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"For unto you is born this day in the
city of David a Savior, who is Christ
the Lord."

LUKE 2:11

It Doesn't Get Better Than This

Great Summer in the Village

by Amy Haack, Fruitport Village Council Member

The Village of Fruitport Council and staff are proud to have implemented several great projects this summer. Many of the projects involved partnerships that continue to flourish with the Village Planning Commission, hard-working volunteers, and generous community and business donors.

The summer began with the second year and expansion in numbers of the beautiful flowerpots along Third Avenue welcoming residents, visitors, and travelers through the area with bursts of freshness. Also, throughout the summer, storm water infrastructure in several locations was replaced where needed. In early May, Second Street between Bridge Street and Park Street saw a pavement resurfacing. Sidewalks continued to be replaced and updated where needed.

In June came the new playground in Pomona Park. This was the culmination of a year and a half of planning and fund raising. Thanks to many, including volunteer builders and donors, the new playground has proven to be a very popular attraction for parents, grandparents, and caretakers of young children bringing more visitors to the village to enjoy the park's amenities, natural beauty, and business offerings in the village. The former playground area was converted to volleyball court and thanks to the Village Pharmacy saw the first ever sand volleyball challenge in Pomona Park on September 10th.



This summer, a group of volunteers erected this beautiful new playground at the top of the hill at Pomona Park. The new equipment replaces the old playground that had been fenced in along Park St. by the library.

Also, this summer, the Village of Fruitport Council worked with Harbor Transit to bring a trolley stop to Pomona Park. The trolley made its way to Pomona Park on an hourly basis all summer and was free to riders. The trolley connected with Harbor Transit's existing routes making it possible to ride free transit to Spring Lake, Grand Haven, and Ferrysburg and to allow riders from those areas to visit the Village of Fruitport.

In August, the ADA accessible kayak launch was constructed in Pomona Park near the boat launch. Additional parking was also added. The kayak launch, funded in part by a Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant which was applied for by Village Council and staff, was delayed for several years due to high water and the pandemic. It seems to have been well worth the wait though as paddlers flocked to it immediately. Benches, a bike rack, waste receptacles, more plantings, etc. will be added soon. Special thanks to West Michigan Dirt Works for their donation of labor and construction supervision for this project.

Existing Pomona Park amenities like the boat launch, basketball court, fishing pier, and picnic shelter were increasingly popular for users. The Fruitport District Library used the picnic shelter for some of their programs, coaches and youth teams trained at the basketball courts and then filled up on local pizza, and every other Monday there was a senior citizen dinner at the picnic shelter.

Dancing into the Sunset had another successful summer in Pomona Park offering music, dancing, etc. to residents and visitors every Thursday night which culminated with a visit from the Scottville Clown Band on a special night on Tuesday, August 30th. Shout out to Sue Halter and her team for doing a great job every year planning this no cost, unique outdoor venue experience to many through her continued partnership with the Village.

And last, but most certainly not least, the Fruitport Lions Club hosted the spectacular Old Fashioned Days event in Pomona Park including carnival, fireworks, live music, etc. over the extended Memorial Day Weekend. This was the first Old Fashioned Days Event in three years due to the pandemic. The Village of Fruitport Council is proud to continue this long-time partnership for the annual Old Fashioned Days event welcoming the request for the use of Pomona Park at no cost to the Lions Club again in the year 2023. The Old Fashioned Days tradition continues in the Village of Fruitport.