



Fruitport Area News

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Fruitport and Sullivan Townships

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The purpose of this paper is to be beneficial to the community it serves in every way possible.

2010 Old Fashioned Days King & Queen

A matter of choice

by Mary Weimer

This year's Old Fashioned Days king and queen are Jim and Jane Schippers, who have lived and worked in our community for all of their 48 married years. The couple has three children, daughter Faith (Brian) Peirce lives in Spring Lake; son Dirk (Kelli) lives in Indianapolis, Indiana; and son Seth (Melissa) lives in Muskegon. There are also six "royal" grandchildren.

In every community, there is work that has to be done by someone, and volunteering just seems to come naturally to some individuals, like this year's king and queen.

Jane fully involved herself in the lives of her children as they grew, serving as a member of the PTA, and as president for three years. She also volunteered for all the special events at the school. She recalls that she and Jim put on a "haunted house" at the school once, which scared a number of the children. Beyond the room mother activities and special events, Jane often read to the kids, made popcorn for them, and even dressed in costume for Halloween and other school special days. She served on the board of education for one four-year term, and was president for one of those years. Of that experience, she says, "Everyone should serve on the board to see what it looks like from the other side."

She was the cook for St. Lazare Retreat House for nearly 20 years; and a member of the Lady Lions Club, where she has held several of the offices, advancing eventually to president.

As a couple, she and Jim have hosted five foreign exchange students and have been youth group leaders at Fruitport Congregational United Church of Christ for a number of years. And of course, that leads to more cooking for Jane!

Jim is a contractor who has helped build many area



structures including the bandshell, the high school football field restrooms, ramps for disabled individuals, and, most recently, the new restrooms in Pomona Park. He has helped build Habitat for Humanity houses, too.

Jim worked for Roberts Building Products before starting his own construction company. Through his business, he has given many young people a head start in the business world by hiring them.

Old Fashioned Days means both individuals are at their busiest! Even as we finished our interview, both were asking how they could get back to work following the parade, as the ox roast, the carnival, the riverboat, etc. will be calling for their experience and helping hands.

Of Jim, Village councilman Bruce Raymond said, "He is very dependable, and always reaching out to help people."

So this year, when you see our king and queen at the head of the parade, give them a hand for their community service. Without community servants, we would not have a high quality of life; and being a person who makes a difference is a matter of choice.

Fruitport residents give and receive a gift of life

By Carolyn Kohlbeck

On February 18, 2010, I had the honor of donating one of my kidneys to a very good friend of mine, Jeanne Bleich. Jeanne and I have known each other for about 25 years. Our paths have crossed many times throughout those years. Last summer, as we sat and talked about horses and horse shows, we also talked about her kidney failure. Jeanne went into kidney failure 10 years ago and has spent the last three years on dialysis. She told me about all the wonderful people who had stepped up to the plate and were tested. Sadly, they were not a match or were unable to donate for other reasons. With her own life hanging on a thread, she continued to put others first and never asked anyone to put their own life in danger for her.

That night I went home and talked to my husband. With his support and after much research and discussion with my sister-in-law, Dawn Krolczyk, who had a kidney transplant almost 20 years ago, my decision was made. I already knew I was the same blood type, so I went to Jeanne and asked her what I needed to do to be tested further. When we got the call that the cross match went well, I did not hesitate. I was then scheduled for an evaluation at the University of Wisconsin's Transplant Clinic on December 17.

I prayed, "Lord, I am willing, make me able," and through answered prayers from family and friends, Jeanne and I received a call on January 7 to say that I was a very good candidate to donate, and we were asked if we would like to proceed. Well, of course we both said yes! Two weeks later, another phone call came saying surgery was scheduled for February 18. In less than three months the process came full circle.

I know she feels blessed to have received a kidney and is now able to see a future that doesn't include dialysis three times a week. I tell everyone that I am the one who feels



Jeanne Bleich & Carolyn Kohlbeck

blessed to have been chosen to give her this most wonderful gift — The Gift of Life. I am already back to work and can ride my horse again. Jeanne will have many more doctor visits, but is doing great. She says that she has never felt better. Praise God for two kidneys, when He knew we only needed one!

If asked would I do it again? I would say "Definitely!" I am so very happy that I was able to share my life with my very good friend. What a gift God has given to both of us.

Overall, being a kidney donor has been a very rewarding experience. I have never felt better and I have a deep sense of pride and accomplishment. It has been a great honor and privilege to be able to have made a difference. Not only have I improved Jeanne's health and life, but the experience has taught me to appreciate my own health and live life to the fullest. I think being an organ donor has a profound effect on how you look at what is important in life and what you value.

This was the best adventure of my life! I don't have a single regret.

29th annual 5K/10K road race

by Don Wood

The 29th annual Fruitport Old Fashioned Days 5K/10K road race will be held Saturday, May 29, 2010 starting from the Fruitport High School football field at 9:30 a.m. the early entry fee is \$15 including a t-shirt. Race day entry fee is \$18 with a t-shirt. Reduced rates are available if no t-shirt is desired.

Entry forms are available at Lundberg's Storage Group in Fruitport, the Tri-Cities YMCA, Muskegon YFCA, Omni Fitness Center and Norton Pines Fitness Center.

Call 865-3573 or 865-3551 for additional information.

Fruitport VFW Memorial Day schedule

(Submitted by Max Riekse)

The Fruitport Veterans of Foreign Wars will hold its annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Fruitport cemetery at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 31, the traditional Memorial Day.

The post will lead off the Fruitport Memorial Day parade with its color guard. All veterans able to walk are invited to join in, especially returning veterans in uniform from Iraq and Afghanistan. We hope to have at least one open car for those unable to walk who want to participate. We would like to see as many veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War as possible.

The Fruitport Boy Scouts have offered their help in making sure our deceased veterans' graves all have American flags on them.

2010 Ride to Remember

By Susan McGarry

Ride to Remember is a 15-mile bike ride around Spring Lake to benefit Harbor Hospice. Sponsored by the Fruitport Lions Club and Pathways to Health – Fruitport Chiropractic Center, the ride is family friendly. It starts at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 29 from Fruitport High School, 357 N. Sixth Avenue. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$15 for adults; \$5 for children under age 16. Registration includes a Fruitport Old Fashioned Days lunch at the conclusion of the ride, and the chance to win a door prize.

The event is centered around the joy of families spending time together. After the ride, why not stay for the Fruitport Old Fashioned Days Kids' Free Fair at the band shell and the free circus at 2 p.m.? Make a great healthy and fun day of it. Lots of free or low cost events are offered during Old Fashioned Days.

Advance registration is appreciated. Forms are available at Harbor Hospice and the Fruitport Chiropractic Center. For more information, please call Harbor Hospice at (231) 728-3442 or the Fruitport Chiropractic Center at (231) 865-6545.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Leila and Cyrus Poppen Hospice Residence, a program of Harbor Hospice, in Fruitport Township.

A variety of riverboat cruises available during OFD

By Mary Weimer

Once again, the Grand Lady Riverboat will be cruising Spring Lake during Old Fashioned Days. Beginning on Thursday, May 27, through Sunday, May 30, the riverboat will offer 1 ½ hour cruises for \$8 between 1 and 10 p.m. The time schedule will be posted on the dock.

In addition, specialized cruises are offered:

- The Polka Towners Riverboat Cruise will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 27. The cost is \$20 for a two-hour cruise. Food is available for purchase.

- On Saturday, May 29, the Fruitport High School Jazz Band is sponsoring a riverboat cruise at 2 p.m. The cruise is \$10, with proceeds going to the band. A selection of desserts will be available for purchase.

- A Texas Roadhouse riverboat cruise will be held on Saturday, May 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. The cruise includes a Texas Roadhouse meal. The cost is \$25.

- The Joyful Noise Band from Calvary Church is sponsoring a Sunday, May 30 cruise at 6 p.m. The one-hour cruise includes gospel and patriotic music performed by the band. The cost is \$12.

- The time for the fireworks cruise on Sunday night will be posted at the dock.

Tentative Newspaper Delivery Schedule

July 17, 2010

OFD Wrap-up/4-H Youth Fair Issue
(Deadline July 5, 2010)