

DANCING INTO SUNSET FRUITPORT 2019



Oh, the line dancing - a favorite of Dancing into Sunset!



Father and son enjoying quality time at Dancing into Sunset



Veronica and Bill - Their smiles say it all!



Bill Chaddock being an “ambassador” of Dancing into Sunset, teaching dance steps



Free cake to celebrate the Lions Club Birthday



Young love enjoying Dancing into Sunset



Who says a hoola hoop has to be around the waist? - Fun, fun, fun at Dancing into Sunset

Photos by Leo Valdez, Sr.



Military Night



More smiling faces

Dancing into Sunset - Fruitport, 2019 Season Recap

by Susan Halter

Fruitport, Spring Lake and the surrounding communities-you rock! Stand up and applaud yourselves for coming out and enjoying and supporting the 3rd season of *Dancing into Sunset*, a Fruitport Lions Club event down at Pomona Park overlooking beautiful Spring Lake (check out *Dancing into Sunset – Fruitport* on Facebook). Our attendance once again increased from 1400-ish to 1700-ish by listening and dancing to live bands and DJ’s. We kicked off the season with the “Sea Cruisers” (follow them on Facebook) traveling all the way from Lansing. They loved Pomona Park and the view of Spring Lake. They just might join us again in 2020. The weather was still a bit chilly when they played in May, but that did not stop the hundred-twenty-five plus from dancing to their Beach Boys style music.

Local favorite, “The Silverado Band” never disappoints us (silveradoband.net, and Facebook), “Butch Grenell and Unbreakable Pride Band”, with their upbeat country music as well.

We introduced our beautiful Pomona Park to two new bands, “The Bourne Bros” and “Country Current Band” who also enjoyed playing at *Dancing into Sunset* for the first time. We even went out on a limb, so to speak, and invited “The Trixy Tang Band” from Holland to play at least for half the night until we had a huge storm front heading directly for Fruitport, which scared all of us to start wrapping things up early only to have Mother Nature fool us again. Skies got dark, wind kicked up but storm jumped right over us and hit East of Fruitport. For the safety of all it still was the correct call. Ah, the unpredictability of Michigan weather for outdoor events.

From Grand Rapids, we had the return of “The 6-Pak Band” (Follow them on Facebook), made up of all women, as well as Steve Zaagman, the creator of “Grand Rapids Original Swing Society” (grandrapidsoriginalswingsociety.com and Facebook), who taught all in attendance the 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. The return of the energetic Thursday night Zumba crowd was taught by Francine. Oh, my, what a fast moving night of cha-cha, hip-hop and buchata moves you missed if you did not attend!

Fourth of July, a crowd favorite, fell directly on our Thursday, so it was only appropriate to salute the military like years past with the help and entertainment of “The Silverado Band”. The night made for a nice alternative to the larger crowds in other communities. We added cards, notes and letters and even hung pics of our loved ones who served. We collected non-perishable items through the week and passed them along to The Blue Star Mom’s to send off to the troops. What a wonderful night of celebration by each branch of the military being represented by either a active military member home on leave, or a retired veteran walking across the stage with local Scout Troop Pack 4023 ! Many thanks to Scout leaders George Kotkowicz, Tessa Hurt, Rebecca Hudson, Dennis Rader and Scouts Brian and Nolan Hurt, Matthew Williams, Hayden, Hunter and Trey Rader, for being a part of our celebration -a very proud night for all.

Twice this past season we once again had Impact Entertainment Mobile Entertainment (on Facebook) provide the music on non-band dance instruction nights. They then played your favorite requested tunes, to dance by the rest of the night. It’s always fun watching the line dancing, and such sweet couples dancing each week to the music, no matter whether it was a band or DJ .

Dancing into Sunset would not be the same without our group of regulars. I must add thank you to all those that would help the newbies learn all the different dance steps throughout the year, and 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 many requests, I did my best to have food vendors available on most Thursday nights. A couple of glitches with broken down trailers and sickness, but for the most part it worked out very well for the first time. In order to have it worth the time and expense of a vendor, we need to have

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