



EGN

Erie Gay News



Zone bartenders Glenn, Rebecca Mae, and Tony help ring in 2020. Photo by Michael Mahler

PA LGBTQIA+ Health Conference in Erie, Housing Request

For the past 3 years, the PA LGBTQIA+ Health Conference has been held in Cranberry PA. The advisory committee has decided to move the conference around the commonwealth, and this year's conference will be at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel on June 2 & 3! The event features informative presentations, panel discussions, and more about health issues affecting LGBTQIA+ people.

Because some people attending the conference from other parts of the state might have cost barriers to staying at the host hotel, or might want to make connections with the local community, the advisory committee is requesting volunteers in Erie who would be willing to host a person (or more) that will be attending next June. You can specify the maximum number of guests and other considerations/restrictions (gender, non-smoking, whether you have pets, etc.) and we will help match you with a mutually agreeable guest.

This effort being organized to reduce travel barriers for conference attendees. Housing is being organized and provided by local community members, and does not involve any of the agencies who

are organizing the conference.

To volunteer as a housing host for 1 or more conference attendees, please contact Mike Mahler at info@eriegaynews.com or 814-456-9833. For other conference-related questions, please contact Sarah Morgan at smorgan@eriecountypa.gov or 814-451-7857.

Thanks for helping to show what a warm and friendly city Erie is!

Aging With Pride Potluck Dinner and Game Night on Feb 7

from Dale Allgeier

Aging With Pride will be having a pot luck dinner and game night on Sunday, February 9 at 5 PM at Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th St, Erie PA. This is a great way for LGBTQIA+ seniors to socialize and connect. For more info, contact Dale Allgeier at (814) 455-4009 or daleallgeier@outlook.com.

Become a 2020 NW PA Pride Donor

from NW PA Pride Alliance

This year the NW Pennsylvania Pride Alliance Inc is already hard at work to make 2020 special for the entire community. We look forward to having our Pride Fest on June 27, the Pride Picnic on August 8, and other events planned throughout the year.

The support of individuals and organizations in our community has been the catalyst for furthering the Alliance's mission: Improving the visibility of the LGBTQIA community and facilitating communication and collaboration between groups and individuals. We are asking for your support in 2020 as we celebrate Pride in NWPA. Donors like you make it possible for the Alliance to organize, sponsor, and/or host events such as the Pride Festival and the Pride Picnic. The Alliance also participates in various community events to promote awareness of LGBTQIA issues, and supports the efforts and activities of other groups dedicated to the health and wellbeing of the LGBTQIA community.

(Continues on page 3)

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Erie Gay News
Erie Gay News
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Editor/Layout: Mike Mahler

Deadline for next issue: Feb 15
Folding and distribution is Tue, Feb 26 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.



QUARTER PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE VERTICAL
HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL	EIGHTH PAGE	

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$40 - \$36 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$65 - \$58.50 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$120 - \$108 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
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FULL PAGE	\$200 - \$180 Prepaid	7 1/2" 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 is now included in
The EBSCO *LGBT Life*[®]
 with Full Text Index &
 Six LGBT Archives
WORLDWIDE!



To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Audrey, Bobbie Fenno, Johauna, Kim Conti, Kyle Hannon, and Rex Apps for folding; Audrey, Bobbie Fenno, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Kim Conti, Melina Harden, and Rex Apps 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.

Community News

Although we welcome donations throughout the year, to maximize the impact of your tax deductible contribution and to be included on promotional materials for this year's Pride events, please have donations in by Monday, June 1st. Checks should be made payable to NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc.

If you have questions about the NW PA Pride Alliance or would like to discuss becoming a donor, please contact donations@nwpapride.org or call (814) 314-9075.

Cabin Fever Feb 21-23

from Erie Sisters and Brothers Transgender Support Group

The Erie Sisters and Brothers will host their annual Cabin Fever February 21st-23rd. This is a very laid back event with nothing specific on the itinerary. Most of the girls who attend stay at the Bel-Aire on W. 8th St. Our bi-annual voting of officers will take place over the weekend. Only paid members of the Erie Sisters and Brothers may run and/or vote for officers. If you want to become a paid member, please check out the Membership table of eriesisters.ning.com. The first planning meeting for the Lake Erie Gala 2020 will be held during the event. We are always looking for people to be on the planning committee. If you're interested in being on the planning committee or have any other questions, please reach out to VP Kara Ritchie at lakeeriegala@gmail.com

Drenched Fur 16 is a Wonderland Adventure

by Gary Snyder

It's the sixteenth installment of Drenched Fur here in Erie, PA for enjoyable series of events with their theme, Bears in Wonderland, during the weekend of April 2nd thru 5th, 2020.

The weekend of activities for the bear community and its friends is not sold out for full weekend packages. If you're local or from a distance, an adventure in wonderland awaits you. Whether the whole weekend is open in your schedule or just a few hours, you can choose from full run packages or contact us about individual events available for a la carte pricing/choices. For information about these events visit www.drenchedfur.com. Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. Note: Drenched

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Community News

Fur events are for adult males 21 and older.

Apr 3 (Fri) - Tastebuds Beer Tour (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM - 4 PM. \$45 per person in advance.

Apr 3 (Fri) - Costume DJ Dance (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. With DJ Tony Ruiz in the ballroom. \$5 per person.

Apr 4 (Sat) - Tastebuds Wine-o Tour (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM - 4 PM. \$45 per person in advance.

Apr 4 (Sat) - Drenched Fur Private Water Park Event (Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park, 8091 Peach Street, Erie, PA) 10 PM - 2 AM. Exclusive after-hours private event. \$45 at the door/in-person, cash or charge. Admittance only between 10 PM and 11 PM.

Apr 5 (Sun) - Bear Vendor Mall (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 9 AM - 11 AM. Open to locals (Free/No cover).

Visit www.drenchedfur.com

Call for Presenters and Posters for PA LGBTQIA Health Conference

from PA LGBTQIA Health Conference

The Pennsylvania LGBTQIA Health Conference 2020 is calling for presenters and posters for the conference. The deadline is Friday, February 28, 2020. Applications may be submitted at the link provided in the online version of this article. This year's conference will be held June 2 & 3 at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel.

NW PA Pride 2020 Pride Logo Design Contest

from NW PA Pride Alliance

NW PA Pride Alliance will be accepting design entries through March 1 for the 2020 Pride logo.

This year, artists are free to come up with their own theme celebrating local LGBTQIA Pride! There is no limit to the number of entries per person that can be submitted, nor is there an age limit. The design we select will receive a free shirt and a \$100 Visa gift card.

Please visit www.nwpapride.org for information on how designs are to be submitted. Email your entry to president@nwpapride.org on or before March 1, 2020. Questions may also be sent to the same email address.

**Deadline for Next EGN issue
Feb 15**

Registration Open for E3 Summit May 8/9

from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

The 2nd annual E3 Summit, the first LGBTQ youth event of its kind in Northwestern PA will be held on May 8 and 9, 2020 at East Middle School in Erie, PA. Call for presentations will be up soon.

The two-day event will feature speakers, workshops, and networking opportunities in order for youth to become engaged in their community. One of our primary goals is to allow for this space to continue to grow and develop so that all youth, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identification can feel supported, accepted, and loved.

Registration is available online for youth, adults, and vendors.

CEU credits will be available from Edinboro University for an additional fee of \$35.00, payable at the door.

Additional support and funding provided by GEAE, ECGRA, and CCBH, and Erie School District. If you or your organization wish to become a sponsor of this event, please contact us at geaeinfo@gmail.com or visit our sponsorship page.

Registration for youth 13-20 is FREE, but you must register. Please fill out the form at the GEAE website (www.greatereriealliance.com)!

Registration for adults is only \$25. You can also pay online when registering at the GEAE website.

If your business or organization would like an



Drag performers with GASE members at Behrend's 13th Annual Drag Show . Photo by Michael Mahler



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Community News

information table or vend at the event, you can also sign up at the GEAE web site.

Erie Dems LGBTQIA+ Caucus Update

from Erie Dems LGBTQIA+ Caucus

The Erie County Democratic Party LGBTQIA+ caucus had their first meeting of 2020 and began plans for this very important election year. Elected officers included Michael Mahler (President), Annie Rosenthal (Vice President), and Rex Apps (Secretary.) Completing the board are Pam Nolan, Roger Wolbert, Kyle Hannon and David Wieczorek. The caucus is open to all registered Democrats living in Erie County (straight/cisgender allies welcome) and meets the second Monday of the month at 7 PM at Erie Dems HQ, 1305 State St, Erie PA.

NW PA Pride Board Update

from NW PA Pride Alliance

NW PA Pride Alliance welcomes new board members Juilie Lebow, Moe Ferrara, and Rex Apps, as well as returning board members Alex Sphon (President), Season Crannell (Vice President), Michael Mahler (Treasurer), Diana Ames, Andrew Caswell, Anthony Gressley, Casey Main, Michael Mooney, and Steve Wadsworth. Rex Apps was elected as secretary. Thanks to all board members for their service and here's to a great and exciting 2020!

AA Meeting Live & Let Live is an LGBTQIA-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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Community News

TransFamily Meadville No Longer Meeting; Erie meetings continue

from TransFamily of NW PA

Please note that due to a lack of attendance, TransFamily of NW PA's Meadville will no longer be meeting. Erie meetings will continue as usual the fourth Saturday of each month from 2 to 5 PM at Crime Victim Center of Erie, 125 W 18th St, Erie PA. The student group at Allegheny College is the only known LGBT group in Crawford County.

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Celebrating New Years Eve 2020 at The Zone. Photo by Michael Mahler

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Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar

www.eriegaynews.com

Jan 25 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Group social (Maxi's Bar and Grille at the Bel-Aire, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM. We will meet to have a bite and/or drink and catch up! Happy New Year! Venue Phone: (814) 833-1116. Browse to <http://eriesisters.ning.com/>.

Jan 25 (Sat) - Pride Night at the Erie Otters (Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St, Erie, PA 16501) 7 PM. Come out to the NW PA Pride Alliance Pride Night with the ERIE Otters. Tickets and shirt combo are just 25 plus fees and available now. Phone: (814) 314-9075. President@nwpapride.org. Browse to <http://www.nwpapride.org>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://groupmatics.events/event/OttersPrideNight>.

Jan 31 (Fri) - Drag Show (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) BYOB membership required, purchase from bartender. Phone: (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@AOL.COM. Browse to <http://www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge>.

Feb 7 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe, 1033 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM.

Feb 7 (Fri) - Zone Divas Valentines Day Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 11 PM. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub>.

Feb 12 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner #80 (Khao Thai, 2430 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 6:30 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Peter. Phone: (814) 384-9785. Email: eriepeter@gmail.com. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BearsDoDinnerEriePA/>.

Feb 14 (Fri) - Zone Valentines/Anti Valentines Party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM - 2 AM. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub>.

Feb 15 (Sat) - Deadline for Erie Gay News March 2020 print edition (#291) (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released the evening of Tuesday, February 25.



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Calendar

Feb 15 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Mercyhurst Women's Hockey Game (Mercyhurst University Ice Center, 501 E 38th St, Erie, PA 16546) 2 PM. \$15 admission. We will meet at the Ice Center at 1:15PM. Contact: Kim Conti. Phone: (814) 490-3994. Email: ErieBeans@yahoo.com. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>.

Feb 16 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE Drag Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 9 PM. Don't miss a fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub>.

Feb 22 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Mercyhurst Women's Hockey Game (Mercyhurst University Ice Center, 501 E 38th St, Erie, PA 16546) 2 PM. \$15 admission. We will meet at the Ice Center at 1:15PM. Contact: Kim Conti. Phone: (814) 490-3994. Venue Phone: (814) 824-2000. Email: ErieBeans@yahoo.com. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>. Browse to venue web site <https://hurstathletics.com/>.

Feb 25 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA 16502) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. We'll be folding and distributing the copies. All ages welcome! It is also a great way to hang out and chat with folks! You can also sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events list at <https://lists.eriegaynews.com/>. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833.

Feb 28 (Fri) - Drag Show (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) BYOB membership required, purchase from bartender. Phone: (724) 602-8447. Email:

JoshuaSean2009@AOL.COM. Browse to <http://www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge>.

Awareness Days

Jan 27 (Mon) - Holocaust Remembrance Day Day to remember all of the victims of the Nazi era. Browse to <https://www.yadvashem.org/27th/index.asp>.

Feb 7 (Fri) - National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day February 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative targeted at Blacks in the United States and the Diaspora. NBHAAD was founded in 1999 as a national response to the growing HIV and AIDS epidemic in African American communities. #NBHAAD Browse to <https://nationalblackaidsday.org/>.

Feb 16 - 22 (Sun - Sat) - Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week An aromantic is someone who doesn't experience romantic attraction. Arospec is the shorthand name for people who identify anywhere on the aromantic spectrum, including aromantics. Aro Awareness Week is for anyone on the aromantic spectrum,

Northwest Alliance

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Calendar

regardless of where they lie there or sexual orientation. Browse to <https://twitter.com/aroweek>.

Feb 28 (Fri) - International STAND UP to Bullying Day International STAND UP to Bullying Day is a special event in which participants sign and wear a pink “pledge shirt” to take a visible, public stance against bullying. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/pg/standupday/>.

Social & Support Groups

ADDICTION & RECOVERY

AA Meeting Live & Let Live LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting every Sun. 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 W. 38th St., Erie, PA. aaeriepa.org.

MISC.

Feb 9 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Sexuality Support (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 3-5PM.

Feb 9 (Sun) - Over 40? So What / Aging With Pride Potluck Dinner and Game Night (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA 16502) 5 PM. Contact: Dale Allgeier. Phone: (814) 455-4009. Email: daleallgeier@outlook.com.

Feb 10 (Mon) - Erie County Democratic Party LG-BTQIA+ Caucus meets (Erie County Democratic Party HQ, 1305 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 7 PM. General meeting. Voting members must be a registered Democrat living in Erie County. Straight/cisgender allies welcome! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Venue Phone: (814) 520-2431. Email: mmahler@eriedems.com. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/ErieDemsLGBTQIA/>. Browse to venue web site <https://www.eriedems.com>.

Feb 11 (Tue) – Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John’s Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. youngstownpflag.org.

Feb 11 (Tue) – Full Spectrum Know Your Status Drop In Service Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Road, Youngstown, OH) 4 - 6 P . Free and confidential HIV testing. Free support, free information, free condoms.

Feb 18 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets (Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), 606 W 2nd St, Erie, PA 16507) 1 PM. The Erie County HIV Task Force is a collaboration of local organizations and individuals dedicated to educating, supporting, and advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing the spread of infection. Contact: Joy

Henry. Phone: (814) 451-6786. Venue Phone: (814) 451-6711. Email: jhenry@eriecountypa.gov. Browse to <https://echiv.org/>. Browse to venue web site <http://www.ecdh.org>.

SOCIAL

LGBT+ Erie County PA FB: LGBT+ Erie County, PA Southern Tier Queer Peers 31 Water St., Suite 7, Door 14, Jamestown NY “A wellness group for the LGBTQ+ community Tues. 5:30-7:30PM. ” Sheridan.smith@mhachautauqua.org 716-490-4438

Feb 9 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr #1, Erie, PA 16505) 12 PM. Contact: Kim Conti. Phone: (814) 490-3994. Venue Phone: (814) 835-1384. Email: Erie-Beans@yahoo.com. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>.

SPIRITUALITY

Community United Church 1011 West 38th St. Erie, PA

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie 7180 Perry Hwy Erie PA uerie.org Welcoming congregation.

Feb 11 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA 16001) 1 PM. The Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network is a collaboration of area religious leaders, lay leaders, and community organizers working to affirm the spirituality of all persons of faith. We provide peer pastoral support, community support, and programs that promote inclusion. Email: butler-interfaith@zoominternet.net. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork/>.

STUDENT & YOUTH

SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance) LGBTQIA Support Group (Ashtabula County District Library, 4335 Park Ave, Ashtabula OH) Every Tuesday, 4-5 PM. shannan.farmer@cccOhio.com

Feb 4 & 18 (Tue) – LGBT+ Teen Support (Full Spectrum, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM. FB: Full Spectrum Community Outreach Support

Feb 20 (Thu) - Erie Regional GSA meets (Blasco Memorial Erie County Public Library, 160 East Front Street, Erie, PA 16507) 6 PM - 8 PM.

Calendar

TRANS

Transgender Support Group of Jamestown NY
Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. Contact for location and details.
Text or call: Bethany (716) 499-4817, Hayley (814) 888-7525, Terry (716) 490-7596. FB: Transgender Support of Jamestown NY for events.

Feb 9 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Gender Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Road, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM.


Feb 16 (Sun) – Parents and Partners of Gender Variant Individuals Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM

Feb 22 (Sat) Transgender Support Group meets (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 2 – 5 PM. Contact: Annie Rosenthal. FB: Transfamily of NWP

Feb 23 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Gender Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Road, Youngstown, OH) 3 PM – 5 PM.

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 Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo, NY 716-855-0222
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