

Mum Parade • Updated on May 19, 2026

Theme: *"250 Years of Celebrating Our Story"*

Parade Information & Rules

Where to go:

DIVISION I will line up on Race Street (Floats: enter street from North Main St. before parade)

DIVISION II will line up on Valley Street between Center and Race streets (Floats: take Center St. to Valley)

DIVISION III will line up on N. Main St. between Center St. and Race St. (Floats: drive up North Main St. from the south, heading north towards Farmington Ave., to get into position.)

DIVISION IV will line up on N. Main St. between Farmington Ave. and Race St. (Floats: Bristol Police have advised us that because of the potential to disrupt traffic, floats will no longer be allowed to enter North Main St. from Farmington Ave. (U.S. Route 6). Please allow yourself extra time and patience to enter North Main St. from other roads. Our parade officials will help you get into position and facing the right way.)

Floats: be in parade position by 11:30 a.m. to be judged

All other participants: you must be in your position by **12:00 p.m.**, as the parade will step off at 1:30 p.m. sharp. No exceptions, unless cleared by Parade Commander. The parade will step off from the corner of Race Street and West Street (State Route 69) at 1:30 p.m. sharp.

The Parade Command Center will be at the corner of Race Street and North Main Street.

Buses: Park only by Center Street or at Centre Square (former mall site).

Float rules:

- All floats must have a total high of no more than 14.5 feet (to fit under streetlights).
- Float judging begins at 11:30 p.m. sharp. Floats not in place by that time will not be judged.
- Floats that win one of the top float awards will not be eligible for additional awards.
- In inclement weather, floats may be judged during the parade instead of beforehand.

General parade rules, for all participants:

- There is NO RAIN DATE. If the weather is horrendous (torrential rain, hurricane, blizzard, etc.) a decision will be made by 9 a.m. Note that the Mum Parade has rarely (if ever) been canceled due to weather, however. You may check the website www.BristolMumFestival.org or call the parade co-chairs (see the end of this letter) if you have any doubts on parade day.

General parade rules for all participants, *continued*

- All units and participants should check to be sure their own insurance covers them while participating in the parade
- Follow the instructions of the Parade Officials (wearing teal "Mum Festival" shirts) at all times. These officials will ensure a smooth and orderly lineup. Please consult a Parade Official when you arrive to be directed to your precise spot within the lineup. Consult one of these officials if you are in need of first aid.
- If emergency vehicles must get through the parade to attend to an incident, all parade groups and vehicles must pull to the right side of the road in order to provide clearance for the emergency vehicles.
- Do not throw candy or other items out to parade viewers along the route. This rule is nonnegotiable. This is not a new rule. Children have a tendency to run into the road to retrieve tossed items. Police may remove any unit that endangers children by tossing items into the crowd or onto the road.
- You may carefully hand out items along the parade route. Please remember to include that information when completing your online parade application.
- Float award plaques will be handed out at the same time the Float award signs are handed out on route. Bands/Musical Units will receive their awards directly after the parade on Sunday, at the **"Mum Festival Hospitality Center"** located on Festival Field, at approximately 4 :00 PM.
- No group, unit or individual should behave or perform in a manner that slows down the parade. Gaps in the parade are no fun for the audience. **Keep within 25 feet of the unit in front of your unit at all times.** The Marching Bands lead in g each of the four divisions should keep 100 feet between divisions, however.

Parade Route:

- The parade will **start on Race Street** in downtown Bristol.
- Turn left onto **West Street** (Route 69)
- Take a left onto **Laurel Street** (This is due to construction at the corner of Route 69 & 72)
- Take a Right onto **North Main Street** then straight onto **Church Street**
- Take a left onto **South Street**
- Take a left onto **Main Street**
- Take a left onto **Riverside Avenue Extension**
- Take a Right onto **Hope Street**
- Take a Right onto **North Main Street**
- **NOTES: The Grand Stand will be located on Main Street**, adjacent to the Associated Spring Plant/Bikers Edge. **The Parade ends on North Main Street**, so please use either side of the street for breakdown. There will be Mum Festival Volunteers there to guide you. All units should exit to Farmington Avenue once Division 4 is clear of upper North Main Street. Use both sides of North Main Street while waiting to exit parade. Please note, that Division 3 & 4 have swapped locations from years past, to allow for parade breakdown.

Awards to be presented:

I. Best Overall, Given in Memory of Bob Bailey: One award presented

II. Music and Marching Awards: High School Marching Bands (awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place); 1st Place, Senior Music; 1st Place, Junior Music; Dance Team (awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place)

III. Float Awards: Mum Parade Chairperson’s Award - (Best Use of Festival Theme), Mum Festival Chairperson's Award, Hometown Hero Award, Mayor’s Award, Best Business Entry and Best Youth (awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place), Best Live Flowers, Best Community (awards for 1st and 2nd and 3rd place)

The parade will air on Nutmeg TV on Comcast channel 95 in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville and the Farmington Valley. The parade will also stream live on the channel’s website at www.nutmegtv.org and be available there on demand, as well as YouTube. Please check the Nutmeg TV and Mum Festival websites for actual viewing times. We will also try and Broadcast with Facebook Live.

We are looking forward to a successful parade. Bristol is waiting to greet your group with a warm welcome. Let’s pray for sunny skies! We hope you have a great time and thanks again for joining us!!

Mum Festival Officials:

Parade Director, Dianna Tack - (860) 604-6095

Contact us anytime at: bristolmumparade@gmail.com



2023 Mum Festival Parade Route

1. Start at the top of Race Street
2. Left on West Street
3. Left on Laurel Street
4. Right on North Main Street
5. Straight on Church Street
6. Left on South Street
7. Left on Riverside Avenue
8. Right on Hope Street
9. Right on North Main Street

Parade Route Ends on the North Main Street as you turn the corner (red). Parade participants will disperse on either side of North Main Street up to Center Street. Exit right on Center Street or wait until roads are open to traffic after the Mum Festival Parade.