

TransFamily of NWPA announces new projects

from Caitlyn Strohmeyer

TransFamily of Titusville

Staying true to our mission to provide support for the TG/GNC community throughout the Northwest PA region, we have developed a group in Titusville, PA to serve the communities of Titusville, Oil City, Franklin, and surrounding areas.

TransFamily of Titusville meetings are held from 3-6pm on the 4th Saturday of each month at the Activities Center of the YWCA, 212 N. Franklin St., Titusville, PA. As with all of our groups, everyone is welcome! Please contact Matthew Miller at mimiller814758@gmail.com or (814) 758-8885 for information.

LGBTQ Youth Program

TransFamily of NWPA is will be creating an **LGBTQ Youth Program**. The goal is to create a program that offers much needed social opportunities and peer-led support to the LGBTQ youth of Erie County.

In order to ensure that this program meets the needs of our LGBTQ youth, we are looking for 12-15 teens of all sexual and gender identities, aged 12 to 18, who would like to be part of an all-youth focus group. The



TransFamily of NWPA president Caitlyn Strohmeyer announces two new initiatives.

focus group will consist of a series of 6 to 8 questions to get more information about the needs of our youth and what we can do to make this your program. This is your chance to have your voice heard! As we identify youth to participate, we will work to schedule thes focus group on a Saturday afternoon at the Downtown Y Teen Center, 31 West 10th St. Pizza and pop/water provided.

If you would like to be a part of planning this exciting program, please contact Caitlyn Strohmeyer at caitlynxpress@gmail.com or via private message at www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWPA/.

Also, don't forget our other support groups!

TransFamily of Erie meetings are held from 2–5pm on the 4th Saturday of each month at the Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W. 18th St. Erie, PA. Contact Caitlyn Strohmeyer at caitlynxpress@gmail.com or 814-823-1969.

TransFamily of Meadville meetings are held from 2-5pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month at CHAPS, 944 Liberty St. Meadville, PA. Contact Linda Thomas at imhzwoman4586@msn.com or (814)232-1778.

TransFamily of Warren meetings are held from 6-8pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Jefferson Defrees Family Center - Hawke Room 207 Second Ave. Warren, PA. Contact Monica Morgan at yankees.jeter@yahoo.com or (814) 730-0021.

NOTE: Due to conflicts with Erie Pride Fest and Erie Pride picnic, there will be no Erie or Titusville meetings in June or August to allow people to enjoy these days with the entire LGBTQ community!

In This Issue...

Read EGN Print Version ONLINE!

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Just go to our website and click on the image of the print edition!



EGN RATES DATA

QUARTER PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE VERTICAL
HALF PAGE Horizontal	EIGHTH PAGE	

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QUARTER	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	31/2" high X 27/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	7" high X 27/8" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	31/2" high X 6" wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	71/2" high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month. Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES. All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.



Erie Gay News

Erie Gay News 1115 West 7th St. Erie PA 16502-1105 (814) 456-9833

Fax: (530) 451-9833 info@eriegaynews.com www.eriegaynews.com

Editor: Mike Mahler

Assistant Editor and Layout: Deb Spilko

Ad Design: Mike Lipiec

Deadline for next issue: May 15; Folding and distribution is Tue, May 23 at Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th.

ISSN 2159-1792

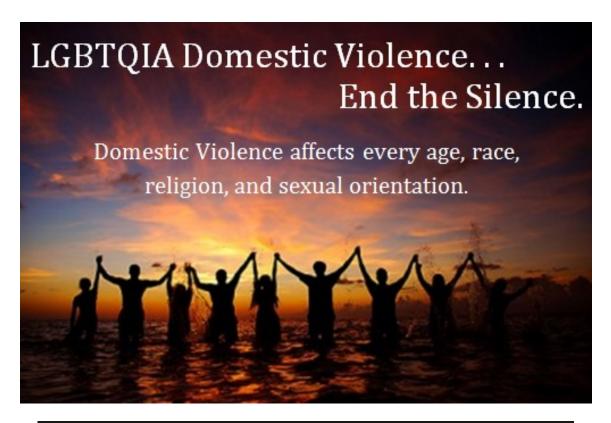
The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments, and opinions of interest to local GLBTs for publication in these pages. Please include your contact information with any piece you submit.



THANKS From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea, Audrey, Dawn Rezab, Johauna, Kim, Rex Apps, Trish Catalano, and Wanda Watkins for folding; Andrea, Dawn Rezab, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Kim, Rex Apps, and Trish Catalano for distribution; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.



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This ad made possible by a Federal Grant under the Ryan White Care Act of 1990.

Community News

PA Physician General Rachel Levine to address Edinboro commencement

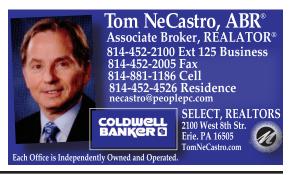
EDINBORO, Pa. – Dr. Rachel Levine, Physician General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, will deliver the commencement address at Edinboro University's undergraduate ceremony on Saturday, May 13.

The highest-ranking transgender official in Pennsylvania, Levine also serves as Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Penn State College of Medicine. In her role with the Commonwealth, her primary focus is the opioid epidemic, which has reached crisis level in Pennsylvania. She also has helped to shape policy regarding childhood lead testing, the Zika virus, immunizations, and HIV and AIDS.

In addition to addressing the EU Class of 2017, Levine will receive an honorary Doctor of Public Service during the ceremony.

A lifelong advocate of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, Dr. Levine served as the liaison for LGBT individuals with the Office of Diversity at the Penn State College of Medicine, where she established an LGBT faculty and staff affinity group.

"In addition to her many leadership efforts in medicine for all Pennsylvanians, it is historic to have one of the few transgender public officials in the nation on our campus," said Dr. Daniel Burdick, Edinboro University music professor and co-founder of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education LG-BTQIA Consortium. "Edinboro University has been a statewide leader in providing equal access to education for our LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual) students, faculty and staff."



Community News

DF13 Tastes Forbidden Fruit, Again

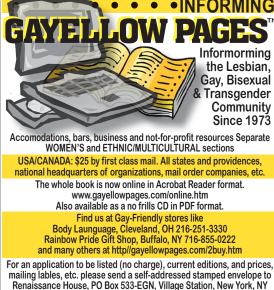
from DF 13

Leading into April this year (March 30-April 2), the Erie community was home once again for the Exclusive Bear Weekend known as Drenched Fur. It was the thirteenth time the 'Best Little Run for Fun' created a space where hundreds of men coming from the likes of Canada, California, Florida, Texas, and around the tri-state area. Erie has been annually hosting Drenched Fur for over a decade as a weekend where men who appreciate each other and their natural masculinity can let off some winter doldrums. This year's theme did a twist on the 'unlucky number 13' and revolved around the cult classic film, *The Rocky Horror Picture Shom*.

The DF13 weekend kicked off on Thursday night as over 85% of the attendees arrived to socialize at the meet 'n greet mixer, and revel in the surprise 'splash mob' entertainment while relaxing at the hotel pool. On Friday night, virgins and veterans alike gathered together to do callbacks and use props while watching the "Rocky" film. Then the guys got their groove on in the ballroom for the "Don't Dream It. Be It" themed dance that the ever popular DJ Tony Ruiz returned to spin the house down. The main event for Drenched Fur is an exclusive Saturday night time private event at Splash Lagoon, our local indoor water park resort. In addition to enjoying the fun wet times there, the weekend this year also included Bear-e-oke, a local Beer Tour, a Winery Tour to North East, PA, region. And all new this year was the inclusion of Erie's own extraordinary drag performers for 'The Floor Show' Drag Bingo event on Friday night. The Zone's very own House Diva Michelle Michaels brought together local queens Misty Michaels Kall, Lovin Heart, and Rebecca Mae to entertain and help call bingo numbers! Sunday morning the weekend wrapped up with the charity silent auction which raised \$1,300 for the Veterans Miracle Center of Erie.

The Drenched Fur 13 Committee and volunteers outdid themselves putting on one of the biggest events for Erie's LGBTQA community. Huge thanks to all the individuals, sponsors, and businesses that were involved in making DF13 a success! To find out more about Drenched Fur, visit our website to review the photo gallery from over the years. Mark your calendars to take a rocket ride into next years installment of DF14, Bears in Space' April 12-15 in 2018!





10014 646-213-0263 or email gypages@gmail.com

http://gayellowpages.com

Michael dithers

by Michael Mahler

Congratulations to Caitlyn Strohmeyer on being appointed to the advisory board for the Eric County Human Relations Commission! I believe that makes her the first transgender person to serve in that capacity. Caitlyn does a lot of good for our community.

The teaser for the Voters Guide is in this issue. We listed everyone in this print edition who responded and also those who did not respond. Because of the historically large number of candidates for this election, we had to have the text of the responses online, which has been posted for a while now. Please review the responses when you vote on May 16. Although it was definitely a challenge to deal with this many candidates, it is an excellent sign that there is so much robust participation in our democracy.

This issue was challenging to get out for other reasons. On the Friday of layout weekend, we had a computer crash. Fortunately, thanks to Dropbox and Carbonite, we don't appear to have lost anything substantial, but it is going to take a while to get back to

full functionality.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how grateful I am for Deb Spilko, my co-editor. I know that the technical problems made things difficult, but she was unfailingly calm, reasonable, and understanding. We have been working together on this project for almost 25 years, and I think that one of the reasons that we have lasted this long is that we have mutual respect.

I would also like to thank those of you who offered help or comfort. I am continually grateful for all of the wonderful and understanding people in our community!

And be sure to check out the new shirts for this year's Pride events by NW PA Pride Alliance!

AA Meeting Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th St., Erie, PA. For more information, visit www.aaeriepa.org.





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Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar www.eriegaynews.com

Apr 26 (Wed) - Candidate Forum (H.O. Hirt Auditorium at Blasco Public Library, 160 East Front Street, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. Free and open to the public. The forum is a joint effort with Keystone Progress Erie, Mental Health Association of NW PA and Erie Gay News. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Apr 27 (Thu) - NW PA Pride Alliance HeART Show (Scotty's Martini & Cigar Lounge, 301 German St, Erie, PA) 8 PM - 11 PM. "HeART Show is an art auction consisting entirely of original works from the Erie region's LGBTQIA community. The donated works will be auctioned off and all proceeds go to helping us here at the NW PA Pride Alliance make Pridefest and all this years events even bigger and better. The event is free and open to the public, the venue is 21+. Please have ID, in accordance with PA state regulation." Contact: Alex Sphon. (814) 314-9075. president@nwpapride.

org. www.nwpapride.org.

Apr 29 (Sat) - Long Johns/Flannels (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. info@campdaviscampground.com. www.campdaviscampground.com.

Apr 29 (Sat) - Colors Unity Spring Dinner Bethany Lutheran Church 6 Leo Moss Dr, Olean, New York Details: www.colorsunity.com/ FB: Colors Unity

Apr 29 (Sat) - Drag Show (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

May 3-6 - We're Funny That Way Festival (Alumnae Theatre, Toronto, ON Canada) *Note: Passports required for travel to Canada.* werefunnythatway.org

May 5 (Fri) - LBT Women of Erie go to Seawolves Baseball game (UPMC Park, 110 E 10th St, Erie, PA) 5 PM. Doubleheader. First game begins at 5:05. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol. com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

May 5 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) (Location TBA, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 8 PM.

May 5 - 7 (Fri - Sun) - Opening Weekend - Wel-

ACLU-PA Northwest Chapter 2017 Annual Meeting



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"Civil Liberties in a Trump World"

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come Back Boys (Jones Pond, , 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 6 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie go to Erie Art Museum annual rummage sale (Erie Art Museum, 411 State St, Erie, PA) Meet at 9am . Enter at 419 State. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

May 6 (Sat) - Hag Drag (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. info@campdaviscampground.com. www.campdaviscampground.com.

May 6 (Sat) - Horseshoe Game Night (in-doors) (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) www. facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

May 7 (Sun) - TransFamily Youth Transgender Support Group meets (Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th St, Erie PA) 2 -5 PM. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeyer. caitlynxpress@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/groups/TransFamilyYouth

May 7 (Sun) - "Civil Liberties in a Trump World" ACLU-PA Northwest Chapter Annual Meeting La

Bella's, 802 W 18th, Erie) 3-5PM RSVP to 814-881-3788 www.aclupa.org

May 8 (Mon) - TransFamily of Warren Transgender Support Group meets (Jefferson DeFrees Family Center - Hawke Room, 207 2nd Ave, Warren, PA) 6 - 8 PM. Contact: Monica (814) 730-0021. yankees.jeter@yahoo.com. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWPA.

May 9 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. Contact: Marguerite youngstownareapflag@gmail.com. www.youngstownpflag.org/.

May 12 - 14 (Fri - Sun) - Pajama Party Weekend - Cozy Up In The Barn (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) www.jonespond.com.

May 13 (Sat) - Anything Goes (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. www.campdaviscampground.com.

May 13 (Sat) - Erie LGBT Rainbow Alliance meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 1 - 3 PM. Co-facilitators: Chelsea Nicole, Dale Allgeier, LCSW. (814) 455-4009. ErieLGBTRainbowAl-



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May 13 (Sat) TransFamily of Meadville Transgender Support Group (CHAPS Building, first floor, 944 Liberty St., Meadville, PA) 2-5 PM. Contact: Linda Thomas. imhzwoman4586@msn.com. (814) 232-1778 www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWPA.

May 13 (Sat) - Pool Night (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) (724) 602-8447.

May 14 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. (814) 314-9512.

May 14 (Sun) - Aging With Pride meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 4 - 6 PM. (814) 455-4009. daleallgeier@outlook.com.

May 14 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Transgender Support Group meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM - 8 PM. www.unitycommunityfoundation.org/.

May 15 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News June 2017 print edition

May 16 (Tue) - Pennsylvania Primary Election

(Municipal) 7 AM - 8 PM. Please remember to votel May 16 (Tue) - PFLAG Meadville meets (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. Contact: Randy Herbert-Weed. (814) 724-6736. meadvillepflag@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGMeadville/.

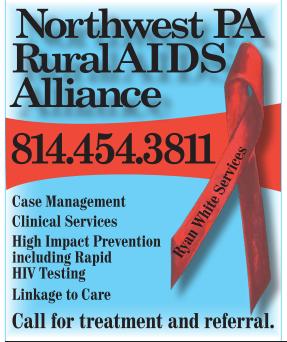
May 17 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner # 46 - Samurai Kitchen + Sushi (Samurai Kitchen + Sushi, 2767 W 12th St, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. Contact: Gary (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

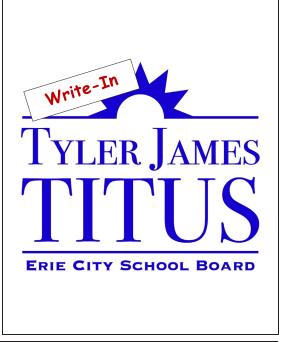
May 18 (Thu) - HIV Vaccine Awareness Day

May 18 (Thu) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 1 PM. www.facebook.com/ButlerL-gbtqInterfaithNetwork/.

May 19 - 21 (Fri - Sun) - Disco Fever - Back to the 70's (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com. May 19 (Fri) - Hepatitis Testing Day The Action

Plan for the Prevention, Care, and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis designates.





May 19 (Fri) - National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day banyantreeproject.org/wp2014/.

May 19 (Fri) - LBT Women of Erie go to Art Galleries event (Locations TBD, Erie, PA) 6:45 PM - 10 PM. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE. May 20 (Sat) - Vega\$ Baby!! (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) www.campdaviscampground.com.

May 20 (Sat) - Open Mic Night (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

May 21 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE Drag Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM.

May 23 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA 7 PM. Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

May 25-29 (Thu - Mon) - Imperial Court of Buffalo Coronation 27 (Events at various venues, Buffalo NY)

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www.imperialcourtofbuffalo.com

May 26 - 29 (Fri - Mon) - Memorial Day Weekend-In The Navy - There's Seamen in the Barn (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 27 (Sat) - Matthew Sandusky at Victims Rights Speaker Series (H O Hirt Auditorium-Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E Front St, Erie, PA) 6:30PM. Hosted by Crime Victime Center of Erie County. Event is free but seating is limited, so registration is recommended. www.cvcerie.org

May 27 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie go to Troika Russian festival 12 PM. "Meet at main tent. 109 German St." Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. www. facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

May 27 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th, Erie, PA) 2 - 5 PM. (814) 823-1969. Caitlynxpress@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWPA.

May 27 (Sat) - TransFamily of Titusville Transgender Support Group meets (YWCA Activities Building, 212 N. Franklin St, Titusville, PA) 3 -6 PM. Contact: Matthew Miller. (814) 758-8885. mjmiller814758@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWPA.

May 27 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group meets (Unitarian-Universalist Cong. of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesisters.ning.com

May 27 (Sat) - Drag Show (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA1) www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

May 28 - Big Gay Picnic 2017 - (North Park Lodge, N Ridge Dr, Gibsonia, PA) Noon. Details, tickets pittsburghpride.org FB: 2017 Big Gay Picnic

May 27 - 29 (Sat - Mon) - Memorial Day Holiday Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. www.campdaviscampground.com.

Jun 4 (Sun) - Buffalo & WNY Pride Parade and Festival www.buffalopridefestival.com/

Jun 16-17 (Fri-Sat) - UUCE Garage Sale Details uuerie.org

Jun 24 (Sat) - Pride Parade & Fest www.nwpapride. org/

Jun 25 (Sun) - Pride Day at Waldameer www.nwpapride.org/

Voters Guide Teaser

Candidates for Erie County Executive, Erie County Council, Erie City Mayor, and Erie City Council were asked about their positions on GLBT issues. Their responses appear in the online version of this article.

This was the question asked for all races:

What would you like our readers to know about you related to LGBT issues?

County Executive

Responded (responses posted online): Joseph Curlett (D), Kathy Dahlkemper (D-Incumbent), Brenton Davis (R), Ed DiMattio (R)

Not Responding: Thomas Loftus (R), Art Oligeri (R), Tim Sonney (R)

COUNTY COUNCIL District 1

Responded (responses posted online): Kathy Fatica (D-Incumbent), Robert Yates (R)

COUNTY COUNCIL District 2

Responded (responses posted online): Andre Horton (D-Incumbent)

COUNTY COUNCIL District 4

Responded (responses posted online): Tom Staszewski (D), Paul Hirsch (R)

Not Responding: Carl Anderson (D)

COUNTY COUNCIL District 6

Responded (responses posted online): Mary Jo Campbell (D), Scott Rastetter (R)

Not Responding: Trish Shoulders (R)

Erie City Mayor

Responded (responses posted online): Lisa Austin (D), Jay Breneman (D), Almi Clerkin (D), Steve Franklin (D), Rubye Jenkins-Husband (D), Bob Merski (D), Joe Schember (D), John Persinger (R)

Not Responding: Jon Whaley (R)

Erie City Council

Responded (responses posted online): Liz Allen (D), Brad Ford (D), Michael Haas (D), Michael Keys (D), Casimir J Kaz Kwitowski (D-Incumbent), Rob Mahrt (D), Kevin Pastewka (D), John Reitinger (D), John Steiner (D), Freda Tepfer (D), Dan Nick (R)

Not Responding: Mark Aleks Aleksandrowicz (D), Patrick Duda (D), Adrian D Ewing (D), Gary Grack (D), Kevin Otteni (D), Jim Winarski (D)

COMPLETE VOTERS GUIDE AT OUR WEBSITE

www.eriegaynews.com

Teaser on this page shows who responded

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www.eriegaynews.com

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