

Dancing into Sunset – Fruitport 2019

Season 3 Kicks Off Thursday, May 30th, at 7:00 pm with a live band, *The Sea Cruisers - 50's, 60's and 70's rock-n-roll music to dance by*

What does the above mean? It means that Dancing into Sunset – Fruitport 2019, is held every Thursday night during the Spring and Summer in Pomona Park at the Bandshell. Attendance numbers have increased, with the support of the community telling me, and the **Fruitport Lions Club** (who is the main sponsor), that this “FREE” community event IS HERE TO STAY. We are on our way to another successful year. **The Storage Group** is a returning sponsor of the two banners listing the schedule located on the bandshell walls. **Ye Old Tavern** is a returning sponsor of the flyers you will see, throughout town and each night, to pick up for your free hot dog with a purchase of one. **Fruitport Orchard Market** is a returning sponsor of delicious cake on June 6th to celebrate the Lions Club’s 102nd Birthday, and of red, white and blue cupcakes on the 4th of July. Yes, we decided to run Dancing into Sunset on July 4th for those who want to enjoy a less crowded holiday. Plan your day in Pomona Park with family and friends, and dance to the music of The Silverado Band by night. We will salute and recognize all Military men and women, as we have done in the first two seasons, but we will be changing it up a bit for this year. We’re happy to welcome **Community Foundation of Muskegon County** as a new sponsor. Shredded rubber has been donated by **Ginman Tire Co.** and put down each week with the help of volunteers to help “soften” the feet and knees while your dance partner swirls you around in the large dance area. The grassy hill that overlooks Spring Lake makes this location one of the best in the area for an outdoor evening of dancing to the music, meeting old friends and making new ones, or just being tucked away near one of the trees to listen with enjoyment.

We’re happy to say, that for this Season 3 of Dancing into Sunset, vendors will be on site for all of the 13 Thursday nights. Now you can plan on eating down at Pomona Park before or during the music and dancing. As for Aloha Hawaiian Shaved Ice, Yodels Frozen Yogurt, Pizza Parliament and Smokin on the Lakeshore (Pulled Pork, fish tacos, smoked chicken, etc.), they will share Thursdays, so that each Thursday I will have one of the above desserts and one of the above food vendors above attend. If still hungry after you dance the night away, you can always walk across the street to Ye Old Tavern for their chili dog special. Stay tuned to our Facebook page each week when Dancing into Sunset starts for latest updates (Dancing into Sunset – Fruitport).

Did you know that Pomona Park was very popular back in the 40’s and 50’s for dancing and music? Here is a bit of history by Fox 17’s Kevin Craig’s West Michigan Stories interview with Brian Zwart.

Pomona Park sat vacant (except with the old burned out building on it) until about 1900 or so. It was the electric rail car known as the Interurban that came into existence and began to capitalize on the old boom. The Interurban rail service ran from Grand Rapids to Coopersville, and rails veered off to Fruitport and Grand Haven. Since the Interurban company had an electric power house and stop in Fruitport, they wanted to capitalize on it and draw more people in. So they built a huge wood pavilion over Spring Lake on the shore of Pomona Park in 1902. It was a major success!

The Interurban operated the pavilion until 1928 when it was sold to band leader Frank Lockage. He began bringing in major, nationally known talent and acts like Glenn Miller, Lawrence Welk, and Buddy Holly (just four months before he died in a plane crash with the famous Big Bopper and Richie Valens). At first, the pavilion was a seasonal thing with open areas and no heat. It would later become a year-round draw for people to dance or to simply party into the wee hours of the night.

The fun, excitement, and draw went on until January 3, 1963. In the early morning hours of January 4, the pavilion burned to the ground. Never before seen home movies were taken of the fire and are part of the video in our West Michigan Story. Unfortunately, it was never rebuilt, and the property sits only as a park today. That said, the original pylons that held the pavilion up over the water are still visible today. The slab of concrete that led into the pavilion is still intact...even with pieces of the original floor tile still attached.

The history of Pomona Park is amazing and incredible, to say the least. A special thanks goes to Brian Zwart of the Fruitport Historical Society. Unlike many historical experts in the area, Brian is a much younger man who has researched Fruitport and Pomona Park extensively. His **Fruitport Area News • May 2019 • Page 39**

enthusiasm and insight into Fruitport’s past is addictive, enlightening, and entertaining. (Search Brian Zwart Fruitport history to view the entire video).

So, c’mon everyone, let’s make history of our own for our kids to talk about 50 years from now.

All the fun continues into 2019, starting Thursday, May 30, 2019, at 7:00 pm going till about 9:30 (sunset), with live music by “The Sea Cruisers” (follow them on Facebook), a 50’s and 60’s good-old Rock-and-roll group we all can sing and dance to.

Below here is the full schedule to cut out and put on your refrigerator for quick reference. You will not want to miss this year’s lineup. Please help spread the word about Dancing into Sunset, to continue to share dancing and music with the community.

When: Thursdays, starting May 30, 2019 (Thursday After Memorial Weekend)

Where: Pomona Park – Fruitport at the Bandshell (Park and 3rd Street)

Time: 7:00 pm to sunset (about 9:30)

Creator: Susan Halter – To contact direct - dancingintosunset@aol.com or follow her on Facebook - Dancing into the Sunset – Fruitport

Main Sponsor: THE FRUITPORT LIONS CLUB

Co Sponsored by: The Storage Group

Co-Sponsored by: Fruitport Orchard Market

Co-Sponsored by: Community Foundation for Muskegon County

Co-Sponsored by: Ye Old Tavern

Co-Sponsored by: Ginman Tire Co.

Also view online: Andy O’Riley’s very own MuskegonChannel.com for latest interviews and updates

Thursday, May 30, 2019

– All the way from Lansing, Michigan we welcome THE SEA CRUISERS, who will kick off the season with 50’s, 60’s, and 70’s rock-and-roll (follow them on Facebook).

Vendors: Aloha Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Pizza Parliament

Thursday, June 6, 2019

– Back by popular demand, not once, but four times this season, comes **THE SILVERADO BAND** – Featuring Cheryl, Woody & Tom. Check them out at silveradoband.net and on Facebook.

Vendors: Aloha Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Smokin on the Lakeshore

And we’re celebrating the Lions Club’s 102nd Birthday with a cake from Fruitport Orchard Market.

Thursday June 13, 2019

– The return of the ever-so-popular all girl band, **THE 6 PAK**, from Grand Rapids. This bubbly and very talented group of women will for sure have you singing & dancing (facebook.com/allgirlband).

Vendors: Yodels Frozen Yogurt and Domino’s Pizza - Fruitport

Thursday, June 20, 2019

– Ever wanted to learn how to Swing Dance? Well, here is your chance for free! **STEVE ZAAGMAN, the creator of the GRAND RAPIDS ORIGINAL SWING SOCIETY**, will be on hand to teach. No partner needed, come as you are and enjoy. Check him out at: grandrapidsoriginalswingsociety.com.

Steve comes along with IMPACT ENTERTAINMENT MOBILE DJ SERVICE.

Vendors: Aloha Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Smokin on the Lakeshore

Thursday, June 27, 2019

– Introducing the ever-so-popular rock-and-roll band called **TRIXY TANG BAND** - whose video, Sunday Cruising (facebook.com/TrixyTangband/videos/1582979558477982), filmed in Grand Haven, was a smash hit online. You don’t want to miss this new addition to Dancing into Sunset – Fruitport.

Vendors: Aloha Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Smokin on the Lakeshore

Thursday, July 4, 2019

– Yes! We’ll dance the night away directly on the 4th and celebrate in our small Fruitport way. Once again, **THE SILVERADO BAND** will help us pay tribute to our Military men and women. So, if you don’t want to join the big crowds elsewhere, then join us on the grassy hill in Pomona Park. Military attire welcomed (hats, uniforms, etc), so we may thank you for your services. Once again, all week long, we will be collecting non-perishable items to send to our troops. Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates.

Vendors: Smokin on the Lakeshore and Fruitport Orchard Market’s Red, White and Blue Cupcakes

Thursday, July 11, 2019

– Another new addition to Dancing into the Sunset, **THE BOURNE BROS**, will bring their classic rock and country to the Fruitport Bandshell.

Vendors: Aloha Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Smokin on the Lakeshore

Thursday, July 18, 2019

– Welcome back **BUTCH GRENNELL and THE UNBREAKABLE PRIDE BAND** for your dancing and listening pleasure.

Vendors: Yodels Frozen Yogurt and Smokin on the Lakeshore

Thursday, July 25, 2019

– Guess who is up again? Yep! You asked for them to perform several times

throughout the summer for Dancing into the Sunset. So, they are back again: **THE SILVERADO BAND.**

Vendors: Aloha Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Domino’s Pizza - Fruitport

Thursday, August 1, 2019

– Are you ready to **ZUMBA WITH FRANCINE, and give all your music requests to IMPACT ENTERTAINMENT MOBILE DJ SERVICE?** Come on down for this night of high energy moving and dancing!

Vendors: Aloha Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Domino’s Pizza - Fruitport

Thursday, August 8, 2019

– One more time, folks, **THE SILVERADO BAND** - Cheryl, Woody and Tom

Vendors: Pizza Parliament

Thursday, August 15, 2019

– Another new addition to Dancing into the Sunset – Fruitport: **COUNTRY CURRENT BAND**

Vendors: Aloha Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Pizza Parliament

Thursday, August 22, 2019

– To close out Season 3 of Dancing into the Sunset – Fruitport: **BUTCH GRENNELL and THE UNBREAKABLE PRIDE BAND**

Vendors: Aloha Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Pizza Parliament



Once again, we must thank the Fruitport Lions Club for being the main sponsor of Dancing into Sunset – Fruitport Free Dance and Music weekly community event. If you have extra glasses that you are not using, please drop them off at the information table, as the Lions Club fixes and cleans glasses to donate to those that are in need.

Fruitport Lions Club is always looking for new members to join. Meetings are on Wednesdays. New membership applications will be on the information table as well. Last, but not least, when you see Lions members walking around Old Fashion Days with their bright yellow vests on, please stop them, shake their hands, and say thank you for all they do for our community. With myself only being a member for three years, I am amazed by those that have come before me and have been members for 30, 40, or 50 plus years. We have to keep this great Lions Club going, so please consider signing up to become a member.

Have a great Spring and Summer!

