



# PERCEPTIONS

## SAGINAW VALLEY

Serving the Tri-City Area's LGBT Community

June 2012

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Free

# Perceptions Scholarship Winners



Scholarship winner Tyler Bradley



Scholarship winner Jeff Iles  
with Perceptions Board  
Member Daphne Barkley and  
Perceptions Board Advisor  
Leo Romo

### INSIDE:

|                             |   |                      |   |                                 |    |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|----|
| Perceptions Yard Sale ..... | 2 | SMS Messaging .....  | 4 | Highway Cleanup .....           | 7  |
| Pride Banquet.....          | 3 | Current Events ..... | 5 | Equality Michigan Lobby Day...  | 8  |
| Scholarship Winners.....    | 3 | Calendar .....       | 6 | 15 Things Happy People Do ..... | 9  |
| Tri-City Pride.....         | 4 | Pride Season .....   | 7 | May General Meeting.....        | 10 |

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#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Get your copy of the Newsletter sent to you free with your paid membership. The Newsletter is always free to view online. For more information visit [www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org)

Perceptions Saginaw Valley is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contributions are deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.

**Perceptions is Mid-Michigan's leading resource for enriching and empowering LGBT individuals and their community.**

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide superior educational programs, networking opportunities and services for the well being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals and their community.

## Perceptions Yard Sale to benefit the 2012 AIDS Walk

### Shawn Nicholes

Another year has gone by and once again it is time for Perceptions annual yard sale to benefit the 2012 Great Lakes Bay Region AIDS Walk. This year's yard sale will be held at Sally M's house: 3393 Hackett Road in Saginaw, located next to the Sawmill Golf Course. The sale will be held on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and July 1<sup>st</sup>. Donations for the sale can be dropped off at Sally's after the Memorial day weekend. I will also be able to pick up donations if you cannot deliver them to Sally's house. I can be reached by email at :[Nicholes911@yahoo.com](mailto:Nicholes911@yahoo.com). Please leave me a message and I will promptly respond to your email. The money generated by this year's sale will be used as sponsorship funds for the 2012 Great Lakes Bay Region AIDS Walk. If there is enough money left over after the sponsorship has been met, it will then be used toward pledging the Perceptions AIDS Walk Team.



Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center is Saginaw Valley's only AIDS clinic serving approximately 180 clients. Services include counseling, client emergency fund, food pantry, and confidential free HIV testing. Without help from people like you, it would not be possible for Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center to offer such crucial services. I know that these yard sales have generated a generous amount of money for this great cause over the past years. To me there is no greater cause and I thank you in advance for your donations and help with this sale. Thank you for your support. With your help, we can do great things!

Mark your calendars now for the 2012 AIDS Walk:

September 22<sup>nd</sup> at Wenonah Park in downtown Bay City. Be on the lookout for information on joining the Perceptions walk team.



## Pride Banquet Happenings

### NOMINATIONS NEEDED!!

Get them in by Thursday June 7, 2012

### PRIDE AWARDS BANQUET

Tuesday June 26, 2012  
6:00 p.m.

BUY YOUR TICKETS  
TODAY!!!



### SPONSORSHIPS, SPONSORSHIPS, SPONSORSHIPS

We need your help to make the Pride Awards a success- become a sponsor!!

Harvey Milk \$100

Ellen DeGeneres \$50

Advocate \$25

Patron \$10

As a Sponsor, your name will be listed in the program

Thank You for your support!

## 2012 Scholarship Winners

Perceptions established its Scholarship Fund at the [Saginaw Community Foundation](#) in 2007 and awarded its first scholarship in 2008. Including the two scholarships we just awarded at the annual Excellence in Education ceremony, we've recognized 8 students for their leadership, community service, and their commitment to promoting respect and acceptance of diversity across borders of race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity.

We received more applications this year than ever before, 22 deserving students in all. The applications were reviewed and scored by a panel comprised of 5 volunteers from the Saginaw Community Foundation and 4 volunteers from Perceptions. We want to thank everyone who applied and we wish that there were more funds available to help additional students.

This year's first place winner was Jeffrey Iles, a senior at Saginaw Township's Heritage High School where he co-founded a Gay-Straight Alliance. Perceptions members may remember Jeff because he was one of the panelists who shared his coming out story at our October general meeting. Jeff has also been a guest speaker for PFLAG Tri-Cities.

In his scholarship essay, Jeff writes that he feels compelled to work to "change society in order to ensure that no teen might ever go through what thousands of LGBT teenagers currently go through." He is motivated to do this work by the 8% suicide rate of gay teens and the much higher rate for those who are transgendered. Jeff says that he believes that it is his duty to use the power and burden of knowledge that he will receive in University to help make the world a better place. Upon complet-

ing undergraduate school with a political science major and receiving his law degree, he plans to loyally serve the LGBT community as a politician or activist.

Our second place winner is Tyler Bradley, a sophomore at Saginaw Valley State University and a member of SVSU's Gay-Straight Alliance, Living Proud. Tyler earned bonus points in the scoring process because he is a member of PFLAG Tri-Cities. The scoring process has always allowed bonus points for members of Perceptions and PFLAG and immediate family members, but this is the first time anyone has been able to take advantage of those bonus points and be awarded a scholarship.

In his scholarship essay, Tyler states that he plans to continue strengthening his position as an ally for groups that frequently experience discrimination. He continues, "I plan to use my skills gained through studying graphic design to help pass on messages of tolerance and respect for the individual." Tyler hopes to work for a newspaper or magazine and combine his graphic design skills with his interests in writing and photography. He wants to educate people and keep them informed about important topics that affect them.

In recommending Tyler for the scholarship, one of his professors writes, "Because of his commitment to learning, and to spreading the message of tolerance and respect on campus, Tyler makes teaching a pleasure."

If you'd like to contribute to the scholarship fund so we can expand our outreach in the future, donations may be made directly to the [Saginaw Community Foundation](#) or through Perceptions. Contact [Tim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Tim@PerceptionsSV.org) for more information.

# TRI-CITIES' OWN PRIDE CELEBRATION

Kathy Lloyd

Mark your calendar everyone for the second annual [Tri-City Pride](#) Celebration, on Saturday, June 23, 2012, at Ojibway Island in Saginaw. This event starts at 1:00 p.m. and runs until 8:00 p.m. and all are invited! The cost is a suggested donation of \$5.00 per car.

There will be speakers including, Greg Branch, the mayor of Saginaw, Alicia Skillman, the former director of [Equality Michigan](#) and Dan Kildee, who is running for Congress. There will also be entertainment featuring [Drag King Rebellion](#), The Fundamentalists, The Banana Convention and Saginaw's own Tana Michaels.

Yummy food will be sold by Pasong's, Happy's Pizza, Court Street Cafe and others. There will be vendors selling T-shirts and other rainbow items you just have to have.

There are many activities planned for kids and adults such as sack races and other games and prizes.

For those of you who wonder about security, there will be security provided on site and last year there were no problems. Please note that alcohol is not allowed on the island and this is a non-alcohol event.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help with this celebration, for the whole day or only a few hours please call Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-392-6874 before June 15th. You won't regret it; it's a blast.

Last year over 2,000 people came to Ojibway Island to help us celebrate. This year, even more are expected. So get out your summer duds, bring your girlfriends and boyfriends, your wives and husbands and even the kids, and help us celebrate who we are and what we are about, in our town Saginaw!!

## NEW: Receive Reminders by Text Message

In an effort to find the best way to deliver information to our members and friends, Perceptions is introducing an option to receive reminders by text message on your cell phone. We plan to send these special reminders using the SMS (Short Message Service) protocol, which limits the length of the message to 160 characters. Sending text messages will be reserved for things such as reminders for our monthly meeting, deadlines for ticket sales to special events, and such. Since many people have limits on the number of free text messages they can receive within a month, we will restrict use of text messages to no more than 5 per month, with 2 or 3 per month being typical.

We know that many of you suffer from information overload. But in spite of our best efforts to manage the volume of information that we distribute and present it in a concise manner, we still hear many comments from people saying, "I didn't know that was happening." Or, "I totally missed that." Or, "I had planned to attend, but I completely forgot that was tonight." Our communications team releases information in many formats, including our [web site](#), a monthly newsletter (print or digital), a weekly email summary of news and events, postings to our [Facebook page](#), press releases to local media, and occasional special email blasts. The text messages will be used in conjunction with these other methods to share important information.

To keep the cost of sending text messages to a minimum for our organization, we plan to take advantage of the free email-to-SMS gateways that are made available by cell phone providers. To subscribe to our SMS text message service, use your cell phone to send a text message to [info@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:info@PerceptionsSV.org). Simply send the word "subscribe" followed by your name. For example, send the text message "*subscribe John Doe*" or "*subscribe Jane D.*" We'll then see your return address as something like [9895551234@vtext.com](mailto:9895551234@vtext.com) and record it in our text message database. Alternatively, you can email us your cell phone number and the name of your phone's service provider (AT&T, Verizon, Thumb Cellular, etc.) and we should be able to look up the proper gateway.

It takes a fair amount of people power to get you the most current information in a timely manner. We have openings to join our communications team and can put your talents to work in several different areas. Do you have skills that enable you to work on web pages? You could volunteer to update and maintain a section of the web site or even become our new webmaster. Do you enjoy writing? We're always looking for people to submit articles for the newsletter. Are you good at graphic design? You could take over as layout editor of the Newsletter. Do you enjoy spending time on Facebook? You could become an administrator for our Facebook page. Are you a newshound? Perhaps you'd like to contribute to the weekly email message or the newsletter. You get the idea ... there are many opportunities. Step forward and give it a try. Contact [Tim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Tim@PerceptionsSV.org) for more information.

## Current Events

events.PerceptionsSV.org

▼ **June 1st - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at **Court Street Cafe**, [100 S. Michigan Ave.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Fri.

**June 2nd & 3rd - Motor City Pride** Hart Plaza, Detroit. The pride weekend celebration is a project of [Equality Michigan](#). For more information, visit [motorcitypride.org](http://motorcitypride.org)

▼ **June 8th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **El Mexicano**, [3593 Center Ave.](#), Essexville. If you plan to attend, please reply to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Sat., June 9th - Women's Golf OUTing**  
Come PAR-TEE at the 2012 Annual Women's Golf OUTing at St. John's Golf Course in Plymouth while supporting two essential community organizations, the [Ruth Ellis Center](#) and [Equality Michigan](#). Join more than 100 golfers competing for terrific prizes. Get all the details and sign up at [equalitymi.org/golf](http://equalitymi.org/golf)

**Saturday, June 9th - Sing Out Detroit Spring Concert** 7:00 pm. Metro Detroit's premier LGBT choir, Sing Out Detroit chorus presents: "It Gets Better." Lamphere High School, 610 W. Thirteen Mile, Madison Heights. \$10 general, \$25 VIP. Call 248-943-2411 for tickets or go to [singoutdetroit.org](http://singoutdetroit.org)

**Sunday, June 10th - Genesee County PFLAG Meeting** 2:00 - 4:30 pm. This month's topic is "Issues Relevant to LGBTQ Youth." The meeting takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy](#). For more information, contact [pflagflint@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagflint@yahoo.com).

▼ **Tues, June 12th - Men's Discussion Group** 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The Alderton, [301 Cass St.](#), Old Town 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](mailto:Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org) for additional information or to let him know you'll attend. Light snacks will be provided.

**Wednesday, June 13th - Open Hearts**  
6 pm. Positive thinking group for disabled members of the LGBT community. Meets at Butman Fish Library in Saginaw. For info call Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-755-2618.

▼ **June 15th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at **Pat & Jerry's Family Restaurant**, [963 W. Midland Rd.](#), Auburn. If you plan to attend, please reply to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Saturday, June 16th - Michigan Pride**  
March, Capitol Rally, Commitment Ceremony, and Festival in Lansing's Old Town. For more information, visit [www.michiganpride.org](http://www.michiganpride.org)

**Sat., June 16th - DTMC Spring Concert**  
7:30 pm. [Detroit Together Men's Chorus](#) presents "A Cabaret." Lamphere High School Auditorium, 610 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Madison Heights.

**Sunday, June 17th - PFLAG Meeting** 2:00 - 4:30 pm. The meeting takes place at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, [2525 Hemmeter Rd.](#), Saginaw. For more information contact [pflag@pflag-mbs.org](mailto:pflag@pflag-mbs.org) or 989-941-1458.

**Wed., June 20th - Womyn's Room II**  
6:00 pm. This women's group is designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender women to come for support and socialization. For more info. contact Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-755-2618.

**Wed., June 20th - Men's Friendship Room**  
7:00 pm. Men's Friendship Room is designed as a safe place for Gay, Bisexual and Transgender men to come for support and socialization. It meets at David Younk's home in Saginaw. For more information, contact David Younk at 989-771-9721 or

[DavidY513@hotmail.com](mailto:DavidY513@hotmail.com) or Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-755-2618.

▼ **June 22nd - Friday Night Dinner**  
7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at the **Savoy Grill**, [127 S. Franklin St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Fri.

**Sat., June 23rd - Tri-City LGBT Pride** 1:00 - 8:00 pm. Ojibway Island, Saginaw. For more information, visit [www.tricitylgbtpride.com](http://www.tricitylgbtpride.com)

▼ **Monday, June 25th - Perceptions Transgender Group** 6:00 pm. Meeting at The Alderton Bldg, [301 Cass St.](#), Saginaw, the group offers an informal gathering, taking a more 'light-hearted' approach to allow transgenders in the Tri-City area an opportunity to connect with one another for socializing and support. If you have any questions, contact Rachel at [Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org).

▼ **Tues., June 26th - Saginaw Valley LGBT Pride Awards Banquet** 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Fourth annual awards banquet to honor Saginaw Valley area individuals and businesses. Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw. Tickets are \$25 general admission or \$15 for students or those with limited funds.

▼ **June 29th - Friday Night Dinner**  
7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at **Riverfront Grill**, [1 Wenonah Park Place](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Fri.

**Sat., July 14th - Perceptions & PFLAG Garden Party** 6:00 pm. Annual fundraiser for PFLAG Tri-Cities and Perceptions. Lisik Gardens, 1445 N. Iva Road, Hemlock. Free will offering.

▼ Event sponsored or endorsed by Perceptions.

To be informed about upcoming events, simply send a blank email to: [PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

# JUNE 2012

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |   |    |   |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |   |  |           |           | <b>1</b><br> Friday Night Dinner<br>Court Stree Café<br>100 Michigan Ave.<br>Saginaw<br>7:00 PM        | <b>2</b><br> Motor City Pride<br>Hart Plaza<br>Detroit   |   |    |   |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>3</b><br> Motor City Pride<br>Hart Plaza<br>Detroit  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br> Perceptions<br>Board Meeting<br>7:00 - 9:00 PM   | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br> Friday Night Dinner<br>El Mexicano<br>3593 Center Ave.<br>Essexville<br>7:00 PM           | <b>9</b><br> Kalamazoo Pride<br>Arcadia Greek Festival Place<br>Downtown Kalamazoo   |   |    |   |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>10</b><br> Genesee Co.<br>PFLAG Meeting<br>UU Church of Flint<br>2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint<br>2:00 - 4:30 PM  | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br> Perceptions<br>Men's<br>Discussion Group<br>301 Cass, Saginaw<br>7:00 - 8:30 PM   | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br> Friday Night Dinner<br>Pat & Jerry's<br>963 W. Midland Rd.<br>Auburn<br>7:00 PM          |  Michigan Pride<br>Burchard Park<br>Lansing<br><hr/>  West Michigan Pride<br>Riverside Park<br>Grand Rapids |   |    |   |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>17</b> Father's Day<br> Ferndale Pride<br><hr/>  Tri-Cities<br>PFLAG Meeting<br>2525 Hemmeter, Saginaw<br>2:00 - 4:30 PM | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br> Friday Night Dinner<br>Savoy Bar & Grill<br>127 S. Franklin St.<br>Saginaw<br>7:00 PM    | <b>23</b><br> Tri-City LGBT Pride<br>Ojibway Island<br>Saginaw<br>1-8PM  |   |    |   |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b><br> Transgender Group<br>Alderton Bldg<br>301 Cass St.<br>Saginaw<br>6:00 PM | <b>26</b><br> Saginaw Valley<br>Pride Banquet<br>Andersen Enrichment Center<br>120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw<br>6:00 PM  | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br> Friday Night Dinner<br>Riverfront Grill<br>1 Wenonah Park Place<br>Bay City<br>7:00 PM | <b>30</b>   |   |    |   |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |   | <b>May 2012</b><br><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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</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 | 31 |  |  | <b>July 2012</b><br><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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></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 | 31 |  |  |  |  | <b>Notes:</b><br><b>Freeland &amp; Saginaw Meet &amp; Greets on hiatus</b><br><b>No Meet &amp; Greets in June, July, or August</b> |
| 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        | 31        |   |   |   |    |   |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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  | 31   |           |           |   |   |   |    |   |    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |

**CALENDAR**

## Wow, what a Pride season we have this month!

June 2nd/3rd – Motor City Pride (Parade on June 3rd 11 am) Hart Plaza, Detroit

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

June 9th, 2-11pm– Kalamazoo Pride, Arcadia Greek Festival Place, Downtown Kalamazoo. [www.kglrc.org/pride](http://www.kglrc.org/pride)

June 16th – Michigan Pride, Burchard Park, Lansing: Capitol rally, March, Commitment Ceremony, and Festival. [www.michiganpride.org](http://www.michiganpride.org)

June 16th – West Michigan Pride, Riverside Park, Grand Rapids.

[www.westmipride.org/events/](http://www.westmipride.org/events/)

June 17th, 12pm – Ferndale Pride, Downtown Ferndale. [www.ferndalepride.com](http://www.ferndalepride.com)

June 23rd, 1-8pm– Tri-City LGBT Pride, 1-8pm, Ojibway Island, Saginaw.

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

**Highway Clean Up Date set for Saturday July 21, 2012 10:00 a.m.**

Rick Farrand

I would like to thank Mike, Brent, Randy, Dann and Bob for helping out at our 1st highway clean up of the year. We collected 21 bags of trash, and that was after a 2 year absence. It just would not have been possible with out your help, so THANK YOU! Everyone has a chance to step up and do it again. We will be doing our highway clean up on Saturday, July 21. Again, as last time, meet at the [rest area](#) on Southbound I-75 , south of the M-84 exit. We were able to do the west side of 75 at our last cleanup, so this time we will start on the east side of 75. If we have enough volunteers, we will of course, do both sides. We will have a cook out afterwards at my house. If it rains it will be cancelled. If you have any questions call me at 989-799-3034. More info to follow. Thanks to all of you, for your support.





## Equality Michigan lauds success of Equality Action Day

**Equality Michigan**, Michigan's statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) advocacy organization, was thrilled by the success of Equality Action Day. The May 24th event was attended by nearly 80 activists from around the state and served as the first organized mobilization effort to support Senator Rebekah Warren's bill to amend Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1976. The proposed amendment would include protections for the state's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents.

Field Director, Roland Leggett, made the following statement:

"Equality Action Day was the first in what will be a series of advocacy events that Equality Michigan will be developing throughout the year. As many in our community know, Michigan lags behind the nation in terms of the protections that it offers to gay and transgender residents.

This event allows us to bring our message of fundamental fairness for all Michiganders to Lansing legislators in a new and impactful way. Our Policy Director, Emily Dievendorf works tirelessly throughout the year as our voice at the Capitol. However she can't do it alone and we're excited to bring voices from across the state to the halls of the legislature. It's time for equality to be a top priority in Lansing."

Equality Michigan works to achieve full equality and respect for all people in Michigan regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. For more information, visit [www.equalitymi.org](http://www.equalitymi.org) or contact Equality Michigan's Director of Field Organizing, Roland Leggett at: 313-910-5238 or [Roland@equalitymi.org](mailto:Roland@equalitymi.org)

Editor's Note: Equality Action Day was attended by 9 Perceptions members. We all had a chance to speak with State Senators and Representatives about the crucial issue of equal protection under the law. As was evident from many of our meetings, there is still much work to be done in the state in order to advance this. Stay tuned for ways you too can get involved.

WNEM TV5 provided coverage of the event. You can see the story at:

<http://www.wnem.com/story/18618185/equality-michigan-holds-a-rally-for-civil-rights>

## 15 Powerful Things Happy People Do Different

deidre knox

1. **LOVE vs. FEAR.** They **FEAR** less and **LOVE** a lot more.
2. **ACCEPTANCE vs. RESISTANCE.** As they accept, they learn!
3. **FORGIVENESS vs. UNFORGIVENESS.** **FORGIVENESS** is a gift they give to themselves **FIRST!** “Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned.” Buddha
4. **TRUST vs. DOUBT.** They understand that beliefs become self-fulfilling prophecies. “Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.” Mark Twain
5. **MEANING vs. AMBITION.** They understand that “Doing what you love is the cornerstone of having abundance in your life”
6. **PRAISING vs. CRITICIZING.** “What you resist not only persists, but will grow in size”. Carl Jung
7. **CHALLENGES vs. PROBLEMS.** Happy people will see Problems AS Challenges
8. **SELFLESSNESS vs. SELFISHNESS.** “Before giving, the mind of the giver is happy; while giving, the mind of the giver is made peaceful; and having given, the mind of the giver is uplifted.” Buddha
9. **ABUNDANCE vs. LACK/POVERTY.** They have an abundant mindset.
10. **DREAMING BIG vs. BEING REALISTIC.** They love and dare to dream big.  
“Dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the hearts of men.” Goethe
11. **KINDNESS vs. CRUELTY.** They are kind to themselves and others.
12. **GRATITUDE vs. INGRATITUDE.** They have this capacity of seeing beauty, opportunity, and abundance in all people and the world. They are thankful!
13. **PRESENCE/ENGAGEMENT vs. DISENGAGEMENT.** They know how to live in the **PRESENT!** “When you are present, you can allow the mind to be as it is without getting entangled in it. The mind in itself is a wonderful tool. Dysfunction sets in when you seek your self in it and mistake it for who you are.” Eckhart Tolle
14. **POSITIVITY vs. NEGATIVITY.** They always seem to keep a positive perspective on everything!
15. **TAKING RESPONSIBILITY vs. BLAMING.** They take full ownership over their lives and they rarely use excuses.



## CONTAINER GARDENING A BIG HIT

Jim Kleinsorge

Tom Brubaker, a Master Gardener since 2002, shared some of his green thumb with us at the Perceptions May General Meeting. As Tom explained, becoming a Master Gardener is no easy feat, requiring a 10 week course consisting of 3 hour sessions per week. Additionally 40 hours of 'getting your hands in the dirt' in community gardening are required to achieve this designation.



Tom opened the discussion with some basics of gardening including placement, watering, sunlight requirements, and different types of pots that can be used. Volunteers were then sought out to put this information to practical use. Daphne (who has professed to having anything but a green thumb) was the first volunteer to construct a container garden. Daphne arranged various flowers such as a candy corn flower into a beautiful flower container garden. Chas was the second volunteer to assemble a container garden, this time a combination

of vegetables including tomatoes, lettuce, and cucumbers. Jim arranged an herb container garden which boasted such fragrant herbs as rosemary, sage, thyme, and oregano.

After explaining how to plant and care for the container gardens, Tom raffled off the demonstration gardens to 3 lucky winners. Congratulations to Dr. Tom who got to take the flowers home, Dan who will have salad all summer, and Greg who will be able to season food all summer and beyond with the herb garden he won.



Thanks to Tom, who did an excellent job of explaining how to garden for those of us who want to get participate in this fun hobby but aren't exactly sure how to get started. It was a great course for beginners and loads of fun too!

