



PFLAG Woodstock and Starbucks Host Pride Event for Local Safe Employers

We are excited to announce that we will hold a PRIDE meet and greet at Starbucks in Woodstock at 526 W Reservoir Rd, Woodstock, VA on **Wednesday night June 4th from 4-7 PM**. There are several businesses in Shenandoah County who are LGBTQ friendly, both to frequent as a customer or to be an employee and feel that you are in a safe environment. Jacob Tellinghuisen, the manager at our local **Starbucks**, which is one of those businesses, reached out to PFLAG Woodstock again this year to celebrate PRIDE. This year we are going to gather some of those businesses together for a couple of hours to share the same space and share conversations as to how this community can advocate for those in the LGBTQ community of Shenandoah County, VA. Come and join us at Starbucks on June 4th and pick up some PFLAG swag and learn about our local LGBTQ affirming businesses that we love locally. For now, read about a few that are new and old to Woodstock and the area.



Bonfire Bookstore is owned and operated by one of our PFLAG Woodstock Steering committee members, Kara Balcerzak. Kara always wanted to own a bookstore and

now her dream is coming true. She also wants us to know that her store's core values is being a welcoming, inclusive, affirming space for LGBTQ+ people, people of color, and other folks marginalized and at risk in this current environment. She hopes that anyone in the community who seeks a safe space to connect with others



will come hang out in her store, whether or not you are buying books. Kara says, "In a time of increasing isolation and loneliness, I think sometimes just having a friendly face smile at you can be the thing to help you through the day. So, I want people to know they can always come grab a chair in my store and hang out. Bring your library book or knitting project and stay a while!"

Thanks, Kara! We will! Bonfire Bookstore's Grand Opening is June 6th and she has several activities planned around the opening that look like fun!

<https://www.bonfirebookstore.com/>



Another NEW business is **Black Rose Tattoo & Lounge**, which is also on Main Street in Woodstock, across the street from my bookstore and up a few doors! It is owned by two married women, Lindsay & Courtney Shea. On their website they talk about how they want to be a hangout spot for the community, whether or not you are there to get a tattoo.

Their website is here:

<https://theblackroseva.com/about>

Black Rose Tattoo's grand opening is on **Sunday, May 25**, and they'll be doing \$50 flash tattoos all day, so come out and support them!



Flour & Water Co.
<https://www.flourandwaterco.com/>

Staying on main street in Woodstock, we have to mention Flour & Water Co. which you will notice has the rainbow flag out front. Flour & Water Co. opened in 2019 and their tagline of sorts is, “the secret ingredient is LOVE, and butter at the Flour & Water Co.” PFLAG Woodstock, VA held our membership meeting at F&W last September and we love the bakery for all they do for the community but also for the breads and pastries that are so yummy!!!!



And we have a couple of hair salons in our area that are LGBTQ friendly....**The Leo Touch** and **Penny Lane Hair Co.** Both of these salons offer gender affirming cuts and safe spaces where you can discuss your needs without judgement.

The Leo Touch is currently located in Toms Brook, VA but are still excited to bring their salon home to Woodstock—right on Main Street! While the brick-and-mortar location is still in the works, they’ve hit a few unexpected bumps in the road related to the building itself, their official opening date is currently up in the air.

That said, they are still fully open and accepting clients in the Toms Brook location! Our mission remains unchanged: to create a safe, welcoming space—especially for members of the LGBTQ+ community—where everyone feels seen, respected, and celebrated.

No matter where they're located, they promise to continue offering the same privacy, safety, and inclusive vibes you’ve come to count on. They can’t wait to bring their flair to Main Street and be part of the vibrant Woodstock community in a more permanent way. Stay tuned, and you can find the booking and address in the link.

Penny Lane Hair Co. isn’t in Shenandoah County but is in Front Royal and they recently worked with Front Royal Pride to have a gender affirming hair day on April 13th. They offer haircuts from a menu that reflects titles from old Beatles songs. Maybe you need a Yoko Ono cut or a Mop Top Pixie. What a great idea for a shop and the best part is it is also a safe space for those in the OGBTQ community. Check out their [contact information in this link](#).

Take some time to visit these businesses and thank them for being an affirming space for all people!!!

Thank you to everyone that came out to play with us at the third Game Day last month. We love doing these and hope to have another one scheduled soon. And a special thanks to the UU church for letting us use that awesome space! We love it!



Keep an eye out for the next one. We have been offered the new Bonfire Bookstore as a possible location for our next one. This allows us to spread out our locations so others in the southern end will have a variety of spots to play.



Free Self Defense Class

Building a Supportive Community ⚠️

...one class at a time



FEMALES & LGBTQIA+
soldbytammyd@gmail.com



Free Martial Arts Classes

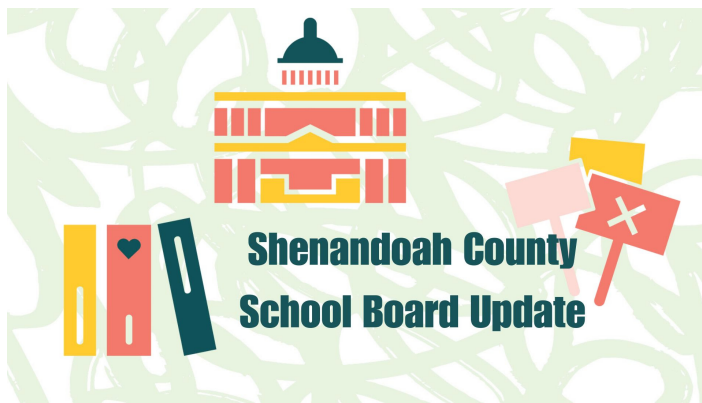
June 21st from 1:00-3:00 PM

We have the wonderful opportunity to present a free, 2-hour long self defense class for our local LGBTQ community! With the current climate being fostered by our federal administration, many in the queer community are feeling unsafe and have expressed a need for this type of training. If this applies to you, **please join us at the UU Church in Stephens City on Saturday, June 21 from 1-3 pm** to gain skills that will hopefully help you feel more empowered.

[Register here](#)

You can also email us at pflagwoodstockva@gmail.com





Shenandoah County School Board Update

At the May 2025 Shenandoah County School Board meeting the board amended policy INB to include a list of personnel who are authorized to speak to students who are seeking help regarding their own gender identity. While this change is a small net positive, it still retains the ban on teaching about gender identity that was passed in January. If you would like the details on what happened and the problems that remain with the existing policy you can get those in the podcast episode.

Linda Thomas-Fowler has been keeping up with our local school board and turns the updates into a wonderful video series and podcast she call The Spectrum. For the latest addition she gives us an overview of the latest policy vote and how that it will not only affect Shenandoah County but she shows how these policies are being presented and argued all over the country.

Watch Episode 17 Here

Get in touch with your school board members to express your views. Do, be polite but firm in your delivery. There is some indication that at least some members of the board are hearing us even if they aren't engaging very much. We need to keep up our efforts to help educate them and to help them see past the lies being told about transgender and nonbinary students. Here is the list of school board members and their contact info:

District 1

Dennis C. Barlow
Chairman

Phone: 540-820-8385

dcbarrow@shenandoah.k12.va.us

Term: January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2025

District 2

Thomas A. B. Streett

Phone: 540-975-1470

tastreett@shenandoah.k12.va.us

Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2027

District 3

Gloria E. Carlineo

Phone: 215-589-2000

gemarkus@shenandoah.k12.va.us

Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2027

District 4

Kyle L. Gutshall

Vice Chairman

Phone: 540-325-9656

klgutshall@shenandoah.k12.va.us

Term: January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2025

District 5

Larry E. Vance

Phone: 540-333-1696

levance@shenandoah.k12.va.us

Term Appointment: November 5, 2024 - December 31, 2025

District 6

Michael D. Rickard

Phone: 540-335-7389

mdrickard@shenandoah.k12.va.us

Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2027

Dr. Melody Sheppard

Division Superintendent

masheppard@shenandoah.k12.va.us

540-459-6222

#PFLAGProud

Let's Feed The Families in Shenandoah County with LOVE!

Last Month we began our campaign to collect donations to help those in the county who may be having food insecurity. Because we realize that some of the most essential parts of our national food safety net are at high risk, we have decided to keep this campaign open to continue collecting funds for a food specific use in the future. We will be exploring where unmet needs are intensifying. We have been discussing our options with different organizations in the county and want to grow this campaign a bit more before we take the funds out to help folks.

So, in the meantime, if you feel that you would like to add some funds to this account for future use with either individuals or another group in need of this donation, please add some money to this campaign. We will keep you posted as to what we are planning soon. Our intentions are to provide support and to also spread our mission within our community so that others know that we are here to help all individuals and not just those in the LGBTQ community.

Donate Here



VEECA PRIDE in the Arts Show



Calling all LGBTQ + artists:

To commemorate October as LGBTQ History Month, PFLAG Woodstock will be teaming with VECCA (Valley Educational Center for the Creative Arts) in Woodstock to showcase local LGBTQ+ artists. The VECCA gallery at 123 S. Main Street in Woodstock will host the show. The art can be paintings, sculptures, pottery, textiles, photography, poetry, music etc.

So get your creative juices flowing and plan to create art that represents you and the LGBTQ + community. Updates and more details are forthcoming from PFLAG and on the [VECCA website](#).

Upcoming Events

- May 25th, Grand Opening of [Black Rose Tattoo](#)
- June 1st: [Support meeting](#) for June 2025 at First Bank
- June 4th from 4-7 pm Safe Space Businesses at Starbucks....**everyone is welcome.**
- June 21st, [Self Defense Class](#) at Unitarian Universalist Church from 1-3PM
- July 26th [Front Royal Pride](#)

Want to be a part of PFLAG Woodstock VA as a volunteer or a member?

[You can sign up here!](#).....[And you can Donate Here!](#)

OR reach out to Susie Wilburn, she/her @ pflagwoodstockva@gmail.com

We hope you are having a good spring and are taking care of yourselves, and let us hear from you!



Susie Wilburn, she/herPresident,
PFLAG Woodstock VA
