

WHERE TO GO

Trust me, this place isn't *all* that bad The best local spots for culture, music and good times

By Matthew Schwabenbauer
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I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, "wow, this place is in the middle of nowhere! College is supposed to be crazy, and I'm pretty sure I saw cows on the side of the road on my way here. I'm supposed to wake up in strange places on top of a puddle of my own vomit, but instead I'm eating hummus chips at a cafeteria named

after a dead dog. This stinks." Well don't worry, while it may not seem like much at first there are plenty of interesting things to do in Erie and the community surrounding Penn State Behrend. Here's a list of some of my picks for the best local places for dancing, music, recreation and just plain old relaxing.

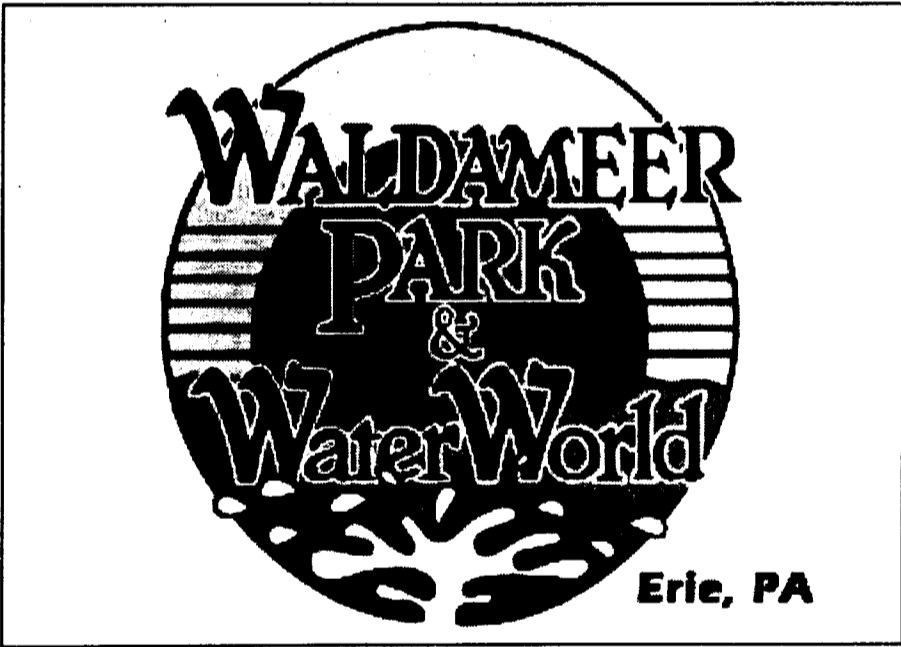


If you're looking for a dance club atmosphere, check out Peccadillo's at 14 E. 10th St. in downtown Erie. Every Wednesday night, Peccadillo's hosts a College ID night. Even if you are under twenty-one you can enter the club with a College ID. The club also hosts various musical acts from time to time. Previous performers include Coolio, Tommy Lee, The Misfits and more.

If you aren't the night club type, take a look at Forward Hall and take part in Erie's lively alternative music scene. Forward Hall is also located in downtown Erie, at 2502 Peach St. Forward Hall features many nationally-renowned and upcoming bands. Acts of many different styles come through, from Indie to Pop-Punk to Hardcore. Tickets for events can be purchased at Ink Assassins Tattoos & Piercings located at 2601 Peach St. For a full schedule, go to www.erieshows.com.



Erie also has its very own amusement park called Waldameer located at 220 Peninsula Dr. Waldameer features several roller coasters, including the brand new "Ravine Flyer II," which is considered the second best wooden roller coaster in the country. Yes, they really do still make roller coasters out of wood, and no, no one gets excited when they hear the words "second best wooden roller coaster." All in all, Waldameer is a decent way to kill a day for under twenty bucks.



On your way to Waldameer, you might notice a really big lake. That lake is Lake Erie, and is also a fun place to go. All along Peninsula Dr. are small beaches open to the public. It's a good place to go to on dates, and its sunset was rated one of the best in the world by National Geographic. Guys, definitely take girls here. You can thank me later.



If none of my suggestions seem appealing to you, there is always the Millcreek Mall at 5800 Peach St. The mall has the usual stores you would expect: American Eagle, Hollister, Abercrombie, Gap, etc. Also scattered throughout the mall are kiosks for some very interesting things like local artists and bakers, and some very un-interesting things like cell phone covers, glittery sunglasses and other useless knick-knacks.



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For more information e-mail Matthew Schwabenbauer at:

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Local eats

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DELIVERY

A Lotta Pizza (AKA Jimmy Z's)
3406 Buffalo Rd (814) 898-3880

Valerio's Pizza 1803 E 38th St
(814) 825-2693

Pizza Hut 2007 E 38th St
(814) 825-7872

Happy Garden 418 Sate St
(814) 452-4488

Papa John's 1713 E 38th St
(814) 824-8282

Barbato's 1214 E 38th St
(814) 864-9999

Lucchetti's Pizza 1042 W 26th St
(814) 452-4413

FAST FOOD

Arby's 4310 Buffalo Rd

Taco Bell 4225 Buffalo Rd

Wendy's 4186 Buffalo Rd

McDonald's 4316 Buffalo Rd

KFC 4410 Buffalo Rd

Burger King 4315 Buffalo Rd

Dairy Queen 4219 Iroquois Ave

Little Caesar's 4490 Buffalo Rd

MADE-TO-ORDER

Sheetz 4816 Buffalo Rd

Country Fair (5 nearby locations)

4753 Buffalo Rd

5211 E Lake Rd

5866 Station Rd

2905 Buffalo Rd

2266 E 38th St

Subway 5741 Buffalo Rd

Quiznos 4043 Buffalo Rd

CLASSIC RESTAURANTS

Applebee's 4002 Buffalo Rd

Patrick's 4041 Buffalo Rd

Bob Evan's 5739 Buffalo Rd

Waterfall Restaurant 5735 E Lake Rd

Perkins 4334 Buffalo Rd

Ponderosa 4444 Buffalo Rd

Coney Island Lunch 3015 Buffalo Rd