



# Perceptions

## SAGINAW VALLEY

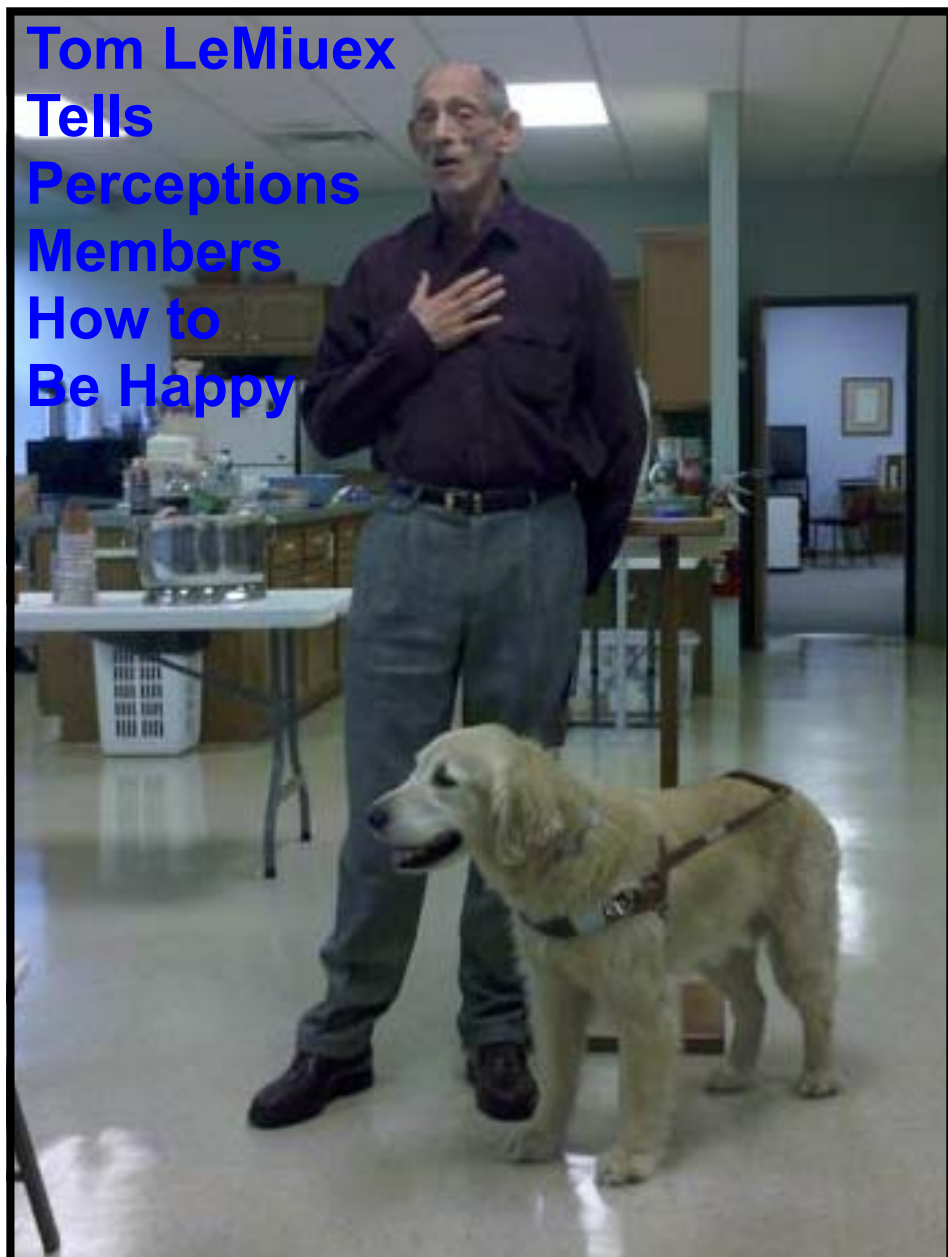
Serving the Tri-City Area LGBT Community

**May 2011**

[www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org)

**Free**

**Tom LeMieux  
Tells  
Perceptions  
Members  
How to  
Be Happy**



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### **THE LATEST STATISTICS:**

**Support for  
Marriage Equality  
Reaches 53%  
See Page 3**

**New Study Finds  
9 million Americans  
Identify as LGBT  
See Page 5**

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Perceptions  
Saginaw Valley  
P.O. Box 1525  
Midland, MI 48641  
989-891-1429  
[www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org)

EDITOR  
Brent Theisen  
[Editor@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Editor@PerceptionsSV.org)

AD SALES  
[Tim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Tim@PerceptionsSV.org)

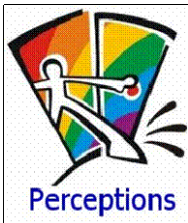
Print Distribution  
Jim Kleinsorge  
[Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org)

Webmaster  
[Tim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Tim@PerceptionsSV.org)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
[Editor@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Editor@PerceptionsSV.org)

SUBMISSIONS are always  
welcome. Write to:  
[Editor@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Editor@PerceptionsSV.org)

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Mid-Michigan's leading  
resource for  
enriching and  
empowering LGBT  
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.

## FROM THE EDITOR

At the invitation of failed  
2008 presidential candidate, Mike  
Huckabee, nearly 400 Iowa ministers  
and their spouses descended upon a  
Sheraton hotel in Des Moines, the  
weekend of March  
24 and 25. The  
topic: revitalizing  
the Christian Right,  
by preparing for the  
next election.  
How? By reaffirm-  
ing their opposition  
to gun control, big  
government, abortion and...of  
course....gay marriage. But are we  
scared? Isn't this just the last gasp of  
a dying movement.



Gone are the days when the  
Christian Right was much of a threat.  
People care more about the economy  
right now than social issues. As re-  
ported in this issue, support for mar-  
riage equality is now at 53% and

growing. Besides, 29 states have al-  
ready amended their constitution to  
ban gay marriage and DOMA is still  
in effect nationwide. What else can  
the rightwing push for? Conserva-  
tives have already done all they can to  
stop marriage equality. It's really up  
to the courts now to uphold or strike  
down these amendments, which so  
mobilized voters in the last decade.

The Christian Right can do  
very little to stem the tide of change  
that is coming, due to the support of  
the younger generation and the  
changing attitudes of 30-50 year olds.  
Even among the over 50 crowd—  
who typically support the Christian  
Right—support for marriage equality  
is rising. Equality is coming, because  
people's attitudes are changing. I  
guess Mike Huckabee didn't get the  
memo.

—Brent Theisen

Perceptions Saginaw Meet & Greet:

## Game Night at the Mixx

Wednesday, May 25th

7pm - 9pm



The Mixx will offer a special on  
burger baskets and dinner bas-  
kets. In addition to coffee and soft  
drinks, The Mixx offers a full bar  
with drink specials during our Meet  
& Greet.

Join us just for the company and  
conversation or participate in a  
game of Euchre, a board game, or  
other activity.



**Perceptions May 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting:  
“Legal Issues Affecting The LGBT Community”  
A Presentation by Attorney Barbara Klimaszewski**

*Thomas Brubaker*

Our May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will prove to be interesting, relevant, and informative as Saginaw Attorney Barbara Klimaszewski of Klimaszewski & Street, will discuss legal issues affecting the LGBT community at Perceptions' Members and Friends monthly meeting. Our meeting will be held at **Unity of Bay City, 3736 State Street Road, on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 pm.**

Barbara Klimaszewski, a graduate of Oakland University and the University of Michigan Law School, began practicing law in Saginaw in 1976 with Attorney Bill Street. Barbara states that her law firm has always tried to defend the rights of those not well served by the legal system. Their services include criminal defense (state and federal), family law, civil rights cases, employment discrimination, police abuse cases, and civil liberties cases.

Barbara is one of the founders of the [Underground Railroad](#), domestic violence shelter in Saginaw. She is

also a founding board member of the Sexual Assault Center – now part of Child and Family Services of Saginaw. She has represented parents in custody proceedings and other family law cases, including gay and lesbian families. Other legal services include drafting property agreements, powers of attorney, and wills designed to protect the rights of all parties in gay and lesbian relationships. Currently, Barbara Klimaszewski is involved in a case where she is defending the rights of an adoptive lesbian mother where the birth mother is trying to nullify the adoption.

Last month, Barbara received the first Delta College Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion Programs Pioneer for Women Award.

We are pleased to host Barbara Klimaszewski and this provides an excellent opportunity to ask your legal questions. Please join us!

## Support for Marriage Equality Rises in Every Group

In a new poll from ABC News and *The Washington Post*, support for same-sex marriage is, for the first time, over fifty percent. In a 2004 poll, support was at 32%, but has now risen to 53%. The new poll finds growth for support of marriage equality in every group.

Support among the under 30 age group, while already a majority five years ago, has risen to 68%. People in their thirties are now almost as supportive: 65%. Now, for the first time, even a majority of those in their forties support marriage equality.

Their support has hit 52%.

Even support among seniors has risen. Support has almost doubled among the older generation, although it's still at only 33%. But that is quite a rise from 18% five years ago.

Support has always been highest among women and liberals, but it is now up 18 points among men, 13 points among independents and 21 points among moderates. Support has also risen dramatically among Catholics. Source: [abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com)

## Come Ride With Us

*[Rick Farrand](#)*

**Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

If you do not have plans for the Holiday Weekend, and are looking for something to do, then why not join us for a ride on the [Saginaw Valley Rail Trail](#). We will be meeting at **2:00 pm** at the Rail Trail parking lot off Stroebel Rd in Shields. The route is about 19 miles and we will end up in St Charles, where we can stop at Tony's Restaurant and have a bite to eat. Make sure to wear sun screen and bring some water, so you don't get dehydrated. It is always fun to do things as a group, so show your support and join us! Rain day is Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm



## PERCEPTIONS MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

**7:00 - 8:30 pm**

Tuesday, May 17th  
Tuesday, June 21st  
(No July Meeting)  
Tuesday, August 16th



Facilitated by [Thomas Brubaker](#)  
Light snacks provided  
Drinks allowed, provided they have a cover

**Zael Memorial Library,**  
[3100 N. Center Road,](#)  
Saginaw Township



## Don't Miss Game Night At the Mixx

If you haven't yet been to one of Perceptions' Game Nights, you don't know what you're missing. Held the fourth Wednesday of the month, this new twist on the Meet & Greet format takes place at **The Mixx**, [115 N. Hamilton St.](#), Saginaw. We are there from **7:00 to 9:00**, and the next scheduled event is **May 25th**.

The kitchen will be open and will offer a special on burger baskets and dinner baskets (Buy One and Get a 2nd of Equal or Lesser Value for 1/2 Off). In addition to coffee and soft drinks, The Mixx offers a full bar with drink specials during our Meet & Greet, including \$0.50 off draft beer, \$2 off any pitcher, \$1 off bottled beer, and 1/2 off mixed drinks.

The Mixx will have a different Board Game on just about every table, and Dann will be running the Euchre tables. Come early to look for one of your *old* favorite Board Games. Bring your family, friends and co-workers for some food, fun and friendship. There will be a lot of competition but **no gambling**.

**SUNDAY, MAY 15TH**



**2:00 - 4:30 pm**

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church,**  
[2525 Hemmeter Road](#)  
 Saginaw

## Tom LeMieux Teaches a Valuable Lesson About Life

*Rick Farrand*

Our guest speaker for April was Tom LeMieux, who was there to speak to us about living with HIV. It turned out that he spoke to us on how to just live! Life happens and there is nothing we can do to prevent our short comings or life's obstacles. You just deal with it and make the best choices that you can. He said he would not be who is today, if it weren't for this journey.



After years of being married, and years of being a mathematics teacher in the public school system, Tom decided he would come out. So two years after his divorce at age 38, he did. It was at this time he was really able to be his true self, a gay man.

From 1978 to 1991, he was able to do what he wanted to do, and be with whom he wanted to be with and he did some experimenting, and even had a long term same-sex relationship. It was in 1991 that he wanted to do his part in the fight against HIV, by being in a control group for a study that was being done on HIV/AIDS. It was at this time he found out about his positive status. This wasn't a good time for Tom and

his family, because his Mother had lung cancer, and to find out about his status at this time...well you can just imagine the pain and torment that he felt. Unlike most people, this was when Tom relied on his strength to pull him through and was able to dig in and make the most of a bad situation. This was when his positive attitude really helped.

He is only on three pills a day for his HIV and what really helps him maintain his health, is his positive, energetic attitude, his love for people, dancercise, sexercise, and a good sense of humor! Ty, his leader dog, who is 7 years old, that he got through the Rochester Leader Dog Program, has been with him since he got CMV Retinitis, a disease he got because of his HIV. It was at this time that he lost his independence and his mobility, but he still keeps that positive attitude.

His talk was very good and very informative, and he is really a true leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The most important thing he wanted to leave us with was: a) know yourself; b) to your own self be true; and c) enjoy yourself. Start your day off with something fun and spend more time doing the things you love doing, and share them with your friends and loved ones. Words we should all live by. It was a very moving talk from a very inspirational man. Thank you Tom for your time and sharing your life history with us!

# Measuring the LGBT Population:

## Who Are We? Where Do We Live? What Do We Earn?

Estimating the percentage of same-sex couples in the United States is difficult for a variety of reasons. Most surveys are concerned solely with opposite-sex couples; same-sex couples are not legally recognized nationally and in most states; and when the question is asked, not everyone is willing to answer it truthfully. Estimating the total LGBT population is even more difficult, since housing and economic surveys rarely ask for the sexual orientation of unmarried people. But, as America begins to pay more attention to the needs of its LGBT population, some data is trickling in.

### How Many Are There?

About 9 million people across the United States openly identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, according to a UCLA study out this past month. This translates to about 3.5% of adults as LGB and 0.3% of adults as transgender. The survey was created by the Williams Institute at UCLA's School of Law and argues that any estimate of the population is difficult because there are insufficient and inconsistent national surveys. Over half of those identifying as LGBT (1.8%) identified as bisexual.

Those hoping for a higher percentage of LGBT people should note that the survey found an estimated 8.2% of Americans reporting participation in same-sex sexual activity; and an estimated 11% held some same-sex sexual attraction, though neither group necessarily identified as LGBT.

Source: [latimesblogs.latimes.com](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com)

### Where Do We Live?

Not surprisingly, surveys which delve into where the LGBT populations are concentrated have found the highest concentration of LGBT people in large cities. A list of the estimated twenty gayest metros in America, appearing in *the Daily Beast*, found San Francisco, New York, LA, Miami, DC, Boston, San Diego, Denver, Seattle and Portland, topping the list. A few surprises made the top twenty, as well, such as Ithaca, New York; Eugene, Oregon; and Ann Arbor, Michigan—all college towns. In fact, a growing amount of research suggests that considerable benefits accrue to those cities and metro areas that have sizeable, visible concentrations of gay men and lesbians. Income levels are higher, as are many other measures of life satisfaction.

Of course, LGBT people live not only in cities, but suburbs, towns and even in the country—one in seven same-sex couples live in rural areas. The 2000 Census found same-sex couples living in 99 percent of U.S. counties.

Source: [www.thedailybeast.com](http://www.thedailybeast.com)

### What Do We Earn?

Contrary to a popular stereotype, the annual earnings of men in same-sex couples are significantly lower than those of married men. On average, men in same-sex couples in the U.S. earn \$43,117 each year, significantly less than \$49,777 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in the U.S. is \$32,500, or 15% less than that of married men (\$38,000).

Source: [www2.law.ucla.edu](http://www2.law.ucla.edu)

## Drag Show Raises \$1300 for AIDS Walk

Living Proud, the LGBT Student Group at SVSU, held its 4th Annual Charity Drag Show on April 1st. This year's show raised \$1,300 and, as usual, the profits will benefit the Saginaw-Midland-Bay City AIDS Walk. This year's walk will be held on September 24th.

## Spring Rummage Sale Approaches

*Jim Kleinsorge*

Donations for this year's Perceptions Yard Sale are now being accepted. All types of items are needed to make the sale a success, so if you have anything you would like to donate, please contact [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) or any Perceptions board member to arrange for drop-off or pickup of your items. The sale will be held May 20<sup>th</sup> thru May 22<sup>nd</sup> (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm at [322 Ingraham Street](http://322IngrahamStreet) in Bay City. Feel free to price your items beforehand or if you'd prefer, they can be priced by the hosts, Jim and Shawn. The proceeds of the sale will benefit this year's [AIDS Walk Michigan](http://AIDSWalkMichigan) for the Bay City, Midland, Saginaw area. This year's walk will take place on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> in downtown Bay City, so be sure to save the date! If you're unable to participate in the walk itself, donating to the yard sale is a good way to help ensure that it's a success. Since the walk helps so many people right here in our area, it's a sure way to know you're making a difference locally in the Tri-Cities for people living with HIV/AIDS. If you need further information, email [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org)

## Campfire Stories

*Daphne Barkley*

Ah yes, we have reached that glorious time of year where the snow has melted into our collective unconscious and we break out the shorts and flip flops. It appears Punxatawny Phil has not seen his shadow and the warmth of spring is definitely settling in. But more importantly, all these signs point to something even more exciting...the beginning of camping season! Once again I will be making the trip to the Thumb towards the end of the month to open my camper located at Windover Women's Resort for another season of good times around the campfire with friends, star filled nights, and the plethora of activities the campground has to offer (including the heated pool).

This will be my third season camping and I would like to think I have come quite a long way from that first summer where I learned that although a Miniature Pinscher is smart enough to walk across the center console of my car and lock all the doors, he is not wise enough to unlock them no matter how much I plead through the window. At least he was able to keep cool with the engine running and the air conditioning on full blast. A frantic run to the store to look for the security guard yielded a quick jimmy of the car door and all was well (and there was still plenty of gas left in the tank) I hope my neighbors enjoyed the show I provided while they were cooking out... it was dinner theater at its finest.

I fell in love with Windover the very first time I went there and knew I wanted to have my own piece of heaven. The bucolic grounds and woods beckoned immediately as soon as I drove through the gate. The site of rainbow flags flying high as I wound my way through the

campground made me feel like I was home. I found a place I could be myself without worrying that holding my girlfriend's hand would invoke dirty looks and curious whispers. So I decided to do what any sane person would do with absolutely no camping experience...I bought a used camper and became a seasonal member. After all how hard could it be to RV camp? Boy was I in for a huge surprise!

After a few minor guffaws associated with opening the camper my second season, I ran out of propane and after wrangling with the propane tank, I finally got it free, took it to the store to swap for a full tank and connected it back at the camper. I was quite satisfied with having completed this task on my own. I set out to build a campfire in my fire pit and just sit back and revel in my recent accomplishment. My relaxation was interrupted by a high piercing noise which lasted only a few short chirps and then stopped... for a few minutes. It then resumed and continued intermittently as the thought went through my head "it must be the LP detector!" I ran over to the propane and disconnected it, sure I had averted disaster. My relief was short lived however as the chirping soon started again. As one of my friends drove up to my site to say hello after the long winter, she was greeted

by me frantically running towards her while holding my Miniature Pinscher in my hands and yelling "how do you turn off the LP detector?" I ended up finding the groundswoman who came over with her assistant. They checked the propane lines and the breaker box to ensure these were ok. And then, the grounds assistant reached up and pulled down the white circular device attached to the ceiling of the camper and uttered these chilling words I will never forget: "yup, this is a smoke detector" and then calmly screwed it back into place. The groundswoman then stated very kindly to me "you may want to close your camper door when building a fire in the fire-pit." I'm still not sure how they were both able to keep it together and not roll out of the camper laughing. I am sure this exchange was recorded somewhere in the annals of the campground's history.

As of this writing I am gathering together everything I will need for opening weekend 2011. I am hoping that the wisdom I have gained over the past two seasons will serve me greatly this year. Stay tuned.....

For your own camping experience at Windover check out their website at:

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



On April 22nd, Perceptions members dined with the Motor City Bears in Flint



# CURRENT EVENTS PAGE

▼ **May 6th - Friday Night Dinner**  
 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends at **Z Chef's Café**, [730 South Main Street](#), Frankenmuth. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ **May 8th, Sunday. - Genesee County PFLAG Meeting** 2:00 - 4:30 pm. The meeting takes place at the **UU Church** of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#) For more info contact [pflagflint@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagflint@yahoo.com).

**Note: The Freeland Meet & Greet returns to 7:00 for the Summer.**

▼ **May 11th, Wednesday - Freeland Meet & Greet** 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Join us at **Riverside Restaurant**, [8295 Midland Road](#) (M-47), Freeland. Private room. Famous homemade pies.

▼ **May 11th, Wednesday - Open Hearts** 6:30 pm. Positive thinking group for members of the LGBT community who are disabled or anyone having issues they are dealing with. Discussion, speakers and support. The group meets at **Butman Fish Library** in Saginaw, and is facilitated by Rev. Kathy and Carm Audas. For info call 989-755-2618.

▼ **May 13th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends at **Vinnie's Stockpot Diner**, [1007 Washington Ave.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ **May 14th, Sat. - Together In Faith Conference 2011** 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. "Lifting Up The Voice of All Embracing Love" offers resources for those seeking to increase and improve their congregation's welcome or to advocate on behalf of the LGBT community. Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 125 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing, MI. For more info, see [inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org/together\\_in\\_faith](http://inclusive-justice-together-in-faith.org/together_in_faith)

▼ **May 15th, Sunday - PFLAG Meeting** 2:00 - 4:30 pm. Meeting at **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**, [2525 Hemmeter Road](#) in Saginaw.

▼ **May 17th, Tuesday - Men's Discussion Group** 7:00 to 8:30 pm. **Zael Memorial Library**, [3100 N. Center Road](#), Saginaw Township. This gathering is intended as a discussion and informal support group 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) for additional information or to let him know you'll attend. Light snacks will be provided. You may bring your own beverage into the library as long as the container has a cover or cap.

▼ **May 18th, Wednesday - Womyn's Room II** 6:00 pm. A safe place for lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. Meets at **Butman Fish Library** in Saginaw. For more info contact Rev. Kathy at 989-755-2618 or [Rev\\_KathyV@yahoo.com](mailto:Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com).

▼ **May 18th, Wednesday - Men's Friendship Room** 7:00 pm. A safe place for gay, bisexual and transgender men, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. Meets at David Younk's home in Saginaw. For more info. contact David at 989-771-9721 or [DavidY513@hotmail.com](mailto:DavidY513@hotmail.com).

**Note: The May General Meeting will be in Bay City this month.**

▼ **May 19th, Thursday - Perceptions Monthly Meeting** 7:00 pm. Guest speaker, Attorney Barb Klimaszewski, will speak about legal issues affecting the LGBT community. **Unity of Bay City**, [3736 State Street Rd.](#), Bay City. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

▼ **May 20th - 22nd, Perceptions Yard Sale** Perceptions yearly yard sale will again raise money for the AIDS Walk in September. This year's sale will be at Shawn & Jim's in Bay City. See Page 5 for details.

▼ **May 20th, Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends at **Harvey's Grill & Bar**, [3055 Tittabawassee Rd](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond by 3:00 pm Friday to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org).

▼ **May 23rd, Monday - Perceptions Transgender Group** 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Meeting at the **Magic Bean Café**, [5789 State Street](#), Saginaw, the group offers an informal gathering, taking a more lighthearted approach to allow transgenders in the Tri-City area an opportunity to connect with one another for socializing and support. Contact Rachel Prenzler at [Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org).

▼ **May 25th, Wednesday - Saginaw Meet & Greet: Game Night** 7:00 - 9:00 pm. An informal gathering to meet other LGBT people and allies. **The Mixx**, [115 N. Hamilton St.](#), Saginaw. The kitchen is open and the Mixx also offers a full bar with drink specials during our Meet & Greet. Join us just for the company and conversation or participate in a game of Euchre, a board game, or other activity.

▼ **May 27th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends at **Rusty Saw Smokehouse BBQ**, [6907 Westside Saginaw Rd](#), Bay City. Please respond by 3:00 pm Friday to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org)

▼ **May 28th, Sat. - Bike Ride on Saginaw Valley Rail Trail** 2:00 pm. See Page 3 for details.

**NEXT MONTH'S PRIDE EVENTS:**

**Motor City Pride** ..... June 4 & 5  
 At Hart Plaza in Downtown Detroit

**Michigan Pride** ..... June 11  
 At Burchard Park in Lansing

**West Michigan Pride**..... June 18  
 At Riverside Park in Grand Rapids

**Tri City Pride Festival** ..... June 25  
 At Ojibway Island in Saginaw


**Pride Awards Banquet**..... June 28  
 At Saginaw's Andersen Enrichment Center.

Be informed about upcoming events

Simply send a blank email to:  
[PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

▼ Denotes a Perceptions sponsored event

# MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Perceptions Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 PM	<b>6</b>  Friday Night Dinner Z Café <a href="#">730 S. Main St.</a> Frankenmuth 7:00 PM	<b>7</b>																																																																																				
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<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Transgender Group The Magic Bean <a href="#">5789 State St.</a> 6:00 - 7:30 PM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Saginaw Meet & Greet The Mixx <a href="#">115 N. Hamilton St.</a> 7:00 - 9:00 PM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Friday Night Dinner Rusty Saw Smokehouse BBQ <a href="#">6907 W.S. Saginaw Rd.</a> Bay City - 7:00 PM	<b>28</b>  Bike Ride <a href="#">Saginaw Valley Rail Trail</a> Stroebel Rd. - Sheilds 2:00 PM																																																																																				
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		<b>April 2011</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<b>June 2011</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			<b>Notes:</b> <b>11 - Note later time for Freeland Meet &amp; Greet</b>
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# Get Ready for the First Tri City Pride Festival

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>** for the first ever Tri-City LGBT Pride Festival. The event will be at **Ojibway Island** from **1:00 pm to 7:00 pm** and organizers hope it will become an annual event. A small group of dedicated individuals, led by Rev Kathy VanBuskirk of Divine Light Interfaith Ministries, has been working diligently for months to bring this event to Saginaw. Please come out to show your support.

There is no cost to attend the festivities and there will be something

for everyone. Attendees will be treated to a wide array of vendors, with food, merchandise and information. Many area churches will also be represented. For the children, there will be coloring, face painting, and helium balloons. Arts and crafts are planned, as well.

The stage will have a few speakers and a couple of bands, plus a drag show. A karaoke machine will be on hand, if needed. No alcohol will be served. Speakers, bands and vendors will likely be announced in next

month's special "Guide to Pride" issue of the newsletter.

Volunteers are still needed and more sponsorships, as well. Among the sponsors, so far, are Perceptions Saginaw Valley and PFLAG Tri-Cities. It's not too late to become involved and insure that the festival becomes an annual event. Please contact Rev Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-755-2618 to see how you can help. See you there!



**Tri-City LGBT Pride Festival**  
**SATURDAY JUNE 25, 2011**  
**OJIBWAY ISLAND**  
**1PM- 7PM**

MUSIC VENDOR BOOTHS GUEST SPEAKERS  
 CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES DRAG SHOW



"COME OUT & SHOW YOUR PRIDE"



**PRIDE:**  
 HAVE IT!  
 SHOW IT!  
 LIVE IT!

**MOTOR CITY PRIDE**  
**MICHIGAN PRIDE**  
**WEST MICHIGAN PRIDE**  
**TRI CITY PRIDE**  
**PRIDE AWARDS BANQUET**

**YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO PRIDE MONTH**  
**IN NEXT MONTH'S PERCEPTIONS NEWSLETTER**

**Become a Paid Member and Get Every Issue Emailed or Sent to You When It's Released**

## IN BRIEF

Newshound **Joel Payne** is surfing the net, each month, to find us interesting stories. Thanks, Joel.

**Chris Armstrong Sues Andrew Shirvell:** University of Michigan student, Chris Armstrong, has filed a lawsuit against the state's former Assistant Attorney General, Andrew Shirvell, alleging the official stalked and defamed him for months. Armstrong, 21, the first openly gay student body president at U-M, filed the suit against Andrew Shirvell in Washtenaw County Circuit Court, seeking more than \$25,000 in damages. The civil action is in response to Shirvell's "months-long personal campaign of lies and distortion," said Deborah Gordon, Armstrong's attorney. The suit claims Shirvell "developed a bizarre personal obsession" with Armstrong in early 2010 after claiming the student was a radical homosexual activist. Shirvell created a Facebook group under the name of "U of M Alumni and Others Against Chris Armstrong and his Radical MSA (Michigan Student Assembly) Agenda." The page was later deactivated by Facebook, but a blog, titled "Chris Armstrong Watch" was created and began spreading false and defamatory information, the suit said. Threats by Shirvell included statements such as "you're going down fruity-pebbles" and "I remember the good old days when 'guys' like this would get their asses kicked at school," the suit says. Source: [www.lgbtqnation.com](http://www.lgbtqnation.com)

**End In Sight for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell":** Petty Officer 2nd Class Derek Morado, who was outed, has been told by a military panel that he can stay in the Navy. Morado,

26, told reporters that the three-member panel apparently agreed with his lawyer's argument that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is now dead. His lawyers argued that Navy Secretary Ray Mabus would be unlikely to approve the discharge because the policy – which bars gay troops from revealing their sexuality – is to be lifted imminently. Morado, who joined the military at the age of 17, was outed in 2009 by a colleague. He said he was "surprised" but "ecstatic" at the panel's decision. Source: [www.pinknews.co.uk](http://www.pinknews.co.uk)

**More Research Needed to Better Serve the LGBT Population's Medical Needs, Report Says:** The **Institute of Medicine** has released a report, commissioned by the **National Institutes of Health**, which shows that there has been far too little research on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and more study into their lifestyles is needed for medical authorities to better serve them. The report suggests that more research be done into social influences, barriers to equitable health care and the differing needs of various generations of LGBT people. The report summarized what many experts already know about the population, including that LGB youths are at increased risk for suicide and depression, that HIV-AIDS primarily affects young black men who have sex with other men and that LGBT people are frequently targets of discrimination and violence. The report found that most practitioners are not well educated in how to care for the LGBT population, including understanding sexual orientation development, gender identity and the impact of stigma and discrimination on health. Source: [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)

**No Change In the Enforcement of DOMA By Immigration:** The

**US Citizens and Immigration Service (USCIS)** briefly put gay spouses' applications on hold while it took legal advice but has now returned to processing them. Earlier this year, the Obama administration announced that it would no longer defend the **Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)**. The 1993 act prohibits the federal government from recognizing the marriages of gay couples and foreign same-sex spouses who apply for spousal green cards. The couples' requests have been, and will continue to be, automatically rejected. A USCIS spokesman, Christopher S Bentley, confirmed last Wednesday that the hold had ended, saying: "USCIS has not implemented any change in policy and intends to follow the president's directive to continue enforcing the law." Source: [www.pinknews.co.uk](http://www.pinknews.co.uk)

**Progress Towards Equality on the State Level:** By a 2-to-1 margin, the Delaware Senate passed the state's first civil unions bill. The bill, sponsored by state Sen. David Sokola, D-Newark, with about two dozen co-sponsors, would grant same-sex couples the same legal protections and responsibilities as married couples. The vote was 13 for, 6 against, 2 absent. "With liberty and justice for all—with this bill we give those words real meaning for more people," Sokola said. The measure still must be approved by the house and signed by the governor. Delaware could become the eighth state to recognize same-sex civil unions. Hawaii and Illinois passed similar legislation this year, and the debate is unfolding now in Colorado's statehouse. Five states and the District of Columbia grant same-sex marriage licenses and benefits. But many more—37, including Delaware—have laws similar to the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act, which forbids federal recognition

**IN BRIEF CONTINUED**

recognition of same-sex marriage. Thirty states amended their constitutions to defend traditional marriage, a move Delaware rejected. Source: [www.delawareonline.com](http://www.delawareonline.com)

**Arkansas Adoption Ban Ruled Unconstitutional:**

The Arkansas supreme court has ruled that a 2008 ballot initiative that barred gay and lesbian couples from adopting children was unconstitutional. The court ruled that such a policy, while never enforced, would violate an adult's right to privacy in their bedroom. Rita Sklar, executive director of the ACLU of Arkansas, called the ruling a "relief for the over 1,600 children in the state of Arkansas who need a permanent family." She added, "This ban wouldn't even allow a relative — gay or straight— to foster or adopt a child with whom they had a close relationship, so long as that relative was unmarried and living with a partner. The court clearly saw that this ban violated the constitutional rights of our clients and thousands of other Arkansans." Source: [www.advocate.com](http://www.advocate.com)

**Companies When Doing Business in Nashville Must Pledge Not to Discriminate:**

Companies doing business with Nashville Metro government will soon have to pledge not to discriminate against employees based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The Metro Council approved a bill Tuesday requiring government contractors to abide by that guideline by a vote of 21-15, with three abstentions. Councilman Jamie Hollin, a sponsor of the bill, said after the vote that Metro had "sent a clear signal all around the world" that people of all kinds are welcome to work in Nashville. Source: [www.bizjournals.com](http://www.bizjournals.com)

# Pride Awards Banquet Update

*Leo Romo***Basic Info:**

- The Saginaw Valley LGBT and Allies Pride Awards Banquet is **Tuesday, June 28th** at the **Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw. 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.**

- Charissa Urbano will emcee the awards program.

- Pride Banquet attendees will enjoy one complimentary glass of wine at the reception.

-The Savoy Grill will cater.

Tickets cost \$25 per person or \$15 for students or others with limited funds. Purchase tickets from [www.perceptionssv.org/pride](http://www.perceptionssv.org/pride), 989-891-1429 or from any Board member. There is also a form on page 13.

**Nominations are due Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.** Please nominate people or

businesses who have served the local LGBT community. Use the Award Nomination Form on page 12 or on the Pride website at [www.perceptionssv.org/pride](http://www.perceptionssv.org/pride) to tell the Pride Award Selection Committee why your nominee deserves an award.

**Sponsorships are due Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.** Sponsorship will defray the cost of the banquet and will fund other Perceptions projects in the future. Purchase a Sponsorship from \$10 to \$100, as explained in the form. The names of Sponsors will be printed in the program *or may be anonymous upon request.* Again, sponsorships must be received by **June 25<sup>th</sup>.** Check out the sponsorship levels on the website or use the form on page 13.

## Do You Know Your Status?

Please make an appointment to get tested for HIV at one of the following locations:

**Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center**

301 East Genesee Ave., Suite 201  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
Phone: (989) 776-6000

OR

1106 N. Washington Avenue  
Bay City, MI 48708  
Phone: (989) 776-6000

(Please call to make a testing appointment)

**Hearth Home, Health Delivery**

732 Hoyt Avenue, Saginaw  
Phone (989) 753-9011  
(Appointments Are Encouraged)

**Bay County Health Department**

1200 Washington Avenue, Bay City  
Phone: (989) 895-4003

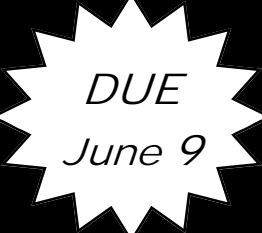
**Saginaw County Health Dept.**

1600 N Michigan, Saginaw  
Phone: (989) 758-3880

**The Perceptions Newsletter reaches over 600 LGBT people and their allies every month, through email, postal mail and limited local distribution.**

# WHY NOT ADVERTISE?

Contact [Tim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Tim@PerceptionsSV.org)



# PRIDE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

## for The LGBT & Ally Pride Awards Banquet

June 28, 2011

Andersen Enrichment Center

Nominate people who have helped the Saginaw Valley LGBT community.  
Read the award descriptions below and use as a guide.  
Follow the directions in the black box (bottom).

**Lifetime Achievement Award** The highest award given to an individual who has demonstrated a life-long commitment to help gain a better life for LGBT people and who has demonstrated effectiveness at reaching the goal for equality, fairness and justice for all LGBT community.

**Business Pride Award** Given to a business that has contributed its share of support to the success and progress of the LGBT community.

**Political Pride Award** Given to an outstanding leader who has worked to improve the quality for LGBT people through the political or electoral process.

**Pride Award(s)** Given to an individual(s) who has shown outstanding leadership and commitment through their advocacy of acceptance, equality and respect for all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. The nominee has been a model for other LGBT people and allies. The Pride Award Selection Committee may select one or more individuals for the Pride Award.

**Nominees will be evaluated on the basis of leadership, impact and commitment to the LBGT community.** Pride Award Selection Committee members are ineligible for an award.

To help us to evaluate the nominees, please answer the following questions thoroughly and succinctly.

1. Describe the nominee's involvement in the LGBT community. Be as specific as possible.
2. Briefly describe why this nominee deserves an award at the Saginaw Valley Pride Banquet.
3. Describe how the nominee's participation in the LGBT community has made a difference in the Saginaw Valley, or at the state or national level.

I NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_  
First & last name of the nominee or organization.

Nominee's phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Award: \_\_\_\_\_

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

My phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit this form & one typed page that describes the nominee.**

Mail, or scan & email to:

**PRIDE Nomination Committee  
c/o Perceptions  
P.O. Box 1525  
Midland, MI 48641**

**Or [Pride@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Pride@PerceptionsSV.org)**

**DUE: June 9, 2011 by midnight**

**Saginaw Valley LGBT & Ally  
Pride Awards Banquet**

**Tuesday, June 28, 2011  
Andersen Enrichment Center  
120 Ezra Rust, Saginaw**

**6 pm Reception  
7 pm Dinner and Program**

**Tickets or info: [www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org)  
or 989-891-1429**

**Cost: \$25 (\$15 for students)**



# Saginaw Valley LGBT & Allies Pride Awards Banquet Sponsorship & Ticket Form

Yes, I will support the Saginaw Valley LGBT Pride Awards Banquet to be held on June 28th at the Andersen Enrichment Center!

## Sponsorship

Names of contributors will be printed in the evening program unless instructed otherwise. Select your level of sponsorship below.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Patron          | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Advocate     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Ellen DeGeneres | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Harvey Milk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$_____ |  |

Clearly PRINT the exact name(s) for the program: \_\_\_\_\_

Anonymous Donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

*Sponsorships must be received by June 25, 2011 to be included in the program.*

## Tickets

- I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$25 per person.  
 I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ discount tickets @ \$15 each for students or persons with limited funds.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **Perceptions** with the notation "Pride" in the memo.

Mail to: Perceptions  
PO Box 1525  
Midland, MI 48641

----- ✂ -----  
Cut & Save

**Saginaw Valley LGBT & Allies Pride Awards Banquet**  
Tuesday, June 28, 2011  
Anderson Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw, MI.

6:00 pm Appetizer Reception  
7:00 pm Dinner  
8:00 pm Program & Pride Awards recognizing local LGBT people & Allies.

Tickets: \$25 per person (\$15 for students).

Information: [www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org) or 989-891-1429 or [Pride@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Pride@PerceptionsSV.org)



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 This month's featured Rainbow Referral is

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 Saginaw, MI 48602  
 tel: 989-754-6588  
[pitandbalconytheatre.com](http://pitandbalconytheatre.com)

*Providing the citizens of the Saginaw area a means of entertainment and education in the literature, theory and practical application of the science and art of drama*

**Touch of Light Therapeutic Massage**

1015 Court St  
 Saginaw MI, 48602  
 989-574-8097

**BRIAN M., LRT, CMT**

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Safeco Insurance Company  
 (Member of Liberty Mutual)

Citizens Insurance Company  
 of the Hanover Group

Cell: 989-493-1791  
 Fax: 866-700-2270

**Nate Smith**  
[nate@choosemichiganinsurance.com](mailto:nate@choosemichiganinsurance.com)

**Family Dentistry**  
 Darrell M. Sheets, DMD, PLC  
 Ansuya Patel, DDS

1480 West Center Ave., Suite 7  
 Essexville, MI 48732  
 (989) 895-7475

**Orthodontics**  
 Bobby Jones, DDS, MS