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## **Chris Reilly Named Grand Marshal of 29th Annual York Saint Patrick's Day Parade**

Christopher B. Reilly has been named Grand Marshal of the 29th Annual York Saint Patrick's Day Parade, to be held Saturday, March 17, 2012, along Market Street in downtown York. Chris, his wife Lisa and their three children, Patrick, William and Claire, live in York Township.

When asked about his feelings, Chris stated, "I am honored to be chosen by the committee to assume the role of the 2012 York Saint Patrick Day Parade's Grand Marshal. Such designation is every Irishman's dream!"

Chris is most recognizable as a member of the York County Board of Commissioners, having been elected to a fourth four-year term in November 2011. Chris entered York County politics in 1989 when elected the youngest mayor in Dallastown Borough history at age 26. In 1995, Chris was elected the youngest commissioner in York County history at age 33, and reelected in 1999. He then took a four-year hiatus from politics to pursue opportunities in the private sector, to return to office in 2007. Before entering politics, Chris was a York County Chamber of Commerce executive and a York College of Pennsylvania administrator.

Chris is a 1985 graduate of the University of Maryland and a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. In his spare time Chris enjoys fishing, reading and cooking ethnic food.

The Reilly side of Chris's family emigrated from Ireland to Wilkes Barre in the mid-1800s. In tracing the family history, it is believed they came from County Cavan, which is located in the border region of Ireland near Northern Ireland, in the province of Ulster. Chris has visited Ireland twice, once on his honeymoon with Lisa and then again in 2004. During their honeymoon, Chris and Lisa were honored to meet and have tea with the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Tomas Mac Giolla. Chris states, "I was mayor of Dallastown at the time and I think the Lord Mayor thought I was the mayor of Dallas." Chris is also an active member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Baltimore Chapter. Chris has a love of Irish literature and folk music, claiming to have tried to learn the pennywhistle several times to no avail.

Chris is active with numerous community oriented groups, including a member of the Harrisburg Area Community College York Campus Advisory Committee and the York County Parks Advisory Board. He has received several awards including the York

County Economic Development Corporation's Friend of Economic Development, York County Action Statesman of the Year and York County Joint Veterans Council's Award of Appreciation. Chris was also named Honorary Marine by the Dallastown Area School District's Junior ROTC Program.

"Commissioner Reilly is a wonderful example of what is best in York County. To have him represent York as Grand Marshal of the Saint Patrick's Day Parade is a way of celebrating York and the Irish on one special day," adds enthusiastic longtime parade committee member and President of Cultural Alliance of York County, Joanne Riley.

"Chris is sure to bring a renewed enthusiasm and passion to the Parade!" exclaims friend Frank H. Countess, an attorney with CGA Law Firm (CGA is a parade band sponsor).

Sean Kenny, parade committee chairperson, summarized: "The York Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee is honored to have Chris Reilly leading the parade this year, a community leader who proudly wears his Irishness on his sleeve."

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