

# **ERIE GAY NEWS**

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



# Erie's Queer Community Annual Boots and Coat Drive

Members of the Erie Queer community stand with boots and coats collected Saturday, February 10, at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life. Items collected were donated to Community Shelter Services of Erie PA.

### **Transgender Day of Visibility**

On Saturday, April 6, join TransFamily of NWPA at noon in Perry Square to commemorate Trans Day of Visibility. They will be celebrating trans lives, raising awareness about trans experiences, and building a community of powerful allies. This event also serves as a chance to uplift trans voices and work towards a world where everyone, regardless of gender identity, has the right to live authentically and without fear.

# Registration for NWPA Pride Alliance summer events

Vendors, organizations, and food trucks can now register at nwpride.org for all of the NWPW Pride events happening this summer. Be part of Erie's Pride on the Bay, Meadville Pride and Street Fair, or the annual Pride Picnic on Presque Isle. Spots will go fast, so it is best not to delay. New this year, NWPA Pride is also asking groups to register for Erie's stand-alone Pride Parade, which will take place on Sunday, June 30. Units can consist of companies, churches, community organizations, or even a group of friends who came together as a group to form a unit. Parade unit registration will help organizers and law enforcement get a clearer picture of who is participating in the parade. You will be able to register at the same link on nwpapride.org.

# PA Fairness Act Effort Underway Your Help Is Needed!

Pennsylvania is one of 28 states without any state law to protect people from discrimination because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Your attention and help is needed now.

Local and statewide LGBTQ+ affiliations are working to get two pieces of current legislation in the PA Senate across the finish line:

PA House Bill 300 - Referred to the Senate State Government Committee (May 2023)

PA Senate Bill 150 - Referred to the Senate Labor & Industry Committee (March 2023)

Our mission is to ensure LGBTQ+ people can be open, honest, and safe at home, work, and in the community. We ask for your voice to be heard. Please write to your PA Senator. Human Rights Campaign has provided a template for reference below:

Dear Senator

As your constituent, I am writing to ask you to support The Fairness Act, which would enshrine protections from discrimination for LGBTQ+ people in Pennsylvania state law. The Fairness Act respects and adds to the commonwealth's laws that protect individuals' freedoms and safeguard against discrimination. This law is a simple and an essential change that would align Pennsylvania with other states nationwide that have already added explicit protections for their LGBTQ+ populations. Families, businesses, and communities across Pennsylvania need to know that we are a place where everyone can live, love, and work as their authentic selves without fear of

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### **PLEASE RECYCLE US!**





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AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
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HALF HORZ.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
FULL PAGE	\$250 - \$225 Prepaid	71/2" 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.



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

Editor/Layout: Mike Mahler

Deadline for next issue: Fri, Mar 15 Folding and distribution is Tue, Mar 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, Dakota Murarix, Darlene Melchitzky, Elias Lenkner, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Kolton Mehlalko, Michael Mancinelli, Oli Tilton, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Darlene Melchitzky, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Oli Tilton, 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.

discrimination.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to support the Fairness Act.

> Sincerely. NAME

**ADDRESS** 

PHONE **EMAIL** 

Please make this commitment to advance the PA Fairness Act and tell Harrisburg to Finish the Job! 49th District - Dan Laughlin (most of Erie Co.) 337 Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120 dlaughlin@pasen.gov

21st District - Scott Hutchinson (Erie County's Elgin Borough, Wavne & Concord Townships and City of Corry. Warren, Forest, & Venango Counties) 351 Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120

shutchinson@pasen.gov

50th District - Michele Brooks (Crawford Co. and parts of Mercer & Lawrence Counties)

168 Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120 mbrooks@pasen.gov

### **Warren County Show Some Love 3**

The Crary Art Gallery in Warren Pennsylvania came alive with pride on February 17, 2024 marking the third time Warren County Pride threw their gala fundraiser. Despite a slight decline in attendance due to weather, this event still pulled in funds comparable to previous galas. Live musical performances by Corry musicians Lauren Crowley and Kelly Way, an 8-foot-long charcuterie board custom prepared by Your Daily Serving, and several drag performers taking every opportunity for photos with fans made this event feel truly special. Co-founder and president of Warren County Pride, Sara Culver Provencio, appealed to the crowd and gave examples of how the WC Pride Festival builds community from near and far and thanked the crowd for their involvement. If you were unable to attend the event and would still like to Show Some Love 3 Warren County Pride, donations are proudly accepted at the link in the online version of this article

The funds will support the Warren County Pride Festival on June 15, 2024 at Betts Park.



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**Erie County Department** Public Health of Health

# Pennsylvania Equality Project New Low-Watt FM Radio Station

The Pennsylvania Equality Project (PEP) proudly announces that the Federal Communications Commission has granted a permit to launch a low-watt FM radio station. The format for the new station will include talk shows, news blasts about LGBTQ+ relevant stories, and music from artists who are part of the community here in Pennsylvania. PEP has three years to secure a transmission tower and go live on-air, with at least 8 hours of local, live programming per day.

Beginning February 29, the station will be conducting a talent search. Anyone interested in sending ideas for a new radio program is asked to submit their concepts or audio recordings to AJ Aberts, program director, at pepradio@paequality. com. The station's programming will be simulcast via PEP's website and social media, making the station accessible worldwide.

Because a nonprofit organization runs the station, no advertising will be accepted. However, individual programs can be sponsored by individuals

or businesses. David Moore, President of PEP, said that the station will be seeking donations and grants to fund the purchase of the new equipment necessary to get the station operational.

### Pride Prom 2024

The Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center Garden Atrium and Terrace will host NWPA Pride's Annual Queer Adult Prom on Saturday, May 25. The Prom is from 7 PM ato 11 PM. Appetizers and a cash bar (21+ only) will be available. DJ Dave Rapp will provide music. Tickets are now available at nwpapride.org

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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 Trivia Wednesday Night, 133 W 18th St, Hosted by Rebecca Mae. Doors open at 8 pm. Play right on your phone! Fabulous prizes! Trivia begins at 9:30 pm. Happy hour 8 PM-10 PM. \$1 off bottled beer. \$2 well drinks. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued 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 #NoFilterFridays, 133 W 18th St, Brace yourself, hunty! These queens are #unfiltered! Hosted by the one and only Rebecca Mae. Featuring Erie's top drag superstars as well as amazing out of town guests. Doors open at 8 pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Feb 19 - 24 (Mon - Sat) - Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week (Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week)
Browse to https://twitter.com/aroweek.

Feb 22 (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.

Feb 23 (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.

Feb 24 (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. Feb 24 (Sat) - COLORS: Families Got Talent (Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 119, 201 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760) 4 PM - 7 PM. Entrance into the venue is a new toy or new household item in the following amounts: Single - \$5, Couple - \$8, Family - \$12.

Contact: Dann. Email: DannDH.colors@gmail.com. Feb 24 (Sat) - 7th Annual Full Spectrum Winter Gala (DiVieste's Banquet Centre, 754 N River Rd NW, Warren, OH 44483) 6 PM - 10 PM. Full dinner, raffle baskets, open bar, door prizes and more! Hosted by Denise Russell. \$85 per person or \$575 for 8 person table. Tickets must be purchased by February 17, 2024

Feb 28 (Wed) – LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour – All welcome (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 42243 Water St., Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Feb 29 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social Hour (The Breweries at Union Station, 123 W 14th St, Erie PA) 6 PM - 8 PM.

**Feb 29 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets** (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM.

Mar 1 - 31 (Fri - Sun) - Bisexual Health Awareness Month Bisexual Health Awareness Month is dedicated to raising awareness about the startling social, economic and health disparities facing the bi+ community. Browse to https://bihealthmonth.org/.

Mar 1 (Fri) - Zero Discrimination Day

Mar 1 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Calamari's Squid Row, 1317 State St, Erie PA) 6 PM - 8 PM, All Are Welcome!

Mar 3 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

Mar 3 (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.

Mar 5 (Tue) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 5 PM - 6 PM. Our mission is to provide a supportive and empowering space for LGBTQIA+ individuals who are dealing with substance use disorders. We strive to create an inclusive,

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strengths-based community where participants can find understanding, acceptance, and inspiration to overcome any challenges they may be facing. Through support, education, and resources, we aim to foster personal growth, resilience, and long-term recovery. For more information about the LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group, please call 814-451-2246.

Mar 6 (Wed) - Aging with Pride Game Night (Werner Books & Coffee, 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 5-8 PM. Bring games and/or cards with you or just come to play what others bring.

Mar 6 (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.

Mar 6 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ Drum Circle (St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 410 North Main Street, Jamestown, NY 14701) 7 PM - 8:30 PM.

Mar 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.

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

Mar 9 (Sat) - Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue (Warner Theatre, 811 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Thank you for being a...fan!

Mar 10 (Sun) - National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day .

Mar 10 (Sun) - A Brunch of Drag (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 12 PM. Join hosts Alysin Wonderland and DJ Tony G for the first of our 2024 Brunches - sponsored by Central Outreach Erie! Tickets: \$20 (+\$1 service charge) (Tickets include show and food. Drinks are NOT included.) Mimosas will be back AAAAAAND we'll also be featuring Bloody Marys! Doors open: 11am, Showtime: 12pm. The Zone is CASH ONLY so make sure to grab some before heading in! (We do have an ATM on site in case you forget.) Non-Smoking Event - 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

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

Mar 12 (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.

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

Mar 15 (Fri) - Deadline for Erie Gay News April 2024 print edition (#341) (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, March 26

Mar 15 (Fri) - Journey: Healing Together - LG-BTQ+ 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/.

Mar 16 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Maple Tasting and Tour (Hurry Hill Farm Maple Museum, 11424 Fry Rd, Edinboro, PA 16412) 9:30 AM. The Beans will be starting at Hurry Hill Farm and Museum. We will be there around 9:30 -9:45. The tour starts at 10 a.m. After we tour Hurry Hill, we will caravan to other maple houses. To see the list of the maple houses on the tour, go to pamaple.org.

Mar 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/.

Mar 16 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Like People in History by Felice Picano (Werner Books &

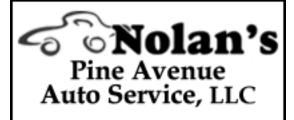
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# Inter January cyce National Stalking Awareness Month

Stalking victims from the LGBTQ+ community encounter distinct challenges, setting their experiences apart from those of their heterosexual counterparts. When assisting LGBTQ+ stalking victims, safety planning takes on a specialized approach. This involves considerations such as including hormones, HIV prevention, and necessary medications in a personalized "to go bag."

Adding another layer to the complexity, some LGBTQ+ victims find it challenging to disengage from current or former intimate partners due to limited dating experiences within the LGBTQ+ community. This underscores the need for tailored support and understanding of the unique aspects shaping the experiences of LGBTQ+ stalking victims.

Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

Mar 16 (Sat) - Zone Saturday Dance Party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. The party heats up with DJ Joe spinning the decks and MC Buffy hyping the crowd. Dance the night away in a sea of green! \$5 Cover Friday & Saturday / 21+ with ID

Mar 16 (Sat) - 13th Anniversary Party (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) \$6 cover charge, membership fee waived.

Mar 17 (Sun) - Journey: Healing Together - Gentle Yoga with Serene Bear Yoga (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM.

Mar 17 (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+.

Mar 17 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

Mar 17 (Sun) - Zone St. Patrick's Day (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. The main event! Deck out in green and join us for the ultimate St. Paddy's celebration. Bring your friends, wear your greenest gear, and let's make some magical Zone memories! 21+ with ID.

Mar 18 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner #113 (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.

Mar 19 (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.

Mar 19 (Tue) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 5 PM - 6 PM. For more information about the LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group, please call 814-451-2246.

Mar 20 (Wed) - National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was first observed in 2007. This day is observed on the first day of Spring each year. #NNHAAD Browse to https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/native.

Mar 20 - 24 (Wed - Sun) - Fourteenth Annual Keystone Conference - A Celebration of Gender Diversity (Harrisburg Hilton Hotel, One North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101) TransCentralPA, Pennsylvania's

largest and most impactful transgender organization, hosts this annual conference each year. As the keystone bridges and holds together associated entities, Transidentifying people do the same, and the Keystone Conference is a celebration of the unique diversity of gender and our central and unifying place in society.

Mar 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

Mar 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.

Mar 23 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) 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. Mar 23 (Sat) - Veronyca's Showgirls - Diva's Birthday Drag Bash (Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 119, 201 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760) 9 PM. Diva's Birthday Celebration Redo! \$7 door/\$5 COLOR/21+. Special guest - Sabrina Williams. Come on out to celebrate a drag icon's birthday! Special appearances from all over and a special guest from Buffalo, NY! Showtime 9 PM, doors open at 8 PM.

Mar 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. Volunteers are very much welcome and needed!

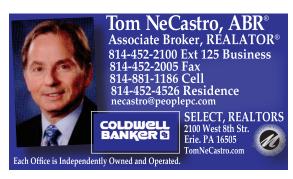
Mar 27 (Wed) – LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour – All welcome (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

Mar 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.

Mar 28 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social (Habibi Mediterranean Cuisine, 1127 W 14th St, Erie PA) 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 ac-

tivities, community and an active, enjoyable lifestyle. **Mar 28 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets** (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM.

Mar 31 (Sun) - International Transgender Day of Visibility The International TDoV is an annual holiday celebrated around the world. The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments and victories of transgender & gender non-conforming people while raising awareness of the work that is still needed to save trans lives.



# **Lake Erie Counseling, Inc.**

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