

Muskegon County Fair adds 5-K run

By Sandy Kriger

The Muskegon County Youth Fair added a new event this year with a 5-K run. The event welcomed 106 runner/walkers. A lot of work went into preparing the course, and with a few changes, it is planned again for next year. Door prizes were awarded to many of the participants in the run and each one received a very nice gift bag.



5K runners from the Green Acres Livestock 4-H Club: Nathan Kriger (with the bell), Lynn Olthof, Michael Olthof, Leonard Kriger, Jennie Kriger, Kelly Olthof and Annel Olthof. Nathan, Leonard and Annel all placed in the top three in their respective age groups.



Aiden Alder (4 years old) on Jake (reining Grand Champion) and Nancy Hartman (Aiden's great grandma) in his lead line class at the open show on Saturday at the 4-H Youth Fair.

Lakes Mall celebrates 10 years!

(Submitted by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce)

It's hard to believe that it has been ten years since the long-awaited 700,000-square-foot, three-anchor enclosed shopping mall opened its doors. On August 15, 2001 The Lakes Mall announced its grand opening to the residents of Muskegon. Since then, the mall and the surrounding area have continued to see growth. Currently at 98 percent occupancy, The Lakes Mall is the largest retail employer in Muskegon, employing just over 1,000 people and is a retail destination to all of West Michigan. In its tenth year, The Lakes Mall is expecting to see its highest number of visitors in history. Mall officials are anticipating a total of nine million visitors this year, up from 8.5 million last year.

"This is one of the greatest economic development success stories Muskegon has witnessed," said Cindy Larsen, president of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. "Thousands of area residents and hundreds of businesses have prospered because of CBL & Associates Properties' investment in the community."

The Lakes Mall has truly propelled millions of dollars of investment throughout the region. Prior to the mall's opening, The Lakeshore Market Place, Menards, Best Buy, My Auto Imports, The Hampton Inn, Fruitport Golf Club, and the Pheasant Run Condominiums were already operational. All of the shops and restaurants along the mall's perimeter opened after the mall, with the exception of Brann's and Bob Evans that were built at the same time, but opened slightly before. The shopping plaza where Kohls is located, along with all of the restaurants in front of the plaza, have been built since the mall. And the same goes for the two plazas south of the mall and the two shopping plazas north of the mall. More than 50 restaurants, shops, hotels and housing developments have been built since the mall opened in 2001, equating to hundreds of millions of dollars of investment.

"I would like to say a special thank you to the entire community that has supported the mall and worked to keep their dollars local within the Muskegon community," said Michael Hagen, general manager of The Lakes Mall.

For more information about the mall, visit www.thelakesmall.com.



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