



NEWSLETTER

September 2022



Greetings, Friends of PFLAG Leonardtown!

Fall is almost here!

September includes many important dates including National Suicide Prevention Week, LatinX Heritage Month, Bisexual Awareness Week, and Celebrate Bisexuality Day!

Be sure to join us this month on social media- it's going to be a very busy next few months, and you don't want to miss anything!

The first day of fall is Thursday, September 22- what are your favorite fall activities? We have a packed calendar for the next few months, be sure to check our social media pages and the calendar in this publication for more information!

Monkeypox Information

Please see the following communication from the St. Mary's County Health Department:

As we move into Phase 2 of the statewide roll out of the Jynneos monkeypox vaccine, the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) is now able to offer extended post exposure prophylaxis (ePEP) vaccines to individuals who meet certain criteria. Those criteria include:

- Self identified contact of a known monkeypox case
- Impacted community member with potential exposure in the prior 2 weeks, prioritizing those with history of immunocompromising medical condition
- At this time, [data](#) suggest that gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men make up the majority of cases in the current monkeypox outbreak. However, anyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, who has been in [close, personal contact](#) with someone who has monkeypox is at risk.

SMCHD will be offering an ePEP drive thru vaccine clinic on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 from 9:00am - 3:00 pm. Due to limited vaccine availability and phase 2 restrictions, we are able to offer pre-registration using this [link](#). Upon receipt of pre-registrations, we will notify those who meet eligibility requirements and invite you to schedule an appointment for the clinic on 9/14/22. If you are not offered an appointment for 9/14/22, we will keep you informed and be in touch as you become eligible in future clinics and phases of vaccine roll out.

The [Jynneos vaccine](#) is a two dose series vaccine, administered 4 weeks apart. It is administered intradermally, just under the top layer of the skin.

To learn more about monkeypox, please visit smchd.org/monkeypox

September 4-10 Is National Suicide Prevention Week

988: The National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline launched nationwide on July 16 and cities and states have already documented an increase in calls. But the launch has been criticized for a variety of reasons including a lack of local, in-person resources and an over-reliance on law enforcement and involuntary hospitalization.

Join us this Thursday, September 8 at 4:30 PM ET / 1:30 PM PT for *Something to Talk About Live!* where we will discuss "The 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline Is Live, but Are Call Centers Prepared?", an article by Andrea Rice that appeared in Healthline. We're excited to welcome to the conversation Doreen Marshall, Vice President of Mission Engagement at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and Preston Mitchum, Director of Advocacy & Government Affairs at the Trevor Project.

Join us live on Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, or Twitter.

To learn more--and to check out our discussion questions in advance--visit pflagnation.al/STTALive-090822

LGBTQ+ History Fair at Pride SOMD

PFLAG Leonardtown is hosting an LGBTQ+ history fair at this year's Pride Southern Maryland event!

The LGBTQ+ History fair is open to any student in a K-12 school in Southern Maryland. Participants will create a display focused on a specific person or event that has significantly impacted LGBTQ+ history. Pride attendees will vote for their favorite display and the top scorer in each category (elementary, middle, high) will win a prize basket! Parent/guardian permission is required. For more information, or to register online, visit our website or [this facebook post!](#)



#PFLAGVotes

It is so important to exercise your right to vote. Now, more than ever the LGBTQ+ community must be present, especially in our local elections. Every single one of those Supreme Court Justices started out as a local judge. Justice Thomas's written opinion shows desire to overturn other major civil rights cases such as Obergefell v. Hodges and Lawrence v. Texas, the cases that established the rights of same-sex couples to marry and that ruled anti-sodomy laws unconstitutional, respectively.

It's important to remember, that while Maryland currently protects many of these rights, as shown in recent gun legislation, Maryland can only continue to be a safe-haven of civil rights if we vote to keep it that way. As the general election nears, PFLAG Leonardtown will be sending out questionnaires to candidates regarding issues and publishing those responses.

Want to help create the PFLAG questionnaire? Have a question for a candidate but not sure how to ask? [Submit your question here!](#) [#PFLAGVotes](#)
[Resources](#)

Early voting for the general election begins on **Thursday, October 27th and runs for 8 days, ending Thursday, November 3rd from 7am to 8pm.** **General Election Day is November 8th.** Check your voter registration card or your [voter registration information online here](#) to find your polling location!

PFLAG National Resources

- **#PFLAGVotes:** Access tools to register, educate, protect, and mobilize voters.
- **I'm Voting Because:** Download your "I'm voting because..." card and share your #2022VotePlan
- **PFLAG National Advocacy:** Looking for advocacy tools and action alerts? This resource is for you!
- **Policy Matters:** Bi-weekly newsletter, sent every other Friday

Back to School Resources

Going back to school can mean different things for every child. For some, it's access to healthy food, a caring adult, and friends; for others it can mean confrontations with a bully, or concern about fitting in. Every child has the right to a safe, supportive, and inclusive education.

If you're looking for LGBTQ inclusive space in your school, but don't know who to reach out to, let us know and we can find out for you! Email us at pflag.leonardtown@gmail.com and we can find the inclusive and safe spaces. Together, we can help students feel safer at school.

Here are some other resources available for students and teachers:

[**American Foundation for Suicide Prevention LGBTQ Resources**](#)

[**PFLAG Resources**](#)

[**GSA & Student Resources**](#)

We are still looking for more board members and committed volunteers! If you or anyone you know is interested in helping us plan our events and keep this organization running please have them email us with a resume or short bio at pflag.leonardtown@gmail.com. We are very interested in family members, friends, and allies of the LGBTQIA+ community as board members, so don't be shy if you're not directly part of the community.

Yearly membership Dues for PFLAG Leonardtown run from October through September which means that it's time to renew your membership with us so you can stay up to date on what's going on and vote in our annual elections. We appreciate all of our members who continue to support our efforts to Educate, Support and Advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community in Southern Maryland. Thank you all!! Dues can be easily paid online through our website at: www.pflagleonardtown.org.



Pride is coming back to Southern Maryland!
Save the date for October 9, 2022! If you are interested in volunteering, sponsoring, or being a vendor at SOMD Pride's celebration please contact Tammy at pridesomd1@gmail.com or visit pridesomd.com

Monthly Peer to Peer Meeting Schedule:

Peer to Peer Meeting Info:

Youth: Wednesday, September 21st, 6:15-7:45 pm

<https://pflag-org.zoom.us/j/91414887638?pwd=U3dYOVRvZjRuRUxzR1NucUZUcGR0Zz09>

Adult: Wednesday, September 28th, 6:15-7:45 pm

<https://pflag-org.zoom.us/j/93985604384?pwd=VCtDMGN0eG96UUZxV21KULJEc2VRQT09>

Location: [HYBRID @ Waldorf West Library & Zoom](#)

Upcoming Events

September 10th - [Recovery Fest - Calvert Marine Museum](#)

Tuesday, Sept 13th 5PM - **Young Professionals Networking Happy Hour @ Brudergarten**

Friday, September 23 6PM - **LGBTQ+ Social Hour @ Port of Leonardtown Winery**

September 24 9-11 AM - [SMCHD Walk for Recovery](#)

September 29 6pm - **PFLAG Leonardtown Board Meeting**

October 6 6 pm - [Screening of No Straight Lines: The Rise of Queer Comics at Prince Frederick Library](#)

October 9 - [SOMD Pride](#) - Lexington Park, MD

Saturday October 15 11am - [Spooky Drag Brunch @ Taphouse](#)

Saturday, October 15 2pm - **Annual General Meeting & Board Elections**

October 19th 5pm - **October P2P & Halloween Hang** - Lexington Park Library

October 23 9am - [SOMD Suicide Walk](#) - *Keep an eye out for info to join our team!*

Keep an eye on our social media for more upcoming events!

Wishing you a happy and healthy month!

PFLAG Leonardtown

Family of The Heart

Need Help?

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/>

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

<https://itgetsbetter.org/get-help/>

Trans Lifeline : 1-877-565-8860

