For the last several years, Worcester Pride has presented a Pride Week in September that offered a Pride Flag Raising, a Pride Pageant, and the Festival and Parade. We sponsored and ran a variety of events over the entire Year to expand the reach of Worcester Pride and encourage our community to participate.

**Pride Works with City Leaders**

Through our advocacy and guidance, the City of Worcester in partnership with Canal Diggers Road Race, College Shuffle and Destination Worcester successfully sponsored CityFest.

Additionally, we congratulate the City of Worcester for scoring 100% on the HRC Municipal Equality Index for the third consecutive year!

**New Events of Pride Week**

We continued and updated our events in 2016 by offering a Kick-Off Dinner, Flag Raising, Lighting the Burns Bridge, the LGBTQ Pageant, a Parade, Festival, Youth Pride Dance and Block Party!

**Pride Moves Ahead**

The first year the Festival moved to the Common brought an estimated 3,000 attendees and drew 50 participants in the Parade. Our annual growth has been double digit, moving from 5,000 to 10,000 to 15,000 and finally 20,000 in Festival attendance. The Parade has grown from 50 to over 1,200 marching in the most recent year. 2017 finds us moving ahead by working with the YWCA to centralize our meetings. The formal Pride Committee will meet ONCE per month on the First Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM beginning with January 3, 2017.

Our Committee Meeting location moves to the YWCA, 1 Salem Square, Worcester, MA. Our second year of the TEAM PRIDE format will meet the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM also at the YWCA. We will have Task Focused Teams that will meet in small groups to work on their own Pride based agenda. The focus areas are projected to be:

- Social Media & PR
- Community LGBTQI Events
- Youth
- Fund Raising
- Community Outreach

Our Mission Statement

Worcester Pride recognizes, promotes and unifies the Central Massachusetts LGBTQI community, allies, and supporters. We welcome participation in and volunteers for community goals and a variety of sponsored events and celebrates those who make specific strides to enhance the visibility of Worcester’s LGBTQI community. The participation of all, regardless of age, creed, gender identity, HIV status, national origin, disability, race, religion or sexual orientation is welcome.
Our Goals

We ask individuals and families, employees and business owners, students and teachers to maintain the momentum in our efforts for Social Justice by:

• Advocating for the most vulnerable in our community, including people of color, youth, transgender people, religious and ethnic groups, immigrants, and people living in poverty;
• Defending our Constitution and its bedrock promises of equality;
• Using all the tools at our disposal on the local and national level – to safeguard the hard fought gains of the modern civil rights movement;
• Reaching out to every Community member to come together for social justice.

Worcester Pride is here, and we will continue to actively work for all of us. Please join us!

Let us not grow weary. Let us not lose heart. We are resilient, we are brave, and we are strong.

2017 Worcester Pride Events!

Our agenda for 2017 is an ambitious one leading up to Pride for 2 Weeks, September 5-17

January 2017
3   Pride Business Meeting*
16  MLK Jr Day
17  Team Pride Meetings**
20  Airspray @Electric Haze
28  Annual Pasta Social at First Unitarian

February 2017
7   Pride Business Meeting*
18  Airspray @Electric Haze
20  President’s Day
21  Team Pride Meetings**
24  “Farewell February” 2017 Kickoff Reception

March 2017
7   Pride Business Meeting*
12  St. Pat’s Day Parade
18  Airspray @Electric Haze
21  Team Pride Meetings**

April 2017
4   Pride Business Meeting*
18  Team Pride Meetings**
21  Airspray @Electric Haze
24  Pride Spring Arts Show

May 2017
2   Pride Business Meeting*
5   Safe Homes Gala & People of Courage Awards
6   Northampton Pride
9   Mother’s Day
16  Team Pride Meetings**
19  Airspray @Electric Haze
21  Pride Drag Brunch @ Bull Mansion

June 2017
6   Pride Business Meeting*
9   Father’s Day
10  Boston Pride
16  Airspray @Electric Haze
17  Rhode Island Pride
20  Team Pride Meetings**
24  NYC Pride

July 2017
NA  Pride Business Meeting*
18  Team Pride Meetings**
21  Airspray @Electric Haze

August 2017
8   Pride Week Prep Meetings*
15  Pride Week Prep Meetings*
22  Pride Week Prep Meetings*
29  Pride Week Prep Meetings*

September 2017
4   Labor Day
5   Pride Week Prep Meeting*
6   Pride Kick Off Dinner
7   Pride Flag Raising
7   Light the Burns Bridge
8   LGBTQ+ Pageant
9   Pride Parade
9   Pride Festival
9   Youth Pride Dance
9   Pride Block Party
10  Pride Recovery Brunch
14-17  qFLIX Worcester, New England’s LGBTQ Film Festival

October 2017
17  Spirit Day
How Can You Participate?

Volunteer
There are numerous ways you can make a difference as a volunteer:
• **Committee Member**: our Committee generally meets 2 times per month all year to provide ongoing direction for Worcester Pride.
• **Team Pride Member**: These teams focus on a specific agenda meeting the 3rd Tuesday every month
• **Event Volunteer**: with numerous events all year, we always can use a hand to assure each event runs smoothly.
• **Pride Week Volunteer**: our busiest week of the year needs a number of helpful people to provide a great event for the community.

Partner

• **Presenting Sponsor** ($5,000 Gift): Named as Presenting Sponsor on all material that includes the Worcester Pride logo + Worcester Pride Guide full page ad with premium placement + your banner on the main stage of Worcester Pride + a table in prime vending area of Worcester Pride + all mentions including radio advertisements, fund raisers, and all Worcester Pride events + your logo and link on our web site for 1 year + your logo on all marketing materials + Worcester Pride Parade Premium Placement Position.

• **Rainbow** ($2,500 Gift): Worcester Pride Guide full page ad with premium placement + your banner on the main stage of Worcester Pride + a table in prime vending area of Worcester Pride + all mentions including radio advertisements, fund raisers, and all Worcester Pride events + your logo and link on our web site for 1 year + your logo on all marketing materials + Worcester Pride Parade Premium Placement Position.

• **Diversity** ($2,000 Gift): Worcester Pride Guide full-page ad + premiere location for your banner at Worcester Pride + a table in the vending area of Pride + your logo and link on our web site for 1 year + your logo on all marketing materials + Worcester Pride Parade Marching or Vehicle.

• **Unity** ($1,500 Gift): Worcester Pride Guide half page color ad + your logo and link on our web site for 1 year + your logo on all marketing materials + choice of Marching Group or Vehicle in Worcester Pride Parade + a table in vending area of Worcester Pride.

• **Dignity** ($1000 Gift): Worcester Pride Guide quarter page color ad + a link on our web site for 1 year + choice of Marching Group or Vehicle in Worcester Pride Parade + a table in vending area of Worcester Pride.

• **Equality** ($500 Gift): A link on our web site for 1 year + choice of Marching Group or Vehicle in Worcester Pride Parade + a table in vending area of Pride.

• **Community** ($250 Gift): A link on our web site for 1 year + choice of Marching Group in Worcester Pride Parade or a table in vending area of Pride.

Exhibit at the Festival
Do you have something to sell? Do you have a Service to promote? Would you like more people to attend your church? Would you like more people to attend your events or performances?

March in the Parade
Get together with a group of friends, your school, your church or your work place and march in the Worcester Pride Parade. Be creative and put together a float or perhaps create a moving musical experience.

Register for the Parade and/or Festival before July 1st for your Discount

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Food Vendor: Contact Mark Gallant of The Dogfather Truck at 508-713-3730 mention 2016 Worcester Pride on the Common
Thank you to our Sponsors for all of your support!

It is through your generous gifts we are able to work on behalf of the Worcester/Central Massachusetts LGBTQI community. We look forward to your continued support!

Propose an Event
Do you have an idea for the LGBTQI Community? Send us an email and request an Event Proposal Form.
Once completed, make a presentation to the Committee.

Attend Pride Events!
With the number of events we have all year, it is easy to find an event that you will enjoy attending and participating in.

Forms and Info
Send us an email at worcesterpride@gmail.com and request forms or go to www.worcesterpride.org and either download or complete the forms online.

Please Contact Us:

Worcester Pride
P.O. Box 1126
Worcester, MA 01613
worcesterpride@gmail.com
Visit us on the web at www.worcesterpride.org

• Rainbow: TD Bank
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