



# EGN

## Erie Gay News



### Board Members sought for NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc

*from NW PA Pride Alliance Board of Directors*

NWPA Pride Alliance is looking for applicants to fill positions with our board of directors. NWPA Pride Alliance is seeking to diversify its membership to best address the needs of the LGBT community, persons of all sexual orientations, gender identifications, marital status, ethnic backgrounds and educational experiences are welcome to apply. All positions are unpaid, volunteer positions. We are looking for people who want to become more involved with the LGBT community, working with our members to extend outreach to the community as a whole.

Board members organize events within the community, represent the LGBT community at local events, and work with local businesses and organizations to raise awareness of LGBT issues. Board members meet monthly and additionally as needed in preparation for specific events.

Advisory panel members are to provide guidance for the board of directors in specific matters upon request. Meetings will be as needed and may be irregular. Specific areas of expertise being sought are accounting, legal counselor, community education, publicity, medical backgrounds and nonprofit administration. The board of directors will seek advice from the advisory panel on issues as they arise.

If you are interested, please send a resume that outlines your experience and qualifications by Saturday, November 21 to [president@nwpapride.org](mailto:president@nwpapride.org) or NW PA Pride Alliance Inc., PO Box 11448, Erie PA 16514. **(Please note new mailing address!)** All resumes will be considered, please note if you wish to apply for membership to the board of directors or advisory panel. You can only hold one of these position, but you may apply for more than one. Applicants for the Board of directors will be contacted for a mandatory interview with the board to be scheduled after the resume is received.



*Cast members of Rocky Horror at GEAE Gives Back to PACA on Oct 14. Performances run through October 31 at 1505 State St, Erie PA.*

*Photo by Mike Mahler.*

### NW PA Pride Alliance Celebrates 2015 Accomplishments

*from NW PA Pride Alliance Board of Directors*

The Northwest PA (NW PA) Pride Alliance will soon begin its sixth year, and is delighted and proud to share 2015 accomplishments and activities in its annual report. In May, the Alliance achieved an important milestone in the growth of the organization—obtaining 501(c)(3) status. A non-profit status and the generosity of the community will help the Alliance to expand the scope and focus of work in the LGBTQIA community. Other 2015 highlights include the Pride Picnic, Pride Festival, sponsorship of the Miss Erie Pageant, Pride Night at an Erie Seawolves home game, the Millcreek 4th of July Parade, a Marriage Equality celebration, and attendance at the Pennsylvania State Pride Conference.

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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.



**PRINT EDITIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE**

[www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

Click on the PDFs for this & previous issues of EGN from 1992.

Also, check out our Photo Galleries, Videos, Contests, Reviews & much more!



|                             |                    |                           |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>QUARTER PAGE</b>         | <b>FULL PAGE</b>   | <b>HALF PAGE VERTICAL</b> |
| <b>HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL</b> | <b>EIGHTH PAGE</b> |                           |

| <b>AD SIZE</b> | <b>PRICE/ISSUE</b>    | <b>DIMENSIONS</b>         |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
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| QUARTER        | \$50 - \$45 Prepaid   | 3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide |
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Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.

Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.

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

Erie Gay News is now included in **The EBSCO *LGBT Life***® with Full Text Index & Six LGBT Archives **WORLDWIDE!**



To Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel for hosting! Audrey, Bill, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Julie, Melanie Shubitowski, Rex Apps, and Trish Catalano for folding; Andrea, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Julie, Kim, and Rex Apps for distribution; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

# Community News

The Alliance partnered with the Mental Health Association to provide a Spring Candidate Forum to discuss important legislation, and with the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality to conduct LGBT roundtables aimed at understanding community need and gaps in service. The Alliance continued partnerships with the Erie Gay News, Great Lakes Institute of Technology, Community Health Net, and Erie County Department of Health to provide free condoms, HIV oral and rapid testing, and health screenings to the LGBTQIA community.

The support and sponsorship that has served as a catalyst for furthering the Alliance's mission of improving the visibility of the LGBTQIA community and facilitating communication and collaboration between groups and individuals. We look forward to the continued support of our current partners as well as forming new relationships the Erie community. To view a copy of the NW PA Pride Alliance annual report, please visit [www.nwpapride.org](http://www.nwpapride.org).

## Dracula the Musical?

*from Douglas Anderson*

October will go from spooky to loony when Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo in Conneaut presents "Dracula: The Musical?" by Rick Abbot.

This family-friendly goofy spoof of the classic horror tale will keep you laughing for hours. Full of bad puns, cheesy special effects, oddball characters, and silly songs, this fast-paced farce takes a loopy look at the creepy Count. Will Dracula seduce the overdramatic Mina? Will Nelly the maid use enough garlic in the pot roast? Will Boris's bizarre diet save Dr. Seward money on flyswatters? Will Bubu Padoop win the heart of the only unmarried doctor she's ever met? You may be laughing too hard to find out!

Directed by Douglas Anderson, with accompaniment by Jessica Garcia and musical direction by Marti Dixon, "Dracula: The Musical?" features the talents and hard work of eight local actors. Show dates: October 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31. All shows are at 7:30 p.m. at Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo, 236 Buffalo Street, Conneaut, Ohio. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Visit [www.broadwayonbuffalo.com](http://www.broadwayonbuffalo.com)




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# Community News

## Breast Cancer Weekend recap

from Michelle Michaels

The 10th Annual Breast Cancer Weekend raised \$2,588 for StringsforaCURE® the weekend of October 2-4 at the Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA!

Big thanks to all the volunteers, people who donated time, money, bake goods and baskets to auction. Big thanks to Bob and Lou, owners of Zone Dance Club.

Thanks to Grace Watson, Greg Oless, Elaine Crandell, Brenda Crolli, Denise Kubiak, Brenda Dugan, Robert Eckendorf, Kim Conti, Tommy Habursky, James T Sayers, Aundrea Kish, Gary Snyder, Robert Baughman, Sandy Hodas, Troy Summerville, Erie Gay News, Sam's Club, Lakeview Wireless, NW PA Pride Alliance, Longshark Seafood, and Michael Mahler.

Bakers: Watson family, Oless family, Matthew Steger, Sherry Edkin, Gary and Rick.

Thanks to Eric and Frank, Country Fair, and Season and Tony G Helpers Alex, Josh, Marty, Ej and all the Bar staff and local entertainers for their time and cash.



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# Climbing syphilis cases in Erie Co.

*Laura A Beckes, CHES  
Erie County Department of Health  
Disease Investigation Specialist*

Syphilis can be a deadly disease if not treated with a simple dose of antibiotics. Before the discovery of penicillin in the 1940's syphilis was a fatal disease and allegedly responsible for the deaths of many historical figures including Al Capone, Hitler, Mussolini and Ivan the Terrible.

The disease was almost eliminated in the year 2000 with few cases diagnosed in the United States but syphilis is now increasing at an alarming rate, particularly among gay and bisexual men.

The Erie County Department of Health (ECDH) is very concerned about this disturbing rise and is working on public awareness campaigns promoting testing, especially to high risk populations. Below is an overview of testing recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC):

- Sexually active gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) should be screened at 3-6 month intervals.
- MSM who have multiple or anonymous partners should also be screened at 3 to 6 month intervals.
- Anyone who has unprotected sex or shares injection drug equipment should get tested at least once a year for STDs and HIV.
- Pregnant women should be tested for STDs starting early in pregnancy, with repeat testing currently recommended at the third trimester of pregnancy and at the delivery of a child.

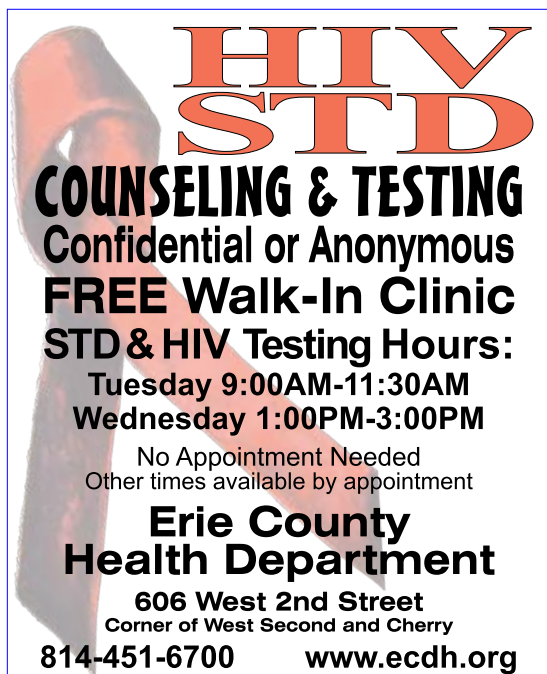
People infected with syphilis will usually present with a painless genital sore that lasts a few weeks and then follow with a rash which may appear when the sore is healing or a few weeks after it is gone. The rash can show anywhere on the body and the appearance may vary. The rash can feel scaly and if it appears on the bottom of the feet or the palms of the hands can look like rough, red or brownish spots. The rash can be very faint and usually doesn't itch.

People who present with these symptoms and test positive are in the early stages of syphilis and can easily spread the disease via skin or mucus membrane contact (mouth, throat, genital area, and rectum) with their sex partners. If left untreated the infection can lay inactive in the body for 20-30 years before becoming active again. Without treatment syphilis can lead

to heart disease, mental problems, blindness, stroke, dementia and death. It also increases a person's risk for contracting and transmitting the HIV virus.

Fighting syphilis has never been more of a challenge due to the increased use of people using internet sites to find partners, particularly in the gay and bisexual community. In combating the disease it's vital to identify sexual partners for testing and treatment but it is very difficult to locate partners from these internet sites.

Syphilis can be spread through oral sex, anal sex and vaginal sex. To protect yourself, wear condoms each and every time, limit partners, or if possible, abstain from sex. If you think you have syphilis call the Erie County Department of Health at 814-451-6700 for FREE, confidential testing and treatment or contact your local health care provider. The Erie County Department of Health offers free STD and HIV testing Tuesdays 9:00am-11:30am and Wednesdays 1:00pm-3:00pm. No appointment is necessary. Adagio Health also provides STD and HIV testing. Call (814) 453-4718 for more information.



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814-451-6700      [www.ecdh.org](http://www.ecdh.org)

# Violence Against Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Individuals at a Historic High

By *Martine Barclay Holquist*  
*Prevention Education Specialist*  
*Crime Victim Center of Erie County*

As LGBT History Month comes to a close, and the holiday season waits right around the corner, we are made aware of those whose need to live as their authentic selves required facing more than a disapproving stare. Coming out, itself a wonderfully life-affirming act, frequently opens a person up to negative reaction. The very visibility of activism takes bravery beyond measure.

While we all hope for a world where people are accepted for who they are, we know that being out means facing the possibility of ostracism, ridicule, discrimination, and violence. This last point is brought home starkly by the fact that, at the time of this writing, at least twenty-one trans or gender-nonconforming individuals have been murdered in 2015; eighteen of them trans women of color. This is according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), who

also reports an eleven percent increase in transgender homicides since 2014.

Such tragic numbers may not tell the full story. Transgender, gender fluid, and gender non-conforming people are often misgendered by investigating police or news. Medical examiners may be determining a victim's sex after physical exam or, in some jurisdictions, be required to use the victim's legal name. Witnesses using confused or blurred pronouns, family unaware of a person's status, or those close to the victim misgendering them purposefully contribute to the difficulty in reporting accuracy.

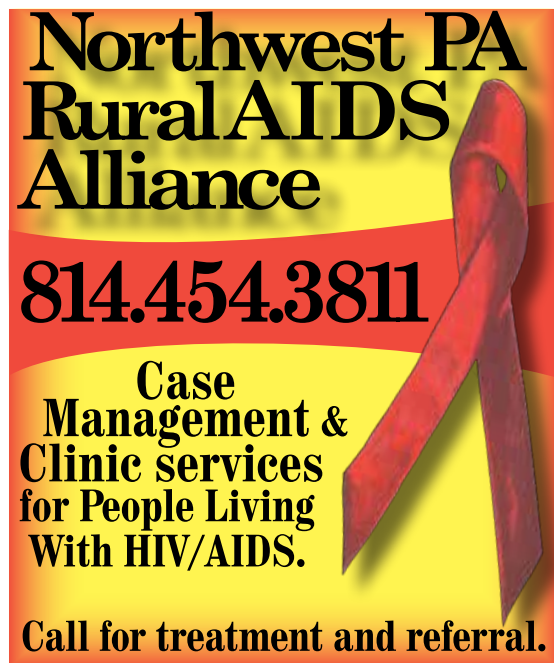
Back in July, actress and activist Laverne Cox added her voice to those declaring a "State of Emergency" regarding the murder of trans women. It is disheartening that the situation has only become worse since then. Violence of any kind is not to be tolerated.

When vulnerable populations intersect, the likelihood of violence increases dramatically. Trans individuals of color are disproportionately likely to live in poverty. In a 2011 study conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National LGBTQ Task Force, the intersection of poverty, race, and gender identity was made clear. Forty-one percent of Black and twenty-seven percent of Latina/o trans and gender non-conforming respondents reported experiencing homelessness at some point. Of those, forty percent were denied access to shelters.

Transgender people of color, compared to non-transgender LGBQH people, are six times more likely to experience physical violence from the police, one and a half times more likely to experience discrimination or sexual violence and nearly twice as likely to experience bias-based violence in shelters (National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2013).

It takes real courage to be out. The threat of violence, physical and sexual, should not have to be part of the equation.

(All are welcome at Crime Victim Center. If you are the victim of violence or close to someone who has been, and would like to speak to a counselor, our 24-hour hotline is available to you at 814-455-9414. Services are free and confidential. Visit [www.cvcerie.org](http://www.cvcerie.org) for more information.)



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# Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar  
[www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

*Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16508. For more information, visit [www.aeriepa.org](http://www.aeriepa.org).*

**Oct 9 - 31 (Fri - Sat) - PACA Presents: 'Rocky Horror Show'** (PACA, 1505 State St, Erie, PA ) By Richard O'Brien Doors: 7:30p, Curtain: 8:00p, Tickets: \$10. BYOB w/ ID. [www.paca1505.com](http://www.paca1505.com).

**Oct 23 (Fri) - Diva Halloween Show** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA)

**Oct 24 (Sat) - Rocky Horror Picture Show Sing-Along** (Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA) (814) 337-8211. [www.theacademytheatre.org](http://www.theacademytheatre.org).

**Oct 24 (Sat) - Jamestown Pride Conference** (Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena, 319 W 3rd St, Jamestown, NY) [www.jamestownpride.com](http://www.jamestownpride.com)

**Oct 24 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets** (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Support group for transgender, gender non-conforming, gender-questioning, and intersex people and their loved ones. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeyer. (814) 823-1969. [caitlynxpress@gmail.com](mailto:caitlynxpress@gmail.com). [www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie](http://www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie).

**Oct 24 (Sat) - Erie Sisters and Brothers meets** (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. Followed by dinner at a local restaurant and dancing at The Zone Dance Club. (440) 265-8191. [shub1@suite224.net](mailto:shub1@suite224.net). [eriesisters.ning.com/](http://eriesisters.ning.com/)

**Oct 25 (Sun) - Diversity Worship Sunday** (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA) 11 AM. This year's special guest is Andy Lang, Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, who will offer the message. Contact: Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty. (814) 864-4429. [communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com). [communityunitedchurchoferiepa.weebly.com/](http://communityunitedchurchoferiepa.weebly.com/).

**Oct 27 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets** (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 1 PM. (724) 287-7731. [www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork).

**Oct 27 (Tue) - "Out In The Silence" screening** (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. Free movie...and popcorn!! Co-sponsored by Stone United Methodist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville. (814)724-6736 [sroncola@allegheny.edu](mailto:sroncola@allegheny.edu).

**Oct 28-Nov 1 - Lake Erie Gala** . [eriesisters.ning.com](http://eriesisters.ning.com)

**Oct 30 (Fri) - LBT Women - Game Night** (Barb and Robin's, Erie, PA) 6 PM. Please bring a snack to share and your favorite game. Contact Kim at [eriebeans@aol.com](mailto:eriebeans@aol.com) if you are planning to attend to get directions to their house. (814) 314-9512. [ErieBeans@aol.com](mailto:ErieBeans@aol.com). [www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE](http://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE).

**Oct 31 (Sat) - Drag Show & Halloween Party** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler PA) [www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge](http://www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge).

**Oct 31 (Sat) - Haunted Raven Mansion Halloween Party** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA)

**Nov 1 (Sun) - Trans youth group meets** (Lake Erie Counseling, 301 West 10th, Erie PA) A support group for transgender youth 2-5PM the first Sunday of each



301 German  
459-3800

**Martini & Cigar Lounge**  
\$3 Cosmo Happy Hour 6 - 8<sup>pm</sup> Daily

# Calendar

month. All trans youth are welcome! Info: (814) 504-1507 [cmn0626@gmail.com](mailto:cmn0626@gmail.com) or Caitlin: (814) 823-1969. [caitlynxpress@gmail.com](mailto:caitlynxpress@gmail.com).

**Nov 1 (Sun) - PFLAG Butler meets** (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 5 PM - 8 PM. Dr. Massey (From Slippery Rock University) (724) 290-9674 . [president@pflagbutler.com](mailto:president@pflagbutler.com). [www.pflagbutler.com/](http://www.pflagbutler.com/).

**Nov 1 (Sun) - The Table: All Saints Day Remembrance** (The Table, 3176 W. 41st Street, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Participants are invited to bring pictures or mementos to place on the altar in remembrance of loved ones who have passed. [www.thetableerie.com/](http://www.thetableerie.com/).

**Nov 3 (Tue) - General Election** 7 AM - 8 PM. Please remember to vote! Voters Guide on page 12!

**Nov 4 (Wed) - The Table: Worship** (3176 W. 41st Street, Erie, PA) 7 PM. [www.thetableerie.com](http://www.thetableerie.com)

**Nov 5 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner** (Three B Saloon, 732 W 4th St, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. [www.threesaloon.com/](http://www.threesaloon.com/)

**Nov 5 (Thu) - "Tangerine" (2015) Edinboro Film Series** (Edinboro University, 405 Scotland Rd, Edinboro,

PA) 8:30 PM. (814) 732-1048. [filmseries@edinboro.edu](mailto:filmseries@edinboro.edu) . [www.magpictures.com/tangerine/](http://www.magpictures.com/tangerine/).

**Nov 6 (Fri) - "Hedwig and the Angry Inch"** (Erie Movie House, 3424 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA) LBT Women of Erie are going to the 7 PM screening. (814) 636-1662. [eriemoviehouse.wix.com/erie-movie-house](http://eriemoviehouse.wix.com/erie-movie-house).

**Nov 6 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour)** (Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St, Erie, PA) 6-8 PM. GLBT professionals, colleagues and friends

**Nov 6 (Fri) - Ugly Sweater** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler PA) [www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge](http://www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge).

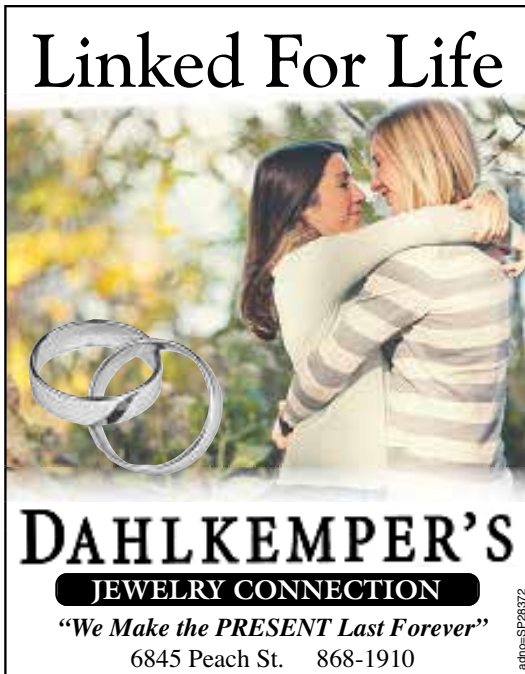
**Nov 7 (Sat) - GEAE Intersections of Equality Symposium** (Penn State Behrend, 5103 Station Rd, Erie, PA) 8AM-4:30PM Continuing Education credits available. (866) 229-1974. [GEAEinfo@gmail.com](mailto:GEAEinfo@gmail.com). [www.facebook.com/GreaterErieAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/GreaterErieAlliance)

**Nov 7 (Sat) - DRAG Show** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler PA) [www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge](http://www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge).

**Nov 8 (Sun) - LBT Women meets** (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. (814) 314-9512. [ErieBeans@aol.com](mailto:ErieBeans@aol.com). [www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE](http://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE).

**Nov 8 (Sun) - "The Normal Heart" (2014)** Taylor Little Theater Mercyhurst University, Erie PA 2PM. In 1980s New York, a writer (Mark Ruffalo) and his friends join forces to expose the truth about the emerging AIDS crisis to both the government and the gay community. Based on Larry Kramer's 1985 play. \$6 Seniors/Students/Military (with ID) , \$5 Mercyhurst Students (with ID)\$1 [thenormalheart.hbo.com/](http://thenormalheart.hbo.com/)

**Nov 10 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets** (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. Contact: Marguerite Felice. [youngstown-pflag@aol.com](mailto:youngstown-pflag@aol.com). [www.youngstownpflag.org/](http://www.youngstownpflag.org/).



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[trish4council.com](http://trish4council.com)



# Calendar

**Nov 11 (Wed) - Theology on Tap** (The Tap House, 333 State St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. [www.thetableerie.com](http://www.thetableerie.com).

**Nov 11 (Wed) - LBT Women go to “Me and Earl and the Dying Girl” screening** (Erie Art Museum, 411 State St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. \$5 admission. (814) 314-9512. [ErieBeans@aol.com](mailto:ErieBeans@aol.com). [www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE](http://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE).

**Nov 12 (Thu) - Paula Poundstone** (Ohio Theatre, Cleveland, OH) [www.paulapoundstone.com/](http://www.paulapoundstone.com/).

**Nov 15 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE Drag Show** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. “Great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests” (814) 452-0125. [www.thezonedanceclub.com/](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com/).

**Nov 15 (Sun) - Deadline for Erie Gay News December 2015 print edition** (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released the evening of Nov 24. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at [www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php](http://www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php) Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com).

**Nov 17 (Tue) - LGBTQ Support Group Meeting in Meadville** (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA ) 7 PM. The meeting is co-sponsored by Stone United Methodist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville. (814) 724-6736 [sroncola@allegheny.edu](mailto:sroncola@allegheny.edu) (Stone UMC)

**Nov 18 (Wed) - The Table: Worship** (3176 W. 41st Street, Erie, PA) 7 PM. [www.thetableerie.com/](http://www.thetableerie.com/).

**Nov 20 (Fri) - Transgender Day of Remembrance** Annual event to memorialize those killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.



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# Calendar

**Nov 20 - "Carol" (2015)** Nationwide release. Romantic drama film based on the 1952 semi-autobiographical novel *The Price of Salt* (also known as *Carol*) by Patricia Highsmith. [www.facebook.com/Carolmoviefans](http://www.facebook.com/Carolmoviefans)

**Nov 20 - "Legend" (2015)** Nationwide release. British thriller, based on the lives of Ron and Reginald Kray.

**Nov 21 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Cleveland Christmas Connection** (I-X Center, One I-X Center Drive, Cleveland, OH 44125) 10 AM - 8 PM. (Input 6200 Riverside Drive for GPS). \$12.99 Contact: Kim (814) 314-9512. Email: [ErieBeans@aol.com](mailto:ErieBeans@aol.com). [www.ixchristmasconnection.com/](http://www.ixchristmasconnection.com/).

**Nov 21 (Sat) - M&J's Fall Ball Party** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler PA) [www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge](http://www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge).

**Nov 24 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets** (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 1 PM. (724) 287-7731. [www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork).

**Nov 24 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party** (Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, Griffin Room, 55 West Bay Dr Erie, PA) 7 PM. All ages welcome! [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com).

**Nov 28 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Made in Erie Marketplace** (East Bayfront Neighborhood, 231 Parade St, Erie, PA) 11 AM. (814) 314-9512. [www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE](http://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE).

**Nov 28 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets** (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Support group for transgender, gender non-conforming, gender-questioning, and intersex people and their loved ones Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeier. (814) 823-1969. [caitlynxpress@gmail.com](mailto:caitlynxpress@gmail.com). [www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie](http://www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie).

**Nov 28 (Sat) - Erie Sisters and Brothers meets** (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. Followed by dinner at a local restaurant and dancing at The Zone Dance Club. (440) 265-8191. [shub1@suite224.net](mailto:shub1@suite224.net). [eriesisters.ning.com/](http://eriesisters.ning.com/)

**Dec 1 (Tue) - World AIDS Day** [www.worldaidsday.org](http://www.worldaidsday.org)

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# ☆☆☆ VOTERS GUIDE ☆☆☆

Candidates for Erie County Council and Erie City Council were asked about their positions on GLBT issues. Their responses appear on the next few pages.

*These were the questions for all races:*

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

*Do you support the passage of SB/HB 300, which would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to include protecting LGBT individuals from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation? Please explain.*

## ANTI-BULLYING

*Do you support the PASS Act, which would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to include protecting LGBT individuals from bullying in public schools? Please explain.*

## OTHER

*What would you like to let the Erie area LGBT community to know?*

## COUNTY COUNCIL District 1

### Anti-Discrimination

**Phil Fatica (D-Incumbent)**

Yes, the County of Erie already recognizes the importance of protecting individuals from discrimination and it is time the rest of the state and country was on board.

### Anti-Bullying

**Phil Fatica (D-Incumbent)**

Protection from any form of bullying in the schools is vital. Our nephew recognized the need to help kids who are in need of understanding their identity and helping them fight judgmental comments and bullying and he is one of the supporters of an organization to address these issues, "Live Out Loud." And so am I.

## Other

**Phil Fatica (D-Incumbent)**

Erie County, through the Human Rights Commission, has in place a law which forbids discrimination based on sexual orientation. We are the only county between here and Pittsburgh which has such a law. As a current Erie County Councilman, I always have and always will proudly support this law.

## COUNTY COUNCIL District 3

*Not Responding:* Fiore Leone (D-Incumbent)

## COUNTY COUNCIL District 5

*Not Responding:* Kyle Foust (D-Incumbent)

### Anti-Discrimination

**Trish Catalano (R)**

Yes, I wholeheartedly support the passage of Pennsylvania House Bill 300. I also would support any Local, County, State or Federal bill that would provide the same protections, to every member of the LGBTQ community that any other citizen is currently afforded.

### Anti-Bullying

**Trish Catalano (R)**

Yes, I support the PA Safe School Act. I believe that no child or young adult should ever be harassed or bullied due to their sexual identity or preference. No child should ever have to chose between feeling safe and accepted in school or not attending for fear of ridicule or bullying. Our community loses out when a child drops out due to bullying or harassment. That child could have been our next teacher, our next doctor or lawyer, our next mayor or even our next president, but they will never have that opportunity to prove who they could have been. School is so much more than just book learning, it is where you learn to be a good citizen, a good friend, a good neighbor, where you learn compassion and how to help your community, its what teaches you a work ethic and where you learn to

push yourself and to never give up. It also should be teaching our children that each one is special, yet our LGBTQ students are allowed to fall thru the cracks with no protection from bullying and harassment. School should be teaching you to succeed in every part of your life but by not protecting all of our children, we are failing not only as a community, but as a country.

**Other**

**Trish Catalano (R)**

I believe that all US Citizens should have the right to love and marry who they choose. We all need to take pride in our selves, our family and our community, and never should one persons views, stop you from living and enjoying their life to the fullest. I have many friends in the LBGTQ community and I would be so very proud to represent all of you on Erie County Council. I promise to be part of the solution instead of just another career politician that has made promises for over a decade and yet nothing has changed for the better or improved on a county level. It time to give someone new a chance to make all of our lives better.

**COUNTY COUNCIL District 7**

**Anti-Discrimination**

**Carol Loll (R-Incumbent)**

Yes. I voted for the Erie County Human Relations to have this added to the By-laws for enforcement in Erie County.

**Anti-Bullying**

**Carol Loll (R-Incumbent)**

Yes. All individuals should be protected no matter what race, religion, handicap, gender or sexual preference.

**Other**

**Carol Loll (R-Incumbent)**

All people are equal and it up to God to do the judging.

**ERIE CITY COUNCIL**

*Not Responding:* Mel Witherspon (D-Incumbent)

**Anti-Discrimination**

**Sonya Arrington (D)**

I urge the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to embrace the expansion of non-discrimination legislation by passing SB/HB 300. It is unacceptable for property owners, employers, and public facilities to discriminate against people based on their sexuality.

It is unfortunate that government must step in and create legislation of this nature. As a black woman, I certainly recognize the value of protection against discrimination. I believe all persons should have fair opportunities to obtain employment, housing and public accommodation.

**Bob Merski (D-Incumbent)**

I am for the passage of SB/HB 300, which would protect LGBT from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation. Discrimination because of who you are is wrong, and it shouldn't be allowed under the law.

**Anti-Bullying**

**Sonya Arrington (D)**

As an advocate for youth, I believe very strongly that our schools play a large role in protecting children from bullying and discrimination. I urge the Pennsylvania Legislature to update the language of the Public School Code of 1949 to reflect the language of the PASS Act. I am very supportive of the fact that high school and college students originally conceived the PASS initiative.

Our youth, regardless of their sexuality, racial background, socioeconomic status, or any other factor used to divide and discriminate, should be able to receive an education free from harassment from their peers. School-wide positive behavior support programs are one way to support a positive and healthy learning environment in any educational program from pre-school to high school.

The Pennsylvania Youth Survey figures from Erie

# ☆☆☆ VOTERS GUIDE ☆☆☆

County indicate that an unacceptably high percentage of our young people are suffering from depression and low self-esteem. Many cite bullying as an issue in their daily lives at school that affects how they feel about themselves and their school performance. Most troubling is the number who feel that life isn't worth living. Based on the statistics, some percentage of these young people are certainly struggling with sexual identity issues. I have attached the PAYS survey document for the Erie School District for you to examine. The chart on page 45 is very troubling.

## Bob Merski (D-Incumbent)

I am for amending Public School Code to include listing protected classes, including LGBT students, but I also believe that the law shouldn't be exclusive to only those protected classes. For example, the boy or girl that gets picked on for being overweight or being poor- we don't have a protective classes for those characteristics, but they should have the same rights under the law as anyone else being bullied. I'm for listing protected classes, but wouldn't limit the law to only those protected classes (i.e. "including, but not limited to, ...").

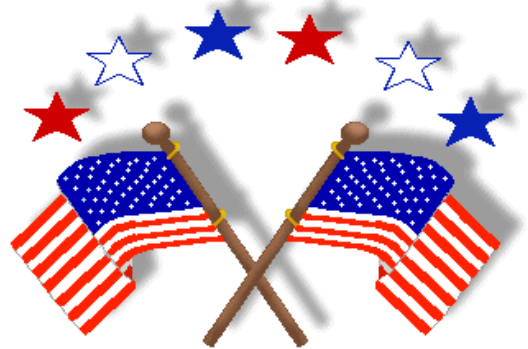
## Other

### Sonya Arrington (D)

Regardless of the outcome of this race, I will remain committed to Erie youth and promoting non-violence. In 2013, I sponsored a well-attended anti-bullying workshop at East High School and a forum on Cyber-Bullying at the Booker T. Washington Center. I will continue to work with young people in my Leadership, Empowerment, Accountability and Diversity (LEAD) program to encourage them to seek a positive path in life, to handle conflict appropriately, and to embrace the differences in those around them. I empathize with the youth and adults I speak to, that we all need to reach out and have a spirit of togetherness and community with one another, to lay down the hate and the guns, in order to have a peaceful Erie.

## Bob Merski (D-Incumbent)

I want the Erie area LGBT community know that I am a friend to the community. I believe the City of Erie is a good city, but it could be a GREAT city! It's going to take ALL of us working together to make it happen. Being a great city means having safe, clean streets and sidewalks, it means supporting local businesses, it means having good schools, it means encouraging inclusivity and celebrating diversity. Being a great city means having good jobs- the kind where you put in an honest day's work and have enough money after paying your bills to enjoy what the city has to offer with your family and friends. Most importantly, being a great city means having many great people contribute what they can for the betterment of the community. From business, to arts and culture; from academia to non-profits, from government to our places of worship, the LGBT community of has been a part of taking Erie from good to great. The work isn't easy, but the results will be worth it! This is bigger than me, and I need your help to improve Erie. I'm asking for your support and your vote on May 19, because together we can take Erie from good to great! To get involved with our movement for a better Erie, email me a bob@bobmerski.com and become part of taking Erie from good to GREAT!



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**Online Contests**

Here are new contests for this month...

| Contest  | Begins      |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Confident</i> from Demi Lovato                    | October 23  |
| <i>A Reunion</i> DVD                                 | October 27  |
| <i>Star Wars FAQ: On My Mind</i> from Ellie Goulding | October 30  |
| <i>Get Weird</i> by Little Mix                       | November 6  |
| <i>Strayborn: An Illustrated Life</i>                | November 10 |
| <i>BOYSTOWN Season 4</i>                             | Nov 13      |
| <i>Star Wars FAQ</i>                                 | Nov 17      |
| <i>A Chorus Line FAQ</i>                             | Nov 20      |

Here are contests which are currently active...

| Contest                                    | Ends        |
|--|-------------|
| <i>The Expanders: The Hustling Culture</i> | October 23  |
| <i>Parade</i> by Michael Graves            | October 27  |
| <i>You Don't Own Me</i>                    | October 30  |
| <i>We The Generation</i> from Rudimental   | November 3  |
| <i>The X-Files FAQ</i>                     | November 6  |
| <i>A Life Awakening</i> Trilogy            | November 10 |

Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events!

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Will Koehler, LCSW  
Dept. of Social Work  
Edinboro University



Dr. Hilary Copp, LSW  
Dept. of Social Work  
Edinboro University

**Find out about the status of transgender health care and rights in Pennsylvania.**

**Presented by:**

Dr. Rachel Levine  
Physician General  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania/  
Professor of Pediatrics & Psychiatry  
Penn State College of Medicine



**Learn out about conformity and rebellion in gender roles.**

**Presented by:**

Dr. T. Andrew Caswell  
Psychology &  
Counseling Dept.  
Gannon University



**Presented by:** John Champagne, PhD  
Dept. of English  
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