



## In Memoriam - John Daly King

John Daly King, age 82, formerly of Erie, passed away Saturday, March 14, 2020 at Pleasant Ridge Manor.

He was born in Butler Co., Pennsylvania on November 17, 1937, the son of the late Merton and Elizabeth Daly King.

He had attended the Boston Conservatory of Music and received a Bachelor Degree of Fine Arts and also received a Master’s Degree of Fine Arts.

John had been employed as a choreographer and was involved with many Broadway shows and had directed the Erie Civic Ballet.

He also worked with the Warren Players and Concert Dancers of Warren. He was the owner and operator of King’s Dance Factory in Warren from 1973 to 1976. John had worked for Little’s Dance Studio in Erie for several years.

He volunteered with Hospice and designed classes in Motor Motivation for Special Children. He taught yoga classes and also taught T’ai Chi for over 30 years. He was also active in PFLAG and NWPAPride Alliance Inc.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death; and his partner, Charles M. Silvia; and his aunt, Lynn Daly Tarr.

Further survived by his cousins, Sue (Ralph) Bernabo, Helen (Gary) Howell, Douglas Tarr, Blair Tarr and Mark Mathews; and friend and care giver, Mark Hoover.

Funeral services will be scheduled at Burton Funeral Home, 602 W 10th St, Erie PA.

Send condolences at [www.Burtonfuneralhome.com](http://www.Burtonfuneralhome.com).

## GEAE Update

*from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE)*

Please note that all GEAE-sponsored activities, including the Regional Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) that had been held at Blasco Public Library and also the Queer Youth Art Exhibit which would



John Daly King with Mark Hoover, taken on John’s birthday, November 17, 2019. Contributed photo.

have been held at Erie Art Gallery, are currently on hold due to COVID-19 concerns.

## Erie Gay News Online Only for current issue

We regretfully announce that because of the closure of non-life-sustaining businesses across Pennsylvania, which includes not only many of our distributors, but also the print shop that we use, this issue of *Erie Gay News* will be published online only. We ask for your help in sharing the PDF of this issue, as well as articles. We will resume publishing in print as soon as it is safe and possible to do so. We thank you for your many years of support!

## Drenched Fur postponed

*from Drenched Fur*

Because of COVID 19, this year’s Drenched Fur, originally scheduled for April 2-5, is being postponed. It is our hope that the event will take place in April of 2020, as we are working out details with the hotel and Splash Lagoon as this issue was going to press.

Additionally, the monthly social group Bears

*(Continues on page 3)*

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

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**Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th.**

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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.

**See our web site for photo galleries dating back to 1995!**

## EGN Rates & Data

<b>QUARTER PAGE</b>	<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>HALF PAGE VERTICAL</b>
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EIGHTH	\$40 - \$36 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" 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  
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## THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Audrey, Bobbie Fenno, Gwen, Johauna, Kim Conti, Lyxi Adamaszek, Michelle Rivero, Molly Rose, Paxton Dillon, and Rex Apps for folding; Audrey, Gwen, Johauna, Kim Conti, Lyxi Adamaszek, Melina Harden, Michelle Rivero, 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

Do Dinner is also on hold until area restaurants can again have dine-in customers.

We thank you for your understanding, and hope that you remain safe and healthy! The support of our community means a lot to us, and we thank you for understanding why this decision had to be made in these very difficult times.

## 2020 PA LGBTQ+ Needs Assessment

*from Pennsylvania Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control*

Almost 1 in 3 LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians report that their healthcare provider is not at all or slightly competent about LGBTQ+ health issues. The truth is the healthcare system simply was not designed to serve our needs as LGBTQ+ people. For too long, we have remained unseen, unheard, and underserved. As a result, a wide range of health disparities--from tobacco use, to diabetes, to cancer--have developed within our community.

It is said that what isn't measured can't be managed. Fortunately for us in the Keystone State, Pennsylvania has become a leader in collecting data to measure health disparities impacting the overall wellness of its LGBTQ+ population. Beginning in 2015 the Pennsylvania Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control (DTPC), through its northeast Regional Primary Contractor, collaborated with Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center to administer its first LGBTQ+ wellness needs assessment.

LGBTQ+ respondents from across different regions in Pennsylvania shared critical information on personal and community health opportunities. This new data fueled new community-based programs designed to close gaps in service and address the unique health needs of our population.

In 2018, DTPC moved to a state-wide needs assessment. During a 7 week data collection period, more than 20 LGBTQ organizations across the state connected 4,679 LGBTQ+ residents of 64 counties to the survey. The results of the assessment yielded recommendations including encouraging discussions about health screenings, prioritizing chronic disease prevention, identifying community-wide mental health supports, and supporting connections to LGBT-

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# Community News

competent healthcare providers.

Beginning March 9, LGBTQ+ organizations across the state will be working to collect data for the 2020 PA LGBTQ+ Needs Assessment. We are excited to see that the coalition supporting this work is growing year by year. Moreover, the network of community-based organizations and government agencies responding to these highlighted needs is growing too.

For the first time this year, there is a Spanish language version of the assessment. Special efforts are being made to encourage participation from under-represented subpopulations including LGBTQ youth, people of color, members of rural communities, and transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. As we seek to capture a greater diversity of perspectives, we hope to promote a better understanding of

the unique experiences of members throughout the LGBTQ+ community and throughout the state.

Every person who partakes in the survey will be helping Pennsylvania's department of health learn more about how to promote the health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ people. Further, our state will serve as a model, helping other states learn how to comprehensively assess and respond to the unmet needs of their LGBTQ+ communities.

Our community matters and we deserve competent and inclusive services in our area. Please take the time to participate now at [http://bit.ly/2020PANA\\_E](http://bit.ly/2020PANA_E). Visit [http://bit.ly/2020PANA\\_S](http://bit.ly/2020PANA_S) to access the Spanish language version of the survey.

**Deadline for Next EGN issue  
Apr 13**

**Please fill out the PA LGBTQ+ Health  
Needs Assessment by April 24!**



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# Calendar

Most regional events assumed to be canceled because of COVID-19. Some events/meetings may be held online. For latest updates, see [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

**Apr 13 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News May 2020 issue (#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, April 21.

## Awareness Days

**Mar 31 (Tue) - International Transgender Day of Visibility** <http://tdov.org/>.

**Apr 10 (Fri) - National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day** NYHAAD educates the public about the impact of HIV/AIDS on youth and highlights the work youth do to strengthen the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. #NYHAAD Advocates for Youth and its partners direct this observance. Browse to <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/>.

**Apr 17 (Fri) - Day of Silence** <http://www.glsen.org/dayofsilence>.

**Apr 18 (Sat) - National Transgender HIV Testing Day** National Transgender HIV Testing Day (NTHTD) was first observed on April 18, 2016. Browse to <http://transhealth.ucsf.edu/>.

**Apr 26 (Sun) - Lesbian Visibility Day #lesbianday-ofvisibility**



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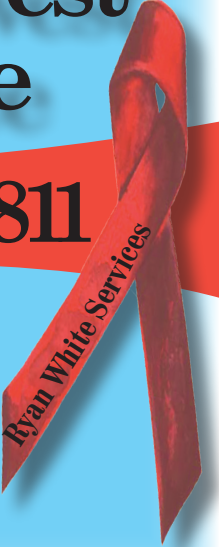
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# Voters Guide

Candidates for US Congress PA-16, PA State Senate, and PA State House were asked about their positions on GLBT issues. Their responses appear on the next few pages.

Please note that Pennsylvania's Primary Election is currently scheduled for Tuesday, April 28. For the first time, ALL voters can request a mail-in ballot, which can be applied for online. Applications for absentee ballots are due by April 21, and all completed ballots must be received by the County's Board Of Elections by no later than April 28 at 8 PM. We strongly encourage everyone to apply for and vote via absentee ballot! At the time that this article was published, there was proposed legislation to postpone PA's primary election to June 2.

## Questions for all candidates:

### Anti-Discrimination

*Do you support the passage of legislation such as the Equality Act, which would protect LGBT individuals from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation? Please explain.*

### "Religious Freedom"

*Do you support legislation such as the so-called First Amendment Defense Act (introduced in the US Senate in March of 2018) that would allow individuals, government officials or government agencies to deny providing goods and services to LGBT individuals because of religious beliefs. Please explain.*

## Compiled by Michael Mahler

All candidates in a race are asked the same questions. Responses are entered as received, without any changes, including correction for typographical errors. Pertinent information that does not come directly from the candidate will use reliable and verifiable sources, and appears in italics with "Editors' note" preceding the quote.

This guide also appears on [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

## US Congress PA 16

*Not Responding: Mike Kelly (R-Incumbent)*

### Anti-Discrimination KRISTY GNIBUS (D)

Yes, I support the Equality Act. Our federal law still does not specifically and explicitly prohibit the termination of an individual's employment based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Additionally, LGBT tenants are often evicted from their homes due to an overzealous landlord's dislike of their tenant's choice of a partner and LGBT students are mistreated and bullied in schools across our nation every day. There should be no question as to an LGBT citizen's rights under the law and each passing day without our government instituting these explicit protections is another day that our nation fails to recognize true equality.

### "Religious Freedom" KRISTY GNIBUS (D)

No, I do not support such legislation because it would rollback critical legal protections for LGBT Americans and their families. The First Amendment Defense Act is destructive legislation that would, in essence, legalize state-sanctioned discrimination and weaken important civil rights protections for our nation's LGBT population.

## PA State Senate District 49

### Anti-Discrimination ANDRE HORTON (D)

Yes, I would support the introduction and passage of this legislation at the state and federal level. I have successfully supported the inclusion of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity in the County's Human Relations Ordinance. The categories of sexual orientation and gender orientation are currently not included in the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.



# Voters Guide

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It is wrong to ask people if they are a part of one of these protected classes before making a job offer or offering services. I have sponsored legislation like this already and am proud to have appointed a trans woman to the human relations advisory board. Additionally, I support legislation amending the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act so that it prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

## **JULIE SLOMSKI (D)**

For far too long, the LGBTQ+ community has been left unprotected by Pennsylvania law. It is frustrating that in this day and age someone could lose their job or housing because of who they are or who they love. It is unacceptable to me that discrimination is still codified in our commonwealth, and as the next Senator for SD-49, I would be honored to introduce and support legislation to end discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community.

## **DAN LAUGHLIN (R-Incumbent)**

I am supportive of the Equality Act.

## **“Religious Freedom”**

### **ANDRE HORTON (D)**

No, I would oppose the introduction or passage of this type of legislation in the PA Assembly, local or Federal government. First Amendment Defense Acts (FADAs) allow people that hold certain religious beliefs about marriage to discriminate against others who don't fit into their religious beliefs about marriage. FADAs distort the meaning of religious freedom as a way to discriminate against others. Such legislation would be disastrous as LGBT individuals could be denied assistance from government employees (causing denial of access to food, shelter, and basic services) and for-profit businesses (affecting access to sick pay and fair housing practices, for example). As an African American man, I know what it's like to be discriminated against and to be locked out of employment. As past president of the NAACP I've handled employee complaints, worked closely with the state human-relations commission and the EEOC. I know all too often that discrimination is

alive and well in Pennsylvania. We don't need unnecessary and restrictive policies such as FADAs to empower discrimination.

## **JULIE SLOMSKI (D)**

To deny service on the basis of sexual orientation or identity is discrimination. While this has been addressed on a federal level, we need to be proactive in Pennsylvania to end discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community, regardless of its form.

## **DAN LAUGHLIN (R-Incumbent)**

I would not support the FADA

## **PA State House District 1**

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### **Anti-Discrimination**

#### **PAT HARKINS (D Incumbent)**

I do support legislation such as the Equality Act. In past sessions I have not only co sponsored legislation but I have held public hearings in Erie so the public can hear what is contained in the legislation and hear how it might affect them. I believe it is the right of all to be treated fairly and equally in all matters especially housing, employment and public accommodation. Bottom line, treat others the way you would want to be treated.

### **“Religious Freedom”**

#### **PAT HARKINS (D Incumbent)**

I would never support anything like the First Amendment Defense Act and I believe our founding fathers would turn over in their graves if they would see what some people would like to do to the constitution they so brilliantly crafted.

Call these proposals what they are, hate speech. Closed minded people who have a fear of the unknown are who come up with these ideas. In 2020 I would hope we could get beyond judging people for who they love and accept the differences in all of us. We have much deeper issues we should be dealing with at this point in society.

# Voters Guide

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## PA State House District 2

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*Not Responding: Bob Merski (D Incumbent)*

## PA State House District 3

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### **Anti-Discrimination**

**RYAN BIZZARRO (D Incumbent)**

Yes, I absolutely support legislation such as the Equality Act. One of the cardinal pillars of our Constitutional Republic is equal treatment under the law in the public square. To deny anyone employment, housing, or public accommodation due to (assumed or actual) sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression is a very clear transgression of one of our most cherished principles of equality. Private institutions and organizations that do not accept tax dollars are free to do as they will under their own roofs (for better or worse), but in our shared society that belongs to all citizens, LGBTQ people should not be denied equal access to employment, housing, or public accommodation.

### **“Religious Freedom”**

**RYAN BIZZARRO (D Incumbent)**

I am opposed to any legislation that dares to cloak discrimination in the name of religious freedom. The U.S. Constitution very clearly grants everyone freedom of conscience/belief. However, freedom of conscience does not translate into an unqualified freedom of accommodation. One is not free to use their private beliefs to infringe upon the rights of others, nor to cause them harm. To that end, whether as elected officials, or as people hired to serve, government positions are not domains to impose religious beliefs. What is more, tax funded services managed by private organizations do not have the right to impose narrow religious beliefs upon government funded projects. As a person of faith, I am deeply committed to protecting and exercising the freedom of religion in this country. However, I am not confused about what that means—and I am

not interested in participating in any legislative effort that would use religion as a tool of discrimination in our shared society or in our rule of law.

## PA State House District 4

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*Not Responding: Curt Sonney (R Incumbent)*

## PA State House District 6

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*Not Responding: Brad Roae (R Incumbent)*

### **Anti-Discrimination**

**MATTHEW FERRENCE (D)**

Simply put, that PA currently fails to fully protect the fundamental Civil Rights of the LGBTQ community is an affront to human decency and the values of the Commonwealth. There’s no doubt that strong legislation prohibiting any kind of discrimination due to sexuality or gender identity is long overdue in Pennsylvania. While I certainly hope that members of the US Congress will pass the federal Equality Act, as a candidate for the Pennsylvania House I believe we need protections written into our own state laws. We can’t wait for the feds. Too many people are suffering discrimination here in NWPA and across the state. We must act to ensure equity and justice.

### **“Religious Freedom”**

**MATTHEW FERRENCE (D)**

Hiding discrimination behind the thin veil of “religious freedom” devalues us all, and this kind of hateful legislation perniciously insults American concepts of freedom and justice to codify bigotry. Freedom of religion does not give license for discriminatory practice against members of the LGBTQ community. While religious freedom guarantees individuals the right to practice their faith, it does not imply that religious belief can be used as a cover to deny the Civil Rights of others. I would vehemently oppose any legislation similar to the deceptively-titled “First Amendment Defense Act” in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

# Voters Guide

## PA State House District 17

*Not Responding: Parke Wentling (R Incumbent)*

### Anti-Discrimination

**JEFF O'MELIAN (D)**

Of course I do!

### “Religious Freedom”

**JEFF O'MELIAN (D)**

Being a Buddhist myself, I strongly support the 1st Amendment.

Apply for your mail in absentee ballot at [pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/](http://pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/)



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# PA Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

by Michael Mahler

The PA Commission on LGBTQ Affairs met on February 21 at the PSEA Headquarters in Harrisburg. Executive Director Rafael Alvarez Febo gave a report. Febo took over for previous director Todd Snovel, who departed in December for another position.

Rep. Dan Frankel's staff gave an update on a package of 4 hate crime bills that had been introduced to the PA State House. They include HB2010 which deals with schools and colleges reporting by counselors, HB2011 - provide for education and rehabilitation of those who committed the crimes, HB2012 - Training of police officers for identifying and reporting hate crimes, and HB2013, which will establish race, religion, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation and others as categories. The bills have been introduced, and are waiting to go to committee / working on moving through committees. There are related bills in the PA State Senate.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) had been allowing for a gender non-binary marker (X) on drivers licenses since last year, but the process of getting the marker involved some

manual steps. On March 29, there had been planned a system change to make it more straightforward. The form only requires customer to self-certify their gender, no medical provider certification is required. The gender non-binary/X designation can get RealID at no additional cost for just the X designation. (Normal charges apply for getting RealID.)

The ACLU gave a presentation on solitary confinement legislation that would protect vulnerable populations including LGBTQIA+. It was introduced in the House as HB497 and in the Senate as SB832. The bill set a maximum of 15 days consecutive in solitary confinement, and a limit of no more than 20 days of solitary confinement in a 60 day period.

The committees met to discuss their topics and reported back to the commission. Also discussed were proposed individuals to fill vacancies on the commission. The Governor appoints people to serve, but does listen to recommendations from the commission.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 22.



# Entertainment Notes

compiled by Rex Apps

With respecting the call for social distancing, we thought it would be good to check in with some of the entertainment that we could have streamed to our own homes during this time.

The following titles are the top ten best LGBT films on Netflix according to Rotten Tomatoes. See the online version of this article for full detail!

1. *Moonlight* (2016)
2. *Carol* (2015)
3. *Milk* (2008)
4. *God's Own Country* (2017)
5. *Paris Is Burning* (1991)
6. *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson* (2017)
7. *Blue Is The Warmest Color* (2013)
8. *Princess CYD* (2017)
9. *The Wound* (INXE BRA) (2017)
10. *Other People* (2016)

## Upcoming books on Amazon

There are also several books of LGBTQIA+ interest that will be available on Amazon

*Save Yourself*, by Cameron Esposito  
Out March 24

*Wow, No Thank You.: Essays*, by Samantha Irby  
Out March 31


*Look*, by Zan Romanoff  
Out March 31

*The Prettiest Star*, by Carter Sickels  
Out April 14

*Kept Animals*, by Kate Milliken  
Out April 21

*Good Boy: My Life in Seven Dogs*, by Jennifer Finney Boylan  
Out April 21

For details about these titles, be sure to check out this article at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)



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# 2020 Census info

## **Important Census Facts And How Your Information Is Used**

What's At Risk? For every resident not counted, our community will:

- Lose \$2,100 per person every year for the next 10 years
- Lose more than \$1 billion in the next 10 year

For the 2020 Census, it is estimated that we will miss 50,519 people. This equates to a loss of \$106.1 million per year for Erie County residents.

## **Why Does It Matter?**

This funding is crucial for our neighborhoods and community centers, parks and rec, streets, schools, housing, health, and transportation.

- 2020 Census form are out now!
- April 30 – Deadline to answer online, by phone, or by mail
- May 1 - Census workers with badges will start going door-to-door

- July 31 – Last day to complete the Census

## **Hard-to-Count Populations**

Hard-to-Count populations include infants, college students, seniors, those who move a lot, those who are homeless, those living in poverty, LGBTQ+ residents, minorities, and immigrants and refugees, including those who are undocumented/ recently-arrived.

## **Questions the Census Will Never Ask**

During the 2020 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau will never ask you for:

- Your Social Security number
- Money or donations
- Anything on behalf of a political party
- Your bank or credit card account numbers
- Your citizenship

If someone claiming to be from the U.S. Census Bureau contacts you via email or phone and asks you for one of these things, it's a scam, and you should not cooperate.

**Domestic Violence  
can affect individuals  
of every age, race,  
gender, and sexual  
orientation.**

**SafeNet**  
*reclaim your life*

**24/7 crisis hotline: (814) 454-8161**  
**[www.SafeNetErie.org](http://www.SafeNetErie.org)**  
**All are welcome.**





It only takes *one caring adult* to change a child's life.

**Are you the *one*?**

Become a Foster Parent today at  
**FosterNWPAKids.org**



Adoption | Foster Care | Kinship Care

# Silvertree Seniors of Jamestown

Affordable Senior Housing For Those 62 Years & Better



## Rent According To Income!

Four locations available between Jamestown & Falconer - Call for details!  
Rent according to income, 24-hour maintenance, heat included in rent, community areas, outdoor space. Service Coordinator on-site to help with Medicaid questions, bill-paying, SNAP eligibility, **and more!**



**Studies Have Shown** that LGBTQIA seniors are often reluctant to choose senior living communities, as they are afraid it may compromise their Out & Proud style of living. Silvertree Seniors of Jamestown is the right choice for LGBTQIA seniors in Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania. Our properties provide an equal-housing opportunity.



Visit Our Office Or Call Today!  
145 Chandler Street, Jamestown  
716-258-7011 ext. 2

