



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



NW PA Pride Alliance welcomed the community to Erie Queer Happy Hour at Room 33 Speakeasy, 1033 State St, Erie, PA, on Wednesday, March 5. Next will be Ugly Tuna Tavern, 1012 Peninsula Drive, Erie, PA, on Wednesday, April 2, from 6 to 8 PM. Photo by Michael Mahler.

Rainbow Fest 2025

Written By: Marley Hokaj | Edited By: Jade Murphy

On April 5th, OddCity Entertainment is hosting their 2nd annual Rainbow Fest. Held at Basement Transmissions in the heart of Erie, Rainbow Fest is an all queer-featured extravaganza featuring fourteen multi-genre bands from Erie and as far as Cincinnati. Enjoy new and upcoming acts from The Lamplighters, Mixxona, Wild Magic, and Jeremy Martin. Representing our local scene are favorites Odd Atrocity, Dumpster Garden, Next to Cascade, Common Spence, and Nancy Boys. Out-of-town returning acts Spirit Board, Psych Ward Grips, and Skeleton Drive will be joined by artists Succulent & Sinister and Glassworld. That's not all, Pissi Gabune—drag queen and thespian—will be hosting a drag show to transition day to night. Family friendly drag performances will start at 5pm with 18+ after 6pm. Well known Queens like Cherry Falwell and Snoozy

Q will be performing with recently debuted Aiysha Storm and newbies to the scene Marvin Martian, Nigel Hornberry, and Sharpay Cheddar!

Rainbow Fest is an all-ages event that boasts fun for all ages with clowns, face painting, flow artists, a micro silent disco, and rentable flow toys. With a goal to surpass last year's \$1,000 donation, proceeds will be donated to Compton's Table. Central Outreach will be attending to administer free testing as well as sharing info on local resources for mental and physical health.

"At a time like this OddCity believes all LGBTQ+ people in the US should have a place to celebrate their pride." -OddCity Entertainment

Meadville Drag Star Round Three

Round three of Who Wants to be a Drag Star, the area's only open stage drag competition hosted by Cherry Falwell, was held on Saturday March 8th at Meadville Council on the Arts. Five contestants - Emerald Rose, Sunny Rae Rex, Ruby Sky, Esper Dreamz, and Aiysha Storm - battled it out on stage, showcasing their individual talents. For their surprise on stage challenge, contestants were tasked with naming a drink for an upcoming show at Cus-sewago Creek Distillery and selling it descriptively to the audience.

"Drag performers are the ultimate promoters, we have to be," said host Cherry Falwell. "We promote ourselves, we partner up with businesses and organizations to host events and promote their products and services. The on stage challenge for this round was designed to see how fast the performers could think on their stilettoed feet and be entertaining and funny while selling something."

Head judge Travis Smith and guest judges Debbie Does Drag and Rebecca Mae declared a double win for Aiysha Storm and Emerald Rose. The evening included performances from round two winner Tiny Richard and wild card pick Hydroxyzine. Those four plus round one winner Veronica Ville will compete

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Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992

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

EGN Rates & Data

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

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
HALF HORZ.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
FULL PAGE	\$250 - \$225 Prepaid	7 1/2" high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.

Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.

All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Audrey, Bobbie Fenno, Camille Madonia, Chris McComas, Deb, Elias Lenkner, Holly Swope, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Krista Jones-Turner, Laurie Finch, Logan DeSaw, Michael Madonia, Nick, Nyx Luna, Oli Tilton, Serenity Patterson, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Holly Swope, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Michael Madonia, Oli Tilton, and Steve Siwiecki for distribution; Wheel Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

for the title of Drag Star in the season one finale at Meadville Council on the Arts on May 3rd. Tickets are on sale now.

Have you always wanted to try drag? Want to break into the local drag scene? Reach out to dragstarmeadville@gmail.com for info on becoming a contestant in season

Housing Survey 2025

On April 2, the Pennsylvania Equality Project is launching round 3 of our survey about Housing Affordability and Sustainability for the LGBTQ+ community. The housing survey will focus on issues related to costs, discrimination, and affordability for households, and how sustainable residences are in Pennsylvania. All survey responses will remain confidential. The survey is open to all Pennsylvanians in the LGBTQ+ community and our allies. College students who attend classes at a Pennsylvania post-secondary school and reside in the Commonwealth during the academic sessions may also participate. The Housing Survey will run through May 31, 2025. To take the survey, go to paequality.com and click on the Survey link at the top of the page, beginning

April 2. For more information, send an email to info@paequality.com.

Community Mourns Beloved Buffalo Gay Couple

By Bobbie Fenno

In a tragic incident that has deeply affected Buffalo's Allentown neighborhood, beloved couple Michael "Mickey" Harmon, 40, and Jordan Celotto, 37, were found dead in their home on March 4. After one of them failed to show up for work, a friend checked in on them, encountered a man holding a knife inside the house, and immediately called 911.

When police arrived, they found Harmon and Celotto dead in their basement. The suspect, 34-year-old Bryan Chiclana, had self-inflicted wounds and was taken to Erie County Medical Center for treatment. Investigators say Chiclana allegedly broke into the home through a basement window and fatally attacked both men with a blunt object.

Authorities are saying they do not believe the attack was a hate crime, nor do they have evidence that Chiclana knew the victims. They are describing the murders as a random, isolated act of violence.



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Chiclana has been charged with murder and is being held without bail. The investigation is ongoing as authorities work to piece together the full story behind this heartbreaking tragedy.

Harmon was a well-known artist in Buffalo, known for his intricate drawings of historic homes and landmarks, as well as murals celebrating LGBTQ+ themes. He co-owned “The Good Stuff,” an art gallery and gift shop in Allentown. Celotto, also an artist and music lover, worked at Remedy House café and frequently DJed at Twenty Six Allen, where Harmon was often seen dancing alongside him.

The devastating loss has sparked an outpouring of grief and support. Friends and local businesses have started fundraisers to help with funeral costs. GoFundMe campaigns have also been set up to cover funeral expenses for Harmon and Celotto.

As Buffalo comes together to honor their memory, the spirit and legacies of Mickey and Jordan will live on in the art, music, and love they brought into the world. In times of tragedy, love and community remain the strongest forces.

Day of (No) Silence 2025: Amplifying LGBTQ+ Voices

By Bobbie Fermo

For years, the GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) Day of Silence was a way for students and allies to bring attention to the silencing of LGBTQ+ voices. But in 2024, the movement took a bold new turn – transforming its longstanding Day of Silence into the Day of (No) Silence. Instead of staying silent, participants are now encouraged to speak up, be loud, and take action against the increasing marginalization of LGBTQ+ individuals, especially transgender and nonbinary people.

This year, the Day of (No) Silence falls on April 4, 2025, and it’s all about making noise in the face of discrimination. GLSEN is calling on students, educators, and allies to raise awareness, share stories, and push for change.

Social media will play a big role – expect to see the hashtag #DayofNoSilence trending as people use their voices to advocate for equality. Schools can also get involved by using GLSEN’s free toolkits, which offer ideas for classroom discussions, events, and activism.

How to Get Involved

There are plenty of ways to participate in the

Day of (No) Silence:

- Share your story – Speak out about your experiences or uplift LGBTQ+ voices.
- Use social media – Post using #DayofNoSilence to spread awareness.
- Organize an event – Host a discussion, rally, or educational session at your school or community.
- Educate others – Use GLSEN’s resources to start conversations about LGBTQ+ rights.
- Advocate for change – Push for inclusive policies at your school or workplace.

Want to take part? Whether you organize an event, share a personal story, or simply uplift LGBTQ+ voices, every action matters. Visit GLSEN’s official Day of (No) Silence page (www.glsen.org/dayofnosilence) to learn more about how you can get involved.

The shift from silence to speaking out is a powerful one. It’s a reminder that LGBTQ+ rights can’t be protected through quiet protest alone. By raising our voices, individuals and communities can fight back against discrimination, challenge harmful policies, and push for meaningful change. Creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ students isn’t just about one day of action – it’s about fostering a culture of respect and inclusion year-round.

FreeShop 2025, Spring Edition

The Pennsylvania Equality Project will be holding FreeShop Fall Edition at the Meadville Public Library on Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10 from 10 AM – 4 PM. We are seeking donations of gently used clothing, blankets, non-perishable food items, kitchen items, books, toys, games, etc. which may be dropped off both days of the event. Anyone who needs the donated items can take what they like for free during both days of the event. There is no cost for admission to this event. FreeShop 2025, Spring Edition is being held at the Meadville Public Library in the Community Room on the Upper floor, 848 North Main Street, Meadville, PA 16335. For more information, go to our website, <https://paequality.com> or call (814) 350-6635.

Community Spotlight: Free Mom Hugs

By: Jamie Lojewski, Kim Perrine, and Melanie Vadzemnieks

Free Mom Hugs was founded by Sara Cunningham in 2015 after her son came out to her as gay.



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Remembering that she too was once in the crowd that rejected the LGBTQIA+ community, Sara showed up to a Pride Festival wearing a homemade Free Mom Hugs button and offered hugs to anyone who made eye contact. Today, Free Mom Hugs has chapters in all 50 states and other initiatives forming globally. The Pennsylvania chapter aims to cover all areas in the commonwealth, and Erie's very active local group is working to expand its reach.

The primary mission of Free Mom Hugs is to empower the world to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community through visibility, education, and conversation. With passion, conviction, and action, we are known for lending an ear, giving our hugs, volunteering our time, and letting people know they are seen and valued.

Our volunteers are present at official Pride events, proms, and parades, but we also support the queer community's initiatives such as boot and clothing drives, banned book drives, and food collections. We're happy to attend generic community events that align with our mission. While our nonprofit started with a mom, we welcome all allies. Volunteers always marvel at how heartwarming and rewarding it is to offer something as simple as a hug and affirmation.

To become involved, ask to join the Free Mom Hugs - Erie Facebook page, visit www.freemomhugs.org, or email mswchick@yahoo.com. We are planning to participate in numerous events this year, including Erie, Meadville, and Venango Pride as well as the Shenango Pride Prom. We hope to see you there!

Image Caption: Erie area leaders pictured left to right: Kim Perrine, Melanie Vadzemnieks, and Jamie Lojewski



Aging with Pride Erie Pursues Plans with the Persad Center's OWLS

Several months ago, Aging with Pride Erie was approached by the OWLS (Older Wiser Leaders) group from the Persad Center in Pittsburgh to discuss joint programming and activities in the future. Those plans are one step closer to fruition as the two groups met on March 2 to discuss social activities in Erie and in Pittsburgh for older LGBTQIA+ adults. The OWLS have expressed an interest in traveling to Erie (in warmer weather) to meet and to enjoy activities that Erie offers: museums, restaurants, boat cruises, Presque Isle State Park, and other attractions. A committee of Aging with Pride members is now at work drafting several suggested activities for the Pittsburgh OWLS. The tentative date for this Aging with Pride/OWLS event in Erie is May 18. Likewise, the OWLS are looking at opportunities in the Pittsburgh area that would appeal to Aging with Pride members in Erie. This activity would occur later in the summer. There is great enthusiasm on the part of both organizations to collaborate on shared activities and programs. Members of both groups are familiar with Erie and Pittsburgh and are looking forward to building a strong partnership that enriches older LGBTQIA+ people.

For more information on either organization, please use these links:

<https://www.agingwithprideerie.org>

<https://www.persadcenter.org>

Biggest Losers: A Benefit for Debbie Does Drag and Cherry Falwell

Two funny fake ladies from NW PA are heading to Orlando to compete in the National Miss Comedy Queen Pageant, and they're both losers. Debbie Does Drag, first alternate to Chicago Comedy Queen, and Cherry Falwell, first alternate to Great Lakes Comedy Queen, will be competing with over 40 other performers for the crown March 24th - March 27th.

But before they make the journey to Florida for the competition, eight performers and a packed audience joined them on March 7th for a fundraiser at The Zone Dance Club to send them off in style. Donating their time and talent to help these queens were drag performers Michelle Michaels, Snarebear, Poundcake, Misty Michaels Kall, Sally Goose, Aly-



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sin Wonderland, Batonya Dumplin, and the current reigning Miss Erie Katrina Twerk Island.

Wish these queens luck as they head south and hopefully return with a crown for Erie!

Pride on the Bay 2025 Vendor Registration Opens April 1st

Get ready to showcase your organization or business at NWPAPride Alliance's Pride on the Bay 2025! Vendor registration opens on April 1st to new vendors, offering a fantastic opportunity to connect with our vibrant community.

Join us on Saturday, June 28th, at Liberty Park for a day filled with celebration, unity, and pride. Secure your vendor space for \$50 and be part of this unforgettable event.

Pride on the Bay provides a platform to share your products, services, or information with a diverse and engaged audience. Whether you're a local business, non-profit organization, or artisan, we invite you to be part of our celebration.

How do you support the queer community?

We encourage vendors to share how their organization or business demonstrates its commitment to inclusivity and support for the LGBTQIA+ community.

To ensure a smooth registration process, please familiarize yourself with our vendor terms and conditions. You can find all the details on our website: <https://www.nwpapride.org/potb-vendor-terms>.

Don't miss this chance to be part of Pride on the Bay 2025. Mark your calendars for April 1st and get ready to register! We look forward to welcoming you to our celebration.

Boys in the Band at PACA

Michael Weiss is directing *The Boys in the Band* at PACA, Mart Crowley's 1968 play that premiered just a year before the Stonewall Riots.

According to a 26-year-old review by Caleb Mazzocco, "You are invited to a party where you don't get to try the cracked crab or eat lasagna, you can't drink or dance or converse with the guests, nor can you have a piece of birthday cake. What you can do is sit quietly in the dark and watch the rest of the guests portray a nearly 60-year-old piece of gay history that's an alternately funny and emotional play about 9 men and the birthday party from hell."

Despite its specific context of what used to be considered "self-loathing" among gay men, the play

also explores the struggle for acceptance. It delves into universal human experiences like love, loss, friendship, and the search for meaning, which resonate with audiences in today's changing world. While some critics argue that the play feels dated or doesn't fully address contemporary gay experiences, others will recognize its value as a historical document and a powerful exploration of the human condition. There has been criticism for reinforcing stereotypes, but they are often framed within the play's historical period. Despite the passage of time, and speaking as one who lived in that era (while progress has undoubtedly been made, some things have not changed at all!) *The Boys in the Band* "continues to be a relevant and vital work of art, sparking discussions about LGBTQ+ identity, history, and the ongoing struggle for equality. The show opens April 25th at PACA (see ad in this issue) and plays weekends through May 11th.

Compton's Table Awarded Grant from Erie Community Foundation's LGBTQ+ Fund

By Bobbie Fenno

Compton's Table, a local nonprofit dedicated to supporting LGBTQ+ youth, has been awarded a grant from the Erie Community Foundation LGBTQ Fund. This funding will enhance the organization's True North program, strengthen its formal teaching initiative, and aid in the development of a new hybrid program to provide support in schools.

The True North program at Compton's Table is a free, four-session program designed to equip LGBTQ+ youth and young adults with essential life skills, including budgeting, finding and maintaining housing, self-care, career development, and more. The initiative aims to empower participants by providing tools to navigate challenges unique to the LGBTQ+ community.

In addition to enhancing True North, the grant will support Compton's Table's formal teaching program and the creation of a new hybrid program, which will allow them to support school environments.

The Erie Community Foundation LGBTQ Fund works to foster a more inclusive and equitable community for LGBTQ+ individuals in the Erie region. Led by a volunteer advisory board, the Fund supports programs that address disparities in health, safety, education, and opportunity.

Through this grant, Compton's Table continues



THE BOYS IN THE BAND

by Mart Crowley
directed by Michael Weiss



Pat Vahey Jr - Michael Haas - Jim Nash - Zachery Hoffman
Matt Fuchs - Howard Lang - Brandon Vogt - AJ Holman - Zach Mota

April 25 - May 11, 2025

PACA Theatre 1505 State St. Erie, PA

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its mission to uplift LGBTQ+ youth by providing critical education, resources, and safe spaces for growth.

Mayor Schember Reacts to Trump Administration Policies

From Erie City Mayor Joe Schember

In recent weeks, my team and I have fielded many questions from concerned members of the LGBTQIA+ community about how the policies of the Trump Administration affect the operations of the City of Erie. I want to reassure everyone that these changes will not affect the operations or policies pursued by my team and me in the City of Erie. We have always been, and will always be, strong allies, and in some cases members, of the LGBTQIA+ community in Erie.

In January of this year, I received the well-publicized letter from the Defense Intelligence Agency stating that it would no longer participate in festivals or other events that featured several marginalized groups, including the LGBTQIA+ community. This agency has not participated in City of Erie events before and, even if it had, its decision has no effect on our events. The City of Erie's events will proceed as they always have.

For my team and I, solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community is deeply felt. I am proud to employ people who identify as members of the community, and I am the proud father of a gay man. I'll never forget the day my son, Joe, sat down with my wife and I to tell us that. My immediate reaction was "Joe, I love you. You are my son. I could not be prouder of you." And, we've grown closer since that day several years ago.

I am proud that I am the only Erie Mayor to have walked shoulder-to-shoulder with the community at Pride in every year of my terms, for seven consecutive years. This year, my team and I will again proudly walk in the Erie Pride March and attend Pride events in June.

I am proud that seven years ago, I created the City's first LGBTQ+ Advisory Council. Working together, this team of talented individuals and I have changed and enacted City policies to bring them in line with the recommendations of the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index (MEI). As a result of this work, the City of Erie has turned our annual score from 34 when I first took office, to a

perfect 100 for several years in a row.

I am proud that with the strong support of Erie City Council, I enacted the City of Erie's ban on conversion therapy. This harmful practice is now prohibited in the City of Erie.

I want to live in an Erie where diversity is valued by all - where your gender or gender identity, your sexual orientation, the color of your skin, your religion, your ethnic background, your language, your beliefs, and your culture are celebrated. Every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Diversity makes us stronger as a city, as a nation, and as a region. Imagine what an incredible community Erie could be if everyone is welcomed and valued for the unique talents, skills, and ideas that each person possesses!

There will always be work to do to continue the progress to full equality. In the coming weeks and months, I will be meeting with area community leaders to discuss additional ways that City government can assist in working toward this goal.

I understand that these are difficult and fearful times for many in the LGBTQIA+ family. Rest assured that my team and I will always be on your side. You are us and we are you.

Bears Do Dinner at 125

Bears Do Dinner (BDD) is a local social group in Erie, PA that started in July 2013. Each month, a restaurant is selected and announced in our Facebook Group "Bears Do Dinner - Erie, PA". <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1475863226069226>. Individuals are on their own to join us for dinner. Everyone can enjoy the company of other bears and their friends, as well as the cuisine of that month's restaurant! On Monday, March 10th, the group reached its 125th dinner outing! If you would like to join us, please join our Facebook group or reach out to the BDD Coordinator Pete Genco at 814.384.9785 (text/voice).



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Interested candidates are encouraged to send a resume, cover letter and a copy of your professional license to ABC's of Building Better Lives, 4320 Dexter Ave. Erie, PA 16504, Attn: MLR.

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RESULTS FOR ERIE

JOBS ARE UP

- Achieved record low jobless rate in 2024
- Passed LERTA with \$374M reinvested in city
- Business Revolving Loan Funds increased to \$25M
- Achieved CRIZ designation
- Helped create 2,400 new jobs, 440 new employers

CRIME IS DOWN

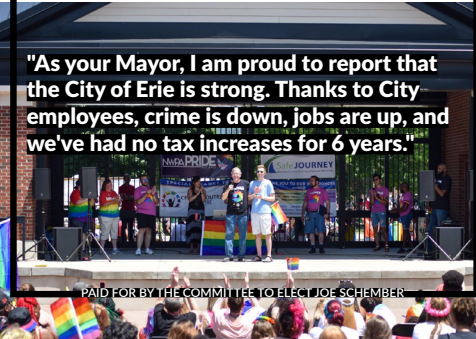
- Decreased homicides by 57% & shootings by 67%
- Solved 100% of homicides in last 3 years
- Greatly expanded Police Athletic League (PAL) & COP youth initiatives

CITY FINANCES ARE STABLE

- NO city tax increases for 6 years
- Secured more than \$120M grant funding
- Paid down \$86.3M in city's debt
- Solved city's pension problem
- Turned projected 2024 General Fund deficit of \$24M into a SURPLUS of \$2M

LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Achieved perfect score of 100 on Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index for 3 years
- Established a LGBTQ+ Advisory Council in 2018
- Passed a city-wide ban on conversion therapy
- Adopted non-discrimination policies for city employment, including LGBTQ+ protections
- Attended every annual pride celebration as Mayor



"As your Mayor, I am proud to report that the City of Erie is strong. Thanks to City employees, crime is down, jobs are up, and we've had no tax increases for 6 years."

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JOE SCHEMBER

Cupcake Wars! Fundraiser Brings Sweet Competition to Support Mental Health Awareness

Erie PA [March 20, 2025] Journey: Healing Together is excited to announce Cupcake Wars!, a deliciously fun fundraiser happening this May in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month. This friendly cupcake competition will bring together local bakers, businesses, and community members to raise awareness and funds for mental health initiatives. Cupcake Wars will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 12:30 to 3 PM at 201 West 11th St, Erie PA, 16501. About 100 attendees are expected. Voting entry fee is a \$5 donation, and baker entry is a \$25 deposit.

Cupcake Wars! will feature both local bakeries and home bakers competing for the title of Cupcake Champion, with winners determined by participant voting. Community members are invited to taste and vote for their favorite cupcakes, all while supporting a great cause.

Supporting Mental Health Through Sweet Treats

Proceeds from the event will go directly to Journey: Healing Together, a nonprofit dedicated to providing mental health & wellness resources, education, and support for individuals and families.

“We believe that bringing people together through food and fun can open the door to important conversations about mental health,” said William Koehler, Executive Director at Journey: Healing Together. “Cupcake Wars! is more than just a competition—it’s a chance to build community, raise awareness, and make a real impact.”

Sponsorship & Community Involvement

Local businesses can support Cupcake Wars! by sponsoring a competing baker or the event itself. Sponsorship levels range from Sweet Supporter (\$50) to Golden Whisk Sponsor (\$3,000+), with businesses receiving promotional perks such as social media recognition, event signage, and more.

Those interested in baking, sponsoring, or attending can sign up at

<https://www.journeyht.org/cupcake-wars>

Join the Fun & Make a Difference!

Whether you’re a talented baker, a cupcake lover, or a local business looking to give back, Cupcake Wars! is an event you won’t want to miss. Join us in celebrating mental health awareness, one

cupcake at a time!

For more information, media inquiries, or to get involved, please contact

William Koehler, wkoehler@journeyht.org, (814)636-0821.

Aggregate Housing Survey Results 2023 - 2024

On March 21, the Pennsylvania Equality Project released the results of year two of a five-year study on Housing Affordability and Sustainability for the LGBTQ+ community in Pennsylvania. Among the findings for both years combined is that the 341 respondents represent a total of 845 people from 42 counties across Pennsylvania. Of the 341 respondents, 186 are renting their current home. Almost 70% of LGBTQ+ rental households can barely afford or not afford their current residence. The average monthly income for LGBTQ+ households across Pennsylvania was just over \$3,700. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 5.306%. The report is available on the Home page of the Pennsylvania Equality Project’s website, paequality.com. For more information, email info@paequality.com.

Johnstown Pride on June 21 to include Indigo Girls Concert

Johnstown Pride Fest 2025 is 3 months away. It will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2025, from noon to 6 PM. in Downtown Johnstown Central Park, with a street festival being planned on Franklin Street, Dove Place, Gazebo Place, and Locust Street in Johnstown with the support of local businesses. We will have vendors and entertainment, and last year, we had over 70 participating organizations and businesses to participate to interact with the thousands of Pride Fest attendees. There will be an Indigo Girls concert at the 1st Summit Arena at the Cambria County War Memorial at 7:30 PM on Sat, June 21, 2025, as we are partnering with the Arena to bring this concert as part of the Johnstown Pride event.

Wear Your Pride: Support Erie Gay News with Exclusive Apparel

By: Bobbie Fenno

Did you know Erie Gay News now has its own exclusive line of apparel? That’s right. Since 1992, EGN has been the go-to source for LGBTQ+ news and events in Northwest Pennsylvania, and

now you can wear that connection with pride. Our EGN apparel, designed in collaboration with the queer-owned Whee! Design company, is available and waiting for you!

Our Whee! shop offers a variety of stylish, high-quality items featuring the iconic EGN logo. Do you want a comfy hoodie? A tank top? A casual t-shirt? There's something for everyone. Plus, you can choose from a wide range of colors and sizes. And the best part? Free shipping on all orders, so you can rock your new gear without any extra cost.

When you purchase EGN apparel, you're doing more than just adding a piece of clothing to your wardrobe – you're directly supporting the ongoing work of Erie Gay News. Plus, you're helping to spread the message of acceptance and inclusivity to others, fostering a greater sense of community for all.

So, what are you waiting for? Head over to the Shop EGN Apparel page now at <https://wheedesign.com/collections/erie-gay-news> and grab your gear today. Let's show the world that we stand together, united in pride, love, and support.

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Voters Guide next month

Please note that the next issue of Erie Gay News, which will come out the night of Tuesday, April 22, will feature our Voters Guide. The Queer community must show up to vote in every election, and the May 20 Municipal Primary Election is no exception. We will have responses from our LG-BTQIA+ candidate questionnaire for Erie County Executive, Erie County Council, Erie City Mayor, and Erie City Council that we hope will enable you to make an informed choice when you go to the polls. Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM on Tuesday, May 20. The last day to register to vote in the upcoming election is May 5, and the deadline to apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot is May 13.



G2H2 held its monthly get-together at Sullivan's Pub & Eatery, 301 French St, Erie, PA, 16507, on Friday, March 7. The group gathers on the first Friday of each month. The next meeting will be on Friday, April 4, at 6 PM at The BrewErie at Union Station, 123 W 14th St, Erie PA, 16501.



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On February 27, Aging With Pride had their monthly dinner at Habibi, 127 W 14th St, Erie PA. There were a lot of great conversations that night while waiting for the meal to be served. When queuing up for paying for their meals, one of the members overheard that it was the chef's birthday, so she led the group in singing Happy Birthday to the chef. Aging With Pride dinners are usually on the last Thursday of the month. The next dinner will be on March 27 at Oasis Pub & Tiki Bar, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie PA.



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In observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), Crime Victim Center of Erie encourages our community to reflect on this year's theme: *Kinship, Connecting, and Healing*. This week is dedicated to raising awareness about the impact of crime and highlighting the importance of supporting victims as they navigate the path toward recovery.

At Crime Victim Center, we believe that true healing begins with a sense of connection and support. No one should face the aftermath of a crime alone. Whether you've experienced a crime yourself or are seeking to help a loved one, we're here to provide confidential support, resources, and a compassionate space for all. Our services are open to everyone, regardless of identity, background, or circumstance.

Through kinship, we come together to heal—connecting individuals to the resources they need and providing the emotional support necessary to rebuild their lives. Join us during NCVRW to reaffirm our commitment to survivors, to create an environment of care, and to foster a community where healing can flourish.

Crime Victim Center provides free and confidential services to ALL victims of crime in Erie County, regardless of when the crime occurred. Please call 814-455-9414 or visit cvcerie.org to learn more about how we help our community.

(814) 455-9414

125 West 18th Street

CVCerie.org

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. Please drink responsibly.

Zone Tuesday Game Night, 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 Wednesday Trivia Night, Think you're a trivia whiz? Prove it! Play night on your phone! New hosts! New challenges! Doors open at 8 PM. Happy hour 8-10 PM. \$1 off bottled beers. \$2 well drinks. No cover. 21 & over with ID..

Zone Friday Night Dance Party, 133 W 18th St, 7 PM. With DJ Joe & MC Buffy. Kick off the weekend! Doors open at 7 PM. \$5 cover after 8 PM. Cash only. 21 and over with ID.

RuPaul's Drag Race Season 17 Viewing Party, 133 W 18th St, 8 PM. Hosted by Debbie Does Drag. Doors open at 7 PM. \$5 cover after 8 PM. Cash only. 21 and over with ID.

Zone Saturday Night Dance Party, 8 PM. Dance, drink, fun, food. With DJ Joe & MC Buffy. Doors open at 8 PM. \$5 cover. Cash only. 21 and over with ID.

Zone Sunday Funday, 8 PM. Reset, unwind, recharge, relax. Doors open at 8 PM. No cover. Cash only. Happy hour 8 PM - 10 PM. \$1 off bottled beer, \$2 well drinks. 21 and over with ID.

Mar 26 (Wed) – Meadville Queer Happy Hour (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 9 PM.

Mar 27 (Thu) - Queer Youth support group meets (James Prendergast Library Association, 509 Cherry St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. For ages 12-21. Please contact Kaden Mason at (716) 720-8712 or kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org or Lisa Schmid-Miller at (716) 338-8702 or lschmidmiller@lutheran.jamestown.org with any questions.

Mar 27 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Dinner (Oasis Pub, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and

allies, is meeting for dinner. Everyone is on their own for the meal. Please RSVP to Peter at (814) 384-9785.

Mar 28 (Fri) - M & J's Lounge 14th Anniversary Party (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) Come and join us for our 14th anniversary party. We are having a Drag Show, and a former bartender Tom serving all your beverages. Get here when the doors open. Cover charge \$6.00. We sell mixers. No outside mixers are permitted.

Mar 28 (Fri) - Slay & Skate presents Rollin' With The Rainbow (Gem City Skate, 3162 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 11:30 PM - 2 AM. Slay into Spring Slay & Skate is Back! Join us after hours for our Spring Fling Edition of Slay & Skate, presented in partnership with Central Outreach Erie! BYOB, 21+ only. Themed Vibes Good Energy Late Night Fun. FREE Entry + Free Drink if you volunteer for on-site testing, no insurance needed, provided by Central Outreach! Otherwise: \$20 Admission (includes skate rental) Let's roll into spring with style, support, and community. Expect flower power, fierce looks, and a night to remember. Gem City Skate, where the floors are fresh and the vibes are always r

Mar 29 (Sat) - Chat N' Chill Goes Skating (Gem City Skate, 3162 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 4 PM - 6 PM. We are taking Chat n' Chill on the road.... This event is open to queer youth between the ages of 13yrs - 17yrs old. Compton's Table will cover admission, skate rental, pizza, and drinks. This is a safe space to have fun and meet new peers. Registration required at <https://bit.ly/3FxZyq1>

Mar 29 (Sat) - Out Like A ... Warren County Pride's Spring Fundraiser (Struthers Library Theatre in Sally's Encore Theatre Bar, 302 W 3rd Ave, Warren, PA 16365) 6:30 PM. Join us in Showing Some Love for Warren County Pride's Spring fundraiser supporting June's festival! Silent Auction opportunities presented by Friends of Pride, delicious catering by Your Daily Serving, and Entertainment by Haus of Rabbit. \$35 per person. Please purchase in advance via paypal donation. <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4750818>. Auction closes at 8:30pm. If you can't come, please share or donate!

Mar 29 (Sat) - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus - On The Town: A Cabaret Fundraiser (Babeville at Asubury Hall, 341 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202) 7 PM. Join us for our annual fundraising event! It'll be a night of fabulous music, delicious treats, a silent auction and basket raffle and more! Get your tickets now before they sell out!

Mar 30 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM. Planning meetings are open

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to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride.

Mar 31 (Mon) - 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. The holiday was founded in 2009 as a reaction to the lack of LGBT holidays celebrating transgender people's successes. Browse to <http://tdov.org/>.

Mar 31 (Mon) - TransFamily of NWPA - Trans Day of Visibility (Perry Square, 6th and State Streets, Erie, PA 16507) 6 PM. Trans Day of Visibility (TDOV) is a day to celebrate and uplift the resilience, achievements, and contributions of transgender and nonbinary people while also recognizing the challenges our community continues to face. It's a time to stand in solidarity, share our stories, and make our presence known. Join TransFamily for a TDOV gathering. Let's come together in community, visibility, and joy!

Apr 2 (Wed) - Erie Queer Happy Hour (Ugly Tuna Tavern, 1012 Peninsula Dr, Erie PA 16505) 6 PM. Join NWPA Pride for a laid-back and lively Queer Happy Hour at the Ugly Tuna Tavern! Located near the entrance to Presque Isle, this casual tavern offers a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Come enjoy delicious food, refreshing drinks, and great company. Whether you're catching up with friends or making new connections, the Ugly Tuna Tavern is the perfect spot to unwind and socialize. Don't miss this chance to connect with the Erie LGBTQIA+ community and allies at this fun and friendly tavern!

Apr 3 (Thu) - Compton's Table Chat & Chill Group (18+) (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 8 PM. Looking to boost your social skills, make new connections or just hang out in a chill, judgment-free zone? Chat N Chill is the place to be! We're all about creating a relaxed, sober space where you can be yourself, whether you're introverted or outgoing. It's a safe haven for the Queer community, where everyone's welcome and respect is the vibe. Join us to build confidence, learn new social cues, or some enjoy good conversation with great people. Chill vibes, real connections, all in a space that celebrates you. 18+ groups are every first Thursday of each month from 6-8 pm. Each month will have a different theme to keep the conversation going. Registration required to be sure that enough supplies are available. Register at <https://comptonstable.org/chatnchill>

Apr 3 (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 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.

Apr 3 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner #126 (Tandoori Hut Indian Cuisine, 2605 Washington Ave, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Please RSVP to Peter at (814) 384-9785.

Apr 3 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

Apr 4 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (The Brewerrie at Union Station, 123 W 14th St, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. All Are welcome.

Apr 4 - 5 (Fri - Sat) - Renaissance City Choir: Follow OUR Yellow Brick Road (East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15406) Join Pittsburgh's LGBTQIA+ Community That Sings, to celebrate our 2025 cabaret concerts featuring everyone's favorites from the Wizard of Oz, the Wiz, Wicked, and More! This heartwarming, fun concert will have you being Popular with your friends. So why not Follow Our Yellow Brick Road? The Renaissance City Choir is supported in part by the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council through its Creative Sector Flex Fund grant program, and by the taxpayers of Allegheny County through a public grant from the Allegheny Regional Asset District. ELPC is ADA accessible. Accessibility questions may be directed to: accessibility@rccpittsburgh.com. ASL interpretation is available on both dates.



NW PA Pride Alliance held its Meadville Happy Hour on February 26, 2025, at Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut Street

Apr 5 (Sat) - LGBT Venango Support Group meets (Franklin Public Library, 421 12th St, Franklin, PA 16323) 10:30 AM. Peer-led support group for LGBTQ+ adults. We meet once a month upstairs at the Franklin Library.

Apr 5 (Sat) - Rainbow Fest 2025 (Basement Transmissions, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16501) 2 PM. \$15 pre-sale/\$20 door All ages, wheelchair accessible. Charity to be announced. "Join us for our second annual Rainbow Fest of Erie! All Queer Featured bands, vendors, drag, and more!" BANDS: Dumpster Garden; ; Psych Ward Grips; Spirit Board; Odd Atrocity; Next to Cascade; Jeremy Martin; Succulent & Sinister; Common Spence; Mixxona; The Lamplighters; Nancy Boys, (more tba.) DRAG HOST: Pissi Gabune, (drag tba.) VENDORS: Shadow Knight Curiosities; Octopuss Design; Chivari's Nest; Kyra's Cosmic Creations; Archaic Arcana (more tba.) More info coming soon!

Apr 6 (Sun) - International Asexuality Day International Asexuality Day is a coordinated worldwide campaign promoting the ace umbrella, including demisexual, grey-asexual and other ace identities. Browse to <https://internationalasexualityday.org/en/>.

Apr 6 (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.

Apr 8 (Tue) - PFLAG of Chautauqua meeting (Secret Undisclosed Location, 100 E 2nd St 2nd Floor, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6:30 PM This is a safe, inclusive space where queer community members and allies can come together for support, discussion, and connection. Whether you've attended before or are joining us for the first time, we'd love to have you with us. Let's continue building our community, sharing our stories, and supporting one another. Please visit our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/594395124695283> or check out <https://pflag.org/chapter/chautauqua>, or email PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM or call (716) 499-4817 for details.

Apr 8 (Tue) - TransFamily of NWPA (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Join us for our monthly Crawford Support Group meeting! Please use the side entrance of the building on 296 Chestnut. It will have signage as Empowerment with Grace but this may not show up on your GPS.

Apr 8 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. If you're GLBT, a par-



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ent of someone who is, or an ally and you're looking for emotional support, we encourage you to attend Youngstown PFLAG's monthly support group. You will be surrounded by understanding peers from the valley who will be able to listen and help. Support groups are open to the public, and it starts at 6:30pm. Light refreshments will be available.

Apr 9 (Wed) - Aging with Pride Game Night (Werner Books & Coffee, 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 8 PM. Bring games and/or cards with you, or just come to play what others bring

Apr 10 (Thu) - National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day NYHAAD educates the public about the impact of HIV/AIDS on youth and highlights the work youth do to strengthen the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. #NYHAAD Advocates for Youth and its partners direct this observance. Browse to <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/>.

Apr 10 (Thu) - ASCEND Erie Queer Scouts Climbing Club (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Queer Scouts is a LGBTQ+ climbing club, with the goal of creating connection and a safer and more inclusive outdoors community. Just look for the Queer Scout mascot, the tiny rainbow unicorn! Please check in at the front desk upon arrival. Not an ASCEND member? Enjoy a discounted \$15 Club Day Pass while attending these meetups.

Apr 11 - May 3 (Fri - Sat) - Buffalo United Artists presents The Hung Man (Compass Performing Arts Center, 545 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222) Get ready for a cheeky romp through a full-length ribald parody that tips its hat to Alfred Hitchcock's cinematic gems and their deliciously homoerotic vibes! Picture the tension of "Rope" and the twisty turns of "Strangers on a Train". "The Hung Man" is a satirical feast on the queer undertones during Hollywood's Golden Age of Cinema. Strap yourself in. Buffalo United Artist's 33rd Season is about to begin. It's going to be a wild ride!

Apr 12 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Circe by Madeline Miller (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

Apr 12 (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.

Apr 12 (Sat) - ASCEND Erie Affinity Session for QFTW (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 8PM - 10 PM. Join ASCEND as we celebrate our diverse communities with Affinity Sessions - climbing sessions dedicated to individuals who haven't always

had equal access to or treatment within the sport. It's a space dedicated to intentional inclusivity, not exclusivity, and we invite you to participate and be a part of these efforts. Sessions are the second Saturday of the month and alternate between BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) in odd-numbered months and QFTW (Queer, Femme, Trans, Women) in even-numbered months. Please register for session at <https://www.ascendclimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule> or by contacting the front desk. These FREE climbing sessions are intended only for those in our community who identify with these affinity groups. Rental gear included.

Apr 12 (Sat) - Veronyca's Showgirls April Spring Fling (Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 119, 201 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760) 8 PM. Justin's heading to Nationals! Featuring Veronyca, Will, Velvet, Landen, Sir Swagger, Damien, and Dillan! \$7 at the door, \$6 for COLORS members. Tumblers are \$20 each! Colors Cafe, great performers, and great music!

Apr 13 (Sun) - Crepes & Queens Drag Brunch (Give A Crepe. La CrepErie, 1909 Chestnut St, Erie, PA 16502) Join host Cherry Falwell, Shea D'Heaux, Snarebear, and more as we kick off Erie's only drag brunch at Give a Crepe! Tickets include a drag show you won't forget and a mimosa fixins bar. (BYOB!) Full menu available for purchase. This event is BYOB - so bring your favorite spirit, wine, or beer and enjoy the show. Doors open at 11am, showtime at 12pm.

Apr 13 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM. Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride.

Apr 13 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Gender Nonconforming Social & Peer Support meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 6 PM. Free to all LGTQIA+ ages 18 & older

Apr 14 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News May 2025 print edition (#354) (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, April 22.

Apr 15 (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. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/Zoom-ECHTF>

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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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Jen and Katie - Erie, PA

Apr 17 (Thu) - Benevolent Beers: Journey: Healing Together (Erie Ale Works, 416 W 12th St, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM - 8 PM. We team up with a group right down the street, Journey: Healing Together, for a night of Benevolent Beers! Journey: Healing Together (J:HT) exists to foster connections and build equity among diverse affinity groups, uniting communities in collective healing. J:HT is a 501c3 non-profit offering healing spaces to New Majority communities and providing opportunities for diverse groups to gather, heal, restore, discover, and rebuild. This group is currently establishing roots in the heart of downtown Erie to grow and fulfill their purpose of enhancing wellness within New Majority communities, with particular focus on LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and new Americans. They host a monthly Wellness Weekend, which provides a safe and sober space for community-building. Current Wellness Weekend activities include game night, crafternoon, and a new LGBTQ+ addiction recovery group. Every sale rung in between 5:00 and 8:00 pm will provide a donation to this great group.

Apr 17 (Thu) - Full Spectrum Youth/Teen Social & Peer Support meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 5 PM - 7 PM. Free to all LGBTQIA+ youth 16-17, under 16 with signed parental consent form.

Apr 17 (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.

Apr 17 (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

Apr 17 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

Apr 18 (Fri) - National Transgender HIV Testing Day National Transgender HIV Testing Day (NTHTD) was first observed on April 18, 2016. Browse to <http://transhealth.ucsf.edu/>.

Apr 18 - 19 (Fri - Sat) - Glowpocalypse: Dance Until the World Ends! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Get ready to glow wild at The Zone's annual glow party, but with a post-apocalyptic twist! We're turning up the neon, cranking the blacklights, and oozing with end-of-the-world vibes. Think Thun-

derdome at the back bar, Vault 69-inspired madness, and enough glow sticks to light up the wasteland. April 18th & 19th. Doors at 8 PM. \$5 cover. Dress code: Apocalypse chic. Think neon, raiders, mutants, and anything that screams "I survived the glowpocalypse!" Let's dance 'til the world ends...or at least 'til last call.

Apr 19 (Sat) - Drag Queens (and Kings) Are Like Onions: A Shrek Themed Drag Show (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 993 Water St, Meadville, PA 16335) 10 PM. Hosted by Cherry Falwell. Featuring Snarebear, Pissi Gabune, Tiny Richard, and more guests from Drag Star! \$5 cover

Apr 20 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Transgender Roundtable Discussion (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM. Open to all transgender and gender nonconforming ages 18 and older.

Apr 20 (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. Free to all LGBTQIA+ ages 18 and older. Entrance to the center is the red ramp on the side of the building off of the parking lot. Please do not use the front door!

Apr 23 (Wed) - Meadville Queer Happy Hour (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 9 PM.

Apr 22 (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!

Apr 24 (Thu) - Queer Youth support group meets (James Prendergast Library Association, 509 Cherry St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. For ages 12-21. Please contact Kaden Mason at (716) 720-8712 or kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org or Lisa Schmid-Miller at (716) 338-8702 or lschmidmiller@lutheran.jamestown.org with any questions.

Apr 25 (Fri) - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus - Pride and Pork Loins - Annual Spring Meat Raffle (American Legion Post 1041, 533 Amherst Street, Buffalo, NY 14207) 6 PM. Join us for our annual spring meat raffle! Tickets on sale NOW for Friday, April 25. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the first spin is at 7 p.m. Single tickets for \$10; a table of eight is \$60 so bring your friends!

Apr 25 (Fri) - April Spring Fling (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) Cover charge \$6.00.

Apr 25 - May 11 (Fri - Sun) - Boys in the Band (PACA, 1505 State St, Erie, PA 16501) In his Upper East Side apartment, Michael is throwing a birthday party for Harold, a self-avowed "thirty-two-year-old,

pockmarked, Jew fairy,” complete with surprise gift: “Cowboy,” a street hustler. As the evening wears on fueled by drugs and alcohol bitter, unresolved resentments among the guests come to light when a game of “Truth” goes terribly wrong. This groundbreaking play premiered Off-Broadway in 1968 and ran for 1,001 performances. It was subsequently made into a feature film with the original cast, directed by Academy Award-winner William Friedkin. In 2018, The Boys in the Band made its Broadway debut at the Booth Theatre in an unprecedented production featuring a cast of entirely out-and-proud gay actors. This new edition contains both the original two-act script and the one-act Broadway version, as well as an introduction by celebrated playwright Tony Kushner.

Apr 25 (Fri) - DIVAS: Resurrection - Rising From the Glwpocalypse! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) After the neon-drenched chaos of Glwpocalypse, The Zone’s DIVAS are rising from the ashes, bringing you a night of pure, unadulterated glamour! Join your hostess, the incomparable Misty Michaels Kall, as she leads a cast of stunning queens in a show that’s sure to resurrect your spirits. Doors at 8 PM, show at 10:30 PM. \$5 cover. Prepare for fierce looks, jaw-dropping performances, and a night of pure DIVA magic as we celebrate the rebirth of glam after the end of the world.

Apr 25 (Fri) - Welcome to the Pissi-sance (Boro Bar, 117 Meadville St, Erie, PA 16412) 9:30 PM. Hosted by Lady Pissith Gabune. Featuring Baroness Aiyesha Storm et Court Jester Snarebear. 21+ with valid identification

Apr 25 (Fri) - Slay & Skate (Gem City Skate, 3162 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 11:30 PM - 2 AM. Slay & Skate is Back! Join us after hours for our Slay & Skate, presented in partnership with Central Outreach Erie! BYOB , 21+ only. Themed Vibes Good Energy Late Night Fun. FREE Entry + Free Drink if you volunteer for on-site testing, no insurance needed, provided by Central Outreach! Otherwise: \$20 Admission (includes skate rental) Let’s roll into spring with style, support, and community. Expect flower power, fierce looks, and a night to remember. Gem City Skate, where the floors are fresh and the vibes are always right.

Apr 26 (Sat) - Lesbian Visibility Day Created in 2008, this day showcases women-loving-women, providing a platform for lesbian role models to speak out on the issues facing female-identified sexual minorities. This day, alongside other queer celebration days, is still an integral part of moving forwards to create an intersectional society where all are treated equally and fairly.



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Apr 26 (Sat) - (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Compton’s Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 2 PM - 5 PM. Come join us for our monthly support meeting at Compton’s Table in the Central Outreach Building. Enter through the rear entrance. Light snacks and refreshments provided. Join us for a community in a comfy, no pressure environment! All are welcome!

Apr 29 (Tue) - Aging with Pride Dinner (Colony Pub & Grill, 2670 W 8th St, 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. Please RSVP to Peter at (814) 384-9785.

Queeriosity Corner: Historical & Fun Facts:
RuPaul became the first drag queen to land a major cosmetics campaign, partnering with MAC in 1994, paving the way for mainstream recognition of drag culture.

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