

Free

# Perceptions

## Saginaw Valley

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Serving the Tri-City area LGBT Community



September 2009

## 2009 Michigan AIDS Walk



### A few facts about HIV/AIDS in our area:

An estimated 18,000 Michigan residents are living with HIV/AIDS, and an estimated 350 people in the Bay, Midland, and Saginaw region are living with HIV/AIDS.

BASIS-Sacred Heart provides care services to nearly 150 people in our area who are living with HIV/AIDS.

All AIDS Care services are free to people living with HIV/AIDS. Services include: care case management, housing assistance, prescription and dental assistance, food pantry, monthly client support group meetings, community HIV testing, and HIV prevention services.

BASIS-Sacred Heart holds free HIV testing hours at 7 locations in the Tri-County area, including BASIS-Sacred Heart's Bay City and Saginaw offices, East Side Soup Kitchen, Neighborhood House and Restoration Community Outreach in Saginaw; Northwood University in Midland, and Saginaw Valley State University.

In 2008, BASIS-Sacred Heart provided HIV prevention counseling and free testing to 207 people in our community.

BASIS-Sacred Heart provides services in Arenac, Bay, Gladwin, Huron, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties.

Women consist of approximately 20% of the total clients in the AIDS Care program. Nearly all of the female clients in the AIDS Care Program have children.

**Please join Perceptions in this year's AIDS Walk. We need both walkers and people to sponsor those walkers.**



In the last 4 years, Perceptions has raised over \$10,000 for AIDS/HIV.

With your help, we can continue to help people in need. If you would like to help, this is what you can do:

**IF YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE WALK:** Go to [www.aidswalkmichigan.org](http://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 AND/OR email [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) for collection materials, information, or answers to your questions.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A PERCEPTIONS WALKER:** Go to [www.aidswalkmichigan.org](http://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.



## Perceptions Saginaw Valley

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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.

# 3rd Annual Perceptions/PFLAG Wine Tasting

by Tim A.

**Saturday, October 17th will be the third annual Wine Tasting that our two organizations have co-sponsored. The venue this year will be the newly restored [Pere Marquette Depot](#) in downtown Bay City.**

**The Depot originally opened in March 1904 during a period of expansion for the Pere Marquette Railroad Company, the largest railroad in Michigan at the time. The Depot was listed on the National Register of Historic Structures in 1982. A \$6.2 million restoration project was started in 2003. The magnificent building, a stunning example of prairie architecture, reopened in June 2008 and is an attraction for railroad aficionados and fans of historic architecture.**

**As visitors mingle in the restored two-story waiting room, [Opperman's Cork 'n' Ale](#) will introduce our guests to a selection of wines to sample and provide suggestions for serving, such as what foods to pair with each wine. A nice variety of hors d'oeuvres will be served to compliment the wines. Following the event, Opperman's will accept orders for your favorite wines at prices discounted for attendees.**

**Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 17th and watch Perceptions and PFLAG news outlets for additional details and ticket information.**



# Holiday Party & Charity Auction

by Tim A.

Perceptions 8th Annual Holiday Party & Charity Auction will be held on Saturday, December 12th at [Bay Valley Resort](#). The Resort is centrally located for the Tri-Cities area, just off I-75 at the M-84 exit. For those with a bit of a drive, hotel rooms will be available at a discounted price for party attendees. The hotel features an indoor/outdoor pool that is open year around. Our party will be held in a large ball room that overlooks the golf course and a pond.

Proceeds of the Charity Auction will benefit the [Perceptions Saginaw Valley Scholarship Fund](#). The Scholarship Fund has so far awarded two scholarships to local individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting respect and equality for all forms of diversity, including race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. The next scholarship will be awarded in May 2010.

Heading up the committee for this year's Holiday Party will be Kay Sural and Robert Gilman. If you're interested in helping out, please contact [Kay@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Kay@PerceptionsSV.org) or [Robert@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Robert@PerceptionsSV.org). We really can use your help in soliciting and collecting donations for the Charity Auction. If you're willing to make a donation or if you know of an area business that would make a contribution, please contact one of the above committee members.

Please plan to attend and help us make this the biggest and best Holiday Party yet.

## Next Highway Cleanup

by Rick Farrand

Our next highway clean-up will be Saturday Sept. 19th.



We'll meet at 10 o'clock at the [rest area](#) on I-75 going south, just south of the M-84 exit. Park on the truck side of the rest area.

Donuts and water will be provided as well as bags and gloves for the trash pick-up. We will also have a cook out at my house afterwards, so I am counting on all of you to show up and make this a great turn

out. I really do appreciate all of you who have helped in the past and look forward to seeing you again. If you haven't done this before and would like a chance to have some fun and meet new, interesting people, now is the time to sign up. Rain day will be Sunday Sept. 20th.

Dress appropriately for the day, wear layers, and water proof footwear. Call me for more info at 989-799-3034. Thanks for all you do and looking forward to seeing you there.

## Got Kids?

**Needed:** Same-gender couples with a child for local article.

A *Midland Daily News* reporter/photographer wants to document a same-gender couple with their child/children, naturally born or adopted. While they must be a gay couple (non-traditional to most people) the real story is about people sharing their love through adoption and giving a child a place to grow up in - and a gay couple raising a child gives the story an extra layer.

If you are interested in this project, contact Drew Angerer at [drew.angerer@gmail.com](mailto:drew.angerer@gmail.com) or 989-671-4776

### Perceptions Facebook Group

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](http://www.facebook.com).



# We Were OUT! To the Ballgame

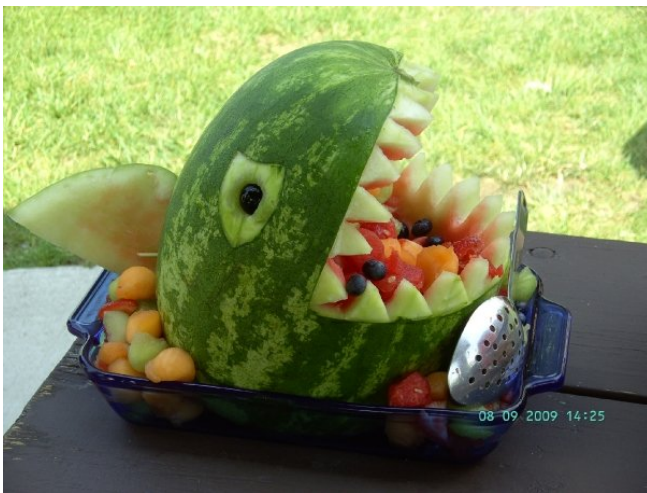
by Kay Sural

It didn't rain, you should have come! Overcast skies didn't stop it from being a beautiful summer evening to enjoy the ball game. Perceptions members met at Dow Diamond to enjoy the Great Lakes Loons defeat the Grand Rapids White Caps. Even those who were not baseball fans found good food and good fun. Some had to have the traditional "ball park frank" but others were more adventuresome having loaded up on nachos or a delicious pulled pork sandwich. Fries and chicken fingers and dippin' dots and a funnel cake rounded out the evening as well as our bellies. If you have any ideas for fun events, Perceptions wants to hear from you. Email [Kay@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Kay@PerceptionsSV.org).



# Perceptions Paddlin' & Picnic

by Joy Clark



About 15 people played in the sun, sand, and "surf" at the William H. Haithco Recreation Area in Saginaw on Sunday, August 9, at Perceptions' first Paddlin' event. Pavilion 1 served as the base camp for our group from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and provided much needed shade on a very warm day. During this time, many of the youngsters and young at heart enjoyed playing in the water and sand, while others chose to just sit and chat with their Perceptions friends. A strong, steady wind kicked up small waves which gave those who brought their kayaks a good workout and probably deterred others who didn't want to test their stamina and skills with the park's rental boats.

Everyone brought a dish to share, including a creatively cut watermelon fruit bowl that resembled a shark. Guess you could call it a melon bowl with a bite. The Perceptions grill masters fired up the charcoal grill and whipped out delicious burgers and hotdogs for the hungry crew. After everyone had their fill, it was time to pack up, go home, and dream about next year's Paddlin' event.



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>



## Are You Latino Living with HIV or AIDS?

A local reporter wants to interview a Latino who lives with HIV or AIDS for an article for *Mi Gente* (My People), the local/state Latino magazine as soon as possible. You will not need to share your name in the article if you prefer not to.

Contact Rosa Morales at 989-239-4092 or [rosamorales053@gmail.com](mailto:rosamorales053@gmail.com)



# Current Events

**Sept 2, 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.

**Sept 3, Thur - DLIM Men's Friendship Room 7:00 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](mailto: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.

**Sept 4, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm** Join Perceptions members and friends at **Gulino's**, [1406 N. Henry Street](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Sept 9, 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](mailto:Rebecca@PerceptionsSV.org). This event will repeat on the second Wednesday of each month.

**Sept 9, 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.

**Sept 10, & 24, Thur - GLBTs with Disabilities Group 6:30 - 8:30 pm.** The group is facilitated by Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk and Carm Audas and sponsored by Divine Light Interfaith Ministries. It is open to disabled members of the LGBT community. Partners are also welcome. For meeting location or any questions, contact [Rev\\_KathyV@yahoo.com](mailto:Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com) or 989-493-6866.

**Sept 11, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm** Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Maria's**, [6090 State St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Sept 13, Genesee County PFLAG Meeting 2:00 -4:30pm.** This month's guest speaker, **William Calhoun**, will discuss LGBT history. The meeting takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#)

**Sept 16, Wed - DLIM Women's Room II 6:00 pm.** Women's Room II is designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bisexual 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](mailto:Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com). The Group is sponsored by Divine Light Interfaith Ministry, but it is not a religious gathering.

**Sept 17, Thur - Perceptions General Meeting 7:00 pm** **St John's Episcopal Church**, [123 N. Michigan Ave](#), Saginaw. Tom Brubaker will be the guest speaker. Tom is the Community Relations Coordinator for BASIS-Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center, and is also the coordinator of [AIDS Walk](#) Bay City/Midland/ Saginaw, an annual charity walk which supports the AIDS Care Program at BASIS. BASIS-Sacred Heart provides HIV/AIDS care services, HIV prevention education and HIV testing. Tom's presentation will include "HIV/AIDS: Prevention, Testing, and Treatment Services" and "Trends in HIV/AIDS." Tom is an advisor to the Perceptions Board of Trustees and leads Perceptions monthly Men's Discussion Group. He was a recent recipient of the Unity Award at the Tri-Cities First Pride Awards Banquet on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Sept 18, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm** Join Perceptions members and friends at **China Palace**, [1908 S. Saginaw Rd](#), Midland. If you plan to attend, please reply to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Sept 19, Saturday - Adopt A Highway 10:00 am**  
See article on p. 3

**Sept 19, Saturday - Las Vegas Night 7:00 -10:00 pm**  
See page 8 for details.

**Sept 22, Tues - Perceptions 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](mailto:Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org)

**Sept 24, Thur - GLBTs with Disabilities Group 6:30 - 8:30 pm.** For meeting location or any questions, contact [Rev\\_KathyV@yahoo.com](mailto:Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com) or 989-493-6866.

**Sept 25, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **The Savoy Grill**, [127 S. Franklin St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Sept 25, Fri—Final Friday FilmFest 7:00 pm.** Sponsored by **Genesee County PFLAG**. Film TBA. UU Church of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#)

**Sept 26, Sat - AIDS Walk** 5th annual AIDS Walk Bay City / Midland / Saginaw. Wenonah Park, downtown Bay City. 9:30 am Registration; 10:30 am Rally; 11:00 am walk. For more information, contact [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org). See article on page 1.

**Sept 27, Sun. PFLAG Meeting 2:00 pm.** The guest speaker will be **Ben Dotson**. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, [6220 Jefferson Ave.](#)

**Be informed about upcoming events**  
Simply send a blank email to:  
[PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

# SEPTEMBER 2009

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# Damp Out – er, Camp Out; whatever – it was FUN!

by Mary Gribbin

The 2009 [Camp Out Michigan](#) Bike Tour started out with a bang. A really LOUD bang of thunder, followed by torrential rain that quickly dampened everything but the spirits of our intrepid riders. The event organizers and assorted tech-savvy participants monitored the storm conditions via i-phone internet connections, and finally, the huge red-and- orange blobs of thunderstorm activity on the Michigan radar report dispersed and the ride began!

The event actually began the previous evening. GLBT campers from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, as well as Nevada, converged on the small Michigan town of Mio, in remote and beautiful Oscoda County. The campground was reserved exclusively for our group. Options for accommodations included small cabins,



motel rooms, and campsites. The motel and cabins were of the old-fashioned “Up North” type – not luxurious, but dry and comfortable. Other campers opted for RVs or tents. Some of the men formed communities of spacious tents

covered with tarps and featuring carpeted entries, cushy camp cots, and other small but essential amenities. You guys really know how to pitch a tent! I spent two warm and cozy nights in my little backpacking tent. But that’s a lesbian for you. And there were hot showers available, so it wasn’t as rugged as it might have been.

Our first evening together included a hot and tasty meal of salad, spaghetti and garlic bread. Meat-based and vegetarian sauces were offered. After dark, everyone made their way to the huge group bonfire at the far end of the campground. This proved to be a wonderful place to meet and talk with one another. Although I came alone to the event, I soon made new friends, both men and women. A real plus for me was to meet a group of women calling themselves the Paddle Dykes. As an avid kayaker, meeting the PDs was a dream come true for me!

Getting up Saturday morning was hard because of the rainy weather and the fact that coffee was not yet ready. I and a few other early risers may have been a bit glum, but as soon as that hot cuppa joe was in hand, things improved. A good breakfast with lots of variety – cereal, fruit, yogurt, juice, etc. - also helped. Waiting out the storm was a great chance to get to know people better and to decide which bike route would be best. There were three choices: 30-, 40-, and 50-something miles. I chose

the middle one, and joined a group of women that included most of the Paddle Dykes. Our ride began with a hair-raising downhill sprint through Mio, and then proceeded across the Au Sable River bridge, and east onto a back county road. After riding for a while, our pack decided to take a side trip up a LONG steep hill to visit a local attraction, the Michigan Au Sable Valley Railroad. This scenic narrow gauge railway, complete with an authentic railway station, winds its way through beautiful woodlands, over a real trestle bridge, and through tunnels on a thoroughly entertaining ride. It was well worth that uphill struggle!

After riding the choo-choo, we headed back to the main route. The skies cleared for a while, and we got to enjoy the green vistas of jack pine groves as we rode through Kirtland Warbler country. The Kirtland Warbler is one of the rarest birds in the world, nesting only in a tiny region of central Michigan. Alas, I did not see or hear one. Maybe next year. Eventually we stopped for lunch at a small bar/restaurant. The food was very good, but service a bit slow, although this was not a real problem because of the excellent company and conversation!

When we got back on the road, our group spread out and I fell behind, which I am not ashamed to admit as I have a one-gear bike and we encountered some long climbs. My sole riding companion and I were doing fine, however, until dark purple-black clouds began to roll in. We decided to throw in the towel and call for one of the sag wagons. The skies opened before the truck arrived, and we were mighty glad to see the two volunteers, Rose and Nancy. My hat is off to all of those who completed their ride after those big raindrops began to fall! We all made it back in time for the barbecued rib dinner and another enjoyable evening of socializing with friends old and new.

The next day, I chose to go on the optional canoe/kayak trip on the Au Sable River. The Paddle Dykes were planning a separate, longer trip, but I decided to go with the main group. A local livery provided boat rentals and transportation. I have my own kayak, but Dean, one of the organizers, was kind enough to transport my boat on his trailer. The trip lasted about two or three hours and was quite suitable even for beginning paddlers. The Au Sable is a gorgeous, scenic river, and I heartily recommend this trip to next year’s Camp Out participants.

The weekend concluded with an informal lunch at the Au Sable River Restaurant for those who found it hard to say goodbye and go back to the real world. A great cheeseburger and awesome chocolate dessert later, it was time to say sad but fond farewells and hit the road. I will certainly be back next year. I can’t say enough good things about this event and especially about Tim, Dean, and everyone else who worked so hard to make this super, super weekend a reality! Please put the 2010 [Camp Out Michigan](#) Bike Tour on your calendar, tentatively scheduled for July 23 to 25 – you don’t want to miss this one!



WHAT HAPPENS AT MAGIC BEAN CAFE STAYS AT MAGIC BEAN CAFE

# SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 7-10 P.M.

PLACE: 5789 State St. Saginaw, MI 48603

Tickets are \$20

Includes: Hors D'oeuvres, gaming chips and a raffle entry.  
Cash bar, silent auction and raffle prizes will also be available.

We will only sell 150 tickets

Tickets will be available at Magic Bean Cafe  
Proceeds go to AIDS Walk Bay City/Midland/Saginaw,

*supporting Sacred Heart BASIS HIV/AIDS Care Program*



For tickets, call Sacred Heart [989.894.2991] or

Magic Bean Cafe [989.790.9495]