

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coming soon: Grant County's third annual Pride Month celebration

Pride in the Park is returning for its third year, part of three days of Pride events, June 23-25!

Pride in the Park, a fun, family-friendly celebration, will run from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 24, at Matter Park's Bandshell and nearby Shelter 5. Admission is free. All are welcome at this event celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community, who are our friends, loved ones, and neighbors.

Pride Month is observed every year in June, in recognition of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York City when trans women of color and allied friends stood up against harassment and discriminatory laws. Pride Month recognizes the cultural, civic, social, and economic contributions to our society made by LGBTQIA+ people that strengthen our collective social welfare. Pride Month also actively promotes the principles of equality, liberty, and justice.

The organizing committee, Grant County Pride, believes that every person deserves a place to call home where they feel safe, happy, and supported by friends and neighbors. While the LGBTQIA+ community has made great strides, work remains in order to achieve full equality, inclusion, and acceptance. Pride Month celebrations can be a part of that work.

If you want to volunteer to help at Pride in the Park, visit our website, grantcountypride.com.

Pride in the Park will include:

- Dozens of merchandise vendors / makers market
- Food vendors
- Entertainment
 - 1 p.m.: Rue Sparks
 - 1:45 p.m.: Ciara Dawn Haskett
 - 2:30 p.m.: J'Din
 - 3:15 p.m.: Mel Noelle
 - 4 p.m.: Plague Friends
- Giveaways and games
- Information on supportive services for LGBTQIA+ people
- And more!

For updates about the event, follow Grant County Pride on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GrantCountyPride>

Sponsorship spots still available

Grant County Pride is seeking sponsors for this year's Pride celebration. If your business or organization would like to be a sponsor, please email us at grantcountypride@gmail.com.

2023 sponsors include:

- Skin Magic Tattoo
- Pride Stuff and More
- Psychedelic Cellar
- Gethsemane Episcopal Church
- CSA Civic Theatre
- Lark's Song

- NB Signs and Design
- Parker's Seafood Kitchen
- Starbucks

GCP Community Kickball Game set for June 23

GCP is hosting a fundraiser on Friday, June 23: a community kickball game! The game will start at 5 p.m. at the Matter Park ball diamond. Suggested donation is \$5 per player.

Registration information is available at our Facebook page, facebook.com/GrantCountyPride. You can form your own team or join one upon arrival. Participants (and fans!) are encouraged to flaunt their most vibrant and fabulous attire! Come out and make connections with our community.

GCP is grateful to our sponsor for this event, Parker's Seafood Kitchen! Their sponsorship will allow funds raised at this event to help support initiatives Grant County Pride has planned for the future.

Drag shows set for June 23 and 24

GCP is hosting two drag shows during its Pride celebration weekend this year:

- **Pride Out Loud Drag Show on Friday, June 23.** The show will start at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.) at Marion Civic Theatre, 509 S. Washington St. Tickets are \$10. Performances by: Z St. Vontrell, Starletta, Key'Airra Kardashh, Rockii C. Sensationn, Nexus, Lyna Koke
- **Pride After Dark Drag Show on Saturday, June 24.** The show will start at 9 p.m. (doors open at 8:30 a.m.) at Marion Civic Theatre, 509 S. Washington St. Tickets are \$10. Performances by: Naomi De Fierce, Stephanie Steel, Kylie Aphrodite, Dixxie Licious, Nexus, Ava Morningstar

Tickets can be purchased in advance at bit.ly/GCP-DragTix. Tickets *may* be available at the door, but sellouts are possible so get yours early!

For updates, follow Grant County Pride on Facebook: facebook.com/GrantCountyPride

Educational presentation set for June 25

Join Grant County Pride Advocacy Team Member Austin Guess as they present "Queer People in History: An educational presentation" at noon Sunday, June 25, at Lark's Song, 401 S. Washington St. Come out and explore LGBTQIA+ history with us! Admission is free (but donations will be accepted).

Mayor declares June 2023 as Pride Month in Marion

GCP is pleased to announce that we have once again received an official proclamation from Marion Mayor Jess Alumbaugh declaring June 2023 as Pride Month in Marion, Indiana!

This is the third consecutive Pride Month declaration by the City of Marion. The first, in 2021, was a milestone, the first ever Pride declaration in our city.

We know that a resolution does not change the world, but we are thankful for Mayor Alumbaugh's continued support for the LGBTQIA+ community in this official way. The proclamation is beautiful, and we hope that members of our community who have felt invisible or excluded will feel loved and supported through this action.

Here is the full text of the official proclamation issued by Mayor Alumbaugh on June 1, 2023:

Whereas, Pride month began in 1970 on the one-year anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York City after trans women of color and allied friends stood up against harassment and discriminatory laws; and

Whereas, the City of Marion cherishes the value and dignity of each person and appreciates the importance of equality and freedom; and

Whereas, all are welcome to live, work, and play in the City of Marion, and every person deserves a place to call home where they feel safe, happy, and supported by friends and neighbors; and

Whereas, the City of Marion denounces prejudice and unfair discrimination based on age, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical attributes as an affront to our fundamental principles, and

Whereas, it is imperative that citizens within our community — regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression — feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their peers and community leaders,

Therefore, I, Jess Alumbaugh, Mayor of the City of Marion, Indiana, declare the month of June 2023 as

PRIDE MONTH

and call upon all citizens to actively promote the principles of equality, liberty, and justice.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Marion to be affixed this 1st day of June 2023.

Signed, Jess Alumbaugh, Mayor of Marion, Indiana

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