

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2011

### **ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

#### **Annual "Salute to the Irish" Event Honors Grand Marshals, Deputy Grand Marshals & Organizing Committees of the Newark, Nutley & West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parades**

(Newark, NJ) – The Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders held its Annual "Salute to the Irish" Celebration in recognition of St. Patrick's Day on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at the Hall of Records. The program included the presentation of Commendations from the Board to the Grand Marshals, Deputy Grand Marshals and members of the organizing committees for the Newark, Nutley and West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parades.

The event was a collaborative effort of the Freeholder Board sponsors, Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh and Freeholder Vice President Ralph R. Caputo, and Essex County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin and Surrogate Joseph P. Brennan, Jr.



Representatives from the Newark, Nutley and West Orange parades came together for a group photo of smiling Irish eyes during the Freeholder Board's "Salute to the Irish" Celebration at the Hall of Records. **Front Row** (left to right): General Parade Chairman Michael D. Byrne (Newark), Nutley Irish American Alliance "Member of the Year" Linda Strimike, Parade "Queen" Geena Russo (Nutley), Grand Marshal Tom Tevlin (West Orange), Deputy Grand Marshal Colleen Blasi (West Orange), Deputy Grand Marshal Patty Ann Madden (West Orange) and Deputy Grand Marshal Anne A. Feeney, Esq. (Newark). **2<sup>nd</sup> Row** (left to right) – Parade Co-Chair Deidre Hollywood (Nutley), Deputy Grand Marshal Brenda Sherman (Nutley), Parade Chairman Joseph Ryan (West Orange) and The Most Reverend John W. Flesey, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark (Chief of Staff to the Newark Grand Marshal, Archbishop John J. Myers). **3<sup>rd</sup> Row** (left to right) – Grand Marshal Anthony F. Wieners (Nutley) and Deputy Grand Marshal Lane Curtis (West Orange). (Photo by Glen Frieson)

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The 76<sup>th</sup> Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade, New Jersey's oldest, was held on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, in downtown Newark. This year's Grand Marshal was The Most Reverend John J. Myers, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Newark, while Susan A. Feeney, Esq., a partner with the law firm of McCarter & English, LLP, served as this year's Deputy Grand Marshal. Michael D. Byrne served as General Chairman of the Parade Committee.



**Newark St. Pat's Parade:** **Front Row** (left to right) – General Parade Chairman Michael D. Byrne, The Most Reverend John W. Flesey, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark (Chief of Staff for the Grand Marshal Archbishop John J. Myers), Deputy Grand Marshal Anne A. Feeney, Esq., and Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh. **2<sup>nd</sup> Row** (left to right) – Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin, Essex County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin, Freeholder Carol Y. Clark and Essex County Surrogate Joseph P. Brennan, Jr.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Nutley St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, when participants marched down Franklin Avenue and Centre Street led by this year's Grand Marshal, Anthony F. Wieners of Belleville, a Belleville Police Detective and President of the New Jersey PBA. Brenda Sherman, this year's Deputy Grand Marshal, is a lifelong Nutley resident and Paralegal with the firm of McCarter & English in Newark. The Board also honored Nutley resident Linda Strimike, a community volunteer retired from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, this year's Nutley Irish American Alliance "Member of the Year", and Geena Russo, a Nutley resident and dental student at UMDNJ, this year's "Parade Queen". The Parade Committee was co-chaired by Thomas Donohoe and Deidre Hollywood, and they enjoyed the active support of Tom McEnery, President of the Nutley Irish American Alliance.



**Nutley St. Pat's Parade: Front Row** (left to right) – Parade Co-Chair Deidre Hollywood, Nutley Irish American Alliance “Member of the Year” Linda Strimike, Parade “Queen” Geena Russo, Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, Essex County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin and Freeholder Carol Y. Clark. **2<sup>nd</sup> Row** (left to right) – Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin, Freeholder Vice President Ralph R. Caputo, Deputy Grand Marshal Brenda Sherman and Essex County Surrogate Joseph P. Brennan, Jr. **3<sup>rd</sup> Row** – Grand Marshal Anthony F. Wieners.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Annual West Orange St. Patrick's Day Parade made its way down Main Street on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, with Grand Marshal Tom Tevlin of Lavallette in the lead, a retired Maplewood fireman and the current President of Local 500, FMBA. The Deputy Grand Marshals were West Orange residents Colleen Blasi, a realtor and Chairperson of the West Orange Elks Club Veterans group; Michael Edward Cassels, a retired Executive Assistant to the Director of the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Im-paired; Lane Curtis, a retired Internal Auditor with Pan American World Airways and active volunteer at the Intermediate Care Unit of Orange Memorial Hospital; and Patty Ann Madden, an employee of the West Orange Police Department and very active member of the Frank O'Hara Association. Joseph Ryan served as this year's Parade Committee Chairman.



**West Orange St. Pat's Parade: Front Row** (left to right) – Deputy Grand Marshal Patty Ann Madden, Deputy Grand Marshal Colleen Blasi, Grand Marshal Tom Tevlin and Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh of West Orange. **2<sup>nd</sup> Row** (left to right) – Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin, Essex County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin, Parade Chairman Joseph Ryan and Freeholder Carol Y. Clark. **3<sup>rd</sup> Row** (left to right) – Deputy Grand Marshal Lane Curtis and Essex County Surrogate Joseph P. Brennan, Jr.

Freeholder Linda Lordi Cavanaugh of West Orange applauded the honorees and parade organizers when she said, “Thanks to all your hard work, the wonder and joy of Irish traditions and culture are alive and well in Essex County.” Freeholder Vice President Ralph Caputo of Belleville thanked Essex County’s Irish community for “... allowing me to be an honorary Irishman, even if it’s only for one week every March.”

Essex County Clerk Christopher J. Durkin and Essex County Surrogate Joseph Brennan assisted in the presentations to the honorees, and guests were invited to enjoy light refreshments at the conclusion of the program.

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