

**Town of Amherst Community Diversity Commission  
2022 Calendar**

<b>JANUARY</b>		
<b>December 26 - January 1, 2022</b>	Kwanza	A celebration honoring African American Heritage
<b>January 4th</b>	World Braille Day	Celebration of human rights for blind and partially sighted individuals
<b>January 7th</b>	Orthodox Christmas	Christian holiday
<b>January 17th</b>	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	A day honoring the life and legacy of civil rights activist and Martin Luther King, Jr.
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
<b>Whole month</b>	Black History Month	Celebrates black history and African American culture.
<b>February 1st</b>	National Freedom Day	Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery in 1865.
<b>February 12th</b>	Tadeusz Kosciuszko's Birthday	A Polish army officer who provided leadership throughout the American Revolution and in a national insurrection in his homeland.
<b>February 14th</b>	Valentine's Day	
<b>February 15th</b>	Parinirvana Day (Nirvana Day)	A Buddhist holiday commemorating the Buddha's death/ when he reached the zenith of Nirvana
<b>February 15th</b>	Susan B. Anthony Day	A commemorative holiday to celebrate the birth of Susan B. Anthony and women's suffrage in the United States.

<b>February 20th</b>	World day of Social Justice	United Nations day to recognize efforts to achieve fair outcomes for all through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights at work.
<b>February 21st</b>	International Mother Language Day	Observed throughout the world since 2000, this observance promotes awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.
<b>February 22nd</b>	President's Day	A day honoring the presidents of the United States.
<b>February 28th and March 1st</b>	Isra and Mir'aj	An Islamic holiday that celebrates the night Allah took Mohammad on a journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and then to heaven.
<b>MARCH</b>		
<b>Whole month</b>	Women's History Month	This day honors women as significant agents of historical change.
<b>Whole month</b>	National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month	Calls awareness towards the inclusion and achievements of those with developmental disabilities in everyday life, as well as the challenges they still face.
<b>Whole month</b>	National Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month	Aims to spread awareness and education regarding the central nervous system disease known as multiple sclerosis, or MS, as well as to show support towards those affected by the disease.

<b>March 1st</b>	Shrove Tuesday	A Western Christian celebrating a day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. This holiday is also known as Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, and Carnival Day.
<b>March 1st</b>	Maha Shivaratri	A Hindu holiday celebrated on 13 <sup>th</sup> or 14 <sup>th</sup> day of the waning moon in the Hindu calendar.
<b>March 2nd</b>	Ash Wednesday	This holiday falls on the first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.
<b>March 7th</b>	Pulaski Day	It is a local holiday that commemorates and celebrates the birthday of Casimir Pulaski – a Polish soldier who contributed to the Independence of the United States and is often called the “father of the American Calvary.”
<b>March 7th</b>	Clean Monday	The beginning of Great Lent for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter, counting Sundays.
<b>March 8th</b>	International Women's Day	The celebration of the economic, political, and social achievements of women worldwide.
<b>March 16-17th</b>	Purim	A Jewish holiday, also known as the Feast of Lots, which marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.

<b>March 17th</b>	St. Patrick's Day	A Christian holiday which is a feast day of the patron Saint of Ireland. In the United States, a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish.
<b>March 17th (evening) – March 18th (evening)</b>	Holi	A Hindu celebration of the beginning of good harvest season, or spring.
<b>March 21st</b>	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	A call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

<b>March 31st</b>	Cesar Chavez Day	A Mexican holiday which honors the Mexican American farm worker and celebrates the contributions of labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez.
<b>March 31st</b>	International Transgender Day of Visibility	This day supports the right of transgender people to freely express and take pride in their identities while also raising awareness regarding the challenges and prejudice trans people continue to face.
<b>APRIL</b>		
<b>Whole month</b>	Arab American Heritage Month	Celebrates Arab American heritage, culture and contributions.
<b>Whole month</b>	Genocide Awareness Month	A month that marks important anniversaries for past and contemporary genocides. Throughout the month, individuals, communities and organizations join together to remember and honor victims and survivors of mass atrocities.

<b>Whole month</b>	Deaf History Month	A month celebrating the history, achievements, and culture of those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. This month used to be celebrated specifically from March 13th to April 15th but has recently been changed to all of April.
<b>April 2nd (evening) to May 2nd (evening)</b>	Ramadan (Muslim)	Occurs during the ninth month of the Muslim year, during which strict fasting is observed from sunrise to sunset. It is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.
<b>April 7th</b>	Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Rwandan Genocide	A day that memorializes the horrific 1994 genocide of the Tutsi people of Rwanda, in which an estimated 800,000 people were killed.
<b>April 10th</b>	Palm Sunday	A Christian holiday observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem
<b>April 14th</b>	Vaisakhi	A Sikhism and Hinduism holiday, celebrated as the occasion to transform the Sikhs into a family of soldier saints, known as the Khalsa Panth.
<b>April 14th</b>	Holy Thursday	A Christian holiday, also known as Maundy Thursday, is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.
<b>April 15th</b>	Good Friday	A Christian holiday, also known as Holy Friday in Eastern Christianity, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.

<b>April 15th (evening) – April 23rd (evening)</b>	Passover	A Jewish celebration that commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.
<b>April 17th</b>	Easter Sunday	Known as Pascha in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.
<b>April 22nd</b>	Orthodox Good Friday	A strict day of fasting for many Greek Orthodox Christians in the United States.
<b>April 24th</b>	Orthodox Easter	Orthodox Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
<b>April 27th (evening) to April 28 (evening)</b>	Yom Hashoah	“Holocaust Remembrance Day” memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.
<b>April 29th</b>	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	A day raising awareness regarding the consequences of chemical warfare and honoring those who have fallen victim to chemical warfare.
<b>MAY</b>		
<b>Whole Month</b>	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	It recognizes the contributions and culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.
<b>Whole Month</b>	Haitian Heritage Month	Haitian Heritage Month is a celebration in the United States of Haitian heritage and culture. It was first celebrated in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1998.

<b>May 1st</b>	International Worker's Day	Also known as May Day, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a workers' strike for an eight-hour work day.
<b>May 2nd (evening) to May 3rd (evening)</b>	Eid al-Fitr	The "Festival of Breaking the Fast" and is celebrated by Muslims worldwide marking the end of Ramadan. (Islamic)
<b>May 3rd</b>	World Press Freedom	Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.
<b>May 3rd</b>	Polish Constitution Day	This holiday celebrates the declaration of the Polish Constitution of May 3rd, .1791.
<b>May 8th</b>	Mother's Day	Celebration to all mothers and motherhood.
<b>May 21st</b>	World Day for Cultural Diversity	A day that recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange and creativity.

<b>May 26th</b>	Ascension Day	A Christian holiday, also known as Holy Thursday, celebrated 40 days after Easter/Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
<b>May 30th</b>	Memorial Day	A federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces.
<b>JUNE</b>		

<b>Whole month</b>	LGBTQ Pride Month	Commemorates the anniversary of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall riot in New York City, the incident that initiated the modern gay rights movement in the United States.
<b>June 5th</b>	Pentecost	A Christian holiday, also known as Whitsunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter/Pascha commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus. Marks the birth of the Christian Church.
<b>June 14th</b>	Flag Day	Flag Day is the day the country celebrates its national flag and holds events related to its flag, such as flag-raising ceremonies, displaying the flag on public buildings and in homes, as well as holding parades and salutes.
<b>June 19th</b>	Father's Day	Children of all ages show appreciation for their fathers and father figures.
<b>June 19th</b>	Juneteenth	Originally commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865, it is now celebrated throughout the U.S. to honor African-American freedom and achievement.
<b>June 20th</b>	World Refugee Day	Raises awareness about the plight of refugees and displaced persons.
<b>June 26th</b>	Anniversary Of Legalization Of Same-sex Marriage in the US	On June 26, 2015, in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges, the Supreme Court ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples.
<b>June 26th</b>	International Day in Support of Victims in Torture	Day of action calling to an end to the use of torture globally and to providing support to survivors.
<b>JULY</b>		

<b>July 4th</b>	Independence Day	It is the anniversary of the publication of the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain in 1776. Patriotic displays and family events are organized throughout the United States.
<b>July 9th (evening) to July 13th (evening)</b>	Eid-Al-Adha	An Islamic holiday commemorating of Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience of a command from God. Marks the end of the annual Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca).
<b>July 13th</b>	Dharma Day	A Buddhist holiday also known as, Asalha Puja, it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening.
<b>July 18th</b>	Nelson Mandela Day	This holiday was created to inspire people to embrace the values of democracy and contribute towards the ideals of ensuring a just and fair society.

<b>July 26th</b>	Americans with Disabilities Act Day	Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.
<b>July 29th</b>	Muharram	The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year. This first day, al-Hijra, remembers the migration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE.
<b>AUGUST</b>		
<b>August 7th (evening) to August 8th (evening)</b>	Ashura	An Islamic holiday consisting of a day of fasting observed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram to celebrate Moses' exodus from Egypt. For Shi'a Muslims, it also marks the climax of the ten-day Remembrance of Muharram, which mourns the martyrdom of Hussein at the Battle of Karbala

<b>August 9th</b>	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Celebrates the richness of indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination and denial of basic human rights.
<b>August 11th</b>	Raksha Bandhan	A Hindu holiday, also called Rakhi, this festival celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters.
<b>August 12th</b>	International Youth Day	Celebrates young people and the integral role they play in helping to create a world fit for children.
<b>August 21st</b>	Senior Citizen Day	Recognizes the many contributions older adults make in communities across the United States.

<b>August 23rd</b>	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	Memorializes the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition.
<b>August 26th</b>	Women's Equality Day	Commemorates the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote.
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
<b>September 15th - October 15th</b>	National Hispanic Heritage Month	Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

<b>September 5th</b>	International Day of Charity	Recognizes the role of charity in alleviating human suffering, as well as of the efforts of charitable organizations and individuals, including the work of Mother Teresa.
<b>September 5th</b>	Labor Day	Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.

<b>September 11th</b>	Patriot Day	This day honors the memory of those people killed in the September 11 attacks in 2001.
<b>September 17th</b>	Constitution and Citizenship Day	Commemorating the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787 and also honors all who have become U.S. citizens.
<b>September 21st</b>	World Peace	A day dedicated to working towards world peace, World Peace Day is the day that the United Nations General Assembly begins its deliberations each year.
<b>September 25th (evening) to September 27th (evening)</b>	Rosh Hashanah	Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.
<b>September 26th – October 5th</b>	Navaratri	A Hindu holiday consisting of a nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall.
<b>OCTOBER</b>		

<b>Whole month</b>	Global Diversity Awareness Month	A month that aims to increase awareness and acceptance of diverse cultures
<b>Whole month</b>	National Disability Employment Awareness Month	Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.
<b>Whole month</b>	LGBT History Month	Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in the United States.
<b>October 1st</b>	Start of Polish American Heritage Month	

<b>October 2nd</b>	International Day of Nonviolence	Marked on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of nonviolence, a U.N commemoration promoting the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding.
<b>October 4th – October 5th</b>	Yom Kippur	The “Day of Atonement” marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.
<b>October 5th</b>	World Teachers Day	Held annually to commemorate teacher organizations worldwide.
<b>October 7th (evening) to October 8th (evening)</b>	Mawlid Al-Nabi	The observance of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-Awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar.

<b>October 9th – October 16th</b>	Sukkot	A Jewish holiday that is a week-long “Feast of Booths” commemorating the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.
<b>October 10th</b>	Indigenous Peoples Day (Native American Day)	Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture.
<b>October 10th</b>	Columbus Day	Recognizes Christopher Columbus’s voyage across the Atlantic in 1492.
<b>October 10th</b>	Dia De La Raza, “Day of the Race”:	Celebrated in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.
<b>October 11th</b>	Coming Out Day	Encourages honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Commemorates October 11, 1987, when 500,000 people marched on Washington, DC, for gay and lesbian equality.
<b>October 17th</b>	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.
<b>October 22nd</b>	Feast of Saint John Paul II	October 22 was chosen as his feast day to remember the anniversary of the liturgical inauguration of his Papacy in 1978.
<b>October 24th</b>	Diwali	A Hindu holiday also called Deepavali, “Festival of Lights”, it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

<b>October 31st</b>	Reformation Day	A Christian holiday which commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517.
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		

<b>Whole month</b>	National American Indian Heritage Month	Honoring the history and culture of Native Americans and indigenous people in the United States.
<b>Whole month</b>	National Adoption Month	Adoptees, birth families, adoptive families and adoption professionals reflect on, educate and celebrate adoption practices.
<b>November 1st</b>	All Saint's Day	Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.
<b>November 2nd</b>	All Soul's Day	Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as Dia de los Muertos between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.
<b>November 9-10th</b>	Krisallnacht	Commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna.
<b>November 11th</b>	Veteran's Day	Honors military veterans and the U.S. Armed Services.
<b>November 11th</b>	Polish Independence Day	A National Day in Poland to commemorate the anniversary of the restoration of sovereignty as the second Polish Republic in 1918 from the German, Austro- Hungarian and Russian Empires.
<b>November 14th-18th</b>	American Education Week	Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child in the U. S. receives a quality education.

<b>November 16th</b>	International Day for Tolerance	Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call to action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.
<b>November 20th</b>	Transgender Day of Remembrance	Memorializes those who were killed due to antitransgender hatred or prejudice.
<b>November 25th</b>	Native American Heritage Day	Native American gathering of nations where over 500 tribes gather for three days to honor their culture.
<b>November 27th - December 24th</b>	Advent	Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
<b>December 1st</b>	World AIDS Day	International day of action on HIV and AIDS.
<b>December 3rd</b>	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity
<b>December 7th</b>	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Commemorates the attack on Hawaii in 1941, leading to the United States' involvement in World War II.
<b>December 10th</b>	Human Rights Day	On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

<b>December 12th</b>	Our Lady Of Guadalupe	A Christian holiday that celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.
<b>December 16th – December 26th</b>	Chanukah	Eight-day “Festival of Lights”, also known as Hanukkah, celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.
<b>December 24th</b>	Christmas Eve	A Christian celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.
<b>December 25th</b>	Christmas	A Christian holiday which commemorates the birth of Jesus.
<b>December 26th 2022 - January 1st 2023</b>	Kwanzaa	A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits (of the harvest)” in Swahili.