

Rock County Equity Brief

June 2023

OBSERVE *Pride Month*

Pride Month is celebrated every June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots, which are widely considered to be the start of the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement. During Pride Month, people all over the world come together to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and to raise awareness of the challenges that LGBTQ+ people still face.

Pride Month is a time to celebrate the progress that has been made in the fight for LGBTQ+ equality, but it is also a time to remember the work that still needs to be done. LGBTQ+ people continue to face discrimination in housing, employment, and healthcare. They are also disproportionately affected by violence.

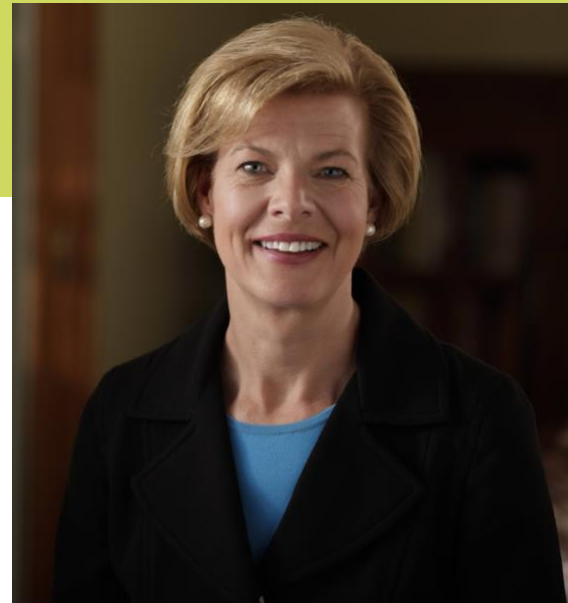
Pride Month is a time to come together and show our support for the LGBTQ+ community. It is a time to celebrate our diversity and to demand equality for all.

June Groups, Culture or Cause Recognized

All Month	National Caribbean American Heritage Month
All Month	LGBT Pride Month
All Month	Black Music Month
11	Race Unity Day
12	Loving Day
19	Juneteenth
1-30	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Day...



For more information about Pride Month, visit
<https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about/>



RECOGNIZE *Tammy Baldwin*

Tammy Baldwin has been a vocal advocate for LGBTQ rights throughout her career. She was the first openly LGBTQ person to be elected to the United States Senate, and she has been a leading voice in the fight for LGBTQ equality. Baldwin has introduced legislation to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. She has also spoken out against violence and harassment against LGBTQ people. Baldwin is a strong supporter of the Equality Act, which would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in all areas of life. She has also worked to pass legislation to improve the lives of LGBTQ people, including the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy and the passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Source: <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/>

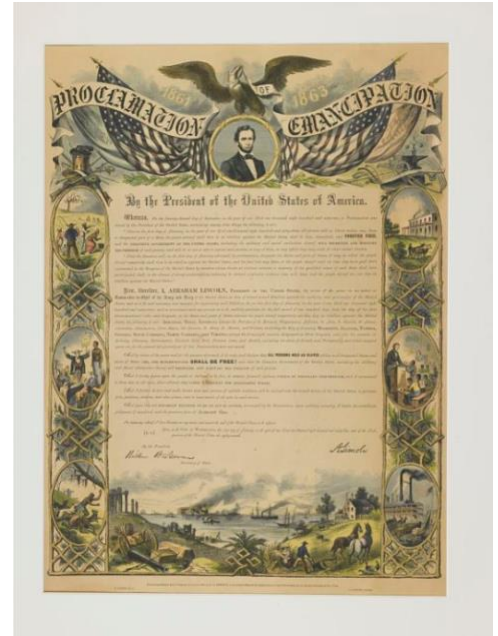
LEARN

What is significant about June 19th? History of Juneteenth

On “Freedom’s Eve,” or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the [Thirteenth Amendment](#) did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "[Juneteenth](#)," by the newly freed people in Texas.

Publishers throughout the North responded to a demand for copies of Lincoln’s proclamation and produced numerous decorative versions, including this engraving by R. A. Dimmick in 1864. The post-emancipation period known as Reconstruction (1865-1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office, push radical legislation, and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country.



Juneteenth marks our country’s second Independence Day. Although it has long celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans. The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a community space where this spirit of hope lives on. A place where historical events like Juneteenth are shared and new stories with equal urgency are told.

Source: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth>

ACTION

Local June Events & Celebrations

June 11th

Out and About with
Janesville Pride
Sun, 12 – 6 PM
Palmer Park, 2501 Palmer
Dr
Janesville, WI

June 22nd

Rock County LGBTQ+
Educational Summit
Thu, 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Blackhawk Technical
College, 6004 S County Rd
G, Janesville, WI

June 28th

Rainbow Resource
Fair (all ages)
Wed, 1 – 7 PM
Hedberg Public
Library, 316 S Main
St, Janesville, WI

June 15th

Comedy Cabin - Pride
Night
Thu, 7 PM
Comedy Cabin, 120 N
Crosby Ave
Janesville, WI

2023 Juneteenth Celebration

**June 17, 2023 @ 12:00
pm – 10:00 pm**
Telfer Park
2101 Cranston Rd
Beloit, WI

BRIEF RECAP: May 2023

OBSERVE

Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month was first celebrated in 1949. It was commemorated by the Mental Health America organization, which was then known as the National Committee for Mental Hygiene and later as the National Mental Health Association before it became its current name. Clifford Whittingham Beers founded the association.

RECOGNIZE

Lorenzo Lewis

Lewis devised a novel idea: Since African American boys and men had little access to therapy, why not bring it to them? The ideal setting for that therapy, he decided, was the barbershop, a “safe, non-judgmental space” where men could let down their guard and talk about anything. In 2016 he founded The Confess Project, a nonprofit based in Little Rock that trains barbers to be frontline counselors for clients who are depressed, traumatized, or even considering suicide.



Lorenzo Lewis

LEARN

What is mental health?

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

TRAINING

Rock County DEI Training Policy

All employees must complete two DEI training per year. There are a variety of diverse topics and training formats provided to all employees. Please note that one of the trainings must be from the County DEI list to fulfill your County DEI requirement, and one training can be from a community partner or outside DEI training (if it meets the DEI training requirements). New employees are only required to participate in one equity training within the year of their hire.