



Our Officially Unofficial Guide to

PRIDE

Pride Events & Pridefest 2023 Line-Up

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Keeping Pride Alive



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It's Pride! Time to dig your rainbow gear out from the closet, throw up some rainbow lights and celebrate your queerness. But as news from America's problem child, Florida, seems to get worse and worse. We should remember that there are those that will not be able to celebrate this year. That those freedoms fought so hard for have been striped or restricted by those who hate. But history has shown that we 'Alphabet People,' have always fought against oppression despite what laws or restrictions they try to place on us.

On a lighter note we have quite an issue for you this year. For the first time ever we present our "Officially Unofficial Guide to Pride!" (page 12), which also has the complete line-up for Milwaukee's 2023 Pridefest (page 13-14). For this year's pride special we are especially lucky to have Milwaukee's legendary grand dame of drag, Karen Valentine. With all the attention on drag this year, she is sharing her unique perspective

with us in our **Pride Life Features** section (page 6). And speaking of legends our **Spotlight On** section looks at Zoe Dunning, a Milwaukee native who has been and force of change for LGBTQ rights in the U.S. military (page 10).

As usual we have **In The News** section, which is spotlighting the return of MPOX with Chicago being a epicenter of the rise of new cases (page 3) and we also look at corporate America's commitment to inclusive marketing in light of the Bud Light/ Dylan Mulvaney fiasco (page 5). We also have our own Michael Johnston's Cordially Yours, Again! section giving you the low down on all that is happening in the arts and entertainment scene in Milwaukee.

So no matter how you celebrte it, I hope everyone has a happy and safe Pride this year.

- Your's Truly,
William S. Gooden, Publisher

We Need To Bring Back The Radicalness of **Pride**



By William S. Gooden, Publisher
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

It's time for PRIDE, and this year Pride is more important now than ever. As conservatives attempt to push us back into the closet (or possibly off the face of the Earth). Having Pride events across the country this year, is no longer about celebrating our success as a community. It should be about fighting back. Its time to take Pride back to being a protest, just as it was post-Stonewall. Instead of chants of "Love Won!," we need to return to shouts of "Where here, we're queer, get use to it!" Instead of a catchy pop song about love or sex from a pop diva as a theme this year, we should be blasting Twisted Sisters' "We're Not Going To Take It Anymore," from every pride float from cost to cost.

When the U.S. Supreme Court decision affirming the constitutional right of same-sex couples to marry in June 26, 2015, the gay rights movement seemed to stop. We had won a major fight and then became complacent because of the victory. However, there were far more battles to fight especially for transgender men and women. And now we are reap-

ing the results of those seeds of complacency, with a backlash of homophobic and transphobic laws from conservative America. While we were too busy fighting about whether or not there should be leather at Pride, they were working behind the scenes to find ways to write laws to best undermine and hurt us.

They pass laws that make it impossible for drag queens to perform publicly, not just to prevent them from earning a living but because they know it was drag queens who started Stonewall. When the queens in our community were attacked for expressing themselves our people rallied to defend them and opposed those that would target them. Now our queens and transgender community members are under attack again and we need to rally to support them.

But somewhere along the way we lost Pride as a protest. Somehow it turned into muscle bro's sashaying down the main streets in Speedos® and harnesses. This year for Pride we need to bring back radicalness of Pride. Now we need to march down the streets again with banners and signs, in unity: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and all the rest arm-in-arm.



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In The News

LOCAL & NATIONAL LGBTQ+ NEWS



Rise of MPOX Cases In Chicago Raises Concern About Possible Summer Spread

Diagnosed cases have been “increasing slightly” in eight countries the past three weeks, some in vaccinated people, the World Health Organization said

By Benjamin Ryan

A recent uptick in mpox diagnoses in Chicago, some of them in people vaccinated against the virus, has raised concerns about a possible increase in cases among gay and bisexual men during the summer.

On Monday, Howard Brown Health, an LGBTQ-focused clinic in Chicago, reported eight new cases of mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, since April 17. By comparison, only one case, also diagnosed at Howard Brown, was reported to the Chicago Public Health Department in the previous three months.

Public health experts expressed measured concern that, similar to other cases of infections that are transmitted through sexual contact, mpox cases could rise during the summer, especially as gay and bi men travel to Pride festivals and other major LGBTQ events.

“Without renewed vaccination and prevention efforts, we are at risk for a resurgence of mpox,” said Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, the deputy coordinator of the White House national mpox response. “Vaccine is a really important tool, even if it’s not perfect.”

Diagnosed cases have been “increasing slightly” in eight countries in the



past three weeks, including France and several countries in east Asia, said Dr. Rosamund Lewis, the technical lead for mpox at the World Health Organization. About half of the recent French cases were in vaccinated people.

Otherwise, global case counts have continued to decline since the early-August peak. Since mid-April, Lewis said, only 21 of the 111 nations to report cases during the outbreak have reported any new diagnoses. However, many cases may go undetected, she said.

Chicago’s weekly mpox case rate is the highest since early November. According to Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention data, which is updated biweekly, the U.S. has had a rolling seven-day average of no more than 17 diagnoses since mid-February.

The Howard Brown clinic is analyzing the new cases to determine whether any are part of a linked cluster of infections.

Mpox vaccination rates are insufficient

Seven of the eight newly diagnosed patients were in gay or bisexual men, said Dr. Leanna Gordon, the medical director of preventive medicine at Howard Brown. One person was unvaccinated, one had received one dose of the two-dose Jynneos vaccine, and six were

fully vaccinated.

All eight cases were mild, none of them requiring treatment for pain. Even with a breakthrough infection, the vaccine is still likely to reduce the severity of an infection, Gordon said.

Gordon emphasized the importance that people at substantial risk of mpox get both doses of the Jynneos vaccine to protect themselves and their sexual partners.

“One of our major concerns is that our population at risk are under-vaccinated,” Gordon said. “We haven’t had as much interest in the vaccine as we would like.”

According to the CDC, more than 1.2 million doses of the Jynneos vaccine have been administered across the country to 725,000 people, 90% of them male. The agency estimates that only 1 in 4 of those most at risk, including gay and bi men and transgender people, have been fully vaccinated.

Two doses of the Jynneos vaccine reduced the risk of mpox disease by 69%, and that one dose was 37% effective, the CDC reported in December. Updated figures are expected next week.

Public health experts expressed concern that mpox could spread more widely across the country after Chicago hosts the International Mr. Leather festival, a popular destination for gay men, at the end of the month.

Daskalakis said the CDC is working with Howard Brown and other local partners to leverage the event to promote mpox prevention and awareness.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, an infectious disease physician at the University of

Southern California, said, “We need to maintain vigilance and promote and provide free vaccination.”

Symptoms of mpox

Mpox, which has an incubation period of about three to 17 days, typically manifests as a rash and lesions. Other potential symptoms include:

- Fever.
- Chills.
- Swollen lymph nodes.
- Exhaustion.
- Muscle aches.
- Headache.
- Sore throat.
-

In France, national health authorities recently reported that of the 19 diagnoses this year through April 3 in the Centre-Val de Loire region, 16 were made after March 1 and all but one were in men who have sex with men. Ten of the cases were in people who were fully vaccinated: six who had two doses of the Jynneos vaccine and four who had received the smallpox vaccine in childhood and a recent Jynneos dose.

Could mpox return this summer?

Last summer's mpox outbreak declined following a combination of vaccination, immunity after infection and behavior change among gay and bi men.

Infectious disease experts believe existing immunity from previous infection and vaccination would be likely to prevent mpox from spreading at the same level as last year.

But questions remain about the duration of immunity and whether gay men, many of whom reported reducing their number of sexual partners or even practicing abstinence last summer, have returned to their baseline behavior patterns after mpox cases dramatically waned.

“Everybody’s efforts have contributed to controlling the outbreak, but it’s not gone,” Lewis said. She noted that there is evidence that mpox can spread both before symptoms begin and from people who never develop symptoms.

Dr. Marc C. Shamier, a resident in clinical microbiology at University Medical Center Rotterdam in the Netherlands, reported that in September, about 45% of gay and bi men visiting sexual health centers in Rotterdam and Amsterdam had detectable antibodies against orthopoxviruses, the family to which mpox belongs.

“However,” Shamier said in an email, “this level of immunity is not sufficient to fully stop viral circulation, so sporadic clusters of monkeypox are to be expected.”

Shamier continued: “Large-scale events such as annual Pride parties could increase the number of sexual contacts among the risk group, which may lead to a rise in viral circulation and infections.”

With testing, isolation of cases and higher levels of mpox immunity among risk groups, Shamier expects the number of cases to be relatively low compared to last year.

Daskalakis said the recent cases in Chicago amount to “a call to action as opposed to a call to panic.”

“We have the tools to take care of this,” he said. “We just have to get it done.”

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/mens-health/rise-mpox-cases-chicago-raises-concern-possible-summer-spread-rcna83315>

Bud Light fumbles, but experts say inclusive ads will stay

By Associated Press

Bud Light may have fumbled its attempt to broaden its customer base by partnering with a transgender influencer. But experts say inclusive marketing is simply good business — and it's here to stay.

“A few years from now, we will look back on this ‘controversy’ with the same embarrassment that we feel when we look back at ‘controversies’ from the past surrounding things like interracial couples in advertising,” said Sarah Reynolds, the chief marketing officer for the human resources platform HiBob, who identifies as queer.



On April 1, transgender influencer Dylan Mulvaney posted a video of herself cracking open a Bud Light on her Instagram page. She showed off a can with her face on it that Bud Light sent her — one of many corporate freebies she gets and shares with her millions of followers.

But unlike the dress from Rent the Runway or the trip to Denmark from

skincare brand Ole Henriksen, Bud Light's partnership with Mulvaney angered some customers and hurt sales, while the brand's lack of support for the influencer infuriated the very people it was trying to reach.

Three days after Mulvaney's post, Kid Rock posted a video of himself shooting cases of Bud Light. Shares of Bud Light's parent, AB InBev, temporarily plunged and the company issued a terse statement in response to the controversy.

This week, Anheuser-Busch — AB InBev's U.S. subsidiary — confirmed that Alissa Heinerscheid, its vice president of marketing, and her boss, Daniel Blake, are taking a leave of absence. The company won't say when they will return or whether they're being paid.

For some, the partnership went too far at a time when transgender issues — including gender-affirming health care and participation in sports — are a divisive topic in state legislatures.

But others — including Heinerscheid

herself — say reaching out to younger and more diverse consumers is crucial. According to a 2021 Gallup poll, 21% of people in Generation Z identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, compared to 3% of Baby Boomers. Gallup has also found that younger consumers are the most likely to want brands to promote diversity and take a stand on social issues.

“I had a really clear job to do when I took over Bud Light. And it was, this brand is in decline. It's been in decline for a very long time. And if we do not attract young drinkers to come and drink this brand, there will be no future for Bud Light,” Heinerscheid said last month in an episode of Apple's “Make Yourself at Home” podcast.

Bud Light and Mulvaney declined requests to talk to The Associated Press for this story.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-news/bud-light-fumbles-experts-say-inclusive-ads-will-stay-rcna81584>

Pride Life Features

THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT ARE SHAPING LGBTQ+ MILWAUKEE

A Mile In Her Shoes: A Journey In Drag

By Karen Valentine

I was asked to write an article on Drag. So, I decided to write what I know. It should be a rather brief read. As many of you already know I came Out in my Freshman year of College, at 18, in the late 1970's. There was no Club 219, no La Cage. The Drag Scene as I recall in October, 1979, was all "Spectaculars" being held perhaps monthly at The M&M Club, The Y.P. (Your Place), The Ball Game, The Beer Garden, and of course The Pageant – crowning of Miss Gay Wisconsin and Mr. Gay Wisconsin, on the Sunday closest to Halloween, at The Marc Plaza (AKA The Hilton Hotel, 5th & Wisconsin) ballroom and everyone dressed to the nines. Club 219 did open as we ushered in the new decade (1980) a premiere disco an ideal spot for a weekly Drag Show. Sunday was the night! 219 had the Show, Y.P. held their legendary Tea Dance (that no one has been able to replicate), The M&M had Jan & Gerry, a first-rate lounge act, as well as starting the day with their delicious Brunch and The Park Avenue had Sunday's, A Private Affair. And it was all very grand! Y.P. became history, and in the mid 1980's La Cage added a new era, with glitz and glamour just south of 219 on Second Street and turned the beat around!

Now back to the subject at a well-manicured hand: Drag, Female Impersonation, Illusion ... When I was a child, I would get "lost" in the music of Garland, Doris Day, Jo Stafford, Connie Francis, Rosemary Clooney, The Andrews



Sisters and so many others. Playing all my parent's albums and mouthing the words, then dancing, then trying to do a makeshift dress up, pretending all in the privacy of my childhood playroom. I don't remember ever being caught. Then again what would my folks say? "Don't do that"? My childhood was an escape into old movies, old television programs, going to the nearby library and pouring over every Look and Life magazine from 1920's – 1970's, Broadway, Hollywood, Fashion, Café Society, Royalty, Jet Setters, Trendsetters, all so different from my reality.

I have four brothers who were all-consumed in sports, hunting, fishing, and whatever was classified as the "norm". Then there was me. So different. Loving to color, draw, creating stage sets, drawing gowns and costumes, following Soaps and celebrity panel game shows. I truly was from another planet. As I "mature" I can't help but think what an enigma I must have been to my family. Totally unrelatable. When I was first Coming Out, The M&M Club would hold a Show monthly because

Phil Parks, a very popular bar tender, was Miss Gay Wisconsin. He did a jaunty Judy Garland and a lovely Liza as well. Rona, the bar manager and future Miss Wis, himself, did Streisand. DeDe and Totie (brothers in real life) rounded out their Cast and they truly were golden! Theme sets (productions of "Chicago" and "Cabaret"), wardrobes all first-rate. At the Y.P., Doris DeLago and Char-

lotte Lorraine reigned, with a decidedly Broadway/Theatre slant. With Charlotte comedy was Queen, a great homage to The Divine Miss M. The Ball Game featured The Powell Sisters, Mel and Jerry, who also officiated The Pageant. Ronnie Marxx, Legs, Tiger Rose, Mama Rae, The Duchess, Mandi McCall, Baoji, and many more. Once Club 219, Brew Town's answer to Studio 54 opened their doors, the new gurls in town, shining





In 1985, I joined The Gay Chorus and as a fundraiser for the group, we would do an “Annual Drag Show”. It would take place in celebration of Rona’s (The Founder of The Gay Chorale Movement in Wisconsin in the spring of 1985) Birthday. Now keep in mind, this is the mid-1980’s, most performers had a day job (“legitimate”) bar tender, server, hairdresser, student, doctor, pencil pusher, bean counter ... The Shows were being done as Benefits for the community, a person, a project, the profit for the performer? You were tipped and the bar offered drinks. Most of us, would give half our tips to the cause and re-invest the remainder of our tips in us, eyelashes, pantyhose, music, cassettes, etc. ...

ever so brightly, B.J. Daniels, Ginger Spice, Candi Stratton, Gloria P. Hole, Shawna Love, and Miss Holly Brown, and a New Era had dawned!

I was always that little mouseburger attending, watching, scared, fascinated, hypnotized by all the razzle dazzle. In the meantime, La Cage opened, Holly Brown, the toast of Australia was seduced to become their Show Director. Her headdresses and production numbers were of a Las Vegas caliber. Holly’s cast was sterling as well; Goldie Adams (who gives fantastic face), Vanessa Alexander, David Rogers, Mary Richards, and Miss Mimi Marks (who had also made a sensational splash at 219 – and to this day continues to stun and stagger them!) We were so lucky! An embarrassment of riches!

A Saturday in February, 1986, at The M&M Club, it was Rona’s Birthday and a Benefit for the Gay Chorus, Karen Valentine (a name I was crowned by Rona and Patsy) made my debut. The song, Vikki Carr’s biggest hit “Let It Please Be Him”. I had twelve telephones, racing up and down the stage checking to see if my Romeo/Mr. Right was there. By the way, I’m still waiting. What gump-tion, what fun; applause, a feeling of accomplishment, and belonging. I found a niche?!?! I received an encore (the only one) and invitations from Holly and B.J. to appear at their respective Star Search Shows at La Cage and 219! I won both and donated both ransoms to the Chorus. And the prize money was good! If memory serves -\$250 each! And this is how my Philanthropy Career began as

well.

Speaking of Philanthropy, this topic is a close to my heart as it is to my pocketbook! A dear friend/angel Joe Pabst presented me with my own Fund approximately 12 years ago. With the help of other dear Benefactors: Meg Kasch, Richard Quadracci, and too many to include here, investing in me and The Valentine Fund for the Arts, Humanities, and culture was born. Under the mighty umbrella of the Cream City Foundation



(CCF) The Valentine Fund has provided seed money, gifts, a little something to help others and their dreams - ARCW’s Art Therapy Program, Scholarships for UWM and MIAD, The Domes Student Program, The Holton Street Clinic, The Milwaukee Public Museum’s Move, The Florentine Opera, The Skylight Music Theatre, The Milwaukee Rep, Ascent Health/Grant Gym, Social Development Program, and encouragement in time, talent, and funding. Perhaps the most important contribution I’ve ever done. <https://creamcityfdn.org/donor-advised-funds/the-valentine-fund/>

A long way from my childhood watching Bugs Bunny or Mickey Rooney impersonating Carmen Miranda or Jim



Bailey gowned and wiggged and singing Live as the biggest Stars of the day, or Charles Pierce camping it up as the best in Live comedy doing all the Dolls we adored, or even Godfrey Cambridge doing Pearl Bailey or Flip Wilson as Geraldine Jones, a killer! Yes, a long way from my playroom.

I became the Sweetheart of Fund-raisers. HIT (the Holiday Invitational Tournament), hosting the “Welcome Show” every Thanksgiving at 219. The most revered, longest-running, successful LGBT Bowling Tournament, SSBL AKA Saturday Softball Beer League, the Gay Chorus, and of course we all gathered and rallied to defeat HIV/AIDS - so devastating and painful for so many to this very day, and any and all fundraisers being held, we were there! Early in the game, there was an issue backstage with something or another, and I was handed the microphone and told to stretch. And I did, I’m still stretching, after all these years. I haven’t stopped talking, so much to share! I’ve worked Shows at The M&M Club, Club 219, The Ball Game, Woody’s, hosted Mr. Harbor Room at The Harbor Room, helped out at KRUZ, Y.P., DIX, Pink-Hat-ed at This Is It, switched it on at Switch, Boom/The Room was my stage, I BINGO-ed at Hamburger Mary’s, had fabulous moments at Fluid, still appearing monthly at La Cage (a La Cage Girl at my age –



almost triple digits) and Club Charlies - Thank You Very Much! Making my debut this month, Monday, June 12th at The Skylight Music Theatre with my LIVE Cabaret! I never say NO to an invitation, after all isn’t Life the Best Party you’ve ever been invited to?

And what a thrill I’ve received as of late ... just when you think it’s time to hang up the lashes, you’re “rediscovered”! The fetching Harry James Hanson and dreamy Devin Antheus profiled me in their landmark tomb, “Legends of Drag Queens of a Certain Age”. Later in the same year I was featured in a local encyclopedia of entertainment, “A History of Milwaukee Drag; Seven Generations of Glamour,” penned by two of my nearest and dearest and most accomplished:

Michail Takach (Dorothy’s Pride & Joy) and the incomparable B.J. Daniels was completed, and I was honored to be included and quoted, with a lovely photo. So, when all is said and done and peeking into the future, I’ve made my mark.

Happy PRIDE 2023 !!! And thank you to The Goddesses that led the way across the stage to my limelight: Rona, Patsy, Charlotte, Doris, B.J., Goldie, DeDe, Totie, Holly, Ginger, Mama Rae, Chili, Honey, Alexandra, Vanessa, Mary, Cora Mae, Joey, Nova, Lily, Mandi, Chanel, Shannon, Joey Rae, Dita, Shawna, Ruthie, Lizzie, Trixie – both Leonard and Mattel, Dixie & Shannon, Loretta, Jayme, Jada, Miss Spencer, and Maple Veneer. All the powder, paint, feathers, glitter, gloss, and glamour providing an escape to where everything is beautiful ...



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WEDNESDAY MAY 31ST

18+ AFTER 8PM

ALASKA THUNDERFUCK MEET & GREET
8PM

FEATURING ALASKA GENERATIONS OF DRAG
MUSIC BY DJ TRAVVY
HOSTED BY JACLYN JILL
10PM 11PM

PRIDE TRIVIA 7:00PM

THURSDAY JUNE 1ST

PRIDE BINGO 5:30PM

TRIXIE MATTEL MEET & GREET
9PM

HONEY DAVENPORT MEET & GREET
9:30PM

OH HONEY! YOU'RE NEXT!
10PM
DJ TRIXIE & DJ HONEY BACK 2 BACK

FRIDAY JUNE 2ND

VANESSA VANJIE MATTED MEET & GREET
8PM

FEATURING VANJIE
SOS PRIDE EDITION
MUSIC BY DJ
HOSTED BY SETAREH QUELLET SODI
10PM 11PM

SATURDAY JUNE 3RD

SHOWHOST PRIDE EDITION
VANESSA MATTINGLY
10PM

HOSTED BY GLUTTONI SINN & KAYOS MIRAGE
FEATURING: DORA DIAMOND AUBREY DEL MAR
COCO MONET AVIANA COCK
RAI HUDSON FAY LUDES

MUSIC BY

11PM

SUNDAY JUNE 4TH

PATIO BAR CLOSES 8PM

PRIYANKA MEET & GREET
4PM

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In The Spotlight

SPOTLIGHTING MILWAUKEE'S AMAZING PRIDE COMMUNITY

Milwaukee Native Is A History-Making Advocate For LGBTQ Rights In The Military

Zoe Dunning was the only openly gay person to serve in the military for 13 years

By: Ryan Jenkins

A woman born and raised in Milwaukee is a trailblazer for LGBTQ+ individuals in the military and beyond.

"I lived on the east side of Milwaukee until I was about 8 years old, and then we moved to Whitefish Bay and I graduated from Whitefish Bay High School in 1981," said Zoe Dunning.

Dunning is the daughter of military parents.

"Both of my parents, believe it or not, served during World War II. So, it was very unique to have a mother who served in the Army. She served in the Women's Auxiliary Corps," she said.

In the 1980s, Dunning joined the Naval Academy. She would go on to become an officer and serve during the first Persian Gulf War. It was a journey that came with personal challenges. While in the Academy, Dunning realized she was a lesbian.

"I had to lead this double life of my personal life and then my military life," she said. "I couldn't let them intermingle or else I would risk getting kicked out."

Dunning eventually left active duty. She was overwhelmed by the secret she was being forced to keep. She went on to serve in the Reserves while continuing her education at Stanford Business School. At that time, then-President Bill Clinton signed the Don't ask, Don't tell Bill into law. The law allowed members of the LGBTQ+ community to serve in the military, as long as they hid their



Zoe Dunning now and then (inset photo).

true identity.

"People don't realize that Don't Ask Don't Tell meant you couldn't tell anyone. You couldn't tell your mom, you couldn't tell a Chaplain," said Dunning.

As that law became a reality, Zoe attended a political rally and decided to come out.

"I said, 'I'm both a naval officer and a lesbian and I refuse to live this lie anymore,'" said Dunning. She said that then ignited a two-year legal battle.

Dunning was one of the United States' first 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' cases. She won her case.

"That set me up in a situation where I essentially was the only openly gay member of the military for the next 13 years," said Dunning. From that day on, Dunning has been

an advocate for LGBTQ rights in the military and beyond.

She even stood next to former President Barack Obama on the day 'Don't Ask, Don't

Tell' was repealed.

"I want those who are watching this to know that we've only been able to openly serve in the military for 12 years," said Dunning.

Today, while she continues to be a voice for those who have been serving in silence, she says this conversation extends beyond our military with states such as Tennessee and Florida passing what many call "Anti-LGBTQ" bills. "There are a lot of rights and benefits and things that are being stripped from trans citizens, also from trans youth in particular - access to gender-affirming schools, behavioral health issues, not even being able to talk about in school like we hear about in Florida with the Don't Say Gay law," said Dunning.

Zoe Dunning is a Milwaukee trailblazer who is fighting for equality for all.

Source: <https://www.tmj4.com/news/womens-history-month/milwaukee-native-is-a-history-making-advocate-for-lgbtq-rights-in-the-military>

**GRANT
PARK**



2023

FRIDAY JUNE 23

ZEDD

ZARA LARSSON • CIRCUIT MOM

DJ MOHAMMAD • O'LAYSIA • ENZA

DJ ZEL • SATIVA FELICIANO DIAMOND

MISS DJ MEG • XO CARRINGTON • MISS TOTO

SATURDAY JUNE 24

SAWEETIE

YEARS & YEARS • DJ LADY D

UTICA QUEEN • KENYA J SANCHEZ • BOY J

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PRIDEPARKCHI.COM



Pride Guide Special

SPOTLIGHTING ALL THE PRIDE EVENTS ALL MONTH LONG

Our Officially Unofficial Guide To PRIDE 2023!

By William Gooden

Pride is right around the corner and with it being the high of all homo-holidays, there are plenty of various activities planned. Here is a run down of what is happening and when.

Wednesday, May 31st

Generations of Drag

Featuring Alaska Thunderfuck

Hosted by: This Is It

Address: 418 E Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Meat and Greet: 8 p.m.

Show: 10:00 p.m.

Note: 18+ after 9 p.m.

Thursday, June 1st

Pridefest 2023 (Day 1)

Hosted by: Milwaukee Pride, Inc

Address: Henry Maier Festival Park by

Milwaukee World Festival, Inc.

200 N. Harbor Dr.

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Time: 4:00 p.m.- 12:00 Midnight

Notes: See full stage line-up on pg. 13

Oh Honey, Your Next!

Featuring Trixie Mattel

and Honey Davenport

Hosted by: This Is It

Address: 418 E Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Meat and Greet: 8 p.m. (Trixie)

9 p.m. (Honey Davenport)

Show: 10:00 p.m.

Friday, June 2nd

Pridefest 2023 (Day 2)

Hosted by: Milwaukee Pride, Inc

Address: Henry Maier Festival Park by



Milwaukee World Festival, Inc.

200 N. Harbor Dr.

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 12:00 Midnight

Notes: See full stage line-up on pg. 13

SOS: Pride Edition w/Vanessa Vanjie Mateo

Hosted by: This Is It

Address: 418 E Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Meat and Greet: 8 p.m. ("Ms. Vanjie")

Show: 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 3rd

Ride With Pride 2023

Hosted by: Ride With Pride MKE & Pride Rides Wisconsin

Address: Harley-Davidson Museum

400 W. Canal St.

Milwaukee, WI 53201

Time: 11:00 a.m.-Meet up

12:30 p.m. - Kickstands up

Pridefest 2023 (Day 3)

Hosted by: Milwaukee Pride, Inc

Address: Henry Maier Festival Park by

Milwaukee World Festival, Inc.

200 N. Harbor Dr.

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Time: 12 Noon - 12:00 Midnight

Notes: See full stage line-up on pg. 13

Sunday June 4th

Milwaukee Pride Ride

Hosted by: Company Brewing

Address: 735 E. Center St.

Milwaukee, WI 53212

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Milwaukee Pride Parade

Hosted by: Milwaukee Pride Parade, Inc.

Address: 2nd St. in Walker's Point

between Greenfield Ave. & Seeboth St.

Time: 2:00 p.m. - Step Off Time

Pride On Second Street

Hosted by: La Cage Nightclub, Walker's Pint, Fluid and Revival

Address: 801 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

Time: 12:00 noon to 10:00 p.m.

The 2023 FAT DIX Pride Block Party

Hosted by: D.I.X. Milwaukee

Address: 739 S. 1st St

Milwaukee, WI 53204

Time: 12:00 noon to 10:00 p.m.

'Licious: The Re-Up! w/ Priyanka

Hosted by: This Is It

Address: 418 E Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Meat and Greet: 4 p.m. (Priyanka)

Show: 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 23rd - Saturday, 24th

Pride in the Park

Hosted by: Dreambrite Presents, Inc.

Address: Grant Park Chicago

331 E. Randolph St. (Columbus Drive)

Chicago, IL 60601

2023 Milwaukee Pridefest Stage Line-up

Skyline (Main Stage)

Friday, June 2nd

MKE Royal Drag King Show

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Totally Neon

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Coven

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Cazwell

8:30 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.

Betty Who

10:15 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 3rd

Rai

12:00 noon - 12:30 p.m.

Salford Lads

12:50 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

Our Voice Milwaukee

2:10 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.

Murry the Magician

3:30 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.

Bryanna Banx

4:55 p.m. - 5:55 p.m.

The Olivia Show

6:25 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.

Big Dipper

8:10 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.

Vigil and Fireworks Dedication

9:15 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Bright Light Bright Light

9:30 p.m. - 10:35 p.m.

Peaches

10:45 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.

Dance Pavilion

Thursday, June 1st

DJ Sammy T

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

DJ Avalon

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Shannon Dupree

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Felix Ramsey

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Cass Marie Trans Drag Show

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



Cazwell - Friday Headliner

Lady Sabo

8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Phox

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Melee the Queen & Dora Diamond

10:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

DJ DRiPSweat

10:30 p.m. - 12:00 Midnight

Friday, June 2nd

Opening Ceremonies

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sean Parks

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Luxi

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Skrat & FXY

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

DJ Mel-Down

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Lady Gia's 25th Anniversary

PrideFest Revue

8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Chomper

9:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

DJ Shawna

10:30 p.m. - 12:00 Midnight

Saturday, June 3rd

World Dance Revue

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

DJ B

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Bottoms Up Aerial Burlesque Show

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DJ Rozz

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Betty Who - Friday Headliner

K.I.L.O. aka SkitL's

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Agua De Rosas

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sabor Latino

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Haut3d House3

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Montell's Melanin Extravaganza

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Kenny Perez

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

DJ Shawna

10:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

J Worra

10:30 p.m. - 12:00 Midnight

The Intersection

Thursday, June 1st

Araelee Berberbaby

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Kawaii's Toy Box

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Cleopatra Hoze

7:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Trans/Ebny Excellence Extravaganza

8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.

Simba Da SBK

9:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

i.V KiNG

10:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Ben Blake & Marco Lara

4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Sports Bra

5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Leah Jee

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



Big Dipper - Saturday Headliner

Landon DeVon

8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Hue Revue BIPOC Cabaret

9:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Hue Revue Dance Parth

w/ DJ Femme Noir

10:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 3rd

Granny Bingo w/ Ester Flonaze

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Out in the Open:

Spoken Word Lounge

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Pop Rock Suckers

5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

The Upside

6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

MAN Williamsz

7:15

Alonna Deville

7:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Newcomer Drag Experience

8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Vaé

10:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

*aya

11:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Stonewall Stage

Thursday, June 1st

Parenting Queer Children:

Ask the Experts

5:00 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.

Grim Paddle Takes Pridefest!

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Bright Light Bright Light - Saturday Headliner

Friday, June 2nd

Running for Office as a Queer Person

3:00 - 3:50 p.m.

WI WQueer State of the Union:

A Political Mape for '23-'25

4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.

Reducing Jealousy through Better Communication

6:00 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.

Power to the People! A Campaign to

Covert WE Energies into a Municipally-Owned Public Utility

7:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.

Saturday, June 3rd

Aging with HIV/AIDS

2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Harm Reduction and Safe Syringe Programs in MKE

3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Learn How to Dance Burlesque with the cast of Hue Revue!

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Trance Consulting, LLC Spotlight Event: Community Showcase

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Children Stage

Saturday, June 3rd

Drag Queen Story Time w/ Cass Marie

1:00 p.m.

Rugrats Royale Review

2:00 p.m.

Mischief and Magic

3:00 p.m.

Premiere Youth Drag Show

4:00 p.m.



Peaches - Saturday Headliner

Bonus Acts

(Performing All Weekend)

June 1st - 3rd

- DJ SnackDaddy
- Shannon Dupree
- Dora Diamond
- Stacy Layne Matthews
- Malaiya Marvel
- Chanel D'Vine
- Marbella Sodi
- Montell Infiniti Ross
- Between Sets All Weekend
- The Pridefest Dancers
- Spacecats
- Melee the Queen
- Haus of Ogé
- Bottoms Up Aerial Burlesque Show
- Furrries
- Glo-bots



Bottoms Up Aerial Burlesque

Cordially Yours, Again!

YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S HAPPENING



Proud Of PRIDE

Ready or not Pride is here, earlier than ever before ... or as early as I can remember it to be. The month of June, all 30 days is Pride, and *PrideFest-Wisconsin* takes off Thursday, June 1st. Running as it did last year, Thursday – Saturday at The Lake Front at the **Henry Maier Festival Park**, with the climax being The *PRIDE Parade* on Sunday, June 04th at 2:00 pm on South Second Street. Afterwards all the Bars – LGBT and LGBT-Friendly and allies – will come together and celebrate.

Dancing into the season **The Milwaukee Ballet** is always too-too ready to pirouette you into a Best Of with “*Encore*”. **Thursday, June 1st – Sunday, June 11th** You can once more experience The Milwaukee Ballet up close and personal as they revisit excerpts of classical ballets and contemporary works in The WE Energies Foundation Performance Studio at Baumgartner Center For Dance.

Our Voice Milwaukee Spring Concert “*Love On*” **Saturday, June 10th 7:30 p.m. Plymouth Church 2717 East Hampshire Street.** \$20 In advance/\$25. At the door www.ourvoicemke.org Chorus for Gay Men & Allies.



By: Michael Johnston

Applause, Applause! **The Marcus Performing Arts Center’s Uihlein Hall** has hosted Broadway Marcus Center for what seems forever! And we are all the richer for it! I truly enjoyed seeing for the first time, “*Six*”, “*Hadestown*”, and “*Frozen*”. I eagerly await “*Tootsie*” sa-shaying into town ever so appropriately during Pride Month, **Tuesday, June 6th – Sunday, June 11th**. I anticipate next season, 2023/2024 to be as satisfying as the magic of Disney’s “*Aladdin*”, “*Clue, a new Comedy*”, “*Funny Girl*”, “*Mama Mia!*”, “*Moulin Rouge!*”, “*Tina*” and Harper Lee’s “*To Kill A Mockingbird*” brightens our world.

The Marcus Center hosts one major fundraiser per year and this one is one you won’t want to miss - “*The BASH*” on **Friday, June 16th**. The Marcus Center offers an evening of great food, fundraising, and an exclusive performance from Grammy nominated **Cheyenne Jackson** of television’s “*Call Me Kat*”, “*Glee*”, and “*American Horror Story*”. Cheyenne has done scores of Broadway Shows including “*Xanadu*”, “*Damn Yankees*”, “*Finian’s Rainbow*”, “*8*”, and “*The*

Heart of the Matter”. The money being raised is to support their continued engagement and educational programs for MPS Students. MPAC will honor community influencer **Betsy Corry**, dynamic leader **Tarik Moody**, and dedicated philanthropists **The Peck Foundation**. The Honorary Chairs for the 18th Annual BASH are **Damani and Cyndi Snort** and **Janan and Waleed NaJeeb**.

Saturday, in mid-June, **Maple Veneer and Karen Valentine** return to **La Cage** with their monthly effort “*Bosom Buddies*”. **5:00 p.m.** show time with a continued tip of the wig to the Great White Way!

Sun Day Fun Day Show Tunes with **Bradley Fell and Karen Valentine** is slated for **PRIDE Sunday, June 4th** at Club Charlies in The Historic Third Ward. Bradley kicks it off about 2 pm, The Valentine takes root around three bells and they carry on as if they were in their right minds until about 7:00 pm or they run out of power!

Wednesday, June 14th, 2023 is Flag Day

The Milwaukee Art Museum’s (MAM) Lake Front Festival of the Arts



returns after a forced COVID hiatus of two long years! **Friday, June 16th 10:00 am – 7 pm, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.** What a great hybrid of the art of nature with the lakefront and the beauty of applied art – paintings, sculptures, jewelry, and so much more. Always a sign of summer.

Want to sample a bit of Europe without boarding an airplane? *The Florentine Opera* has the ideal way through your taste buds and ears! “*Pasta and Puccini*” The weekend of **June 16th and 17th!** Yes, so popular is this evening event, that they have turned it into two nights! Both Friday and Saturday – one beautiful summer weekend a year, gather together under the stars for a delicious, rustic, Italian dinner and savor some of the most beloved Italian music in the world! Now, that’s Amore ... **Sunday, June 18th, 2023 is Fathers’ Day**

Skylight Music Theatre will empower us as no one can with “*Super You*”

‘Rise Up Blast’ through **Friday, May 26th – Sunday, June 18th.** Leave it to the Sky-light for new, cutting edge, new angle theatre, and you will be a part of it all! **Monday, June 19th, 2023 is Juneteenth Day**

The Cream City Foundation will be hosting their summer soiree on **Wednesday, June 28th at The Charles Allis Art Museum.** A summer social “*Show Your Pride*” **6:00 – 8:00 pm,** get your *Rainbow Gear OUT!* To make your reservations: 414-225-0244.

Milwaukee Rep will be celebrating 70 years in the business, come the 2023/2024 Season, 1953 – 2023. There are twelve terrific theater-pleasing productions not to be missed: “*Country Sunshine: The Legendary Ladies of Nashville with Katie Deal*”, “*Run Bambi Run*”, about the Brew City’s favorite dear *Lawrencia Bembenek*, “*Parental Advisory: a*

breakbeat play”, “*Nuncrackers*”, “*Dial M for Murder*”, “*A Christmas Carol*”, “*Guys on Ice*”, “*Little Women*”, “*What the Constitution Means to Me*”, “*The Chosen*”, “*Piano Men 2*”, and “*Nina Simone: Four Women*”. To be a part of this historic event, call The Rep and/or subscribe to their sensational 70th Season at 414-224-9490/www.MilwaukeeRep.com.

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 is Summer Solstice

Soon it will be Summertime and to quote Mr. Gershwin, “*The Living is Easy*”, Thank you for reading and getting caught up with me. Remember, it’s the glamour, not the grammar as I remain ***Still Cordially Yours, Again!***

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Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE



Art Bar ♦

Mixed bar with college-age crowd

722 E. Burleigh St.

Milwaukee, WI 53212

(414) 372-7880

<https://www.facebook.com/artbarmke>

DIX Milwaukee ♦

Southern Style Video/Dance Bar

739 S. 1st St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 231-9085

<https://dixmke.com>

Fluid Milwaukee ♦

Gay Bar

819 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

414-Oh-Fluid/(414) 643-5843

<https://fluidmke.com>

Harbor Room ♦

Levis' & Leather Bar

117 E. Greenfield Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 672-7988

[https://www.facebook.com/Harbor-Room-117-E-Greenfield-Ave-](https://www.facebook.com/Harbor-Room-117-E-Greenfield-Ave-Milwaukee-WI-151982704821436/)

[Milwaukee-WI-151982704821436/](https://www.facebook.com/Harbor-Room-117-E-Greenfield-Ave-Milwaukee-WI-151982704821436/)

Hunty's Social Club ♦

Drag Bar inside

Hamburger Marys

734 S. 5th St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 488-2555

<https://huntyismke.com>

Kruz ♦

Levis' & Leather Bar

354 E. National Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 272-5789

<https://www.facebook.com/kruz.kruzbar>

[kruzbar](https://www.facebook.com/kruz.kruzbar)

La Cage Niteclub ♦

Gay Dance Club

801 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 383-8330

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/LaCageNiteclub)

[LaCageNiteclub](https://www.facebook.com/LaCageNiteclub)

This Is It! ♦

Gay Bar with Drag Shows

418 E. Wells St.

Milwaukee, WI 53202

(414) 278-9192

<https://www.thisisitbar.com>

Walker's Pint ♦

Lesbian Bar

818 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 643-7468

<https://walkerspint.com>

Woody's Sports Bar ♦

Gay Sports Bar

1579 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 672-0806

<https://www.facebook.com/woodys.mke>

[mke](https://www.facebook.com/woodys.mke)

Zócolo Food Park ♦

Bar with food trucks, gay friendly

636 S. 6th St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 433-9747

<https://www.zocalomke.com>

C 3 Designs ♦

Custom Jewelry designer in South

Businesses

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2110 10th Ave.

South Milwaukee, WI 53172

(414) 764-3892

<http://c3designs.rocks/>

Oun Kine Grindz ♦

Hawaiian Cafe, caterer and store

7215 W. North Ave.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213

(414) 778-0727

<http://www.okgrindz.com>

Kilwins Milwaukee

LGBTQ-owned candy and ice cream shop in Bayshore Mall

5756 N. Bayshore Dr., Q101

Glendale, WI 53217

(414) 967-4803

[https://www.kilwins.com/stores/](https://www.kilwins.com/stores/kilwins-milwaukee-bayshore)

[kilwins-milwaukee-bayshore](https://www.kilwins.com/stores/kilwins-milwaukee-bayshore)

Outwards Books

Gifts & Coffee ♦

LGBTQ+ books, movies and gifts

2710 N. Murray Ave. #3645,

Milwaukee, WI 53211

(414) 963-9089

<https://outwardsbooks.com>

Purple Door Ice Cream ♦

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205 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 988-2521

<https://www.purpledooricecream.com>

Sherman Perk Cafe ♦

Local coffee shop in the Sherman Park Neighborhood



Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE

4924 W Roosevelt Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53216
(414) 875-7375
<https://shermanperkcoffeeshop.com/>

La Finca Coffeeshouse ♦
Women owned coffee shop with unique coffees and eats.
3558 E Sivyer Ave.
St Francis, WI 53235
(414) 394-0722
<https://www.lafinca.cafe>

Todo Postres LLC. ♦
Gay-owned and operated bakery and dessert shop. Specializes in unique cakes for quinceañeras, weddings and pride events.
958 W. Oklahoma Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 988-2149
<https://www.facebook.com/ToDoPostresOfficial/>



Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers
Community health center provides discounted or free health programs
2906 S. 20th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 672-1353
<https://sschc.org>

BESTD Clinic
Free STI testing Clinic
1240 E. Brady St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 272-2144
<https://www.bestd.org>

Community Health Systems, Inc. ♦
A federally qualified Health Center that operates a medical, dental, and behavioral health clinic in Beloit, Wisconsin
74 Eclipse Center,
Beloit, WI 53511
tel: (608) 361-0311
www.chsofwi.org

Compassionate Clinical Services
Provides private therapy and counseling services by Ryan Larkey, LCSW, SAC
985 W. Oklahoma Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Planned Parenthood
(414) 839-1821
<https://www.compassionateclinicalservices.com>

Vivent Health (formally ARCW)
HIV/AIDS health center that provides medical, dental, counseling and social service help
820 N. Plankinton Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53203
(414) 273-1991
<https://viventhealth.org>



Cream City Foundation
Not-for-profit that funds LGBTQ+ outreach organizations
PO Box 511099
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 225-0244
<https://creamcityfoundation.org>

Diverse & Resilient ♦

LGBTQ+ health and advocacy group
2439 N. Holton St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 390-0444
<https://www.diverseandresilient.org>

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin
Community center with many programs for LGBTQ+ groups
1456 Junction Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
(262) 664-4100
<https://www.lgbtsewi.org>

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center ♦
Community center with many programs for LGBTQ+ groups
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 271-2656
<https://www.mkelgbt.org>

Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Networking and resources for LGBTQ+ business
5027 W. North Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 678-9275
<https://wislgbtchamber.com>



Central Library ♦
The main branch of The Milwaukee County Library system has books, movies, periodicals available for lending.
814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 286-3000

KEY: ♦ Distribution point for *Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine*



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Milwaukee, WI 53204

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