



# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



*Rocking the new Erie Gay News logo at the Erie Maritime Museum are (first row) Kim Conti, Gary Snyder, Andrea Shaffer; (second row) Rex Apps, Patrick Hiller, Michael Mahler, Michael Mongera. Not pictured: Nahtanha Klingensmith. Photo by Andrea Shaffer.*

## Erie Gay News New Logo and Window Decals for Distributors

Erie Gay News is proud to reveal our new logo, which Patrick Hiller of Whee! Design. The new logo will be on all of our social media, and we are excited by our new look!

Also, we are very proud to be making window decals with the new logo and “Erie Gay News Available Here” to all of our distributors at no cost! If you want to become a distributor, please email Michael Mahler at [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com) or call (814) 456-9833.

This spring, we will have some exciting news about our new look and window decals.

## 2022 PA LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment Launched

NWPA Pride Alliance is proud to be part of a coalition of LGBTQIA+ organizations collecting responses for the 2022 PA LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment.

Pennsylvania is home to thousands of LG-BTQIA+ residents, and the state has become a leader in measuring disparities impacting our community’s wellness. Since 2015, a growing network of LG-BTQIA+ organizations has helped collect data about our community’s health needs and barriers to care.

Beginning January 10th 2022, this coalition will be collecting data for the 2022 Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment. The anonymous survey is available in English and Spanish, and those who complete it have the option to be entered into a raffle to win a \$50 gift card afterwards. Special efforts are being made to encourage participation from underrepresented parts of our community including LGBTQIA+ youth, older adults, people of color, members of rural communities, and transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. We hope to promote a better understanding of the unique experiences of members throughout the LGBTQIA+ community across Pennsylvania.

Every person who completes the survey will be helping fuel community-based programs designed to close gaps in service and address health disparities. Together, we will build a stronger, healthier community.

Take the time to raise your voice for LG-BTQIA+ health and be entered in a raffle to win a gift card now at [bit.ly/2022PANA](https://bit.ly/2022PANA). Puedes participar en español aquí: [bit.ly/2022PANA\\_S](https://bit.ly/2022PANA_S).

## NWPA Pride’s Drag Bingo Hosted By Alysin Wonderland on Feb 2

This isn’t your Great Aunt Gertrude’s Bingo; this is Bingo with a Twist. Alysin Wonderland. NWPA Pride Alliance and Voodoo Brewery will be hosting a bingo every first Wednesday of each month at Voodoo Brewery, 101 Boston Store Place, Erie, PA. February 2 is the next Bingo!

Doors open at 5:30, and join us at 6 pm for a Meet and Greet with the cast and games to begin

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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.

**If you are restarting events or are moving to hosting events/meetings virtually, or want to change your copies received for distribution, please email [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)**

## EGN Rates & Data

<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 HORZ.	\$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 HIRRES.

All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

## THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Jeff Hill, Jewels Frantz, Kim Conti, Linda Thomas, Raven Jane Cammarata, and Rex Apps for folding; Jeff Hill, Kim Conti, Linda Thomas, Raven Jane Cammarata, 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).

at 6:30 pm. \$25/ticket will get you access to all the fun. Additional cards are available at the event. Cash Prizes will be awarded.

Masks encouraged when not seated with your group.

Seats are limited, so book your tickets NOW!

## NWPA Pride Alliance announces 2022 Officers

Erie, Pa, January 8, 2022--- NWPA Pride Alliance is happy to announce the re-elections of our 2021 Officers for the 2022 term. Alex Sphon will continue to serve as President, Season Crannell as Vice-President, Michael Mahler as Treasurer and Rex Apps as Secretary.

NWPA Pride Looks forward to a return to in person Pride Events in 2022. Pridefest and the Pride Parade will be held on Saturday June 25th and the Pride Picnic will be held on Saturday August 13th. Please follow NWPA Pride on social media and at [NWPAPride.org](http://NWPAPride.org) for more information and other new events for the 2022 Pride Season.

## Winter Coat and Boot Drive 2022

We had an excellent turnout for the coat and boot drive! We collected at Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie PA on January 19, 2022, over 35 pairs of men's and women's boots, and double that amount in winter coats. In addition, we received hats, scarves, gloves, and much-needed cans of ground coffee for Community Shelter Services. Diane Lazette, Executive Director of the shelter, was very grateful for the donation, saying there was an immediate need, especially for the winter boots. After we dropped off the donation, Diane invited



*Rose, Raven, and Bobbie with the donations gathered for the 2022 Winter Coat and Boot Drive.*

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us to take a tour of the shelter. It is hard to find the words for the emotions that we experienced that afternoon. Community Shelter Services provides a safe, clean, and warm place for people in need in our city. And there are many opportunities and ways to help support the shelter. Check out their website at [communityshelter.org](http://communityshelter.org)

Participating organizations included TransFamily of NW PA, Erie Gay News, Community United Church, NW PA Pride Alliance, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Central Outreach Wellness Center Erie, and The Zone Dance Club.

## Queer Online Dating Survey

My name is Rowen (they/them), and I am a student at Allegheny College. My focus has been on the emotional and mental impact of social media in my studies, especially regarding marginalized groups like LGBTQ+ folks and people of color.

For my senior thesis, I want to ask members of the queer community how they feel about their online dating experiences, as well as how the apps we use influence these feelings to create healthier online spaces in the future. The advertised study focuses on

Grindr. The survey (approx. 35 minutes) asks Grindr users to talk about their app experiences. None of the questions are invasive, and your information will remain confidential.

Participants can enter to win a \$15 Target gift card and may also choose to receive a summary of the study results at the end of the Spring 2022 semester. Scanning the QR code will take you to the consent page to better explain everything. You will also find my email address and the address of the Institutional Review Board if you have any questions. Thank you for considering participation in my survey! You must be 18 years or older to enter.

## Erie's Original Drag Queen Bingo on February 12

Join The Erie Drag Queens Saturday, February 12, 2022, at the Zem Zem Shrine Center for an evening of glitz, glamour, and good times! With over \$3000 in cash money given away, this event has always been sold out.

But be warned, this isn't your grandmother's bingo, this is a rude, crude, tipsy-time hosted by your very own Drag Queens of Erie.

The theme for December's Bingo is "TOGA PARTY" \$100 CASH PRIZE for the best-decorated table. Come in costume for bonus points.

\$25 includes your admission, bingo tickets, and drawings of multiple door prizes. Performances from three of Erie's premier Drag Queens throughout the games.

Drag Queen Bingo is an 18+ event and is fun for ALL!

Cash bar and food will be available for purchase.


## Lake Erie Gala 2021

The Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group hosted their Annual Lake Erie Gala from November 17-21, 2021, at the Courtyard by Marriott - Erie Bayfront and the adjoining Sheraton - Erie Bayfront Hotels. Now in its 22nd year, the Lake Erie Gala attracted crossdressers, transgender persons, and their loved ones from across North America and beyond our borders. Returning to the gala traditions, guests had their choices of informational workshops that included but were not limited to fashion/wardrobe/wigs, professional make-overs, manicures, image consultation, and professional photoshoots for gender

Participants Needed For

# QUEER ONLINE DATING SURVEY

Participants may enter raffle  
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[www.ErieDragQueenBingo.com](http://www.ErieDragQueenBingo.com)



[www.ErieDragQueenBingo.com](http://www.ErieDragQueenBingo.com)

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**3 64 25 61 18**

identity affirmation. They also featured financial and transitional seminars. This year's theme was "Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Bride" and featured a Thursday night Murder Mystery Dinner followed by Karaoke with DJ Beth. On Friday night, the formal "Glitter Ball" encouraged guests to live their fantasy in their preferred bridesmaid attire, followed by a talent show and dancing the night away. Saturday's main event was entertainment at Kellar's Magic and Comedy Club. Each day was full of wonderful social events and outings, including a Welcome to the Gala meet and greet by the pool-side with a pizza party, fine dining events, a spouse/significant other tea time, a tour of local wineries, and shopping excursions. Finally, our Big Sister/Little Sister program supported first-timers as they stepped out of their comfort zone and into their femme self.

Door prize donors included Lake Erie Gala would like to thank the workshop consultants that made the Gala possible: Cassandra Storm, Lindsey Taub, Beth McKinley, Liz Tattersall, Anita Marie DiVecchio Bissonette, Scarlet, Tony, and Guy. Many thanks to the vendors that supported the Gala this year, donating their time and some gifts for the guests: Sassy Peacock, Chameleon Clothing Co, Colony Pub

& Grille, Relish, Jordan Essentials bath and body, Thrivent Allied Financial Group, Color Street Stick it to me, Nails by Mare, and Touchstone Crystal.

## LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County Updates

Join LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County for our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday at 6 pm at the Ashtabula Public Library, 4335 Park Ave, Ashtabula, OH. The February 8 meeting will be at Briquettes Smokehouse, 405 Morton Dr, Ashtabula OH. All are welcome to attend as we plan and organize PRIDE ASHTABULA COUNTY 2022. Come with your ideas and areas you would like to volunteer for to make this amazing annual event happen!

The second annual Pride Ashtabula County 2022 is on June 11 from 11 am - 5 pm at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

We are currently looking for vendors (food, merchandise, crafters, etc.) for Pride Ashtabula County 2022. To register, visit our NEW website [www.lgbtqashtabulaco.org](http://www.lgbtqashtabulaco.org) on the Registration tab or email the Board secretary at [secretary@lgbtqashtabulaco.org](mailto:secretary@lgbtqashtabulaco.org)

## Warren County Pride Planning 2022

The Warren County Pride team is busy preparing for the third annual Warren County Pride Day titled Pride in the Park, 2022. Pride in the Park will be held on June 18th, 2022, at Bett's Park. The award-winning Warren County Pride Day 2021 won 'Best Event' in the Warren Times Observer's readers' choice voting awards. Warren County Pride Day will feature music, food trucks, vendors, agencies, costume contests for people & pets, and family activities. Parking is free, and accommodations are available at Warren County campgrounds, bed & breakfasts, hotels, and "air bnb" online listings. Warren County Pride day is a family event open to the community. For more information, contact [Warrencountypride@gmail.com](mailto:Warrencountypride@gmail.com)



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# RAISE YOUR VOICE FOR LGBTQ HEALTH

Participate in the 2022 Pennsylvania  
LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment



Every person who takes the survey will  
help LGBTQ organizations develop  
programs that best serve our community.



English: [bit.ly/2022PANA](https://bit.ly/2022PANA)

Español: [bit.ly/2022PANA\\_S](https://bit.ly/2022PANA_S)

## NW PA Pride Meadville Happy Hour 4th Wed at Julian's Bar & Grill

The NWPA Pride Alliance hosts a monthly LGBTQ Happy Hour on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Join us at Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut Street in Meadville, beginning at 5:30 PM. On February 23, Julian's will feature Meadville's own '50 miles to Empty' playing from 6-9 PM. For more details, see our Facebook page or contact Brett Staskiewicz via Facebook or at (814) 720-1737. All are welcome!



**NWPA PRIDE ALLIANCE**  
**LGBTQIA & Allies**  
**Happy Hour**

 **JULIAN'S BAR & GRILL**  
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## The City of Erie's DECD ARP Grant & Loan Application is LIVE!

City of Erie small business owners, entrepreneurs, and community groups can now apply for funding from seven of the Department of Economic and Community Development's ARP grants/loans. These programs are designed to support local small businesses and entrepreneurs recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Programs that are open for application, include:

1. Large-Scale Residential Construction & Development Loan Fund
2. Flagship ARP Micro-Grant
3. Small Business Diversity Loans
4. Small Business Technical Assistance Programs
5. COVID-19 Debt Refi/Restructure
6. Community Development Initiatives
7. Restaurant & Entertainment Venue Grant

Additional information on these programs, eligibility requirements, and the application for American Rescue Plan funds can be found at [cityof.erie.pa.us/arp](http://cityof.erie.pa.us/arp).

Please look for the "How-to-Apply" webinar links to attend a live zoom meeting to ask questions and walk through the application with the City's Business Development Officer Jennifer Hoffman. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The DEI Project Review Team will meet monthly to assess completed applications and recommend awards.

## Erie's MEI Score Increases Again

The Mayor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Council received word that Erie's Municipal Equality Index (MEI) has increased yet again. In 2017, Erie's score was 29. After four years of working to implement programs, policies, and initiatives to increase our score, last month, officials from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) notified the City that we are now at an 86. With this recent scorecard, 2021 marks the fourth year in a row that we have experienced an increase.

The 2021 Municipal Equality Index rated 506 municipalities of varying sizes from every state on how inclusive their municipal laws, policies, and services are to LGBTQ people who live, work, and visit. Cities are rated based on non-discrimination laws, municipality as employer, municipal services, law enforcement, and the city leadership's public

position on equality.

In 2021, the City focused on several areas and saw improvements in the following categories: Inclusive Workplace (2), Youth Bullying Prevention Policy for City Services (2), and Openly LGBTQ Elected or Appointed Municipal Leaders (2).

In 2022, the Mayor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Council will strive for additional points in:

- \* City Contractor Non-Discrimination Ordinance (6)
- \* Leadership's Pro-Equality Legislative or Policy Efforts (2)
- \* City Services to LGBTQ Youth, Homeless, Elders, those living with HIV or AIDS, and the Transgender community (10)
- \* Reporting Hate Crimes (12)

The maximum number of points that can be achieved is 100.

For more information on the HRC's MEI, visit the City of Erie's website at

<https://cityof.erie.pa.us/government/boards-commissions/lgbtq-council/>.

## Cabin Fever Weekend Feb 25-27

Join Erie Sisters & Brothers for Cabin Fever Weekend Friday, February 25, 2022, through February 27, 2022! Cabin Fever Weekend will take place at the Hampton Inn & Suites on the Erie Bayfront. The address is 130 E Front St, Erie, PA 16507, located right across the parking lot from where the Lake Erie Gala 2021 was held! This event will have an informal-nonformatted setting that will include lots of laughter, food, and cocktails. (Disclaimer: Participation will solely be at the participant's expense.) \$129 per night and offers a complimentary hot breakfast and parking each day. Rooms also include a refrigerator and microwave. Please use the book link in the online version of this article. The cutoff date for the group date is February 4, 2022. Reservations taken after the cutoff date will be honored depending on hotel availability.

**Share your thoughts on  
#SpillTheTeaTuesday.  
There's a new question every week  
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## Anonymous partner notification

You get the results from your regular HIV and STI screening. This time it's different. You're informed a test came back positive. And while it's treatable, you realize someone passed on their infection. You get treatment at the local clinic and they ask if you have informed your recent partners. Maybe they didn't know. Heck, you had no idea. The staff explain this is called asymptomatic, meaning no symptoms appear. But you're not really sure who was source. That's the rub. You can't tell a specific person. And even if you knew who it might be, maybe they'll judge you. Sure, the staff explain that nearly everyone has exposures to all kinds of infectious diseases. But this is different. You're the one that has to tell them. And while it would have been nice to get a heads up before a routine test, now you're supposed to be the responsible one?

The clinic staff member sees you're not excited about telling someone they might have a STI. They tell you about a free, anonymous and confidential website to send a text message. This can help stop the spread and prevent the long term negative health effects of their STI, if they were infected. You think about it and know it's the right thing to do. But you're unhappy and embarrassed. The staff pulls up a website, showing how easy it is and it might be the best way to let others know to get tested. You think about it and decide to tell others. You enter their cell number into the site, pick the name of the infection, review the info, and confirm your phone number for

authentication / harassment prevention. The website confirms it sent an anonymous text to the number you entered informing the recipient of a possible exposure and offers information to get tested. It was pretty quick and you feel a little better. Hopefully they will get tested.

Interesting story right? This could be any of us. Who wants to be the one to tell others they 'might' have been exposed to Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis B, Herpes, Syphilis, or HIV? Probably no one. And yet, wouldn't we want to be told to get checked just in case? Better safe than regret it later. This little story can happen to any of us. And the silver lining is that the Erie County HIV Task Force with the Erie County Department of Health has incorporated this free and confidential service into their website at [ECHIV.ORG](http://ECHIV.ORG). Click the 'Anon Partner Notification' at the top and follow the prompts on the webpage. Tell your friends and partners even if there hasn't been an exposure. All of us can do our part to help the community know about options for testing and treatment which can limit exposure and the spread of sexually transmitted infections. If you would like to know more, contact Gary Snyder, HIV Disease Intervention Specialist at the Erie County Department of Health by phone at 814-451-6786, or email: [gsnyder@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:gsnyder@eriecountypa.gov).

## PA Equality Project Launches Season 2 of Show and a New Website Design

The Pennsylvania Equality Project (PEP) program on YouTube and Facebook called "PEP Talks Uncut," will resume with Season 2 beginning Sunday, March 6 at 1 PM. Each episode is unedited, unscripted and lasts about 30 minutes. PEP Talks Uncut features members of the LGBTQ+ community is particularly



interested in interviewing married couples in which at least one person is part of the community. We would also like to interview and host episodes featuring polyamorous couples. If you have questions or would like to be on the show, email [info@paequality.com](mailto:info@paequality.com).

In late December 2021, PA Equality Project started revamping the entire website. With a fresh look, fewer pages, and more quality content, PEP intends to draw in more viewers. This month, the home page features artwork from Marcus Jageman, a talented artist from Meadville, who uses both African and Native American influences in his bright and colorful paintings. In February, PEP is opening an online Gallery where other LGBTQ+ artists from across Pennsylvania can showcase their talent. If interested in getting artwork into a Gallery on the website, please send photos (.jpg or .png) to [info@paequality.com](mailto:info@paequality.com).

The website's Resource pages have been scaled from seven different pages to three, and the PEP IT team has been adding more businesses from across PA. If you own and operate a business that is LGBTQ+ friendly and would like a free listing on the pages, email details to [info@paequality.com](mailto:info@paequality.com).

## **Erie Dems LGBTQIA+ Caucus Updates**

The Erie County Democratic Party's LGBTQIA+ Caucus continues to meet via Zoom on the second Monday of each month at 7 PM. At the January 10 meeting, Michael Mahler was elected chair, Roger Wolbert was elected vice-chair, and Rex Apps was elected Secretary.

The caucus reminds everyone that all party committee persons are up for election this year, as it is a gubernatorial election year. Every voting precinct elects two committee members, and the Democratic party allows for one man and one woman per district. Only ten signatures from people in the same voting precinct are needed to get onto the May 19 primary ballot. You can pick up your petition as soon as February 1 from the Erie County Courthouse Bureau of Elections, 140 W 6th St, Erie PA. All signatures must be gathered no earlier than Tuesday, February 15, and must be returned to the Erie County Courthouse by no later than the close of business on March 8. It is possible that the dates for the spring primary might change as a result of disputes for the decennial redistricting in Pennsylvania and across the nation due to

the 2020 US Census.

At the next LGBTQIA+ Caucus meeting on Zoom on Monday, February 14, we expect to be joined by one or more candidates for US Senate and other offices. We will also be discussing candidate questions for the Erie Gay News Voters Guide.

For more info, find Erie County Democrats Lgbtqia+ Caucus on Facebook or email [mmahler@eriedems.com](mailto:mmahler@eriedems.com).

## **Mayor's LGBTQIA+ Advisory Council**

The Erie City Mayor's LGBTQIA+ Advisory Council met on January 12, 2022. Chief of Staff Renee Lamis provided American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding updates. ARP funding application programs are now open and accepting applications.

The City of Erie's Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index has risen to a score of 86 out of a possible 100. One target for future improvement would be increasing awareness of reporting hate crimes. We hope to partner with other traditionally marginalized populations in the city for a public awareness campaign.

Erie Gay News and NW PA Pride have been working with Bradbury Sullivan LGBT Community Center to get responses from our region's community for the 2022 PA LGBTQIA+ Health Needs Assessment. Currently, the survey is expected to run through February 27. Alex from NW PA Pride Alliance is pleased to provide area LGBTQ organizations with web graphics customized with your organization's logo.

The next meeting of the PA Commission on LGBTQ+ Affairs will be on February 12. The statewide commission is focusing on policy initiatives for the remainder of Governor Wolf's term. The Aging Committee of the PA Commission on LGBTQ+ Affairs is planning an LGBTQIA+ and Aging webinar sometime this year. Although the event is virtual, the Aging committee plans to have regional area agencies on aging have viewing opportunities for those who might not have easy online access.

The City of Erie has hired a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) consultant. We look forward to having them join our next meeting to discuss ways to help address the needs of our particular community.

Erie Gay News and NW PA Pride Alliance will be partnering with the PA Department of Banking

and Securities for an online presentation, hopefully in late spring for “Popular Scams and How to Avoid Them.” Other organizations wanting to partner with us are very much welcome!

## **Adagio Health Offers Cancer Screening at No Cost to Patients During Cervical Cancer Awareness Month**

Erie, PA (January 21, 2022) -- January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. All month long (and throughout the rest of the year!) - Adagio Health is providing breast and cervical cancer screening services at no cost to patients who qualify.

Cervical cancer is found in the lower part of the cervix. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all women are at risk for cervical cancer but it most commonly occurs in women over the age of 30. There are few warning signs -- cervical cancer usually does not have any symptoms until the cancer becomes more advanced. But the good news is that when detected early, cervical cancer is generally viewed as treatable and curable.

Regular cancer screening can help to identify changes in cervical cells. A pap smear or pap test is the screening method used to detect cervical cancer. It's a quick procedure that uses a q-tip and small spatula-like tool is used to collect cell samples from the cervix. Pap tests are generally not considered painful.

“With routine pap testing, your health care provider can detect cell changes early, when disease is treatable and curable,” said Linda Snyder, Senior Director of Family Planning Programs at Adagio Health.

In addition to cancer screening and pap tests, there are multiple other preventative methods. The Gardasil vaccine helps protect against Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which is a leading cause of cervical cancer in women and is passed through sexual contact. The Gardasil series helps fight off the virus and prevent lesions from growing on the cervix. Other measures to prevent cervical cancer include using condoms, limiting sexual partners, and quitting smoking.

“The American Cancer Society estimates that nearly 4,300 women will die from cervical cancer in 2022,” said Snyder. “How many cancers do we ever

hear about that are preventable? Or curable? Cervical cancer is one of them. Talk to your provider and follow recommended screening guidelines. Keep yourself healthy for you, your family, and your future!”

Adagio Health offers multiple cancer screening services at its nine medical offices and on its Mobile Health Unit in western Pennsylvania. Breast and cervical cancer services include clinical breast exams, breast self-awareness education, pap tests, HPV tests and diagnostic follow up testing as needed. Reproductive cancer screening and other care is available at no cost to patients who qualify. The Adagio Health Mobile Unit serves 12 different counties in northwestern Pennsylvania including Clarion, McKean and Warren. For a complete list of mobile health locations and schedule, visit: <https://adagiohealth.org/mobilehealth>

Adagio Health has two medical offices in the Erie area: Adagio Health Erie and Adagio Health Edinboro. Call 1-800-215-7494 for an appointment at any Adagio Health medical office or on board the comfortable, fully-equipped Adagio Health Mobile Health Unit.

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# Calendar

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

*Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16508. For more information, visit [www.aaeriepa.org](http://www.aaeriepa.org) or contact [cmn0626@gmail.com](mailto:cmn0626@gmail.com). or (814) 504-1507*

*Southern Tier Queer Peers meets every Tuesday at 5:30 PM and is a wellness group for the LGBTQIA+ community to support your peers through resources, acceptance, and stories. For more information: [stqp@mhachautauqua.org](mailto:stqp@mhachautauqua.org) Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/5892507875>, Passcode - 14701*

*Trivia with Rebecca Mae every Thursday and RuPaul's Drag Race Viewing Party every Friday at The Zone, 133 W 18th St, doors open 8 PM.*

**Jan 26 (Wed) - NW PA Pride Alliance LGBTQIA and Allies Happy Hour** (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 9 PM. Travis and Brett came up with the idea of having a monthly happy hour get together for the LGBT and allies community in Crawford County. ALL are WELCOME. This is a time to network and socialize with the LBGTQ community and allies in the Meadville area, make new friends and meet people you may not know. An RSVP would be appreciated by not necessary. All are welcome so please share and spread the word! Don't forget to bring your business cards for exchange. As a special feature this evening, Julian's will be featuring Meadville's own Justin Gray to be part of this event. He will be playing from 6pm-9pm. Phone: (814) 314-9075. Venue Phone: (814) 337-8513. Browse to venue web site <https://www.facebook.com/Julians-Bar-Grill-1590463787848338/>.

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

**Jan 27 (Thu) - Queer Youth: Virtual Connect - Chat & Chill** (Zoom) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Come join us for a night of community, laughter, and chill. No real agenda, just a safe, virtual space. Co-hosted by Compton's Table, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) and Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life. Contact: <https://comptonstable.org/connect-events>. Browse to <https://comptonstable.org/>.

**Jan 28 (Fri) - Erie Otters Pride Night 2022** (Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St, Erie, PA 16501) 7 PM. Doors open at 6 PM, puck drop at 7 PM. Join us in our second annual Pride Night at the Erie Otters on

Friday, January 28th. Tickets are only \$25.00 which includes a ticket to the game plus an exclusive Otters Pride T-shirt. Be sure to purchase your ticket prior to January 7th to guarantee your shirt. After you place your order, you will be contacted to order your shirt size. Please note you will receive one t-shirt per ticket ordered. For example, if you order two tickets, you will receive two t-shirts. Contact: Chad Westerburg. Phone: (814) 480-6086. Venue Phone: (814) 453-7117. Email: [chad@ottershockey.com](mailto:chad@ottershockey.com). Browse to <http://www.nwpapride.org>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://offer.fevo.com/21otters-game-18-eus4vld-18ca457?fevoUri=21otters-game-18-eus4vld-18ca457%2F>. Browse to venue web site <http://www.erieevents.com/>.

**Jan 28 (Fri) - Zone Copacabana Drag Show** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10 PM. You won't want to miss the trifecta of talent with live vocal performances of "the voice" herself, Miss Denise Russell, and an amazing all-star cast of female impersonators Coco Vega and the one and only Valerie R. Valentino! Doors open at 8 pm. Come early as seats will fill up fast. Showtime at Copa will be 10 pm! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: [info@thezonedanceclub.com](mailto:info@thezonedanceclub.com). Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

**Jan 29 (Sat) - Zone Copacabana Dance Party** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Get your dancing shoes on and head on out for an amazing night of fun at the Copacabana Dance Party! Dance the night away with music and laughter. Tonight WILL be the HOTTEST spot north of Havana! Music and passion will be the fashion tonight as you merengue and cha-cha the night away! Doors open at 8 pm! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: [info@thezonedanceclub.com](mailto:info@thezonedanceclub.com). Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

**Feb 2 (Wed) - NWPA Pride's Drag Bingo At Voodoo**

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**Brewing Co. Hosted By Alysia Wonderland** (Voodoo Brewing Co (Erie), 101 Boston Store Place, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 9 PM. Hosted by Alysia Wonderland and NW PA Pride Alliance. Doors will open at 5:30, and join us at 6 pm for a Meet and Greet with the cast and games to begin at 6:30 pm. \$25/ticket will get you access to all the fun. Additional cards are available at the event. Cash Prizes will be awarded. Masks Encouraged when not seated with your group. Phone: (814) 314-9075. Venue Phone: (814) 520-6990. Email: [president@nwpapride.org](mailto:president@nwpapride.org). Browse to <http://www.nwpapride.org>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://nw-pa-pride-alliance-inc.square.site/product/february-drag-queen-bingo/48>. Browse to venue web site <http://www.voodoobrewery.com/locations/erie/>.

**Feb 3 (Thu) - Journey To A Trauma Informed Life - Art Wellness Space** (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 2230 W. 8th St. #2, Erie, PA 16505) This is a hybrid event meaning you can attend virtually or in person (following CDC guidelines for masking, social distancing, and other measures). The event will be led by Eric Reiche, an Edinboro University Art Therapy/Counseling masters student completing their practicum here at Journey. Phone: (833) 487-5769. Venue Phone: (833) 487-5769. [ERandazzo@4urjny.com](mailto:ERandazzo@4urjny.com). <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>. venue web site <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>

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[www.atraumainformedlife.com/](http://www.atraumainformedlife.com/).

**Feb 5 (Sat) - Meadville Drag Queen Bingo** (Community Center of Crawford County/Active Aging Center, 1034 Park Ave, Meadville, PA 16335) It's Rude! It's Crude! It's Drag Queen Bingo... It ain't Your Granma's Bingo!! Join The Drag Queens in Meadville for a night of glitz, glamour, and good times! With over \$2000 in cash money given away, this event has always been sold out. But be warned, this isn't your grandmother's bingo, this is a rude, crude, tipsy time hosted by your very own Drag Queens of Erie. The theme for February's Bingo is "MARDI GRAS." \$100 CASH PRIZE for the best-decorated table. Come in costume for bonus points. \$25 includes your admission, bingo tickets, and drawings of multiple door prizes. Performances from Erie & Pittsburgh's premier Drag Queens throughout the games. Drag Queen Bingo is an 18+ event and is fun for ALL! This is a BYOB event and food will be available for purchase. Phone: (814) 397-9415. Venue Phone: (814) 336-1792. Email: [info@Gears-N-Grub.com](mailto:info@Gears-N-Grub.com). Browse to <http://www.ErieDragQueenBingo.com/>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/238880276337>. Browse to venue web site <https://activeaging.org/>.

**Feb 7 (Mon) - 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 8 (Tue) - LGBTQ+ Coalition Of Ashtabula County Community Meeting (Briquettes Smokehouse, 405 Morton Dr, Ashtabula, OH 44004)** 6 PM. All are welcome to attend as we plan and organize PRIDE ASHTABULA COUNTY 2022. Come with your ideas and areas you would like to volunteer for to make this amazing annual event happen! Phone: (440) 749-3900. Venue Phone: (440) 964-2273. Email: [info@lgbtqashtabulaco.org](mailto:info@lgbtqashtabulaco.org). Browse to <https://www.lgbtqashtabulaco.org/>. Browse to venue web site <https://www.briquetessmokehouse.com/>.

**Feb 8 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets virtually (Zoom)** 7 PM – 8:30 PM. Youngstown Area PFLAG's support group meeting will gather virtually. Any person who would like to join us can request the zoom link from [youngstownareapflag.org](mailto:youngstownareapflag.org)

**Feb 10 (Thu) - Journey To A Trauma Informed Life - Art Wellness Space** (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 2230 W. 8th St. #2, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 7:30

PM. This is a hybrid event meaning you can attend virtually or in person (following CDC guidelines for masking, social distancing, and other measures). The event will be led by Eric Reiche, an Edinboro University Art Therapy/Counseling masters student completing their practicum here at Journey. Phone: (833) 487-5769. Browse to <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

**Feb 11 (Fri) - Zone Divas Heart Show** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10:30 PM. Join host Misty Michaels Kall, current reigning Miss Erie Indi Skies, former Miss Eries, and special guests to kick off the most romantic weekend of the year! Show starts at 10:30 pm. \$5 cover after 8 pm. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: [info@thezonedanceclub.com](mailto:info@thezonedanceclub.com). Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

**Feb 12 (Sat) - Erie's Original Drag Queen Bingo** (Zem Zem Shrine Club, 2525 W 38th St, Erie, PA 16506) 7:15 PM. Come out and have fun at Erie's Original Drag Queen Bingo. Doors open at 6 PM, games starts at 7:15 PM. Join your favorite Drag Queens, Rebecca Mae, Michelle Michael's, and special guest queen for a night of fun. Be warned... No one is safe from the Queens! Prepare for 2 hours of dirty jokes, ruthless insults, and side-splitting laughs! Not for the easily offended! Tickets & Reservations can be made online at [www.ErieDragQueenBingo.com](http://www.ErieDragQueenBingo.com). Limited Seating Available. MUST be 18 and older to attend. Phone: (814) 397-9415. Venue Phone: (814) 833-3391. Email: [info@Gears-N-Grub.com](mailto:info@Gears-N-Grub.com). Browse to <http://www.ErieDragQueenBingo.com/>. Browse to venue web site <http://www.zemzem.us/>.

**Feb 12 (Sat) - Zone Heart Party** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. The Valentine's celebration continues! We will be collecting money for the American Heart Association in honor of John Hannah who passed away from Heart Disease in September. \$5 cover. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: [info@thezonedanceclub.com](mailto:info@thezonedanceclub.com). Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

**Feb 13 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Zoom)** 12 PM – 12:30 PM. Meeting ID: 770 9886 1291. Passcode: F4fwNr. u Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 490-3994. [ErieBeans@yahoo.com](mailto:ErieBeans@yahoo.com). [www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE](https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE).

**Feb 13 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Trans Feminine Adult Peer Support Group meets** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514) 3 PM - 5 PM. Trans Feminine adults 21 and over. Phone: (234) 254-8924. Browse to <https://www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/>.

**Feb 14 (Mon) – Deadline for Erie Gay News March 2022 print edition (#316)** Please have all articles,

ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released on the evening of Tuesday, Feb 22.

**Feb 14 (Mon) – Erie County Democratic Party LG-BTQIA+ Caucus meets via Zoom** (Zoom) 7 PM. General meeting on Zoom. Voting members must be a registered Democrat living in Erie County. Straight/cisgender allies welcome! Contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or [mmahler@eriedems.com](mailto:mmahler@eriedems.com) for Zoom meeting info. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/ErieDemsLGBTQIA/>.

**Feb 15 (Tue) – Erie County HIV Task Force meets via Zoom** 1 PM – 2:30 PM. Zoom Meeting ID: 927 9128 9996. Passcode: 940728

**Feb 17 (Thu) - PFLAG Westfield NY meets** (Patterson Library, 40 S Portage St, Westfield, NY 14787) 6:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and family of LGBTQ+ people. Contact: Patricia. Phone: (716)-450-9055. Venue Phone: (716) 326-2154. [aoede2149@yahoo.com](mailto:aoede2149@yahoo.com). venue web site <https://www.pattersonlib.org/>.

**Feb 20 - 26 (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, regardless of where they lie there or sexual orientation. Browse to <https://twitter.com/aroweek>.

**Feb 20 (Sun) - Dinner & Movie Date Night** (Abigail's Bakery Creations, 4930 Mahoning Ave, Youngstown, OH 44515) 5 PM - 6 PM. Sponsored by Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center. Join us for a Dinner & Movie Date Night! Carryout offered 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Dine in offered 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Space is limited. All Couples/Partners Welcome! Phone: (234) 254-8924. Venue Phone: (724) 931-0049. Email: [info@fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org](mailto:info@fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org). Browse to <https://www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/>. Browse to venue web site <https://www.abigailsbakerycreations.com/>.

**Feb 20 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE Drag Show** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10 PM. Special Edition. Join us for the ROAST of one of Erie's most well-known queens! Doors open at 8 pm. Showtime 10 pm. No cover. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub>.

**Feb 22 (Tue) – Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 7 PM. Help us get out the new issue. Volunteers appreciated!

**Feb 23 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour - All welcome** (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St,

Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Travis and Brett came up with the idea of having a monthly happy hour get together for the LGBT and allies community in Crawford County. We are proposing the 4th Wednesday of each month with the location to change each month. The next month's location will be determined at the previous month's get together. This is a time to network and socialize with the LBGTQ community and allies in the Meadville area, make new friends and meet people you may not know. An RSVP would be appreciated by not necessary. All are welcome and please share and spread the word! Don't forget to bring your business cards for exchange. Venue Phone: (814) 337-8513. Browse to venue web site <https://www.facebook.com/Julians-Bar-Grill-1590463787848338/>.

**Feb 24 (Wed) - Queer Youth: Virtual Connect - Chat & Chill** (Zoom) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Come join us for a night of community, laughter, and chill. No real agenda, just a safe, virtual space. Co-hosted by Compton's Table, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) and Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life. Contact: <https://comptonstable.org/connect-events>. Browse to <https://comptonstable.org/>.

**Feb 25 (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/>.

**Feb 25 - 27 (Fri - Sun) - Erie Sisters Cabin Fever Weekend** (Hampton Inn & Suites Erie Bayfront, 130 E Front St, Erie, PA 16507) Venue Phone: (814) 920-9640. Email: [lakeeriegala@gmail.com](mailto:lakeeriegala@gmail.com). Browse to <http://eriesisters.ning.com/>.

**Feb 27 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514) 3 PM - 5 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form.

**Feb 27 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Peer Support Group meets** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH 44514) 6 PM - 8 PM. Ages 18+. Phone: (234) 254-8924. [info@fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org](mailto:info@fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org). [www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org](http://www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org).

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