



# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



*Snarebear, Pissi Gibune, Cherry Falwell, and Debbie with Meadville Pride attendees in Diamond Park on July 27, 2024. Photo by Michael Mahler*

## Meadville Pride

NW PA Pride Alliance hosted the third annual Meadville Pride in Diamond Park on Saturday, July 27. Board president Alex Sphon hosted opening ceremonies. Attendees were then treated to drag performances by Debbie, Pissi Gabune, Snarebear, and Meadville's own Cherry Falwell.

## Coffee Social for LGBTQ+ Veterans

The Erie VA Medical Center LGBTQ+ Program and Peer Support are hosting a Coffee Social for LGBTQ+ Veterans Friday, October 18 at 10 a.m. at Perkins Restaurant (4403 Peach St, Erie, PA 16509). The Coffee Social is meant to bring Erie's local LGBTQ+ Veterans together to connect and foster ongoing relationships of support and friendship. The group will start off with facilitation by Erie VA staff, Brittany and Alisha, with the goal to be an independently run community Veteran group for like-minded individuals. Please call Brittany Miklos at 814-844-5944 or Alisha Mackey at 814-860-2174 for more information and updates on event location and time. This group will plan to meet on the 3rd Friday of every month. Times are subject to change based on availability. For more information and updates, visit [www.erie.va.gov](http://www.erie.va.gov) or <https://www.facebook.com/VAMCErie/>

## 25th Anniversary Lake Erie Gala

The 25th anniversary of the Lake Erie GALA will be held November 13-17 at Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, 55 West Bay Drive, Erie, PA. The Lake Erie Gala attracts crossdressers, transgender persons, and their loved ones from across North America and beyond. Erie Sisters and Brothers Transgender Support Group organizes this event. Info and reservations are at [lakeeriegala.com](http://lakeeriegala.com)

GALA was moved back one week in hopes that the earlier date will have better weather. For this anniversary year, the GALA will be moving the format back to being more interactive and social.

## Ashtabula Pride on June 15

The 4th Annual Pride Festival of Ashtabula County on June 15 was nothing less than a successful event once again. Hundreds of LGBTQ+ community members and their allies flocked to the shores of Lake Erie at Ashtabula's Walnut Beach, a new location for the event. President and founder Michael Riffe, the event's MC as local drag queen and live singer Mona Lotz, said, "Each year it just keeps getting better. Since our first year at the Hamper Family Farm in 2020, where we were astonished by the nearly 3,000 attendees, to now making our new home at Walnut Beach, we keep growing and growing." Riffe continued, "We had over 100 vendors this year who told us this was their best year yet, some even stating that this was the best festival for sales they had ever been to. We also added some amazing family fun events like the 18-foot blow-up slide and 'ax throwing' game, along with characters like Spider-Man and Ariel from Castel on a Cloud Entertainment." Riffe said another crowd favorite was the balloon artist from Flower Clown Entertainment, who created just about anything the kids could ask for. He said the "smiles on everyone's faces, despite the small hurdles they faced in preparation from local protestors, confirmed the event's need for the community and was worth it all! The day also included entertainment provided by Lotz Productions, which included local and native solo artists like Rob Covert and Sue Hagan, Ohio drag performers, a group of teens singing show tunes

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**Erie Gay News**

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

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

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

## EGN Rates & Data

<b>QUARTER PAGE</b>	<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>HALF PAGE VERTICAL</b>
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AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	15/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$80 - \$72 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
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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, David, Deb, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Laurie Finch, Maggie Watts, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Andrea Shaffer, Brett Staskiewicz, David, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for distribution; Whee! Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

from Lakeside High School as well as bands such as Lymewire from Conneaut. Next year's festival is planned for June 21 at the same location. The plans have already begun to expand, making the festival one that will continue to rewrite history for Ashtabula County.

## Compton's Table Launches Mural Project

On July 31st, Compton's Table hosted a mural planning event that brought together over a dozen queer youth and young adults, dedicated board members, and two enthusiastic community volunteers. The gathering focused on mapping out a revamp design for Compton's Closet, a crucial service that Compton's Table is eager to reopen.

Compton's Closet provides community members with free access to gender-affirming clothing and hygiene products, a vital resource for many in the queer community. The mural project aims to visually represent the inclusive and supportive spirit of Compton's Table, reflecting the organization's commitment to eradicating systemic barriers for queer and gender nonconforming youth and young adults.

Participants at the event collaborated on the mural's design, ensuring it captures the diverse experiences and identities within the community. This initiative marks a significant step in revitalizing Compton's Closet and underscores Compton's Table's ongoing dedication to fostering a welcoming and affirming environment for all.

Stay tuned for more updates as the mural project progresses and Compton's Closet prepares to reopen its doors, continuing to support and uplift the queer community.



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## Registration now open! Group Therapy Fall Session

*from Journey to a Trauma Informed Life*

As summer winds down, we're looking forward to the cozy days of autumn and the start of our fall group therapy sessions! We invite you to join us in a supportive and compassionate space where we can connect, share, and grow together. Our sessions offer a chance to be part of a community that values every voice and every story. Let's embrace the transformative power of connection this fall.

This Fall session, we will be offering our two most popular groups, Art Therapy and Journey Through the Shadows | Intro to Shadow Work! Most insurances are accepted.

Enrollment Deadline is Saturday, August 31, 2024.

Fall Session Start Dates:

Art Therapy | Monday, September 16, 2024

Journey Through the Shadows | Thursday, September 19, 2024

ALL groups are In-Person Groups with appropriate safety and health precautions.

Location: Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, 201 W. 11th St. Erie, PA 16502

To apply, visit <https://atraumainformedlife.com/group-therapy/>

## Alex Sphon Stepping Down From Pride Board at End of 2024

*From Alex Sphon:* In April, I made the decision to step away from the NWPAPride Board at the end of 2024. This decision hasn't been made lightly. I'm beyond proud of the growth of this organization over the last 13 years I have served as a board member. During this time, NWPAPride Alliance became a 501(c)3 nonprofit, navigated a global pandemic and expanded its event calendar from 2 events annually to over 30 events.

Serving as President for the last nine years has been one of hardest and most enjoyable experiences possible. I'm grateful for all the amazing people I've connected with and the memories created. I've seen new events created like the Pride Prom and Pride Nights, with local sports teams coming to experience. These events have created welcoming and safe spaces outside of the traditional Pride month. We launched

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Meadville Pride which gave a space for queer individuals in Crawford County to celebrate Pride. I also spearheaded over 12 givebacks like food drives, book drives, and warm item drives. Making Erie Queer Community more visible year-round.

Over the last two years, my life has changed, and so have my goals, passion, and objectives. While I plan to continue to advocate for the NWPA queer community in the future, I plan to do it with an organization more aligned with this phase of my life.

Thanks to all those who support me on this incredible journey.

## Erie Pride 365 Pride in July Block Party

On July 27, 2024, Erie Pride 365 proudly hosted its inaugural “Pride in July” block party, joining forces with Central Outreach, Erie’s Black Wall Street, and Compton’s Table for a vibrant celebration of diversity. The event featured captivating performances by Shea D’Heaux, Valerie R Valentino, Rocky Switch, Nancy Boys, and headliner Mook Dawg. Attendees enjoyed a dynamic mix of local

vendors, food trucks, and an emphasis on voter registration. “Pride in July” showcased local talent and highlighted the importance of community engagement and inclusivity.



*Attendees at Erie Pride 365’s Block Party at 3104 State Street, Erie PA on July 27, 2024.*

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## Erie Community Continues to Give!

This year's annual Erie Gives event was held on Tuesday, August 13, lasting a full 24 hours. All told, \$8,695,723 was raised to benefit 513 local nonprofits. Among those who benefited are the local Queer nonprofits listed below.

Compton's Table - \$2,943

Erie Pride 365 - \$278

Greater Erie Alliance for Equality - \$7,513

Journey Healing Together - \$1,700

LGBT Community Endowment - \$35,658

NW PA Pride Alliance - \$3,648

## Governor's Commission on LGBTQ Affairs Meeting and Reception

On August 8, 2024, the Governor's Commission on LGBTQ Affairs traveled from across the commonwealth to attend their quarterly meeting in the PA State Library in Harrisburg! Afterward, we had the joy of meeting with the other advisory commissions at the Governor's Residence for a night of camaraderie, celebration, and strategizing! Stay tuned for some big things, and make sure to follow

all commissions to stay up to date with ongoing initiatives! The Governor's Commissions are listed at <https://www.pa.gov/en/governor/governor-shapiros-commissions.html>, with links to their social media. The six commissions are the Advisory Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, the Advisory Commission on Asian American & Pacific Islander Affairs, The Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs, the Advisory Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, the Advisory Commission on Next Generation Engagement, and the Advisory Commission on Women.



*Members of the Governor's Commission on LGBTQ Affairs in the PA State Library in Harrisburg on August 8, 2024.*



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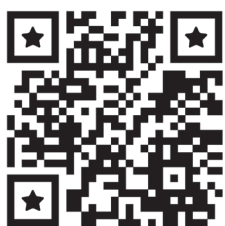
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## Aging With Pride Dinner at Wooden Ladle

On Thursday, July 25, 2024, Aging With Pride met for their monthly dinner at Wooden Ladle, 4753 West Lake Road, Erie, PA. The restaurant was very welcoming and even had balloons with the group's initials and rainbow decorations by the table. The food was excellent! The group usually goes out for dinner together on the last Thursday of each month at a different restaurant.



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The Mental Health Association of Northwestern PA (MHA) is an organization founded by people served in the mental health and drug & alcohol systems. MHA has been helping people in the Erie community for over 30 years! MHA serves mental health consumers over 18 years of age residing within Erie County. Some services we provide are:

- **Consumer Recovery/Drop-In Center**
- **Peer Navigators at the Blasco Library**
- **Peer Support Services**
- **Consumer Family Satisfaction Team**
- **External (Patient) Advocate at Warren State Hospital**

The Consumer Recovery Center provides the opportunity for adults who are consumers of mental health services to interact with peers in social, educational, and recreational activities in an environment in which they feel safe and respected.

**Activities/services provided include but are not limited to:**

Free daily lunch	Arts & Crafts
Free access to WIFI	Laundry facilities
Computer lab	Shower facilities
Bowling field trips	Movie field trips
Game, pool, and Card Tournaments	Grocery Shopping
N/A and A/A Group Meetings	Locker Facilities

**Consumer Center Hours of Operation:**

Monday:	9:00 AM – 3:45 PM
Tuesday:	9:00 AM – 3:45 PM
Wednesday:	10:00 AM – 3:45 PM
Thursday:	9:00 AM – 3:45 PM
Friday:	9:00 AM – 3:45 PM

**MHA Mission Statement**

*The Mental Health Association provides support and advocacy to those in Recovery – to be themselves and to feel accepted and connected to others with shared experiences.*

## Princess of Positivity Pop Keeana Kee is the Future of Festivals

The Dinah, a 33-years strong lesbian pool party, has long been a destination for sapphics looking to unwind. Brooklyn-based lesbian pop superstar, Keeana Kee first appeared at The Dinah in 2023 as a performer. Slated to appear again in 2024 as a celebrity guest, this Latvian-born olive-skinned smile factory is exactly the ambassador an event like this hopes for. Listening to one of her songs is like a short vacation. Her debut single “Coconut Rum and Coke” is a not only a lesbian love story but also summer anthem giving beachy reggae vibes. Poolside revelers at the four-day desert festival will attest a refreshing tropical drink is invaluable.

The music of Keeana Kee, Spanish-influenced with pop-soul leanings, is party-ready. Famous for playing LGBTQIA clubs and festivals the world over, Kee’s beats are largely provided by Mila Tina, a Chilean American master of multiple styles of drumming.

Kee’s advice for newbies to The Dinah is to “bring only your true self.” “You will feel free. You will feel safe. Like you are in paradise.” She emphasized that everyone is welcoming and positive and warm and not just because it’s Palm Springs where temperatures will likely exceed 100 degrees each day.

Kee is a truly cheerful person and willing to collaborate with anyone. She invited remixes of her hit song “Goddess” and presently has thirteen and counting and loves them all for different reasons. She emulates Sia in her voice and sultry appearance, but where Sia’s persona serves mysterious melancholy, Kee’s brand is more about abundant cheer. A smile that steals her whole face is audible when you hear her sing as well as in her speaking voice. The smile widened when we spoke about her recent award. Designated a 2023 LGBTQ Emerging Artist through CitiBank’s Music Forward program, in collaboration with House of Blues and Live Nation Entertainment, Kee proudly received a ten thousand dollar grant to further her creative endeavors. “It was a surprise and an honor,” she said, and immediately put the money towards producing more music.

Overwhelming positivity and themes of overcoming obstacles pervade her lyrics. Her video “TikTok” features delicious Brazilian capoeira dancers and the affirmation that “your body and mind are your zone.” Salacious hit, “Numb” features an all-lesbian cast in a prison setting and is, of course,

a love story. It features rapper Dai Burger, DJ Citizen Jane, and artist Ariana Castelli. And for those who celebrate Christmas, Kee’s gift to us released in 2023 is a revamped “Baby It’s Cold Outside.” Creatively reworded to emphasize consent and partnered with another outstanding lady vocalist, Maggie Collier, the tune is every bit as festive as the original but spares us the non-consent. Kee has worked in print modeling and has been courted by Netflix for a reality show, but her sights are set on signing to a record label and she hopes to be able to go on tour.

The Dinah runs September 25 through 29, 2024 and, with a wink, Kee says, “you’ll feel like you’ve known the people there forever and like you’re there with family.” She’ll be the one with the biggest smile and see you there.

<https://www.instagram.com/keanakeemusic/>

<https://www.instagram.com/milatina.official/>

<https://musicforwardfoundation.org/emerging-artist-award/>

## 31st Annual Pride Picnic

Summer is the traditional time for family picnics. For 31 years, the NW PA Pride Alliance has hosted the Erie Pride Picnic, most recently at the Rotary Pavilion on Presque Isle on August 10, 2024. This year, roughly 160 were able to attend, receive information from local community groups, and take a chance to win one of the many raffle baskets on hand.



*Annual Family Portrait and friends enjoying the potluck picnic at 31st Annual Erie Pride Picnic on August 8 at Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle.*

# Calendar

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

*Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 1603 W 32 St, Erie PA 16508. For more information, visit [www.aaeriepa.org](http://www.aaeriepa.org) or contact [jmwilliams3603@aol.com](mailto: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 Flawless Fridays, 133 W 18th St, 10:30 PM. This season featuring fabulous drag performers from across the nation! Plus special nights you don't want to miss! Doors open at 8 pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.*

**Aug 24 (Sat) - Pride In The Park** (War Veterans Park, 551 E State St, Olean, NY 14760) 12 PM - 4 PM. Show your true colors this year as we celebrate our sixth Pride event at Pride in the Park! A fun time for all with music, entertainment ~ featuring Veronyca's Showgirls ~ vendors (food, educational, LGBTQ+ owned businesses, artists, and allies), and so much more! This is a family-friendly event and everyone is welcome! CPC is paying the restroom-access fee required by the city for anyone who rents War Vets Park.

**Aug 24 (Sat) - (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets** (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 2 PM - 5 PM. Meetings are hosted at Compton's Table, 3401 State St, Erie PA. All current CDC, state, and local guidelines for meeting indoors will be observed. Meetings are always confidential and completely free.

**Aug 27 (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](http://AscendClimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule)

**Aug 28 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour** - All welcome (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 42243 Water St., Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

**Aug 29 (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. Browse to <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

**Aug 29 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Dinner** (Brewerie at Union Station 123 W 14th St, Erie PA) 6 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies, is meeting for dinner. Everyone is on their own for the meal.

**Aug 30 (Fri) - Drag Show** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) We are a BYOB establishment. Cover charge \$6.00. We sell mixers. No outside mixers are permitted.

**Sep 1 (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.

**Sep 3 (Tue) - RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars LIVE** (Benedum Center, 237 7th St, Pittsburgh, PA 15222) 8 PM. Enter the Werk Room this Summer and get ready to experience the high kicks and low splits of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 9th Season unfolding LIVE on-stage! Be captivated by the return of fan-favorites Angeria, Jorgeous, Plastique Tiara, Roxxy Andrews, Shannel, and Vanessa Vanjie in this show-within-a-show highlighting the Charisma, Uniqueness, Nerve and Talent it takes for a Queen to be an All Star. Presented by Voss Events in collaboration with World of Wonder and MTV. Line-Up Subject to Change

**Sep 4 (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.

**Sep 5 (Thu) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group** (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 5 PM - 6 PM. Our mission



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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.

**Sep 5 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona** 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

**Sep 6 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets** (Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe, 1033 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. All are welcome.

**Sep 7 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie Picnic** (Kim and Andrea's, 4114 McClelland Ave, Erie, PA 16510) 2 PM. Join us for our annual picnic in Kim and Andrea's backyard. We'll provide water and some other beverages. If you have a preferred beverage, please bring it. If your able to please bring a dish to share. Don't forget to bring your own chair. The event is child-friendly, but please leave pets at home. Additionally, this is a smoke and vape-free event; smoking and vaping are permitted in the front yard only. For any questions, feel free to message me. I'll update everyone on the dishes being brought as information comes in. Later, we'll light a fire for everyone to enjoy. We also have cornhole, bocce, and square volleyball for our competitive guests. We're excited to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones

**Sep 8 (Sun) - A Brunch of Drag: Showgirls** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Get ready for Showgirls at The Zone! Join host Misty Michaels Kall for our next Brunch of Drag event . Featuring glamorous performances by Valerie Valentino (Miss Addicted to Glamour 2024), Coco Vega, and Michelle Michaels. Tickets are \$20. (Tickets include show and food. Drinks are NOT included.) Mimosas will be back and we'll also be featuring Bloody Marys! Doors open at 11 am, Showtime: 12 noon. 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)

**Sep 8 (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.

**Sep 10 (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.

**Sep 10 (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.

**Sep 10 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets** (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

**Sep 11 (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.

**Sep 12 (Thu) - 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](http://AscendClimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule)

**Sep 12 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner #119** (Location TBA) 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Peter. Phone: (814) 384-9785.

**Sep 14 (Sat) - Trip to The Carnegie Science Center, soon to be The Daniel G. and Carole L. Kamin Science Center (Pittsburgh)** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 9 AM. Meet at Lake Erie Counseling, then carpool to Pittsburgh.

**Sep 15 (Sun) - Deadline for Erie Gay News August 2024 print edition (#347)** (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released on the evening of Tuesday, September 24.

**Sep 16 - 23 (Mon - Mon) - Bisexual Awareness Week** Co-founded by GLAAD, Bisexual+ Awareness Week

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

**Sep 17 (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.

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

**Sep 19 (Thu) - 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 sub-



## The Red Zone

The "Red Zone" is a critical and often overlooked period on college campuses, referring to the first six to eight weeks of the academic year when students, particularly freshmen, are at the highest risk for sexual assault. This period is marked by a convergence of factors that make new students especially vulnerable, including their unfamiliarity with campus resources, a desire to fit in, and increased social activity, often involving alcohol.

During the Red Zone, incoming students are navigating new social environments and building relationships, which can sometimes lead to situations where boundaries are crossed. The pressures of adapting to college life can also make students less likely to recognize or avoid risky situations.

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stance 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.

**Sep 19 (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](mailto:info@comptonstable.org)

**Sep 21 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Let's Pretend This Never Happend by Jenny Lawson** (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM . Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

**Sep 22 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM - 3 PM. Enrolling in Medicare or making changes during open enrollment can be a challenge. Ron Crist, a Medicare Specialist with HUB International, will be our guest speaker. Ron has a lot of experience and has advised many on making choices without a bias toward one company/plan or another. If you are interested and not routinely in attendance but plan to come, RSVP to [kemlynb@gmail.com](mailto:kemlynb@gmail.com). We hope this will be welcome information for all of us Aging with Pride.

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

**Sep 25 (Wed) – LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour – All welcome** (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

**Sep 26 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Dinner** (Thai Taste Cruise, 35 Peninsula Drv, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies, is meeting for dinner. Everyone is on their own for the meal.

**Sep 26 (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. Browse to <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

**Sep 27 (Fri) - National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** In 2008 the National Association of People with AIDS launched this observance day to recognize

the disproportionate impact of the epidemic on gay men. #NGMHAAD Browse to <https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/gay-mens>.

**Sep 27 & 28 (Fri - Sat) - Meadville FreeShop 2024, Fall Edition** (Meadville Public Library, 848 N Main St, Meadville, PA 16335) 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM. Donate your gently used clothing, blankets, toys, games, kitchen items, non-perishable food items, and baby items. Venue Phone: (814) 336-1773. Email: [info@paequality.com](mailto:info@paequality.com). Browse to <https://paequality.com>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.facebook.com/events/520796510274395>. Browse to venue web site <https://meadvillelibrary.org/>.

**Sep 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 1 - 31 (Tue - Thu) - 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.



*Anita and Rex enjoying Meadville Pride in Diamond Park on July 27, 2024. Photo by Michael Mahler.*

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