

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ALERT/CALENDAR LISTING

**NEW PALTZ PRIDE MARCH & FESTIVAL 2006
SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 4**

**PRIDE EVENT OFFICIALLY UNITES UNDER
HUDSON VALLEY LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER
UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION**

**FIRST PRIDE 2006 COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETING
TO BE HELD FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3
AT NEW PALTZ TOWN HALL**

NEW PALTZ, NY -- The second annual New Paltz Pride March and Festival will be held on Sunday, June 4, it was announced today.

"We're starting June, the traditional month for gay and lesbian history, with the New Paltz LGBTQ Pride March and Festival," said event co-founder and co-chair Denise Jelley of New Paltz. "Last year, we organized the event in a mere two months. We're already at work on Pride 2006, to guarantee an even bigger and more exciting event."

Committee members scheduled Pride 2006 for June 4, in order not to compete with neighboring Pride celebrations in Albany and Rockland County.

The first community meeting for Pride 2006 will be held on Friday, February 3, at 7pm at The New Paltz Town Hall. All are welcome. The Pride Committee seeks volunteers for the entertainment, food, logistics, legal, media and clean-up committees.

"Taking part in organizing Pride 2006 and establishing the Community Center are a highlight of my life," said Stone Ridge resident Dr. Ted Hayes, 75, a former Southern Baptist minister. "When I was younger, I had to live a lie and hide who I was. It is gratifying to see the world move forward for all LGBTQ people who seek equality. There is still more to do, but our work here in the Hudson Valley is an important part of that progress."

Organizing Pride 2006 will be carried out in conjunction with the committee planning the establishment of the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center. This past October 25,

more than 200 local residents gathered in the Council Chambers of Kingston City Hall to learn of plans already underway for the proposed Center.

Last year, on June 12, 2005, the first New Paltz Pride March and Festival made history, co-founded by Ms. Jelley and her life partner Corinne Lesko. It attracted 1,000 people as marchers and attendees, including 30 academic, social and political groups marching under their own banners. New Paltz Mayor Jason West, who made international headlines in 2004 for presiding over the marriages of 25 same-sex couples, led the march and addressed the gathering afterwards in Hasbrouck Park. Also marching was Gilbert Baker, creator of the Rainbow Flag, the international symbol of gay and lesbian equality.

People who seek more information about volunteering for Pride 2006 should visit our website at www.newpaltzpride.org or call (845) 255-2465.

ATTENTION MEDIA: Pride co-chair Denise Jelley, volunteer Ted Hayes and Center chair Virginia Apuzzo are available for interviews. Please attend the February 3 meeting at New Paltz Town Hall at 7pm. Call our press attaché at (845) 687-2284.

CALENDAR ITEM - PLEASE RUN

Friday, February 3. 7pm. First planning meeting for New Paltz Pride March & Festival 2006. All welcome. People needed for all aspects of organizing event, to be held Sunday, June 4. Meeting to be held at New Paltz Town Hall on Route 32. For more information, visit www.newpaltzpride.org or call (845) 255-2465.

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