



Pride Picnic update and volunteers needed!

Things are progressing well for the 2005 Erie Pride Picnic. We are still looking for volunteers to staff 1 hour shifts at both the registration table and the kitchen area. You can sign up for this by either calling Mike Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or when you register online for the Pride Picnic at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php>.

Businesses and organizations that would like to donate a small door prize should also contact Mike. We have thank you cards for picnic attendees to sign near the check in table.

We are very proud that the Pride Picnic has been growing since it first started 13 years ago. It is a fun and friendly event that everyone is welcome to enjoy.

For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com

—by Mike Mahler

Business Expo at Trance on Saturday, July 9

The Erie Networking Group will be holding their first Business Expo at Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA on Saturday, July 9 at 3 PM. We are currently looking for GLBT and GLBT-friendly businesses and organizations that would like to outreach to our community. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Brian at glbterie@aol.com or Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

We also are inviting our community to attend. We think that this is an exciting way for businesses and the community to make contact.

—From Erie Networking Group

Fall Gay Pride 2005

Hi everyone, we're working on the plans for Gay Pride 2005! Mark your calendars! Okay, with what? Well, we're looking for your ideas... With everything from the date [mid-September to early October?] to what goes on. So far, thoughts have ranged from having a march to Perry Square with a rally, a reprise of the Drag Queen Bingo, Dykes vs. Drag Queen Softball, a Drag Show, Midnight LGBT movie night, dance parties, a featured speaker, and a Tea Dance on Sunday, etc. What would you like to see at Fall Gay Pride 2005? Let us know at eriegaypride@yahoo.com or (814) 602-0252. We'll let you know what people write in with and will have more definite plans in the July newsletter. Fabuleusement le vôtre, Dan Burdick, Fall Gay Pride 2005 Coordinator

-from Dan Burdick

New men's support group

Starting new Gay Male Support Group. Call Maximilian at (440) 265-9179.



Deirdre doing registration at the 2004 Pride Picnic at Presque Isle.

More community news on page 4!

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Erie Gay News
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 www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: MAL
Deadline: the 15th of each month.

The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people (GLBT's), their families, friends & supporters in the Erie and NW PA Area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments and opinions of interest to local GLBT's for publication in these pages. We will consider for publication any nonfiction article, blurb or illustration graphic which upholds this spirit. Please include your contact information with any piece that you submit.

We will not publish any material which promotes hatred or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identification, race, religion, age, class, physical ability or any other reason. We do not support the exploitation of minors.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication don't necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.

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Thank You:

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PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

Support, Education, Advocacy
 for GLBT People, their families and friends

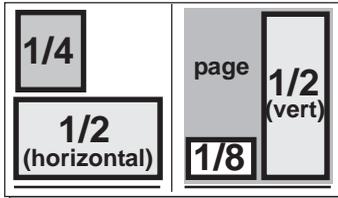
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pflagerie@eriegaynews.com

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Transgender Coordinator

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The Oasis Patio Bar is Now
going to be Open All
Summer on Saturdays
Starting at 4 PM
with Happy Hour
Drink Specials.
Cum as you are.
Enter at Front Door.

Friday, May 27th

Our own Melody
will join us to kick off
the Memorial Day
Weekend.

Saturday, May 28th

We're having a cook-out
starting at 4 PM on the
Oasis Patio Bar – cum in your
bathing suits from the beach.

Monday, May 30th

Eat – Drink – and be Mary
The cook-out Part two
will start at 4 PM.

Friday, June 3rd

2 Special Appearances
from Cleveland's
Club Bounce-

**the Outrageous
Jheri Michaels!**

Friday, June 11th

The Prom-Bring a Date
or go Stag. Looking for a
Prom King and Queen
Girl in Boy Drag
Boy in Girl Drag.
This ain't no hetro nite!

Friday, June 17th

**OUR FIRST TRANCE
DIVA PAGEANT!**

Who will be the First
Reigning Diva? To become
a contestant see Lee.
Our Theme is Fantasy.

Saturday, June 25th

Come Celebrate Gaynicity
with us at Trance
After the Gay Pride Picnic!
Be Here! Be Queer!

Saturday, July 2nd

Celebrate the Weekend
of the 4th with
"Jenny P" from Cleveland's
own Club Bounce

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Mondays Video Night with \$1.50 Domestic

Tuesday Video Night with \$1.50 Well Drinks 75¢ Draft Beer until Midnight

Wednesday Captain Morgan/Parrot Bay \$1.50

Thursday R&B Night Well Drinks \$1.50

Friday and Saturday \$1.00 Shooters and Jello Shots

(continued from cover)

Resource Directory Update

We have had a pretty good response to our Resource Directory update. The changes we have received thus far have been posted to the online Resource Directory at the Erie Gay News web site, and can also be used for a print version of the Resource Directory that the Erie Networking Group will be doing.

If you have not responded yet, or wish to be included, we need to hear from you ASAP! You may either mail the form to 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA, email info@eriegaynews.com or fill out the online form at www.eriegaynews.com/resaddrq.php

Visible 2005 Art Show

Attention all artists!

The Niagara Arts & Cultural Center and Pride Buffalo, Inc are proud to announce "Visible 2005" the first annual exhibition of an LGBT art show in Niagara Falls, NY.

The exhibition will run from June 18 - July 17 in our Garden Gallery. The N.A.C.C. is a nonprofit organization. It began as a grassroots organization of artists who saved an historic high school building from demolition to make way for a shopping plaza.

It is now home to over 75 artist studios, 2 theaters, 2 galleries, a coffee shop and an Internet cafe. It is the 2nd largest amount of artists under one roof in all of New York State!

"Visible" is an exhibition which serves to spotlight the works on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered artists in the region. By proudly displaying the products of our creativity, hard work, and skill we hope to create VISIBILITY of GLBT artists in the larger community.

We are also looking for live musical entertainment for the opening reception, volunteers for bartending, and volunteer host/hostesses. The Opening Reception will be held Saturday, June 18th from 7 - 11 PM and will include Wine & Cheese, Beer, Soft drinks, hor d'ouerves and live music. In addition, we will showcase Gay & Lesbian history with memorabilia in the hallways.

Info: <http://www.thenacc.org> (716) 282-7530

—from *Andrea Galey*

Lambda Car Club

If you own or have an interest in antique/classic cars, consider joining the Lambda Car Club, a national organization of LGBT people interested in such vehicles. The Lambda Car Club has chapters throughout the US and Canada, the closest one to Erie being the Finger Lakes Region serving western New York. The group conducts outings and holds events throughout the year. The Finger Lakes Region will be holding an antique car show Sunday, July 10, as part of the Rochester Gay Pride Picnic. For more information, contact Bob at 456-9643 or nwpa505@hotmail.com.

—from *Lambda Car Club*

Now serving: Wine & Cocktails!

Findley Lake, NY—What's new in Findley Lake this year? In November 2004, residents in the Town of Mina, better known as Findley Lake, NY, voted to end the 68 year ban on the service of wine & alcoholic beverages. What does this mean to the average (or above average as the case may be) girl or guy about town? Your favorite restaurants will be able to serve wine and cocktails once they've obtained a license from the New York Liquor Authority.

The Blue Heron Inn, located on Main Street, filed the first license application which was approved on May 11, 2005. In order to comply with Liquor Authority regulations the Blue Heron embarked on a major renovation project which includes the addition of a 2nd bathroom, a separate entrance for lodging guests, the creation of a front porch "Pub" and the addition of a new deck that serves up a panoramic view of the lake.

In addition to serving breakfast and lunch the Blue Heron will begin serving dinner to the public on weekend nights this summer. And many shops plan to add evening hours so visitors can stroll on and around



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716-769-7474 New Artists Welcome

Main Street after dark! So come visit the “new” Findley Lake this season — perfect for a day’s visit or an overnight stay! *For more information please contact Blue Heron Inn at 716.769.7852, stay@theblueheroninn.com or check out the website: www.theblueheroninn.com*

—from Blue Heron Inn

Crime Victim Center Book-It Sale

The Crime Victim Center will be accepting used books, tapes, CDs, videos, games and puzzles during the month of June for their Fifth Annual *Book It!* - a fundraising event to benefit the thousands of men, women and children who are victimized each year in our community. *Book It!* will be held August 13 at the Center, 125 West 18 Street, in the plaza by The Zone. For more information, call (814) 455-9414.

—From the Crime Victim Center

Queer Pop Art Show in Cleveland

There is still time to check out the Queer Pop art show that runs until June 11 at the Lesbian/Gay Community Center of Greater Cleveland, 6600 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland Ohio. Features works by Dott Schneider, David Huffman, Megan Schaab, William Schwartz, Liz Bowman, Jay Krevens, Joan of Art, Jennette Zimmerman, Ron Jones and Chris Sweiger. (216) 651-LGBT or www.lgcs.org/queerpop.html

—from Wild Plum Productions

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At Presque Isle

1PM to 6PM

Food Served From

2PM to 5PM

Family Portrait at 4PM

Games! Food!

Full kitchen

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Bike Rental

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*Across from Beach,
near Waterworks Cabins*

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!!!**

This year we are asking for volunteers to serve 1 hour shifts in the kitchen and at the registration table! If everyone pitches in, then everyone gets to enjoy the day and not be inconvenienced.

Please contact Mike Mahler about volunteering. It's also a great way to meet people and make friends. We are also encouraging folks to preregister online for the Pride Picnic.



For more information call:
814-456-9833



email info@eriegaynews
visit <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>

State law prohibits alcohol at the Park.

Calendar

This calendar is also online at www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html

May 26 - Erie Gay/Straight Alliance at Aroma's Coffeehouse 2174 W 8th St, Erie, PA "Join us for coffee and chat." Email: phobbs101@aol.com. Call Parris at (814) 825-2669.

May 27- Performance: Melody Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA "Our own Melody will join us to kick off the Memorial Day Weekend." Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com.

May 28 - Cook-out on the Oasis Patio Bar at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 4 PM. "We're having a cook-out starting at 4 PM on the Oasis Patio Bar- cum in your bathing suits from the beach." Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Web: www.trancedanceclub.com.

May 29 - Zone's Party Bus to the Pittsburgh Gay Picnic! 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA "Hop on board as we start the party early! Grab your friends and let us be your designated driver so you can have a good time! Reserve your tickets early because only a limited number of seats are available! Tickets available at the bar. Wear your Zone T-shirts and represent Erie! Please don't drink and drive—be safe! Come with us!" (814) 452-0125.www.thezonedanceclub.com.

May 29 - Pittsburgh Memorial Day Festival South Park Fairgrounds, 1900 Brownsville Rd, South Park, PA 11 AM. PLEASE NOTE! New day and location!! "Just think, you don't have to call off or play hooky on Tuesday to benefit Steel City Softball League. Sponsored by the Delta Foundation. Pre-Sale tickets \$20, gate admission \$25. 21 & over/ID required. Tickets can be purchased in the Erie area at The Zone. Live Entertainment, Country Line Dancing, Club Dancing with several local DJ Favorites, The Dunking Booth, Bar Wars & all the yummy food, snacks, and of course, beverages!." For directions or other info, call, email or check the website. (412) 683-7676 ext 3. Email: MemorialDayFestival@comcast.net. Browse to www.members.aol.com/scslpgh.

May 30 - Cook-out Part Two at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 4 PM. "Eat - Drink - and be Mary. The cook-out Part two starts at 4 PM." Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email:

lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jun 1 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie, PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Jun 3 - Miss Erie Pageant 2005! - Fire and Ice at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Join us as we crown the new Miss Erie! Hosted by Miss Angelica Redd. An Elegant Evening of Entertainment!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jun 3 - Performance: The Outrageous Jheri Michaels at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. "We are thrilled to present from Cleveland and Bounce - the Outrageous Jheri Michaels. 2 Special Appearances" Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jun 3 - Vertigo Party (Butler, PA) Lyndora Firehall, 114 Whitestown Road, Butler, PA. www.webspawner.com/users/vertigo.

Jun 4 - Menspace meets Marshall and Tom's, 4304 Harding Drv, Erie, PA. 7:30 PM. PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE! Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jun 4 - Youngstown Pride Center Garden Party (Youngstown, OH) Dancing, \$5 includes dinner. For tickets and info: Phil Johnston (330-792-8289) or Tom Copeland (330-793-5154)

Jun 4 - 100+ Family Garage Sale at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA 9 AM - 3 PM. The church is located 1/2 mile north off Exit 27 on I-90 and ap-



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Calendar

proximately 2 1/2 miles south of the zoo at W 38th & Perry Hwy. Numbers at the door at 8 AM. There will be tools, pools, dishes, toy fishes, shirts, skirts and even sinks and drinks. The list is endless. To donate items call Deb at 459-2332. Contact: Deb. Phone: (814) 459-2332. Email: uerie@juno.com.

Jun 6 - LEAD meeting Emmaus Soup Kitchen, 218 E 11th St, Erie, PA. 7:30 PM. Progressive politically-involved folks. Contact: Brit Holmberg. Phone: (814) 459-3536. Email: bholmberg8@yahoo.com. Browse to www.erielead.org.

Jun 8 - 'The Guys' get together at Moonsense 5442 Peach St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together to hang out at this local coffeeshop Contact: Michael Mahler. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jun 10 - Live band at Rascals: Two for Flinching (Jamestown NY) 9 PM - 2 PM, \$4 cover. 80s and 90s music. 710 N Main St (716) 484-3220.

Jun 11 - The Prom (Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Bring a Date or go Stag. Looking for a Prom King and Queen Girl in Boy Drag Boy in Girl Drag. This ain't no hetero nite! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Jun 11 - Sabrina & Co at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 710 N Main St (716) 484-3220.

Jun 13 - PFLAG-Erie/Crawford meets Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Contact: Maureen. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com.

Jun 14 - Support group for those dealing with loss Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie,

PA. 7 PM. Also meets Jun 16 at 10 AM. Phone: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net

Jun 15 - Deadline for July 2005 EGN.

Jun 17 - First Trance Diva Pageant at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. To become a contestant, see Lee. Our Theme is Fantasy. Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>

Jun 18 - Bird's and Bee's Underwear and Pajama Party at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Find out what your mother never told you about the birds and the bees! Spring has sprung and its time to strip out of that cocoon and spread your wings! Wear FUN boxers, *sexy*lingerie, or *cute* pj's- *Prize* for sexiest outfit! Dress as a butterfly or bumblebee! Join your friends and fireflies as we dance the night away in our Secret Garden! How big does *your* garden grow? Fly into the New Zone!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Jun 18 - Performance: 2 Girls Alone at Two Friends Italian Market 25 E 10th St, Erie, PA. 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM. Phone: (814) 461-9666. Email: twogirlsalone@att.net.

Jun 19 - Gay Day at Cedar Point, unofficial event, unsponsored event at the amusement park near Sandusky is every Fathers Day when the crowds are thinner; wear red or rainbow colors, www.firelandspride.org, <http://ajw.freeshell.org/sanduskygaypride>

Jun 25 - 13th Annual Pride Erie Picnic Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle Erie, PA. 1 PM - 6 PM. Annual family/community Pride Picnic. Burgers, hot dogs, buns provided. Please bring a dish to pass. You can preregister for the event at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php> and read more about the event at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>. *Volunteers to work 1 hour shifts with kitchen help and registration help are needed!* Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Jun 25 - Post Picnic Party (Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Come Celebrate Gaynicity with us at Trance after the Gay Pride Picnic! Be Here! Be Queer! Contact: Lee. Phone: (814)

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Calendar

456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Jul 29 - 'The Guys' get together at Moonsense 5442 Peach St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together to hang out at this local coffeeshop Contact: Michael Mahler. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jul 2 - Indepen-Dance Daze at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. "Celebrate the good ole' USA at our 6th annual Independence Day Party! Wear red, white or blue! Dress as Uncle Sam, Lady Liberty or wear fun patriotic boxers! Parade on in and dance under the fireworks on the dance floor as we light up the night! American Pride! - Gay Fun! Get into the Zone!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Jul 2 - July 4 weekend at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. "Celebrate the weekend of the 4th with 'Jenny P' from Cleveland's own Club Bounce." Contact: Lee. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jul 3 - Pittsburgh Boat Cruise Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA. "Boarding time 4:30 PM til 4. Leaves at 5 PM, docks at 8:30 PM. Party til 9 PM. Tickets \$20 in advance. Tickets available at the Zone, 133 W 18th St, Erie and all Pittsburgh local bars. Tickets are \$25 (if available) at the boat.

Jul 6 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie, PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Jul 9 - GLBT/Friendly Business Expo at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 3 PM Sponsored by Erie Networking Group. For more info, contact Brian at glbterie@aol.com or call Michael

Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Jul 11 - PFLAG-Erie-Crawford meets Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com.

Jul 15 - Deadline for August 2005 EGN.

Jul 16 - Combined 10% Network and Menspace meets (Greg and Jim's, 20996 Kightlinger Rd, Venango, PA) Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jul 20 - 'The Guys' get together at Moonsense 5442 Peach St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together to hang out at this local coffeeshop Contact: Michael Mahler. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Aug 6 - Menspace meets at Bruce's (Bruce Walker's, 1408 Evans City Road, Evans City, PA) 4 PM. Monthly men's social group Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Aug 6 - Fundraiser for PFLAG at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 8 PM - 10 PM. See PFLAG article page 15. Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Aug 21 - Pride Pier (Buffalo NY) Buffalo's big summer bash www.pridecenterwny.org

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On stage

Selected area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

Now till June 25

The Mystery of Irma Vep at Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA. by Charles Ludlum, starring Jeff Rodland and Brian Altman who will be playing all the roles both male and female. Ludlum was the artistic director of the infamous Ridiculous Theatre Company in New York. The troupe was known for producing hilarious farces, often written by Ludlum, and always casting men in drag in all the female roles. Performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturdays evenings at 8 PM, May 21 - June 25, 2005. The production will be directed by Brad Harrington (814) 456-5656. www.goerie.com/roadhouse.

The Secretaries presented by Five Lesbian Brothers. At Cleveland Public theater www.cptonline.org/

May 25

Sarah McLachlan "Afterglow Tour 2005" May 25 at the Mellon Arena 66 Mario Lemieux Place Pittsburgh www.mellonarena.com/

June 5

Performing at Buffalo Pride: Suzanne Westenhofner, Songwriter/performing artist **Ember Swift**, **Buffalo Gay Men's Choir**, and **Universal Grille Band** Main Stage and more! Buffalo Pride www.pridebuffalo.org

June 9-11

Judy Gold at JR'S Last Laugh (CANCELLED?) 1402 State Street, Erie (814) 461-0911. Judy's publicity people tell us "we are being told the show is cancelled," but her dates are still up on JR's website, and we can't find out what's going on at that end. Probably best to just contact JRs as the date approaches. Judy's website is at www.judygold.com

Jun 11

Queer As Folk: The Ancient Babylon Tour comes to Cleveland, at The Grid www.thegrid.com "DJs include Superstars Abel, Manny Lehman, and Roland Belmares. Each tour date showcases 'Ancient Babylon' inspired décor and performances by Miami's RKM. Fans get to live the Queer As Folk experience first

hand by partying with the show's actors who will make guest appearances throughout the Tour." <http://www.ancientbabylontour.com/>

June 16-26

Pittsburgh Pride Theater Festival, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Co. 542 Penn Ave. in Pittsburgh's Cultural District Box Office (412)288-0358.

June 17

Sleater-Kinney, Dead Meadow Beachland Ballroom, Cleveland, OH www.beachlandballroom.com

Jun 17-18 - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus Presents "Fearless" (6/17 at UU 695 Elmwood Avenue and 6/18 St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral 128 Pearl St.)

June 19

Cyndi Lauper at Seneca Niagara Casino, Niagara Falls NY. www.senecaniagaracasino.com

Jun 25

North Coast Men's Chorus presents Michael Feinstein Allen Theatre at Playhouse Square in Cleveland. "Celebrate Pride with a festive performance of the North Coast Men's Chorus and special guest artist, Michael Feinstein. Gershwin, Porter, Berlin... and Cole. What an evening this is gonna be!" www.ncmchorus.org

Websites and email lists for area performers:

Jocelyn Porter Project

www.jocelynporterproject.com

Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com

Two Girls Alone <http://twogirlsalone.iuma.com> *email list:* twogirlsalone@att.net.

Bethany J. Robson, CSW-R

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Pride events

June 3-5 - Pride Buffalo Fabulous, the all day party (June 3) Dyke March (June 4) Parade & Celebration (June 5) www.pridebuffalo.org/

June 18-Cleveland Pride Voinovich Park www.clevelandpride.org/

June 18 - Pittsburgh Three Rivers PrideFest Parade 11:30 AM downtown. Festival at Riverfront Park (on the scenic North Shore) "Please join us as we celebrate our lives and our loves and work to fulfill our hopes and our dreams as expressed in this year's theme: 'Equal Rights — No More, No Less'" www.glccpgh.org

June 18-Pride Hamilton www.gay905.com/hamiltonpride/events.shtml

June 25- Erie Pride Picnic at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle. Details on front page, also at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>

June 20-26 - Pride Toronto (Toronto) 25th anniversary celebration. Special events, 16 entertainment stages, family area, and more. www.pridetoronto.com/index.htm

Jul 2 - Pride London (London, Ontario) www.pridelondon.org/

July 27-31 - Hotter Than July (Detroit) www.hotterthanjuly.com/ "The Midwest's Oldest Black Same-Gender-Loving Festival" www.hotterthanjuly.com/

July 29-Aug 1 - Toronto Black Gay Pride www.torontoblackpride.com/

July 30 PrideFest 2005 Central Pennsylvania www.harrisburgpride.org/

Aug 1-7 -Black Gay and Proud Celebration (Cleveland) www.blackoutunlimited.org (216)937-2268

IMPORTANT: VISITORS TO CANADA NEED TO BRING PROPER BORDER-CROSSING ID

*Register online for the
June 25 Pride Erie Picnic at
[www.eriegaynews.com/pride/
register.php](http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php)*

Women's festivals

July 7 - 10

National Women's Music Festival, held in Columbus, Ohio. (317)713-1144, www.wiaonline.org/nwmf.

August 5 - 7

Women's International Music Festival, held in Akron, (330) 219-0409, www.wimfest.com.

Aug 9-14

Michigan Womyn's Music festival (near Hart MI) 30th Anniversary celebration www.michfest.com/home.htm

September 17

Ohio Lesbian Festival, 16th annual all-day music festival at Frontier Ranch, 8836 York Rd. at U.S. 40, ½ mile west of Kirkersville, Ohio, 15 miles east of Columbus; 614-2673953; www.ohiolba.org.

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3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

HIV & STD CLINIC **451-6700**

Appointments can be made at the following locations:

Erie County Health Department

Erie Office Outreach Services 814.451.6732	Corry Office 814.663.3891
--	------------------------------

Hispanic American Council 814.455.0212

Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System (MHEDS) 814.453.6229 or 814.453-4728

All services are free and confidential.
Specially trained outreach workers are available for in home appointments, (HIV testing only).

National News Briefs

by Bob

Civil Unions Now Legal in Connecticut

Connecticut has become the second state to offer civil unions to gay couples. Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell signed the bill into law about an hour after the state Senate sent her the legislation. The law affords same-sex couples in Connecticut many of the rights and privileges of married couples.

The state House passed the bill earlier but amended it to define marriage under Connecticut law as between one man and one woman. The Senate approved the amended bill 26-8.

Vermont is the only other state to allow civil unions. Massachusetts allows gay couples to marry. Those changes came about after same-sex couples won court battles. Connecticut passed its law without any prompting from state courts.

Catholic Church Battles Spanish Government Over Gay Marriage

During his first week as pope, Benedict XVI firmly denounced legislation that has advanced in the Spanish Parliament to allow same-sex couples to marry.

"A law as profoundly iniquitous as this one is not an obligation, it cannot be an obligation," Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, head of the Pontifical Council on the Family, told an Italian newspaper. "One cannot say that a law is right simply because it is law."

If the law passes, the Catholic Church has called on Spanish municipal officials who are Catholic to refuse to perform nuptials for same-sex couples.

"They should exercise the same conscientious objection asked of doctors and nurses against a crime such as abortion," he said.

Catholic bishops in Spain have also repeatedly condemned the bill, which was endorsed by the lower house of Parliament and is now headed for the Senate.

(Continued on next page)

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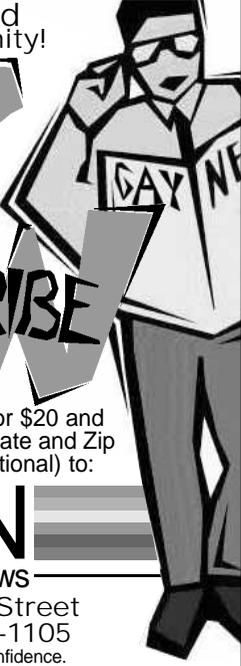
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<http://gayellowpages.com>

National News

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and his government are fighting back however. In a “state of the nation” address to Parliament, the Prime Minister said, “I will never understand those who proclaim love as the foundation of life, while denying so radically protection, understanding and affection to our neighbors, our friends, our relatives, our colleagues.”

If the law passes as expected, Spain will become the third European country, after the Netherlands and Belgium, to grant same-sex couples the right to marry.

FBI Investigating “Gay” Mayor

The strange case of Spokane, WA, Mayor Jim West has taken a new twist as the FBI opened a preliminary inquiry into possible “public-corruption” accusations that the Mayor offered city jobs to men he met online.

The FBI was expected to interview two men, both 24, who said they were offered City Hall jobs after separate online chats in Gay.com with a man who turned out to be West.

West, a conservative Republican who was recently elected Mayor of Spokane, previously served in the Washington state legislature where he was one of the most powerful members of the GOP and an outspoken leader of anti-gay causes.

The Mayor, who has also been accused of fondling young boys when he was a Boy Scout leader years ago, has admitted to being gay and frequenting gay chat rooms. He claims, however, that he has broken no laws and denies the Boy Scout fondling allegations.

The Spokane City Attorney has also launched an investigation of allegations that the Mayor offered City Hall internships to young men in exchange for sex.



Study Finds Differences in Gay Brains

Scientists have determined that gay men’s brains respond more like those of women when the men sniffed a chemical from the male hormone testosterone.

“It is one more piece of evidence ... that is showing that sexual orientation is not all learned,” said Sandra Witelson, an expert on brain anatomy and sexual orientation at the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine at McMaster University in Canada.

Witelson, who was not part of the Swedish research team that conducted the tests, said the findings clearly show a biological involvement in sexual orientation.

The study exposed heterosexual men and women and homosexual men to chemicals derived from male and female sex hormones. These chemicals are thought to be pheromones — molecules known to trigger responses such as defense and sex in many animals.

Scientists have debated whether humans respond to pheromones, but in 2000, American researchers reported finding a gene that they believe directs a human pheromone receptor in the nose.

The Swedish study was one of a series looking at whether parts of the brain involved in reproduction differ in response to odors and pheromones.

Colorado Rejects Marriage Amendment

Lawmakers in Colorado have stopped an attempt to ban same-sex marriage in their state constitution by voting 6-5 to kill a constitutional amendment in the House Judiciary Committee.

The vote, which followed party lines, means Colorado will not follow the road traveled by 14 other states in the last year. In those states, voters approved constitutional amendments limiting the rights of same-sex couples. All 14 passed, as did four similar amendments a few years earlier.

Like many of these other state amendments, the Colorado version would have outlawed marriage and civil unions for gay couples.

National News

Protesters Picket “Focus on the Family”

The right-wing group “Focus on the Family,” and its leader, Dr. James Dobson, known for strong anti-gay views, were the targets of two days of protests organized by Soulforce, a group devoted to opposing spiritual violence against LGBT people.

During the protest rally outside “Focus on the Family’s” Colorado Springs headquarters, 1,000 people celebrated their families while holding Dobson accountable for his anti-gay rhetoric. There were speeches, singing and dancing, as well as a performance by Christian singers Jason and deMarco, a gay couple.

Dobson and his “Focus on the Family” organization claim homosexuality is a choice. The group sponsors seminars called “Love Won Out” aimed at getting lesbian, gay and bisexual people to undergo “reparative therapy” to change their sexual orientation.

The American Psychiatric Association maintains that the “potential risks of ‘reparative therapy’ are great, including depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior, since therapist alignment with societal prejudices against homosexuality may reinforce self-hatred already experienced by a patient.”

ERIE GLBT

Be sure to get the latest news and events!
Sign up at
<http://erieglbt.eriegaynews.com>

Helpful numbers

Gay and Lesbian National Hotline 1-888-843-GLNH www.glnh.org/index_.html
Covenant House Nineline (youth)
1-800-999-9999
Trevor Helpline for Suicidal Gay Youth
1-800-850 8078

PFLAG News

by PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

PFLAG Fundraiser

We are pleased to announce that the Trance Dance Club (1607 Raspberry St., Erie) is hosting a fundraiser for PFLAG on Saturday, August 6th, from 8 to 10 PM. Come enjoy an exciting talent show, meet friends, and support PFLAG. We are lining up some great acts, and welcome volunteers to perform—song, dance, skits, bands, comedy, all are welcome. Being over 21 and giving a \$10 tax-deductible donation will get you in to enjoy the entertainment. Groups or businesses can sponsor a table for \$100 donation. We look forward to seeing you. There will be more details in the next EGN issue. Till then, please reserve the date August 6th for the great PFLAG Fundraiser. Please contact Maureen at (814)898-8341, to volunteer to entertain, or if you have questions.

Meeting Notes:

Our next PFLAG support group meeting is, as usual, the second Monday of the month: Monday, June 13, from 7-9 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway (Rte 97) (Take exit 27 off of I-90, go north about a half mile. Church is on the left.) We also hold ad hoc support groups for parents of, or spouses of, GLBT people. For support, please call Maureen at (814)898-8341, email us at pflagerie@eriegaynews.com, or write to PO Box 155, Harborcreek PA 16421.

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Youth

Healthy relationships: Communicating With Others

From YouthResource

Most people agree that the ability to effectively communicate with others can have a huge impact on interpersonal relationships. Learning how to say what you mean in a way that others will understand can eliminate many stresses on relationships. Take a look at our favorite tips for general communication, communicating in disagreements, and communicating about sex.

In General Communication:

1. Be aware of Non-Verbal Signals. Our body language-facial expressions, posture, eye contact all change the meaning given to our words. Our voice expressions-tone, volume, rhythm all show the feeling in our words. Work to match your non-verbal communication with what you are saying so that your message carries the meaning what you want.

2. Listen. Indicate that you are paying attention by nodding your head or using brief statements. Do not interrupt when you are listening. Let the speaker finish speaking before you jump in. Keep an open mind and be non-judgmental.

3. Paraphrase and ask questions. Repeat back what you think you've heard someone say and use summary statements. Ask questions to clarify statements. These techniques help you to avoid misunderstandings.

In an Argument or Disagreement:

1. Delay your reactions. Don't jump to conclusions. Give yourself time to process what was said and understand the speaker's feelings before you respond. Wait until you have all the information before you make inaccurate assumptions.

2. Don't make generalizations. Be specific and direct. Concentrate on this particular personal issue. Do not change the subject-stick to the issue until it is resolved.

3. Use "I" statements. "I" statements help to express your own feelings, attitudes and desires. Using these types of messages will avoid putting the other person on the defensive. Saying things like "I am feeling unhappy..." allows you to express your feelings without criticizing the other person.

About Sex:

1. Discuss sex, abstinence, and safer sex. You have the right to decide whether or not you want to have sex, and you should discuss this decision either way. If you decide not to have sex, talk about this with your partner. If the other person does not respect your decision, then he/she is not respecting you. If you decide you might want to have sex, plan a time to talk about what you want before you are intimately involved. Be honest about your sexual history and your sexual health. Discuss and make mutual decisions on your safer sex options. Go together to get tested for sexually transmitted infections.

2. Seek clarification. If you are getting mixed messages about what another person wants, especially if it is during sex, ask about these messages. It can be sexy to ask someone what she/he wants-be specific. If someone isn't sure whether they want to do something or not, assume the answer is no and stop. It is okay to wait until you are sure.

3. "NO" can be said many ways. "No" never means "maybe" or "yes." Silence is not consent-if your partner is not responding, stop and ask whether what you are doing is ok. To give consent, a person must be physically and mentally capable of making the decision-if a person is unconscious, intoxicated, or under the influence of drugs, she/he cannot give consent.

4. For more tips... Check out our feature on safer sex, which includes information on communication as well as the "how-to's."

YouthResource, a Web site created by and for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) young people 13 to 24 years old, takes a holistic approach to sexual health by offering support, community, resources, and peer-to-peer education about issues of concern to GLBTQ young people. YouthResource has four focus areas: health, advocacy, community, and issues in their lives. You can visit them at <http://www.youthresource.com/>

YouthResource is a project of Advocates for Youth.

13TH Annual

ERIE PRIDE PICNIC 2005

Saturday, June 25

at the Rotary Pavillion at Presque Isle.
1 to 6 PM, Food served from 2 to 5 PM
Family Portrait at 4 PM.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

This year we are asking for volunteers to serve 1 hour shifts in the kitchen and at the registration table! If everyone pitches in, then everyone gets to enjoy the day and not be inconvenienced. Please contact Mike Mahler about volunteering. It's also a great way to meet people and make friends. You can read more about the Pride Picnic at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com> (it's also linked at www.eriegaynews.com/pride).

We are also encouraging folks to preregister online for the Pride Picnic at www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php. You can sign up whenever you like. (We have already had a few folks register.)



Meet Jeff Grego, a case manager in the Erie Office, he's been with the Alliance for 4 years and has worked in the HIV field for the past 11 years. He's just one of the dedicated people you'll find at the Alliance waiting to help you!

The Northwest Pennsylvania Rural Aids Alliance

"We provide access to testing, education, and medical, financial, and supportive services to those infected with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Pennsylvania." With Clinics in Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville and Farrell staffed by HIV specialists. Support Groups are also offered, please contact Sue at the Clarion office for that information.

For more information, contact:

Northwest PA Rural Aids Alliance
1001 State St. Suite 703
Renaissance Centre
Erie, PA 16501

814-4568849 or 1-800-400-2437

Clarion Office:
15870 Route 322 Suite 2
Clarion, PA 16214

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This & That

by Deb Spilko
Co-Editor

This month **Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe** at 8th and Chestnut became a No-Smoking establishment. I asked co-owner Michael Augustine what was behind the decision. "We're making a number of menu changes, toward healthier foods," he said. "It didn't seem right that someone eating a vegetarian sandwich would have to breathe cigarette smoke. Plus we have air conditioning." By the way, Papa Joe's offers some really tasty dishes for vegetarians and meat-eaters alike... My own personal favorites are the Steak Bomb or Mediterranean Pizza!

The Point Tent and Trailer Resort has become a gay male resort with some Women Welcome Weekends. The resort is a little east of Long Point, Ontario (that's across the pond from Presque Isle). Check out their site and schedule at www.get-tothepoint.com

Congratulations to **Camp Davis**, celebrating its 15th year. The campground, which is located in Boyers PA, offers camping for both men and women. It has changed its website address to www.campdavis campground.com

MTV Network's **Logo** channel is scheduled to launch June 30. Logo will carry GLBT programming and will be available on basic cable. The channel will be carried by Adelphia, Time Warner, RCN Satellite and Atlantic Broadband. Logo joins here! and Q Television Network as channels that focus on the GLBT audience.

Sorry we weren't able to provide more conclusive information about **Judy Gold's** scheduled appearance at JR's Last Laugh. The comedy club still shows the lesbian comedian as appearing June 9-11. When I contacted her booking people they said they were "being told that the show was cancelled."

We will once again be taking pictures of people attending the **Pride Picnic** at Presque Isle. If you would like to have one of the photographers take your photo, don't be shy about letting them know.

Erie Gay News print edition
can be viewed online at
www.eriegaynews.com

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler, Co-Editor

Well, yet another busy month! I hope that the Erie County Voters Guide that the Erie Gay/Straight Alliance ran in the previous issue was helpful to at least some of you. You did vote, yes?!? We have always invited local political figures to the Pride Picnic, and there are usually a few that turn up. By the way, thanks to the folks who posted comments about candidates to the web version of the Voters Guide page.

I am pleased that the first year of registering online for the Pride Picnic seems to be going well. If you haven't already signed up, please check it out at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>. There is a link to the registration page from there. I got really geeky one night (I know - what a surprise!) and it now shows the total number of registrants when folks sign up. (No names or other identifying info is displayed - just simply a count.) Please note that photos and a write up about the Pride Picnic won't appear in print until the issue that comes out in late July, cover dated for August. The Picnic is later than normal this year, so the next issue will be out a few days BEFORE the picnic, rather than after it, which is more frequently the case.

I thought it was nifty that Shout Outreach was doing HIV testing at Trance. Most folks probably feel much more comfortable doing it in a space and time that they are familiar with. It was quite convenient for me since I was present for a meeting and finished up chatting with the person doing the test. We walked back to the private area that they were doing the testing in, and she took the info. She attempted to draw blood, but my veins just weren't cooperating that night, so they did the Orasure test. Relatively quick and painless, and it just seemed like the right thing to do. I think there were about 10 people waiting in line when I walked out. Terrific to see people taking the initiative to monitor their health. (Actually, it was sort of a warm up for me, as I usually have blood work in June to check my cholesterol.)

Planning is just beginning for the Fall Pride event and the July 9 Business Expo as I write this. Kudos to the organizers and wishing them much success! More details on both should be the next issue.

Anywho, wishing everyone a very happy Pride month and see you at the picnic!

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