

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities



Pride Release Press

PO Box 2104, Loop Station • Minneapolis • Minnesota • 55402

Contact: Bill Nienaber, Public Relations Director
Office: (952) 852-6109
Mobile: (612) 220-5435
E-Mail: pr@tcpride.org
Web: tcpride.org

Date: 14 June 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gay Pride 2006 Runs June 16-25, Festival June 24-25

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is honored to announce that this year's Gay Pride events begin this weekend. The Twin Cities GLBT Pride Celebration is the third largest in the United States, drawing over 400,000 guests to six events in 2005.

The Pride Celebration kicks off with the Pride Art Show Opening Reception on Friday, June 16 at Oxygen Gallery in Saint Paul. There is no admission fee and the ongoing show will last until July 31. This juried and judged exhibit showcases GLBT artists and/or art with GLBT themes.

On Saturday, June 17, the Pride Boat Cruise will depart Excelsior's docks on Lake Minnetonka. The Boat Cruise will have a variety of food and beverages available and Erin Schwab will provide entertainment. A free shuttle from downtown Minneapolis will be available, with the cruise departing the docks at 1pm. Tickets are \$35 and are available from Pride's web site as well as at the dock on the day of the cruise.

The Pride Picnic at Como Park will take place on Father's Day, Sunday, June 18. Located at Como Park's East Picnic Pavilions, this free event is a great way to enjoy the warm weather with friends and family in a relaxing atmosphere. Picnic fare will be provided free of charge from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Old-fashioned games, softball and table games will provide fun for everyone.

Bryant Lake Bowl will host the Uptown Pride Block Party on Friday, June 23 in Uptown. This free Block Party is open to everyone and is a great way to kick off the final weekend of Pride 2006.

The Pride Festival is the largest of the Pride Events and will take place in Minneapolis' Loring Park on Saturday, June 24 from 10am to 10pm and on Sunday June 25 from 10am to 6pm. Featuring headliner Crystal Waters, four stages of all-live entertainment, Children's & Family Area, History Pavilion, Beer Garden and Fireworks, this is the crown jewel of the Pride Celebration. The Fireworks display will take place over the lake in Loring Park following Crystal Waters' performance at the end of the evening on Saturday, June 25. Of course, the Festival is free to attend for everyone.

The Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade will march proudly down Hennepin Avenue on Sunday, June 25, kicking off at 11am. Being one of the largest parades in the Upper Midwest, you can find everything from politicians to drag queens and from local mom & pop businesses to multinational corporations marching.

Wrapping up Pride 2006, the Downtown Pride Block Party will take place at the Saloon Nightclub at 9th & Hennepin on Sunday, June 25. The Downtown Pride Block Party will be open to those 18 and up. Tickets are \$10 at the gate.

Pride President Jim Kelley said, "This year's calendar of events is one of the most exciting and diverse that we have ever had. I am planning on attending many of these events and I am excited to see everybody there."

Celebrating its 33rd year in 2005, GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, the organizer of the Twin Cities Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender (GLBT) Pride Celebration, began in 1972 with a small group of activists meeting for a picnic in Minneapolis' Loring Park and a short march down Nicollet Mall. Over the intervening years, the Twin Cities Pride Celebration has grown to be the largest GLBT Pride in the region and 3rd largest in the United States, with an estimated combined attendance of nearly 400,000 people at six events. GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization.

It is the mission of GLBT Pride/Twin Cities to commemorate and celebrate our diverse heritage, to inspire the achievement of equality and challenge discrimination.

###