

# The Madison Press

SERVING GREATER MADISON COUNTY, OHIO, SINCE 1842



## If You Go

**What:** Irish Ceili Dance Class

**When:** Monday, Feb. 26, at 7-8:30 p.m.

**Where:** The Madison County Senior Center, 280 W. High St., London

**Cost:** \$20 for five weeks of class

**Sponsored by:** The City of London Parks and Recreation

**London resident David Proffitt will teach a five-week course on Irish Ceili dancing beginning Monday, Feb. 26, at the Madison County Senior Center. Proffitt teaches a young woman several steps during a concert.**

## London Parks and Recreation

Proffitt-ing from Ceili dance

Classes scheduled

By Sarah Ehrman

Press Staff Writer

Call it the Luck of the Irish.

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, London residents can learn a few authentic Irish dance steps courtesy of the London Parks and Recreation Department. The class consists of Irish Ceili dancing rather than the Irish step dancing. It's similar to square dancing, according to instructor and London resident David Proffitt.

"That's where all the square dancing came from when the Scottish and Irish came over," said Proffitt. "It's not the Irish step dancing that you see in Riverdance."

Proffitt is no stranger to Irish dance. He received his instruction from former world dance champion John Timm and Ann Richens. He said he became involved in Irish dance because of his mother.

"She said I should either play an instrument or learn to dance. I chose dancing," Proffitt said. "I've won three North American adult championships and three Midwest regional feis."

Irish dance played an instrumental role in Proffitt's life. In fact, Irish dancing introduced him to his wife.

"Kay and I met at a Ceili. She was doing the Scottish dancing and I was doing the Irish dancing," said Proffitt. "Then I found out she played accordion. Currently, she plays at competitions across the United States and Canada."

Director Ryan Ladd said Proffitt approached him about offering an Irish Ceili class.

"He was the one that contacted me with an interest in teaching a class," said Ladd. "David resides in the community and he wanted to provide his services through the Parks and Recreation Department."

Proffitt said he contacted Ladd because there was a high level of interest in the community.

"People want to learn some of the dances before St. Patrick's Day. I go up to the Eagles and practice on my own; I get a little crowd in there watching me. They're all interested in doing it," said Proffitt.

Ladd said he hopes the class is successful.

"It's a program that we've never offered before and, thanks to David, we're able to do that," Ladd said. "We're going to search for other dance classes to offer. I think it's going to be enjoyable for the people."

The Irish Ceili class is held from 7-8:30 p.m. Monday evenings at the Madison County Senior Center. Proffitt recommends wearing tennis shoes "because that way, you won't slip." Since Ceili is faster than square dancing, safety is important.

Ladd said the class is for anyone who is interested.

"You do not have to be a senior citizen," said Ladd. "It's a five week class; \$20 to register for the entire five weeks. From what I've heard, a lot of people are excited."

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