



Perceptions

SAGINAW VALLEY

Serving the Tri-City Area LGBT Community

July 2011

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Free

Tri City Pride Draws 2,000 People See Page 4



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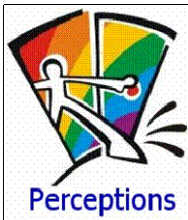
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Mid-Michigan's leading
resource for
enriching and
empowering LGBT
individuals
and their
community

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.

Garden Party Set For July 30th

Tim Atkinson

A thoroughly enjoyable evening of beautiful sights to see and delicious finger foods to taste will delight visitors to this year's Perceptions & PFLAG Garden Party. Please join us on the evening of Saturday, July 30th as we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of this summer tradition.

The first Garden Party was hosted by Terry Z to benefit Wellness; this area's first HIV/AIDS advocacy organization. Since then, there has been a similar party every summer to benefit the LGBT and allied community of the Saginaw Valley region. Perceptions & PFLAG have jointly benefited from the generosity of Terry and other hosts since 2003. Among those offering their homes and gardens for visitors as Terry took a season off were Rick Rios, Jay & Leisa



Crane, and Phil & Ginger Lisik.

Returning to Terry's for this milestone, you'll be amazed at the large variety of plantings and details to be found on

the city lot that surrounds Terry's 1884 Victorian home. In fact, Terry's home and gardens have won several awards, including the Bay City in Bloom Beautification Award. The home is located at [1609 Fifth Street](http://1609FifthStreet.com) on

Bay City's East Side. The Garden Party begins at 6:00 pm and will last until 9:00 pm. Finger foods and refreshments will be supplied by the Boards of PFLAG and Perceptions and other volunteers. A free will donation will be accepted to benefit the programs of PFLAG Tri-Cities and Perceptions Saginaw Valley. For more information, please contact Jim@PerceptionsSV.org

July Bike Ride

Perceptions will be hosting another bike ride, and this one will be on Midland's Pere Marquette Rail Trail. The ride begins near The Tridge on Saturday, July 23rd, at 2:00 pm and goes to Sanford. It's about 14 miles round trip. We'll stop along the way for ice cream and maybe even go swimming at Sanford Beach, so bring your suit and a towel. For questions or more information, contact Rick at 989-799-3034 or Rick@PerceptionsSV.org.



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Pride Awards Winners Announced

On June 28th, the 3rd Annual LGBT & Allies Pride Awards Banquet honored people and businesses for their work toward equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The 2011 awards and recipients were:

Lifetime Achievement Award - John Monahan (1946-2002) (formerly of Saginaw), first openly-gay community activist in the Tri-Cities;

Business Award - [Magic Bean Café](#) (Saginaw) for contributions and for being a welcoming venue;

Pride Awards: Bill Giorgis (Saginaw) - for philanthropy to improve LGBT lives and the community at large;

Bob and Denise Malosh (Midland) for parental support and for leadership of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG Tri-Cities);

Randy Hasso (Saginaw) - for being a longtime volunteer in Tri-City LGBT and HIV/AIDS organizations;

Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk (Saginaw) - for community activism and organizing the first local LGBT Pride festival.

No nominations were received for the Political Award. Photos and coverage of the event were not possible before we went to press but will appear next month.

Trevor Project Features 24 Hour Hotline

In 1998, HBO was scheduled to air the 1994 Academy Award winning short film *Trevor*, about a gay 13 year old boy who attempts to end his life. The film's writer James LeCesne, its director/producer Peggy Rajski and its producer Randy Stone began searching for an appropriate support line to advertise during the broadcast, for anyone experiencing the same feelings as Trevor. When they could find none, the three dedicated themselves to creating one, and the Trevor Project was born. The Trevor Lifeline is the only nationwide around-the-clock crisis and suicide prevention line for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth.

The project now maintains a website as well at www.thetrevorproject.org. There you will find information about recognizing the signs of suicidal thoughts in others, resources for those who feel they are at risk and a wealth of unsettling statistics on the subject of LGBT and "questioning" youth who are at risk. It may surprise you that it is the "questioning" category of teenagers that is most at risk.

If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts or behavior, you can call **866-4-U-TREVOR (866-488-7386)** or visit the website, 24 hours a day. If you would like to donate to the project, you can do so by going to the homepage and clicking on "donate."

Game Night to Resume September 28th

The **Saginaw Meet & Greet: Game Night at the Mixx** is taking a break for the Summer but will resume on **September 28th**.



Game Night started in March and occurs on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Those who attend can enjoy a

variety of board games or participate in Euchre or other card games. The Mixx also offers many food and drink specials, during and after the event.

Get Ready for Another Loons Outing!

Kay Sural

Loooooooooooooooooooo! Baseball Time! Join Perceptions members and friends on **Saturday, August 20th** at the Dow Dia-

mond to watch our [Great Lake Loons](#) take on the Bowling Green Hot Rods. We



will gather on the lawn so bring your chairs or blankets. This is a special event for Perceptions, it is Member Appreciation Night. The first 20 Perceptions members who contact Daphne@PerceptionsSV.org will get a free ticket to this game. We encourage you to bring a friend and sign them up as a member of Perceptions so they too can get a free ticket. If you plan on attending and are not a member, buy your ticket in advance as this is also a fireworks night and these games sell out quickly. The game starts at 7:00 pm and the Dow Diamond has wonderful food to enjoy even if you are not a baseball fan. See you there!

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Somewhere Under the Rainbow- First Annual Tri-Cities Pride

Daphne Barkley

It was a beautiful day on Ojibway Island on June 25th for the approximately 2,000 festival goers of the Inaugural Tri-Cities Pride festival organized by Reverend Kathy VanBuskirk and a team of tireless volunteers. The keynote speaker, Alicia Skillman who was originally from the Saginaw area spoke of how a Pride in the Tri-Cities was close to her own heart. She spoke of the recent marriage equality victory in New York and highlighted the need for change in Michigan. This was followed by a number of musical performers including the [Drag King Rebellion](#) as well as performances by drag queens.

Festival goers were spotted dancing up by the main stage and perusing the various vendors and organizations represented at the festival. Toward the end of

the festival which was capped off with a commitment ceremony officiated by Reverend Kathy, I heard the song which seems to be a staple of pride events now, "Born this Way". I personally liked this song ever since I heard it, but suddenly at this pride festival the very essence of the song was brought to light. The crowd was singing along to the words and I realized how this Pride festival had been so very needed in this area. No matter what age, we are all looking for a place to fit in, a place that no matter who we are we will be accepted. For the LGBT community that place was today on Ojibway Island where pride flags hung high and new and old friends alike came together.

Time to Sign Up for the AIDS Walk

Come and join the Perceptions AIDS Walk Team on Saturday, September 24th, 2011 in Wenonah Park in downtown Bay City. Go to www.aidswalkmichigan.org to join our team! Click on Bay City/Midland/Saginaw, then "Register" then select "join a walk team" and search Perceptions. Simply add your name and then you will be able to send out email and Facebook messages to your friends telling them you are walking. Come out and walk for a great cause with a great team!

Doug's Annual Picnic/Party

Doug Solosky's annual Summer Picnic/Party will begin at 6:00 pm on Saturday, August 6th at [3004 S. Poseyville Rd.](#), six miles west of Freeland on Freeland Rd. All are invited—rain or shine. BYOB and a dish to pass. He'll have hot dogs, hamburgs, brats, condiments and soft drinks.

CURRENT EVENTS

▼ July 1st - Friday Night Dinner

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

▼ July 8th - Friday Night Dinner

7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends at **Café American**, [1525 Washington St.](#), Midland. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday

July 10th , Sunday. - Genesee County PFLAG Meeting

2:00 - 4:30 pm. Cook Out and Potluck follows the support groups. The meeting takes place at the **UU Church** of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#) For more info or to RSVP, contact pflagflint@yahoo.com.

▼ July 13th, Wednesday - Free-land Meet & Greet

7:00 - 9:00 pm. Join us at **Riverside Restaurant**, [8295 Midland Road](#) (M-47), Free-land. Private room. Famous home-made pies.

July 13th, Wednesday - Open Hearts

6:30 pm. Positive thinking group for members of the LGBT community who are disabled. Discussion, speakers and support. The group meets at **Butman Fish Library** in Saginaw. For info call Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-755-2618.

▼ July 15th - Friday Night Dinner

7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends at **Vinny's Stock Pot**, [1007 Washington Ave.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday

July 17th, Sunday - PFLAG Meeting **2:00 - 4:30 pm.** Meeting at **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**, [2525 Hemmeter Road](#) in Saginaw.

July 20th, Wednesday - Womyn's Room II

6:00 pm. Designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender women, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. The group meets at **Butman Fish Library** in Saginaw. For more info contact Rev. Kathy at 989-755-2618 or Rev.KathyV@yahoo.com.

July 20th, Wednesday - Men's Friendship Room

7:00 pm. Designed as 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.

▼ July 22nd, Friday Night Dinner

7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends at **El Mexicano**, [3593 Center Ave.](#), Essexville. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ July 23rd, Saturday - Bike Ride

2:00 pm The ride begins in Midland at [The Tridge](#) and follows the rail trail to Sanford and back (about 14 miles round trip.) We'll stop for ice cream and maybe even swim. See page 2.

▼ July 25th, 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.

▼ July 29th - Friday Night Dinner

7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends at **Rusty Saw Smokehouse BBQ**, [6907 Westside Saginaw Rd.](#), Bay City. Please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ July 30th, Saturday - Garden Party

6:00 - 9:00 pm. Annual fund raiser for PFLAG Tri-Cities & Perceptions. [1609 Fifth Street](#), Bay City. Free will donations accepted. See Page 3 for details.

Be informed about upcoming events

Simply send a blank email to: PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

▼ Denotes a Perceptions sponsored event



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JULY 2011

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IN BRIEF

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

Stigma of Being LGB Can Lead to Increased Health Risk-Taking:

The stigma of being gay, lesbian, or bisexual, along with related discrimination and victimization, can lead LGB teens to engage more frequently in risky behaviors than their heterosexual peers, an extensive report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) finds, after surveying 156,000 high school students from 2001–2009. On average, LGB teens are more likely to use tobacco, drugs, or alcohol, contemplate suicide, or carry a gun, than straight teens, often due to increased stress they experience from society about their sexual orientation. “This report should be a wake-up call for families, schools and communities that we need to do a much better job of supporting these young people. Any effort to promote adolescent health and safety must take into account the additional stressors these youth experience because of their sexual orientation, such as stigma, discrimination, and victimization,” said Howell Wechsler, Ed.D., M.P.H., director of CDC’s Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH). “We are very concerned that these students face such dramatic disparities for so many different health risks.”

Source: www.thenewcivilrightsmovement.com

Gender Identity Disorder Classification for Transgender Individuals Being Reassessed:

For decades, the diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder (GID) in The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) has drawn protest from the trans community, their allies and supportive medical and mental health professionals for its depiction of gender diversity, gender transition and medical transition care as mental illness and sexual deviance. However, many community advocates

and supportive medical professionals agree that some kind of diagnostic coding is necessary to facilitate access to medical and/or surgical transition care for those trans and transsexual people who need it. There is a need to replace the GID category with one that is consistent with transition care, for those who need it, rather than contradicting transition care. The American Psychiatric Association has been requesting public input on its newest proposed revisions to the GID category for the Fifth Edition of the DSM. The Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders Workgroup of the APA's *DSM-5* Task Force has partially responded to concerns about the GID diagnosis in the fifth edition of *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. For example, the derogatory title of "Gender Identity Disorder" (intended to imply "disordered" gender identity) has been replaced with "Gender Dysphoria," with dysphoria meaning distress. *DSM-5* authors have expressed a desire to focus on *distress* with incongruent physical characteristics and assigned gender roles rather than on *difference*. Source:

www.bilerico.com

Wyoming Supreme Court Rules That Same-Sex Marriage Not “Contrary to the Laws of Nature”:

On June 6th, the Wyoming Supreme Court unanimously reversed a district court ruling that prevented a same-sex couple from obtaining a divorce in Niobrara County. The ruling means that the state’s courts now have jurisdiction to grant divorces to same-sex couples who were legally married elsewhere. The opinion specifies three different types of marriages: legal marriages between a man and a woman that are recognized by the state of Wyoming, marriages that the state does not recognize but are common in other states (like common law marriages) and a third form of marriage that is “deemed contrary to the law of nature.” Significantly, the Court found that same-sex marriage fit into the second category (not the third) and likened them to common law marriages which, while not recognized by the state, can be dissolved within

it. Source: thinkprogress.org

Full Repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell May Be Close:

Defense Secretary Robert Gates says he sees no roadblocks to repeal of the ban on gay military members serving openly. He says if the military chiefs make their recommendation to move forward on the repeal before the end of the month, he will sign it, which would make it effective as early as September. He says the training has gone well and people have been “pleasantly surprised” at the lack of pushback from the troops. More than a million U.S. troops have been trained on the new law that repealed the 17-year-old ban on gays serving openly in the armed services. Gates says the most common questions deal with housing, and commanders are developing ways to deal with that.

Source: www.huffingtonpost.com

UN Group Backs Gay Rights for the First Time:

The United Nations endorsed the rights of gay, lesbian and transgender people for the first time ever June 17th, passing a resolution hailed as historic by the U.S. and other backers and decried by African and Islamic countries. The declaration was cautiously worded, expressing “grave concern” about abuses suffered by people because of their sexual orientation, and commissioning a global report on discrimination of gays. But activists called it a remarkable shift on an issue that has divided the global body for decades, and credited the Obama administration’s push for gay rights at home and abroad with helping win support for the resolution. “This represents a historic moment to highlight the human rights abuses and violations that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people face around the world based solely on who they are and whom they love,” U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a statement. Source: www.google.com

Perceptions Members Attend Area Pride Festivals

Rick Farrand

I don't know how many of you made it out to the Pride Festivals this year, but what a good time you missed! Each June, we as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender, come out to celebrate our history and what our freedom fighters did to help make sure that we are not overlooked. We do have to thank them for what they had to go through at Stonewall, fighting for their rights at that time and fighting for our futures. We have to make sure that their fight is celebrated as we remember to go out and mix and mingle with people like us and people who understand us. The

fight is not over and we still have a long way to go...but going to the Pride Festivals is one way we help celebrate and give thanks.

There were eight of us from Perceptions who went to [Motor City Pride](#) and we stopped for breakfast along the way, to break up the 2 hour drive. I was a die-hard fan of Ferndale and when I heard they were moving it, I thought this just isn't going to be as good, but I was wrong!! Motor City Pride in Detroit, at Hart Plaza was fabulous!! Just when I thought it couldn't get any better it did, so now I

can hardly wait until next year! It was a two day event, and we went on Sunday, and it was very well attended, they said about 44,000 people showed up and it was spread out next to the water with lots of vendors and lots of food choices and you got lots of cool free stuff to fill your bags with!! The parade was similar to Michigan Pride in Lansing, short and sweet, but it was still an opportunity to march in the streets and make some noise!

Because we were so close to Greek town, we walked there to get in from the heat and have a chance to sit down to eat. We went to a Greek restaurant of course, and had great food, plus you could also go to the Casino. If you wanted to get out of the sun at Hart Plaza they had an underground where you could go to cool off or go out and dance, because that is where the dance floor was. They had disco balls and strobe lights and great music playing, and it was much cooler down there, plus there was seating there too! Plus if it got real hot they had a large water fountain that many were using to cool off!

The [Michigan Pride](#) festival in Lansing was as good as always, although they did have it spread out again. Vendors and food were on one side in Old Town, and the Parade on the other, near the Capitol. It is quite a walk to get from one end to the other so if you plan on going next year, drive! Old town was very nice and the shops were opened to hopefully get some sales, and you could take your time and meander through. Fun was definitely had by all, and if you get a chance to go....Go!! Well worth it for all. Keep us in mind for next year, because we can car pool or do a caravan! Happy Pride.



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 (A \$5 donation is encouraged for those without a Perceptions Membership.)