



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Pictured: Lining up for the 7th Annual HIV Awareness Walk on May 18. Photo by Michael Mahler

7th Annual HIV Awareness Walk

Gary Snyder, HIV Prevention, Erie County Department of Health

On Saturday, May 18, 2024, the Erie County HIV Task Force <http://www.echiv.org/> held the 7th Annual HIV / AIDS Awareness Walk. 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. The HIV / AIDS walk provides a reminder to the local community that making personal health a priority is everyone's right. This year's awareness walk also took place on the annual HIV Vaccine Awareness Day. This day is focused on the potential of a future where a vaccine is introduced to the world to prevent the spread of HIV altogether. This year's event returned to Perry Square and enjoyed a lovely turnout, where participants enjoyed educational materials and testing opportunities via the PA Thrive Partnership mobile unit at the event. Awareness walk attendees also could take available prevention materials from the task force members Community HealthNet and the Erie County Department of Health. For more infor-

mation on local services, testing, and free condoms, visit the Erie County HIV Task Force at ECHIV.ORG <https://echiv.org/> or follow their Twitter account [@EriePAHIV](https://twitter.com/EriePAHIV) <https://twitter.com/EriePAHIV> and like their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EriePAHIV>.

Aging With Pride Fundraiser on June 27

Enjoy a great meal and help support Aging With Pride activities. Dine at Primanti Bros. at the Millcreek Mall on Thursday, June 27th, from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, and 20% of your check will be donated to Aging With Pride. Visit AgingWithPrideErie.org/support/ and click on the link for the event flier, which you must show at the restaurant. You may either show the flier on your phone or print a copy to take with you. In conjunction with this event, Aging With Pride will host their monthly social that evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and all are welcome to attend. For more information about Aging With Pride, visit their website at AgingWithPrideErie.org or email daleallgeier@outlook.com.

PA LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment

Make your voice heard by filling out the PA LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment, a biannual survey conducted to evaluate health needs, health disparities, and barriers to care impacting LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians. Funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the PA LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment is seeking responses from members of the LGBTQ+ community about their own healthcare experiences and health needs as opposed to asking the healthcare professionals that serve LGBTQ+ people what those needs are.

Our goal is to put this data back into the hands of our community so it is actionable and has a tangible impact on the lives and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians. Once completed, the data from this

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**PLEASE
RECYCLE US!**



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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

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
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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! Andrea Shaffer, Audrey, Brooke Korb, David, Deb, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Joyce, Kim Conti, Kolton Mehlalko, Laurie Finch, Michael Mancinelli, Nelly, Rex Apps, Steve Siwiecki, and Wayne Howard for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Kolton Mehlalko, Rex Apps, Steve Siwiecki, and Wayne Howard for distribution; Wheel Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

survey will be made available to LGBTQ+ organizations across the state, providing them with vital information to help them plan programs, apply for grant funding, and advocate for LGBTQ+ health. Regional and demographic-specific data will be available upon request to any organization or governmental agency that needs it to better serve their community.

In 2022, more than 4,000 individuals participated in our survey, reflecting the vibrant and diverse LGBTQ+ community that calls Pennsylvania home. Since 2015, our state has been at the forefront of identifying and addressing disparities that affect the well-being of our community.

Please share this survey with your friends and family and help us continue to make a difference!

DIY Pride Night at Werner Books and Coffee on June 26

Werner Books and Coffee, 3608 Liberty Street, Erie, PA, is hosting a DIY Pride Night on Wednesday, June 26, from 5 to 7:30 PM. They are inviting folks to get ready for Pride with us. You can personalize your own buttons, signs, clothes, and other essentials! Some materials are provided, but they also encourage you to bring your own! Have fun and be creative in getting ready for Pride on the Bay at Liberty Park on Saturday, June 29.

Join the Celebration: Volunteer at Pride on the Bay 2024!

Are you ready to be part of something extraordinary? Pride on the Bay, the vibrant celebration of love, diversity, and equality, is coming to Liberty Park, and we need your help to make it a spectacular success!

On Saturday, June 29, Liberty Park will come alive with color, music, and joy as the LGBT+ community and allies gather to commemorate Pride Month. But to make this event truly unforgettable, we're calling on passionate individuals like you to lend us a hand.

Volunteering with us is more than just helping out; it's about being part of a movement that promotes acceptance and inclusion. Whether you're setting up the stage, ensuring the festivities run smoothly during Pride, or assisting with the teardown, your contribution will be invaluable.

We understand that you want to be part of the fun too! That's why we offer three convenient

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volunteer shifts: Set Up from 9a-11a, During Pride from 1p-3p, and Take Down from 4p-6p. This flexible scheduling allows you to support the event and still savor every moment of the festivities.

Are you part of an organization looking to make a difference together? Fantastic! Groups are more than welcome to join us and volunteer as a team.

Ready to be part of something bigger? Contact Bobbie Fenno at bfenno@nwpapride.org for more information, or sign up directly at nwpapride.org/volunteer. Let's come together and make Pride on the Bay 2024 an unforgettable celebration of love, unity, and acceptance. See you there!

End Discrimination Against LGBQ, Trans, and Nonbinary Pennsylvanians

Act Now! The Pennsylvania Senate is considering legislation to add sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to the commonwealths non-discrimination law. This update to the law is long overdue and has already passed the state House. Send a message to your state senator at <https://action.aclu.org/send-message/pa-senate-support-the-fairness-act>

While the commission that enforces the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act interprets sex discrimination to include sexual orientation and gender identity and expression and, thus, provides a way for LGBQ, trans, and nonbinary Pennsylvanians to challenge discrimination this bill is needed. When this bill is enacted, it will enshrine that protection into statute and make it much more difficult for a future governor to undo it.

This change in law is about basic fairness and dignity for LGBQ, transgender, and nonbinary Pennsylvanians, who should be able to go about their daily lives earning a living, putting a roof over their heads, having a meal at a restaurant without worrying about being mistreated or denied a service because of who they are.

The ACLU of Pennsylvania has advocated for this update to the law for nearly two decades. And we are closer than ever to making it happen. Please contact your state senator and ask them to vote yes on House Bill 300.

If HIV is on your mind, hope is in your hands.
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Pennsylvania

LGBTQ+

Health Needs
Assessment



RAISE YOUR VOICE FOR LGBTQ+ HEALTH

Participate in the 2024 assessment. Every person who takes the survey will help LGBTQ+ organizations develop programs that best serve our community.



English

Español

2024



bit.ly/2024lgbtq



bit.ly/2024lgbtq_s

LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group

LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group is for persons in recovery and now meets the First and Third THURSDAY of each month from 5 PM – 6 PM. (please note the date change). The group meets at UPMC Safe Harbor @ 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA. Use the front entrance for the meeting in the Disney Room. The group is open to anyone in the queer community or allies who would like support in their recovery – you do NOT have to be a UPMC client.

Those wishing to maintain anonymity will be able to do so. A big part of the group culture and rules will be around holding the confidentiality of our peers, as with most support groups, and in accordance with our community standard or respecting preferred names. For questions, call Michelle Wolf at 814-451-2277 or email at wolfme@upmc.edu.

Be Proud of Your MPX VAX

from Erie County Department of Health

Mpox cases are on the rise during 2024. Pride season is here, and the summer of 2022 saw a significant rise in cases. But you can get vaccinated to prevent the spread and infection. The Erie County Department of Health [ECDH] is providing both doses of JYNNEOS to the public during our weekly Sexual Health Clinic. For more information about mpox and for private, confidential vaccination at no cost, call 814-451-6700 at the Erie County Department of Health.

Starting in the summer of 2022, men who have sex with men in Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States saw an outbreak of a communicable disease that beforehand was seen mainly due to travel from Central or West Africa. Mpox, previously known as Monkeypox, is part of a family of viruses that cause disease in both humans and many types of animals. As of early May 2024, the US has seen over 760 confirmed cases compared to 335 cases at the same time one year prior, nearly double the previous amount. These cases and deaths are specific to the type of Mpox that spread in 2022. Due to ease of travel, exposure can be higher than ever before, and Erie County has confirmed cases of MPX in the past month.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends routine JYNNEOS vaccination of two doses for people 18 years and older at risk for mpox. This includes men who have sex with men, as

well as transgender or non-binary persons that have in the past six months had: one or more new sexually transmitted diseases, more than one partner, sex in association with a large public event, sex in exchange for money or other items, and individuals diagnosed with HIV. In addition, people who may have these experiences also are recommended to get both doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine.

Contact your family doctor to get vaccinated or give us a call at ECDH, 814-451-6700.

Building Bridges: Warren, PA LGBTQ+ Support Group “Life Gets Better Together” Thrives on Facebook

In the heart of Warren, Pennsylvania, a small town with big dreams, a digital sanctuary has emerged for the LGBTQ+ community. Founded by Emily Hannon, “Life Gets Better Together” is not just a Facebook group; it’s a lifeline, a source of support, and a beacon of hope for individuals who often feel marginalized in their own community.

In her own words, Emily Hannon reflects on the inspiration behind the group: “There are many wonderful reasons to live in a small town, but one of the drawbacks is that there is not much diversity. This leaves the most marginalized in our community feeling like they don’t belong.” It’s a sentiment echoed by many LGBTQ+ individuals in towns across America, where acceptance and understanding can sometimes feel scarce.

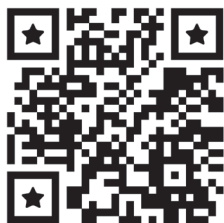
Through the power of social media, “Life Gets Better Together” transcends geographical boundaries, offering a virtual space where members can connect, share, and uplift one another. The Facebook group serves as a digital hub for support, where individuals can find solace in knowing they are not alone in their experiences.

One of the group’s primary aims is to provide a platform for mutual support. Members are encouraged to share their stories, struggles, and triumphs in a safe and judgment-free environment. Whether offering encouragement, providing resources for LGBTQ+ individuals, or simply lending a listening ear, the group fosters a sense of solidarity and compassion among its members.

Moreover, “Life Gets Better Together” serves as a conduit for sharing news, events, and information relevant to the LGBTQ+ community in Warren

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and beyond. From updates on local initiatives and the Warren County Pride Celebration to discussions on LGBTQ+ rights and advocacy efforts, the group ensures its members stay informed and engaged.

At its core, the group embodies the ethos of its name: life gets better together. Through collective encouragement and support, members are reminded that brighter days lie ahead and that there is strength in unity. Emily Hannon emphasizes this sentiment: "I want everyone to know that there is love and acceptance right at your door. Some churches welcome you with open arms. I know we have a long way to go, but it's a start."

Doug Hearn, a frequent contributor and administrator of Life Gets Better, states, "In the future, in addition to its online presence, "Life Gets Better Together" will organize offline events and activities to foster community and connection. These events allow members to forge meaningful relationships and create lasting bonds, from meet-ups and social gatherings to educational workshops and support sessions."

As Warren, PA, continues its journey towards greater inclusivity and acceptance, "Life Gets Better Together" stands as a testament to the resilience and spirit of its LGBTQ+ community. Through the power of social media and the unwavering dedication of its members, the group serves as a beacon of hope, proving that even in the smallest of towns, love, acceptance, and belonging can thrive.

Area Pride Celebrations

Pride in the CLE: Saturday, June 1, 11AM-6PM
www.lgbtcleveland.org
Mall B & C, Cleveland, OH

Pride in the CLE is a family-friendly event, with activities suitable for attendees of all ages. Adult beverages are available for purchase for those of legal drinking age and may be enjoyed on the Mall C side of the festival.

Attendees can look forward to a variety of activities, including a vibrant march through downtown Cleveland, live performances, entertainment, food, drinks, and vendor booths.

Performers: Cleveland's own Monica Lexin, Jace Blaze, Comatose Why-Wintour, Girl Cologne

Buffalo Pride: Sunday, June 2, 1-7PM
<http://www.buffalopride.org>
Canalside Buffalo 44 Prime St Buffalo, NY

Festivities begin with a parade stepping off at

11AM at Elmwood Ace and Forest Ave and ending at Elmwood Ave at Allen St.

Following the parade, the celebration of WNY's LGBTQ+ community continues featuring legendary performers, local eats, and fun for the whole family.

Featured entertainment will be Monét X Change, Jason Kendig, DJ Brei, DJ Deb, and there will even be an appearance by Ashley Darby of The Real Housewives of Potomac. Plus, local performers, vendors, food and drinks.

Tickets are on sale now!

General Admission advance is \$10 (plus fees)
Premium Lounge advance is \$45 (plus fees)

Jamestown Pride: Saturday, June 8, 9AM-11PM
<http://www.jamestownpride.org/>
Jamestown Public Market, Jamestown, NY

Jamestown Pride is held in cooperation with the Jamestown Public Market and will highlight local vendors, live music, drag and other performances, resources and education for the community, anti-stigma campaign, and youth committee. There will be other events in Jamestown and Chautauqua County to celebrate the inclusiveness that is PRIDE. Look for details on our social media pages and website.

Featured entertainers at Jamestown Pride will be Thee Suburbia, Shuga Cain from season 11 of RuPaul's Drag Race and Ella Fartzgerald in the Winter Garden Plaza

Ashtabula Pride: Saturday, June 15, 11AM-9PM
<http://www.ashtabulapride.org>
Bridge St, Ashtabula, OH

Live entertainment will be provided by Lotz Productions, LLC. featuring hostess Mona Lotz and Company. Drag performances by Daniel Vasquez, Keyanna Diamond, Gingerella, and so many more along with bands and other entertainment throughout the day.

There will also be food vendors, artisans, crafters and shops to check out. Special VIP packages are available for purchase to get specials and swag bags.

Warren Pride: Saturday, June 15, 11AM-4PM
warrencountypride.wixsite.com/website
Betts Park, Warren, PA

A large variety of vendors and food trucks will be on hand. There will also be a variety of contests



from cosplay to best costumes for humans and pets. Still want more fun than how about a game of limbo, musical chairs or get ready to call out BINGO during Miss Kristy Kremer's Drag Queen Bingo.

Featured performers will be: Miss Willa DeWhisp, Miss Jessica Rabbit, Mister E, Kinzie Pinchwhistle, Miss Kristy Kremer, XNX, Eva Lution

Venango Pride in the Park 2024: Saturday, June 22, 11AM-3PM

Hassan Park

This is a free family/pet friendly event. Find more information on the event Facebook page. Click going or interested to get updates on the schedule of events for the day.

Shenango Valley Pride Picnic, Saturday, June 22, 12-4PM

Buhl Park Shelter 4

svpridepicnic.org

Come hang out and get to know other people in your LGBTQIA community and Allies for a day of judgement free good times. The day will have games, raffles, giveaways and food trucks. Please bring cash for the raffles and small bills would be appreciated.

2nd Annual Pride & Joy event: Friday, June 28, 7PM

August Wilson African American Cultural Center, Pittsburgh

This event celebrates the pride, resilience, and empowerment of Black queer individuals. It is a gathering of love, support, and celebration for the Black LGBTQIA+ community, honoring their unique experiences, identities, and contributions. Come together with friends, allies, and community members to enjoy a night filled with music, performances, and fun. This is an 18+ event.

Pride in the Park, Saturday, June 29, 12-4PM

War Vets Park, Olean, NY

Show your true colors with Pride in the Park. A fun time for all with music, vendors, entertainment featuring Veronyca's Showgirls and so much more. This is a family-friendly event and everyone is welcome.

Performances by Justin, Dakota, Landen, Willow, Damian, and Camden Summers (Mr. Gay Virginia United States MI).

Erie Pride on the Bay, Saturday June 29 12-6PM
Liberty Park and Amphitheater, Erie
<http://www.nwpapride.org>

Pride on the Bay (formerly Erie Pridefest) will take place this year on June 29th at the new location of Liberty Park. Free shuttle services provided by EMTA will start at 10:30am and run until 7pm from the Intermodal Transportation Center and the Thomas C. Hoffman Bayfront Hub located at 12th and Lincoln Ave.

Gates will open at 12pm. Welcome and kick off on the Erie Insurance Mainstage to begin at 1pm.

There will be info tables and vendors along with performances by local drag performers and other performers on the Erie Insurance Main Stage. HIV/STI and other health providers will be in the Adagio Health Health and Wellness Zone. Food will be available from local food trucks in the Central Outreach Picnic Area. This event is family friendly and open to all ages at no cost.

Performances by headliner Ada Vox, Rebecca Mae, Shae D'Heaux (Miss Erie 2023), Rocky Switch, Debbie, Misty Michaels Kall, Cherry Fallwell, Priscilla Godzilla, Alysia Wonderland, Pissi Gabune, Snarebear and Tammy Joe Hammertoe.

Erie Pride Parade, Sunday, June 30, 1PM
11th and State St

<http://www.nwpapride.org>

Registration is required, whether you are an organization or just want to walk with some of your friends, and can be found at the website above. Step



Meadville Happy Hour on April 24 at Julian's Bar and Grill. Photo by Michael Mahler.



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MORE INFO
NWPA PRIDE.ORG/INFO



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off will be at 11th and State and proceed north to Perry Square.

Crawford County Pride Saturday, July 13, 12-5:30PM

Diamond Park, Meadville

In addition to vendors and crafters there will be live entertainment by Odd Atrocity and Nancy Boys, a pet food and supply drive for Crawford County Humane Society, and a fundraiser for Epilepsy Foundation of America presented by Scents2Love and Haus Of Michaels Productions. This event is free and family friendly. For more information, check out the event on Facebook.

Meadville Pride and Street Fair, Saturday, July 27, 1PM-5PM

Chestnut St

<http://www.nwpapride.org>

Opening ceremonies will take place at the gazebo in Diamond Park with speeches and performances. Then there will be a march around the park emptying into the Street Fair of local vendors and Crafters



Just before Cinco De Mayo, G2H2 held their monthly get together on Friday, May 3, at El Amigo Mexican Grill, State Street, Erie, PA. The group meets the first Friday of each month. 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 Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 1603 W 32 St. Erie PA 16508. For more information, visit www.aaeriepa.org or contact jmwilliams3603@aol.com or (814) (814) 844-2600.

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 Fierce Fridays 2.0, 133 W 18th St, 10:30 PM. With special guests every week. Doors open at 8 pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

May 3 -25 (Fri - Sat) -I F*cked You In My Spaceship by **Louis Emmitt-Stern** (Compass Performing Arts Center, 545 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222) By Buffalo United Artists. Two couples each invite a stranger into their homes in the hope of sparking new life. Instead, they find themselves threatened by invasion.

May 22 (Wed) - Harvey Milk Day Celebrated to honor Harvey Milk, assassinated politician, on his birthday, it is celebrated officially in California, Milk's home state. Browse to <http://milkfoundation.org/>.

May 22 (Wed) - HRC Virtual Pre-Pride Kickoff Event (Zoom) 6:30 PM - 8 PM. Join HRC members and supporters from across the state of Pennsylvania to socialize and learn about different ways you can get involved in Pride Month activities!

May 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.

May 23 (Thu) - Venango PRIDE in the Park Planning Meeting (formerly known as Karma Coffee), 237 Seneca St, Oil City, PA) 5 PM. Calling all Venango County PRIDE allies! We're excitedly preparing for a volunteer-led Venango PRIDE in the Park 2024, and we need YOUR creative input to ensure its success! If



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you're able to help with contacting potential vendors and entertainment, organizing the setup, volunteering on the day of the event, or have any creative ideas to enhance the celebration, we're excited to hear from you! Let's make Venango shine with PRIDE! ? #venangopride #VenangoCounty #venangoprideinthepark

May 23 (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.

May 24 (Fri) - Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day This is a day to celebrate the pansexual and panromantic community and educate others on the community. Browse to <https://thepancommunity.tumblr.com/faq>.

May 24 (Fri) - Drag Show (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) Doors open at 9:30 PM, show starts at 10 PM. Performers are Willow Dark, Xeri, Lextasy Lightning, Nova, and Lenny Hastits. \$6 cover. BYOB.

May 25 (Sat) - Pride Prom 2024 (Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center, 7794 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16509) 7 PM - 11 PM. Tickets are \$30. (\$25 If purchased prior to 4/1/24) This event is open to anyone 18 years of age and older. Appetizers and cash bar (21+ only) will be available. Music will be provided by DJ Dave Rapp. For the safety of those in attendance, security has been hired.

May 26 (Sun) - Pittsburgh Pride Bigger Gayer Picnic (Allegheny Commons Park West, 810 Arch St, Pittsburgh, PA 15212) 1 PM - 7 PM. MUST BE 18+ TO ATTEND / 21+ TO DRINK. MUST HAVE PROPER ID TO ATTEND. NO OUTSIDE LIQUOR OR BEER IS PERMITTED AT THIS EVENT/. Join us for an exceptional Memorial Day weekend at our Inaugural Event, the BIGGER GAYER PICNIQ. We guarantee an unforgettable experience as your admission provides access to a delightful picnic buffet showcasing an array of options, including vegan options. As well as a phenomenal drag extravaganza at 4 pm. Quench your thirst at our bars, offering a selection of your favorite cocktails, beers, and seltzers. Complimentary soft drinks and water will also be readily available. Please bear in mind to consume responsibly and ensure a safe journey home - never drink and drive. Let's come together to make this Memorial Day weekend truly special!

May 28 (Tue) - ASCEND Erie Queer Scouts Climbing Club (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Queer Scouts is an LGBTQ+ climbing

club with the goal of creating connection and a safer and more inclusive community. Just look for the Queer Scout mascot, the tiny rainbow unicorn!

May 30 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social (Underdog BBQ, 2714 W 8th St, 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.

May 30 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM.

Jun 1 - 30 (Sat - Sun) - LGBT Pride Month June is celebrated as Pride in honor of the Stonewall Riots, though Pride events occur all year round. It also marks the month that same-sex marriage was legalized in the United States.

Jun 1 (Sat) - Art in Bloom: Dreams of Hope 20th Anniversary Extravaganza (Schenley Plaza, Emerald Lawn, 4100 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206) 3 PM - 7 PM. Join Dreams of Hope's anniversary celebration, commemorating two decades of empowering LGBTQIA+ youth through the power of the arts. Meet and mingle with dozens of artists, alum, and young creatives from Dreams of Hope's diverse community. The family-friendly event will feature activities, art displays, live performances, food kiosks, vendors, a merry-go-round, and (of course) music and dancing!

Jun 2 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM - 3 PM. Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride.

Jun 2 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 6 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form.

Jun 2 (Sun) - VAIN: ERIE featuring Raja from RuPaul's Drag Race (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Come join us for our VERY FIRST VAIN - a night of glamour, drag, and celebration with the one and only RAJA, winner of RuPaul's Drag Race, Hosted by Lola LeCroix! Get ready for an unforgettable evening filled with fierce performances, fabulous music, and a whole lot of love and PRIDE. Let's make this the best Pride yet and party the night away together, ERIE! Don't miss out on this INCREDIBLE INAUGURAL EVENT - see you there! Doors open 6 PM, VIP Meet & Greet 7 PM, show at 8:30 PM.

Jun 6 (Thu) - 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 814-451-2247.

Jun 5 (Wed) - HIV Long-Term Survivors Day This day celebrates and honors long-term survivors of the epidemic and raises awareness of their needs, issues and journeys.

Jun 5 (Wed) - Pride Happy Hour Cruise (Victorian Princess, 1 W Dobbins Landing, Erie, PA 16507) 5:30 PM. Get ready to celebrate love, acceptance, and Pride Month in style! Join us aboard the Victorian Princess for a special Happy Hour Cruise on Lake Erie. Immerse yourself in the vibrant energy of Pride as we sail through the stunning waters of Lake Erie. Dance to the beats of our amazing DJ, who will be spinning a mix of pulsating tunes to keep the party going all evening long! Sip on fabulous drink specials and indulge in delectable light appetizers specially curated to tantalize your taste buds. Our bartenders will be serving up creative concoctions that are sure to make your taste buds dance with delight!

Jun 5 (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.

Jun 5 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ Drum Circle (St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 410 North Main Street, Jamestown, NY 14701) 7 PM - 8:30 PM.

Jun 6 (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>.

Jun 7 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Pier 6 Rooftop Bar & Restaurant, 6 Sassafras Pier, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. All Are Welcome!

Jun 8 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Group Bimonthly Meeting (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 9 PM. Changing rooms will be available if needed.

Jun 8 (Sat) - Jamestown Pride (Various locations) A full day of events! See the complete schedule at <https://www.mhachautauqua.org/jamestownpride/events>

Jun 8 (Sat) - Pride Show - A Family Friendly Drag Show (Brazil Craft Beer & Wine Lounge, 10 E 4th St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. Free. Hosted by Exxotica Splash. Miss Gay Jamestown 2024. Performers are Katrina Twerk Island, Fantasee Island, and October Selene Island. Presented by LIPS Poppin Productions

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Jun 8 (Sat) - Sneakers Pride Party (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 8-11 PM Burlesque Show by Pop a Pastie Productions (\$5 cover charge.) 12 AM - Close DJ Bad Weekend.

Jun 9 (Sun) - A Brunch of Drag: Pride Edition (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 11 AM. Get ready for Pride 2024 with a Bang! Join hosts Alysinn Wonderland and DJ Tony G for the first of our 2024 Brunches - sponsored by Central Outreach Erie and Eire Food Co-Op! Featuring Saint from Dragula: Season 3, Resurrection, and Season 4. With performances by Anhedonia Delight, Rebecca Mae, Shea D'Heaux, and Misty Michaels Kall. Tickets: \$25 (+ 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: 11 am. Showtime: 12 pm. 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)

Jun 10 (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



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Mental Health Awareness Month

In the LGBTQ+ community, mental health is not just a personal concern; it's a vital aspect of community well-being. Facing stigma, discrimination, and societal pressures, LGBTQ+ individuals often contend with unique challenges that can significantly impact their mental well-being. From navigating identity acceptance to confronting prejudice and facing inequalities in healthcare, the journey toward self-acceptance and authentic living can be fraught with emotional turmoil. Therefore, fostering a supportive environment that embraces diversity, promotes acceptance, and provides accessible mental health resources is essential. Acknowledging and addressing the intersectionality of identities within the LGBTQ+ community is crucial for promoting mental health equity and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive and live authentically.

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meeting info.

Jun 11 (Tue) - ASCEND Erie Queer Scouts Climbing Club (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Queer Scouts is an LGBTQ+ climbing club with the goal of creating connection and a safer and more inclusive community. Just look for the Queer Scout mascot, the tiny rainbow unicorn! Bring your authentic self and enjoy an evening of climbing and fun! We'll climb some walls and get to know each other. Club meetups are open to allies as well! Enjoy a discounted day pass when you attend a club meetup, and look out for our FREE QFTW Affinity Sessions every other month. No climbing experience is necessary, and your climbing shoes and chalk rental are free the first time you visit ASCEND. Check out the full club's schedule at [AscendClimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule](https://ascendclimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule)

Jun 11 (Tue) - TransFamily of NWPA (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335) 6:30 PM. For GPS use: the address is 296 Chestnut Street - it's the old post office building. Our entrance is on the side of the building, off of Federal court (which is the smaller side street.) We are basically across the street from Julian's.

Jun 11 (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.

Jun 11 (Tue) - Film "Mary: Her Journey from Pain to Purpose" (Parma-Snow Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library, 2121 Snow Rd, Parma, OH 44134) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. "Mary: Her Journey from Pain to Purpose" is a powerful documentary that aims to enlighten and uplift, providing a personal example to help people who are either questioning their own identity or trying to understand what their friend or loved one is experiencing. By sharing Mary's personal narrative, we strive to foster awareness, challenge stereotypes, and promote understanding and acceptance of transgender individuals. Embark on the extraordinary journey of Mary, a courageous transgender woman who faced an era when the world lacked knowledge and support in helping her understand her true identity. From a challenging upbringing to the trials of adulthood, Mary encountered cultural backlash, violence, shame, and successfully concealed her secrets. Despite these hardships, she fearlessly served her country in the military,

worked as a police officer, and dedicated herself as a missionary.

Jun 11 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Jun 12 (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.

Jun 12 (Wed) - Pulse Night of Remembrance Annual day of US remembrance for the loss of 49 people in the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida on June 12, 2016.

Jun 15 (Sat) - Deadline for Erie Gay News July 2024 print edition (#343) (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, June 25.

Jun 15 (Sat) - Warren County Pride (Betts Park, 100 Ludlow St, Warren, PA 16365) 11 AM - 4 PM. Family-friendly event. All are welcome! Food, vendors, games, contests, shows.

Jun 15 (Sat) - Ashtabula Pride Festival 2024 (Walnut Beach, West First Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004) 12 PM. Yoga on the beach at 10:30, and the festival gates open

at 11:30, with opening ceremonies beginning at 12:00!

Jun 15 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Maurice by E. M. Forster (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

Jun 15 (Sat) - Warren Pride After Dark (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY 14701) Pride-themed costume contest. Karaoke 9 PM- 1 AM.

Jun 16 (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+.

Jun 16 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM - 3 PM. Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride.

Jun 18 (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.

Jun 20 (Thu) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor,

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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, 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 814-451-2247.

Jun 20 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner #116 (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.

Jun 20 (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

Jun 20 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok.

Jun 21 (Fri) - 40 Shades of Purple (Erie Art Museum, 411 State St, Erie, PA 16501-1106) 6:30 PM - 10 PM. Join us for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate our founder's 40th birthday and the impactful work of Compton's Table in supporting our local queer community. Hosted by Erie's 40 under 40 drag queen, Rebecca Mae, this cocktail attire event promises a night of elegance and entertainment. We encourage you to dress and accessorize in our theme colors of purple, gold, and white to add to the festive atmosphere. Enjoy live music by local musicians, groove to beats by our DJ, and participate in a silent auction to support our cause. Indulge in delicious hors d'oeuvres and raise a glass at our cash bar. Together, let's toast to pride and progress as we raise money for Compton's Table.

Jun 21 (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.

Jun 22 (Sat) - Venango PRIDE in the Park 2024 (Hasson Park, 249 Park Rd, Oil City, PA 16301) 11 AM - 3 PM. Join us on for the first Venango Pride in the Park event! This is a FREE family/pet friendly event. Join us for a fun day of community celebrating our LGBTQ+ neighbors, friends and family!

Jun 22 (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).

Jun 22 (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.

Jun 22 (Sat) - Rainbow Revolution Pride Fest 2024 (Island Park, W Dyke St, Wellsville, NY 14895) 12 PM - 4 PM. Join us for a joyous day of honoring love and liberation! Everyone is welcome to celebrate Allegany County's first-ever Pride Festival. Music, vendors, art, family fun, community connection. For more information or if you are interested in volunteering or becoming a vendor, email reachout@calccrew.com or message us on Facebook or Instagram. Sponsored by Cattaraugus-Allegany Liberation Collective

Jun 22 (Sat) - Shenango Valley Pride Picnic (Buhl Park, 715 Hazen Rd, Hermitage, PA 16148) 12 PM. Come join us for our Annual Pride Celebration with games, raffles, giveaways, and food trucks for purchase. Come hang out and get to know other people in your LGBTQIA community and Allies For a day of judgment-free, nothing but love for each other, fun day out. Please bring cash for Raffles. Small bills are preferred. Hope to see you there.

Jun 23 (Sun) - Journey: Healing Together - Gentle Yoga with Serene Bear Yoga (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM.

Jun 25 (Tue) - ASCEND Erie Queer Scouts Climbing Club (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM.

Jun 25 (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!

Jun 26 (Wed) - DIY Pride Craft Night (Werner Books & Coffee, 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 7:30 PM. Get ready for Pride with us! Personalize your own buttons, signs, clothes, and other essentials! Some materials provided, but we encourage you to bring your own as well!

Jun 26 (Wed) – LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour – All welcome (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 42243 Water St., Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

Jun 27 (Thu) - National HIV Testing Day National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) was first observed on June 27, 1995. NHTD is a day to encourage people to get tested for HIV, know their status, and get linked to care and treatment. #HIVTestingDay

Jun 27 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social Hour & Fundraiser (Primanti Brps Restaurant and Bar, 5800 Peach St, Erie PA) 6 PM. Primanti Bros. is donating 20% of checks (excluding alcohol) to Aging with Pride. Must present flyer when ordering in-person or online,

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

Jun 27 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM.

Jun 28 (Fri) - Stonewall Riots Anniversary To remember the Stonewall Riots that are described as the start of the Trans and Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. It's a day for people to remember the biracial lesbian and drag king Stormé DeLarverie whose scuffle with the police started the rebellion, and the trans woman of colour Marsha P. Johnson who would have thrown the first brick.

Jun 29 (Sat) - Olean's Pride in the Park (War Veterans Park, 551 E State St, Olean, NY 14760) 12 PM - 4 PM. COLORS and Veronyca's Showgirls collaborate with Cattaraugus County Pride Coalition. Veronyca's Showgirls to grace the stage at 230p. Hosted by: Veronyca DeVaine-Paige and Justin Tyme (Mr. Northeast USofA MI Classic 2024) Performances by Justin, Dakota, Landen, Willow, Damian, and Camden Summers (Mr. Gay Virginia United States MI)

Jun 29 (Sat) - Pride On The Bay (Liberty Park, Lawrence Pier, Erie, PA 16507) 12-6 PM.

Jun 30 (Sun) - Erie Pride Parade Line up noon, step off 1 PM



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