



Perceptions

SAGINAW VALLEY

Serving the Tri-City Area LGBT Community

August 2011

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Free



Perceptions Is Moving

Perceptions Will Start Moving Most of Its Meetings To A New Location:
The Alderton — 301 Cass Street in Old Town
See Page 3

MEMBER APPRECIATION NIGHT



Free Loons Tickets for Members

The First 20 Paid
Perceptions Members
who respond will be
treated to a Loons Game
on Saturday, August 20th

See Page 2 for details

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Perceptions
Saginaw Valley
P.O. Box 1525
Midland, MI 48641
989-891-1429
www.PerceptionsSV.org

EDITOR
Brent Theisen
Editor@PerceptionsSV.org

AD SALES
Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

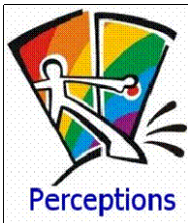
Print Distribution
Jim Kleinsorge
Jim@PerceptionsSV.org

Webmaster
Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Editor@PerceptionsSV.org

SUBMISSIONS are always
welcome. Write to:
Editor@PerceptionsSV.org

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www.PerceptionsSV.org



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.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Daphne Barkley

Join Perceptions members and friends
on **Saturday, August 20th** at the
Dow Diamond 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 con-
tact Daphne@PerceptionsSV.org will

get a free ticket to this game! If you plan
on attending and are not a member, buy
your lawn ticket in advance as this game
is both a fireworks night and Star Wars
night and will likely sell out quickly. The
game starts at 7:00 pm and there is great
food to enjoy at the Dow Diamond even
if you are not a baseball fan. See you
there!

Come Ride With Us

Rick Farrand

Bay City will be the next on the list for
Rail Trails to ride! Just for a change,
we are going to mix it up and make
this ride on **Sunday, August 21**
at 2:00 pm. We will be meeting at the
Veteran's Memorial in [Vets Park](#) (just
North of the boat ramp) and go around
the river area and do the loop. It is
17.5 miles and will be a bit shorter
than the one we did in Saginaw that
was 19 miles. Dress appropriately and
bring your water bottle for hydration
and don't forget the sun screen. It
should be fun! We will stop along the
way for some snacks or a light lunch. I

have not yet rode this course and am a
little unfamiliar with it, but we will ex-
plore it together! Come join us won't you?
In case of rain, it will be cancelled. If you
have any questions or concerns you can
email me at Rick@PerceptionsSV.org.



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Perceptions Finds A New Home

Tim Atkinson

The Facilities Committee, chaired by Thomas Brubaker, has been working diligently to find a location to hold our general meetings, support group meetings, and provide storage space for our supplies and records. As an organization, we've survived for nearly 10 years without a permanent home. General meetings have been held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, Saint John's Episcopal Church of Saginaw, Unity of Bay City, and even Green Point Environmental Learning Center. Support group meetings have been held at public libraries and businesses such as The Mixx and Magic Bean Café. Board and committee meetings have been held at Delta College, SVSU, public libraries, churches, businesses, and private homes. Perceptions' supplies, records, and other assets have been stored in the basements, garages, attics, and spare bedrooms of various Trustees, Advisors and volunteers over the years. While these arrangements have allowed us to continue operations, they are less than ideal. Scheduling all the meetings is difficult and we frequently get "bumped." The logistics of transferring supplies and other assets are often complicated.

We believe that finding a semi-permanent facility and bringing most of our functions to one central location is an important step toward allowing us to grow into an organization that will survive the next 10 years. While we realized that we don't yet have the financial means to afford our own building, the committee searched for a space that could allow us to gradually transition toward that goal. The committee focused on locating a generous landlord who could minimize many of our expenses or

another organization we could partner with to share space.

When we contacted Bill Giorgis, he told us that he did have a space that may meet our needs. Bill and his partner, Russ Inman, own "The Alderton" at [301 Cass Street](#) in Old Town Saginaw. The building is called The Alderton because it originally housed Alderton Wholesale Grocery. Construction on the three-story brick and limestone building started in 1902 and was completed in 1904. Alderton Wholesale Grocery occupied the building until 1945. Its last industrial use was by the Trippensee Planetarium Company who occupied the building until the late 1990s. Many local people still refer to the facility as the Trippensee Building. Bill and Russ purchased the building with plans to convert it to upscale condominiums, but with the crash in the housing market, those plans have been put on hold for a while.

A portion of the first floor of the building is currently occupied by Davidson Design, owned by Shawna Davidson. Shawna has refurbished a portion of the second floor that occupies approximately 1,600 square feet on the Cass Street side (front) of the building. Shawna and some associates operate [Old Town University](#) in this second floor space that has been referred to as "The Loft." Perceptions meetings will be held in "The Loft." We are very appreciative of the welcome that we have received from Shawna and her associates and look forward to working cooperatively to improve programs available to members of the Saginaw community.

We are planning to hold our September General Meeting at the new facility. At

this point, access to The Loft is through the Davidson Design showroom.

We are grateful to Bill Giorgis and Russ Inman for their generosity. Bill commented that he would like to see a GLBT community center, like [Affirmations](#), be developed in Saginaw. We are honored that they are willing to allow us to try to bring that dream to fruition.

This is an exciting time for Perceptions, with many opportunities and lots of work ahead of us. We will need to develop our own secure storage and private office space in the open warehouse space adjacent to the meeting space. Among our first acquisitions for the new facility will be stackable chairs that can be set up for the general meeting and then stored in the warehouse when not in use. Another priority is to improve barrier-free access to this facility. At this time, there are several steps from the street to enter the Davidson Design showroom. Once inside the showroom, you have the option of taking an elevator or climbing a flight of stairs to The Loft. We have identified the need to construct a ramp to a side door (or acquire a portable ramp) that will allow barrier-free access to our meeting space without passing through Davidson Design's showroom. We will need to write a grant or raise funds to get that ramp in place. We will also need to invest "sweat equity" to complete several future projects.

To find out more, attend our September General Meeting or contact a member of our Facilities Committee. Committee members are [Tom](#), [Tim](#), [Daphne](#), [Jim](#), Kay and Leo.

Saginaw Valley Celebrates Pride with Annual Awards Banquet

Brent Theisen

The LGBT community and its allies came together on June 28 for the third annual Saginaw Valley Awards Banquet at the Andersen Enrichment Center. Attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and wine in the gardens, where they mingled with one another on the 42nd anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. A delicious dinner, catered by last year's business award winners, the Savoy, followed. Then, it was onto the program.

Emcee **Charissa Urbano** took the guests through a history of the struggle for LGBT rights on both a local and national level. Next, guest speaker **Jan Stevenson**, the vice president of Pride Source Media Group, gave a speech. Pride Source publishes Michigan's only statewide LGBT news publication, *Between the Lines*. She talked about the strategy used to gain marriage equality in the state of New York. Most notably, advocates were asked to come together and put aside turf wars and personal agendas to present a unified plan for achieving their mutual goals. She suggested that the same thing must happen in Michigan, a state with one of the most

stringent policies on limiting marriage equality. In Michigan, it has been made very difficult for businesses to offer even same-sex partner benefits to employees. Plans are in the works for legislation to punish those businesses that try to circumvent the law. All of this is bad for businesses trying to attract the best talent and she said we need to recruit LGBT friendly companies to help us push for better laws. Michigan is also one of only five states with no anti-bullying legislation.

Finally, it was onto the awards, with the first award going to the [Magic Bean Café](#) for its support of the LGBT community. The Magic Bean has been host to local support groups in our community, has hosted the AIDS Walk Vegas Night fundraiser for the past two years and is an all around welcoming business. The second award went to **Bob and Denise Malosh** for their tireless efforts to improve LGBT acceptance on behalf of their gay son. The Maloshes served as President and Secretary of the local [PFLAG](#) for many years and also speak to classrooms, among many other things.

Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk received an award for her service to the LGBT community over the years. Kathy

has counseled people on a variety of topics and leads a few local support groups. But her greatest accomplishment may be the organization of the Tri-Cities first public Pride Festival, which took place three days before the ceremony. She talked about her motivation for working to help others by touching on her own struggle to be accepted. The next award winner, longtime volunteer **Randy Hasso**, a Perceptions board member, also mentioned his personal struggles in his speech.

Bill Giorgis was the next recipient. Bill has been a great supporter of the LGBT community, donating to the Perceptions' annual charity auction, among other things. He spoke about a young college student he "adopted" when the young gay man was rejected by his family and how it inspired him to get involved. Finally, a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award was given to **John Monahan**, who is described as the first openly gay activist in the Tri-Cities. Former Perceptions Chair **Alan Shinaver** accepted the award on his behalf.

It was an enjoyable evening for all, with some somber moments and a few calls to action. Congratulations to this year's winners and to everyone else who has made a difference in our area.

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Perceptions Saginaw Meet & Greet

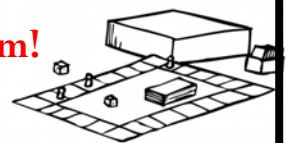
Game Night at The Mixx

Resumes on September 28th at 7 pm!

Cards! Board Games! Prizes!

Drink Specials! Food Specials!

Details in the September Issue



115 N. Hamilton St., Saginaw

CURRENT EVENTS

Please Note Earlier Time:

▼ **August 5th - Friday Night Dinner 6:00 pm.** Join Perceptions friends at **Pasong's, 114 N Michigan Ave,** Saginaw. Please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday, if you plan to attend.

▼ **August 10th, Wednesday - Freeland Meet & Greet 7:00 - 9:00 pm.** Join us at **Riverside Restaurant, 8295 Midland Rd (M-47), Freeland.** Private room. Famous homemade pies.

Please Note Earlier Time:

August 10th, Wednesday - Open Hearts 6:00 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.

▼ **August 12th - Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at the **Savoy, 127 S. Franklin St.,** Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday

August 14th, 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 or to RSVP, contact pflagflint@yahoo.com.

Be informed about upcoming events

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

▼ **August 16th, Tuesday - Men's Discussion Group 7:00 to 8:30 pm.** Zael Memorial Library, [3100 N. Center Road](http://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 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.

August 17th, 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.

August 17th, 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.

▼ **August 19th - Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **The Mixx, 115 N. Hamilton St.,** Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday

▼ Denotes a Perceptions sponsored event

▼ **August 20th, Saturday - Loons Game** Join Perceptions friends at Dow Diamond where we have a block of lawn seats. [Great Lakes Loons](http://Great.Lakes.Loons) vs Bowling Green Hot Rods. In addition to the great game and fabulous company, it's Star Wars Night and a fireworks display will follow the game. The first 20 members who contact Daphne@PerceptionsSV.org will receive a free ticket. Because last year's game sold out, others are encouraged to purchase a lawn ticket in advance so you can sit with our group.

August 21st, Sunday - PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm. Meeting at **Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 2525 Hemmeter Road** in Saginaw.

▼ **August 21st, Sunday - Bike Ride 2:00 pm** The ride begins at [Vet's Park](http://Vets.Park) in Bay City and will go around the loop (about 17.5 miles round trip.) We'll stop for a snack along the way. See page 2.

▼ **August 26th, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **Levi's, 5800 Brockway Rd.,** Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ **August 29th, 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.



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AUGUST 2011

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Don't Ask Don't Tell To End September 20th

On Friday, July 22nd, President Obama met with Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen to discuss a final end to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. He then certified to congress that repealing the ban will not jeopardize the military's ability to fight. At the end of 60 days, effective September 20th, service members will be able to openly acknowledge their sexual orientation, without the fear of discharge.

Obama said in a statement: "As commander in chief, I have always been confident that our dedicated men and women in uniform would transition to a new policy in an orderly manner that preserves unit cohesion, recruitment, retention and military effectiveness.

Service members will no longer be forced to hide who they are in order to serve our country."

Since World War I, the military has prohibited gay men and lesbians from serving their country. Until 1993, recruits were screened and questioned about their homosexuality. President Clinton tried to allow gays and lesbians to serve, as long as their orientation was not known, by stopping the military from asking the question. This controversial policy was known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." However, it is estimated that 13,000 men and women have been discharged over the last 18 years for being discovered. President Obama promised to lift the policy in his 2008 campaign.

In most cases, the new changes call for gay and lesbian service members to be treated like everyone else. There will be no separate barracks or bathrooms based on sexual orientation. However, same-sex partners will not receive all of the same housing and benefits privileges that married heterosexual couples are afforded. But service members will now be able to designate their partners for some benefits, such as insurance policies, without the fear of it leading to their discovery. The change in policy will also open the door for those who were discharged under the old policy to re-apply. Sources: www.huffingtonpost.com and www.msnbc.msn.com

IN BRIEF

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

Presbyterian Church Allows Openly LGBT Members to Be Ordained On July 10, the Presbyterian Church put into effect an amendment to their constitution allowing openly LGBT members to be ordained as ministers, elders, and deacons. Source: www.365gay.com

Rush For Same-Sex Couples to Get Married in New York New York has now become the seventh jurisdiction and sixth state to have legal same-sex marriage. Clerk's offices in New York City, and a few other cities in the state, opened their doors early on Sunday, July 24th to accommodate the rush of same-sex couples wanting to take advantage of the new law. Source: lezgetreal.com

Michele Bachmann Signs Anti-Gay Pledge: Republican Presidential hopeful, Michele Bachmann didn't hesitate to sign an anti-gay pledge, earlier this month. The pledge opposes gay marriage and calls homosexuality a choice, among other things. Bachmann's husband is an "ex-gay" counselor. Source: www.towleroad.com

House Reaffirms DOMA, while Senate Considers a Repeal: The U.S. House has approved an amendment reaffirming the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) as part of a major Pentagon spending bill. The amendment would prohibit the use of Pentagon funds in violation of DOMA. The 17 year old law prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages. Six Republicans crossed party lines to vote against the amendment, but 19 Democrats supported it. Meanwhile, A Senate committee is set to hear testimony on repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act in the next few weeks. Source: www.washingtonblade.com

Bill to Require Teaching of Gay and Lesbian History Passes in California: A bill has passed the California state legislature that would require California public schools to teach the historical accomplishments of gay men and lesbians. Supporters call it a first for the nation. Governor Jerry Brown, a Democrat, has signed the bill. The bill passed the state Assembly by a vote of 49-25, without any Republican supporting it. The measure passed the state Senate in April. Source: www.msnbc.msn.com

Connecticut Bars Discrimination Based on Gender Identity and Expression: On July 5th, the governor of Connecticut signed into law legislation barring discrimination based on gender identity or expression in employment, housing, public accommodations, credit and all other laws under the jurisdiction of the state's Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. Source: www.baywindows.com


If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts or behavior, call

866-4-U-TREVOR
(866-488-7386)

or visit the website at
www.thetrevorproject.org



Perceptions
Transgender Group



August 29th
6 - 7:30 pm

Magic Bean Café
 5789 State Street,
 Saginaw

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.

AIDS Walk Team

Daphne Barkley

Come and walk with the Perceptions AIDS walk team at the Great Lakes Bay Region AIDS Walk **Saturday, September 24th** at Wenonah Park in downtown Bay City. The AIDS Walk Great Lakes Bay Region provides financial support to Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center's HIV/AIDS Care Program. Sacred Heart manages 175 cases; 34 of them are new. Sacred Heart's services include care case management, prescription/dental assistance, housing assistance, food pantry, and prevention education. All these services are free and confidential. You can join the Perceptions team online at www.aidswalkmichigan.org.

For more information or if you have any questions please contact Daphne at Daphne@PerceptionsSV.org or Shawn Nicholes at nicholes911@yahoo.com, the team's co-captains. All funds raised at this event stay within the Great Lakes Bay Region. Come and walk with us for a great cause !

Doug's Annual Picnic/Party

Doug Solosky's annual picnic/party will begin at 6:00 pm on August 6th at [3004 S. Poseyville Rd.](http://www.google.com/maps/place/3004+S.+Poseyville+Rd.,+6+miles+west+of+Freeland+on+Freeland+Rd./data=!3m1!1e3!3m2!1s3004+S.+Poseyville+Rd.,+6+miles+west+of+Freeland+on+Freeland+Rd.), 6 miles west of Freeland on Freeland Rd. All are invited—rain or shine. BYOB and a dish to pass. He'll have hot dogs, hamburgers, brats, condiments and soft drinks.

CLASSIFIEDS

For sale:

Two story business with living quarters, 3200 sq. ft. for \$99,900, located at 3004 S. Poseyville Rd. Midland. Phone: 989-835-7483 or email DouglasSolosky@yahoo.com

Send Classifieds to

Editor@PerceptionsSV.org

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



THE SAVOY
SWEET SALE
 a charity bake sale benefitting people living with HIV/AIDS

Thursday & Friday, August 25-26, 2011
THE SAVOY GRILL
 127 South Franklin, Downtown Saginaw

Featuring homemade cookies,
 brownies, pies, & cakes.

All funds raised benefit Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center's
 HIV/AIDS Care Program.

Through AIDS Walk Great Lakes Bay Region.
 Saturday, September 24, 2011
 @ Wenonah Park in Downtown Bay City

Sacred Heart
 Rehabilitation Center
www.sacredheartcenter.com