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## Bowling Green will host first ever Pride event this weekend

By AARON MUDD [amudd@bgdailynews.com](mailto:amudd@bgdailynews.com) 33 min ago

The first Pride Festival in Bowling Green is set for this weekend and will celebrate the local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities.

Kicking off at noon Saturday at Circus Square Park, festivities will include live music, drag performances and vendors until 5 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Later Saturday, a “Love Takes Over” Pride Crawl is from 7 p.m. until closing time at participating venues, which include Shots, Micki’s on Main, Gerard’s Tavern, Rocky’s Bar, Tidball’s, The A-Frame, Roam Sandwich Co., White Squirrel Brewery, 643 Sports Bar, La Gala and the Zest juice bar.

Live music and drag performances will be featured at Rocky’s Bar, The A-Frame, Tidball’s, Roam Sandwich Co. and La Gala.

Supporters of a proposed fairness ordinance will march to City Hall for a rally after the festival.

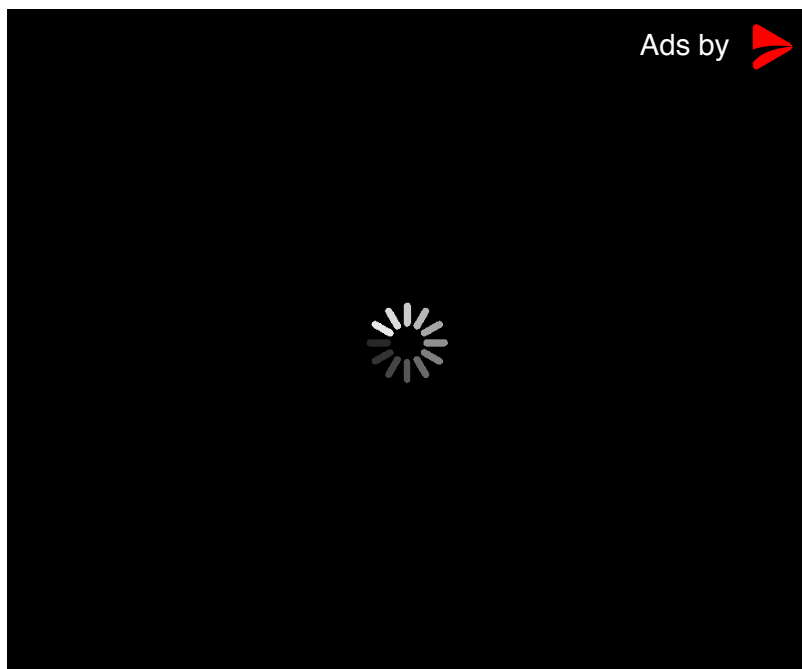
Chris Hartman, director of the Fairness Campaign, said the group's effort to bring more pride festivals to communities across Kentucky is meant to create support for fairness ordinances.

"The idea is to show publicly or to show public support for LGBTQ folks, their families and their rights," he said.

Bowling Green is Kentucky's largest city without such an ordinance, which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. In February, a proposed ordinance was presented at a Bowling Green City Commission meeting, but it failed to produce a discussion after a motion to approve it was not seconded, spurring chants of "shame, shame, shame" from supporters.

For local organizer Patricia Minter, a history professor at Western Kentucky University, there's an exciting energy around the event. She said many people have stopped her on the street and said they're glad the community is hosting it.

Minter said the event will allow Bowling Green's LGBTQ community to be visible and promote the passage of a fairness ordinance.



“That is a wonderful feeling, and I know we’re going to make history this weekend,” Minter said.

The themes of the festival include hope, pride and resistance, Minter said, in an effort to inspire ordinance supporters to keep campaigning.

“It’s a very appropriate way for us to have this inaugural pride festival and show that the work is ongoing, and it will continue until there is equal justice for all,” Minter said.

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