

# Harbor Hospice is Accepting Applications For Camp Courage 2017

Harbor Hospice has been offering Camp Courage for 24 years as a way to help children and their families following the death of a loved one. The emotions of grief can be overwhelming and isolating for children who have not yet developed the verbal and emotional skills to navigate the grief process.



Children grieve differently than adults and need time to just “be kids” as well as time to honor and remember their loved one. Kids often feel alone in their grief and thrive when able to connect with others who understand their unique experience.

Harbor Hospice staff and trained volunteers create a safe, stable environment for children to explore and express their grief, remember their loved one, and connect with others who have experienced



a death. Children participate in traditional camp activities such as swimming, fishing, hiking, and campfires along with grief-tailored activities that teach healthy coping skills.

Camp Courage, an overnight camping experience for children ages 6-12 and teens 15-19, is held at Pioneer Trails on Big Blue Lake in Muskegon County beginning Friday, June 23, 2017 at 10:00 am through Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 2:00 pm. Application deadline is May 31, 2017. The only cost for camp is a one-time \$10 registration fee. For more information or to register, contact Stephanie Weesies or Melanie Dekkers at 231.728.3442 or 800.497.9559 or email [info@HarborHospiceMI.org](mailto:info@HarborHospiceMI.org) or visit our website at [HarborHospiceMI.org](http://HarborHospiceMI.org).

## Burning of the Greens

By Heidi Tice

What is the Burning of the Greens? Since Victorian England days there has been a celebration of the Twelve Days of Christmas (December 25<sup>th</sup> –January 6<sup>th</sup>) which ended with the taking down of all evergreens and having a bonfire to burn them off, “Burning of the Greens”.

Years ago Neil PUNCHES would have people from all around Cloverville and Fruitport bring their Christmas trees and wreaths to his property in Cloverville and he would light them up in a large bonfire. This was a wonderful community event, that ending some time ago with the sale of the PUNCHES property.

Looking for more ways to bring our small town together, Public Safety Officer Brian Michelli and Fire Fighter Keith Johnson thought, “why not resurrect the event with the trees from the Lions Old Fashioned Days?” In a very short time the event was put together, advertising was minimal, due to the short notice. However, thanks to social media, they still had over 30 trees come in for a nice bonfire.

The Fruitport Leo Club served hot chocolate and popcorn and a dozen or more citizens came with children and enjoyed the fun. This will be an annual event behind the Township hall so come on out next year and help bring back the Burning of the Greens.

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10th Anniversary

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