating is limited so tickets are first-come, first-served.

For more information on the parade and the Grand Marshal's dinner, visit www.capecodstpataparade.com or www.facebook.com/capestpataparade.

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