

***** NEWS RELEASE *****

Ancient Order of Hibernians – Adams Co. Div. 1
P.O. Box 3492
Gettysburg, PA 17325
<http://www.adamscountyirishfestival.org>

Media Inquiries:
Patrick Bowling
(717) 337-5999
gpb@gettysburgaoh.com

16th Annual Adams County Irish Festival Hits the Stage on July 16 in Gettysburg

Full day of Irish music & fun to benefit local hunger relief efforts

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania – July 3, 2016

The 16th Annual Adams County Irish Festival returns to Moose Park of Gettysburg on Saturday July 16. Offering fun for the whole family, the festival will run from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and will showcase all things Irish – music, food, merchandise and more.

Since 2001, the shady grounds of Moose Park have been home to Adams County's only Irish Festival. After a successful re-launch last summer following a hiatus in 2014, this year's celebration of Irish culture and heritage promises to be one of the biggest ever with over 30 vendors of Irish merchandise, crafts, food and beverages. Also on hand will be a Civil War living history encampment by the 69th Pennsylvania Irish Volunteers, an all-things-whiskey display by Dill's Tavern and a demonstration of Celtic pictograph stone carving. The Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club will also return with their gentle giants.

Three bands that are making their Adams County Irish Festival debuts, plus a returning local favorite, highlight the music line-up. This year's festival features Girsá, an all-female traditional Irish music group that formed a dozen years ago in Pearl River, New York. Originally an octet of teen-age girls who learned to play traditional Irish music from their family members, Girsá's energetic and enthusiastic performances of traditional Irish music, song and dance have been quickly met with outstanding national acclaim. With three well-received albums, their individual instrumental and vocal excellence combine to create a powerful force that is breaking into the forefront of Irish music in the US. Also making their festival debut is The John Byrne Band, led by Dublin native and Philadelphia-based John Byrne. With influences ranging from The Chieftains to Tom Waits to Planxty, Byrne's songwriting honors and expands upon the musical and lyrical traditions of his native and adopted homes. Also performing is The Brayzen Heads, an accomplished duo originally from England and Ireland who are also making their first festival appearance. Rounding out the music slate are festival veteran and regional favorite Irishtown Road along with the musicians of 69th Pennsylvania Irish Volunteer Regiment who will be performing Civil War and Irish Period music in their second festival appearance.

Admission to the festival is only \$10, which includes all entertainment and parking. Children age 12 and under are admitted free. The festival is sponsored by Adams County Division 1 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and benefits the Hibernian Hunger Project to support local hunger-relief efforts. Bolstered by funds from last summer's Irish Festival, the Adams County AOH provided donations totaling \$2,500 to three Adams-Hanover area hunger-relief organizations in February 2016.

The Festival will be held, rain or shine, at the McSherrystown Moose Park of Gettysburg (100 Moose Road, Gettysburg, PA), located in Straban Township off of US Route 30, approximately 1.5 miles east of the US Route 15 intersection. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

For additional information on the festival, visit www.adamscountyirishfestival.org.

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