

Free

Perceptions

Saginaw Valley

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Serving the Tri-City area LGBT Community



August 2009

Come Out to the Ballgame!



Join Perceptions members and guests on Friday, August 7th to watch the **Great Lakes Loons** take on the Michigan White Caps. The game begins at 7:05.

We will be staking out a section in the outfield lawn a little after 6:00, so come anytime.

If you have never been to a Loons game, there is great lawn seating for only \$6.00. Bring your lawn chair and blanket, winter parka or summer tank top. The variety of food at the stadium will be sure to please everyone.

This will be a casual, come as you are, eat as you want and watch the game or just visit with friends and enjoy a beautiful Michigan evening.



Since there is no designated area we will have a Perceptions banner or flag so you will be able to find us.

Any questions, email Kay@PerceptionsSV.org.

Perceptions Saginaw Valley

P.O. Box 1525
Midland, MI 48641
(989)891-1GAY
www.perceptionsSV.org

EDITOR

Tana Michaels
Editor@PerceptionsSV.org

AD SALES

Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

Print Distribution,

Jim Kleinsorge,
Jim@PerceptionsSV.org

Webmaster, Tim

Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@perceptionsSV.org

SUBMISSIONS are always

welcome. Write to:
editor@perceptionsSV.org

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Mid-Michigan's leading resource for enriching and empowering GLBT individuals and their community

Perceptions is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Your contributions to Perceptions which exceed the minimum amount to qualify for membership are tax deductible.

Mission statement: Our mission is to provide superior educational programs, networking opportunities and services for the well being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender individuals and their community.

Perceptions Paddlin' & Picnic

by Joy Clark

Let's hit the water during this hot, hot summer! Come join us for a **Perceptions Paddlin'** event at Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area, **2121 Schust Road**, Saginaw on Sunday, August 9, 2009. From 2 pm to 6 pm, we will be playing beach volleyball, fishing (make sure you have a license), swimming, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boating, BBQing and much more – but most importantly we will be enjoying the company of our Perceptions friends and family. For the volleyball players, just bring a ball (be sure to put your name on it). For the paddlers, you can bring your own canoe or kayak – no motorized boats are allowed on the lake. For those of you who don't own a canoe or kayak but want to enjoy the lake, the Haithco Recreation Area rents kayaks, paddleboats, rowboats, and canoes for nominal fees. If you aren't familiar with canoeing or kayaking but want to give it a try, this is the perfect place for novice boaters to give it a whirl. The 40-acre lake is clean, clear and calm. You will also get to see some wildlife, like ducks, great egrets, herons, lots of fish, frogs and turtles. Ranger Becky will be on hand to answer all of your wildlife questions.

We have rented Pavilion #1 where we'll have a picnic dinner around 5 pm. Perceptions will supply burgers, hot dogs, paper plates, plasticware, and non-alcoholic beverages. Bring a dish to share if you're so inclined. Also bring your towels, lawn chairs, squirt guns, and other fun gear; but leave the beer and your dogs at home as **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR PETS** are allowed at this park. There are some small fees involved but all of the money goes to keeping the Haithco area beautiful for us to enjoy for years to come.

Park Entrance Fees:
\$5 per vehicle
\$1 per walk-in/cyclist
\$1 per non-motorized boat

Boating Rental and Fees:
Canoes (2) - \$7.50 for the first hour+\$1 per hour after
Kayaks (6) - \$5 per hour
Paddleboats (10) - \$5 per hour
Rowboats (3) - \$8 per 2 hours



Highway Cleanup

by Rick



The highway clean up was held on Saturday July 11th, with a nice bunch of people showing up to lend a helping hand.

This had to be our Hottest pick up ever,(81 degrees). It rained earlier in the morning, so it was humid, which made it

seem even worse. These dedicated individuals worked for about 4 hours picking up trash on both sides of I-75. We all

enjoyed ourselves after at a cookout at my house, where we dined in air-conditioned comfort and enjoyed great food and even better conversation. This just could not have been possible without the great help from Allison, Mike, Leo, Chas,

Randy, Bob, Dave, Doug, and Brent. Thanks

also goes out to Allison for bringing cold water and pop to the pick up, to Randy who made the best cowboy beans ever and brought a relish tray for the cook out, and to Bob, who made a monetary donation towards the great food.



l-r: Rick, Mike, Allison, Leo, Chas, Randy, Bob, Doug, Dave, Brent

Our next Highway pick-up is scheduled for Saturday, September 19th at 10 am, rain day is Sunday the 20th. Keep these dates opened!! This will also be the last time the cookout will be at my home, although I will continue to coordinate the highway pick up. Thank you for all you do and I hope to see you at the next pick up!

New LGBT Group forming in Isabella County

Michigan



Announcing the start of a GLBT community based group for Isabella County and surrounding areas. The group is open to all, and is being established for the purpose of connecting, networking, and social support for the entire GLBT Community.

All are welcome to attend, **August 11, 2009**, 7:00 pm. St. John's Episcopal Church, [206 West Maple](#), Mount Pleasant. Even though the group is meeting at a church, it is not meant to be religious in content. For more information contact Erin Moers 989-317-0811, erin.moers@yahoo.com or Rev. Wayne Nicholson at 989-773-7448.

LAHR to Celebrate 30th Anniversary

The Lansing Association for Human Rights will celebrate its 30th anniversary on August 23, 2009. [LAHR](#) started as a loosely organized group in 1979. They have continuously published *The LGBT News* since September 1979, making it Michigan's oldest LGBT newsletter.



LAHR will celebrate with a party at The Chrome Cat in Old Town Lansing on **August 23rd**, from 3:30 - 6:00 pm. Anyone who donates to LAHR in recognition of the 30th Anniversary will receive a complimentary admission. Tickets also available at the door. LAHR is a 501(c)(3) organization.

2009 AIDS Walk

by Jim Kleinsorge

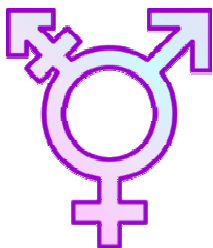


This year the Bay City/Midland/Saginaw Michigan AIDS Walk will be held on Saturday, **September 26, 2009** at Wenonah Park in downtown Bay City. Registration begins at 9:30 am, there will be a rally at 10:30 am, and the walk itself starts at 11:00 am. The Perceptions Walk Team has formed and we are looking for people to join us in this worthy cause. 2009 marks the 21st year BASIS has provided care services to hundreds of men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS in Arenac, Bay, Gladwin, Midland,

Saginaw, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. All the money raised in the walk stays in our local area. If you are unable to walk, please consider sponsoring one of our walkers by making a donation in their name. If you would like more information, please contact Jim@PerceptionsSV.org

IF YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE WALK: Go to www.aidswalkmichigan.org and click on Bay City/Midland/Saginaw in the left column. Then click on the "Register Here" button. Follow the easy step-by-step instructions.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A PERCEPTIONS WALKER: Go to www.aidswalkmichigan.org and click on Bay City/Midland/Saginaw in the left column. Then click on the "Sponsor Walker" button. On the next screen type in the first and/or last name of the walker you would like to sponsor. Scroll down to that person's name, click on it and then follow the easy step-by-step instructions. You may also give your donation in person to the walker you would like to sponsor.



The Perceptions SV Transgender Group has opened its Yahoo group to anyone who wishes to join whether TG, friend, family, ally, or simply those who desire to learn more about TG issues. Those who want to join can do so at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PSVTG/>.



Find us on
Facebook

Perceptions has a group site on Facebook. Facebook is a social networking website that will allow friends and members of Perceptions to share ideas and keep in touch more easily and allow those who can't make it to our monthly meetings to share their ideas as well. If you have a facebook account you can find our group by just searching for Perceptions under groups. If you do not already have a facebook account but would like to create one, you can do so by going to www.facebook.com.



August 15 Doug's annual party and picnic 6pm---until? Soft drinks, hot dogs, brats and the fixings will be provided. Bring a dish to pass. You may BYOB if desired. Rain or shine.

Located 6 miles west of Freeland at the corner of Freeland and S. Poseyville Roads. ([3004 S. Poseyville Rd. 48640](http://www.google.com/maps?q=3004+S.+Poseyville+Rd.+48640)).

Contact Doug at DouglasSolosky@Yahoo.com for more information.



Current Events

August 5, Wed - Saginaw Meet & Greet 7:00 pm.
Magic Bean Cafe, 5789 State Street, Saginaw. An informal gathering for the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. All are welcome. Meet your old friends and make some new ones. Enjoy hot and cold drinks in a non-smoking environment.

August 6, Thur - D.L.I.M. Men's Friendship Room 6:00 pm Men's Friendship Room is designed as a safe place for Gay, Bisexual and Transgender men, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. It meets at David Younk's home in Saginaw. For more info. contact David Younk at 989-771-9721 or davidy513@hotmail.com. The group is sponsored by Divine Light Interfaith Ministry but is not a religious gathering. This event repeats on the 1st Thursday of each month.

August 6, 13, 20, & 27, Thur - GLBTs with Disabilities Group 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Butman Fish Library, 1716 Hancock St., Saginaw. The group is facilitated by Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk and Carm Audas and sponsored by Divine Light Interfaith Ministries. It is open to couples or anyone who is single and has a disability. If you have any questions, contact rev_kathyv@yahoo.com.

August 7, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **The Loons Game**, Dow Diamond, Midland. **See article on page 1 for details.**

August 9, Perceptions Paddlin' & Picnic 2:00 pm Haithco Recreation Area, [2121 Schust Rd](http://www.haithco.com), Saginaw. Afternoon of fun & activities on 40 acre lake. Bring a dish to share if you'd like. **See article on page 2 for details.**

August 12, Wed - Perceptions Transgender Group 6:00 pm. **The Mixx / Metro Grille, 115 N. Hamilton St.,** Saginaw, the group offers an informal gathering, taking a more 'light-hearted' approach to allow transgenders in the Tri-City area an opportunity to connect with one another for socializing and support. If you have any questions, contact Rebecca at rebecca@perceptionsSV.org. This event will repeat on the second Wednesday of each month.

August 12, Wed - Freeland Meet & Greet 7:00 pm. **Riverside Restaurant, 8295 Midland Road** (M-47), Freeland. Private room. Famous homemade pies. This event will repeat on the second Wednesday of each month.

August 13, Thur - GLBTs with Disabilities Group 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Butman Fish Library, Saginaw.

August 14, Friday Night Dinner 7pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Fuzzy's, 1924 Court St.,** Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

August 15, Sat - Doug's Annual Potluck Picnic & Party 6:-00 pm to ???. [3004 S. Poseyville Rd.](http://www.dougs-picnic.com), Midland. Rain or shine. Bring a dish to pass. Soft drinks, hot dogs, and brats provided. Email Doug at DouglasSolosky@yahoo.com for more information.

August 18, Tues - Men's Discussion Group 7:00 - 8:30 pm. **Zael Memorial Library, 3100 N. Center Rd.,** Saginaw. Discussion and informal support for gay and bisexual men. The group will be facilitated by Thomas Brubaker. You may contact him at Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org

August 19, Wed - D.L.I.M. Women's Room II 6:00 pm. Women's Room II is designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender women, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. It meets at Rev Kathy and Annie's home in Saginaw. For more info. contact Rev. Kathy 989-493-6866 or rev_kathyv@yahoo.com. The Group is sponsored by Divine Light Interfaith Ministry, but it is not a religious gathering. This event repeats on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

August 20, Thur - GLBTs with Disabilities Group 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Butman Fish Library, Saginaw.

August 21, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **G's Pizzeria & Deli, 1005 Saginaw St.,** Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

August 22, Sat - Transgender Michigan 'Pride in the Park' Noon - 6:00 pm. **Geary Park in Ferndale.** Transgender Michigan's Grand Finale to Transgender Awareness Month.

August 27, Thur - GLBTs with Disabilities Group 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Butman Fish Library, Saginaw.

August 28, Friday Night Dinner 6:00 pm (Note earlier time). Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Pasong's Cafe, 114 N. Michigan Ave,** Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

Be informed about upcoming events
 Simply send a blank email to:
PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

AUGUST 2009

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No Rain at the Annual Garden Party *by Alan Shinaver*

The PFLAG and Perceptions Annual Garden Party held at Terry Z's in Bay City on Saturday, July 18th was surely enjoyed by all who attended. Although periods of rain and overcast skies throughout the Tri-city area looked to threaten the event, it was bright and dry in Bay City from beginning to end.

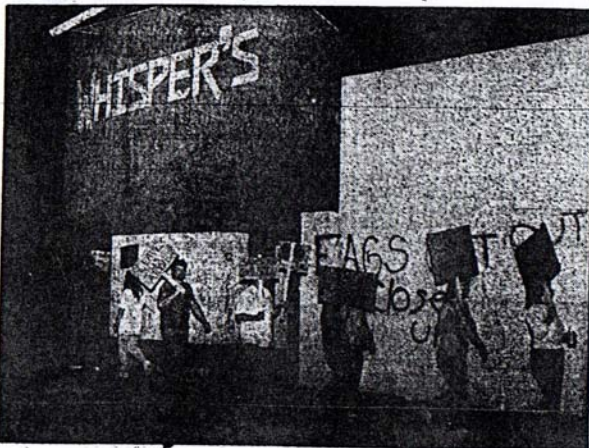
Terry out-did himself again for this year's event. His gardens were impeccable and Terry's flair for arranging small areas to accommodate large groups was most evident. His creation of several cozy "outdoor conversation rooms" provided comfortable areas where groups could gather, sit, and relax while sampling the array of the incredible treats provided by PFLAG and Perceptions members.

Nothing was overheard but complimentary comments on the event, gardens, and wonderful treats, as patrons lingered among the flowers, marveled over the edibles, or socialized in the seating areas. Relaxing, leisurely and comfortably made for an excellent Saturday afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who attended this event and donated to the organizations yearly operating funds. A huge thank you to Terry and those who assisted him, for the extraordinary amount of work put in to setting up and taking down, and for the generosity of sharing his home and gardens with us again this year as he has so many times in the past. It is through the generosity such as this, of our members and friends, that we survive as viable organizations in this community, and without which we would cease to exist.

Local GLBT History *by Leo Romo*

Violence rocks West Side gay bar; police arrest two



BY STEVEN VERBURG
News Staff Writer

A rock-throwing "drunken mob" hurt business at a new gay bar over the weekend, but violence won't drive the tavern from its West Side neighborhood, owners said Sunday.

Police arrested two of the protesters, including one on charges he assaulted a police officer, and wrote about a dozen reports on death threats and vandalism to Whisper's bar, 2365 S. Michigan.

More than 100 onlookers joined a handful of picketers Friday and Saturday nights.

Protesters drew a smaller crowd Sunday night, but violence continued.

Eight or nine persons hurled rocks and chunks of concrete over the building, damaging three or four cars in the tavern parking lot, police said.

"We want them faggots out of our neighborhood," said Jim Knights, 32, of 4008 Joslin, who

carried a picket sign all three nights.

Men, women and teenagers gathered on the streets around the bar and shouted obscenities at patrons who entered and left, said owners and managers.

"They were scared," the owner, a 51-year-old woman, said of the patrons. She, like customers and employees, wouldn't give her names to reporters. The death threats frightened them, they said.

Police at first kept picketers on sidewalks. But by midnight Saturday, more than 100 demonstrators flowed into the parking lot, police said.

The bar owner, a security guard and others stood outside the west door and tried to prevent more damage to cars.

As the "very large crowd" grew "loud and disorderly" police ordered picketers to disperse. The gathering was "turning into a mob," police reported.

A bar employee sprayed mace into the face of 21-year-old Phillip

Most, 1913 Arthur, during a shouting match in the parking lot outside the back door, according to police and witnesses.

One or more of the protesters at the parking lot door tried to get in the bar, and someone was swinging a club, so employees went inside and closed the door, the owner and other witnesses said.

"They (demonstrators) proceeded to say they wanted to line up all the gays in Saginaw and shoot them," said the manager of Whisper's, the owner's 21-year-old son.

When someone smashed the window in the door, glass showered the owner, she said. She feared "the drunken mob" would get into the building, so she pointed a .38-caliber handgun out the window and fired a shot into the air.

"Everybody scattered," said picketer Knights, who took the mace victim across Joslin Street to the home of Alan R. Kaufman to wash out his eyes.

Please see BAR, Page A-2

Neighbors protest outside Whisper's, a bar 2365 S. Michigan that recently began catering to homosexual men and women. A half a dozen or so death threats, rock throwing, broken windows and picketing won't close the establishment, owners say.

News Staff/Scott Daniels

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1987

BAR

Continued from Page A-1

Kaufman, 30, of 2351 S. Michigan, said his 10-year-old son, Alan Jr., found an unwrapped condom in their yard several days ago and has seen same-sex couples kissing each other and holding hands nearby.

"This is unreal," Kaufman said. "I'm ready to pick up stakes and go. We don't need that kind of establishment around here with all the kids around here."

Kaufman and his girlfriend, 30-year-old Rosemary Willis, went into the bar shortly after Aug. 7 when it switched its name from Loretta's Beef & Bourbon to Whisper's and began drawing gay and lesbian customers.

Kaufman said he was shocked to see homosexual couple "grabbing and kissing" each other.

"It's like something you'd see on HBO," Kaufman said.

Within weeks after Whisper's opened, managers reported packing the place and neighbors confirmed the parking lot was full and cars lined the streets for blocks around.

About 20 customers were in the bar at about 10 p.m. Sunday.

The phone rang steadily through the evening. About half the callers offered obscenities or threats. Others were customers wondering if the protesters were present.

The customers Sunday laughed and talked. Some danced to lively-recorded music below a prism ball on the bar's large dance floor. Many of the patrons left early in the evening.

"They got nervous... They left, and I really can't blame them," said a 21-year-old bartender.

"Kind of like Fort Apache in the Bronx," he said, referring to a movie about a police precinct station in one of New York City's most

violent ghettos.

Bar employees supervise the parking lot and haven't found any inappropriate activity by customers there, the manager said. There's no law against holding hands or kissing, he added.

"It's like the police officer (told protesters Friday), 'I can hold hands with my dog in public and it's not illegal,'" he said.

Kaufman said he hopes demonstrations will force the bar out, but he added, "I guess the protesters got a little bit carried away."

Knights said some persons from in the bar antagonized the crowd outside by throwing kisses at them.

"If you didn't want to be messed with you'd be in the bar," Knights said.

Protest organizer Sandra Snow, 32, claimed she and others have gathered 450 signatures demanding the bar close. The bar opponents planned to give them to the

City Council today at its 7:30 p.m. meeting.

The owner of Whisper's said she will ask city officials for help.

"They (picketers) say they want protection from us," the manager said. "We're the ones who need protection."

At about 11 p.m. Sunday, protesters had gone home, and so had many of the onlookers.

A 32-year-old man remained sitting on a stoop across South Michigan Avenue from the bar with his 40-year-old wife and their son.

Shouting and glass breaking woke them up late Saturday as they slept in their house about two blocks away, so the family came to watch Sunday night.

"The gays and lesbians aren't hurting anyone. They (neighbors) are the ones causing the problem," he said. "When all this mess is all over, it's just going to be a very well-known gay bar."

Do you remember Whispers Bar? Share your memories with us! Write to [Perceptions editor](#) and tell us your experience.

The Garden Party



Perceptions Summer Picnic

by Kay Sural



Left:
Vicky,
Garn, Leo



Right:
some fans
speaking
with Paul
McCartney.
Wait!
Doesn't he
ever age!!
That can't
really be
him . . .
Can it?

Inset:
Paul
McCartney



A big thank you to Vicky and Garn for hosting the Perceptions Summer Picnic on Tuesday, July 14th in their beautiful backyard. It was an ideal night to share food and conversation. There was a wide variety of wonderful "potluck dishes" to go along with the brats and chicken that Garn cooked up on the grill. I brought my usual KFC coleslaw, people want me to bring it - really! Most others were much more creative with salads, such as Jim's "get lucky" delicious red pepper dip and Floyd's yummy oatmeal raisin cookies. Looking forward to next year as Garn announced that she and Vicky would like it to be an annual event!

Did you miss these events? Don't miss out on anymore fun. Clip out page 5 in this newsletter to keep track of all upcoming events!