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**SECOND ANNUAL "IRISH ON IONIA" ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL
EXPANDS CELEBRATION IN DOWNTOWN GRAND RAPIDS**

Daylong Irish festival will close Ionia St. between Weston and Oakes streets; Tickets on sale Feb. 17

Grand Rapids, Mich. (February 15, 2012) – Barfly Ventures today announced its second annual Irish on Ionia St. Patrick's Day Festival. This year's fest will expand the celebration into the streets of downtown Grand Rapids. **The Saturday, March 17 signature event will close Ionia St. between Weston and Oakes streets from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and will feature Celtic bands, Celtic dancers, DJs, bagpipers, beer tents and an Irish-inspired food pavilion.**

"This year's Irish on Ionia festival will be the largest St. Patrick's Day celebration ever in Grand Rapids Mich., with more than 5,000 people expected to attend," said Mark Sellers, who co-owns HopCat, Stella's Lounge, McFadden's Irish Saloon, The Viceroy & Grand Rapids Brewing Co., with his wife, Michele. "We have an incredible day planned with live music, contests, and of course, many kegs of green beer. Everyone should be here, because everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day."

Irish on Ionia officially begins at 7 a.m. inside McFadden's Irish Saloon, 58 Ionia S.W., with its annual "Kegs & Eggs" Irish breakfast. The outdoor festival opens at 10 a.m. with live bands, DJs, Irish fare and contests throughout the day. The entertainment lineup includes An Dro, Gasta, Ardan Academy of Irish Dance, A.G.T., Belfast Gin, The Waxies and The Kreezers. A complete schedule is available at [facebook.com/IrishonIonia](https://www.facebook.com/IrishonIonia).

Advance "all access" tickets are \$10, and VIP Irish on Ionia T-shirt and ticket bundle (limited quantities) are \$20. Tickets go on sale at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17 at [ticketweb.com](https://www.ticketweb.com). They will also be available starting at 4 p.m. the same day at McFadden's, HopCat, Stella's Lounge and The Viceroy. Admission for the event is \$15 at the door. These passes provide access to McFadden's and the outdoor festival.

McFadden's will also host the "ShamROCK'IN" VIP party, benefitting Camp O'Malley, on the third floor from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets, \$15, include admission to the Irish on Ionia festival, Irish buffet, special drink pricing and DJ and dancing. Tickets are available beginning February 17 at McFadden's.

"Irish on Ionia will be the place to be on St. Patrick's Day. There will be lots of green beer flowing, plenty of authentic Irish drafts and locally-made Irish-inspired craft beers as well as some great food served with an Irish twist," said Sellers.

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