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Dancing Into the Sunset

by Sue Halter

Hello and thank you to Fruitport and the surrounding communities for coming out and enjoying and supporting the second season of Dancing Into the Sunset down at Pomona Park over-looking beautiful Spring Lake (Dancing Into the Sunset – Fruitport on Facebook).

We just about tripled our attendance from season one to over 1400 by dancing to some of our favorite local bands like The Silverado Band (silveradoband.net and Facebook), Butch Grenell and Unbreakable Pride Band and The Lakeshore Big Band (lakeshorebigband.com).

We introduced our beautiful park to bands and their fans that traveled in from Grand Rapids, the ever so popular The 6 Pak Band (Facebook), made up of all women, as well as Steve Zaagman, the creator of Grand Rapids Original Swing Society (grandrapidsoriginal swingsociety.com and Facebook) who taught all in attendance East Coast Swing steps. Steve has over 8000 members who follow him on Facebook and dance throughout the Grand Rapids area every Tuesday night all year long.

Now, who caught the energetic Thursday nights when we had Francine and her Zumba crowd? You weren't here? Oh, my, what a fast moving night of cha, cha, hip hop and buchata moves you missed!

Back again on July 5th we saluted all the military with the help and entertainment of The Silverado Band. This year we added cards, notes and letters. We collect non-perishable items through the week, and that night presented to The Blue Star Moms to send off to the troops. What a wonderful night of celebration by each branch of the military being represented by either an active military member home on leave or a retired veteran walking with our own Scout Troop Pack 4023 and even the Coast Guard came to be honored. A very proud night for all.

We had the ever so popular husband, wife and family team of Impact Entertainment Mobile DJ Service (on Facebook) provide the music on non-band dance instruction nights (even rock and roll ballet night of instructions). They then played your favorite requested tunes to dance with the rest of the night.

Line dancing was a must each week to everyone, music no matter whether it was a band or DJ. Dancing Into the Sunset would not be the same without our line dance group of regulars. I must add thank you to all those that helped the newbies learn all the different dance steps throughout the year, not just on dance instruction nights. It made for such camaraderie between the ages and in turn, a lot of fun for all to keep coming back. All of you were ambassadors for your community and it showed in the responses and comments that I still keep hearing.

After such a successful second season, yes, we will be back for season three in 2019. I have been busy traveling around listening to new bands to bring to Fruitport. Here is the "tentative" line up (subject to change). Thursday 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., same place, Pomona Park at the Bandshell in Fruitport (Third and Park Streets) starting **June 6** with either **Steve Zaagman** and East Coast Swing dance lessons, or a night of country line dancing with **Impact Entertainment Mobile DJ Service** once again providing the music on non-band nights. **June 13 - The 6 Pak Band** back by popular demand from Grand Rapids; **June 20**, **The Silverado Band** always a hometown favorite having Cheryl, Woody and Tom play to a packed Pomona Park, **June 27, The Trixy Tang Band** – new to Dancing Into the Sunset from Grand Rapids (see youtube - trixy tang Sunday Cruisen filmed in Grand Haven and trixytang.com). Trixy Tang knows we are a dancing crowd of mixed ages and looks forward to playing for us , they love the area.

Fourth of July falls on Thursday night so it has been discussed and we will be celebrating at Dancing Into the Sunset with **The Silverado Band** and our salute to the Military in the small Fruitport way. Those who will want to attend fireworks in nearby communities will still have time to attend once Dancing Into the Sunset ends at 9:30, and it doesn't get dark at that time of summer until 10:30. Or you can stay put on the grassy hill and just enjoy the background sounds and see some fireworks of the homeowners over the lake for a more quieter evening with family and friends. Why don't you plan your picnic down at the park in advance and you won't have to pay for the entertainment?

July 11 - The Great Scott Band (tentative) coming in from Grand Rapids who play a huge range of music from the 50s to current. They also realize we are a dancing crowd and are excited to come to Fruitport (greatscottlive.com). **July 18 - The Butch Grenell Unbreakable Pride Band** returns for another year of great entertainment. **July 25 – Trixy Tang Band** is so confident their current fans will love Fruitport, combined with the new ones from Fruitport, that they want to play twice. **August 1 - High Energy Zumba with Francine** will definitely get you off your chair. **August 8 – The Silverado Band –** we just won't let them stay away. **August 15 – Country Current Band** (www.countrycurrentband.com), and to close out the third season **August 22 - Butch Grenell Unbreakable Pride Band.** It was decided to end a week before the Labor Day Thursday due to Fruitport Football playing on that last Thursday.

And there you have it folks! A great third season shaping up with old and new joining together for this once again **FREE** event sponsored by The Fruitport Lions Club, The Storage Group, Ye Olde and always interested in adding new sponsors to help pay for the entertainment each Thursday night to keep Dancing Into the Sunset **FREE** all summer long to those attending. Please send any new sponsors my way: Dancingintosunset@aol.com.

Really trying to have a food truck or ice cream truck on premises each Thursday night, but our numbers have to get even larger to make it worth their time and effort. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this wonderful **FREE** community event organized for the community, by the community, for all of us to enjoy right here in our own backyard of Pomona Park.

Remember, you can come by car, boat, walk, or bike the bike path. We have had several people bike ten miles so they could join us many of the Thursday nights. Boaters park at Waypoint Dock and Deli adjacent to the park. Additional vehicle parking always available at The Storage Group across the street and at the Fifth Third Bank parking lot, all approved parking during Thursday nights. Just bring a chair or blanket, or make use of the on-site picnic tables. Enjoy the holidays and see everyone in the Spring of 2019 at Dancing Into the Sunset, Fruitport.