



April 2022 – Issue 317

ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Steve Edwards (left) holding artwork by Kyle Hannon (right) at the Warren County Pride fundraiser at Crary Art Gallery in Warren PA on March 12, 2022. on March 12, 2022. Photo by Michael Mahler

Selfie Contest Spring-Summer 2022 – Win Cash from Erie Gay News!

Are you one of our distributors that wants to highlight your support of our region's LGBTQIA+ community? Or maybe you are just a community member or supporter that wants to earn \$100 for taking a selfie with our new Erie Gay News Available Here window decal? The EGN Selfie Contest will hit the region from March 22 through June 30th.

If you are a member/supporter of the community and want to show your contribution and possibly win \$100, please take as many photos as you like at one or more distributors! You can see a list of all of our distributors grouped by region at <https://bit.ly/EGNhere>. The Selfie Contest is straightforward, and no wrong way to go about it.

One winning photo each chosen by our editorial

board from Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter will win \$100! There will be one \$100 Facebook winner, one \$100 Instagram winner, and one \$100 Twitter winner!

Additionally, whichever distributor has the most photos taken across all social media platforms wins \$100! Second place distributor wins \$75, the third-place distributor wins \$50, and the fourth-place distributor wins \$25. (I.e. there will be prizes for both those taking photos and also distributors!)

You can even take multiple selfies at the same distributor if there is one in particular that you also want to help earn some prize money. Besides a prize, the selfie contest offers a chance to highlight community staples that help encourage acceptance through the Northwestern Region.

Just be sure to use #EGNhere in the hashtag, mention in the post where you are taking the selfie so we can appropriately credit the distributor, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. If you are a distributor and didn't get your decal or need additional decals, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com

LGBTQIA+ Community Organized Food Drive

The Erie LGBTQIA+ community will team together for the second annual LGBTQIA+ Food Drive from 10 AM- 2 PM on 4/30/22 at Central Outreach Erie located at 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508. Non-perishable food items will be accepted along with cash donations. Checks can be made out to Second Harvest Food Bank of NWPA. There is an urgent need for canned goods.

This event is organized by NWPA Pride Alliance, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Erie Gay News, Central Outreach Wellness Center - Erie, and Compton's Table.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Alex Sphon at President@nwppride.org.

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Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992

Erie Gay News

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Folding and distribution is Tue, Apr 26 at Lake Erie Counseling, 1932 W 8th.

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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

EGN Rates & Data

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

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$40 - \$36 Prepaid	15/8" 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 HIRES.

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, Audrey, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, and Rex Apps for folding; Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, 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.

Transgender Day of Visibility Walk Around Perry Square on March 31

by TransFamily NWP

Regardless if it's your first time, you haven't been with us in some time, or you are with us every time, join Transfamily in Erie for our walk around Perry Square on March 31st at 6:00 PM. On Transgender Day of Visibility, we will walk to celebrate trans excellence and to promote trans justice. TransFamily will provide coffee and/or water.

For more information about TransFamily NWP services, upcoming TDoV events, and our monthly support group please visit our Facebook page or website: <https://transfamilynwpa.org/>

Aporetude – Every 2 Month Injection at Central Outreach

by Emily Crofoot

You've heard about PrEP, a pill to prevent HIV?

Do you know there is a new injection you can take EVERY 2 MONTHS that does the same thing?

Truvada, Descovy, and now APRETUDE.

Know your options! Visit Central Outreach or

call to make an appointment. (814) 454-0000. Central Outreach Wellness Center is at 3104 State St, Erie PA.

Jamestown Pride Update

From Sheridan Smith, Jamestown Pride Coordinator

June 11th is the Jamestown Pride Festival! Just three months away! We are so excited to be so close to this year's Pride festival. This is the second year we are celebrating the queer community with our festival downtown, and this year will be bigger and better than last year. Planning Pride is a daunting task, and we can't do it without you!

Our next J Pride Community Meeting is happening on March 25th at 6 PM. Come and connect with the community, hear what is happening, hear how you can get involved, and just enjoy a fun time with queer folks!

The Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County (MHA), 31 Water St #7, Jamestown NY will host a social gathering starting at 5:15 for snacks, music, and a chat. Then we will have our meeting at 6.

You can attend in person or on Zoom with the link below.

<https://temple.zoom.us/j/97825175549>

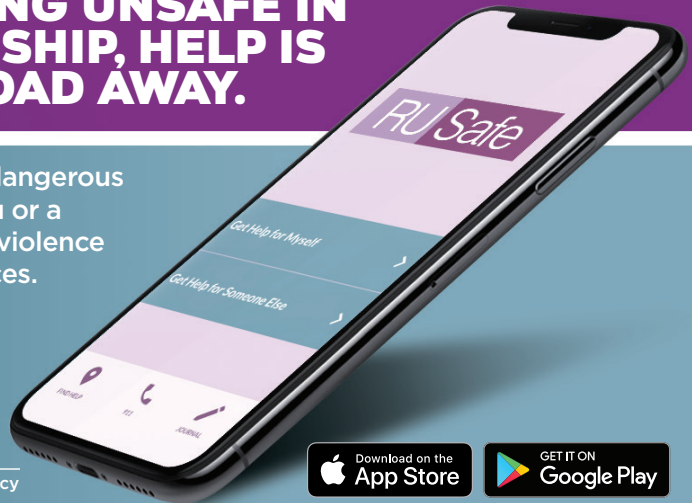
Hope you can join us!

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Youth Support Groups

Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, 2230 W 8th St #2, Erie PA, hosts an Art Wellness space the second Thursday of every month from 6 to 7:30 PM. This is a hybrid meeting, and youth can attend either virtually or in person, following CDC guidelines for masking, social distancing, and other measures.

On the fourth Wednesday of every month, Compton's Table, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) and Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life co-host a chat and chill virtual support group from 6 to 7:30 PM. This virtual event is a night of community, laughter, and chill. There is no real agenda, just a safe, virtual space.

For more about either of the above events, contact Journey to A Trauma Informed Life at their website at <https://atraumainformedlife.com/> or (833) 487-5769.

Additionally, Compton's Table offers AFFIRM, a safe, supportive social eight-week group that builds connection and support.

This group is free for Pennsylvania-based queer young people between 12 and 21 years of age.

Growing up is hard and feeling like you don't belong can make it even harder.

AFFIRM is a place where we talk about our experiences, learn ways to handle life, and unpack the untruths we are told about being queer so we make room for a whole lotta self-love.

AFFIRM is led by trained adults so we keep the space safe.

For more about AFFIRM, contact info@comptonstable.org or text/call (814) 580-8185

Tables at Pride Fest on June 25

from NW PA Pride Alliance

NW PA Pride Alliance invites you to participate as a table at this year's Pride Fest! The event will be held on Saturday, June 25, from 1 to 3:30 PM in Perry Square at W. 6th and State, Erie, PA. Not only are we returning to in-person for Pride Fest, but 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of Pride events in Erie!

Set-up will begin at 11 AM. All tables are expected to remain set up until the end of the festival. Registering for tables for those who had paid for 2020's Pride Fest, which had to be held virtually, should already have been contacted. Table registration for everyone else is now open!


The cost to participate is \$15 per table and



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must be paid in full by Wednesday, June 1. The cost includes one 8-foot table and two chairs. Make your check payable to NW PA Pride Alliance and mailed to PO Box 11448, Erie PA 16514, or pay online when the invoice is emailed to you. The festival will be held outdoors and will take place rain or shine. You may bring a canopy up to 10 x 10 for shade. Electricity is unavailable to tables for this event. Please note that the total number of tables is limited, so register early to ensure your spot!

To get an invoice for Pride Fest, please email tables@nwpapride.org. Please specify whether you will be an info table (no physical items sold at your table) or vending (physical items may be sold at your table)

Please provide the following information:

1. Your Name and contact info
2. Business/Organization Name
3. Your website or URL, if applicable.

We will email you an invoice once your response has been received. You will be on the list once your invoice is paid.

Warren County Pride Update

Warren County Pride will be holding its 2022 celebration at Betts Park again, located in Warren, PA. Last year's celebration exceeded all expectations, including winning the Best Festival in Warren County Award, as voted on by the public. This year's event, on June 18th, will be moving just a few hundred yards to a bigger, more expansive area on the west end of the Park. It will include more food vendors, entertainment, and even more fun for the whole family! While the event organizers are busy getting the plans finalized, be sure to mark your calendars and tell your friends. Be sure to watch for more announcements soon, too. There are lots of great surprises in store!



Pennsylvania Equality Project Signs MOU With STOP the Hate PA

Kittanning PA – The President of the Pennsylvania Equality Project, David Moore, has signed a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) to designate STOP the Hate PA as one of its chapters. Founded in Kittanning, STOP the Hate PA started as a chat group on Facebook and has become a much larger organization. Their mission is to work with other local agencies in Armstrong County to reduce the episodes of bullying, intimidation, and harassment.

When asked how STOP the Hate PA intends to carry out its mission, Board President Angie McKain said, “I officially have signed up three mental health professionals who have volunteered to help with the “Coping Strategies” workshop. Angie continued, “The workshop is designed to teach kids and parents to identify the signs of a mental health crisis and teach them healthy coping mechanisms that they can implement before it becomes a matter of life or death. We’re also going to give them literature on help lines and any other resources we can find.” STOP the Hate PA will also be holding anti-bullying events as well as forming a parent advocacy program.

The co-branded organization will be hosting in-person support group meetings in Kittanning to further their mission. The group is intended for LGBTQ+ youth and their parents, and to provide a safe space for them to share their experiences and learn from other members of the group. The first meeting date is yet to be determined, but will become available on both Pennsylvania Equality Project’s and the STOP the Hate PA’s social media accounts and websites.

Warren Players present Rent Apr 28-May 1

Warren Players, one of the oldest continuously operating community theatres in the country, will be producing the musical RENT for their 90th season from April 28 through May 1. Warren Players is proud to have a working relationship with one of Warren’s finest gems – the 1883 Struthers Library Theatre. In 2018, SLT won the League of Historic American Theaters award for Best Theatre. Together we provide a top quality 900+ seat venue that showcases the finest amateur talent pool, both locally and regionally.

RENT is a rock musical that revolves around the lives of a group of Bohemian New Yorkers, during the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the 1980’s. LGBT

characters make up a good portion of the cast. Their struggles with surviving everyday living, trying to find purpose in life and coping with a deadly virus, is both heartbreaking and inspirational. RENT won a Pulitzer Prize and multiple Tony Awards including Best Musical. It opened in December of 1996. Jonathan Larson, the creator and mastermind behind RENT, didn't get to see that, though. He died 11 months earlier from a brain aneurysm, the result of Marfan Syndrome, an inherited disease. RENT is an R rated show, due to adult themes, language, sexual situations and drugs. No one under the age of 17 will be permitted admission.

Warren Players and SLT are located at 302 W Third Ave Warren PA. Show dates are April 28, 29 & 30 at 7 p.m. and a 2 p.m. matinee on May 1. Ticket information can be found on the Facebook page of both organizations and on the web or by calling (814) 723-7231 during regular business hours.

See front page for how to win \$100 in the Erie Gay News selfie contest!



UNITY SUPPORT GROUP

A virtual LGBTQIA+ and ally support group for college-aged individuals who are interested in discussing mental health and wellness through topics such as loving yourself, fostering healthy relationships, and more. The Erie Community Foundation's LGBT Community Endowment provides support for this program.

- Registration on NAMI's website is encouraged, but not required. Register online at NAMierie.org/application
- Every Wednesday at 4:00 pm from March 2 to April 27, 2022
- All are welcome to join in this safe, welcoming and confidential environment!



Zoom Meeting ID:
917 7301 8153
Passcode: 219565

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cvcerie.org

Pennsylvania Equality Project Cofounds Florida Social Justice Project

The Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Equality Project is proud to announce their assistance with the formation of the Florida Social Justice Project, an incorporated non-profit organization in Florida. The two organizations will be working in tandem to address similar issues in both states.

Within the first month of their existence, the Florida Social Justice Project has already begun building its social media presence. A landing page has been added to the Pennsylvania Equality Project page that lists the mission of the new organization. The President of the Florida Social Justice Project intends to file for 501(c)(3) status from the IRS by the end of April, and to launch its own independent website.

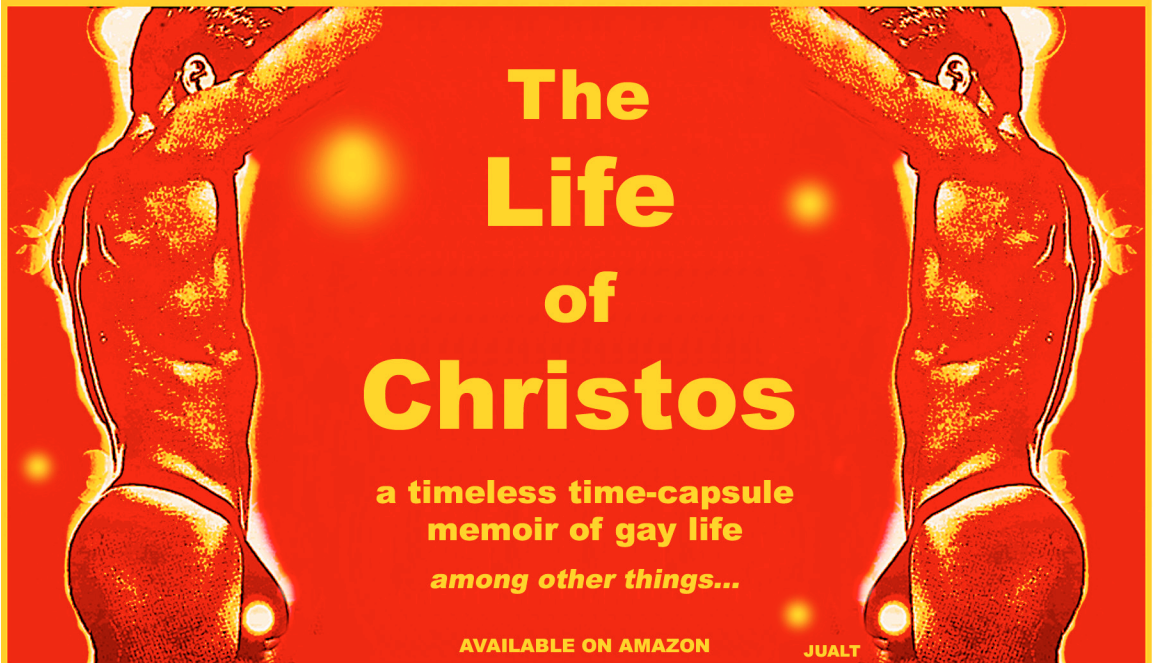
Both organizations have as part of their mission to help the most marginalized people within the LGBTQ+ community. In both states, LGBTQ+ youth account for far too many of the homeless people on the streets. Pennsylvania Equality Project is working

with a team of leaders in Meadville to open a community resource center that is combined with a drop in safe space shelter. Depending on how successful the efforts are in Meadville, the Florida Social Justice Project will take the same action in Broward County. To learn more about the Florida Social Justice Project, email: florida@paequality.com.

FDA Authorizes First Condom for Anal

Gary Snyder, HIV Prevention, Erie County Department of Health

On February 23rd this year the US FDA made headlines that gave people pause and some to scratch their heads. 'A condom can be used for anal sex'... Surely the Food and Drug Administration is aware that condoms have been used by the public for anal sex for quite some time now, right? In fact, they have been aware of this use but the news is about something a little different. Specifically, three types of condoms from one manufacturer/brand have been approved for anal. Prior to this announcement, the FDA had not officially cleared or approved condoms



specifically for anal intercourse. How could this be? Well, there's some backstory here to help us understand why the authorization is actually an important step in advancing the use of condoms.

Condoms are regulated as Class II devices under the FDA as established by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; which has a comprehensive system regulating medical devices intended for human use. Section 513 of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 360c) establishes the categories or classes of said devices. These regulatory guidelines assure safety, efficacy, and labeling of approved products. With that technical stuff out of the way, prior to February 23, 2022, the FDA did not give any condom companies the ability to list anal sex in the 'Indication for Use'; which means they've been labeled as 'safe and effective' for vaginal use only. Now why would the FDA do that? Quite simply, there has not been data via reported and verifiable studies on the safety of condoms for anal sex provided to the FDA. That was until recently.

Global Protection Corp., the company that manufactures the ONE® brand condoms, on August 26th last year [2021] cited a study from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University as the foundation of their 'De Novo Request' to the FDA to expand the intended use to include anal sex. The study was led by Dr. Aaron Siegler, an Associate Professor of Epidemiology, for the largest clinical trial of effectiveness of condoms for anal sex ever conducted. Dr. Siegler is also Associate Director of the Emory Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Prevention Sciences Core and began funding pursuits in 2012 for a partnership with the Global Protection Corporation. The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with the results being published in Lancet's EClinicalMedicine in 2019.

This study from Emory University found that ONE® and myONE® Condoms used during anal sex failed less than 1% of the time (0.7%). Earlier studies for a similar outcome measurement had reported condoms having a 6% to 7% failure rate for anal sex. One key item of that research from before was not requiring condom-compatible lubricant with anal sex. When it came to vaginal sex, the FDA cleared condoms based on a clinical failure threshold of less than 5.0%. Because the Emory University study took into account condom-compatible lubricant. This resulted in an additional update for using lubricant during anal sex as part of the new FDA label indica-

tions. This FDA approval specifically applies to three different types of ONE® Condoms; standard, thin and myONE® custom-fit condoms which come in 60 different sizes. More information on the condoms is available at: www.myonecondoms.com

"The risk of STI transmission during anal intercourse is significantly higher than during vaginal intercourse. The FDA's authorization of a condom that is specifically indicated, evaluated and labeled for anal intercourse may improve the likelihood of condom use during anal intercourse," said Courtney Lias, Ph.D., director of the FDA's Office of GastroRenal, ObGyn, General Hospital, and Urology Devices in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. "Furthermore, this authorization helps us accomplish our priority to advance health equity through the development of safe and effective products that meet the needs of diverse populations. This De Novo authorization will also allow subsequent devices of the same type and intended use to come to the market through the 510k pathway, which could enable the devices to get on the market faster."

Further details can be found online at: <https://tinyurl.com/analsexcondom>

GEAE Scholarship Applications Due by July 1

GEAE is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2022-2023 school year. This year, GEAE will award several \$1,000 scholarships to applicants 17+. Applicants must be residents of Erie County, Pennsylvania. This application is open to those who are seeking scholarship money to any university, community college, technical school, art school, or paraprofessional program. **Applicants can be currently enrolled in their program.** Any eligible candidate who identifies as a member of the LGBTQ+ community is invited to apply. *Current board members, advisory members, and their families are not eligible for this scholarship.*

The recipients will receive \$1,000 made payable, and sent directly, to the educational institution indicated in their application.

Recipients will be chosen based on their application, which should be submitted via the GEAE website (www.greatereriealliance.com). The scholarship will be awarded to the applicant who best demonstrates a commitment to make an impact on their community as a LGBTQ+ advocate. Though we ask

for the applicant to submit their GPA, the GEAE Pride Scholarship is not purely an academic scholarship.

Requirements:

500 minimum word essay answering the following: **If you were given \$1 million, how would you use it to improve the lives of all members of the LGBTQ+ community in Erie County, PA? What needs do you see in the community?** Essays will be judged on content as well as grammar and punctuation rules.

Evidence of admission to an educational institution

The application deadline is July 1. GEAE will present the awards at our Afternoon for Equality event at the Erie Yacht Club in August. The recipients will be invited to receive their award at this event but are not required to attend. All applicants will be notified by the first week of August.

Visit the GEAE website at www.greatereriealliance.com to apply for the scholarship. If you have questions, please contact us at geaeinfo@gmail.com.

New Gender-Neutral American Siri Voice in iOS 15.4

by Rex Apps

Apple continues to work on diversity and inclusion with the release of their 15.4 iOS operating system. One of the new features is a new option for the voice of Siri, Apple's digital assistant.

Apple last year removed the default female voice that has been the voice of Siri. In iOS 14.5, three new voices were added, two of which were recorded by black actors. At the time, Apple said the voice options were "a continuation of Apple's longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion, and products and services that are designed to better reflect the diversity of the world we live in."

Apple confirmed the new voice, American 5, was recorded by a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

"We're excited to introduce a new Siri voice for English speakers, giving users more options to choose a voice that speaks to them," Apple said in a statement. "Millions of people around the world rely on Siri every day to help get things done, so we work to make the experience feel as personalized as possible."

To choose the American five as the voice of your Siri, update your device to iOS 15.4. Go to

Settings -> Siri & Search -> Siri Voice, then choose "American". You will now see you have five options under the Voice header instead of four.

Pride Night With the Erie Otters Returns for 2022

Due to COVID-related delays, the rescheduled Pride Night with the Erie Otters Hockey Team was held on Friday, March 3rd. For this evening, both The Erie Otters and Flint Firebirds players had special tape on their hockey sticks during warm-ups. Pride Board Member Moe Ferrara did the honorary puck drop before the game. Over 60 people attended as part of the Pride Alliance's special shirt/ticket combo. The night not only included many special LGBTQIA+ logos displayed, but the Erie Otters Player took part in a Special Video explaining why Pride Nights are important to them. Finally, during the second intermission, Pride President Alex Sphon joined the radio broadcast booth for an interview about why Pride Nights are so important for sports. The interview can be heard by visiting NWPAPride.org

See front page for how to win \$100 in the Erie Gay News selfie contest!



Friends old and new gathered for NW PA Pride Alliance's LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour on February 23, 2022, at Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville PA. Organizers Brett and Travis began the monthly event in June 2021. The group usually meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at Julian's.

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Calendar

For latest updates, see 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.aeriepa.org or contact 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 Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/5892507875>, Passcode – 14701

Trivia with Rebecca Mae every Thursday and RuPaul's Drag Race Viewing Party every Friday through April 15 at The Zone, 133 W 18th St, doors open 8 PM.

Mar 2 – Apr 27 (Wed) – Unity Support Group meets via Zoom (Zoom) 4 PM. Join the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Erie County, Edinboro University, Clarion University, and the California University of Pennsylvania via Zoom for a Unity Support Group. Unity is a peer-led group for LGBTQIA+ and allies to attend with other students interested in discussing mental health and wellness. The group will cover topics such as loving yourself, fostering healthy relationships, and more! Get a chance to speak one-on-one with peers. The Unity Support Group will have conversations and activities that foster a welcoming and confidential environment! Registrations are encouraged but not required. The Erie Community Foundation's LGBT Community Endowment provides support for this program. Zoom Meeting ID: 917 7301 8153. Passcode: 219565

Mar 23 (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. ALL are WELCOME. This is a time to network and socialize with the LGBTQ community and allies in the Meadville area, make new friends and meet people you may not know. An RSVP would be appreciated but not necessary. There will be a performance by "No Wheelman" Darrell Whitney and Ted Watts Jr. from 6 to 9 pm.

Mar 24 (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. Con-

tact: <https://comptonstable.org/connect-events>. <https://comptonstable.org/>.

Mar 25 (Fri) – Jamestown Pride Planning Meeting (Hybrid) (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6 PM. Come and connect with the community, hear what is happening, hear how you can get involved, and just enjoy a fun time with queer folks! The MHA will host a social gathering starting at 5:15 for snacks, music, and a chat, then we will have our meeting at 6. You can attend in person or on Zoom via <https://temple.zoom.us/j/97825175549> Venue Phone: (716) 661-9044. jamestownpride@mhachautauqua.org. <https://www.facebook.com/JamestownPride/>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://temple.zoom.us/j/97825175549>. venue web site <https://www.facebook.com/MHACHautauqua/>.

Mar 26 (Sat) – Benefit for Mason’s Voice (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) When a dear friend Mason Campbell passed away from suicide, his friends decided to form a foundation to help make sure no one else feels the way he did ever again. Raffle baskets and merch sales will all go towards Mason’s Voice. Rebecca Mae will also be hosting a sick show with special guests from Buffalo Cece Vergara, Melina Londen, and Sasha Storm. Doors open at 8 pm. Showtime 10 pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID

Mar 31 (Thu) – International Transgender Day of Visibility <http://tdov.org/>.

Mar 31 (Thu) – Dine to Donate for LGBTQ+ Coalition Of Ashtabula County (Briquettes Smokehouse, 405 Morton Dr, Ashtabula, OH 44004) 10% of sales donated to Pride Ashtabula County. Dine in or carry out. Phone: (440) 749-3900. Venue Phone: (440) 964-2273. info@lgbtqashtabulaco.org. <https://www.lgbtqashtabulaco.org/>. venue web site <https://www.briquettesmokehouse.com/>.

Mar 31 (Thu) – Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. Contact: Danielle Bonovitch. Phone: (716) 708-6161. <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

Mar 31 (Thu) – Transgender Day of Visibility Walk Around Perry Square (Perry Square, 6th and State Streets, Erie, PA 16507) 6 PM. Join TransFamily of NW PA for Transgender Day of Visibility for a walk in the heart of Erie around Perry Square. TransFamily will provide coffee and/or water. <https://transfamilynwpa.org/>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.facebook.com/events/483336839925373>.

Apr 1 (Fri) – G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe, 1033 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM – 8 PM. G2H2/Erie provides

GLBT professionals, and our colleagues and friends, the opportunity to meet, network or just hang out once a month.

Apr 3 (Sun) – Pride Youth Alliance of Crawford County, PA group meeting (Shady Brook Park, North St, Meadville, PA 16335) 2 PM – 4 PM. 1st group meeting of the year! prideyouthalliancecrawfordpa@gmail.com. <https://www.facebook.com/PrideYouthAllianceOfCrawfordCounty>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.facebook.com/events/385860052917978>.

Apr 6 (Wed) – Drag Queen Bingo hosted by Alysins Wonderland (Voodoo Brewing Co (Erie), 101 Boston Store Place, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM – 9 PM. This isn’t your Great Aunt Gertrude’s Bingo, this is Bingo with a Twist. Hosted by Alysins Wonderland. NWPAPride and Voodoo Brewery are hosting monthly Bingos every first Wednesday of the month! Doors 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. Cash prizes will be awarded. Seats are limited, so book your tickets NOW! Featuring Misty Micheals Kall and Katrina Twerk

Apr 6 & 8 (Wed & Fri) – West Side Story (2021) Screening (Struthers Library Theatre, 302 W 3rd Ave, Warren, PA 16365) 7:30 PM. Adults: \$8 / Students & Seniors 62+: \$6. Rated PG-13 – 156 Minutes. Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance in 1957 New York City. Their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks – two rival gangs vying for control of the streets. West Side Story is a musical conceived by Jerome Robbins with music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and a book by Arthur Laurents published in 1957. It was directed for film by Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise and released in 1961 starring. This modern (2021) adaptation directed by Stephen Spielberg explores forbidden love and the rivalry between two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. Phone: (814) 723-7231. eric@strutherslibrarytheatre.org. <https://www.strutherslibrarytheatre.org/>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://bit.ly/31b20zz>.

Apr 7 (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.

Apr 10 (Sun) – National Youth HIV & AIDS Aware-

ness 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. <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/>.

Apr 10 (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. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Apr 10 (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. <http://www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/>.

Apr 11 (Mon) – Erie County Democratic Party LGBTQIA+ 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 for Zoom meeting info. <https://www.facebook.com/ErieDemsLGBTQIA/>.

Apr 12 (Tue) – LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County Pride Planning Party (Ashtabula County District Library, 4335 Park Ave, Ashtabula, OH 44004) 6 PM. Join us as we collaborate and plan PRIDE ASHTABULA COUNTY and continue the development of our education and outreach programs. We value your strengths, ideas, and talents that you can bring to make a difference in the LGBTQA+ Community in Ashtabula County!

Apr 12 (Tue) – Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM. If you're GLBT, a parent of someone who is, or an ally and you're looking for emotional support, we encourage you to attend Youngstown PFLAG's monthly support group. You will be surrounded by understanding peers from the valley who will be able to listen and help. Support groups are open to the public, and it starts at 6:30pm. Light refreshments will be available. <http://www.youngstownpflag.org/>.

www.youngstownpflag.org/.

Apr 14 (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. <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

Apr 15 (Fri) – Deadline for Erie Gay News May 2022 print edition (#318) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released on the evening of Tuesday, Apr 26.

Apr 15 (Fri) – Amateur Stripper Contest (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Think you have what it takes to be a stripper? Try your luck in our first amateur stripper contest! Winner gets \$100 AND a booking in the April Naughty Bingo, hosted by Signature Events Erie. Second Place will get \$75 and Third Place will get \$50. Registration packets available at The Zone starting 4/1. Doors open at 7:30pm. Show starts at 8pm. No cover before 8pm – \$5 cover after 8pm. 21+ with valid state issued ID. Phone: (814) 452-0125. info@thezonedanceclub.com. <https://the-zonedanceclub.com/>.

Apr 16 (Sat) – Meadville Drag Queen Bingo (Italian Civic Club, 869 Water St, Meadville, PA 16335) 7:15 PM. Join The Erie Drag Queens for an evening of glitz, glamour, and good times! With over \$3000 in cash money given away, this event has always been sold out. MUST be 18 and older to attend. The theme for the Bingo is "BEACH PARTY" \$100 CASH PRIZE for the best ONESIE's & decorated table. Decorate your table 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. Phone: (814) 397-9415. Venue Phone: (814) 337-5422. info@Gears-N-Grub.

Erie Gay News is now included in
The EBSCO LGBT Life®
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com. <http://www.ErieDragQueenBingo.com/>. RSVP/ Register/Tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meadville-drag-queen-bingo-tickets-292163828877>. venue web site <http://www.italiancivicclub.org/>.

Apr 16 (Sat) – Live Music with band ‘Backlog’ (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 9 PM – 1 AM. Playing your favorite ‘variety rock’. No cover. Contact: Mary Green. Phone: (716) 484-8816. <https://www.facebook.com/sneakersjamestown/>.

Apr 17 (Sun) – Zone open regular hours (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. After the candy is eaten and family has been seen, join your friends at the Zone for some fun! Phone: (814) 452-0125. <https://www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub>.

Apr 18 (Mon) – National Transgender HIV Testing Day National Transgender HIV Testing Day (NTHTD) was first observed on April 18, 2016. <http://transhealth.ucsf.edu/>.

Apr 19 (Tue) – Erie County HIV Task Force meets via Zoom 1 PM – 2:30 PM. Zoom Meeting ID: 927 9128 9996. Passcode: 940728

Apr 21 (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. aoede2149@yahoo.com.

Apr 22 – May 8 (Fri – Sun) – tick, tick... BOOM! (Erie Playhouse, 13 West 10th Street, Erie, PA 16501) Before Rent, there was tick, tick... BOOM! This autobiographical musical, by the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning Jonathan Larson, is the story of an aspiring composer questioning his life choices on the eve of his thirtieth birthday. His girlfriend wants to get married and move out of the city, his best friend is making big bucks on Madison Avenue, but Jon is still waiting on tables and trying to write the great American musical. This exhilarating, funny, and moving work by the late Larson will speak to anyone who’s ever gotten lost on their way to finding their dreams. * PROOF OF COVID VACCINATION REQUIRED, or a negative COVID test, taken within 72 hours of event for all patrons ages 12 and up. Masks required for ages 2 and up.

Apr 22 (Fri) – Naughty Bingo - Male Stripper Bingo (Zem Zem Shrine Club, 2525 W 38th St, Erie, PA 16506) 7:15 PM. Magic Mike meets Bingo! Erie’s Naughty Bingo! A bingo like NO other. Come out with your friends and have some fun at Erie’s Naughty Bingo. This all-male revue is guaranteed to have you hot & bothered. Oh yeah, and over \$3000 in cash prizes at Bingo. Remember...What Happens at Bingo, Stays at Bingo! There will be Food available, Cash Bar, 50/50, Chinese Auction. Tickets are \$25 in advance & \$30 at

the door. Doors open at 6:00 pm with the games starting at 7:15 pm. Phone: (814) 397-9415. Venue Phone: (814) 833-3391. info@Gears-N-Grub.com. <https://naughtybingo.net/>.

Apr 23 (Sat) – Camp Davis Seasonal Campers Invitational (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) 9 AM. Camp opens to Seasonal Campers & their elf-like helpers. Phone: (724) 637-2402. <http://campdavispa.com/>.

Apr 23 (Sat) – TransFamily of NWP (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets via Zoom (Zoom) 2 PM – 5 PM. Meetings are hosted at the Crime Victim Center of Erie County (125 W. 18th St., Erie, PA). All current CDC, state, and local guidelines for meeting indoors will be observed. Meetings are always confidential and completely free. Pop and chips are provided. Please feel free to bring other snacks or a dish to share with the group, if you are able, but this is not required. <http://www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWP>.

Apr 23 (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. Join your favorite Drag Queens, Rebecca Mae, Michelle Michael’s, and Priscilla Godzilla for a night of fun. The theme for this

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month's Bingo is "BEACH PARTY" \$100 CASH PRIZE for the Best Costume & Decorated Table. Decorate your table 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. Tickets & Reservations can be made online at www.ErieDragQueenBingo.com. Limited Seating Available. MUST be 18 and older to attend. Phone: (814) 397-9415. Venue Phone: (814) 833-3391. info@Gears-N-Grub.com. <http://www.ErieDragQueenBingo.com/>.

Apr 24 (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.

Apr 24 (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. www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/.

Apr 24 (Sun) – FACE: Roulette Edition (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10 PM. After a very VERY long break, DJ Tony G is back with another round of Drag Roulette! This time, we're going Back to Basics. No twists. No turns. Just the standard sh*tshow. No Cover. Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10pm. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Apr 25 (Mon) – Camp Davis Opens to the Public (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) 10 AM. Phone: (724) 637-2402. <http://campdavispa.com/>.

Apr 26 (Tue) – Lesbian Visibility Day Created in 2008, this day showcases women-loving-women, providing a platform for lesbian role models to speak out on the issues facing female-identified sexual minorities. This day, alongside other queer celebration days, is still an integral part of moving forwards to create an intersectional society where all are treated equally and fairly.

Apr 26 (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. Vounteers appreciated!

Apr 27 (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. 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 but not necessary. All are welcome and please share and spread the word! Don't forget to bring your business cards for exchange.

Apr 28 (Thu) – Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. Contact: Danielle Bonovitch. Phone: (716) 708-6161. <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

Apr 28 (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>.

Apr 28 – May 1 (Thu – Sun) – Warren Players present Rent (Struthers Library Theatre, 302 W 3rd Ave, Warren, PA 16365) RENT is a rock musical that revolves around the lives of a group of Bohemian New Yorkers, during the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the 1980's. LGBT characters make up a good portion of the cast. Their struggles with surviving everyday living, trying to find purpose in life and coping with a deadly virus, is both heartbreaking and inspirational. RENT is an R rated show, due to adult themes, language, sexual situations and drugs. No one under the age of 17 will be permitted admission. Phone: (814) 723-7231. <http://www.warrenplayers.com/>.

Apr 30 (Sat) – Inaugural Tree Hugger Trail Run (Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St, Edinboro, PA 16412) 9 AM – 12 PM. Runners during the inaugural run will be the first visitors to enjoy our newly-formed woodland and farm field trails at Goodell Gardens & Homestead! This professionally-timed race will be approximately 5k in distance. Final distance/route will be confirmed once trail conditions are assessed in the Spring. This event is part of opening weekend! Sign up to run or walk the trails and enjoy a variety of activities, including crafts and games for kids, a food truck, and more! Entry fees: \$23 for members, \$30 for non members, \$10 for youth members and \$15 for youth nonmembers. T-shirts are an additional \$5 (Cool-Dri for adults, jersey for youth.) Phone: (814) 734-6699. <http://goodellgardens.org/>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Edinboro/GoodellGardens>.

Apr 30 (Sat) – Camp Davis Week Onesie (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) 10 AM. Wear your Onesie to the Rec Hall. Phone: (724) 637-2402. <http://campdavispa.com/>.

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