**HISTORY OF PRIDE**

Kansas City's LGBT community has been celebrating for nearly 40 years

**by STUART L. HINDS**

"Gay Pride" was first celebrated in June 1975 to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the riots at the Stonewall Inn, consid-
ered by many to be the birth of the gay rights movement. Of course there were gay and lesbian advocacy groups well before the out-
tle shut down the mostly women's space. Gay Pride in Kansas City began in 1990, a number of different groups including the LGBTQ communities that resulted in annual events.

In June 1975, the first Gay Pride Festival was held in Kansas City. The event was sponsored by the Gay People's Union, Kansas City Women's Liberation, the Joint Committee for Gay Rights, and the Metropolitan Community Church. The weekend's events included live performances by local drag queens, a gay pride parade, and a gay pride dinner and dance. Sponsored by MCM and bearing the colors of red, white, and blue, the two-day event included a gay pride parade on June 23rd, which started at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The parade continued through the downtown area, ending at the Pride Center, which is now located at 8325 Main Street.

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