



# EGN

## Erie Gay News



*Mayor's LGBTQIA+ Advisory Councilmembers in front of Erie City Hall at a peaceful protest in support of Black Lives Matter on Thursday, June 4. (L-R) Rose Surma, Michael Mahler, Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty, Ali Scarpitti, Leroy Oglesby, Alex Sphon, and Tammie Johnson. Contributed photo. Not pictured: Melina Harden.*



## 2020 Virtual Pridefest on June 27

*from NW PA Pride Alliance*

NW PA Pride Alliance will be hosting 2020 Virtual Pride Fest on Saturday, June 27 beginning at 2 PM. The link to the Zoom webconference will be on their Facebook page and also the event will be posted to Facebook after it is over. Expected speakers/presenters include US Sen. Bob Casey Jr, County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Leroy Oglesby, and Erie City Mayor Joe Schember. Live Performers in the web cast include Misty Michaels Kall, Lovin Heart, Rebecca Mae, Priscilla Godzilla, Debbie, and Austin Kulyk. Pre-recorded performers include Snarebear, Porshaa Lejayy, and various performers from the Erie Playhouse.

Various organizations will be hosting their own virtual chat rooms during Pride Fest, similar to organizations having info tables at Pride Fest when it is held physically. Organizations with virtual chat rooms as of this time of this article include American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Erie VA Medical

Center, Highmark, Polyanna Law / Legal Clinic, SafeNet Center, and Sarah Reed Children's Center. Links to these chat rooms as well as others will be in the online version of this article. More were expected as this issue went to press.

In solidarity with Black and Brown communities, we ask for donations to Urban Erie Community Development Corporation (UECDC)/ Reverend E.F. Smith Quality of life Learning Center, Eagle's Nest Leadership Corp, and the John F. Kennedy Center. Links to all three 501(c)(3) organizations will be in the online version of this article.

## Toaster Oven Art Challenge

From Crime Victim Center of Erie County

This fun challenge is inspired by the historical and groundbreaking TV moment when Ellen DeGeneres came out to the world on her TV show Ellen, poking fun at the idea that you will get a toaster oven if you "turn" someone gay.

*(Continues on page 3)*

## In This Issue...

2020 Virtual Pridefest on June 27.....	1
Toaster Oven Art Challenge .....	1
“I Am” Youth Queer Art Show at Erie Art Gallery.....	3
Erie Apparel donates Pride Collection proceeds .....	3
Mental Health Awareness and the LGBTQ Community on June 30 .....	4
GEAE Scholarship Deadline on June 30 .....	4
In Memoriam: Jamie Hibbs.....	4
No Pride Without Black Lives Rally .....	7
Jamestown NY Fenton History Center LGBTQ Project .....	7
Department of Aging Releases Survey for Public Input on its Four-Year State Plan on Aging .....	8
Charity cACE by That Gentle Giant Ace .....	9
Erie Gay News Request for Distributor and Event Updates.....	9
Calendar .....	11
Awareness Days .....	11



**Erie Gay News**  
**Erie Gay News**  
 1115 West 7th St.  
 Erie PA 16502-1105  
 (814) 456-9833  
 Fax: (440) 551-5985  
[info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)  
[www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

**Editor/Layout: Mike Mahler**

**Deadline for next issue: July 13**  
**Folding and distribution is Tue, July 21 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.



<b>QUARTER PAGE</b>	<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>HALF PAGE VERTICAL</b>
<b>HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL</b>	<b>EIGHTH PAGE</b>	

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
HALF HORIZ.	\$120 - \$108 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
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, Jewels Frantz, Kim Conti, Linda Thomas, and Rex Apps for folding; Kim Conti, Linda Thomas, 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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

# Community News

We all know this is not how it works. So to make light of this and the sad truth that we will not be able to celebrate Pride month as we have each June, Crime Victim Center of Erie will host a Toaster Oven Art Challenge with PACA, 419 Artifacts, and Michael Tkach Photography.

The event benefits the LGBT Community Endowment Fund at the Erie Community Foundation. All work must be dropped off no later than June 30, close of business at PACA, 1505 State St., Erie, 2nd floor 10 am-2pm M-F or by appointment 814-434-0687.

The "Toaster Oven" art sculptures will be seen by the public online at [PACA1505.org](http://PACA1505.org) and on PACA Facebook page. Auction date TBA.. Tickets and info [cvcerie.org/toaster/](http://cvcerie.org/toaster/)

## "I Am" Youth Queer Art Show at Erie Art Gallery

*From Erie Art Gallery*

The Erie Art Gallery is holding an online exhibit displaying the works of young artists.

"I Am" Youth Queer Art Show can be viewed at [erieartgallery.com](http://erieartgallery.com) There will also be a display outside the gallery, created by Jon Box.

A reception was held June 19 to give the young artists a chance to see their work on the gallery's walls.

Erie Art Gallery held its first LGBTQ art exhibit last year and hopes to have more queer art programming in the future. GEAE is the sponsoring organization for all LGBTQ/Queer Youth activities and programming.

Erie Art Gallery is located at 24 W 8th St, Erie, PA.

## Erie Apparel donates Pride Collection proceeds

*From Greater Erie Alliance for Equality*

Erie Apparel has graciously contacted Greater Erie Alliance for Equality to donate proceeds from the sale of this year's Pride Collection to GEAE.

Erie Apparel is at 2309 W 12th St, Erie, PA Visit [erieapparel.co](http://erieapparel.co) and find on Facebook.



**Tom NeCastro, ABR®**  
Associate Broker, REALTOR®  
814-452-2100 Ext 125 Business  
814-452-2005 Fax  
814-881-1186 Cell  
814-452-4526 Residence  
[necastro@peoplepc.com](mailto:necastro@peoplepc.com)

**COLDWELL BANKER**

**SELECT, REALTORS**  
2100 West 8th Str.  
Erie, PA 16505  
[TomNeCastro.com](http://TomNeCastro.com)

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

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



**It's our differences that make us great.**

**Natalie Braddock Ins Agcy Inc**  
Natalie Braddock, Agent  
1338 E 38th St  
[www.nataliebraddock.com](http://www.nataliebraddock.com)  
Bus: 814-825-3186

No matter what you value, I'm here to help protect it with respect and professionalism.  
**Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®**  
CALL ME TODAY.

 **State Farm®**

# Community News

## Mental Health Awareness and the LGBTQ Community on June 30

*from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality*

Join Melanie Dunbar, Ph.D., Director of Behavioral Health at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine for a discussion on Mental Health Wellness & the LGBTQ+ community to be hosted on Zoom on June 30 from 6:30 to 8 PM. Proactive mental health wellness is vitally important. What does it mean to have mental health wellness? What exactly is it? What makes it up?

Disparities in access and quality of mental health care for the LGBT+ community create challenges for this community. This has even become more pronounced with new issues created by the pandemic and social unrest. How do we try to deal with this inequity and do what is needed for Mental Health Wellness.

Finally, how can you foster your own mental health wellness? What are the actions and concrete

ways to do this? It is important to view mental health wellness as important as physical health and attend to it on a regular basis. We tend to make it more difficult for ourselves by trying to address it once a crisis has arrived.

Questions for Dr. Dunbar can be submitted to [geaeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:geaeinfo@gmail.com) by Thursday, June 24. The Zoom meeting is at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5456521239>.

## GEAE Scholarship Deadline on June 30

*from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality*

Greater Erie Alliance for Equality's Pride Scholarship application is still open! College students and incoming freshman are welcome to apply for this \$1000 award paid to the college or trade school of your choice! No fee! Due date is June 30th, 2020. Application is at [greatereriealliance.com](http://greatereriealliance.com)

## In Memoriam: Jamie Hibbs

Jamie Hibbs passed away March 20, 2020.

Jamie was a friend to the local LGBTQ+ community. She strongly believed in human rights and in fair and just treatment to all, and cared deeply about animals.

Sincere condolences to Dok and the Hibbs family in their loss.

**Deadline for Next EGN issue  
July 13**

## Lake Erie Counseling, Inc.

**Proudly celebrating our 20th year  
of providing quality services  
to the LGBT community.**

**Offering caring, confidential  
counseling to Individuals,  
Couples and Families**

- Depression • Anxiety • Relationship issues
- Family issues • Sexual identity issues
- Gender identity and transition issues

**Most insurances accepted Medicare accepted  
Medicaid accepted Sliding fee scale**

**301 West 10th Street  
Erie, PA 16502  
814-455-4009**

**[www.lakeeriecounseling.com](http://www.lakeeriecounseling.com)**





*PROUD TO BE TOBACCO FREE*

**1 - 8 0 0 -  
QUIT - N O W**



This project was funded through a grant  
from the Pa. Department of Health

# Be Yourself



Crisis Communications | Public Relations | Reputation Management

716.466.6466

[excelsiorstrategies.com](http://excelsiorstrategies.com)

# Community News

## No Pride Without Black Lives Rally

On Saturday, June 13, Cheyenne Moore organized at No Pride Without Black Lives rally in Perry Square. About 70 people attended, and there was local media coverage. In recognition of the Stonewall riots initiated by Black LGBTQ+ people in direct response to police brutality, people came together to peacefully honor, mourn, and advocate for the queer Black people who have been victims of homophobia/racism/police brutality. Speakers included Marty Nwachukwu of Erie County United, Zeila Hobson, and Niecey Davis. The event also included an impromptu march from Perry Square to Dobbins Landing and back.



## Jamestown NY Fenton History Center LGBTQ Project

*from Mental Health Association of Chautauqua County*

The Fenton History Center has recently been awarded grant funding through the New York State Council on the Arts and Greater Hudson Heritage Network to begin collecting archival materials with the intention to develop an exhibit highlighting the history and personal experience of members of the LGBTQIA+ community of the Greater Jamestown Area.

MHA and Jamestown Pride are partnering with the Fenton History Center to help obtain these materials for this exhibit and archives.

This is where we need you. We need your experience as a Queer member of our community whether it's a story about growing up Queer in Chautauqua County, what it was like to come out, or your experience living here as a member of the Queer community. It could also be a song, a poem, a painting,

## Northwest Alliance

814.454.3811

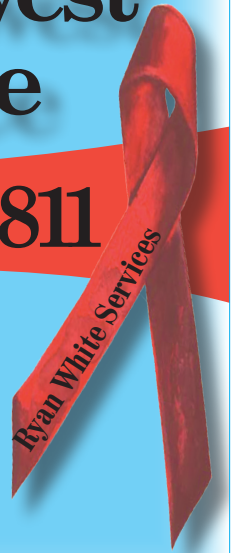
Case Management

Clinical Services

High Impact Prevention  
including Rapid  
HIV Testing - Walk-in  
Testing Available!

Linkage to Care

Call for treatment and referral.



# Community News

photograph, or video that represents what it means to you to be Queer.

Stories can be submitted through the Google Doc link on the Fenton History Center's website, or be emailed to [fentonhistorycenter@gmail.com](mailto:fentonhistorycenter@gmail.com) or [JamestownPride@mhachautauqua.org](mailto:JamestownPride@mhachautauqua.org). Contact information collected will not be shared, and will only be used if we need to contact you for more details or permission for preservation.

If you have other questions about the exhibit you can contact the Fenton History Center by email at [fentonhistorycenter@gmail.com](mailto:fentonhistorycenter@gmail.com) or you can message them on their Facebook page.

## Department of Aging Releases Survey for Public Input on its Four-Year State Plan on Aging

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Aging recently released a survey for the general public and community stakeholders to provide input

on the department's strategies and priorities as part of the process of completing a State Plan on Aging for 2020-2024.

The brief survey asks respondents to prioritize services and quality-of-life issues that are most meaningful to them in ensuring age-friendly communities across the commonwealth over the next four years. Adults aged 60 and over are strongly encouraged to take the survey. It is available in English and Spanish on the Department of Aging's website now through June 21 and can be completed on a computer, tablet or smart phone.

Anyone who may not have internet access and is interested in taking the survey can call the department at 717-783-1550. The individual should leave their contact information and indicate they want to participate in the 'State Plan on Aging Community Survey.' A department staff member will call them to complete the five-minute survey over the phone.

"The survey is user friendly and the Department of Aging hopes to have community members,



**1 IN 6  
PEOPLE  
WITH  
HIV  
DON'T  
KNOW  
THEY  
HAVE IT.**

**KNOW YOUR STATUS!  
GET TESTED!**

**FREE  
CONFIDENTIAL  
RAPID HIV TESTING**

Services for persons  
living with HIV:

- HIV Specialty Care
- Primary Medical Care
- Dental & Vision Care
- Medication & Insurance Assistance
- Translation Services

PrEP NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC  
Monday – Thursday  
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

**COMMUNITY  
Health Net**  
Everyday People. Extraordinary Care.

1202 State Street · 4401 Iroquois Avenue · Erie, PA  
814-454-4530 or 1-866-220-9800 Ext. 477

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



# Community News

consumers of services, caregivers, and advocates give us their input. We truly value the feedback that we receive in order to craft a plan that continues to prioritize the needs and services of older Pennsylvanians now and in the future,” said Secretary Robert Torres.

The State Plan on Aging is designed to help Pennsylvania meet the objectives of the Older Americans Act and will be submitted to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) containing a vision and direction for Pennsylvania’s network of aging services. The Department of Aging is required to submit a plan every four years, with the next plan due by Oct. 1, 2020.

## Charity cACE by That Gentle Giant Ace

Marshall John Blount has a page on Facebook for a fundraiser for Asexual Outreach, a non-profit organization working to build a national advocacy movement to strengthen communities and change lives. Thank you for the love and support and cheers! Be safe and have cake!

## Erie Gay News Request for Distributor and Event Updates

As this issue of *Erie Gay News* went to print, it was announced that Erie County would be going to Green status as of June 26. We had paused some of our drop offs and event listings because of closures under Yellow status. We will be updating the list. If you have been a distributor or hosted events that were closed previously, we ask that you email [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com) to confirm that you are open again. (And new distributors/events are welcome as well!)



**Brett Staskiewicz-Realtor**



**Richmond Real Estate**  
REAL ESTATE SERVICE  
751 N. Main Street  
Meadville, Pa 16335  
814-337-6000 ext 8347  
814-720-1737 mobile 814-333-1927 fax  
[stask@zoominternet.net](mailto:stask@zoominternet.net)  
[WWW.ERA-RICHMOND.COM](http://WWW.ERA-RICHMOND.COM)



**Nolan's**  
**Pine Avenue**  
**Auto Service, LLC**


**General Repairs**  
**State Inspections**

**Specializing in**  
**Heating and Air Conditioning**

**3626 Pine Ave**  
**Erie PA 16504**  
**814-454-4133**



**Not Fancy, Just Good!** 



**• • • • INFORMING**  
**GAY YELLOW PAGES™**

Informing the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Since 1973

Accommodations, bars, business and not-for-profit resources Separate WOMEN'S and ETHNIC/MULTICULTURAL sections

USA/CANADA: \$25 by first class mail. All states and providences, national headquarters of organizations, mail order companies, etc.

The whole book is now online in Acrobat Reader format.  
[www.gayyellowpages.com/online.htm](http://www.gayyellowpages.com/online.htm)  
Also available as a no frills CD in PDF format.

Find us at Gay-Friendly stores like  
Body Language, Cleveland, OH 216-251-3330  
Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo, NY 716-855-0222  
and many others at <http://gayyellowpages.com/2buy.htm>

For an application to be listed (no charge), current editions, and prices, mailing labels, etc. please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-EGN, Village Station, New York, NY 10014 646-213-0263 or email [gypages@gmail.com](mailto:gypages@gmail.com)

**<http://gayyellowpages.com>**

## ABC's OF BUILDING BETTER LIVES

Mary Lynn Rote, LPC, CADC | Sarah McGill, LPC  
Charen Pasky, LCSW | Jillian Rhoades, LCSW  
Rhonda Ramirez, LPC | Rob Giannamore, LPC  
Ashley Gleason, LPC | Lorraina Covell, LPC

### Counseling Services

Individuals | Couples | Families | Depression  
Addictions | Anxiety | Trauma | Yoga Instruction

**(814) 825 - 2930**

4320 Dexter Ave. Erie, PA 16504

For more info on this business visit [www.marylynnrote.com](http://www.marylynnrote.com)

# STD HIV

## COUNSELING & TESTING

Confidential

**FREE, Walk-In Clinic**

**STD & HIV Testing Hours:**

Tuesday 9:00AM-11:30AM

Wednesday 1:00PM-3:00PM

Appointment Available

**Erie County  
Department of Health**

606 West 2nd Street

Corner of West Second and Cherry

814-451-6714

[www.ecdh.org](http://www.ecdh.org)

## Intimate Partner Violence

*It isn't always physical.*

Intimate partner violence includes:

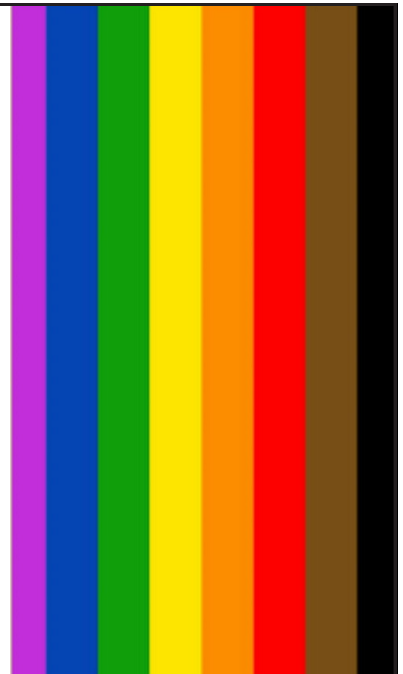
- Verbal abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Financial control
- Stalking, intimidation
- Isolation
- Sexual coercion

**SafeNet**  
*reclaim your life*

**24/7 Crisis Hotline: (814) 454-8161**

**[www.SafeNetErie.org](http://www.SafeNetErie.org)**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



# Calendar

For latest updates, see [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

**Jun 19 - 30 (Fri - Tue) - Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) Queer Youth Art Exhibit** (Erie Art Gallery, 24 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16508) Theme is "I Am." 10 people admitted at a time, masks and social distancing required. Open Saturdays from noon to 4 PM through the end of June, and by appointment. Phone: (866) 229-1974. Venue Phone: (814) 450-9005. GEAEinfo@gmail.com. <http://greatereriealliance.com/>. or <http://www.erieartgallery.com/>.

**Jun 26 - 28 (Fri - Sun) - Illumination Weekend** (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729)

**Jun 27 (Sat) - Underwear Weekend** (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219)

**Jun 27 (Sat) - Erie VAMC LGBT+ Pride Presentation** (Zoom) 10 AM & 2:30 PM. Meeting ID: 750 6721 2696. Password: erielgbt.

**Jun 27 (Sat) - Erie VAMC LGBT+ Pride Q&A and needs assessment** (Zoom) 11 AM & 3:30 PM. Meeting ID: 712 4561 8894 Password: erielgbt.

**Jun 27 (Sat) - 2020 Virtual Pride** 2 PM - 5 PM. Due to Covid-19 a large gathering will not be permitted in NWPAA this June. We have partnered with the Erie Playhouse to bring you a Virtual PrideFest. This event will be family friendly and free to virtually attend. Find NW PA Pride Alliance on FB.

**Jun 27 (Sat) - GSRM Quiz Games with Polyanna in Cosplay!** (Zoom) 2 PM. \*\*Prizes/Raffle/Games\*\* Come test your knowledge & learn more about Gender, Sexual & Romantic Minorities (GSRM)! Sponsored by Polyanna Law Boutique - fashion for your rights! Hosted on Zoom. Meeting ID is 613 277 3555 and Password is 5fHyW4. [polyannalawspace@gmail.com](mailto:polyannalawspace@gmail.com).

**Jun 27 (Sat) - SafeNet Center Virtual Pride Chat Room** (Zoom) 2 PM. Intimate partner violence does not discriminate, and neither does SafeNet. Visit our Zoom chat for information about healthy and unhealthy relationships, LGBTQ+ partner violence statistics, and SafeNet services. If you like videos that pack a message, you can also join our Facebook watch party by opening our Facebook page at SafeNet Inc. Zoom Meeting ID: 812 3389 6327. For Zoom meeting if not using web cam, phone (929) 205-6099

**Jun 27 (Sat) - Sarah A. Reed Children's Center Virtual PrideFest Drop in with Sallie** (Zoom) 2 PM. General drop in with a licensed psychologist - we can talk about mental health and/or anything else that's on

your mind. Zoom Meeting ID: 976 9940 1720 Password: PRIDE . If not using Zoom app, phone in using (301) 715-8592

**Jun 27 (Sat) - M & J's Lounge Re-Opening** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001)

**Jun 29 - Jul 3 (Mon - Fri) - Vacation Week #1** (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729)

**Jun 30 (Tue) - Toaster Oven Art Challenge Deadline** (PACA, 1505 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM - 6 PM. See more about this unique art challenge by PACA and the LGBT Community Endowment in article in this issue/.

**Jul 2 - 5 (Thu - Sun) - Independence Day (300 block party)** (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729)

**Jul 4 (Sat) - 4th of July Weekend at Camp Davis** (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219)

**Jul 10 - 12 (Fri - Sun) - Hollywood Weekend** (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd,

**Jul 11 (Sat) - FOAM Party Weekend at Camp Davis** (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219)

**Jul 13 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News August 2020 print edition (#297)** (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, July 21

**Jul 17 - 19 (Fri - Sun) - Cowboy Weekend** (400 block party) (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729)

**Jul 18 (Sat) - Pride Weekend at Camp Davis** (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) /.

**Jul 21 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA 16502) 7 PM. Limited number of volunteers welcome. You must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

## Awareness Days

**Jun 27 (Sat) - National HIV Testing Day** National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) was first observed on June 27, 1995.

**Jun 28 (Sun) - Stonewall Riots Anniversary** To remember the Stonewall Riots that are described as the start of the Trans and Gay Liberation Movement in the United States.



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