

Two more wonderful events - one in the past, and one coming up in the future

By Sue Halter

Question? What and why do over 70 community members do in their spare time, some from Labor Day Weekend all the way through the middle of February? Some having to travel much distance through ice and snow storms, some up at the crack of dawn before their working day has even begun.

Answer: The great feeling of knowing they are all giving back to their community in a HUGE way. I am happy to share the following information as I write on this PAY IT FORWARD day of Saturday April 28, 2018. Yes this past February all those above and so many more people in the background kicked off the 10th Year of "Dancing With the LOCAL Stars" fund raiser. Here is the excerpt from their Facebook site on the funds raised.

Women's Division Chamber of Commerce

April 11 at 2:18 p.m. ·

Drum roll please..... 70 dancers + 6 performances + numerous costume changes + an incredibly generous community = \$170,177 raised from the 2018 DWTLs event!! That money will support food pantries throughout Muskegon County and the surrounding areas. A huge thank you from the entire Committee to everyone who gave their time, money, creativity and support to this fantastic event!

Add the \$170,177 to the 9 years total the event has been running and that brings a grand total for ten years of \$920,000 that has been raised during this wonderful event that was the brainstorm idea of Mary Kendall to incorporate her favorite TV show format on the local level. What a brilliant idea and who would have known the amount of dollars that this community was capable of raising. I was very fortunate to dance two years in a row since this was the alumni year of all returning "star" dancers. I danced with my same dance "pro" David Armbrecht but this time since so many "stars" were returning and not as many "pros" to teach -- another brainstorm from Mary, let's do groups, and so we did. We had a total of six in my group, some groups having as many as ten. Usually this event is held on a Thursday thru Saturday with four performances. This year with so many cast members it was held on two weekends for a total of six performances. If you have never been to one of these shows, I highly suggest you watch in January 2019 or, when tickets go on sale, purchase yours early as all nights are usually sold out. Connecting with the Women's Division Chamber of Commerce on Facebook or their web page will keep you updated on all their events as they have several others throughout the year.

As I had mentioned above today as I write this for the Fruitport Area News it is PAY IT FORWARD DAY which reminds me why I have started a local community event of my own, "Dancing into the Sunset" a free community dance party held every Thursday night starting May 10th and running through the end of August. We will dance the night away at the Fruitport Bandshell located in Pomona Park at 3rd and Park Street from 7:00 p.m. to Sunset which is around 9:00 p.m. Please read the attached schedule as I will have a variety of live bands, DJ music, and dance lessons. If it wasn't for my participation in "Dancing With the Local Stars" that reminded me what a great feeling it was to give back to my community with my time, I may not have thought of "Dancing Into the Sunset". One of the most special nights I hold close to my heart is the July 5th tribute to our military. That we did last season and will do again this season but with so much more added. I encourage all to come out and support the men and women of our troops. We will have local boy scout troop 4023 once again carrying the flags representing all the branches while The Silverado Band plays the respected songs of each branch.

We are also collecting non-perishable items for the Blue Star Moms to send off to the troops. (See the list of items you can bring below) Also any cards and or letters are always appreciated - more than you know.

We have invited the 92 for 22 (<https://www.92for22.org/>), a group of veterans in Michigan wanting to

raise awareness of veteran suicide and the effects of PTSD and lend a helping hand to veterans in need to join us as well. Please follow them on Facebook or visit their web site above. They are PAYING IT FORWARD this weekend walking 92 miles from Coopersville to Lundington. Way to go!! Thank goodness they have great weather this year. Last year they walked in the cold and rain which we know of all too well from this April.

Make sure you watch the schedule of Dancing into the Sunset – Fruitport on Facebook for any updates and please help share and share again any of the information to help get the word out about Dancing into the Sunset. We have two banners hung at the bandshell which are sponsored by The Storage Group, one facing the boat launch (which reminds me you can come by boat and park at Way Point Dock and Deli during the dance party only, and walk over) and one facing the hill on the front of the bandshell.

We have flyers around town with the schedule on one side and the other a coupon for a free world famous chili dog with the purchase of one sponsored by Ye Old Tavern. Most of all, when you see

a Fruitport Lions Club Member around town and at the upcoming Old Fashion Days event (which we all look forward to every year) in their bright yellow vest, stop and shake their hand and say a big THANK YOU for all that they do for our Fruitport Community. They sponsor "Dancing into the Sunset", and without them this community event would not exist. Last year I became a Lions member and am amazed and embarrassed at the same time for not realizing all the donated time these members put into our community. Why, some have been members for 40 plus years and are still going strong. So please, really make sure and say "Thank you" to these wonderful men and women of the Lions Club. I will have a membership application each Thursday if anyone is interested in becoming a member.

Thank you for taking the time to read and be a part of this great community we call Fruitport Township

Email Susan at : dancingintosunset@aol.com Facebook page: Dancing into the Sunset – Fruitport



Personal Hygiene

- Toilet paper
- Unscented Baby Wipes
- Chapstick
- Unscented Bar Soap
- Disposable Razors
- Q-Tips
- Band-aids
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- A & D Ointment
- Antiperspirant/Deodorant
- Toothbrush, Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Saline Nasal Spray
- Eye Drops
- Sanitary Napkins*
- Tampons*

*US Govt. Does NOT Provide these.

Utility Items

- Laundry Detergent Pods
 - Fabric Softener Sheets
 - Zip Ties
 - Zip Lock Bags-quart & gallon sizes
 - Duct Tape-Camo Pattern
 - Batteries-AA & AAA Size
 - Can Openers
 - Small Flashlight-key chain size
- Entertainment**
- Deck of Cards
 - Dominos/Cribbage
 - Pencils/Pens (no click type)
 - Small Tablets
 - Envelopes
 - Magazines (Male & Female)

Linens/Clothes

- Pillowcases-new or used
- Bandanas camo/digital
- Gel Insoles
- Socks-Cotton or Wool
- Tan, White or Black
- Small Throw Blankets

To set off shipping expenses checks may be made out to: **BSMA IKM MI-188**
Please mail to:
IKM BSM MI-188
PO Box 366
Lakeview, MI 48866