

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SECOND ANNUAL ANNAPOLIS PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL  
SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 4 ALONG WEST STREET**

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***We are hoping to see another tremendous turnout.”***

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** (Wednesday, May 18, 2022) – Following a three-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and coronavirus concerns, Annapolis Pride. is ready to get its party on! The second annual Pride Parade and Festival in Maryland’s state capitol will be held on Saturday, June 4 beginning at noon and ending at 5 p.m.

Jeremy Browning, event chair and founder of Annapolis Pride, said that just like the inaugural parade in 2019, this year’s event will start at Amos Garrett Boulevard and West Street, and will finish at Calvert and Clay streets.

“It seems like forever since we held the first Pride Parade and Festival in June 2019,” Browning said. “We are beyond excited to host our second event next month on June 4. We are hoping to see another tremendous turnout. Once again, it will be a family-friendly event that is free and open to the public.

“More than 6,000 people attended the first parade and festival,” Browning added, “and we expect even larger crowds this year.”

The theme of the 2022 Annapolis Pride Parade and Festival is “Many Faces, One Pride.” Annapolis Pride recognizes that the LGBTQ+ community is composed of many people, all skin tones, genders, sexualities, religions, and abilities.

A new logo design for this year's festivities was developed by the Annapolis-based advertising agency Liquified Creative. The new design reinforces this year's theme and will be utilized through various materials for the 2022 event, including a t-shirt that is now available for sale at our events leading up to and at the June 4 celebration.

Liquified Creative Director of Marketing Caitlin Wiggins said 100% of t-shirt proceeds will benefit Annapolis Pride.

More than 140 artisans, businesses and community organizations are expected to have tables at the festival in the People's Park, West Street, between Calvert Street and Church Circle, and in adjacent parking lots.

The entertainment lineup on two stages at the festival will feature more than ten musical acts including; IAmYoungAye, L. Rodgers, Honey Sol, Joe Keyes and the Late Bloomer Band, C. Rafter, Ronshaye Clark, M.E.G.A. YOUTH, and more! Celebrate at the Pride Block Party at the Graduate Annapolis Hotel with DJ Dirty Panda, and drag performances from Shawna Alexander, Jalah Nicole, and Candi Fuentes.

Numerous food trucks and local restaurants have committed to sell food.

More than 75 businesses and organizations are sponsoring this year's event. The Graduate Hotel is the Pride Host Sponsor, while the Parade Sponsor is Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County. Green Point Wellness is the Festival Sponsor.

Grand Marshals for this year's parade are Abbie Ellicott, leader of the Coalition for LGBTQ+ Students; Drake Smith, former Anne Arundel County Board of Education student member; and Billie Hoard, Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) sponsor at Chesapeake High School in Pasadena.

More than three years ago, in winter 2018, a group of determined community members began creating the concept for an Annapolis Pride organization. On May 25 of that year, the Annapolis Pride Facebook page launched with the iconic anchor logo, created by Pomerantz Marketing, and quickly began to gain followers.

At the request of Annapolis Pride, Mayor Gavin Buckley declared June 2018 as LGBTQ+ Pride month for the first time in City of Annapolis history. The proclamation stated that Annapolis would host its first pride parade and festival in June of 2019.

Mayor Buckley and Parker Drapeau served as Grand Marshals for that inaugural parade.

Today, nearly three years later, Annapolis Pride celebrates the LGBTQ+ community by engaging local residents, businesses and groups to unite in welcoming and embracing diversity in Annapolis.

“Our vision is to create a friendly, inclusive, and vibrant community where all people thrive,” Board Chair Joe Toolan said.