



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Identity students march in the Edinboro Homecoming Parade on October 8, 2022. Photo by Michael Mahler.

Compton's Table Youth Study Night Mondays

from Compton's Table

Compton's Table is holding youth study nights at their PACA studio, 1505 State St, Erie PA, on Mondays from 6-7:30 PM, They'll be adding more nights soon. For details, folks can email info@comptonstable.org.

la bella to remain open until building sold or end of the year

by Rex Apps

While the Erie Times-News reported la bella restaurant and catering is closing, there has been an update to that story.

On October 5, Harry Miller, the owner of la bella, 802 W. 18th St. in Erie, wrote on his personal Facebook page, [facebook.com/harrysmiller](https://www.facebook.com/harrysmiller): "Dear friends and customers, late last week we reached an agreement with the landlord that we may stay until the building is sold to until the end of the year. So, last weekend turns out to be NOT our last after all. While times are still tough and cash flow is still tight, we will continue to provide quality food and service both

in restaurant and with our catering services. Please keep us in mind when choosing to dine out. Come in and help up celebrate our extension. Your support in the last two weeks has made this possible and I thank you for it... Much love from Harry, Sydney and all the staff at la bella."

World AIDS Day Event on Dec 1

From Erie County HIV Task Force

Save the date to join community members on Thursday December 1st at the Raymond M. Blasco Library's H.O. Hirt Auditorium for our World AIDS Day program. Doors open at 5:30pm with program beginning at 6:00pm followed by a refreshment social afterward. The event is open to the public for free. Panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display along with speakers discussing HIV in Erie County. Memorial red ribbons will be displayed at the library thru all of December and guests are welcome to submit names ahead of time or provide them at the event that evening. For details and questions, call the chair of the task force, Gary Snyder at 814-451-6786. We're looking forward to you joining us!

Transfamily of NWPA to remember and give thanks this November

by Rex Apps

Since 1999, Transgender Day of Remembrance has honored the memory of transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

Transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith began the first as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people who were lost to violence since Rita's death.

On Sunday, November 20, Transfamily of NWPA will continue to honor the memory of transgender people whose lives have been lost with a remembrance in Griswold Park, 150 W 14 St, Erie PA, at 2:00. The names of known transgender people lost since last November 20 will be read at the vigil. It is difficult to accurately know how many have lost their

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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.

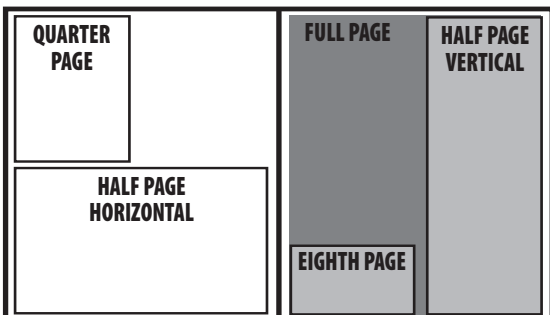
We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments, and opinions of interest to local GLBTs for publication in these pages. Please include your contact information with any piece you submit.

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

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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! Jeff Hill, Johauna, Michael Mancinelli, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Michael Mancinelli, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki 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.

lives because some families or society misgenders those individuals who have passed on.

Transfamily will also be hosting their Transgiving at the Crime Victim Center, 125 W 18 St, Erie PA, on Saturday, November 26, at 2:00. This will take the place of their monthly meeting and be a time for the community to come together to share a meal. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, and gravy will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to pass and RSVP via the Transfamily Facebook page.

Warren County Pride Poetry Fundraiser Nov 19

Warren County Pride will be kicking off its fundraising with a poetry reading at 6 pm on Saturday, November 19, 2022. Hosted by Garrett Culver, (BA, Creative Writing / Poetry) and featuring Andy Kerstetter (BA, Writing), author, *The Inferno Lessons*. Read your own poem, share a classic, or just enjoy. Light refreshments will be provided. The suggested donation is \$10. Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church, 444 Penn Ave, Warren, PA.

Department Of Aging Hosts 621 Attendees During Its Virtual LGBTQ Aging Summit And Institute On HIV

Harrisburg, PA - 10/12/2022– The Pennsylvania Department of Aging today announced that 621 participants from 27 states and Washington D.C. in the continental U.S., and St. Croix, Guam, and parts of Canada, attended its virtual LGBTQ Aging Summit and Institute on HIV and Aging on October 6 and October 7.

The summit provided the department and the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs with the opportunity to continue working on issues raised by community advocates, Area Agencies on Aging staff, providers, and other stakeholders since the last summit convened in 2018. This year's summit delivered information on supports and resources for LGBTQ older adults and how advocates, aging service providers, and allies can support and lift up LGBTQ communities.

“At the time of the department’s 2018 summit, we were new to many of the endeavors we believed



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would help make our aging services network more culturally sensitive and inclusive of LGBTQ communities. During this year’s event, some of the participants may have been taking their first steps, in their own communities or states, to ensure aging services reach individuals who may be hesitant to seek them out. This summit provided a wealth of information and contacts that I hope will translate into meaningful progress for the participants,” said Secretary of Aging Robert Torres.

Day one of the virtual summit featured keynote speaker Michael Adams, CEO of SAGE (Advocacy and Services for LGBTQ+ Elders), an overview of the Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment results, a panel discussion on elder equity, and working sessions with two separate tracks that concentrated on supporting LGBTQ older adults and on community issues. The second day focused on HIV and Aging and included a panel of older adults living with and long-term survivors of HIV who courageously shared their lived experiences with the healthcare system, medications, stigma, and their communities. Additional sessions included research trends in HIV and aging and the legal landscape of HIV in the commonwealth.

“I was honored to participate in this year’s LGBTQ Aging Summit as we work together to ensure that our community’s elders in Pennsylvania have the support and opportunities they deserve and need to age successfully. I have been most impressed by the passion of the advocacy and dedication of the Aging Workgroup within the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs. It serves as a model to emulate all the great work being done in Pennsylvania,” said Michael Adams.

“We must all become better allies of LGBTQ+ older adults and interact as a community. Instead of standing on the shoulders of our elders, we need to be inclusive and stand together, seeing older adults as an example of those before us who fought to be who they are, and to advocate and support one another,” said Rafael Alvarez Febo, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs. “Thank you to Governor Tom Wolf for showing leadership and serving as an ally to ensure that we have an inclusive commonwealth.”

The department partnered with the following organizations to plan this year’s summit: The Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Office of Health

Equity, the Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging, SAGE, AARP Pennsylvania, CARIE, LeadingAge PA, Trans Advocacy Pennsylvania, Alzheimer’s Association of Pennsylvania, the Elder Initiative at William Way LGBT Community Center, Persad Center, LGBT Center of Central PA, LGBT Center of Greater Reading, Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, SEIU, Penn State Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing, Montgomery County Office of Senior Services, Southwestern PA Area Agency on Aging, and Union-Snyder Area Agency on Aging.

In addition to convening the inaugural LGBTQ Aging Summit in 2018, the Department of Aging has completed several projects and goals to support and benefit LGBTQ older adults. In 2019, the department achieved SAGECare Platinum Certification for LGBT Culture competency, becoming the first State Unit on Aging to attain this certification from SAGE – the largest advocacy organization in the national for LGBTQ older adults. The department hosted a town hall with LGBTQ community for input and recommendations for developing a new four-year State Plan on Aging.

In 2021, the department issued a directive that designated LGBTQ older adults as a community of greatest social need, which requires targeted outreach and programming to ensure equity of services to the LGBTQ older adult community. Other efforts of note include the collection of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data to help guide planning, programming, and outreach to ensure aging services are inclusive and responsive, as well as launching the HIV/AIDS education and resource page for older adults on the department’s website. In 2022, the LGBT Elder Initiative at William Way in Philadelphia honored the department with its Founders’ Award for LGBTQ Health Equity for its efforts to support LGBTQ older adults.

Learn more about the programs and services offered by the Department of Aging by visiting the department’s website and on the department’s Facebook page.

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This program is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health

16th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend raises \$4,135

from Michelle Michaels

This year's Pink Party weekend was October 7-9 at The Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St. The benefit was a three night event with \$4,135 going to Linked By Pink.

We want to thank The Zone Bar owner Lou and volunteers, Season, Glenn, Alysín Wonderland, and Erick G.

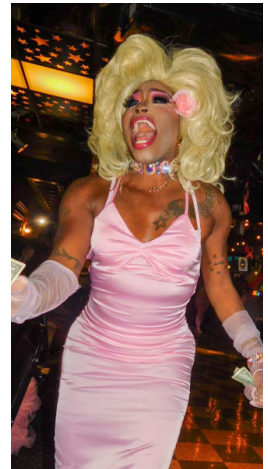
A huge shout out and thanks to Marty H for being our DJ on the night of the show and to Season for always coming out on Sunday show nights to keep us in line and on time.

Baskets were donated by Grace and Michael Watson, Sandy Hodas, Brenda Crolli, Brenda and Anelle Dagon, Sherry Edkin, Erie Gay News, NW PA Pride Alliance, Hilary and Mark Matthews, Gary Snyder, Cindi Ezzo, Matthew Steger and Scott Conway, Glenn David Meyers, Holly B/Sam's Club, Mike and Brittany - Like My Thai, Harry Miller - La bella's, Lucky Louie's, Jessica DeVita, Joshua Mikowski, Parker Way, Spa Lapis, Gem City Permanent Cosmetics, and Robert Eckendorf.

Baked goods were made by Grace Watson, Cindy Lou, Cindy Ezzo, Sherry Edkin, Gary Snyder, Arthur Hollback, Cindi, Courtney Skinner, and huge thanks to Sam's Club.

Performers included Michelle Michaels, Misty Michaels Kall, Alysín Wonderland, Debbie, Shay, Taylor Morgan, Snare Bear, Portia from LA, and Rebecca Mae behind the bar.

Special thanks for private donations go to Little's Dance Studio, Joshua Maleno-Lewis, Carl Larese, Debbi - Michael Hipwell, Stacy G, Linda J, and Josue Perez.



Pink Party Weekend performers On Oct 9, 2022. Photos by Michael Mahler.



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ACLU NW PA Annual General Meeting

by Margo Wolfe

The Northwest PA Chapter of the ACLU held its annual meeting on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at la bella Restaurant, 802 W 18th St, Erie PA. New and interested members were encouraged to attend.

Presentations on the history of the ACLU, constitutional issues the PA state position on abortion, current cases in the state, and educational issues were presented by members: Bob Rhodes, Dick Ruth, Susan Woodland, and Mary Jo Campbell. An award was given to Bob Rhodes in recognition of his leadership in Public education and civil rights issues.



Dragula Titans Brings a Fright to Shudder

by Michael Mongera

Spooky season is upon us! The drag fright fest, otherwise known as The Boulet Brothers' Dragula has announced its new All Stars series, Dragula: Titans. Ten former contestants from the current four seasons of The Boulet Brothers' Dragula, are competing to be the world's first Drag Titan. These queens will duke it out in a special "underworld" set created only for these All Stars queens who showcase Drag, Filth, Glamour and Horror. Prizes include a cash prize of \$100,000, the heading spot in the upcoming Dragula world tour.

The titular hosts promise a heightened level of production, terrifying extermination challenges, all while breaking regular Dragula rules. Guest judges will include Elvira, Poppy, Katya, and Erie's own Alaska Thunderfuck 5000, and season four Dragula winner, Dahli. Lastly, contestants include season one's Melissa Befierce, season two's Abhora, Kendra Onixxx, Victoria Black, and Erika Klash, Season three's Evah Destruction, and Yovska, and season



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four's Hosō Terra Toma, Astrud Aurelia and Koco Cain. The season premieres October 25th, with new episodes every Tuesday on Shudder.

LGBTQ History Month Reception at Governor's Residence

On Thursday, October 20, 2022, Gov. Wolf hosted the PA Commission on LGBTQ Affairs and supporters for an LGBTQ History Month reception at the Governor's Residence in Harrisburg. Outgoing Executive Director Rafael Alvarez Febo and Chair

Anne Wakabayashi thanked Governor Wolf and his administration for their groundbreaking support of the LGBTQ community. Pennsylvania was the first in the nation to have a state-level LGBTQ commission when Gov. Wolf signed the executive order in 2018. Since then, only two additional states (Washington and Massachusetts) have created similar bodies at the state level.



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Rafael Alvarez Febo, Ciora Thomas, Anne Wakabayashi, Henry Sias, Gov. Wolf. Photo by Michael Mahler.

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Voters Guide

Candidates for US Senator, US Congress (PA-16), PA Governor, and PA State House for areas that included Erie County were asked about their positions on LGBTQIA+ issues.

These were the questions asked for all races:

We, as LGBTQ individuals experience discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. What action, as an elected official, would you take to reduce this in our community?

What actions can you take to protect the right and safety of the LGBTQ youth, especially the transgender youth?

What is one thing we should know about you as relating to the LGBTQ community?

US Senator

Not Responding: Mehmet Oz (R), Ronald Johnson (Constitution Party), Richard Weiss (Green)

Anti Discrimination

John Fetterman (D)

Unfortunately the LGBTQ+ community still faces discrimination in the workplace, in healthcare settings, when trying to obtain housing, and in the criminal justice system among other areas. The LGBTQ+ community has also become subject to alarming increases in violence, particularly against Black and Brown transgender women, as a result of

lacking protection at the highest levels of government. From using my office as a bully pulpit to championing specific legislation to remedy these injustices, I have been proud to stand as an ally with communities that are too often discriminated against and marginalized.

I would support legislative efforts like the Equality Act, to explicitly guarantee LGBTQ+ Americans are protected from discrimination; the BE HEARD Act to strengthen protections in the workplace for LGBTQ+ and others; and the Fair and Equal Housing Act to ensure the LGBTQ+ community is protected from discrimination in housing.

Daniel Wassmer (Keystone Party)

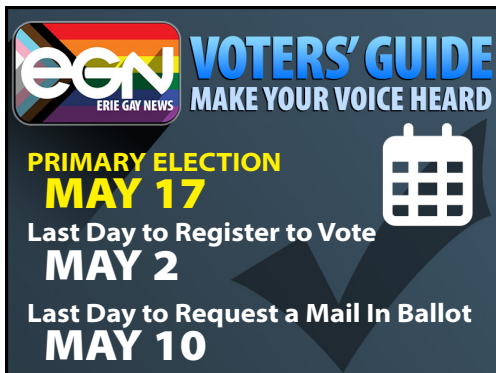
First and foremost I would like to thank you for this opportunity to explain some of my positions and hopefully you will find them compelling. I am always open to new thoughts and ideas. So should any response be deemed questionable or deserving of further inquiry I would certainly invite criticism and comment.

As asked this question highlights one of the most fundamental sad aspects of life in the United States. Bigotry in my mind is a scourge on humanity. One of the most important issues from the perspective of a U.S. Senator is to not permit ideologues to be placed in the judicial branch as federal court appointees.

Sadly our court system has been stocked with individuals who have completely derogated their constitutional oaths by failing to comply with the duties of providing people with equal protections. Typically this is a result of the wheeling-dealing that goes on in DC. If elected as an independent U.S. Senator in a relatively divided senate I wouldn't tolerate this utter nonsense. I pledge to not permit ideologues on the Federal Bench who fail to remedy actual discrimination. Moreover I pledge to not allow ideologues to slip through as part of this perpetual horse trading. It is time to stand by the principles of equal protection and respect for people as opposed to political expediency.

Erik Gerhardt (Libertarian)

I would help the discrimination and monetary situation of LGTBQ members of each state with my small business 3-part plan. By giving all Americans equally an opportunity to receive 3-time federal tax



EGN ERIE GAY NEWS **VOTERS' GUIDE**
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PRIMARY ELECTION
MAY 17

Last Day to Register to Vote
MAY 2

Last Day to Request a Mail In Ballot
MAY 10

deductions for 10 years for 4 employees or less. This will open many doors for any individual to make a brighter future for themselves.

LGBTQ Youth **John Fetterman (D)**

Recently we have seen increased attacks on our LGBTQ+ youth around the country. In states like Florida, they've passed "don't say gay" legislation, prohibiting schools from discussion on LGBTQ+ topics. In 11 states there are now anti-transgender laws that prohibit students from joining sports teams that align with their gender identity. And in other states, lawmakers are introducing legislation that makes it difficult or even illegal for youth to get gender reassignment surgeries.

To combat these attacks I believe that we can take several measures, starting with electing members of Congress and state legislators who will vote against this type of discriminatory legislation. I would also support legislation like the Protecting LGBTQ Youth Act, which would strengthen support for children across the country. We must also invest in LGBTQ youth suicide prevention and mental health programs. With LGBTQ youth suicides on the rise I believe that investing in programs like The Trevor Project will be tremendously helpful in helping our LGBTQ youth. Lastly, LGBTQ youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness. We have to ensure funding for service providers that can help combat this issue and get our youth off of the streets.

Daniel Wassmer (Keystone Party)

I would support any laws geared towards protecting the civil rights of any individual regardless of their sexual orientations, genders, gender identifications, race, etc.. It is an affront to my concept of humanity to fail to recognize and celebrate our diverse lives. As a result I would champion such issues and gladly meet with anyone to discuss such issues thereby furthering those goals.

Candidly changing hearts and minds is not something that comes easily however I pledge to be in that fight for the long haul. As someone who was honored to have a campaign chair who was a member of the LGBTQ+ community in my last race I would rely on the direct input of the community. On the federal level I would support any legislation geared towards that goal.

Erik Gerhardt (Libertarian)

To protect the youth and their choices. (that should be made as an adult and not for them prior) I would back legislation that make altering of gender and genital mutilation a crime with stiff penalties under the guise of child abuse.

Other

John Fetterman (D)

I have been a champion of LGBTQ+ rights throughout my career in public service. In 2013, I was the first elected official in western Pennsylvania to start officiating same-sex marriages. Back then, I did this in defiance of Pennsylvania's still standing same-sex marriage ban because I believed it was the right thing to do, despite the threat of legal sanction from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Governor Corbett.

As Lieutenant Governor, I have tried my best to use my office as a bully pulpit to fight for LGBTQ+ issues. During Pride month, I have regularly ordered the display of Pride flags from my balcony at the state capitol in Harrisburg along with the Trans Pride Flag during the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Despite being banned by Republican lawmakers, I have continued, and will continue, to proudly fly these flags from my balcony because they are more than just pieces of cloth. They are a signal to the state and the whole country that we are still fighting for LGBTQ+ rights receiving full protection under law, and I won't stop flying these flags until LGBTQ+ community receives that full protection.

As Lieutenant Governor, I have also fought for state and local laws to prohibit anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination, hosted a same-sex wedding when a wedding venue refused to do so, joined with lieutenant governors across the country to urge the lifting of restrictions on LGBTQ+ men from giving blood, and fought for equality for LGBTQ+ couples in the provision of adoption services.

Daniel Wassmer (Keystone Party)

Many of my best friends are members of the LGBTQ+ community. I have an open heart and detest any form of discrimination. Believing anyone would harm any of my friends makes me quite sad. I would react to any form of bigotry as though it were an attack on my best friends and simply not tolerate such acts by politicians. I have no problem calling bigots exactly what they are. In fact one of the reasons I

immediately left the LP (Libertarian Party) was based on what I saw a specific faction moving towards when they staged a party takeover. For those who are unaware when that group took over they removed language from the bylaws which stated - “we detest bigotry”. Who doesn’t detest bigotry? I certainly don’t which is why I immediately left the LP when I witnessed this developing. I will continue to fight against such injustices.

Erik Gerhardt (Libertarian)

My regards for the LGTBQ community are simple as I hold no grudge against all good people. As long as you are not hurting anyone through your own actions you should have the respect as any other person will receive.

US Congress (PA-16)

Anti Discrimination

Dan Pastore (D)

Discrimination is wrong regardless of the reason. If elected, I will co-sponsor and vote for the Equality Act which would prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, federally funded programs, credit, and jury service.

Mike Kelly (R - Inc.)

It is a fundamental tenet of American democracy that all individuals – regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, or disability – shall have equal rights and opportunities under law. I strongly support this principle and continue to fight to ensure that all Americans have an opportunity to succeed. Discrimination takes many forms in this country: discrimination in funding by D.C. politicians against poor and rural communities, discrimination by certain employers against older or disabled individuals, or discrimination by education and governmental institutions against people of faith. I won’t stand for it.

LGBTQ Youth

Dan Pastore (D)

I will oppose any legislation targeting LGBTQ-IA+ youth by opposing the attacks we see in so many states today. This includes so-called “bathroom” bills,

“don’t say gay” bills, or any legislation that targets the LGBTQIA+ community.

Mike Kelly (R - Inc.)

I will always work to ensure that all Americans are treated equally under the law. Discrimination has no place in America. Our youth are 25% of our population, but 100% of our future. We must nurture our children, both at home and at school, as they grow up to give them the best chance at success in life.

Other

Dan Pastore (D)

I am committed to equality for all, and I will be an ally to the LGBTQIA+ community if elected to Congress.

Mike Kelly (R - Inc.)

I will continue to apply the same service to LGBTQIA community that I have used to improve the lives of all of my constituents. I’ve fought D.C. politicians to bring more than \$33.5 million in Congressional appropriations funding to western Pennsylvania in the last two years alone to revitalize our communities. I won’t give up on our rights. I encourage everyone to do the same.

PA Governor

Not Responding: Doug Mastriano (R), Joe Soloski (Libertarian), Matt Hackenburg (Keystone Party)

Anti Discrimination

Josh Shapiro (D)

From co-sponsoring legislation to prohibit discrimination as a State Representative, to helping the first LGBTQ+ couple marry in Pennsylvania as the leader of Montgomery County, to fighting against the Trump administration’s efforts to roll back protections as Attorney General, I’ve spent my career consistently defending and fighting for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians and their rights.

As Governor, I will put real political capital behind the effort to finally pass nondiscrimination legislation to ensure that LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians are protected equally under the law and discrimination in employment, housing, education, and public accommodations is banned in Pennsylvania. Furthermore,

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JES Global Summit

- Wednesday, October 26 -
The Future of Race in America
- Thursday, October 27 - The
Future of Immigration in America
- Thursday, November 3 -
Community Schools: A Model
Locally, A Model Nationally
- Friday, November 4 - Policy,
Politics, and International Affairs
with Fiona Hill
- Monday, November 7 - James
Madison: America's First Politician
- Wednesday, November 9 -
Rejuvenating Industrial
Heartlands with John C. Austin
- Thursday, November 10 -
How America's Towns are Writing
the Future of the Country
- Friday, November 11 - John
Milton, Abigail Adams, and
Thomas Jefferson: Revolution
Yesterday and Tyranny Today?



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I will also sign legislation to expand Pennsylvania's hate crime laws to include crimes against the LGBTQ+ community.

Throughout my career, I've brought people together to get things done, and that's exactly what I'll do as Governor so that we can finally pass non-discrimination legislation. In order for our Commonwealth to grow, every Pennsylvania must have the same opportunity to succeed, no matter what you look like, where you come from, who you pray to, or who you love – everyone deserves to feel welcomed in Pennsylvania.

Christina "PK" DiGuilio (Green)

PENNSYLVANIA has the most hate groups in the country. LGBTQ+ is targeted by such groups. In PA we MUST ADDRESS OUR HATE PROBLEM. Flush the hate out. Call out the hate and discriminatory practices. Make severe penalties to employers, businesses, landlords, and individuals for discrimination.

We need a more comprehensive anti-discrimination policy in PA - and mandatory sensitivity training for all employers both public and private.

PA needs to pass stronger non-discrimination laws across the board AND with harsher punishment. Employment: In PENNSYLVANIA, we need a non-discrimination law immediately. LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians can be discriminated against in the workplace.

As Governor of the Commonwealth, I will provide funding to local systems set up to be community watchdogs for targeted populations, require police records to be public and accessible, require identifying transgender people to self-identify and receive mandatory protections within the system.

I would like to create a secure reporting system specific to LGBTQ+ discrimination complaints leading to official enforcement actions.

LGBTQ Youth Josh Shapiro (D)

Too many politicians across the Commonwealth are focused on bullying LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians and pushing cruel legislation that wastes time and taxpayer dollars. As Attorney General, I've seen the effects of threats and violence against LGBTQ+ youth and I know we must do more to address these issues.

As Governor, I will continue to fight for all

Pennsylvanians and advance equality by pushing the Legislature to finally pass non-discrimination legislation, expand hate crimes laws to cover LGBTQ+ individuals, eliminate the "Gay and Trans Panic" defense, ban conversion therapy for minor and invest in mental health resources for LGBTQ+ youth.

In the budget, I will push to increase funding for schools to hire mental health counselors in every school, increase access to healthcare for trans youth, and ensure that a continuous funding stream is established for LGBTQ+ homeless youth housing.

Christina "PK" DiGuilio (Green)

Education is very important for children and adults. Any adult who works with children in any capacity should have mandatory sensitivity training and a basic biology lesson on the issue of gender to dispell the common belief that the gender binary is a rigid fact. There must be sensitivity training and therapy as part of restorative justice practices when an LGBTQ youth is physically or emotionally harmed. Heteronormativity needs to be addressed and deconstructed in policies and practices in schools and in the state government.

Other

Josh Shapiro (D)

LGBTQ+ rights are under attack. We've seen it in states like Texas and Florida where Republicans are putting politics over people – trying to pass anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and stir up divisive culture wars, and make no mistake, they've introduced similar bills in Harrisburg.

I will not only veto any bill from our legislature that seeks to restrict rights, but with Austin's help, we will proactively work to ban discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals by signing the Pennsylvania Fairness Act, expand Pennsylvania's hate crime laws to include LGBTQ+ individuals, ban conversion therapy for minors, protect LGBTQ+ youth by investing in mental health resources in schools, and eliminate the "Gay Panic Defense" in Pennsylvania to make sure LGBTQ+ individuals are fully protected under the law.

No matter what you look like, where you come from, or who you love, you deserve to feel safe and welcomed here in the Commonwealth – and everyone deserves equal protection under the law. I am honored to have the support of so many LGBTQ+ leaders and activists from across our Commonwealth

in this campaign, and as Governor, I will ensure that LGBTQ+ communities have a seat at the table as we work to move Pennsylvania forward.

Christina “PK” DiGuilio (Green)

I embrace the fluidity in both my gender and my sexuality. I am of the water, fluid like the water. I learn from the water, and all of nature. I fight to protect the water, because water is life, and what is in the water, is in us. I am a Water Protector.

I grew up calling the LGBTQ+ community, “family”. I still see this community as family, and so I will always protect and advocate for LGBTQ+ people. We are family.

PA State House District 1

Anti Discrimination

Pat Harkins (D-Inc)

I have always been a supporter of LGBTQ rights. I held public hearings on HB 300 in Erie and co sponsored the legislation along with my colleague Dan Frankel. I supported the Sims, Frankel amendment on January 26th, 2021 that would have extended civil rights to all Pennsylvanians regardless of race, color, creed, disability, identity or sexual orientation.

Michael G Thomas (Libertarian)

The state’s monopoly on violence shouldn’t be used to compel association or speech between private actors. In areas where state funds or power make the parties not “private,” LGBT protections should be approximately on par with protections from race, gender, & age discrimination.

LGBTQ Youth

Pat Harkins (D-Inc)

I strongly oppose any and all legislation equivalent to and including HB 972 (Republican bill that would restrict trans girls and women from playing scholastic and collegiate sports). Any discriminatory legislation like this should not see the light of day in my opinion.

Michael G Thomas (Libertarian)

We also need anti-grooming policies in schools and trans youth organizations. Trans youth services are often characterized as “grooming” by skeptics, while advocates assert that they are trying to save trans youth, not recruit youth into transition. The rise

in accounts by “detransitioners” has grown the ranks of skeptics. We can reassure the skeptics by defining in writing a clear line between “support” and “grooming” and implementing policies to defend that line. Every time we win over a skeptic we gain an ally.

Other

Pat Harkins (D-Inc)

My record speaks for itself. For sixteen years I have supported LGBTQ legislation and have always strived for equality, fairness and acceptance. I will continue to do that when I return to Harrisburg in the new session.

Michael G Thomas (Libertarian)

My wife is transgender. I stood at the altar in front of family & friends and vowed to love, honor & cherish her. I want myself, my wife, & the rest of the LGBT community afforded the dignity, respect & opportunities of our cisnet counterparts. I am deeply mistrustful of state power, and believe that we should rely primarily on voluntary institutions (dialogue, education, investment decisions, boycott/buycott) to advance that cause among private actors.

PA State House District 2

Anti Discrimination

Bob Merski (D-Inc)

Pennsylvania ranks 24th out of 50 states for legal protection of the LGBTQ community and public support of LGBTQ rights in a new study by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law. In my three years in the legislature, I have co-sponsored and supported legislation to make LGBTQ discrimination illegal, including House Bill 300, the Fairness Act which would ban discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodation. When it occurs, it needs to be called out. I support local efforts to stop discrimination against the LGBTQ community, including recent efforts by Erie City Council

LGBTQ Youth

Bob Merski (D-Inc)

As a former teacher, I take the safety and rights of LGBTQ youth seriously. At Collegiate Academy, I had my first experience teaching transgender students. As transgender youth have become a focal point in the culture wars, I think it’s important to always remem-

ber that these are our children. Things said negatively about them as a group affect them individually, often deeply, affecting mental and emotional health. I oppose legislation to dehumanize or diminish our LGBTQ youth.

Other

Bob Merski (D-Inc)

My wife Emily and I are LGBTQ allies. As an ally, I have made it a point every year since becoming state representative to hire interns from the LGBTQ and/or minority community to make sure we provide opportunities to those from diverse backgrounds.

PA State House District 3

Not Responding: Joseph Kujawa (R)

Anti Discrimination

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Inc)

One of the highest ideals of our Republic is that all people shall be treated equally under the law, for the sake of personal liberty and equitable justice. You can count on me to keep LGBTQ people close in mind when voting on laws that protect people from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. I am also in favor of legislation like the Pennsylvania Fairness Act, and I call upon all my colleagues in the House to pass it.

LGBTQ Youth

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Inc)

When it comes to LGBTQ youth, we need to create environments in which mechanisms are in place that ensure their basic human rights, and which make them safe from prejudice and harm. To do that, we need to make sure that public school policies do not discriminate against LGBTQ youth. We need our local constituent offices to be able to direct and connect LGBTQ youth (and families) to relevant area resources. And we need to make sure that we hold all policies up to the lights of “equality under the law” and “equity in action.”

Other

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Inc)

I have long supported the LGBTQ community. Some of my very good friends are LGBTQ, and I

have been participating in educational and social events for the sake of LGBTQ equality. My full embrace of LGBTQ people is rooted in my family’s love for people just as they are, and from my faith, which affirms that diversity is a really good part of creation, and not a flaw of it. I will continue to work for equality in the House as long as I serve.

PA State House District 4

Anti Discrimination

Chelsea Oliver (D)

We are long overdue for passing laws that explicitly protect the LGBTQ+ community. To deny any individual of employment, housing, and public accommodations based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, whether assumed or actual, is a direct violation of equality for all people. As an elected official, I will introduce and support legislation that protects LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination and continually work for equality.

LGBTQ Youth

Chelsea Oliver (D)

As State Representative, I will support legislation that affirms LGBTQ+ youth, prohibits mental health professionals from engaging in conversion therapy with minors, and holds schools accountable to ensuring access to high-quality education in safe environments for all students. Our youth, especially those within the LGBTQ+ community, must know that someone cares about them. For too many, especially in rural communities like the district I serve, this is a matter of life and death. I am unwilling to lose more of our future due to harassment, shame, and discrimination.

Other

Chelsea Oliver (D)

I have been a life-long advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and will continue to be as an elected official. Throughout my formative years as a student, I was a member of the Gay Straight Alliance and now as an adult, I am an active volunteer with Warren County Pride. I believe that all people should be able to live without fear of discrimination, harassment, and violence, and that all of us are so deeply worthy and deserving of love..

PA State House District 6

Jake Banta (R) didn't send in a direct response to the questions, but did email the following:

Hello, IN today's America...

We are in a serious volatile time where people are being shunned for thinking their own way. As I venture into my political campaign. I have found this country is FAR too divided. We've forgotten in some ways how we each have a Constitutional Right to be who we want to be.

I blame the dividers for this. As division gives them power. ALL of us as Americans are free to think as we wish TO. Whatever your preference in life is your choice and I respect each to his own. What I stand for is the rights OF EACH person under our Constitution. Be who you want to be,..BUT we ALL have the duty to NOT infringe on others.

Infringement at times comes from championing your rights as something they are not. They overstep the bounds not realizing their deed.

Whether it's your religious believe or moral feeling. Each of us are endowed with Rights by our Constitution and equality. But again ,we must be cautious of where rights begin to infringe.

I do not support any kind of grooming of children or any such nature of shaping their minds. I feel a child can find and understand their true feelings and become who they will as an adult. To me infringement is trying to decide for them, which I feel some of your own programs target. Our education system needs a standard set that is tell kids there are choices ,but not infringing on their young mind with influence.

Example: I feel a young girl struggling with puberty and it's awkward time should not have a man in her bathroom while doing so. Just as you were struggling with your sexual preference at that age possibly deciding your preference..., so is she in becoming a young women. This is my point about Infringement. BE who you want but do not infringe on others in doing so. We are truly all equal ,but championing your rights does not give a pass to infringe on others.

Please send a representative out to see me if you'd like. THIS country is too divided and we need dialog.

Have a good day.

Not Responding: Brad Roae (R)

Anti Discrimination **Nerissa Galt (D)**

The language of any anti-discrimination law must be expanded to include sexual orientation and gender identity. We must also be considered a protected class of citizens. Protections must be expanded to the workplace, housing, medical care, education, and any other public service. I will be able to write and sponsor bills that will directly address these discriminations.

LGBTQ Youth **Nerissa Galt (D)**

I want to work on laws that provide better protections for LGBTQIA+ youth in schools. Hate speech by faculty, staff, and the school board should NEVER be tolerated. Pennsylvania law doesn't provide a path for the removal of school board directors who don't believe in equal access to education. I believe every school should have a gender-neutral bathroom as well, and that teachers must be required to use the correct pronouns and chosen names for every student.

Other **Nerissa Galt (D)**

I'm a half-closeted bi-sexual, in a (blissful) straight passing relationship. I have at least two children in the LGBTQ community (and a 9-year-old who once told me she might someday be bisexual). I have a lot of people in my circle in the community, online (I LOVE my online friends!) and in person. I've spoken up against hate speech at a PENNCREST school board meeting and ran a write-in campaign to try to combat the bigots on the board. I'm inspired by my oldest daughter who started the first LGBTQIA+ club of its kind at Saegertown High School, called SPA (Saegertown Pride Alliance).

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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.aaeriepa.org or contact cmn0626@gmail.com. or (814) 504-1507

1st and 3rd Monday at 8 pm until complete, Everyone's Comedy Open-Mic Night at RandyBillDuck, 4th Floor of the PACA 1505 State.

Compton's Table Youth Study Night every Monday from 6 to 7:30 PM at PACA 1505 State.m

Sept 30 - Oct 29 (Fri - Sat) - The Rocky Horror Show (Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335)

Oct 1 - 31 (Sat - Mon) - LGBT History Month First celebrated in 1994 in October. It was declared a national History month by President Barack Obama in 2009. The month was created with the intent to encourage openness and education about LGBT history and rights.

Oct 21 - Nov 27 (Fri - Sun) - The Play That Goes Wrong (All An Act Theatre, 652 W 17th St, Erie, PA 16502) Proof of vaccination or recent negative test results are required. Masks recommended. Welcome to opening night of the Cornley University Drama Society's newest production, The Murder at Haversham Manor, where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. All Act is proud to show Erie this amazing show for the first time ever and celebrate 100 productions! Phone: (814) 450-8553. Email: director@allanact.net. Browse to <http://www.allanact.net/>.

Oct 23 - 29 (Sun - Sat) - Ace Week Browse to <https://www.aceweek.org/>.

Oct 26 (Wed) - Intersex Awareness Day

Oct 26 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour - All welcome (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 993 Water St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. *Note new location for even-numbered months!*

Oct 26 (Wed) - MIAC Live: Get Happy! Michael Feinstein Celebrates the Judy Garland Centennial (Mercyhurst University, 501 E 38th St, Erie, PA 16546) 7:30 PM.

Oct 26 (Wed) & Oct 28 (Fri) - Rocky Horror Picture Show Interactive Experience (Struthers Library Theatre, 302 W 3rd Ave, Warren, PA 16365) 7:30 PM. Ready for something that is guaranteed to Thrill You, Chill You and Fulfill you? Join us at on October 26th

and 28th for The Rocky Horror Picture Show interactive experience! The fun starts at 7:30pm with karaoke hosted by Riff Raff, there will be a costume contest and lots of Time Warping! Phone: (814) 723-7231. Email: eric@strutherslibrarytheatre.org. Browse to <https://www.strutherslibrarytheatre.org/>.

Oct 27 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. Contact: Danielle Bonovitch. (716) 708-6161. <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

Oct 27 (Thu) - Mild to Wild Discussion Group (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Mild to Wild is a discussion group about sex and substance use designed for gay and bisexual men and folks of trans experience. Meets in person at MHA and also on Zoom. (716) 661-9044.

Oct 27 - Nov 12 (Thu - Sat) - Buffalo United Artists Presents The Gentleman Caller (Bittersweet Piano Lounge in Hotel at the Lafayette, 391 Washington Street, Buffalo, NY 14203) Tennessee Williams and William Inge today are recognized as two of the greatest American playwrights, whose work irrevocably altered the theatrical and social landscapes. In 1944, however, neither had achieved anything like genuine success. As flamboyant genius Williams (played by MATT RITTLER) prepares for the world premiere of his play The Gentleman Caller - to become The Glass Menagerie - self-loathing Inge (played by JONATHAN BECKNER) struggles through his job as a theatre critic, denying his true wish to be writing plays. Based on real-life but closed-door encounters, reconstructed from troves of comments (and elisions) by each man about their relationship, PHILIP DAWKINS gorgeously envisions what might have taken place during those early-career meetings. Phone: (716) 886-9239. Venue Phone: (716) 331-3654. Email: buffalobua@gmail.com. Browse to <https://buffalounitedartists.org/>. RSVP/ Register/Tickets at <https://m.bpt.me/event/5568664>. Browse to venue web site <https://www.facebook.com/wnybittersweet/>.

Oct 28 (Fri) - Identity Halloqueen (Franklin G Pogue Student Center, 405 Scotland Road, Edinboro, PA 16444) 7:30 PM - 10 PM. There will be refreshments and plenty of fun activities. Plus, a Halloween costume contest with a gift card prize

Oct 28 (Fri) - Zone Diva's Halloween Spooktacular (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Host Misty Michaels Kall and former Miss Eries

will get you in the spirit for the spookiest weekend of the year! What tricks and treats does Misty have up her sleeve? Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state- issued ID. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Oct 28 (Fri) - 12th Annual Halloween Party (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) 9 PM. Door open at 9:00 pm. Prizes for the Funniest, Scariest, and Best costume. \$6.00 Cover Charge. Phone: (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@AOL.COM. Browse to <http://www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge>.

Oct 29 (Sat) - Zone Diva's Halloween Spooktacular (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. The Zone will be transformed into a haunted factory to scare, creep, and confuse you. Take a stab at the costume contest for a chance at some CASH prizes. Doors open at 8pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Nov 1 (Tue) - Last Day to Request a Mail-In/Absentee Ballot to Vote in General Election Election General election is November 8. Browse to <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>.

Nov 1 (Tue) - Art Expression 12-15 + caregiver support (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. Phone: (833) 487-5769. Email: jmorell@4urjrny.com. Browse to <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

Nov 3 (Thu) - Truth Seekers of LGBTQ+ Coalition Of Ashtabula County meets (Ashtabula County District Library, 4335 Park Ave, Ashtabula, OH 44004) 6:30 PM. We are people of faith coming together to discuss reconciling our faith with our sexuality.

Nov 4 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Molly Brannigans, 506 State St, Erie PA) 6 PM - 8 PM.

Nov 6 (Sun) - Trans Parent Day Celebrates life and the love between Transgender parents and their children. And parents and their Transgender children. Browse to <http://transparentday.org/>.

Nov 8 (Tue) - Intersex Day of Remembrance Intersex Day of Remembrance, also known as Intersex Solidarity Day, is an internationally observed civil awareness day designed to highlight issues faced by intersex people. It marks the birthday of Herculine Barbin, a French intersex person whose memoirs were later published by Michel Foucault in Herculine Barbin: Being the Recently Discovered Memoirs of a Nineteenth-century French Hermaphrodite. Browse to <https://intersexday.org/en/category/actions/solidarity/>.

Nov 8 (Tue) - Pennsylvania General Election 7 AM

- 8 PM

Nov 8 (Tue) - Art Expression 16- 19 + youth council meet (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. Phone: (833) 487-5769. Email: jmorell@4urjrny.com. Browse to <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

Nov 8 (Tue) - LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County Community Meeting (Ashtabula County District Library, 4335 Park Ave, Ashtabula, OH 44004) 6 PM. Join a committee - fundraising, outreach and education, Pride, Drag in the New Year, and more! We value your strengths, ideas, and talents that you can bring to make a difference in the LGBTA+ Community in Ashtabula County!

Nov 8 (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. Browse to <http://www.youngstownpflag.org/>.

Nov 13 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Zoom)



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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.

Nov 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. (234) 254-8924. <https://www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/>.

Nov 13 (Sun) - Drag Roulette (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. DJ Tony G gives Misty the boot for this next round of Roulette! Come see what he has in store for the queens (it'll probably shock him too!) Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Nov 13 - 19 (Sun - Sat) - Transgender Awareness Week Individuals and organizations around the country participate in Transgender Awareness Week to help raise the visibility of transgender and gender non-conforming people, and address the issues the community faces. Browse to <https://www.glaad.org/transweek>.

Nov 14 (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.

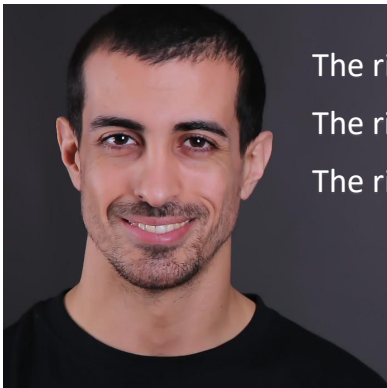
Nov 14 (Mon) – Deadline for Erie Gay News Dec 2022 print edition (#326) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released on the evening of Tuesday, Nov 22.

Nov 15 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets (Hybrid) (Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), 606 W 2nd St, Erie, PA 16507) 1 PM.

Nov 15 (Tue) - Future Finding 12-15 + caregiver support (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. Phone: (833) 487-5769. Email: jmorell@4urjmy.com. Browse to <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

Nov 16 - 20 (Wed - Sun) - Lake Erie Gala (Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, 55 West Bay Road, Erie, PA 16507) This year's theme is a Casino Royale/Speak-easy called "Classy Ladies... Cocktails and Dreams" features a Thursday night Dinner and Entertainment with Illusionist Cliff Hopkins and Kelly followed by dancing the night away with our very own DJ Brittany. Friday morning, hop on the bus and take a trip back

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to the site of the first Lake Erie Gala, from out of the ashes arose the Riverside Brewery. Enjoy a flight of brew and a farm to table lunch. Friday night put on your best bar hopping attire and enjoy dinner before heading out to Kellar's Comedy Club. Saturday night is our big Gala Dinner. Venue Phone: (814) 454-2005. Email: lakeeriegala@gmail.com. Browse to <http://lakeeriegala.com/>. Browse to venue web site <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/erisi-sheraton-erie-bayfront-hotel/overview/>.

Nov 17 (Thu) - Spirit Day Each year on Spirit Day, millions go purple to support LGBTQ youth. #SpiritDay Browse to <http://www.glaad.org/spiritday>.

Nov 17 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner #97 (Location TBA) 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Peter. Phone: (814) 384-9785.

Nov 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. (716)-450-9055. aoede2149@yahoo.com.

Nov 18 (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/>.

Nov 19 (Sat) - Warren County Pride Poetry Fundraiser (Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church, 444 Pennsylvania Ave W, Warren, PA 16365) 6 PM. Hosted by Garrett Culver, (BA, Creative Writing / Poetry) and featuring Andy Kerstetter (BA, Writing), author, The Inferno Lessons. Read your own poem, share a classic, or just enjoy. Light refreshments provided. Suggested donation \$10. Venue Phone: (814) 230-9111. Email: warrencountypride@gmail.com. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/WarrenCountyPride>. Browse to venue web site <https://trinitywarren.org/>.

Nov 19 (Sat) - Bear Pack Entertainment and The Zone present Leather & Bears & Pups... Oh My! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Hosted by Dom Ben Bear. Dom Ben Bear and the Zone bring you the hottest party to warm up a cold November night. The party starts at 9pm and runs all night! We'll have 50/50 tickets, tube shots, and a Sexy Chest contest at Midnight. Music by special guest DJ, Cleveland's Own DANOGEE! \$10 Cover - 21+ with

Valid ID - Doors Open at 8pm Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Nov 20 (Sun) - Transgender Day of Remembrance

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. Browse to <http://tdor.info/>.

Nov 20 (Sun) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group TDOR Vigil (Griswold Park, 150 W 14th St, Erie, PA 16501) 2 PM. Transfamily of NW PA will continue to honor the memory of transgender people whose lives have been lost with a remembrance. The names of known transgender people lost since last November 20 will be read at the vigil. It is difficult to accurately know how many have lost their lives because some families or society misgenders those individuals who have passed on. Contact: Raven Jane Cammarata. Browse to <https://transfamilynwpa.org/>.

Nov 20 (Sun) - Erie Trans Picnics Get Together for Transgender Day of Remembrance (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Members of Erie Trans Picnics and their friends will be congregating on this night to observe Transgender Day of Remembrance. Venue Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: mgwensinger@gmail.com. Browse to <https://www.instagram.com/erietranspicnics/>. Browse to venue web site <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Nov 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!

Nov 22 (Tue) - Future Finding 16-19 + youth council meet (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. Phone: (833) 487-5769. Email: jmorell@4urjrn.com. Browse to <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

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Nov 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.

Nov 23 (Wed) - Zone Thanksgiving Eve (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. The Zone will be open normal hours the night before Thanksgiving. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Nov 24 (Thu) - Zone Thanksgiving (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. The Zone will be open from 8 PM to 2 AM for Thanksgiving. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Nov 25 (Fri) - Black Friday Divas (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. After a day of

PLEASE RECYCLE US!



shopping, give your feet (or fingers) some rest and join Misty and her Divas for a sick show! They'll be joined by Bootsie LeFaris from NYC! Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Nov 26 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWP (Erie) Transgender Support Group Transgiving Potluck (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 2 PM - 5 PM. Transfamily will be having our yearly Transgiving event instead of our usual monthly meeting. We will be providing dressings, turkey, mashed potatoes, and gravy. Feel free to bring your favorite dish to share if you'd like. Please make sure to RSVP on our Facebook page. We'll see you there! Venue Phone: (814) 455-9414. Browse to <http://www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWP>. Browse to venue web site <http://www.cvcerie.org>.

Nov 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.

Nov 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+. (234) 254-8924. info@fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org. www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/.

Dec 1 (Thu) - World AIDS Day World AIDS Day is held on the 1st December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988. Browse to <http://www.worldaidsday.org/>.

Dec 1 (Thu) - Truth Seekers of LGBTQ+ Coalition Of Ashtabula County meets (Ashtabula County District Library, 4335 Park Ave, Ashtabula, OH 44004) 6:30 PM. We are people of faith coming together to discuss reconciling our faith with our sexuality.

Dec 10 (Sat) - Human Rights Day Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December - the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being -- regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Browse to <http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>.



Rafael Alvarez Febo, Ricardo Almodovar, Rep. Brian Sims, and Freddy Purnell at LGBTQ History Month Reception. Photo by Michael Mahler.

Online Contests	
Here are new contests for this month...	
Contest	Begins
<i>Once A Year On Blackpool Sands DVD</i>	October 28
<i>The Velvet Badge: A New York Noir</i>	November 4
<i>Blood-Red Ox DVD</i>	November 8
<i>The Schoolmaster Games DVD</i>	November 29
Here are contests which are currently active...	
Contest	Ends
<i>Love, Spells and All That DVD</i>	November 1
<i>Moon, 66 Questions DVD</i>	November 4
<i>Homo Novus</i>	November 8
<i>The Queer Advantage: Conversations with LGBTQ+ Leaders on the Power of Identity</i>	November 11
<i>Scrooge & Marley DVD</i>	November 15
More contests at eriegaynews.com ! Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events email list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events! Over 1,000 people have won a prize!	



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