



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Friends at 30th Annual Erie Pride Picnic. Photo by Michael Mahler.

30th Annual Pride Picnic

Summer is the traditional time for family picnics. For 30 years, the Erie Queer Community has been able to gather with their natural families or even their families of choice to share some good food, enjoy the beauty of Presque Isle, and network with local agencies assisting the queer community as well as take advantage of free screenings from the Central Outreach mobile unit.

This year over 200 people were able to attend the event held at the Rotary Pavilion on Presque Isle hosted by the NW Pride Alliance and sponsored this year by Central Outreach. Meats and beverages were provided by the NW PA Pride Alliance, and those in attendance were asked to bring a dish to share.

Gen Silent - A Documentary on LGBTQ+ Elders

Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and be prepared to be moved. The LGBT Funds of the Erie Community Foundation, in partnership with UPMC Western Behavioral Health and Mercyhurst University will host LGBTQ+ Elders and Affirming Community: A Film and Conversation for Erie's Future at

Tom Ridge Environmental Center on September 20. Individuals from the LGBTQ+ community and their allies, as well as eldercare professionals and anyone with an interest, are warmly welcomed to attend this event spotlighting elders and aging.

"Gen Silent" invites moviegoers to discover the lives of LGBTQ+ elders exploring their experiences, challenges, and successes as they journey through the ups and downs of growing older. This documentary shares six poignant personal stories, revealing how these elders have stayed strong despite facing unfair treatment from society and working hard for their rights. Now, in their later years, they face new and different challenges. "Gen Silent" aims to inspire change and foster inclusive care environments respectful of all seniors' rights and dignity.

After the documentary, join the conversation with a panel from Erie's professionals working with long term care issues and needs. Registration begins at 2:00PM on September 20th with the event running from 2:30PM until 4:30PM. Kindly, visit the LGBT Fund website <https://www.eriegbtfunds.org> for more information.

Compton's Table Back to School True Style

On Sunday, August 20th, Compton's Table hosted its second-annual Back to School Shopping Spree and School Supply Giveaway. For the first event co-sponsored by Macy's at the Millcreek Mall, queer youth nominees were invited on a private \$250 shopping spree at Macy's. There, they could shop for gender-affirming clothing, accessories, and grooming products in a safe, supportive environment, plus take advantage of the Macy's team's expert style advice. Then, Compton's Table opened its doors to the community, distributing backpacks, school supplies, and gently used clothes from their studio at Central Outreach Wellness Center. Following two successful years, this dual back to school giveaway has become one of Compton's Table's signature events.

In This Issue...

30th Annual Pride Picnic	1
Gen Silent - A Documentary on LGBTQ+ Elders.....	1
Compton's Table Back to School True Style	1
Erie Community Continues to Give!	3
Asymptomatic HIV.....	3
Mental Health Survey by Pennsylvania Equality Project.....	4
Pride Festival at Conneaut Lake Park	4
Warren County Pride Volunteers	4
Underdog BBQ.....	4
Ashtabula Pride, Inc. Formed	6
Community Spotlight #9: Compton's Table	6
Rain was not able to dampen the Pride spirit in Meadville.....	8
Calendar	10

Rates & Data

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

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
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FULL PAGE	\$250 - \$225 Prepaid	7 1/2" high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.
Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.
All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.



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Editor/Layout: Mike Mahler

Deadline for next issue: Fri, Sep 15
Folding and distribution is Tue, Sep 26 at
Lake Erie Counseling, 1932 W 8th.

ISSN 2159-1792

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

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

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

THANKS From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Audrey, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for distribution; Whee! Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Erie Community Continues to Give!

This year's annual Erie Gives event was held on Tuesday, August 8, and while it had a rocky start due to some technical issues and a fire alarm near the end of the night, it was a good day for local nonprofits throughout the area. All told, \$8,268,471 was raised, benefiting 493 local nonprofits. Among those who helped are the local Queer nonprofits listed below.

Compton's Table - \$2,280

Greater Erie Alliance for Equality - \$10,070

Journey Healing Together - \$830

LGBT Community Endowment - \$7,560

NW PA Pride Alliance - \$3,940

Asymptomatic HIV

Erie County Department of Health

Did you know that HIV has three stages? The first is referred to as Acute HIV Infection which usually develops within 2 to 4 weeks after exposure to HIV that creates the infection. Flu-like symptoms can occur during this time; such as fever, headache, and rash. The amount of measurable HIV in the blood is very high and increases the risk of transmitting the

virus. The second stage is referred to as Chronic HIV Infection, also called Asymptomatic HIV Infection. This is when the virus multiplies in the body at very low levels. Most individuals don't notice anything or feel sick/ill. In fact, people living with chronic HIV might not have any symptoms at all. However, without medications, the chronic HIV infection tends to advance into stage three around 10 years or longer. This is why it's important to get tested regularly and know your status. The third stage is referred to as AIDS [acquired immunodeficiency syndrome]. This is the disease that develops after HIV has severely harmed our immune system, leading to infections that the body cannot fight off. People living with HIV are typically diagnosed with AIDS if their CD4 count is less than 200 cells/mm3 or if they have specific opportunistic infections. When diagnosed with AIDS, a person can have a high HIV count and transmit it very easily to others. Treatment is key and vitally important at this stage because people with AIDS typically survive around 3 years. Do you know your HIV status? Consider getting tested for free at the Erie County Department of Health. We



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help get you started on routine testing, and provide information on PrEP for HIV [prevention medicine] and give you FREE condoms with lube. All this is available during our weekly Sexual Health Clinics 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.

Mental Health Survey by Pennsylvania Equality Project

The Pennsylvania Equality Project is conducting two mental health surveys: one intended for youth ages 13 to 21 attending school and the other for adults aged 18 and older who live in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. The surveys are designed to determine the number of people facing mental health challenges within the LGBTQIA+ community and our allies. The survey runs through October 31, with results coming in mid-December. For additional information, please see <https://paequality.com/survey.html>.

Pride Festival at Conneaut Lake Park

Conneaut Lake Park + Resort presents Pride Festival at the Beach (and Tiki Bar) Saturday, September 16, 2023, 12 PM - 10 PM

Enjoy and support a festive, family-friendly day on the beautiful beachfront and shores of Conneaut Lake that celebrates and promotes community, acceptance, equality, and love! Featuring LGBTQ+ outreach, organizations, education, food trucks, vendors, amusements (go cart track, carousel, mini golf, and more), and live DJ and music events throughout the day!

There will also be a fun interactive show by Rainbow Bubbles by Annette for young folks!

A family-appropriate Drag Celebration will also be held on the premises, with shows at 5 PM and 7 PM with a separate entry point!

Anyone is welcome to attend; however, ages 17 and under must have a parent or guardian to enter the Drag area due to recent incidents.; However, you must check in at the entry point, as seating and space are limited! Donations (tips) to the entertainment are welcome! Security will be present for the safety of everyone! A safe and fun environment with something for everyone!

Conneaut Lake Park and Resort

12382 Center Street
Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania 16316

Warren County Pride Volunteers

Warren County Pride, Incorporated (WCPI) team members volunteered at the 93rd Annual Warren County Fair in Pittsfield, PA. Seven members of the inclusive team joined up and covered twenty-one shifts across a week's time as they worked together selling admissions at the gates, checking wristbands, and helping the fair team. Warren Pride was happy to receive a warm welcome from the Fair team, and volunteers wore Warren County Pride-themed shirts and rainbow outfits while working the fairgrounds.

WCPI team members had a lot of fast-paced fun while helping to make the Fair a reality for everyone.

Underdog BBQ

By Steve Siwiecki

This month I visited Underdog BBQ, a local business with a unique history, to talk with owner Ashley Messenger. The story begins in 2019 when entrepreneur Glenn Stearns came to Erie as part of the television series Undercover Billionaire. With only \$100 in his pocket, he was given just 90 days to create and grow a business worth one million dollars.

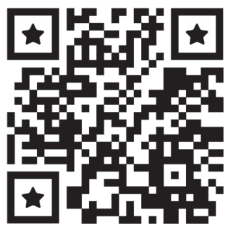
Ashley's brother was working with Glenn, and she agreed to help out. This eventually led to a kitchen manager's position for her. Glenn returned to his everyday life and left his staff to manage the business without him. Like most restaurants, COVID



Underdog BBQ at its new location, 2714 W 8th St, Erie PA. Photo by Steve Siwiecki.

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hit the industry hard. Following this, Glenn had concerns about keeping the business going, and he had an opening for a manager, a job he offered to Ashley, who had studied culinary arts and food and beverage management at Mercyhurst. She loves a challenge, so she accepted the position and was able to increase business significantly. Despite this turnaround, Glenn decided to sell the business and offered Ashley a great deal, so she bought it.

Like her staff, Ashley has lived her entire life in Erie, making Underdog BBQ a genuinely local business. In the summer of 2022, she could not renew her lease, so she made an offer on the former Perkins restaurant on West 8th Street and closed within three weeks. They spent a year on renovations, relying on catering and their food truck to keep things going. With a soft opening on July 18, 2023, Underdog BBQ is back in business.

Ashley says her current staff is the best team she ever had, and they all support each other. They want everyone who visits to feel welcome and safe. They have attended multiple community events, including Meadville Pride and the Health Expo, and will host the Aging with Pride monthly social at the end of this month. Visit Underdog BBQ for a great meal, a friendly staff, and a pleasant atmosphere.

Location: 2714 West 8th Street, Erie

Hours: Sunday - Thursday 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM, Friday & Saturday 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Ashtabula Pride, Inc. Formed

Ashtabula Pride, Inc. was founded in June 2023 by Rebekah Beeman and Michael Riffe as a new vision and focus for the county's Pride festival. The first festival was started in 2020 by the late Pastor Bill Daywalt, Pastor John Werner, Librarian A.J. Petro, and Drag Queen Mona Lotz (Riffe), who met weekly to transform Daywalt's plan of a Pride Picnic into a much larger event, a PRIDE FESTIVAL! In just a few weeks, those four and a select number of volunteers orchestrated the first annual Pride Ashtabula County festival, attended by over 3,000 people of all ages and walks of life! Immediately following the festival, the four and their volunteers formed the LGBTQ Coalition of Ashtabula County Inc., focusing on outreach and education for the county.

The Coalition endured many changes in its first three years that distracted focus on the festival. Beeman and Riffe proposed that the board remove Pride from the Coalition's covering and make it its

own separate entity. With the amount of work needed to conduct a festival of this magnitude and the Coalition's main focus of outreach and education, the board gave their full-hearted blessing to this new structural idea. These two independent organizations work together to bring forth their visions for the LGBTQ+ Community of Ashtabula County.

Community Spotlight #9: Compton's Table

Compton's Table, with its mission to foster a sustainable and affirming environment, has swiftly become a beacon of hope and community for queer youth and young adults in Erie County. Compton's Table was founded in response to the deeply concerning rates of suicide among queer youth in the United States, spurring founder and queer rights advocate, Dr. Tyler Titus, into action.

Deeply rooted in the queer community, even the organization's name holds LGBT+ historical significance drawing inspiration from the Compton's Cafeteria Riot of 1966. This event marked a turning point in the LBTQ+ rights movement with an uprising against discrimination. Compton's Table works to support the queer community in the same spirit of resilience and service. Presently, Compton's Table stands as evidence to the strength of community-driven initiatives in Erie County. As a fully volunteer based organization, it offers belonging to those who



Taken at our Sweet Re-Lease Event in February 2023. From left to right: Christina Salvia (Secretary), Pearl Patterson (former Board Member), Tyler Titus (Chair and Founder), Gabe Genua (Vice Chair).

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seek a place of understanding in a world still grappling with acceptance.

The organization hosts a range of events tailored to diverse age groups. 'Chat N Chill' sessions on Monday and Tuesday evenings unite youth and young adults in meaningful conversations, in an environment of respect and visibility. Additionally, a monthly 'Open Mic' night for those 18 and above creates a space for self-expression and connectivity. As the school year approaches, Compton's Table is gearing up for its annual back-to-school event. A school supply drive in partnership with local businesses, running until August 19th, will culminate in a collection and giveaway day on August 20th.

Compton's Table envisions expanding its impact through fundraising efforts and hiring staff in 2024 to fuel future growth. Individuals eager to contribute time and effort creating safe spaces for queer youth are asked to express interest in becoming part of the volunteer board by emailing info@comptonstable.org.

For more information about the organization or events, please visit www.comptonstable.org or follow

on Instagram @Comptons_Table, and Facebook: Compton's Table.

Rain was not able to dampen the Pride spirit in Meadville

NW PA Pride Alliance hosted its second annual Meadville Pride and Street Fair Saturday, June 29th. Opening ceremonies were held in Diamond Park, co-hosted by NW PA Pride President Alex Sphon and TransFamily of NW PA Board Member Eli Skelton.

The rain was off and on all day, but it did not



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hinder those who came out to hear messages from Meadville Mayor Jaime Kinder, Travis Smith, and Rianna Czech. Drag performances by Pissi, Snarebear, and Xnx Kameleon also entertained the crowd. Following the opening ceremonies, those gathered marched around Diamond Park and then filed down to the street fair on Chestnut Street.



Drag performer Pissi Gabune performs and dances with a young attendee at Meadville Pride on July 29. Photo by Michael Mahler



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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.

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.

Zone Tuesday Game Night, 133 W 18th St, Doors open at 8 PM. Bring your own game or use ours. (Must submit an ID for us to hold while game is in use.) Happy hour 8-10 PM. \$1 off bottled beers. \$2 well drinks. No cover. 21 & over with ID..

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.

Aug 18 - Sep 3 (Fri - Sun) - All an Act Theatre: On Golden Pond (All An Act Theatre, 652 W 17th St, Erie, PA 16502) Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 3. This is the love story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, who are returning to their summer home on Golden Pond for the forty-eighth year. Phone: (814) 450-8553. Email: director@allanact.net. Browse to <http://www.allanact.net/>.

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 25 - 27 (Fri - Sun) - Original Play: Fight Nice (Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo, 236 Buffalo Street, Conneaut, OH 44030) In Fight Nice, an original play,

estranged adult sisters struggle to care for their aging mother. After Olivia, a social worker, is arrested on a drug-related charge, she reluctantly agrees to stay with her attorney sister Margo and Margo's wife Kendrah. Their brother takes drastic steps to protect the family--sparking revelations about the past and spurring the sisters toward an uneasy truce. This stark drama explores how conflicting perspectives inform our approaches toward love and caring. Written by Douglas Eric Anderson and directed by Sydne Nielsen, Fight Nice debuts at Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo on Friday, August 25 and runs for one weekend only. Friday and Saturday performances start at 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday performance at 2:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door.

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.

Aug 31 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social Hour (Underdog BBQ, 2714 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 8 PM.

Sep 1 (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/>.

Sep 1 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Woody's Backwater BARge & Grill, 110 E Dobbins Landing, Erie, PA 16507) 6 PM - 8 PM. All Are Welcome!

Sep 1 - 23 (Fri - Sat) - Buffalo United Artists: A Great Wilderness (Compass Performing Arts Center, 545 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222) Walt has devoted his life to "curing" teenage boys of their homosexuality at his remote Idaho wilderness camp. Pressured to accept one last client, his life begins to unravel. With profound humanity and subtlety, A Great Wilderness navigates complex moral terrain, exploring the shifting motives and inconstant strength of our personal convictions. Fridays at 7:30pm - Saturdays at 5:00pm

Sep 2 (Sat) - Erie Trans Picnics Transgender Book Club: Summer Fun by Jeanne Thornton (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM. Book Club is happening! We are reading Jeanne Thornton's novel "Summer Fun" (audiobook is available and is read by the author). We will be meeting to discuss this. All trans and gnc folks are welcome to attend! Cis friends and allies are welcome by invite only. If you need help procuring a copy of the book, please reach out to us!

Sep 6 (Wed) - Erie's Queer Happy Hour (Oasis Pub, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 9 PM. 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.

Sep 7 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

Sep 9 (Sat) - LBT Women Picnic (Kim and Andrea's, 4114 McClelland Ave, Erie, PA 16510) 2 PM. Join us for our annual picnic in Kim and Andreas' backyard. We will provide water, some pop, hot dogs, and meatballs. Please bring a dish to share if you can. Please bring your chair if you have one. This event is kid friendly but no pets. Also, this is a smoke and vape-free event. Smoking and vaping will be allowed in the front yard only. Any questions, please message Kim. I will post what dishes are being brought as I am informed. We will have a fire later too. We have corn hole, bocce, and squared volleyball for our competitive guests. Looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones.

Sep 9 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335) 2 PM.

Sep 9 (Sat) - M & J's Lounge End of Summer Kickoff (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) Also includes a drag show.

Sep 10 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

Sep 11 (Mon) - Erie County Democratic Party LG-BTQIA+ Caucus meets via Zoom (Zoom) 7 PM. General meeting on Zoom. Voting members must be a registered Democrat living in Erie County. Straight/cisgender allies welcome! Contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or mmahler@eriedems.com for Zoom meeting info.

Sep 12 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Sep 13 (Wed) - Mama Bears: Free screening and discussion on becoming a LGBTQIA+ Christian ally, Mahoning Valley (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM. Join us for this important community screening and discussion on being an ally to your LGBTQIA+ loved one and living a life of faith. We'll start the film shortly after we open, with discussion after. We will have a vegan community meal, drinks, and snacks. Content



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warning: the film contains difficult subject matter including mental health struggles and discussion of self-harm. Co-sponsored by: St. John's Episcopal Church of Youngstown, PFLAG Youngstown, Free Mom Hugs Ohio, Full Spectrum Community Outreach, Youngstown Queer Talent, Mahoning Valley Queer Action, & Columbiana County Pride.

Sep 14 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner #107 (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.

Sep 15 (Fri) - Deadline for Erie Gay News October 2023 print edition (#335) (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, September 26.

Sep 15 (Fri) - Aging with Pride goes to Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (Erie Playhouse, 13 West 10th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 7:30 PM. Email bdessy@gmail.com for more info about this event or see <https://www.erieplayhouse.org/events/beautiful-the-carole-king-musical/> for more info about the show. Contact: Blane Dessy.

Sep 16 (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/>.

Sep 16 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Tales of the City by Armistead Maupin (Werner Books, 3514 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

Sep 16 - 23 (Sat - Sat) - Bisexual Awareness Week Co-founded by GLAAD, Bisexual+ Awareness Week seeks to accelerate acceptance of the bi+ (pansexual, fluid, no label, queer, etc.) community. #BiWeek draws attention to the experiences, while also celebrating the resiliency of, the bisexual+ community. Throughout #BiWeek, allies and bi+ people learn about the history, culture, community, and current policy priorities of bi+ communities. Browse to <http://bisexualweek.com/>.

Sep 16 (Sat) - Pride Festival at the Beach + Tiki Bar @ Conneaut Lake Park (New Conneaut Lake Park, 12382 Center St West, Conneaut Lake, PA 16136) 12 PM - 10 PM. Conneaut Lake Park and Michaels' Family Productions proudly present Pride Festival at the Beach and Tiki Bar! Come enjoy a day on the beautiful beachfront and shores of Conneaut Lake with LGBTQ+ Outreach and Education, Foodtrucks, Vendors, and live entertainment and music events throughout the day! Starts at 12 Noon and goes till 10 PM! \$5 General Admission at the gate! All Ages Welcome! Security is present! A safe and fun environment with something for everyone! Phone: (814) 225-7985. Email: newconneautlakepark@gmail.com. Browse to <https://newconneautlakepark.com/>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.facebook.com/events/591756439746831>.

Sep 17 (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/>.

Sep 18 (Mon) - National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day This day brings attention to the growing number of people living long and full lives with HIV and to their health and social needs. #NHAAAD #HIVandAging Browse to <http://www.theaidsinstitute.org/programs/education/national-hiv-aids-and-aging-awareness-nhaaa>.

Sep 19 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets

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The “Red-Zone”

September marks back to school for college students. The beginning of the school year is called the “Red-Zone”, referring to the increased number of sexual assaults that occur during this period. Studies have shown that more sexual assaults and rapes occur during September and October at universities than the next four months combined.

“College is meant to be an enriching experience which builds your confidence, but it can be scary too! Treat yourself with kindness and respect, and ensure that you treat others the same. And make sure to always believe, listen to, and support survivors if they disclose to you!”

“What is the Red Zone?” PAVE, 30 Oct. 2020, www.shatteringthesilence.org/blog/what-is-the-red-zone.

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(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.

Sep 21 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

Sep 21 (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

Sep 21 (Thu) - PFLAG Westfield NY meets (Patterson Library, 40 S Portage St, Westfield, NY 14787) 6:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and family of LGBTQ+ people.

Sep 23 (Sat) - Celebrate Bisexuality Day Marked each year since 1999, Bi Visibility Day raises bi awareness and challenges bisexual & biromantic erasure. Browse to <https://bivisibilityday.com/>.

Sep 23 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWP (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.

Sep 24 (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.

Sep 24 (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+.

Sep 24 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

Sep 26 (Tue) - Intimacy Building Book Club: The Body is Not An Apology by Sonya Renee Taylor (Thrive Therapy Space, 3910 Caughey Road, Suite 200, Erie, PA 16506) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Want to learn skills to build your intimate relationships? Want to better understand yourself and your body? Want a safe place to discuss your questions, concerns, and

experiences in a group of like-minded peers led by a sex therapist*? You're in the right place! Read and discuss books hand-picked by Sexual Wellness PA in a safe, nonjudgmental environment. Book Club meetings are free and open first come, first serve to the first 8-10 pre-registered, interested participants. Come prepared to listen, share, discuss, and ask questions! Phone: (814) 580-8677. Venue Phone: (814) 746-4307. Email: sexualwellnesspa@gmail.com. Browse to <https://www.sexualwellnesspa.com/>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.sexualwellnesspa.com/bookclubs>. Browse to venue web site <https://thrivetherapyspace.com/>.

Sep 26 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News.

Sep 27 (Wed) - National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day In 2008 the National Association of People with AIDS launched this observance day to recognize the disproportionate impact of the epidemic on gay men. #NGMHAAD Browse to <https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/gay-mens>.

Sep 27 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour - All welcome (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Sep 28 (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. Browse to <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

Sep 28 (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.

Sep 28 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social (Erie Brewing Co. West Side, 4102 West 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.



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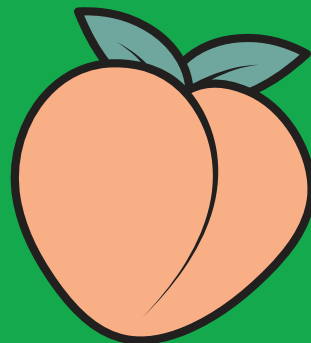
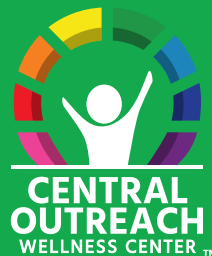


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