

IRELAND NEWS

Consulate of Ireland Newsletter for U.S. Southwest

June 2018 Edition



Above: Austin céilí. More on page 2!



Left: Texas GAA action on page 2!



Happy Birthday San Antonio!

San Antonio celebrates 300 years and close links to Ireland

The Alamo City celebrated its 300 birthday in style this month inviting guests from Consulates and its sister cities worldwide to join the party. Ireland's connections to San Antonio date back to at least 1768 when Hugo O'Connor (a Dublin native) served as Spanish Governor in Texas and laid the cornerstone of Mission San José. Many Irish-born and first- and second-generation Irishmen died defending the Alamo in 1836 and a few decades later the Irish-American philanthropist Clara Driscoll played a key role in saving the Alamo from destruction. Some of the "Irish Flats" dwellings in San Antonio where the city's Irish communities lived in the 19th century are still preserved today. And generations of Irish and Irish-Americans have played a key role in the political and economic life of San Antonio, and in particular the city's education and health systems. The Harp and Shamrock Society celebrates St. Patrick's Day every year with ceremonies at the Alamo and the world's only St Patrick's Day river parade. Happy Birthday San Antonio and here's to the next centuries of close Irish ties to the Alamo City.



Ireland celebrates Europe Day in Central Texas

Did you know that Texas exports \$26 billion to Ireland and other EU Member States every year? Consul General Farrell was delighted to celebrate Europe Day 2018 in Austin with partners from other EU countries by delivering a keynote address at the Texas EU Business Summit and hosting a Europe Day celebration at the Consulate on 8 May.



Austin celebrates its Irish heritage

On a beautiful May Sunday afternoon the Austin Irish community hosted the inaugural Irish Heritage Day at B.D. Rileys. A huge crowd was entertained with performances by students from the Irish Dance School in Austin and the Inishfree School. Eimir Ni Mhaoileidigh had Austinites dancing the streets of the Mueller district as she led an energetic crowd Céilí. Music came from groups including the young musicians from the Irish Academy of Music and Davey Arwine. The Celtic Cowboys wowed visitors with their GAA skills throughout the afternoon. And warmest congratulations to Naomi Smyth, 2018 Austin Rose of Tralee. Many thanks to Pat Doab and Brendan and Faith O’Sullivan for making the day such a success. More info [here!](#)



Clash of the ash as GAA teams battle in San Antonio

San Antonio’s GAA team also hosted the latest round of Texas Gaelic games matches which saw some great sporting moments between the four Texas teams. Best wishes to the players from San Antonio GAA, Austin’s Celtic Cowboys, Dallas GAA and the Houston Gaels as the teams battle to win the Texas League final which takes place in Houston on 16 June. For more, [click here!](#)



Texas celebrates its links to Ireland and the world



Consul General Farrell was delighted to join diplomats from around the world at a roundtable event hosted by Texas Secretary of State Rolando Pablos on 10 May aimed at promoting stronger economic ties between the Lone Star state and key international partners.

Regional Highlights

A beautiful start to the day – Consul General Farrell joined old and new friends for the Solace Sunrise Walk benefitting [Solace House](#), a suicide prevention center that offers free counselling for anyone in distress.





Left: Consul General Farrell was honoured to celebrate Ramadan as a guest at the 2018 Austin Citywide Iftar, and hear a wonderful speech by Dr. Alaa Murabit, one of 17 global advocates for UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Right: Consul General Farrell enjoyed speaking via Skype to business and accounting students from Oklahoma State University who will be visiting Ireland next month! Thanks to Dr Brad Lawson for the invitation and for moderating the discussion.



Below: Consul General Farrell had the chance to catch up with Texas Congressman Lloyd Doggett during San Antonio's Tercentenary celebrations.



Above: The Consulate was happy to host the Austin Ancient Order of Hibernians for a recruitment event on Thursday May 10. Always a pleasure spending an evening with this group! More info on the AOH's Austin chapter [here](#).

News from Ireland

[Speaking about the Good Friday Agreement's](#) legacy of cooperation and the challenge of reconciliation, Ireland's Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, [marked the 20th anniversary](#) of the referendums through which the people of the island of Ireland, North and South, endorsed the agreement and committed an additional €1 million in support of reconciliation on the island. Minister Coveney and the Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan, welcomed the launch of the UK Government's consultation on [Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past](#).

The Tánaiste stated that "The UK has long been our closest partner and friend, and we are determined that will continue to be the case after Brexit " in remarks at the [British Irish Chamber of Commerce](#).

In a speech at the Irish Law Awards, Minister Flanagan outlined the challenges ahead "in ensuring that the [post-Brexit landscape](#) does not adversely affect our relationships with Northern Ireland, with the rest of the UK or with our EU partners" and assured that "our national response to the impact of Brexit is unrelenting."

In recent days, David O'Sullivan, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States, , described the decision on U.S. tariffs on imports from the EU as a [lose-lose for the EU and U.S.](#) **Earlier in the month, Heather Humphreys, Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation held a series of key trade and economic meetings in Washington with US counterparts, during which she advocated for a permanent EU exemption from the US Administration's now imposed steel and aluminum tariffs.**

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Government Ministers launched [the €4 billion Project Ireland 2040 funds](#) for rural development, urban regeneration, climate action and innovation.

The official result of the referendum in Ireland to repeal the 8th Amendment to the Constitution was Yes at 66.4% on a turnout of 64%.

The new [General Data Protection Regulation](#) (GDPR) came into force across the European Union on May 24th which, in Ireland through its enacting legislation, [the Data Protection Act 2018](#), sets out new and more clearly defined rights for individuals whose personal data is collected and processed by organisations.

Minister Flanagan and the Minister of State with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration, David Stanton TD, congratulated approximately [3,500 new Irish citizens](#) from over 120 countries, bringing the total number of citizens to have received their Certificates of Naturalisation to over 86,000 across 131 ceremonies since Citizenship Ceremonies were introduced in 2011.

Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan, T.D., announced the [new Creative Ireland Programme Scheme 2018/2019](#), an ambitious initiative which aims to enhance individual and collective wellbeing through increased participation in creative activity.

Grant applications for Culture Ireland's [Regular Funding Scheme](#) in support of Irish arts internationally are due by June 15th.

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