



# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Marching in Erie's Pride Parade on June 24. Photo by Andrea Shaffer.

## Erie Celebrates Pride in Style

State Street in the City of Erie was once again adorned with every color of the rainbow on Saturday, June 24, when NW PA Pride Alliance hosted its annual Pride Parade and Pride Fest. Thousands came out to be part of the festivities, which began with a parade at 11th Street and marched north on State Street to Perrys Square.

Pride Fest then began on the Erie Insurance Main Stage. DJ Tony G, who returned for his tenth year as host of the event, was joined by Jill McCormick from JET 24-FOX 66 and Miss Erie 2022 Debbie Does Drag to introduce those in attendance to a wide variety of speakers, musicians, actors, and drag performers.

Those in attendance were encouraged to visit the large number of vendors and information tables for the queer community. They could also take advantage of free HIV/STI screenings offered in the Adagio Health Health and Wellness Zone. Young people were treated to being able to check out books from the Erie County Library Book Mobile that was located in the Kid Zone. There were also several food trucks to offer everyone a wide variety of good food.

As always, the NW PA Pride Alliance is grateful to everyone who helped to make this event such a special time. From the volunteer board members to our great community sponsors, Pride would not happen without them. Please try and support those organizations and companies that help present Pride. You can find a complete list by visiting the NW PA Pride website [NWPA Pride.org](http://NWPA Pride.org) and looking under donors.

## Erie Celebrates Becoming a Sanctuary City for LGBTQ+ Rights!

by *Emily Manino, TransFamily of NW PA & DSA Erie*

The City Council of Erie announced the passing of the Human Rights Resolution, designating our city as a sanctuary for LGBTQ+ individuals. With immense joy and celebration, may we embrace this progressive measure, demonstrating our commitment to inclusivity, compassion, and equality for all people. We are thankful to City Council Member Susannah Faulkner for her dedication to and collaboration with the LGBTQ+ citizens of Erie in advancing this resolution through Erie City Council.

The resolution firmly opposes discriminatory legislation, recognizing the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals in all aspects of life. It is a powerful statement against the infringement of human rights and restrictions on essential services faced by the LGBTQ+ community in the broader political landscape.

In this pivotal moment, Erie takes a bold stand, pledging to protect and support LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly the youth, who are vulnerable to negative mental health impacts. We envision a welcoming and safe environment where every LGBTQ+ person can thrive without fear of discrimination or persecution.

As we progress, may community members rally together to support the Fairness Act. This vital legislation seeks to ensure equality and protection for LGBTQ+ individuals across the state of Pennsylvania. By voicing our support for this Act, we can further strengthen the rights and well-being of our LGBTQ+ community.

Let us continue to celebrate diversity, cherish

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

**Editor/Layout: Mike Mahler**

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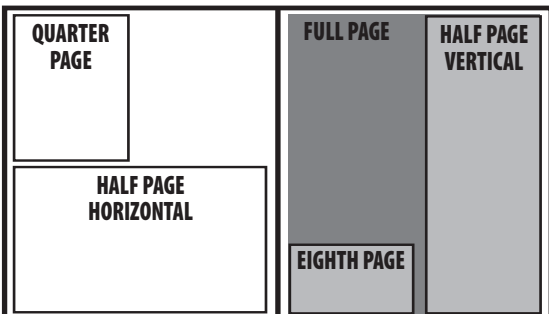
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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

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

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

## EGN Rates & Data



AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$80 - \$72 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
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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! Andrea Shaffer, Audrey, Elisabeth Cadelle, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Raven Jane Cammarata, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for distribution; Wheel Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

our community's compassion, and uphold the rights of all residents. Together, we pave the way for a brighter future where love, acceptance, and justice prevail in every corner of Erie. Join us on this historic journey toward a more inclusive and prosperous city for everyone.

### TransFamily NWPA Summer Picnic

TransFamily will have our yearly trans picnic on the 19th of August from noon to five at Presque Isle at site 001-#1 pavillion. TransFamily will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and vegan options. Please bring your favorite dish to share and a list of ingredients, and join us in celebrating 11 wonderful years of supporting the trans community!

### Sexual Health Clinic Options For You

*Erie County Department of Health*

Are you aware that the local health department has a clinic for testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infectious diseases? The services are without cost and can help you stay up to date with routine

checks for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and HIV. Interested to know more about PrEP for HIV? We can go over the available options here in Erie County and help get you started. Would you like some FREE condoms? We provide free condoms and lubricants to our clients during weekly Sexual Health Clinic appointments on Tuesdays 9am-11am and Wednesdays 1pm-3pm. For more information give us a call at the Erie County Department of Health, 814-451-6700.

### Local Queer Nonprofits Participate in Erie Gives 2023

Erie Gives will be taking place on Tuesday, August 8, from 8 am to 8 pm. This is a great day to help your favorite nonprofits. Last year, Erie Gives broke all the records giving over \$8.1 Million to 470 nonprofits. The local LGBT nonprofits participating in this year's campaign are listed below.

The minimum gift is \$25. There is no limit to the amount of money you may give. There is no limit to the number of organizations you can donate to in a transaction. Donations can be made via check, Visa, MasterCard or Discover. Sorry, credit card gift cards

**SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC**

*Local, private, no cost testing and treatment options for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and HIV*

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- Wednesdays 1p-3p

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### **Compton's Table, Inc.**

#### **Mission**

Compton's Table's mission is to eliminate systemic inequity, create community through peer connection, and empower queer youth and young adults to be agents of change. Together with the individuals and communities we serve, Compton's Table works to create a thriving queer community.

#### **Programs and Services**

Compton's Table is proud to be offering AF-FIRM, an evidence-based queer youth support group, as a free resource available to youth and young adults. In addition, we have launched Compton's Closet in two locations. This free resource provides gender-affirming attire, accessories, and hygiene products. Compton's is excited to open a community room at PACA to offer social groups and events to strengthen connection and supports. All these programs are aimed at building resilience and reducing suicide among queer youth.

### **Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE)**

#### **Mission**

The Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Inc. (GEAE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the region's LGBTQ+ community and its straight allies through educational programs, social events, and opportunities for service, which are designed to strengthen our voice and improve the quality of life in northwestern Pennsylvania. We advance our mission to create a safe and welcoming community for all regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity through quality educational programs, service opportunities, and social events.

#### **Programs and Services**

GEAE provides annual scholarships to LGBTQ+ persons for university, community college, technical school, art school, or para-professional programs.

GEAE partners with Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life in order to provide mental health services to Erie County youth who are LGBTQ+ and in need of counseling.

GEAE works with the PA Thrive Partnership to provide testing, prevention, and support to LGBTQ+ persons throughout Erie County.

GEAE holds Afternoon for Equality to educate and raise funding.

GEAE holds a family-friendly After-Pride Party and helps support Erie Pride.

### **NW PA Pride Alliance**

#### **Mission**

NWPA Pride's mission is to increase visibility for the Queer community in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

#### **Programs and Services**

Officially incorporated in 2012, NWPA Pride Alliance becomes the organizing body for Pride events in the city of Erie and Crawford County. Pride events have been celebrated in Erie for 30 years and NWPA Pride works to host events, gatherings, and programs to improve the visibility of the queer community in the NW PA region.

Since the official incorporation of NWPA Pride Alliance and our incorporation as a 501(c)(3), the organization has continued to grow. We now hold over 35 events every year! NWPA Pride relies on the support of partners within the Erie community to make these events a reality and is proud to offer events that are completely free to attend.

### **Pennsylvania Equality Project, Inc.**

#### **Mission**

The PA Equality Project serves the LGBTQ+ community across Pennsylvania by providing educational initiatives in pursuit of affirming our civil rights. We seek an end to discrimination, conversion therapy, and youth homelessness within the LGBTQ+ community.

#### **Programs and Services**

YouTube programs such as PEP Talks Uncut provides interviews from Pennsylvanians who support and stand with the LGBTQ+ community.

In person and online courses, seminars, and webinars for educators and social workers or those with a vested interest in youth.

We are working to open a community resource center and drop in safe space shelter in Meadville, that will serve all of northwest Pennsylvania, especially Erie County.

### **LGBT Funds of The Erie Community Foundation**

*See Community Spotlight article in this issue.*



# 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Pride Picnic

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH



ROTARY PAVILION  
PRESQUE ISLE NEAR BEACH 7  
1 PM - 6 PM

FOOD & DRINK SERVED 2PM - 4PM  
RAFFLE BASKETS - FAMILY PORTRAIT  
FEEL FREE TO BRING A DISH TO SHARE AS WELL!

Pride Day AT  
**Waldameer**  
ERIE, PA  
**Water World**

SUNDAY, AUG 13TH

COASTER PAVILION 2

Water World Opens at 11am  
Park Opens at Noon

**\$30**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [NWPAPRIDE.ORG](http://NWPAPRIDE.ORG)



## Read-In Protest at Blasco Public Library on June 26

The Pennsylvania Equality Project held a Read-In at the Blasco Memorial Library in Erie, PA, between 5:30 and 7:00 PM, on Monday, June 26, 2023. The Read-In protested the library's decision to remove the LGBTQ+ Pride Month display along with all other displays from the children's section. Participants were advised at the Erie Pride Festival on Saturday, June 24, to make signs showing their support for the Pride display and keep them visible while at the library. At 5:30, 150 people read books silently while sitting in various seats in the library. Savannah Jakubowski, Pennsylvania Equality Project's newest Board Member, ran the event and was quite pleased with the turnout. She said, "The goal of the Read-In is to have the displays restored and not removed in future years and to raise awareness for the LGBTQ+ community of the Greater Erie area."

## Moxi Hair Salon

*By Steve Siwiecki*

For a safer place to find hair care, visit Moxi's Hair Salon. Owner Sara McMillan began doing hair in 2008 with no intentions of ever having her own salon. In 2013 she took time off when her daughter was born and, probably due to sleep deprivation, decided she would open her own salon, one that was environmentally friendly and cruelty-free - no products that used animal testing. Her first salon was a one-room space, and she worked alone. She has since

grown the business to 2 locations and ten employees. About four years ago, she opened one of her current locations at 1722 West 8th Street, and last August, she opened a second location at 1335 West 38th Street.

In 2016 she made all services gender-free. It didn't make sense to her that women with short hair were paying more for a haircut than men with long hair just because of their identity. With few exceptions, most customers were appreciative of this change. She describes her salons as a safer place for everyone. They accept everyone and assume nothing, for example, asking for pronouns. They welcome everyone except the intolerant.

They have joined the Dress Code Project, a global alliance of salons/shops committed to providing positive, gender-affirming services for LG-BTQ2S+ clients; and Strands for Trans, a worldwide network of hair, beauty, and wellness industries and organizations that seek to create and inspire safe and positive experiences for all guests, especially guests from the trans community. They have been active in the community, including support of Compton's Table, a table at Pride Fest, and plans for gender-free haircuts for students returning to school for 2023. Stop in and say hello!

Website: [moxihair.com](http://moxihair.com)

Hours: Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM. Saturday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

## Back To School True Style

Compton's Table, Inc is excited to offer an amazing opportunity made possible by our local Macy's at Millcreek Mall. Macy's and Compton's knows that going back to school can be a huge stress point for queer youth and their families. We decided to join forces to do something about it!

On August 20th, Macy's is opening their doors to Compton's Table and selected youth for a private shopping event with store credit! You read that right - free clothes & private shopping event!

This is where we need our community members to help us. If you know a youth or young adult who would benefit from this opportunity, please fill out the nomination form on our website at [www.ComptonsTable.org](http://www.ComptonsTable.org)

We wish we could make this a resource for EVERY applicant but unfortunately this is limited.



*Moxi Hair Salon owner Sara McMillan. 1722 W 8th St, Erie PA. Photo by Steve Siwiecki.*

## Warren County Pride on June 17

Approximately 4,000 people participated in the fourth annual Warren County Pride Day at Betts Park on Saturday, June 17th. EmCee Logan Johnson and Erie DJ Sabine kept things moving with music, contests, games, and guest speakers. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention won the “Best Decorated Booth” contest, The North PA Ghostbusters won first place in the “Best People Costume” and Thunder, a tiny Chihuahua, retained his title of “Best Pet Costume” for the fourth consecutive year. Members of the Enchanted Mountains Roller Derby presented a skating demonstration.

Attendee Michael Mahler, editor, Erie Gay News, said, “It was heartwarming and uplifting to have seen so many families enjoying a friendly day of fun in Betts Park. Having been involved with the Erie region’s LGBTQ community for over 30 years, it means a lot that people in areas outside of the traditional large urban areas are free to celebrate their joy as a part of the greater community and be with friends and family.”

An American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) representative spoke about the ACLU’s work with law and policymakers to ensure necessary statutes exist to protect civil rights, including the rights of the LGBTQ+ community.

Over ninety regional vendors and agencies participated. PAWS Along the River brought adoptable dogs: one of those lucky dogs received an adoption application at the event. Vendor Jen Wise said, “Compared to previous years, there were more attendees from a very broad range of ages.” Volunteer Cindy Thurston said, “The number of attendees and vendors was beyond my expectations.”

Performers represented the New York & Pennsylvania regions: Dahlia Black and Willa De-Whisp from Buffalo, XNX and Krispy Kreme from Pittsburgh, Parker Black from Jamestown, and Miss Jessica Rabbit, Kimzie PinchWhistle, and Mister E from Warren area came together to perform all-ages music and dance sets. Two individuals, Miss Jessica Rabbit and Mister E were crowned 2023 Warren Pride Queen and King, respectively. Mister E, commented, “Warren Pride allows all of us who are in the LG-BTQ+ community to have a place to celebrate who we are, to feel safe, be heard and be seen. It’s a time of togetherness, love, and acceptance.”

Pittsburgh-area performer XNX said, It was

my first pride performing as a drag king which was truly incredible. I’m so thankful because I met so many amazing people and inspired so many people to be themselves.”

“Warren Pride first reached out to me last year. I’ve been doing drag for five years but that was the first time I’d ever been reached to about performing. Coming back this year I had a vision and I had been counting down the days to bring my ability to expand and bring flow arts into my drag and show people the beauty of performance art. I wanted to represent the trans community, the drag kings, the flow artists. And I was able to do that.”

Pride Month is celebrated annually in June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Inn Uprising in Manhattan, New York. The United States Census Bureau’s 2021 data reports that 127,544,730 same-sex households exist within the USA.

Next year’s Warren County Pride Day will be held Saturday June 15th, 2024 at Betts Park. Warren County Pride Day is meant to be an inclusive, all-ages event celebrating diversity and promoting equality, acceptance, and tolerance throughout Warren County, Pennsylvania. Warren County Pride Day celebrates and supports the regional LGBTQ+ community. Warren County Pride Day is made possible by a donations, and a team of individuals (queer and straight) who work together throughout the year to bring Warren County Pride Team into fruition.

Website: [warrencountypride.org](http://warrencountypride.org). Facebook: <https://warrencountypride.wixsite.com/website>. [warrencountypride@gmail.com](mailto:warrencountypride@gmail.com)

## Why a Banned Book Club?

*By Kathy Czarnecki Smith*

“Why would anyone tell you what you can read?”

“If someone tells me not to read something I would ask why.”

Both of these statements were made by our 7-year-old daughter when we were explaining that we joined a banned book club. She understood the book part, they have been a part of her life from the start. It was the word ‘banned’ that peaked her curiosity. She didn’t understand and I must admit, neither did I.

A college professor once told our class that, “if a book offends or upsets you, ask yourself why, don’t just stay offended.”

When the opportunity came to meet with other community members and discuss a list of banned

books we were excited. We were curious to learn why they were considered not appropriate and wanted to know if we felt that way too. So far, none of them have. If they are upsetting at all, it is because they depict real life situations that no one should have to deal with, but we do. If we ban books that tell those stories, we are telling people that their reality doesn't exist, or that it isn't a story important enough to share. The silence that has existed surrounding events and life stories such as these remains deafening. How can the next generation of adults examine and continue to repair their communities if the adults in their world today encourage their silence? We open the doors to the banned book club so we can have a discussion worthy of everyone's time. So we can talk about these

books when they eventually make their way into the hands of friends, family, coworkers and community members.

ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE is a great example. The author shares his experience of what it was like to grow up as a black and gay child and young man. It starts out with a description of his being beaten by neighborhood boys. More of these experiences are included and it ends in a thoughtful and inviting way. The author shares that he didn't have any books to read or role models to emulate, so he hopes his story is that for someone else. That is why we should not ban this book, but we invite you to decide this for yourself.

Journey: Healing Together holds a monthly Banned Book Club at 201 W.11th St. Erie, PA 16501 with an option to attend virtually. Sunday, July 16th, August 20th, and September 17th from 2-4. Email [info@journeyht.org](mailto:info@journeyht.org) for more information or join our FB Community - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/262294086388586>



*Community Spotlight is a monthly series in which Erie Gay News features a group in our community. Next month: Compton's Table!*

## Community Spotlight #8: LGBT Funds of the Erie Community Foundation

The LGBT Funds of the Erie Community Foundation strive to address the challenges that LGBTQ+ individuals in Erie County face every day. With a generous gift in 2014, the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality helped to establish the LGBT Funds of The Erie Community Foundation. Today, the Funds are led by a volunteer advisory board and various committees and aim to provide financial support to nonprofits in the Erie area that address strive to create a positive, thriving environment for LGBTQ+ individuals.

The LGBT Funds consist of the LGBT Community Endowment Fund, which generates impactful grants for nonprofit organizations and projects throughout NWPA. Grants focus on key priorities such as safe schools, youth homelessness, mental health, substance use, suicide prevention, health and wellness, housing and workplace equality and family support and recognition. Additionally, the LGBT Funds include scholarships to support the next generation of leaders in creating a positive environment for the local LGBTQ+ community. The LGBT Funds Committee will begin accepting applications for the next grant cycle on September 14th.

The LGBT Funds recently held their first education session, "The Landscape of LGBTQ+ Affirm-



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ing Healthcare in Erie: A Panel Discussion.” The group has plans for a September 20 session on aging in the LGBTQ+ community, featuring a screening of the documentary film “Gen Silent” and a panel discussion.

Potential donors have the option to contribute to the LGBT Funds Community Endowment for grantmaking, donate to one of the named scholarship funds, or create their own named fund. Volunteers are also welcome to join the board and committees to help plan events, raise funds, set strategies and determine scholarship recipients.

The LGBT Funds’ goal is to continue convening community conversations and expand their reach each year. The LGBT Funds rely on the support of individuals attending events, volunteering, and making donations to further their grantmaking efforts and support local nonprofits. If you are interested in becoming involved or learning more, you can contact Olivia Burgess at [oburgess@eriecommunityfoundation.org](mailto:oburgess@eriecommunityfoundation.org).

*The Erie Community Foundation’s mission is to inspire, engage and empower donors and communities across the region, today and tomorrow. We*

*envision united, vibrant and thriving region for all.*

*The Foundation signed the Nonprofit Partnership’s Diversity Equity & Inclusion Pledge in 2019 to demonstrate our commitment to our community. To learn more visit [www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org](http://www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org).*



*LGBT Endowment Fund board members.*

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## PA Dept of Aging Master Plan Virtual Town Hall for LGBTQ+ Communities on Aug 16

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging is seeking input in the development of Pennsylvania's Master Plan for Older Adults – a 10-year plan that will be designed to help transform the infrastructure and coordination of services for all older Pennsylvanians. The Master Plan will also reflect the needs and preferences of this population to live where they choose and access the supports they need to thrive and age in place.

The department remains committed to ensuring that Pennsylvanians of all sexual orientations and gender identities are able to grow older with access to resources and services that are inclusive, culturally sensitive, and LGBTQ+-affirming. As part of this commitment, the Department invites you to attend its Master Plan for Older Adults Virtual Town Hall for LGBTQ+ communities on Wednesday, August 16 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sign up at [https://form.jotform.com/P4A\\_Events/registration-pda-mp-th-lgbtq\\_Aug-16](https://form.jotform.com/P4A_Events/registration-pda-mp-th-lgbtq_Aug-16)

The town hall will provide an opportunity for LGBTQ+ communities members, caregivers and service providers of LGBTQ+ older adults, and stakeholders of LGBTQ+ services to learn more about the plan, how the department will develop the plan, and what attendees believe should be incorporated into the plan.

This event will also be a forum for LGBTQ+ older Pennsylvanians and those with disabilities to share their experiences, concerns, and suggestions for improving the delivery of aging services to LGBTQ+ communities. The department also wants to hear from providers about their successes with implementing LGBTQ+ culturally-competent, age-friendly programming. Feedback gained from this town hall will strengthen the Master Plan for Older Adults and efforts within the aging services network to become more responsive to the needs of LGBTQ+ communities.

## What is Trauma-Sensitive Yoga?

Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Eric, PA, offers trauma-sensitive yoga on Thursday at 10:30 am and Sunday at 5pm. What

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is trauma-sensitive yoga? It is facilitated by a yoga instructor with extra training to be aware of how movement and positioning of our body sometimes brings up 'old wounds.' Each class is supported by at least one trained therapist who is available to assist people with processing should anything come up during the class. People often wonder if it is any different than the yoga classes they have been to or have seen. Some differences are:

- The yoga instructor takes time to ask you what your needs are before the class. Do you have an old injury or a disability which needs to be accommodated? Do certain positions make you uncomfortable or bring you distress?
- Billy, the yoga instructor we work with here, also reminds us that everyone's practice is different. If you remain seated in your chair the whole time and the person next to you is standing, that's okay. If you want to rest in place and just 'be' in a safe and calming environment, you are welcome to do so.
- Our classes are small, there are up to 6 participants for each class. People don't need to worry about a dozen super-fit people bending like pretzels while you're trying to reach your hand above your head.

We are particularly encouraging of LGBTQ+ folks, 'neuro-spicy' peeps, those who are HIV+, and people with differing abilities to participate. We know that it is difficult for many of us to learn how to exist in our body. Maybe our whole lives we have been avoiding any feeling because it was the wrong body, it was when we were in our body when we felt betrayed, abandoned, shamed, or hurt. Will Koehler, one of the therapists who supports the TS-yoga classes shares, "So often in my work with those transitioning or nonbinary, I see people struggle with trauma-focused treatment because they have grown used to living in their head. We know though, that stress, anxiety, depression, and PTSD symptoms happen IN our bodies. To heal from our stored-up trauma, we need to learn that it is safe to get out of our head and take up residence in our body. Trauma sensitive yoga is designed to facilitate this type of gentle healing.

Thanks to a generous donor, every class for the rest of the summer is reduced to \$10/person/class. To sign up or if you have any questions, you can email Jessica at [jmorell@4urjrn.com](mailto:jmorell@4urjrn.com) We hope

to see you soon!

## **PFLAG of Chautauqua Summer Meetings on Thursdays**

PFLAG of Chautauqua, a support group for allies, loved ones and the entire Queer community, is continuing the summer tradition of weekly meetings at Chautauqua Institution, 6:30 every Thursday, at the UU Fellowship House, during the summer season. AND THAT'S NOT ALL! We are making plans for activities to continue year-round, expanding outside of Chautauqua Institution, including a celebration of National Coming Out Day on October 11, 2023.

Patricia Measer (President) and Bethany Robson (Secretary) are working together with longtime PFLAG leader Steven Aschmann to redesign the shape and flow of PFLAG's local activities. Expanding outside of CHQ Institution to go year-round and county-wide is a big step toward outreach. For the past 2 years., we have hosted a table at the Jamestown Pride Festival and attended the Warren Pride Festival. We are planning a special event on October 11, 2023 for National Coming Out day. We are pro-actively inviting the participation of young folks of all ages to participate and support for the LGBTQI+ community everywhere, as well as engaging with local organizations. We are supporting the LGBTQI+ of Chautauqua Institution (see their webpage, <https://www.lgbtqchq.com/special-events>) and we are grateful to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chautauqua (UUFCHQ.ORG) for all kinds of support over the years. And we seek to develop collaboration with other local groups and allies, including the BIPOC community. Please get in touch if you share our goals!

## **Meadville #FreeShop2023, Summer Edition**

The Pennsylvania Equality Project, in cooperation with the Meadville Public Library, is hosting #FreeShop2023, Summer Edition. PA Equality Project will gather donated items such as non-perishable canned food, clothing, blankets, books, CDs, DVDs, and small furniture items such as desk lamps, toasters, mixers, and other kitchen items and make them available to the public for free. Item donations are being collected in the Community Room at the Library on August 18. All donated items will be available to the public free of charge on August 19. The event runs





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from 10 AM until 4 PM on both days.

While monetary contributions are not required, cash and personal check donations on-site are welcome. Checks should be made payable to "Pennsylvania Equality Project." Use of debit and credit cards and PayPal should be made through our website. PA Equality Project will send donors tax receipts upon request. All funds raised during this event will be used toward opening a Community Resource Center in Meadville. All donations can be sent to the Meadville Public Library, 848 North Main Street, Meadville, PA 16335.

Anyone interested in assisting as a volunteer for set up on August 18 or take down of the event on August 19 should inquire at [info@paequality.com](mailto:info@paequality.com).

## Removal of Blasco Library Read With Pride Display

On Tuesday, July 11, to raise awareness of the Blasco Memorial Library, approximately 25 people from Democratic Socialists of Erie and the Pennsylvania Equality Project attended the Erie County Council meeting. Ten attendees spoke during the open mic session and shared why Library Director Karen Pierce erred when ordering the moving of the Pride Month display or its ultimate dismantlement. Several speakers demanded that the County Executive, Brenton Davis, and Director Pierce issue public apologies to the LGBTQIA+ community. Others insisted that the Pride display be returned to the Children's section for an additional month as a sign that ongoing discrimination will not occur. Pennsylvania Equality Project President David Moore attended the Council meeting and said,

"People of all ages with varied sexual orientations and gender identities exist, including youth. They use the library. They attend local public schools. Families with two moms, two dads, and a wide variety of other arrangements exist right here in Erie County. They should not suffer discrimination or hate simply because a few complaints come to the attention of the library director or the County Executive."

Erie County Council Vice Chairwoman Mary Rennie addressed the council after the public speaker portion of the meeting had concluded. She said that she was once the library's director and that she found Director Pierce's actions to be "atrocious" but stopped short of calling for the return of the Pride display this year.

## 4th Crawford County Pride

The 4th Crawford County Pride, held in Diamond Park, Meadville, on July 8, had an amazing response this year with more vendors than ever, food trucks, non-profits, Odd Atrocity, Hot Rod Entertainment for our DJ, an after-hours at the Firehouse Tap and Grill and the best drag show ever arranged by Michael Brown. Hosted by The Libertarian Party of Crawford County of Pennsylvania, Glenn Tuttle for Meadville City Council and Constable, and Adam Leute, this year's event was the best ever, with over 30 participants showing that tolerance is good business and that we matter in Crawford County. We can't wait for next year's event and hope for even bigger and better.



*At the Read-in at Blasco Public Library on June 26. Photo by Michael Mahler.*



*At Warren County Pride on June 17. Photo by Michael Mahler.*

# Calendar

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

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

*Erie Gladigaytors Monday Night Volleyball every Monday from 7-9 PM. Join us at Beach 6 on Presque Isle for some friendly fun in the sun volleyball! Right now we are planning on starting at 7pm with maybe dinner and drinks afterward. We need at least 8 players in order to play so feel free to invite others to group.*

*Zone Monday Night Karaoke with DJ Nitro at The Zone, 133 W 18th St, 9 PM-midnight.. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.*

*PFLAG of Chautauqua, a support group for allies, loved ones and the entire Queer community, is continuing the summer tradition of weekly meetings at Chautauqua Institution, 6:30 every Thursday, at the UU Fellowship House, during the summer season through August 24. Please visit the chapter webpage, [PFLAG.ORG/CHAUTAQUA](http://PFLAG.ORG/CHAUTAQUA), or email [PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM) or call (814) 313-4495 for details.*

*Zone Flow Together Thursdays, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. Ever wanted to try your hand at ribbon dancing or poi? Join Ash, Buddy, and Snarebear for a night of flow toys! Doors open at 8pm. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.*

**Jul 26 (Wed) – LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour – All welcome** (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

**Jul 27 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets** (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. Contact: Kaden Mason. Phone: (716) 708-6161. Email: [kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org](mailto:kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org). Browse to <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

**Jul 27 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social** (Oasis Pub, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 8 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies, is hosting a social. This organization develops and sponsors social/recreational and educational events to promote healthy leisure activities, community and an active, enjoyable lifestyle. They are sponsoring this social hour (OK, social two hours) to interact with members of the community and to get a sense of the types of activities that are of interest to senior LGBT+

individuals.

**Jul 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. Phone: (716) 661-9044.

**Jul 27 (Thu) - What is Afrocentrism?-A Look at World History through a Different Lens** (Erie Center for Arts & Technology, 650 East Ave. Suite 120, Erie, PA 16503) 7 PM. Featuring JES Scholar-in-Residence, Parris Baker, Ph.D. Free lecture hosted by the Jefferson Educational Society. Please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org/events](http://www.JESErie.org/events) or by calling our office at 814.459.8000.

**Jul 28 (Fri) - Femme Night** (The 10/20 Collective, 1020 Holland St, Erie, PA 16501) 9 PM - 1 AM. Join us for our first FEMME NIGHT! \$10/Femmes & Q+, \$20/Straight Men. Celebrating PRIDE in July! Hosted by Angel, DaVona, and Sarah who were inspired to create FEMME NIGHT due to the lack of nightlife spaces designated for femmes, lesbians and non-binary folk here in Erie. FEMME NIGHT is a party for Femme, Queer, and Trans folks to come enjoy meeting new people, music, food and divine feminine energy.

**Jul 28 - 30 (Fri - Sun) - Studio 54 Weekend** (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729)

**Jul 29 (Sat) - Out & About Youngstown - LGBTQ Recreational Group Biking Presque Isle** (Presque Isle State Park - Yellow Bike Rental, 301 Peninsula Dr #1, Erie, PA 16507) 12 PM - 3 PM. Join us for our next LGBTQ Meetup as we bike the picturesque Presque Isle.

**Jul 29 (Sat) - Meadville Pride and Street Fair** (Diamond Park, Meadville, PA 16335) 1 PM - 5 PM. NWPA Pride Alliance will return to Meadville for Meadville Pride 2023. This event will be held on upper Chestnut Street and Diamond Park, and will include a pride walk, street festival, food trucks, and exhibits by local vendors and artists. Opening Ceremonies will be hosted by NWPA Pride President Alex Sphon, speakers and performers to be announced at a later date. After the Opening Ceremonies, please join us in a Pride March around Diamond Park to the Street Fair.

**Aug 2 (Wed) - Erie's Queer Happy Hour** (Oasis Pub, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 9 PM. This event will be held in the backroom at Oasis. This event

is open to everyone, however those under 18 years of age will need a guardian to attend. In accordance with State law only those 21+ are able to have alcoholic beverages.

**Aug 4 (Fri) - Journey: Healing Together - LGBTQ+ Affirmative Game Night** (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM. Gather around 5pm for a couple of hours to geek out with fellow gamers. Ages 18+ choose from a variety of board, card, dice, games. As the group grows, smaller groups can split off and play different games. There are plenty of quiet spaces available to regroup for those of us who can get over stimulated sometimes. Hosted by Eric Reiche, Milo Orr, and Leo Ferko, there are opportunities to meet up with friends new and familiar. We are definitely an LGBTQ+ affirming space! Allies and Accomplices welcome! \$5 suggested donation. Phone: (814) 867-5309. Browse to <https://journeyht.org/>.

**Aug 4 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets** (The Cove Bay-Side Restaurant & Tavern, 2 State St, Erie, PA 16507) 6 PM - 8 PM. All Are Welcome!

**Aug 4 (Fri) - Wobbly Pirate Cruise** (Scallywags Pirate Adventures, 2 State St, Erie, PA 16507) 8 PM. Tickets are \$15 - Hurry! It will sell out fast! **Aug 4**

**(Fri) - Flamin' Fridays With Rebecca Mae** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10:30 PM. Join guest host Michelle Michaels for this week's sick show! Special guests: Snarebear and Cherry Falwell. Central Outreach will be on hand doing FREE HIV/STI screenings. Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10:30pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

**Aug 4 - 6 (Fri - Sun) - Mardi Gras Weekend** (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729)

**Aug 6 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

**Aug 7 (Mon) - Compton's Table Chat & Chill Group A (12-15 years)** 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM. Register at <https://comptonstable.org/upcoming-events> for location. For ages 12-15 years.) Phone: (814) 580-8185. Email: [info@comptonstable.org](mailto:info@comptonstable.org). Browse to <https://comptonstable.org/>.

**Aug 8 (Tue) - Compton's Table Chat & Chill Group B (16-20 years)** (Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 7 PM. Register at <https://comptonstable.org/upcoming-events> for location. Ages 16-20 years. .

**Aug 8 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets** (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

**Aug 11 (Fri) - Flamin' Fridays With Rebecca Mae** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10:30 PM. The finale for Rebecca Mae's weekly show featuring Pissi Gabune, from Cleveland Anhedonia Delight, and MORE! Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10:30pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub>.

**Aug 12 (Sat) - 30th Annual Erie Pride Picnic** (Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle, 301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 1, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM - 6 PM. This event is free and open to the public. This event is sponsored by Central Outreach Erie and they will be providing HIV and STI testing. Food will be served from 2 to 4 PM. Note that state law does not permit alcohol in the park and we respectfully ask that you abide by rules the good folks at Presque Isle State Park have set for everyone's safety. Be sure to check in at the registration table when you arrive. We will be taking the annual Family Portrait around 4:30 PM right before the raffle.

**Aug 12 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWP (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets** (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335) 2 PM. For GPS use: the address is 296 Chestnut Street - it's the old post office building. Our entrance is on the side of the building, off of Federal court (which

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is the smaller side street.) We are basically across the street from Julian's.

**Aug 13 (Sun) - 2023 Pride Day at Waldameer Park and Water World** (Waldameer Park & Water World, 220 Peninsula Dr, Erie, PA 16505) 11 AM - 9 PM. We're doing it again! End your Pride picnic Weekend with unlimited rides and slides at a discounted price of \$35 (normal price \$48.00)

**Aug 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.

**Aug 14 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News September 2023 print edition (#334)** (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released on the evening of Tuesday, August 22.

**Aug 15 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets (Hybrid)** (Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), 606 W 2nd St, Erie, PA 16507) 1 PM. The Erie County HIV Task Force is a collaboration of local organizations and individuals dedicated to educating, supporting, and advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS and

preventing the spread of infection.

**Aug 15 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner #106** (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.

**Aug 17 (Thu) - Queer Open Mic** (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 10 PM. Come hang out at our monthly open mics hosted by the awesome, talented, and slaying Gwen Elaine! FREE! BYOB (wrist bands provided for anyone with alcohol). if you want to register as a performer, email info@comptonstable.org

**Aug 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.

**Aug 18 (Fri) - Easy as ABC - 22nd Presentation of Miss Erie Pageant** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. This year's creative presentation theme is "Easy as ABC" and will feature the contestants using Anything But Clothes for their outfit! We will honor Miss Erie 2022 Debbie and crown a new queen to join the Miss Erie sisters! Performances by former Miss Eries in between judged categories. Central Outreach will be on hand doing FREE HIV/STI screenings. Doors open at 7pm. Pageant starts at 8pm. \$10 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

**Aug 19 (Sat) - Compton's School Supply Drive** (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 10 AM - 2 PM.

**Aug 19 (Sat) - Journey: Healing Together - LGBTQ+ Crafternoon** (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 11 AM - 2 PM. CottageCore and Curious Crafter's alike are welcome! Journey: Healing Together hosts a casual time of crafting and conversation. Crafting is a great anxiety reducer and being around great people while you're creating is even better! We are a Queer-Affirming space so LGBTQ+, Allies and Accomplices are welcome! \$5 suggested donation per person or \$10 max per family (Children welcome, although we do not provide any childcare or facilitation). Phone: (814) 867-5309. Browse to <https://journeyht.org/>.

**Aug 19 (Sat) - TransFamily NWPA Summer Picnic** (Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr #1, Erie, PA 16507) 12 PM - 5 PM. Join us in celebrating 11 years of creating and supporting trans joy and family bonds at our annual summer picnic! We will be ready for the fun at pavilion/picnic area 1! We provide drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers, and vegan options. Bring your favorite dish to share! Free EMTA public transportation is available with the Presque Isle

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**Aug 19 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Rubyfruit Jungle by Rita Mae Brown** (Werner Books, 3514 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

**Aug 19 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Erie Roller Derby** (Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassfras Pier, Erie, PA 16507) 6:30 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Whistle 7 PM. Your Erie Roller Derby All-Stars will take on Ohio Valley Roller Derby. Contact: Kim Conti. Phone: (814) 490-3994. Venue Phone: (814) 455-1260. Email: [ErieBeans@yahoo.com](mailto:ErieBeans@yahoo.com). Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>. Browse to venue web site <http://www.bayfrontconventioncenter.com/>.

**Aug 20 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

**Aug 20 (Sun) - Journey: Healing Together - Banned Book Club** (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 2 PM - 4 PM. Phone: (814) 867-5309. Browse to <https://journeyht.org/>.

**Aug 21 (Mon) - Compton's Table Chat & Chill Group A (12-15 years)** 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM. Register at <https://comptonstable.org/upcoming-events> for location. For ages 12-15 years.) Phone: (814) 580-8185. Email: [info@comptonstable.org](mailto:info@comptonstable.org). Browse to <https://comptonstable.org/>.

**Aug 22 (Tue) - Compton's Table Chat & Chill Group B (16-20 years)** (Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 7 PM. Register at <https://comptonstable.org/upcoming-events> for location. Ages 16-20 years. Phone: (814) 580-8185. Email: [info@comptonstable.org](mailto:info@comptonstable.org). Browse to <https://comptonstable.org/>.

**Aug 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 print edition of Erie Gay News.

**Aug 23 (Wed) - NW PA Pride Alliance LGBTQIA and Allies Happy Hour** (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 42243 Water St, Meadville, PA 16335)

**Aug 24 (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. Phone: (716) 661-9044.

**Aug 26 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets** (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 2 PM - 5 PM. Meetings are hosted at Compton's Table, 3401 State St, Erie PA. All current CDC, state, and local guidelines for meeting indoors will be observed. Meetings are always confidential and completely free.

**Aug 27 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group meets** (The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown, 1105 Elm Street, Youngstown, OH 44505) 3 PM - 5 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form. Phone: (234) 254-8924.

**Aug 27 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Peer Support Group meets** (The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown, 1105 Elm Street, Youngstown, OH 44505) 6 PM - 8 PM. Ages 18+.

**Aug 31 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets** (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM.

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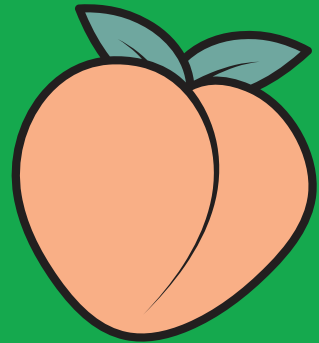
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