



MEDIA CONTACT:

Ilyse Strongin
(847) 432-6000 office
(312) 285-7702 cell

ilyse@ripplepublicrelations.com

CONNECT ONLINE:

<http://www.celebratehighwood.org>

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HIGHWOOD PRIDE FEST IS BACK IN PERSON AUGUST 14, 2021

10th Annual Event to benefit HPHS Spectrum Club & Haven Youth and Family Services

HIGHWOOD, IL (AUGUST 14, 2021) – [Celebrate Highwood](#) is pleased to announce it's 10th annual [Highwood Pride Fest](#), benefitting Haven Family & Youth Services and the Highland Park High School Spectrum Club, will be held in person again on Saturday, August 14 from noon to midnight. Recognized as one of the first communities on Chicago's North Shore to host a Pride Fest, Highwood Pride Fest brings together families and friends from all over to celebrate diversity.

This years Highwood Pride Fest will feature:

PRIDE ROCKS PICNIC

- **Noon-3 p.m.** - Family friendly "Pride Rocks Picnic" in Everts Park (111 North Avenue, Highwood) with activities including rock painting, sidewalk chalk, a visit from the [Lolli Bus](#) mobile candy shop,
- **Noon-1 p.m.** - "Werk the Runway" celebration where LGBTQ+ youth ages 2-18 looking to feel seen and supported will strut their stuff on the runway (sign up on site for with DJ Versage beginning at 11:30 a.m.),
- **1-3 p.m.** – Pride Rocks musical performance by School of Rock,
- Families are encouraged to bring picnic food, blankets and chairs.

DRAG SHOW (18+)

- **6-7:30 p.m.** – Enjoy the interactive Drag Show with five drag queens and a king at [28 Mile Distilling Company](#) (454 Sheridan Road, Highwood). Pick up your goodie bag at the [Windy City Dispensary](#) registration table. Pre Registration suggested. On site registration available.

TASTE THE RAINBOW PUB CRAWL

- **7:30-9 p.m.** – [Pazzo di Vino](#)
- **9-10:30 p.m.** – [The Toadstool Pub](#)
- **10:30-midnight** – [The Legendary Wooden Nickel](#)

END OF THE RAINBOW DJ & DANCE PARTY WITH DJ VERSAGE

- **10:30-midnight** – [The Legendary Wooden Nickel](#)

"After having to do a virtual Pride Fest last year, and honoring pride month this past June with the installation of Pride Flags on all the street poles throughout Highwood, we are so happy to be able to host it again in person," says DR Smith, Highwood Pride Fest Event Coordinator and Celebrate Highwood Board Secretary. "Highwood is an incredible community rich in diversity, love and acceptance for all and although we dedicate this one day to celebrate PRIDE, we embrace the LGBTQ+ community 365 days a year!"

Although Highwood Pride Fest is free to attend, participants are encouraged to show their support by pre-registering through the Highwood Pride Fest [web page](#) (www.celebratehighwood.org/highwood-

[pride-fest](#)): \$20 includes 18+ Drag Show, Taste the Rainbow Pub Crawl, End of the Rainbow DJ and Dance Party, and Goodie Bag or \$30 pre-registration includes the addition of a Highwood Pride Fest T-shirt (limited supply to first 150 registrants).

“We are so honored to be a beneficiary and an integral part of such a lovely celebration of diversity,” says DJ Kate Versage, Program Manager and IYIP Fundraising Coordinator at Haven Youth and Family Services. “Being unique and different is courageous and beautiful and our youth need to know we are here to celebrate their strength and individuality.”

Highwood initially honored Pride Month with the installation of new Pride Flags that were raised in May 2021. Pride Fest has traditionally kicked off Pride Month the first Saturday of June and the planning team hopes to reinstate this annual Fest in June of 2022, but pivoted this year due to COVID restrictions.

Many thanks to Highwood Pride Fest sponsors who are making this incredible event possible: [Freshie](#), [Leafguard](#), [M. Brad Slavin Farmer Insurance](#), [Mada Hitchmough Homes](#), and [Windy City Dispensary](#).

ABOUT PRIDE FEST BENEFICIARIES:

[Haven Youth & Family Services](#) helps youth and their families in crisis by offering specialized programs focused on prevention, intervention and private counseling. Haven collaborates with schools and other community agencies to counsel youth and to identify and prevent crises.

Highland Park High School Spectrum Club exists with the intent to promote acceptance of all people regardless of sexual orientation and to create a safe environment for all students. At Spectrum Club meetings, they discuss issues concerning straight and LGBTQ or gender identity and unity in the community.

For more information on the North Shore Pride Fest, be sure to visit www.CelebrateHighwood.org and follow Celebrate Highwood on [Facebook](#). A special thanks to event sponsors, [M. Brad Slavin Farmers Insurance](#), [Mada Hitchmough Homes of Baird & Warner](#), Highland Park and Step by Step Home Inspections, Inc.

ABOUT CELEBRATE HIGHWOOD

Celebrate Highwood is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity established in August 2016. Managed and operated by volunteers, our mission is to bring community together to raise funds for local and national charities. Through producing events that cater to the citizens, businesses and visitors of Highwood, our goal is give back, build strong community spirit, and establish Highwood as THE prime entertainment destination for dining, festivals and events on the North Shore.

For more information on all of Highwood’s festivals, please visit

www.CelebrateHighwood.org, www.facebook.com/celebratehighwood, or call 847-432-6000.

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