

# OUTBOUND NEWS

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## Milwaukee Pride Parade Successful Despite Confusion



**W**ith only two months of planning, the Milwaukee Pride Parade was a great success. With great weather, colorful floats and lots of hard work, The Milwaukee Pride Parade went on without incident. An estimated 800 spectators lined south Second Street to show their support for the parade. Could the numbers have been greater? Yes, says James Kuchta of Outbound

Magazine. "There was some confusion surrounding the Parade due to the Pridefest website stating there was no Pride Parade. I received numerous emails and phone calls pointing out the comments on the PrideFest website that referred to a decision not to have a pride parade." Another problem that caused confusion was people (potential Parade spectators) at Pridefest were told by the shuttle bus driver that the parade

had been delayed about an hour and a half due to lack of volunteers. NOT TRUE, the parade stepped off at exactly 2pm as advertised and lasted just over an hour. Could the Parade have lasted longer? Again, Yes, if the Pridefest website had been cleared up sooner we would have had more participants, thus a longer parade. Time is always a factor when planning an event. Next year will be better, with more time to prepare I am sure the Milwaukee Pride Parade will be even better.

With the efforts of the Milwaukee Gay and Lesbian bars, the Great Lakes Riders, private sponsors and the help from Miller Brewing Company, we raised an estimated \$8000 dollars to fund the parade. The total cost of the parade is still being determined, but organizers say there will be money left to put towards next year's Pride Parade. We will start early to plan next year's parade says James Kuchta and Si Smits. We want to ensure that the Pride Parade is never again compromised, as we do support the efforts of PrideFest in putting on a festival that we can all be proud of. We would like to see more unity between Pridefest and the new Milwaukee Pride Parade. An organization meeting is scheduled for sometime in July—not yet fully determined as to the exact date and time. If you want to **GET INVOLVED**, please email [getinvolved@prideparademke.com](mailto:getinvolved@prideparademke.com).

All in all, the Milwaukee Pride Parade accomplished its goal, despite negative comments from Bill Attewell, editor of the now defunct InStep news.

A headline on Mr. Attewell's website reads "PrideFest Sizzles, Pride Parade Fizzles." Another comment reads "Sadly, this parade seems to have more to do with cash registers than it does with actual LGBT pride in Milwaukee. It is always about the money!" Yes, Bill, it is also about economics, just as it is for all those vendors at Pridefest.

It seems someone is always trying to undermine the efforts of others to move the community forward! People are always trying to find the negative with people's good intentions. If we are grinding axes to use on someone, that someone might as well be Outbound and Si Smits.



### Parade Winners:

There were three judges walking the parade route looking at all the entries to come up with the winners in three categories:

Best Float, Best Decorated Car and Best Marching Unit. They were judged on three things: Theme, Audience response and Spirit. Although all the floats were great, there were two that stood out. Those being Woody's and M&M Club. Both floats were extremely large and colorful, but there could only be one winner and the trophy went to **M&M Club**. The Riverwest Accordion was truly the highlight of their float. The Best Decorated Car went to **Allen Elsinger** with his patriotic tribute to America and the Best Marching Unit award went to **Q-Life News**.

Let's all unite to ensure the success of Milwaukee's Pride Weekend. We are all in this together, so let's start working together.... **GET INVOLVED!**

## Pridefest Hits New Record on Attendance

"The numbers are in!" Says Pridefest. Attendance hit a record high this past weekend topping off at 21,368 people. Although there were less vendors than previous years, Pridefest's success was largely due to great weather and a great line-up of entertainers.

Although the numbers are good, they could be better. Pridefest needs to plan an event on a more national scale for next year to attract more people to Milwaukee.

With the SummerFest grounds we should be able to attract enough people to utilize the full potential of the Facility available to us. Hopefully with the success of this year, PrideFest will start thinking on a more national scale for future events. This means being more inclusive of the whole community. Milwaukee has a lot to be proud of. We just need to work together as a whole community. Let's keep up the momentum and work together!



A book review on healthy living in the Health and Fitness section.

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