

Friday, March 11, 2011

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Credible. Compelling. Complete.

Fun events on tap, from the big parade to a tour of pubs.

By Bob Townsend
For the AJC

When Kieran McGill helped launch Fado in Buckhead in 1996, he figured on spending many a St. Patrick's Day partying at the convivial neighborhood Irish pub.

Nowadays, though, St. Patrick's Day is a lot more complicated for McGill, the busy president and CEO of Atlanta-based Fado Pubs Inc., who oversees a string of bars and restaurants that stretch from Stamford to Seattle.

"This will be our 15th St. Patrick's Day," McGill said. "Obviously, our first one was here in Atlanta. But we've opened pubs in so many other cities since then. This year, I thought it would be interesting to see how many I could visit."

McGill will start in Annapolis, Md., at 6 a.m. for a pints and pancakes breakfast. Then it's off to an early lunch at Fado in Washington, D.C. He'll catch a flight from Reagan National Airport to Atlanta and spend the afternoon hanging out in Buckhead. Finally, McGill will land in Miami, where the newest Fado opened in December.

"It should be a fun day," McGill said. "Hopefully, Delta will behave as planned and get me to my destinations."

March 17 falls on a Thursday this year. But the Atlanta St. Patrick's Parade and Festival kicks off the fun at noon on March 12, with green floats, bagpipe bands, men in kilts, and grand marshal Paul Gleeson, the Council General of Ireland in Atlanta.

Parade chairman Dan O'Leary said the parade and festival are designed to be family friendly, and

Revel in all things Irish



On St. Patrick's Day, Kieran McGill, CEO of Atlanta-based Fado Pubs Inc., will fly to other Fados.

March 17 with kegs and eggs. 273 Buckhead Ave., Atlanta, 404-841-0066, fadoirishpub.com/atla
● Ri Ra Irish pub in Midtown showcases a full week of festivities leading up to St. Patrick's Day, including Irish balladeers and dancers and breakfast served 6:30 a.m. to noon March 17. 1080 Peachtree St., Atlanta, 404-477-1700, rira.com

on March 17 with music and pints in the pub and a block party in the back parking lot. 822 North Highland Ave., Decatur, 404-874-7147, limerickjunction.com
● Brick Store Pub in Decatur goes way beyond Guinness on March 17, with a variety of American craft and imported stouts, plus Irish food specials and music from Mick Kinney.

better yet, both events are free.

"Even though we're celebrating Irish heritage and culture, we view this as a multicultural event," O'Leary said. "The way we look at it, on St. Patrick's Day everybody's Irish."

Here's a guide to many days and ways to celebrate shamrocks, leprechauns and all things Irish.

Irish Underground

● The Atlanta St. Patrick's parade route runs along Peachtree Street from Pine Street to Pryor Street and ends at the Underground Atlanta festival site. Look for live entertainment on a series of stages all day, along with family activities and food and drink. Noon to 8 p.m. Saturday, March, 12, 50 Upper Alabama St., 404-381-1247, stpatsparadeatlanta.com

A week of parties

● The weeklong party at Fado includes a parade after-party March 12, a traditional Irish music session March 14, Perfect Pint Night March 15, and the sprawling St. Patrick's Day Outdoor Festival, beginning at 6 a.m.

Pints and music

● Dunwoody's new pub, Firkin & Gryphon, offers menu specials such as corned beef and cabbage, lamb stew and Guinness pie, plus giveaways and live music on its outdoor patio all day March 17. 4764 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody, 770-350-5977, firkinandgryphon.com

● Frank and Rose City at 5 p.m. 2840 Atlanta Road, Smyrna, 770-435-1887, atkinspark.com

● Meehan's Public House in Sandy Springs presents its third annual Sham Rock & Roll, March 12 and more live music, food and drink, March 17. 227 Sandy Springs Place in CityWalk, Sandy Springs, 404-843-8058, 101concepts.com/meehanssandyssprings
● Limerick Junction in Virginia-Highland celebrates its 24th anniversary St. Patrick's Day

at East Court Square, Decatur, 404-687-0990, storepub.com

Green beer here

● Three 5 Seasons pub locations offer homemade Irish stouts special St. Patrick's menus on March 17. For McNerney's Irish and No Blarney Stout the Prado and one-of-a-kind cask ales at West and Alpharetta.

● Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, 404-255-5911; Marietta St., Atlanta, 404-875-3232; 3655 Old Milton Parkway, Alpharetta, 770-521-555, 5seasonsbrewing.com

● Brewer John Roberts taps casks of his IMOS (Imperial Mocha Oatmeal Stout) at Max Lager's on March 12 and March 17, along with Irish specials from the kitchen at the downtown Atlanta brewpub. 320 Peachtree St., Atlanta, 404-525-4400, maxlagers.com



[editorial]



[The Reynolds Group Inc.] [www.thereynoldsgroupinc.com]