

# What to know about Saturday's Annapolis Pride Parade and Festival



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The Annapolis Pride Parade and Festival is coming back to downtown Annapolis for a fourth year this on Saturday.

Fashion designer and “Project Runway” winner Christian Siriano [will return to his hometown](#) as the parade’s grand marshal and keynote speaker.

“I am so excited and honored to be asked and be a part of it,” Siriano, 38, [told The Baltimore Sun in an email](#). “I really hope I’ll be able to be a voice for a new generation and for people to feel really welcomed and comfortable in Annapolis, which is always my goal when doing anything with Pride.”

The theme of this year’s event is “Anchored with Pride,” a nod to the Chesapeake Bay and its importance to the area, as well as “the feeling that you get when you can proudly stand in your pride, anchored by your community, your chosen family, and as unapologetically you,” said Joe Toolan, board chair of Annapolis Pride.

“We want to be sure that every member of the LGBTQIA+ community in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County feels welcomed, loved, accepted, and appreciated,” Toolan said in a news release. “That’s why this year’s theme is so important to us.”

Festivities kick off at noon Saturday with the Pride Parade, which will take a new route this year. Beginning at City Dock, the colorful parade will head up Main and West streets before ending on Amos Garrett Boulevard. Nearly 100 groups are expected to march.

A section of the parade route near the intersection of West Street and Amos Garrett Boulevard will be designated as a viewing area for people with disabilities.

In another change from last year, the festival will be held outside of the Maryland Hall for Creative Arts and the Bates Athletic Complex. Annapolis Pride organizers expect more than 160 vendors, artisans and community organizations to set up at the festival.

Siriano will give his keynote speech at 2 p.m. at Maryland Hall.

Festival headliner L. Rodgers, a Baltimore native and Americana/soul artist who competed on NBC's "The Voice," will perform after Siriano's speech. A former "American Idol" contestant, Rodgers has performed at Annapolis Pride for the past two years, and at the Songbird Festival in April.



Other acts set to perform at the festival include Priddy Music Academy, C. Rafter, Ariana Harbin, Emma Viivica, Naptown Sings & Plays, Zach Seals, RonShaye Clark and M.E.G.A. Dance Team, Laura Brino, Honey Sol, Naptown Brass Band, Cumbia Heights, Miss Annapolis Pride 2024 Jalah Nicole and DJ Fo4.

For the second year in a row, the festival also will feature a kid zone with face painting, a balloon artist, a moon bounce and a special passport program at Bates Athletics Complex.

### **Where to park**

All-day parking is available at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium for \$15, or \$30 for oversized vehicles. Payment is by credit card only. Enter through Gate 5 at 511 Taylor Ave. Annapolis Pride will offer a free shuttle to the parade and festival.

Additional parking is available at the city's parking garages.