



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Zone Dance Club staff celebrating the bar's 25th anniversary. Photo by Gwen Elaine.

Erie's Zone Dance Club: A Milestone – 25 Years of Queer Community

Erie's Zone Dance Club, a symbol of queer community and celebration, proudly marks its 25th year. This venue's enduring journey began in November 1998 as new owner Bob Regan transformed the Embers into The Zone, which continued to serve Erie's LGBTQ+ community. After six years of resounding success, The Zone moved to its present location at 133 West 18th Street, formerly "The Village," another cherished gay bar. The club is a constant presence, open 365 days a year, with only brief interruptions during COVID-19 and the unforgettable 2017 Snowmageddon snowstorm.

Beyond a mere bar, The Zone offers a welcoming haven for Queer individuals. With its diverse clientele, vibrant drag shows, spacious dance floor, and weekly events, it's a home away from home. The staff's remarkable bond has created a heartfelt, if occasionally 'dysfunctional,' community, and many patrons are integral to it.

The Zone's impact extends through its collaborations with Erie LGBTQ+ organizations like Comp-ton's Table, and Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

(GEAE), and NWPA Pride Alliance, establishing itself as a vital social hub that fortifies and unites the local queer community.

Special events adorn their calendar, including the annual Pink Party, celebrating its 18th year in 2023, the glamorous Miss Erie drag pageant, and weekly shows headlined by beloved local talent. Their grandest celebrations take center stage during Pride, Halloween, and New Year's festivities. Through their journey, they've navigated obstacles, faced the loss of friends and family, and confronted hatred and abuse, emerging as a steadfast and unyielding community.

Looking ahead, The Zone is committed to ongoing improvements in their establishment and aesthetics, creating an even more welcoming and inclusive space for the LGBTQ+ community. Visit The Zone Dance Club at 113 West 18th Street, Erie, PA, or stay updated through their website, thezone-danceclub.com, and Facebook page, fb.com/thezone-danceclub. Cheers to 25 years of love, acceptance, and fabulous fun at The Zone!

Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20 in Erie

Join TransFamily of NWPA on Monday, November 20th for Transgender Day of Remembrance. We will come together to remember and honor our transgender siblings that have been lost to senseless acts of anti-transgender violence, marginalization and stigma by reading their names and short bios aloud. The vigil will be held at Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie PA at 7:30 pm. It will also be live-streamed on our Facebook page for those who can't attend. Light refreshments will be provided.

Art Therapy Sessions for World AIDS Day Event

from Erie County HIV Task Force

For this year's World AIDS Day Memorial Event on December 1st, the Erie County HIV Task Force is excited to announce a collaboration with PA

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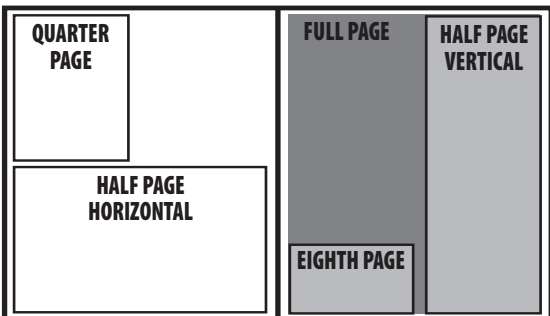
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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

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

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
HALF HORZ.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
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.

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Audrey, Charlie, Cole, Hannah Khamis, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Joyce, Kolton Mehlalko, Lauren Galle-Boyko, Melia, N Khamis, Nathan Murarik, Oli Tilton, Rex Apps, Sarah, Steve Siwiecki, and Susan Galle-Boyko for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Lauren Galle-Boyko, N Khamis, Rex Apps, Steve Siwiecki, and Susan Galle-Boyko for distribution; Wheel Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Thrive Partnership and Journey to a Trauma Informed Life. This collab is bringing together these great local community resources as part of a new project for the event on World AIDS Day. Erie County residents are invited to participate in the 'More Than a Quilt' open art therapy sessions being held at Journey's office [201 W 11th St, Erie PA 16501] on Mondays October 30th and November 6th from 12pm to 2pm. The Art therapy sessions are an open space for people to process the impact that HIV / AIDS has had on their lives. Anyone who is living with HIV or has been impacted through HIV / AIDS are encouraged to attend one or both sessions. Creations from these sessions will be on display during the World AIDS Day observances and materials are provided at no cost to participants. For more information on participating, call (833)4UR-JRNY and speak with the staff at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life. For additional info on the World AIDS Day event, visit the Erie County HIV Task Force at ECHIV.ORG or contact us at 814-315-3375 or admin@echiv.org.

Local Non-Profit Supporting Animal Rescues to Hold Inaugural Fundraiser and Raffle

Jamestown, NY- Pip-skey's Foundation for Homeless Animals Inc. is proud to announce their first fundraiser supporting their mission to provide financial support to local animal shelters, rescues, and pet owners.

On Sunday October 29 from 2-6pm, Pip-Skey's Foundation will be holding an event at Sneakers Bar – located at 100 Harrison Street in Jamestown – to introduce their organization and begin their fundraising efforts for animal rescues in the greater Chautauque County Area. This event will feature music, The Taco Hut Food Truck, basket raffles, 50/50 drawing, door prizes, and a grand prize raffle of a signed Josh Allen Jersey. Pre-sale tickets for the grand prize are available for sale at Sneakers Bar, the Landmark Restaurant, and Honda of Jamestown.

Entry to this event is free for adults 21 years of age and over, and open to the public. We hope all our fellow animal-loving friends will come out to sup-



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port our cause, learn about our mission, and pick up information to share with their favorite local shelter.

About Pip-skey's Foundation for Homeless Animals Inc:

Pip-skey's Foundation strives to raise funds and advocate for animal rescues and shelters in Chautauqua County through fundraising efforts. As they raise funds, they will be able to provide funding for vet bills, food, and general supplies. They hope to work with not only local rescues, but individuals in the community who dedicate their time and efforts to assisting animals in need.

Monthly LGBTQ+ Gatherings at the Secret Undisclosed Location in Jamestown, NY!

Exciting news for the region's LGBTQ+ community! The Secret Undisclosed Location, located at 100 E 2nd St 2nd Floor in Jamestown, NY, is all set to host a series of monthly gatherings that promise warmth, camaraderie, and support. Get ready to mark your calendars for the second Tuesday of every month, starting at 6:30 PM, for an evening filled with meaningful connections and exciting surprises.

These gatherings provide a safe and inclusive space for everyone to share their stories, find support, and build lasting connections within the community. Whether you're looking to engage with insightful guest speakers, participate in heartfelt conversations, or enjoy thought-provoking movie nights, these monthly meetups have something special in store for everyone.

"Our aim is to foster an environment of acceptance and understanding, where individuals can come together to celebrate their identities and create a sense of belonging," shares Paul Clemente, one of the organizers of these monthly gatherings. "We invite all members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community to join us and be a part of these enriching and empowering experiences."

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and be a part of a supportive and vibrant community. Get ready to make some cherished memories and create a stronger, more united LGBTQ+ presence in Jamestown. Stay tuned for more updates and surprises at the Secret Undisclosed Location!

Looking for a good book?!

Are you interested in reading novels written by trans or gender non-conforming authors or with trans or gender non-conforming characters? Get out your Erie County Public Library card because Sexual Wellness PA, LLC would like to recommend one of their favorite trans novels!

Wake of Vultures by Lila Bowen. If you dig fantasy, historical fiction, monsters, and westerns, this book is for you! The first novel in a super-awesome series, this story follows the journey of a hero who started life with nothing, doesn't seem to belong anywhere, and unexpectedly discovers they can see and fight monsters. Our hero sets off to understand and use their newfound ability and pursue their destiny while also grappling on multiple levels with who they truly are, who they love, and how to just plain keep from getting killed by monsters! If you like this series, Lila Bowen also writes as Delilah Dawson and has written many supercool books that will immerse you in all sorts of magical worlds full of diverse characters and adventures!

Want more book recommendations? Visit sexualwellnesspa.com/book-recommendations to see more books Sexual Wellness PA has read and loved that can help move us closer to sexual safety, wellness, and pleasure! Want to discuss what you're reading? Check out Sexual Wellness PA's Intimacy Building Book Club and Queer Happily Ever After Book Club at sexualwellnesspa.com/bookclubs!

Aging With Pride Trip to Andy Warhol Museum

On October 14, 2023, members from Aging With Pride took a trip to the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh. There was fascinating art, great fun, and lunch together at North Shore Tavern afterward.



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Hoping to empower others, one queer book at a time

by Rex Apps

Some of Erie's Queer community worked together to collect many queer books for distribution throughout the area via the Little Free Library System. In conjunction with Banned Book Week, which ran from October 1-7, books were collected at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life on the evening of Tuesday, October 3.

Volunteers helped sort through the 474 books as well as add QR codes to them. The goal is for someone to find a queer book who may not have access to them. This past summer, the week before the annual Pride celebration in Erie, librarians were forced to remove a queer book display at the library's main branch due to unpublished complaints. Similarly, banned books have been removed from school district libraries such as Penncrest in Crawford County. The QR codes would then direct the reader to the NW PA Pride Alliance's website with links to the other eight local queer organizations that helped to make

this event possible.

Participating in the event in addition to NW PA Pride Alliance, Aging with Pride, PA Equality Project, TranFamily of NW PA, Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, Erie Gay News, Journey Healing Together, Free Mom's Hugs and Greater Erie Alliance for Equality.

To find a map of where the Little Free Libraries, check out the link at NWPAPride.org.

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18th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend raises \$3,684.00

by Michael Mongera

This year's Pink Party weekend was October 6-8 at The Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St. The benefit was a three-night event with \$3,684.00 going to Linked By Pink.

Michelle Michaels would like to thank the Zone Dance Club owners, Lou, and the entire staff at the bar for allowing me to do what I do every year unconditionally. This year was our 18th year, and without the help of some great people, she could not do half of what they do.

Thank you to our basket auction options to Gracie, Sandy, Gina, Mary, Marty and Josh, Shay, Glenn, Northwest Pride Alliance, Brenda Dugan and Mama Dugan, Sherry, Jess and Ralph of Pittsburgh. Macy's, Brittany and Mike from Like My Thai restaurant, and Robert E. I'd like to thank the people who helped with the baked goods, Sam's Club, and Michelle's long-time friends Holly, Sherry, Jenn Y, Cindy, Gracie, and Joe for the special private

donation.

Thanks to Little Dance Studio! Stacy G, Sue, Nancy, Monkey and Sue, May and Jerry, and Dori

Michelle would also like to thank her fellow queens for always stepping up to help. She'd like to thank Debbie and Arthur. She'd also like to thank Vivian for chipping in the help on Friday night.

Thanks to Misty Michaels Kall, Snarebear, Taylor Morgan, Porshaa Lejany, our current Miss Erie Shea D'Heaux, and a thank you to Rebecca Mae, who was our bartender for the evening.



PREPARE TO BE CREATIVE.

World AIDS Day

ART THERAPY GROUP

MONDAYS | 12PM - 2PM | JOURNEY'S YOGA ROOM
201 W 11TH ST., ERIE, PA 16501

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 13

Our Art therapy sessions for World AIDS Day opens space for people to process the impact HIV/AIDS has had on their lives. Anyone who is HIV+ or has been impacted through HIV+ in any way are encouraged to attend one or all of the sessions. Creations from the sessions can be on display during World AIDS Day observances.



New HIV Clinical Trial Begins

Erie County Department of Health

In the US and South Africa, people are volunteering for a new HIV vaccine Phase 1 trial. The new vaccine, "VIR-1388", tests safety and kicking off an HIV specific immune response in folks. VIR-1388 is to tell the human immune system to create T cells. These T cells would recognize HIV, prompting an immune response. The trial goal is to prevent HIV from establishing a chronic infection. The NIAID (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases) and NIH (the National Institutes of Health) have provided scientific and financial support for years in this HIV vaccine idea and is contributing money for this study. Study participants are randomly put into one of four parts. Three out of four will receive a different dose of the vaccine. One out of four will get a placebo (fake vaccine). Late 2024 is when results are expected from the trial. Then volunteers will be followed for up to three years after their first vaccine dose. Did you know the Erie County Department of Health provides routine checks for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and HIV? We can go over options for treatment 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.

Community Spotlight #11: Erie County HIV Task Force

Erie County Department of Health

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 in Erie County, Pennsylvania. Formed in 2014 by Laura Beckes and Sylvia Holland at the Erie County Health Department, the group has been bringing together Erie County volunteers to increase the awareness of HIV, its treatment, and prevention for our residents. Groups involved have included Adagio Health, Central Outreach Wellness Center Erie, Community Health Net, Edinboro University, Erie Gay News, Erie VA Medical Center, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Guadenzia, LECOM, MidAtlantic AIDS Education Training Center, NWPA



Members of Erie County HIV Task Force and supporters at 6th Annual HIV Awareness Walk on May 15, 2023. Photo by Andrea Shaffer.



Community Spotlight is a monthly series in which Erie Gay News features a group in our community. Next month: Erie Sisters and Brothers!

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Medical Reserve Core, NWPA Pride Alliance, PA Thrive Partnership, SafeNet, TransFamily, UPMC Hamot, and Urban Ministries.

The HIV Task Force has focused its efforts on the following areas: Collaboration to benefit Erie County residents with providers of prevention and treatment for HIV work toward Ending the HIV Epidemic and advocating to champion awareness of HIV and STI safety, which has included our successful Condom Distribution Program across the City of Erie and beyond. Being a resource to the public in allowing Erie County residents to consider options for improving their lives regarding HIV and STIs. Educating through lectures for the local care provider community, one-on-one sessions with patients, and outreach with awareness day events. And providing support activities for testing options at various locations around Erie County.

The HIV Task Force meets monthly with in-person and virtual options open to the public. In the spring, we host an annual HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk. Our members participate in the summer's strongly attended Pride Fest and Parade. Each year, on December 1st, we host an AIDS Memorial Service event as well. These events, along with news about items in the HIV medical community, can be found on our social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter as well as our website. In addition to these specific programs, the HIV Task Force in 2016 developed a countywide Condom Distribution Program, which began with making brown bags of condoms, literature on testing/treatment, and lube available at public venues. After the COVID-19 pandemic, this program was expanded into a private, free home mailing service for Erie County residents. Individuals can order a dozen condoms for free to be sent via the mail to their address. This provides an option for folks who cannot get to a distribution site or prefer a confidential option.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Erie County HIV Task Force is welcome to join a meeting, attend an event, or reach out to Gary Snyder, the Task Force Chair, at the Erie County Department of Health. Volunteers are always welcome, especially when we hold condom-bagging events or host other activities. Volunteer opportunities could involve resupplying condoms bags at sites, attending local activities to promote awareness and providers, organizing events within Erie County, and more including providing feedback on our plans and ideas by contacting us at 814-315-3375 or admin@echiv.org

Adagio Health is now offering PEP for HIV!

Adagio Health is now offering PEP for HIV! PEP, also known as post-exposure prophylaxis, is a medication taken after exposure to HIV to lower the chance of getting HIV. It has to be started no more than 72 hours after the exposure to work. Adagio Health has this medication stocked in the office, so it can be started right away. Appointments are available by calling the office or online at adagiohealth.org. Walk-ins are also accepted, but there may be a wait to be seen.

ABC's of Building Better Lives

Mary Lynn Rote, LPC, CADC
Rob Giannamore, LPC • Charen Pasky, LCSW
Jillian Rhoades, LCSW • Ashley Gleason, LPC
Alen Melik-Adamyan, LCSW
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FREE Condoms Program Biggest To Date

from Erie County Department of Health

Did you know that you can get free condoms at various sites around Erie County? Or that you can order a free pack of 12 to be sent privately to your home? The Erie County Department of Health began their Condom Distribution Program seven years ago. Since then, locations and ways to get both internal and external condoms have expanded. Each package includes condoms, lube, and info on testing/treatment providers in Erie County. Last year alone, this program distributed over 20,000 condoms! Would you like some FREE condoms? Check out the online map for sites where the task force's red 'picnic' totes by visiting echiv.org/map or if you'd like to order some for free to come to you, visit our online store at condoms.echiv.org. For more information give us a call at the Erie County Department of Health, 814-451-6700.

F-A-U-L-K-N-E-R: Erie's Unconventional Write-in Campaign

by Emily Manino

Susannah Faulkner's venture into Erie politics has been nothing short of intriguing. While she narrowly missed securing a two-year term on the City Council by just 300 votes, her return to the political scene has taken an unconventional path in her quest to keep her seat.

Faulkner is encouraging Erie's residents to support her through a write-in campaign, asserting that



the city deserves fresh alternatives. In this grassroots political effort, candidates seek to win elected positions without the official ballot listing. Though less common, write-in campaigns serve as a legitimate way for individuals to seek public office.

Faulkner's commitment to improving Erie, particularly for its youth and families, is evident through her work on the council and her active engagement in community initiatives. Notably, she has demonstrated her support for the LGBTQIA community by championing a resolution that officially designates Erie as an LGBT sanctuary city.

Write-in campaigns, although unconventional compared to the traditional candidacy process, offer candidates a democratic means to challenge the status quo and provide voters with fresh choices. Faulkner's endeavor embodies this spirit, underscoring the importance of new perspectives and an informed electorate in Erie City.

TransFamily of Erie's Annual TransGiving Potluck meal on November 25

Join us on November 25 for our annual "Trans-Giving Feast" potluck meal to show thanks for our chosen family! It will occur at Compton's Table (inside the Community Outreach Center, 3104 State St. Erie, PA) from 2-5 pm. Transfamily of NWPA will provide the turkey, stuffing, and drinks. Please bring a dish to share, and we hope to see you there!



Members of NW PA Pride Alliance and Identity at PennWest Edinboro's Homecoming Parade on September 30, 2023. Photo by Michael Mahler.

Voters Guide

Candidates for Erie County Council and Erie City Council were asked about their positions on LGBT issues. The Pennsylvania Municipal Election will be held November 7, 2023. Their responses appear below.

These were the questions asked for all races:

How would you assure that Erie implements and enforces contractor nondiscrimination policies?

To what extent have you participated in LG-BTQIA+ Cultural Competency Training? What types of training would you recommend for 1.) staff & 2.) council members?

What strategies would you use to include and engage LG-BTQIA+ organizations and community members in developing policy and legislation?

Share a time/moment when you influenced or were positively influenced by LG-BTQIA+ community?

Erie County Council District 1

Non-Discrimination

Terry Scutella (D-Inc)

Erie County Council oversees the Human Relations Commission which works to eliminate discrimination housing, employment and public accommodations. Now under new leadership, the Human Relations Commission will be making sure Erie County residents are aware of the services they provide including investigation and legal services. The Human Relations Commission enforces the Erie County Human Relations Commission ordinance which protects the civil rights of individuals.

Cody Foust (R)

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act of 1955 allows for cities, townships, boroughs, and counties to pass ordinances creating local human relations commissions that can enforce policies on nondiscrimination. The Erie County Human Relations Commission works to eliminate discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Ordinance 82,2021 voted on by county council lays out the ground work for employment in Erie County shall not be discriminated against, more information can be found at <https://eriecountypa.gov/departments/human-relations-commission/>.

Cultural Competency Training

Terry Scutella (D-Inc)

Most of the training I have involved on-the-job cultural literacy training. However, the Human Resources department continues to offer cultural training for the Erie County Employees.

Cody Foust (R)

I have and presently do participate in annual LG-BTQIA+ cultural training through my current employment in the healthcare field. If elected I will follow the policies pertaining to all training that the staff and council members currently follow.

Engagement Strategies

Terry Scutella (D-Inc)

A strategy that Erie County Council members could implement informal meet-&-greet discussions to discuss issues with various groups in the County. This would allow all County Council members to engage with various groups about what policies and legislation could benefit residents.

Cody Foust (R)

I look to include everyone in Erie County to make our community better for the future. I'm running to represent all citizens of District 1

LGBTQIA+ Influence

Terry Scutella (D-Inc)

I have had many positive moments that have

The graphic features the EGN logo (Erie Gay News) in a rainbow box at the top left. To its right, the text 'VOTERS' GUIDE' is written in large, bold, blue letters, with 'MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD' in smaller white letters below it. In the center, 'GENERAL ELECTION' is written in yellow, followed by 'NOV 7' in large yellow letters. Below that, 'Last Day to Register to Vote' is written in white, followed by 'OCT 23' in large white letters. At the bottom, 'Last Day to Request a Mail In Ballot' is written in white, followed by 'OCT 31' in large white letters. A white calendar icon is positioned to the right of the 'NOV 7' and 'OCT 23' text. The background is dark blue with a white grid pattern.

been influenced by the LGBTQI+ community. One of them was the marriage of two friends, a same-sex couple who were married. Their devotion to each other and the love they share are what all people deserve to have.

Cody Foust (R)

I'm influenced by every citizen of Erie County specifically West Millcreek District 1 equally. I'm a voice for District 1 that may vote to elect me on May 16th 2023 for the primary and then onto November 7th 2023 for the general election.

Erie County Council District 2

Anti-Discrimination

Rock Copeland (D)

We need leadership with good intentions. We need compliance and enforcement of nondiscrimination policies to be pursued in good faith.

On August 29th, the County Council voted on a resolution to ban censorship at the library in compliance with state and county standards. Many people came to speak about this issue, out of concern for the censorship of the pride display at the library. Yet, one council person requested an interesting clarification. "All the reading material is still there, still available?" Another said, "Just to expand on that point, I just want to make sure when we talk about censorship and this issue...my understanding was that the material was present the entire time...I don't feel that there was any censorship on the part of the library." After these points were made, the Council felt comfortable voting unanimously to approve the resolution, knowing that their interpretation stripped the resolution of meaning.

We need leadership willing to give due respect to these issues, give their legislation the teeth to enforce policy, and to make sure the full intent of policy is immune to creative interpretation.

Kimberly Hunter (R)

Through periodic audits

Cultural Competency Training

Rock Copeland (D)

Having empathy and respect for all people is a core value in my life, so to some extent, being culturally sensitive to the LGBTQIA+ community's needs has already been a concern for me. However, I had not taken competency training prior. This question inspired me to seek out what such training looks like,

and I have since taken a few courses online.

After taking such training, I can see a lot of value in requiring it for public sector jobs. Even for those having personal exposure to friends or family with different expressions of gender or sexuality, I think it would be illuminating. Any role in our government is about serving people. Having an understanding and empathy for those that you serve is essential to ensuring they are all served according to their needs.

Kimberly Hunter (R)

Kim participated in Diversity training while employed at the Erie School District

Engagement Strategies

Rock Copeland (D)

The current leadership style of our County Executive is to tell others what they need, not to listen in good faith. There is no attempt to learn about the viewpoints of others. They do not build partnerships with people of different perspectives. He uses phrases like "non-negotiable courage and political will", meaning he wishes to push his agenda regardless of the opinions of others. This is not the model of leadership that we need.

Real leadership requires having an open ear and being accessible to the entire community, regardless of their political leanings or background. This is especially true for any disenfranchised, marginalized, or minority group. It is vital that their perspectives and unique needs are heard and considered. Including and engaging the LGBTQIA+ community is a natural extension of this philosophy. I want people to know that my door is open. I want to hear from you. I will always be approachable if anyone wishes to advocate. Please, feel free to call my cell phone, 814-460-2889 or email me at rock@rockcopeland.com.

Moreover, I am fully committed to the concept of advisory councils. It is so important to gather information from communities in an organized way. Lastly, I am committed to ensuring that the diversity in our community is reflected in the appointments made to our government and authorities. Equitable inclusion is achieved through intentional decision-making.

Kimberly Hunter (R)

It is for any government entity to collaborate with community organizations for their input and expertise on any given subject when considering

policy changes or new legislation

LGBTQIA+ Influence

Rock Copeland (D)

My journey in life, as it relates to my political and philosophical beliefs, has been a long one. I was raised in a religious and conservative home and had a sheltered childhood. This is a background that many in the LGBTQ community would consider less than inviting. Beyond that, societal systems were built to indoctrinate many of us with bigoted and intolerant views. I was not immune to those influences.

In college, I had my first friendship with an “out” gay man. Around that time, one of my friends came out as bisexual. These friendships shattered some of my worldviews. I had heard the abhorrent phrase “hate the sin, not the sinner” a million times, but I soon realized that living as your most authentic self was never a sin. Today, I am thankful for my deep friendships with many in the LGBTQ community. They teach me a lot about privilege and open my mind to new perspectives, as I continue to learn from their lived experience.

These relationships transformed the bedrock of my entire belief structure. They began my journey from being a conservative to the progressive person I am today. I believe in empathy, love, and respect for all people. We must find value in everyone as human beings, knowing that everyone deserves love and equal protection under the law. These are the beliefs these friendships passed on to me.

Kimberly Hunter (R)

Kim cannot pin-point one specific moment because she believes every moment and new opportunity to meet new people is unique and special to her.

Erie County Council District 5

Not Responding: Chris Drexel (D), Brian Shank (R-Inc)

Erie County Council District 7

Not Responding: Ellen Schauerman (R-Inc)

Anti-Discrimination

Lorraine Dolan (D)

At the county level, it’s crucial that our contracting processes prioritize fairness and equality. I

would push for regular audits of our county contractors to ensure they’re compliant with nondiscrimination policies. Additionally, it’s crucial to provide consistent training and awareness programs for those in charge of county contracting to ensure that LGBTQIA+ rights are always front and center.

Cultural Competency Training

Lorraine Dolan (D)

Interacting with diverse communities within our county has been an enlightening experience. While I value these interactions, I believe formalized training is essential. For county staff, I’d recommend a foundational course on LGBTQIA+ rights and issues. For council members, a more in-depth training, perhaps featuring stories and experiences from our own LGBTQIA+ residents, would be valuable to inform our policymaking. I have participated in opportunities for equity training through my tenure with the League of Women Voters.

Engagement Strategies

Lorraine Dolan (D)

For our county to thrive, it is vital that all voices be heard. I’d propose a regular liaison or committee to bridge county government with LGBTQIA+ organizations. Through town halls, focus groups and even digital forums, we could ensure the community is continually engaged, addressing needs and concerns to directly influence county policy. I am approachable, listen and respond.

LGBTQIA+ Influence

Lorraine Dolan (D)

In my journey to represent District 7, I met an LGBTQIA+ couple advocating for more inclusive county policies. Their story of both struggle and triumph in our county underscored the need for representation and sensitivity in our policies. It was a poignant reminder of the difference inclusive governance can make at the county level. There have been other encounters, as well, the basic desires—to be heard, to be accepted and to experience equity within our community.

Erie City Council

Not Responding: Ed Brzezinski (D-Inc)

Anti-Discrimination

Kathleen Schaaf (D)

That's a bit of a challenging question how would I assure that Erie implements and enforces contractor nondiscrimination policies... I think that first of all I would have a meeting of the licensing board, Kristy Williams from the code enforcement, fourth floor of City Hall manages all the trade licenses/ contractors in Erie. Once a month or so they meet in council chambers. I would discuss this issue and invite them to share with me how this could be attained. I would also bring this question up at the Human Relations Commission meeting too. After these two things have been addressed I would talk to the solicitors at Erie City Hall and Erie County to advise me on what we could put in writing as an agreement that would be legally binding. Right now I have noticed that we are having a type of crisis in not having enough contractors to do jobs on houses. The Erie Redevelopment Authority is looking to hire more contractors. There is a long wait-list of housing request projects to be finished. Perhaps the code enforcement people that go out now visiting sites unannounced etc could add this to their checklist or hire someone specifically to travel around.

Tyler Titus (D)

As the only candidate who is openly identifying as queer, and someone who continues to work at a local, state, and federal level on nondiscrimination policy development and implementation, I am equipped and prepared to ensure contractors utilized at a city level have an active and enforced an inclusive nondiscrimination policy.

Cultural Competency Training

Kathleen Schaaf (D)

Another challenging one, to what extent have you participated in LGBTQIA+ cultural competency training what types of training would you recommend for staff and council members. The last year I was on city council I attempted to bring the council together for informal type of training/assessment from a certified person in Pittsburgh to assist us. I ended up unfortunately faltering in this endeavor, I had gotten the council to have it voted that we would but not all of council wanted to participate even though it had passed that we would work on it. It is a challenge to get seven people on council committed to one specific

issue whether it be fulfilling and beneficial. There are virtual and online workshops and training which is helpful in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion. The Greater Erie Area Alliance on Equality would be helpful as well as a nonprofit organization too. I could look into some of the programs that our new city police hires have participated in that were helpful.

My forty years of being an educator has lead me to various life experiences in and out of our city and state. I am presently on the Human Relations Advisory Board and was the liaison to the HRC and HRCA when I was on council previously.

My highschool, St Benedict Academy and Villa Maria College guided and inspired my philosophy of treating all people with respect. While on council I was the first to sponsor that a person should not be forced into conversion therapy.

Tyler Titus (D)

Over the past decade, not only have I participated in training, but I continue to have the honor of conducting queer competency trainings across the country. I recognize training as a step in the right direction; however, we must move the momentum and focus to action. We need policy updates, by-law amendments, procedural adjustments, and proactive steps to protect all community members, especially those most at risk of systemic harm.

Engagement Strategies

Kathleen Schaaf (D)

Encourage all people and groups to attend more council meetings, study sessions, and department meetings. Invite the LGBTQ+ spokespersons to attend by invitation council caucuses. Revitalizing the neighborhood watch meetings would be helpful and have council attend and talk at them more than they do at present. Each council person has a cell phone and email which anyone can use to email a council member addressing issues that they would like to see addressed. Council could attend LGBTQ+ meetings as well. The Erie City Hall Communications Director could pass on news/community engagement happenings to Erie Gay News if it doesn't already now.

Tyler Titus (D)

I served as the Co-Vice Chair of the Commission of LGBTQIA Affairs for Governor Tom Wolf for four years and this has built a strong network across the Commonwealth. I currently serve on the Democratic State Committee LGBTQ caucus as the

secretary which has created an opportunity to collaborate on developing inclusive policy, by-laws, and procedures. I am 100% committed to replicating this while serving as a City Council person.

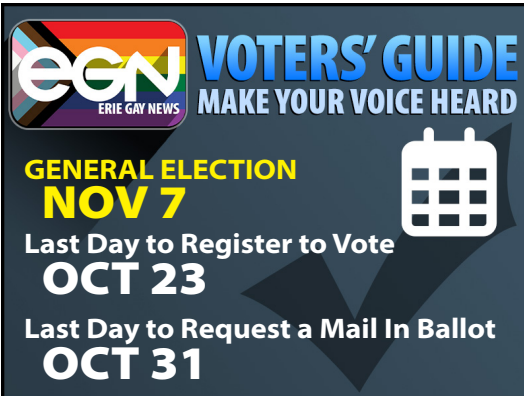
LGBTQIA+ Influence
Kathleen Schaaf (D)

It's exciting that Erie has greatly improved on the rating scale of cities that address LGBTQ+ concerns (Municipal Equality Index Scorecard) We received a perfect score! I know many many people who are LGBTQ+ and are considered my friends. I have so many that inspire me I am not going to single anyone out personally. My cousin's family who lives out of state has inspired me. Their child now into adulthood transitioned earlier on in life. A close friend's son has transitioned as well. People are people. We are all part of the beauty of humanity ??.

Our greatest potential in our city is our people regardless of their race, creed, sexual orientation etc. Let's "corral" the positive energy to get Erie continuously moving in the right direction. Sincerely, Kathy Schaaf

Tyler Titus (D)

Right now, our community, specifically transgender and gender-expansive youth, is under attack and are the target of extremist groups across the United States. With more than 400 anti-trans legislative bills brought forward in 2023 alone. Yet, every day queer and transgender people, especially our youth, continue to show up as their authentic self and refuse to be silenced. I draw strength and hope from those who came before me, those who are fighting now, and the belief that our tomorrows will be better.




125 West 18th Street
814-455-9414
cvcerie.org

Statistics show that members of the LGTBQ+ community are more likely to become victims of sexual assault and violence.

40% of gay men and 47% of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence, compared to 21% of straight men.

"Sexual Assault and the LGBTQ Community." Human Rights Campaign, www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community. Accessed 9 Oct. 2023.


Crime Victim Center of Erie County is always here to provide cost-free services to victims, witnesses, and their families.



PRIDE DAY

Last Friday of every month Starting
September 29th 2023

drink specials WE ARE NOW A SPECIAL
new dance floor EVENTS CENTER
food specials HAVING EVENTS FOR ALL
OCCASSIONS



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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.

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.

Zone Fierce Fridays 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. Every Friday night, join us at the Zone Dance Club for an unforgettable evening of fabulousness, hosted by the one and only Rebecca Mae. Get ready to be dazzled as Rebecca takes the stage alongside special guests, featuring both our talented house cast and regional drag superstars. Doors open at 8pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Oct 1 - 31 (Sun - Tue) - 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 19 - Nov 4 (Thu - Sat) - The Golden Girls – The Lost Episodes Vol. 4: The Halloween Edition (O’Connell & Company, 4110 Bailey Ave, Amherst, NY 14226) Be a Fearful! Buffalo’s original GOLDEN GIRLS are back with all new episodes of this naughty drag parody of America’s favorite sitcom. Dorothy, Rose, Blanche, and Sophia return for new wig-raising adventures in this very limited engagement. When Sophia starts acting bizarre and scaring the devil out of the girls they have no choice but to seek the services of their local priest, who has never quite encountered a demon like Sophia! Will they be able to drive the DEVIL out of Sophia? Would they even notice

Oct 22 - 28 (Sun - Sat) - Ace Week Ace Week, formerly

Asexual Awareness Week, is an international campaign that seeks to educate about asexual, aromantic, demisexual, and grey-asexual experiences and to create materials that are accessible to our community and our allies around the world. Browse to <https://www.aceweek.org/>.

Oct 26 (Thu) - Intersex Awareness Day Intersex Awareness Day on October 26 marks the first public demonstration by intersex people in North America. Morgan Holmes and Max Beck of Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) were joined by allies from Transexual Menace and other organizations. It took place on October 26, 1996 in Boston, Massachusetts outside a conference of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Browse to <https://intersexday.org/en/intersex-awareness-day/>.

Oct 26 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social Hour (Like My Thai?, 827 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 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. For more information about Aging with Pride, visit their website at AgingWithPrideErie.org, or email Dale Allgeier at DaleAllgeier@outlook.com. Phone: (814) 455-4009. Venue Phone: (814) 504-6281

Oct 26 (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.

Oct 26 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM.

Oct 27 (Fri) - Halloqueen hosted by Identity (Franklin G Pogue Student Center, 405 Scotland Road, Edinboro, PA 16444) 6 PM - 10 PM. Join us for our annual Halloween party and costume contest!

Oct 27 (Fri) - GASE and LEB Present Halloween Drag Show (Penn State Behrend -McGarvey Commons, 5103 Station Rd, Erie, PA 16563) 6 PM - 8 PM. Hosted by Debbie, with Sassy Sascha, Ryder Slowly,

Shea D'Heaux, Vivian Vendetta-Sinclair, and Monica Lexin. Featuring a costume contest with prizes.

Oct 27 (Fri) - Aging with Pride Movie Night - Rocky Horror (Erie Movie House, 3424 W Lake Rd, Erie PA 16505) Doors open at 7 PM, show time is 7:30 PM. Free Admission. Costumes Optional – BYOB. Seating capacity is 35.

Oct 27 (Fri) - Haunted Zone Divas HalloQueen (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10:30 PM. Hosted by Misty Michaels Kall. Performances by the Divas of the Zone. Doors open 8 PM. 21 & over with ID. \$5 cover.

Oct 27 (Fri) - M & J's Lounge Annual Halloween Party (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) 9 PM. Prizes and a Hell of a spooky night. Doors open at 9:00 pm. Phone: (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@AOL.COM. Browse to <http://www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge>.

Oct 28 (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.

Oct 28 (Sat) - Haunted Zone Halloween Costume Party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Costume contest at midnight. Cash prizes - \$100, \$75, \$50. Dress to impress. Doors open at 8 PM. 21 & over with ID. \$5 cover.

Oct 29 (Sun) - 15th Annual Diversity Worship Service (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA 16508-2540) 11 AM. Please join us as we celebrate our 15th Annual Diversity Service, recognizing our national Open and Affirming status as a Christian congregation. Here, LGBTQ people are warmly welcome!

Oct 29 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Halloween Drag Story Time (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 12 PM - 2 PM. Join us for a new series of Drag Story-Time events. Starting with a Halloween Themed one. Event is free and open to the public as well as family friendly! Hosted by Starrlet O'Hara and other local Drag Performers. Costumes are encouraged but not required/ Free candy and refreshments. Security will be onsite at all times

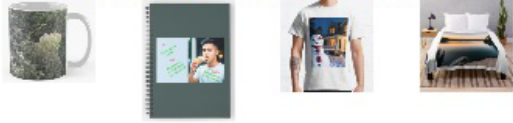
Oct 29 (Sun) - Fundraising event for Pip-Skey's Foundation for Homeless Animals (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 2 PM - 6 PM. Music, raffles, and a chance to win a signed Josh Allen jersey!

Oct 29 (Sun) - Kandy's Adult Playground Presents HalloQueen Spooktacular (Kandy's Adult Play-

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Saturday
November 25th
10am - 5pm

ERIE HANDMADE FAIR
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Handmade Artists

Live Music at 12pm

Erie Family Center
606 Raspberry St
Erie, Pa.
(At the corner of 6th & Raspberry St.)



ground, 13782 Route 19, Waterford, PA 16441) 5 PM - 8 PM. Doors open at 4:30. Showtime is 5-8pm. Hosted by Bact Eeriea with performances by Rebecca Mae, Debbie, Shea D'Heaux (Miss Erie 2023), Desiree Storm, Morris Bertha, MuMu Channel Van Pelt, Kat Piss, Church Service, Grace Vanity, Milkshake, Cindy Fineprint. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door and can be purchased at Kandys Adult Playground, Bison Beer, and Summit Auto in Waterford. For online sales, contact Bact Eeriea o

Oct 30 (Mon) - Improving Treatments for Drug and Alcohol Use Listening Session (The Pointe, 259 Seneca Street, Oil City, PA 16301) 11 AM. Recovery is Community NWPA wants to hear about what community members think should be done locally to improve treatment for drugs and alcohol use. The UPMC Center for High-Value Health Care will be hosting listening sessions where individuals who identify LGBTQIA+, a person of color, and/or loved ones of someone who uses drugs can share their experiences, thoughts, and ideas about using drugs/alcohol, seeking treatment, and recovery. Sessions will be in-person, last about an hour, and light refreshments will be provided for participants.

Oct 31 (Tue) - Last Day to Request a Mail-In Ballot for Pennsylvania General Election Pennsylvania General Election is Tuesday, November 7 You must already be registered to vote to apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot. Browse to <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>.

Oct 31 (Tue) - Haunted Zone Halloween Costume Party II (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Costume contest at midnight. Cash prizes -\$50/\$25. Dress to impress. Doors open at 8 PM. 21 & over with ID. No cover.

Nov 1 (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+ can have alcoholic beverages.

Nov 2 (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>.

Nov 3 (Fri) - Improving Treatments for Drug and Alcohol Use Listening Session (Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program (CHAPS), 944 Liberty Street, Meadville, PA 16335) 10:30 AM. Recovery is Community NWPA wants to hear about what community members think should be done locally to improve treatment for drugs and alcohol use. The UPMC Center for High-Value Health Care will be hosting listening

sessions where individuals who identify LGBTQIA+, a person of color, and/or loved ones of someone who uses drugs can share their experiences, thoughts, and ideas about using drugs/alcohol, seeking treatment, and recovery. Sessions will be in-person, last about an hour, and light refreshments will be provided for participant

Nov 3 (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/>.

Nov 3 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe 1033 State St, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. All Are Welcome!

Nov 5 (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 5 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

Nov 5 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 5 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form. Phone: (234) 254-8924.

Nov 7 (Tue) - Pennsylvania Municipal General Election 7 AM - 8 PM. Polls open from 7 AM to 8 PM. Be sure to read the Erie Gay News Voters Guide in this issue!

Nov 7 (Tue) - Compton's Table Chat and Chill Social Hour for Youth (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 7 PM. Register for location with info@comptonstable.org. For ages 13-18. FREE!

Nov 8 (Wed) - 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.

Nov 10 (Fri) - Improving Treatments for Drug and Alcohol Use Listening Session (Corry Counseling of LECOM Health, 45 E Washington St, Corry, PA 16407) 9 AM. Recovery is Community NWPA wants to hear about what community members think should be done locally to improve treatment for drugs and alcohol use. The UPMC Center for High-Value Health Care will be hosting listening sessions where individuals who identify LGBTQIA+, a person of color, and/or loved ones of someone who uses drugs can share their experiences, thoughts, and ideas about using drugs/alcohol, seeking treatment, and recovery. Sessions will be in-person, last about an hour, and light refreshments will be provided for participants.

Nov 11 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335) 2 PM.

Nov 11 (Sat) - Night of the Living Drag (SUNY Fredonia, 280 Central Ave. - Williams Center Multi-Purpose Room, Fredonia, NY 14063) 7 PM - 10 PM. Students - \$3, General Public - \$5.

Nov 13 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News November 2023 print edition (#337) (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, November 21.

Nov 13 - 19 (Mon - Sun) - 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 13 (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 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Nov 16 (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>.

Nov 14 (Tue) - Intimacy Building Book Club: The Penis Book by Dr. Aaron Spitz (Erie County Public Library Iroquois Branch, 4212 Iroquois Ave, Erie, PA 16511) 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!

Nov 14 (Tue) - PFLAG of Chautauqua meeting (Secret Undisclosed Location, 100 E 2nd St 2nd Floor, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6:30 PM. PFLAG of Chautauqua, a support group for allies, loved ones and the entire Queer community. Please visit our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/594395124695283>, or email PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM or call (814) 313-4495 for details.

Nov 15 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner #109 (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 16 (Thu) - Spirit Day Each year on Spirit Day, millions go purple to support LGBTQ youth. #SpiritDay Browse to <http://www.glaad.org/spiritday>.



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Nov 16 (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

Nov 16 (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.

Nov 17 (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.

Nov 18 (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/>.

Nov 18 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - City of Night by John Rechy (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM . Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

Nov 19 (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/>.

Nov 19 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Peer Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 6 PM. Ages 18+.

Nov 19 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

Nov 20 (Mon) - 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 (Mon) - Pennsylvania Equality Project - Donation Day, Fall Edition 2023 (Meadville Public Library, 848 N Main St, Meadville, PA 16335) 10 AM - 4 PM. Donate gently used clothing, blankets, toys, books, games, non-perishable food, and any kitchen items that fit on a table

Nov 20 (Mon) - TransFamily of NWPA Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) Vigil (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 7:30 PM. We will come together to remember and honor our transgender siblings that have been lost to senseless acts of anti-transgender violence, marginalization and stigma by reading their names and short bios aloud. It will also be live-streamed on our Facebook page for those who can't attend. Light refreshments will be provided.

Nov 21 (Tue) - Pennsylvania Equality Project - Gathering Day, Fall Edition 2023 (Meadville Public Library, 848 N Main St, Meadville, PA 16335) 10 AM - 4 PM. All items donated on November 20 during Donation Day will be made available to the public for free. No admission charge, no cost.

Nov 20 (Mon) - 7th Annual Full Spectrum Transgender Day of Remembrance (Youngstown, OH 44511) 6 PM - 8 PM. Join us for our 7th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance candlelight vigil as we read the names of those we have lost to senseless anti-transgender violence over the past year. Hear stories from various speakers in the community and take part in our "call

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October 23- November 13



to action” to help fight for understanding, acceptance, equality, inclusion, and most importantly an end to this violence. This event is free and open to the public

Nov 21 (Tue) - Compton’s Table Chat and Chill Social Hour for Youth (Compton’s Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 7 PM. Register for location with info@comptonstable.org. For ages 13-18. FREE!

Nov 21 (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.

Nov 21 (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.

Nov 22 (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 (Thu) - Full Spectrum Thanksgiving Celebration (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM. We are happy to announce we are hosting a new annual event! Introducing Full Spectrum Thanksgiving Celebration on Thursday, November 23rd, 2023! (Thanksgiving Day) Enjoy a free Thanksgiving meal, family-friendly, and everyone is welcome! To sponsor this event, contact us at 330.718.1859. or at info@fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org

Nov 30 (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/>.

Nov 25 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWP (Erie) Annual TransGiving (Compton’s Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 2 PM - 5 PM. Join us for our annual “TransGiving Feast” potluck meal to show thanks for our chosen family! Transfamily of NWP will provide the turkey, stuffing, and drinks. Bring a dish to share, and we hope to see you there!

Nov 30 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social (Valerio’s, 724 Powell Ave, Erie PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBTQ+ 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.



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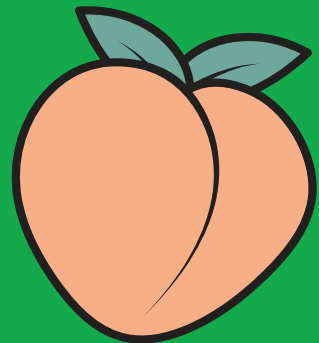
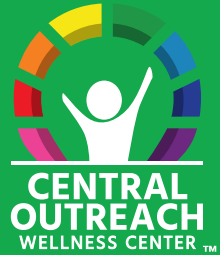


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