

MAURICE COSTIGAN

Meet Maurice (pronounced “Morris”) Costigan, owner of O’Shea’s Irish Pub, downtown’s longest continuously operating traditional bar. Here, the native of County Cork, Ireland, talks about the energy of downtown, its community feeling and the magic of Moonfest.

How long have you been downtown?

“It was 1994 when I took over O’Shea’s. There wasn’t anything downtown. You wouldn’t want to be walking around downtown at night. I don’t know if I was brave or stupid. And maybe a little bit naive.”

How have you seen downtown grow?

“It’s gone from a dark, deserted, eerie place to a vibrant, cosmopolitan vibe. The people who come in have changed, and we’ve kept developing. People demand more, and we work to make it interesting. We strive to offer more, so we’ve evolved as well.”

What makes downtown unique?

“I love that downtown businesses are mostly owner-operated. It’s not all vanilla. We watched the explosion of the mall and then CityPlace, but people want something unique, and they can find it downtown. There are so many places to socialize and enjoy yourself that there’s really something for everyone.”

What do you love most about downtown?

“I love the energy, and that there’s so much within walking distance. I love the people. I love live music, and there’s a lot of different music. I like most genres, and the music offered downtown is an eclectic mix.”

Where do you like to eat downtown?

“For my favorite place to get dinner, I have two: Hullabaloo. For one thing, they’re close. And I like their pizza. And Pistache. That’s my go-to. I’ve never had a bad meal there.”



Maurice and Rachel Costigan, owners of O’Shea’s Irish Pub. PHOTO BY JIM BERIAU

THE DOWNTOWNERS

West Palm Beach business owners dish about why they’re downtown – and why you should be, too!

Where do you play downtown?

“I’m usually at O’Shea’s. And when I’m not, since I’m lucky to have such a fantastic staff, I’m able to spend more time with my wife and kids. Also, I like that Clematis by Night brings so many people downtown each week, and the Waterfront is really beautiful.”

When do you enjoy downtown?

“I love Moonfest. Really anything

Halloween. It’s my favorite night of the year. I love people-watching, and you see the funniest, scariest, creepiest stuff. The ingenuity of people really amazes me. It’s like the whole world’s gone mad for the night.”

Why do you want to be downtown?

“We love being part of the community, and we’re more a part of it than we ever imagined we’d be, and we take that

seriously. It’s very humbling to me that our customers care so much about us.”

What should people visit downtown?

“It depends on the person. If my nephews come from Ireland, I would definitely tell them to check out Respectable’s, but I wouldn’t suggest that to my grandmother. The GreenMarket works for everyone.”

— Janis Fontaine

O’SHEA’S IRISH PUB

Maurice Costigan, owner
Rachel Costigan, owner

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