

**CELEBRATING
5 YEARS
OF PRIDE!**

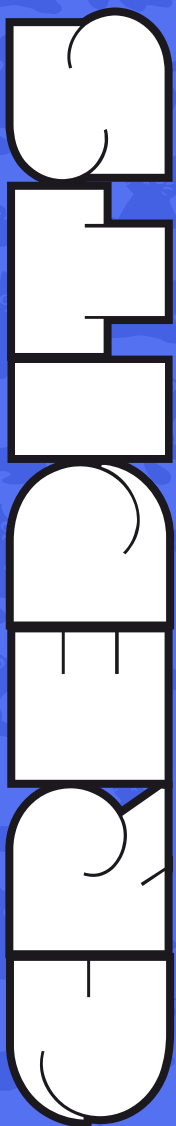
*What is
Pride to You?*



**Out
&
MSOUT**

BG  PRIDE

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Maeve's Corner

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This is a huge year for our community- we are celebrating 5 years of BGO Pride! With that, we explore the themes of Pride and what it means to each of us. Art, connection, growth, community, love, and so much more. Speaking of, we also celebrate the growth of the arts through the Transcendence Artist Coalition, our newest local organization for queer artists in and around BG. We're also stoked to be partnering with orgs such as the Wood County ADAMHS board, Visit BG, and the Wood County Humane Society for our Pride Season events! During a difficult time in our world on an international scale, it's heartwarming to see community come together in our local area. I'm proud of what is happening here, and I'm honored to be part of it. As you read the issue, you'll learn what else is happening and how even you could get involved. I also personally hope you enjoy the fresh new look! I spent some time playing around with the design, hoping to make it feel more vibrant and representative of our community. Happy Pride Season!

MAEVE GEORGESON (she/her)

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What is Pride to You?



Valerie Jenkins
Maeve Georgeson
Jules Reith

As we move into this Pride season, we reflect on the meaning of this annual festival. Its history, its purpose, its path forward. We also wanted to explore what it meant to the very community it serves- and so we asked around.

AND SO WE ASKED AROUND...

Jordan Musgrave is a familiar happy face around town. You may catch him working at our local Meijer, acting as the First Ward City Council member of Bowling Green, or serving as our very own President of BGO Pride. He was a founding member of the organization, taking a role as our first Secretary back in 2021.

Sandra De Steno, a well-known member of the community, is the executive director of United Way 2-1-1 of Greater Toledo. She's also

spearheading an initiative to establish a mutual aid network known as Communities Meeting Unmet Needs. She's been part of several queer groups in BG, and BGO Pride is a great continuation of that work.

Charlotte Reith has long been a resident of Bowling Green and a volunteer of BGO Pride. She is an avid climate advocate and a local artist.

WHAT DOES HAVING A BG PRIDE FESTIVAL MEAN TO YOU?

Jordan: Coming from such a small community in Bloomdale, OH, seeing such an event for people to be their true and authentic selves is incredibly inspiring for myself and other members of this community. Personally, I feel that it means the LGBTQ+ community is growing the awareness and visibility it so desperately needs.

Sandra: It means so much to me to see Pride happening in a smaller community like ours. For a long time, I went to larger cities to feel that sense of celebration and acceptance. Having Pride here sends a powerful message that you don't have to leave your hometown to be who you are. It creates a space where people can show up openly, connect with others, and feel proud of themselves and their community at the same time. As a lesbian and a parent, Pride is personal for me.



ART GROWTH
CONNECTION
COMMUNITY
JOY LOVE
HEALTHCARE
PROTEST
EUPHORIA
WHAT IS PRIDE
TO YOU?

It represents visibility, safety, and belonging. Supporting BG Pride is really about making sure people in our community *know they are welcome here and they matter*.

Charlotte: I think it's really great to have smaller-sized, locally-oriented Pride events in communities like BG. Smaller events can be more accessible to folks like me, who might be put out by the crowds of a larger festival, or who might not want or be able to travel. It's also really heartening to see a Pride event taking place in my community- it makes me feel powerful and welcomed.

WHAT IMPACT DO YOU THINK PRIDE HAS ON THE COMMUNITY?

Jordan: Like my personal beliefs, I think awareness and visibility is crucial for such a marginalized community. It's vital for both young and old people to join and gather a sense of belonging with like-minded folks.

Sandra: Pride brings people together in a way that builds understanding and connection. It gives LGBTQ+ individuals a visible place in the community and helps normalize conversations about identity, belonging, and acceptance. It also helps people who might feel isolated realize they are not alone. When I came out 25 years ago, it felt like I was the only queer person in BG. Finding groups of other queer people at that time was transformational for me. Beyond that, it shows that BG is a community that values inclusion and welcomes diversity.

Charlotte: I think having a local Pride event helps make the local queer community feel more accessible and visible to folks who may not be queer or have any queer folks in their life. It sends a message to others about the kind of community BG should aspire to be.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF PRIDE?

Jordan: My hope is for Pride to not only grow in size, but that it grows in solidarity with the citizens, organizations, and businesses in the area. I hope that it continues to be a beacon of light for

individuals who feel undervalued and underappreciated, and they can see that there is a place for them.

Sandra: My hope is that Pride continues to grow, especially in the sense of belonging it creates. I would love to see more families, more allies, more local organizations, and more young people feeling comfortable showing up and being part of it. Ultimately, the goal is that events like this help to create a community where everyone feels safe, respected, and supported every day of the year.

Charlotte: I'd love to see Pride improve and expand, while still keeping that "local" feel. I'd love to see improved barriers for crowd flow control at the entrances/exits, more food trucks, and more community services and artists.

HOW CAN FOLKS GET INVOLVED IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

Jordan: If anyone is interested in being involved with BGO Pride, visit our website or reach out at (567) 208-8933. We would love to have you!

Sandra: Just start! Community work does not have to be complicated. Volunteer for something you care about, attend local events, support local orgs, or *simply show up* for people around you. Communities get stronger when people bring their strengths- time, talent, or compassion. You don't have to do everything, but *doing something* makes a real difference.



Charlotte: You don't have to reinvent the wheel, and you don't have to go it alone. Look for a local organization that is doing what you want to see in your community (or close to it) and reach out to them to see how you can help. Opportunities come from anywhere, so keep yourself open to new ideas and networks.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT
BG PRIDE 2026
LATER IN THE ISSUE!**

ARTS

CHECK OUT THE NEW TINY GALLERY OF ART!

This installation, thought up by Jax Foster and brought to you by the Transcendence Artist Coalition, is housed just outside Grounds For Thought in downtown Bowling Green. Each month the gallery will host a new theme of artworks by local artists in our community. Follow along and get involved on Instagram at [@ebgtinygallery!](https://www.instagram.com/ebgtinygallery/)





Get Connected. Get Help.™

"211 is a free, confidential service that connects people to thousands of local health and human service resources. Whether you're looking for help with housing, food, utilities, or mental health support, their trained Community Resource Advisors are here 24/7 to guide you to the support you need.

You can reach a Community Resource Advisor by dialing **2-1-1** (or **800-650-HELP**), through internet chat, or by **texting your zip code to 898-211.**"



If you need help, don't be afraid to reach out and ask for it! You can check our website for even more resources at bgopride.org.

SUPPORT BGOPRIDE

*When you give to **BGOPRIDE** you give to a whole community.*

We don't just run the annual BG Pride festival - though it is, like, our main thing. We also provide events throughout the year to help foster community. These include things like drag shows, mixers, clothing swaps, art pop-ups, and more. We're hoping to keep expanding, too.

And we need your support! We need funds to rent venues, hire performers, get insurance, and so on. Even a dollar adds up and provides support, so check out our website and sign up to donate a small amount each month.

All that we do is only made possible by our sponsors and community members like you. **Thank you!**



FEATURED RESOURCE

EVENTS

Pride Season is in full swing!

We're excited to be hosting a new event each month, starting with the Sit, Stay, & Slay! drag show fundraiser in collaboration with the Wood County Humane Society. Then we're collabing with Transcendence Artist Coalition for Colors of Love, a Pride Art Pop-Up. And you wouldn't want to miss the biggest Pride Kick-off Party ever.

View our full calendar:





Bowling Green PRIDE

JUNE 27TH | 11 AM - 4 PM

WOOSTER GREEN

- ◆ DRAG PERFORMANCES ◆
- ◆ KIDS' GAMES ◆ FOOD TRUCKS
- ◆ VENDORS & MORE! ◆



LOCATED AT THE WOOSTER GREEN

- 11 AM - COMMUNITY STAGE
- 12 PM - OPENING CEREMONY
- 1 PM* - FIRST DRAG SHOW
- 3 PM* - SECOND DRAG SHOW
- 4 PM - CLOSING TIME

*Subject to change. View our site for latest details.

A few short years ago a group of friends got together at Grounds For Thought, thirsty for more than just coffee. They dreamed of art, connection, growth, community, love. They dreamed of Pride- right here in our own college town of Bowling Green, Ohio.

Today, we celebrate that dream, and we come together as a community to honor it. We are proud and honored to continue to host the annual BG Pride festival. It's bigger, better, and brighter than ever. **Everyone is welcome here.**

Our festival hosts over 50 vendors and nonprofit partners, connecting guests to a wide range of resources and products. We're also excited to feature our first ever Community Stage with local musicians and performers, followed by two drag shows. It's an event you will not want to miss.



Whether it's your first ever Pride or your 30th, we can't wait to see you there. Join us as we celebrate a whole community.

Keep updated and learn more at:
bgpride.org/pride



**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME HERE.**

