



Perceptions

SAGINAW VALLEY

Serving the Tri-City Area LGBT Community

September 2011

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Free



**Singer
Eric Himan
to Perform
Free Concert
for National
Coming Out
Day**

See Page 3

Inside:

Renaissance Festival..... 2
Summer Bike Rides 2
Eric Himan Concert 3
New Facility Update 4

September Speakers 4
AIDS Walk 7
Loons Game 7
Garden Party 8

Monthly Features:

Classifieds 2
Current Events 5
Calendar 6
In Brief 7

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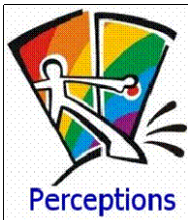
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The newsletter is always free to view online.

For more information visit
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.

Festival Time!

Rick Farrand

The Activities Committee is planning something new this time, and we are going to try getting a group together and go to the Renaissance Festival!

We are planning this outing to the [Michigan Renaissance Festival](#) for Sunday September 4th in Holly, MI. You can buy tickets in advance at Kroger's or Walgreen's for \$19.95. We will meet in Bridgeport at the carpool lot on the west side of I-75 and we can all ride together in my van, or just meet up and caravan together. We will meet at 10:00 am and you can dress in costume if so willing!???

If you would be interested in this new endeavor, or this is something you would like to do, call me at 989-799-3034 or get a hold of me online at rick@PerceptionsSV.org. Thank you.

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.)



Rail Trail Rides

Rick Farrand

It was too late to write an article for the August newsletter, but the bike ride from Midland to Sanford was awesome! It was a perfect day and this one was the best attended so far. We even stopped at Sanford Lake and went swimming. The water was excellent and it helped cool us down. It was the perfect ending for a perfect day, and then there was ice cream! Even better!!

The Bay City Rail Trail bike ride was lower in attendance, but it was very nice, thanks to the help of our tour guide Terry Z. He really showed us the way and he took us on the loop, which was only 9.4 miles. The day was beautiful, but windy. It was really very nice. This is

one that Perceptions may not do again, but if you are ever in that area, it is a very enjoyable ride, and one I think all should try.

If any of this sounds like fun, stay tuned for upcoming bike rides, which will either be Midland to Sanford or Saginaw to St. Charles, and maybe you will come along for the great companionship or maybe even for the exercise. We will do one more ride in September, so be on the look out for an announcement in the weekly messages. Thanks to all of those people who have shown an interest in this, and thanks to all of you who showed up!!

"Gay men and lesbians, for their part, ought to remember, on the way home from Niagara Falls, that it was drag queens and transsexuals at Stonewall who began this fight."

—Jennifer Finney Boylan (GLAAD)
commenting on the recent same-sex marriage victory in New York

Eric Himan set for National Coming Out Day Concert

Jim Kleinsorge

Familiar with Eric Himan??? If you are, GREAT! You know what a treat we have in store for us. If not, he is definitely someone worthy of your attention. Eric is an independent artist who, rather than hiding who he is, began his career as an out gay musician in 2000 and hasn't looked back.

Perceptions is proud to bring this veteran folk-rocker to the stage at Pit & Balcony.

National Coming Out Day is October 11th...come and join the celebration with a concert from nationally renowned indie-rocker Eric Himan. The evening will begin with an intimate meet & greet with Eric for those who would like to get to see him 'up close and personal.' Then at 7:00 pm, we will be treated to a free concert with Eric sharing not only his music, but also his personal stories of coming out, being out in the music business, and more. After the concert, Eric will have a Q & A session with the questions and answers flowing both ways.

From being among *The Advocate's* "40 under 40", to LOGO's #1 'Click List' Artist, to being in *Out Magazine's* "Out 100," Eric is a true inspiration for

our community. His music is universal in appeal, so our family and friends will enjoy his down to earth acoustic stylings as much as we do.

Sponsorships are a great way to enjoy the concert, with a bonus of VIP seating and admission to the Meet & Greet included.

For further information or to purchase tickets or sponsorships, visit PerceptionsSV.org/NCOD or contact Jim@PerceptionsSV.org.

If you would like to share YOUR coming out story, submit it to Editor@PerceptionsSV.org and it may be featured in a future newsletter.



Program	
6:00 pm	Meet & Greet Admission includes VIP seating for the concert.
6:45 pm	Doors Open for General Admission Seating If you do not have a ticket for the Meet & Greet, you will not be able to enter the building prior to 6:45 pm.
7:00 pm	Concert General admission seating is free of charge.
8:30 pm	Question & Answer Session
Sponsorship Opportunities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold (\$25 - \$49) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Listing on Web Site ◦ Listing in Program (name only) ◦ 1 M&G Admission & 1 VIP Ticket • Platinum (\$50 - \$99) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Listing on Web Site ◦ Listing in Program (name only) ◦ 2 M&G Admissions & 2 VIP Tickets • Multi-Platinum (\$100 - \$199) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Listing on Web Site ◦ Display Ad in Program ◦ 4 M&G Admissions & 4 VIP Tickets ◦ Acknowledged in Oct and/or Nov Newsletter (text only) • Diamond (\$200 or more) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Listing on Web Site ◦ Display Ad in Program ◦ Display Table in lobby during M&G and before/after show ◦ 4 M&G Admissions & 4 VIP Tickets ◦ Acknowledged during Introduction ◦ Acknowledged in Oct and/or Nov Newsletter with display ad up to ¼ page 	
For more information, email info@PerceptionsSV.org or call 989-891-1429.	

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



September Meeting Will Be Held at Our New Home

Tim Atkinson

We're pleased to report that we will be able to have our September meeting in our new home at The Alderton, [301 Cass Street](#), Old Town Saginaw. Join us on Thursday, September 15th at 7:00 pm to see the new space for yourself and enjoy the presentation by Mark Farrington and Padre Yates. As always, we'll serve snacks and refreshments. Enter through the Davidson Design show room and proceed up the stairs to The Loft. If you prefer to take the elevator, ask for assistance.

We were able to purchase 40 stacking chairs with money from our existing facilities fund. A few more chairs were donated so we'll have enough to accommodate a good sized group for our first meeting. We've also ordered a 10 x 12 foot security cage that will be erected in the warehouse space that adjoins The Loft, where meetings and support groups will be held. We will use the security cage for storage of supplies and other assets owned by Perceptions.

These purchases have nearly depleted the money available in our facilities fund so we'll have to start doing fund raising to continue making improvements. We have published a Wish List of items that we're hoping someone may be able to donate, either surplus items that they are willing to part with, newly purchased items, or a gift of cash with a designation for a specific item.

- Shelving for the secure storage area
- Library cart(s) for our lending library – books will be stored in secure storage and wheeled out during meetings.
- Portable podium/lectern
- Portable sound system
- Carts for our stackable banquet chairs – so they can be wheeled into the warehouse when not in use.

We will have more information available at the September meeting about our future plans. In addition to the items listed above, we'll also have the need for volunteers to help with several projects ranging from cleaning & organizing to assembly of the security cage.

September Meeting to Focus on Deaf Community

Please join us at our new home, The Alderton, for the September 15th General Meeting. The guest speakers will be Tri-City native Mark Farrington and Rev. Edwin "Padre" Yates who will inform and enlighten Perceptions members of Deaf LGBTIQQA Culture and how to reach into that community.

Mark grew up in Saginaw and went to an Oral School for the Deaf. He graduated from Arthur Hill High School in 1978. He is a professional Floral Designer and worked at Arden & Whitney Florist for 20 years. He was a past President of the Tri-City Association of the Deaf in Saginaw Township. He retired after 25 years as President. He was the Chairperson for the Deaf Community Annual Bazaar in Saginaw. In 2003, Mark moved to Flint for a new job, where he worked with a florist for years. He was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Mt. Morris until his being not heterosexual became an issue for the priest of that parish. He is now an active member of Redeemer MCC of Flint. He and his interpreter provide ASL classes in Flint and are expecting to open a new portion of the church specifically focused on reaching the Deaf LGBTIQQA community.

Rev. Edwin Yates or Padre, as he is called, has a Masters degree from the University of North Florida in Deaf Education and Counseling. He originally hails from Florida but recently has lived in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio prior to his move to Flint. He has 20 years of experience in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation and Interpreting for the Deaf. While being a pastor is his primary vocation, he continues to work in the field of Interpreting for the Deaf. Padre grew up in the Armed Forces (USN) and has traveled extensively. He has learned and lived in many cultural and spiritual communities. This experience has allowed Padre to develop a progressive Christian and Creation Centered theology which is diverse.

Perceptions Has the Cure for the End of Summer Blues.

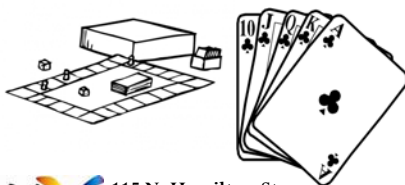
It's the Return of

**Perceptions Saginaw
Meet & Greet
Game Night
at the Mixx**

**Wednesday, September
28th from 7 - 9 pm!**

**Card Games! Board Games!
Prizes! Drink Specials!**

Then stick around for Karaoke at 10!



the Mixx
115 N. Hamilton St
Saginaw

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(989) 895-7475**

Orthodontics

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DDS, MS**

CURRENT EVENTS

▼ **September 2nd - Friday Night Dinner**
7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends at **G's Pizzeria & Deli**, [1005 Saginaw St.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ **September 4th, Sunday - Renaissance Festival** 10 am. An outing to the Renaissance Festival in Holly. You can buy tickets in advance at Kroger's or Walgreen's for \$19.95. We will meet in Bridgeport at the [carpool lot](#) on the west side of I-75 and either carpool or caravan. Costume dress optional.

▼ **September 9th - Friday Night Dinner**
7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends at the **Panda House**, [1010 N. Niagara St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday

September 10th, Saturday - Womyn's Room II Potluck Wickes Recreational Facilities (park) on McCarty at 1:00 pm. For more info contact Rev. Kathy at 989-755-2618 or Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com.

September 11th, 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.

September 11th - Sunday, DLIM LGBT Movie Night 7:00 pm at **301 Cass St.**, Saginaw. Join the fun, movies and refreshment. Recurring on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Suggestions for movies welcome.

▼ **September 14th, 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.

September 14th, Wednesday - Open Hearts 6:00 pm. Positive thinking group for disabled members of the LGBT community. Discussion, speakers and support. Meets at **Butman Fish Library** in Saginaw. For info call Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-755-2618.

▼ **September 15th, Thurs. - Perceptions General Meeting** 7:00 pm. Guest speakers Mark Farrington and Padre Yates will inform us about Deaf LGBT culture. [301 Cass St.](#), Saginaw. All are welcome. See p. 4.

▼ **September 16th - Friday Night Dinner**
7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends at **Pat & Jerry's**, [963 W Midland Rd](#), Auburn. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Fri.

September 16th & 17th - Michigan Fairness Forum's Annual Summit Providing a place and time for pro-equality individuals & groups from around the state to gather and share their stories and ideas for bringing about full equality in Michigan. Presentations will include transgender issues and local ordinances affecting LGBT equality. Friday night gala reception. Bovee University Center, CMU. Schedule and registration details available at www.michiganfairnessforum.org

September 18th, Sunday - PFLAG Meeting
2:00 - 4:30 pm. Meeting at **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**, [2525 Hemmeter Road](#) in Saginaw. Election of the 2011-12 board members will be held.

▼ **September 20th, Tuesday - Men's Discussion Group** 7:00 to 8:30 pm. **The Alderton**, [301 Cass St.](#), Saginaw. 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.

September 21st, 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. **Barb Klimaszewski**, Attorney, will be speaking. The group meets at **Butman Fish Library** in Saginaw. For more info contact Rev. Kathy at 989-755-2618 or Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com.

September 21st, 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. Contact David at 989-771-9721 or DavidY513@hotmail.com for more information.

▼ **September 23rd, Friday Night Dinner**
7:00 pm. Join Perceptions 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.

September 24th - Great Lakes Bay Region AIDS Walk 9:30 am Registration; 10:30 am Rally; 11:00 am Walk Time. Wenonah Park, Downtown Bay City. [AIDS Walk Bay City / Midland / Saginaw](#) provides financial support to Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center's HIV/AIDS Care Program. See Page 7.

▼ **September 26th, 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.

▼ **September 28th, Wednesday - Game Night At the Mixx** A monthly Meet & Greet at **The Mixx**, [115 N. Hamilton St.](#), Saginaw. We'll be there from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. 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.

▼ **September 30th, Friday Night Dinner**
7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends at **Pi's Chinese Restaurant**, [1815 S. Saginaw Rd](#), Midland. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ Denotes a Perceptions sponsored event

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SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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25	26  Transgender Group Magic Bean Café 5789 State St. Saginaw 6:00 - 7:30 PM	27	28  Saginaw Meet & Greet The Mixx 115 N. Hamilton St. 7:00 - 9:00 PM	29	30  Friday Night Dinner Pi's Chinese 1815 S. Saginaw Rd. Saginaw 7:00 PM																																																																																												
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AIDS Walk September 24th

It's time once again to come out and support the Great Lakes Bay Region AIDS Walk. This year's event will be **Saturday, September 24th** at **Wenonah Park** in downtown **Bay City**. Registration begins at 9:30 am, and a Rally at 10:30 will precede the main event, which is scheduled for 11am. If you are not already on a team, come and walk with the Perceptions AIDS Walk Team.

This annual event, one of seven throughout Michigan the same weekend, provides much needed 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. Remember if you can't make the walk, you can still sponsor one of the other walkers. 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!

Out at the Ballgame

Daphne Barkley

It was a beautiful night at Dow Diamond on Saturday, August 20th. The weather was perfect baseball watching weather. A group of Perceptions members met for camaraderie, baseball and great food. The Force was with us all as it was also *Star Wars* night and Jedi's, Princesses, and Vaders abounded. The people watching added an extra element to the night's merriment. Although the game started off a bit slow, the Loons made quite a comeback and won the game 3-2 in extra innings. It was great to see those who attended and to catch up with friends on all of our hectic lives. The night ended with a spectacular fireworks show and everyone looking forward to the next Perceptions activity.

IN BRIEF

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

Dolly Parton Apologizes for "Dollywood" Incident:

Olivier Odom and her wife Jennifer Tiptin were shocked recently when they tried to enter Parton's Dollywood theme park. Odom was asked to turn her shirt inside out because it said "Marriage is so gay." When she asked why, a park employee said that Dollywood is a "family park." Odom wrote a letter of concern to the park and Parton quickly issued an apology to ABC News, saying, "I am truly sorry for the hurt or embarrassment regarding the gay and lesbian T-shirt incident at Dollywood's Splash Country recently. Everyone knows of my personal support of the gay and lesbian community. Dollywood is a family park and all families are welcome." Source: www.365gay.com

Same-Sex Couples Continue to Be Split Up by Immigration:

A same-sex couple in San Francisco has recently made headlines. Bradford Wells, an

American, and Anthony John Makk, an Australian, were married in Massachusetts seven years ago. Makk is caregiver to Wells, who has AIDS. The couple has been together for 19 years. But when Makk applied for a green card to stay in the U.S., he was denied. Because of issues stemming from Wells' illness, the couple say they cannot move to Australia. We hear about a lot of cases lately involving same-sex bi-national couples, in which the threat of deportation has been delayed or cancelled. But the fact remains that as long as the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) prohibits the recognition of same-sex couples, married or not, these couples will face discrimination. In the case of Wells and Makk, the decision was an administrative one and can be appealed to a point where it would become easier to see the rules relaxed. This high profile case, however, highlights the immediate need for an end to DOMA. Sources: news.blogs.cnn.com www.metroweekly.com

Transgender People Being Left Behind in Struggle for Equality:

In an August 11th *New York Times* opinion column, Jennifer Finney Boylan, who serves

on the board of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) tried to call attention to some serious issues. While lesbian and gay people are celebrating the right to marry in one of the country's most populous states, there is little progress for the transgender community. Although America is beginning to accept three of the letters in LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual,) the T continues to be left behind. According to a nationwide study released early this year by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality, transgender people are nearly four times more likely to live in poverty and forty-one percent report attempting suicide. 78 percent of transgender students report harassment, 35 percent report physical assault and 12 percent report sexual violence. Nineteen percent have been homeless. Among transgender people of color, the numbers are even worse. "The right to marry," she says, "clearly isn't the most urgent civil rights issue lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people face." Source: www.nytimes.com

20th Annual Garden Party Held

Rick Farrand

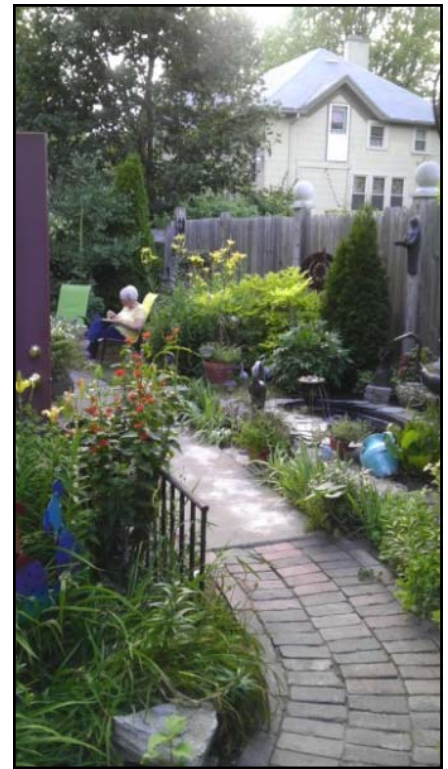
This year's garden party was one that we will not soon forget!! The food brought in by everyone was amazing and it was so hard to choose from the wonderful delicious treats, as to where to start! Just to look around and see this glorious bounty in such a beautiful flower filled backyard was breath taking!! Terry certainly out did himself with the help of Eric, for this year's set up. Simply Fab-u-lous!!!

You didn't have far to go to find a nice relaxing chair to sit in and view all the glory. The weather was perfect and the crowd was alive with excitement! It was nice to be able to mix and mingle with old and new friends and to be able to do this, while perusing the tables filled

with all kinds of decadent snacks! You name it and we probably had it.

With the help of everyone's generous donations we raised over \$840.00 which was split between PFLAG and Perceptions. If you missed this opportunity, I'm sure we will be doing it again next year, because we always have a great turn out.

I want to thank Terry and Eric for putting this together for us and I want to thank [The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe](#) of Midland for their generous donations of cupcakes. Outstanding!! There are so many other people to thank, it's impossible to list them all, so from the bottom of my heart, thank-you, thank-you, thank-you!! See you again next year!!



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