

# LIMERICK LEADER

PROUDLY SUPPORTING LIMERICK'S EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2020 BID

limerick  
EUROPEAN CAPITAL  
OF CULTURE  
2020

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2016

€2.25

(Stg £3.00)

limerickleader.ie

@limerick\_leader

f limerickleader



**ALL HAIL CHRIS**  
LIMERICK JOCKEY  
TASTES CLASSIC GLORY  
AT THE CURRAGH **SPORT**

**PARKING ROW**  
PRIEST APPEALS TO COMMUTERS TO  
STOP HOGGING CHURCH SPACES **P4**



**PROPERTY**  
YOUR NEW DREAM  
HOME AWAITS IN  
OUR 20-PAGE PULL  
OUT SEE INSIDE



GoSafe vans can operate in 11 new locations

## County's speed enforcement zones rise 50%

DONAL O'REGAN

E: donal.oregan@limerickleader.ie

THE NUMBER of locations in County Limerick for GoSafe operators to catch speeding motorists has increased by 50%.

They have jumped from 22 to 33 following a garda review. GoSafe vans can park in these new zones, dotted across the city and county, from this Friday, May 27.

Inspector Paul Reidy, head of the divisional traffic corps, said the primary reason for the extra areas is to increase road safety. "They are a direct result of locations where there have been serious injuries or fatalities in the last five years. It has been a number of years since they have been updated so we have taken into account the new information that we have," said Insp Reidy.

Seven people have died on Limerick's roads so far in 2016 - nearly twice as many in the whole of 2015 when four lost their lives.

In 2010 there were 15 fatal accidents; 2011 - 14; 2012 - 5; 2013 - 5 and 2014 - 11.

Insp Reidy said it has improved but "we found this year things have slid a little bit and we are trying to get it back on track again".

These GoSafe locations have no impact on where gardai carry out speed checks.

"We will go wherever there is a problem - we are not defined to these locations. These are just locations that have now been selected for the marked GoSafe camera vans to operate. They have to operate within a defined area. The garda with his or her speed gun can go anywhere," said Insp Reidy.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

## New editor of Limerick Leader announced

ALAN ENGLISH, editor of the Limerick Leader since March 2007, is to take up a newly created role as group editorial director of Iconic Newspapers, which owns the Leader and 12 other local titles. He will be succeeded on July 4 as editor by the paper's long-time deputy editor Eugene Phelan, who began his career at the Leader as a junior reporter in 1975.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 2



SCAN THIS FOR LATEST NEWS  
limerickleader.ie

# Hospital's €50,000 a week on cleaners

■ €10.5m spend on external contracts since 2014

FINTAN WALSH

E: fintan.walsh@limerickleader.ie

UNIVERSITY Hospital Limerick has been spending an average of €50,000 a week on cleaning services since 2014.

Figures received by the Leader from the HSE, via the Department of Finance under the Freedom of Information Act, show the UL Hospitals Group spent €10.5m on external contracts, from 2014 to April 2016.

The external contracts include catering, security, cleaning and parking management services.

A total of €10,507,330.5 was spent on these contracts at University Hospital Limerick, University Maternity Hospital Limerick and Croom Orthopaedic Hospital, the figures



University Hospital Limerick spent €5.9m on cleaning

show. In total, there was a €9,850,520 spend at UHL.

While there has been a monthly spend of €212,276 on Noonan Cleaning services at UHL, the Maternity Hospital has spent just €102,792.35 since 2014.

Currently, cleaning services are provided by the maternity staff and Noonan. Contracts for

Noonan Cleaning will expire at the end of October this year.

Between April 2014 and April 2016, €5,943,723.73 was paid to Noonan Cleaning. For these services, UHL spent €2.37m in 2014, €2.46m in 2015, and €1.1m so far this year.

Prior to Noonan Cleaning, €715,464.68 was spent on ISS Cleaning Services at UHL, in the first half of 2014.

Euro Car Park, which has solely operated out of the Dooradoyle hospital for a number of years, has been paid €588,464.53 since 2014. However, income received by the hospital for parking has in the past comfortably exceeded the fees paid to the company.

Figures show that

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

## 76,500 people registered for medical cards locally

FINTAN WALSH

E: fintan.walsh@limerickleader.ie

MORE than 40% of Limerick's population is on medical cards, according to new figures released this week.

Figures released by the HSE, via the Primary Care Reimbursement Service, show that 76,563 people in Limerick are availing of medical cards. The PCRS is the organisation responsible for issuing medical cards.

According to the recent statistics, as of April 1, there

are 10,116 children under six and 3,367 over 70 with GP visit cards in Limerick. These figures include those who held a GP visit card prior to the launch of new visit card schemes.

Monaleen GP, Dr Emmet Kerin, who is the president of the National Association of General Practitioners, said the medical card system needs "a reshake".

"We have campaigned to give medical cards to people based on need and not on age cohort. That's something that we still look for.

"In simple terms, medical cards does increase the amount of attendance. That is proven. That is international evidence. What needs to happen is that we need to have a rethink of how a patient interacts with a practice.

"That would mean growing roles of nurses in the practice, along with GPs who could manage that. But it [medical cards] does increase the GP practice," he told the Limerick Leader, in

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

## Bomb threat: Second hoax in two days



A SECOND bomb scare in as many days hit Limerick this Wednesday. Ulster Bank in O'Connell Street had to be evacuated following a bomb alert. Shortly before 4pm, gardai arrived at the building after receiving a call from a female making the claim. It was declared to be a hoax a short time later. PICTURE: ADRIAN BUTLER

## Calls for oral hearing into Irish Cement plan

NICK RABBITTS

E: nick.rabbitts@limerickleader.ie

CALLS have been made on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a public hearing into plans by Irish Cement to burn tyres in Mungret.

And residents have also been urged to make their concerns known about the project to the group.

More 100 people opposed to Irish Cement's plans to burn

used tyres at its factory in Mungret were present at a meeting in the South Court Hotel this week.

The company is planning to invest €10m to ditch the use of fossil fuels, and replace it with the incineration of the rubber devices which are piling up around the country.

But many are opposed to the scheme, which is both before Limerick City and County Council and the EPA for approval.

While the local authority can only grant a planning application around the new building of the plant, it is up to the EPA to give a licence to burn the tyres.

Speaking at the meeting, Labour councillor Joe Leddin said: "I think everyone here should put in a submission to the EPA, and we should request an oral hearing as part of the process. We should try and involve

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

## Motorway to Cork could be back on the agenda

DAVID HURLEY

E: david.hurley@limerickleader.ie

THE Department of Transport has confirmed proposals to build a motorway between Limerick and Cork may be resurrected in the coming months.

Plans to upgrade the N20 were shelved in October 2013 by the then Transport minister, Leo Varadkar, who said the cost - likely to be around €1bn - was "not feasible" given the state of the

country's finances.

Just over a year ago, his successor, Paschal Donoghue (now Minister for Public Expenditure), reiterated the government position, despite strong pressure from local business groups and politicians.

In response to comments by Minister Simon Coveney, this Wednesday, a spokesperson for



Comments: Simon Coveney

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

## 50 Syrian refugees housed

FINTAN WALSH

E: fintan.walsh@limerickleader.ie

FIFTY refugees fleeing from violence in Syria have officially resettled in the city and county this week.

As part of a national and international resettlement programme, 100 Syrian refugees will be resettled in local housing by the end of the year.

Limerick agencies have agreed to offer protection to those who have fled their home country.

According to sources, the 12 families that have resettled in Limerick "are getting on very well and enjoying themselves".

This resettlement programme

is being implemented in conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Ireland's commitment to the programme. The Department of Justice and Equality has asked the council to chair an interagency working group to assist with the resettlement.

The agencies involved in the programme include the An Garda Síochána, the HSE, Túsla child and family agency, Limerick Diocesan Office, Limerick Childcare, Paul Partnership, the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, the Department of Social Welfare and the Department of Justice.

The council has committed to

accommodating 25 families.

Those admitted under the resettlement programme will have the same rights and entitlements as an Irish person, under the 1951 Geneva Convention.

It is believed that most of the Syrians who have resettled were previously in refugee camps in the Lebanon and Jordan which have "no infrastructure, no electricity, and water is scarce".

Doras Luimní director, Leonie Kerins welcomed Limerick's involvement in the resettlement programme. She said that there are not enough resources to provide

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Wed 25th  
— TO —  
Sat 28th  
**MAY**



THE BEST BUILT CARS IN THE WORLD



f t www.briangeary.ie

UP TO  
**€3,500**  
Trade In Bonus

OR

**3 YEARS**  
FREE  
SERVICING

Get ready for  
**ShowTime**

With a great range for 162 at Brian Geary Toyota.

It's Time to rediscover Toyota. Time to expect even more.

