

# Parade marshals honor heroes and traditions in this year's DTE Energy Cherry Royale finale

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Traverse City will have a little bit of hero with it as the Grand Marshal for the DTE Energy Cherry Royale parade.

Bryan McElwain is a firefighter from Long Island who helped with the fires in New York on Sept. 11. This Grand Marshal doesn't consider himself a hero, however.

"I love the opportunity, but I'm not worthy enough to be (the grand marshal),"

McElwain said. "To me, all the heroes went down in the building. I was just doing what I was supposed to do—it was my job, and anyone in the same position would have done it."

Though he was just doing his job, McElwain said he does appreciate all the support he and the other firefighters have received.

"I'm honored," he said. "Just being invited is very big. It is nice coming out of state and getting support from everybody. It's great seeing support all over the country."

McElwain also said being the grand marshal isn't a personal thing—he's doing it for other people.

"I want to go up there and make people feel better," he said. "I'm not just going up there for me. I want to express to everyone what went on there and how immense the whole thing was."

Jerry West, director of the DTE Cherry Royale parade,

said they asked McElwain to be grand marshal to honor all firefighters, law enforcement and emergency workers.

"Given the overall public sentiment in the country since the events this fall, we felt it would be—in some way—an ability to honor all who were involved," West said. "We thought this was a great way—in a larger sense—to honor our local firefighters and law enforcement as well."

McElwain said the difficult part of Sept. 11 was knowing people.

"It was too overwhelming," he said. "I knew guys all over the force. I knew a lot of faces from working with them over the years. They're faces you'll never forget."

Each person deals with the tragedy in their own way, McElwain said. For him, it's a very personal fight.

"I have tons of anger," he said. "But I won't let myself get so angry that I lose my head. I will stay focused."

"I let things hit me and bounce off me. But when I'm alone, sitting in my car, I'm thinking about a lot of this stuff."

Joining McElwain in the DTE Energy Cherry Royale parade is a group of student for Interlochen Arts Camp as community parade marshals.

The float will help celebrate the 75th anniversary of Interlochen Arts Camp. The theme will play off of words on the Kresge stage: "Dedicated to the Promotion of World Friendship through the



Universal Language of the Arts."

"Students from the 75th Interlochen Arts Camp will be on the float," Paul Heaton, director of communications for Interlochen, said. "In the car preceding the float will be President Ed Downing and his wife, Joyce."

Downing is the sixth president of Interlochen Arts and has held the position for 24 years.

Interlochen began in 1928 as a summer camp for the

National High School Orchestra. It expanded then to include other musical ensembles. And in 1962, Interlochen Arts Academy opened as the first independent fine arts boarding school. Interlochen boasts more than 81,000 alumni.

The marshals for the AAA Michigan Heritage Parade will also be a group of local students—Boy Scouts to be exact.

The Scenic Trails Boy Scout Council will have more than 100 Boy Scouts marching as

marshals.

"The Boy Scouts have been around for so long," Diane Dennis, director of the Heritage Parade, said. "They have done neat things all over the country and the world."

Boy Scouts were started in 1910 as an educational agency, and in 1939, the Scenic Trails Council received its first charter from the National Boy Scouts of America. The Council provides Scouting programs to 13 northwest Michigan counties.

## Interlochen jazz at NCF

Celebrating 75 years of Interlochen Arts Academy, an award-winning Interlochen Jazz Ensemble will take the stage during the National Cherry Festival. The group will perform from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 6.

Interlochen Arts Academy is recognized around the world as the premiere place for young musicians, dancers, actors, visual artists and writers to explore and develop their talents.

Among these students, Interlochen's Jazz Studies program became of the curriculum in 1972. Under the leadership of founder and trombonist Dave Sporny, the program was created to focus on jazz history, improvisation and ensemble playing.

"Students come to this program with tremendous interest and tremendous talent," Bill Spears, IAA jazz studies



coordinator, said. "Many of them are from places where they might not have as many opportunities to concentrate on jazz. Our program has a reputation for an environment that encourages them."

Sears has led Interlochen's jazz studies program down an award-winning path. During his 15 years at the academy, the program's ensembles and students have won 11 "db" awards from Down Beat Magazine.

In 1998, Interlochen Jazz Ensemble was a finalist at the Essentially Ellington Competition at New York City's Lincoln Center. Two of the students brought home Outstanding Soloist honors.



Mary is celebrating her 50th year with the National Cherry Festival. Mary is responsible for creating the long time community partnership with our schools — the Prince and Princess program. Mary and her family have devoted many hours every year to the Festival and the cherry industry, and this year is no exception as Mary and her committee will host the largest number of children ever. Look for an interview with Mary in the Record-Eagle's July Active Years, out June 29.