

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Proprietors Rick Hembree and Harold Schwartz, desiring to provide a place for fun, friendship, and acceptance opened Club Escapade on December 18, 1999, at 133 West Main Street; and

WHEREAS, for over 25 years, they provided a safe space for the LGBTQ Community that was open to everyone. If you have been to Club Escapade and met Rick or Harold over these years, you were no stranger after that; and

WHEREAS, Rick and Harold were instrumental in creating the first Pridefest in Belleville and that event continues today. Their efforts to recognize and promote acceptance and equal rights for the LGBTQ Community led us to where we are today; and

WHEREAS, Club Escapade has consistently participated in downtown events, pub crawls, charity events, and festivals throughout the span of their business. They have given back to the Belleville Community freely throughout their over two and half decades in business; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patty Gregory, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois, do hereby join family and friends and proclaim December 16, 2024, as 'Club Escapade Day' in the City of Belleville.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed, this 16th day of December, 2024.

Patty Gregory
Patty Gregory, Mayor

Dated this 16th day of December, 2024

Pride in the Past . . . Promise for the Future

