



2022 marks 50 years since the first organized pride events were held in Rochester!

Why does Rochester celebrate Pride in July?

There are actually over 50 events planned throughout the summer. However, the original Pride Parade in Rochester was scheduled for July to allow for people from other cities to travel to Rochester, and so Rochesterians could travel to other cities and attend their Pride parades and other events happening in June.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the events in Rochester scheduled throughout the summer to celebrate Pride Month!

OTHER IMPORTANT MILESTONES FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY IN ROCHESTER, NY

1983 - AIDS Rochester opens, developing over time to become Trillium Health in 2013

1992 - beginning of Rochester's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, soon renamed ImageOut

1992 - employees at Eastman Kodak launched the Lambda Network to educate leadership on the unique work needs of the LGBTQ+ employees

2020 - Rainbow Seniors ROC was established to help LGBTQ+ older adults live their best lives, connect them to the community and engage them in enjoyable activities



Lifespan Celebrates & Honors ROC Pride Month

OCTOBER 3, 1970 - BOB OSBORN & LARRY FINE START ROCHESTER'S CHAPTER OF THE GAY LIBERATION FRONT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

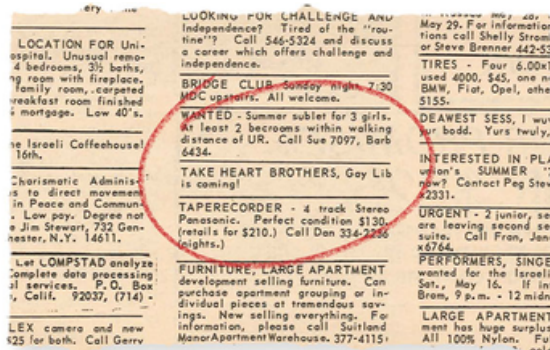
Bob Osborn and Larry Fine laid the groundwork for a meeting in Todd Union at the U of R campus that would officially launch the U of R's chapter of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF). This was the third campus in New York to open a chapter of the national organization (after Columbia & Cornell).

In January of 1971, the GLF published their first issue of *The Empty Closet*. Until June of 2020, it was the longest continuously published gay newspaper in New York State.

The Gay Liberation Front hosted its first event on May 16th, 1971. It was a 300+ person sit-in, that they named a "gay-in" at Genesee Valley Park. In 1972, it became known as the annual gay community picnic, with the first picnic happening on July 16th, 1972 organized by Patty Evans, Karen Hagberg, and Bob Crystal.

By the spring of 1973, the GLF launched other organizations in the community, the Gay Brotherhood, Gay Revolution of Women (later the Lesbian Resource Center), and others, which would unite under the umbrella of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. The first Gay Alliance picnic was held in Genesee Valley Park on July 20th, 1973.

On National Coming Out Day, October 11th 2017, the Gay Alliance unveiled its new name at a block party attended by more than 400 people. This marked the official rebranding of the Gay Alliance to the OUT Alliance, which closed its community center doors in 2020.



from the U of R Campus Times on May 8, 1970, submitted by student Larry Fine, co-founder of the Gay Liberation Front, Rochester chapter



ROCHESTER LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY RELATIONS & LEGAL MILESTONES

The first police liaison with the gay community was appointed in 1974.

The Gay Alliance purchased its Atlantic Avenue building in 1991 and was denied tax exempt status. The Alliance sued and the NYS Appeals Court ruled that the organization must receive equality under law.

The Rochester City Council passed a bill recognizing gay partnerships in 1994.

Beginning with the first LGBT couple in Rochester to seek and be denied a marriage license, the work began in NYS to gain marriage equality. On June 24, 2011 Lt. Governor Pataki announced that the marriage equality bill had passed.