

Dancing into Sunset Fruitport
2023 Season Recap

(Dancing into Sunset – Pomona Park Fruitport on Facebook)



Another successful season in the books. Season 7 went off without a hitch.

Week 1 – June 8th – Our Season 7 opener was The Silverado Band.

We had perfect weather to start the season, blue skies, mild temperatures, and a whole lot of people to listen and dance. The night was sponsored by Community Foundation for Muskegon County. We’d like to offer a great big thank you for their continued support.

Week 2 – June 15th – Oh my! What a change in weather for The Carl Webb Band!

The winter scarves, hats and coats came out to keep folks warm when they weren’t dancing. To the 100 or so people that braved the much cooler weather, The Carl Webb Band thanks you... Let’s see what next week brings. Only in Michigan

The night was sponsored by Waypoint Dock and Spirits.

Week 3 – June 22nd – Wow! Yep! What seven days means in Michigan.....

Another drastic change in the weather for Dancing into Sunset. Beautiful, perfect temperature, a bit cloudy, a bit windy. Just right for enjoying The Bourne Bros Band. We had a very nice crowd. I even met another Sue who is 88 this year. She shared with me that when she was 27 years old, she would dance at the Pavilion on the Water. Oh! What great memories she had of that place. So, I went and got the Memory Journal, and, yep, had her write down those memories to share with others. We also had State Farm Insurance Doug Heins and staff at top of hill, giving away ice cream all night long. And a free give-away was won by Susan Dahl. Way to go, State Farm Insurance!

Week 4 – June 29th — We danced with the Sea Cruisers from Lansing. Who would have thought at the end of June we may be going indoors, but not due to rain, due to a smoke-filled atmosphere which made it hard for some to breathe the day before, on Wednesday. Being concerned about those that attend, I wanted to start at least preparing to move inside at the Fruitport High School on Sixth Street, if we needed to. I opened the line of communication just in case. When Thursday morning to mid-afternoon, arrived I was pleased to see the air quality had cleared and was better than Wednesday. So all went on, still outdoors, at Pomona Park. Always nice to have a backup plan B. The Sea Cruisers gave a great show just like all the bands to date have done and it would not have been possible without the continued support of The Village of Fruitport Senior Mileage.

Week 5 – July 6th – Military Night – Oh! and what a night!

If you have attended in the past, you know how important it is to me to honor the Military the week of 4th of July. So many came out to support our troops! Having The Silverado Band each year is a tradition. We since have added cappella group



Voices of Freedom, who started the evening off from 6:30pm to 7pm. Then Silverado played till 8pm, when we started the tribute with Fruitport Scout Troop #4023 joining in to carry the flags.

And the United States Coast Guard brought a vessel over for short tours and pictures with the Coast Guard. Many thanks to the Fruitport Lions Club for the use of their flags for our touching ceremony each year. A special thank you to Scout Leader George Kolkowicz, a veteran himself, who does a great job of arranging for many scouts, den leaders, and parents to participate. Andy, Landen and Jude Peck; Mylene, Zhara, and Zoey Springstead; Tessa, Nolan and Shane Hurt; Andrea, Austin, and Reid Gafford; Becky Hudson, Windi Sievers, Christian Ranger, Jacob Rangel; Andrew, William, and Linzey Campau. For United States Coast Guard participation, returning Fernando Rivera, new joining in this year was Brad Thompson, Myles North, and Sullivan Smith. Again, thank you to all.

The evening was filled with free goodies from Orchard Markets and flowers from Spring Lake Floral. We had up to 500 made in the USA, mini American flags, and yes, we passed out all but 97 of them with the help of my grandkids and nieces and volunteers that give their time to help Dancing into Sunset Fruitport continue on each year. So



that tells me we had just over 400 in attendance. The Blue Star Moms members took ill that night, so we moved presenting of the non-perishable items which were collected in the box at Orchard Markets all week to send off to the active troops. My grandkids helped pass out little toy soldiers to have those in attendance take home and place on their shelf to remind us all who is or has fought for the freedom we all so enjoy. I hope all viewed the pictures that Kate Holtrop and her brother Caleb took that night, which are posted on our Facebook page. They captured all the special moments of the night.

Week 6 - July 13th – This halfway point had some hiccups this season.

The Adam’s Family had to cancel due to an illness in the band, which we all wish them well. Plan B went into effect to find a replacement, which I did with a band who was already booked for the 2024 season—The Lakeshore Big Band. 17 of their members were gracious enough to squeeze Dancing into Sunset Fruitport into their schedule. The Big Band brought out a lot of dancers and listeners to enjoy their Big Band Sounds, the type of music that used to be played at the “Original” Pavilion on the Water from 1902 till the Pavilion’s demise January 1963. The weather was perfect, a bit overcast, 70’s, and only a light jacket was needed as the sun set. We did our absolute best to get the word out of the change of schedule by way of Facebook, and many passed around emails to update the schedule. Some did expect The Adams Family Band. But once the situation was explained, they understood, and we all thank them for that understanding.

Then comes Week 7 – July 20th – With yet another hiccup!

Dancing into Sunset was faced with having to put into action another backup plan, but this time only two and half weeks before Jimmy and the Mortals were to play. As life throws us curve balls, the bass guitar player found

it a bit difficult to play his guitar with a cast on his hand, from a mishap on the 4th of July. So, the band worked tirelessly to help find a replacement, which led to The Entourage Band. Entourage had always wanted to get a spot to play at Dancing into Sunset Fruitport, and here was their chance. The crowd welcomed them with open arms. The weather was picture perfect, and the crowd enjoyed the new addition to Dancing into Sunset Fruitport. Thank you, Timmy and the band, for filling in for the evening.

Week 8 – July 27th – We come to the last start time of 7:00 pm.

After a popular vote last season, it was decided upon to try a 6:30pm start in August and end at 9:00pm, with the sun now setting earlier. This way it’s still easy enough for fans to see, walking back to their vehicles. Week 8 saw the return of The Carl Webb Band. Those that joined in for the first showing of the season June 15th, as mentioned above, were looking for a much warmer night, and indeed we had it. The weather was perfect. The crowds came out, and all enjoyed a picture-perfect evening along the shores of Spring Lake.

Week 9 – August 3rd – Bucket O’ Maybe’s rejoined Dancing into Sunset for the second year, with their sounds of the 70’s and 80’s.

The 6:30pm start was a success, and the 9:00pm ending was welcomed by all since the short summer season was starting to turn, with that beautiful sunset coming earlier and earlier. Plus, it worked out even better when the clouds started rolling in and the skies got threatening early in the evening. But the rain held off to the very end, so all could get safely to their vehicles. The band even took only a very short break to get in as much music and dancing as possible for all those that stayed—which were a lot. A bonus was that, even though Coast Guard Festival was going on in Grand Haven, the Dancing into Sunset crowd was dedicated to Thursday evening free music and dancing. Another plus that we are very lucky to have the Coast Guard to ourselves on Military Night.

Week 10 – August 10th – With the 6 Pak Band (ah ha! plus one in training.)

As usual, the girls gave a stellar performance to dance and listen to. And No threat of rain like so many times in the past when it was their night to play. Thank you, Mother Nature. The crowd was large, with not a spot left on the dance area. We had visitors from Illinois and Arizona enjoying the evening. We celebrated birthdays and just good old fashion time with family and friends, which is the reason why I keep this going. Oh, we even had a few boats anchored along the shore in Spring Lake to listen to the music. When we talked to the boaters, they said they could hear loud and clear and enjoyed the music very much.



Week 11 – August 17th – Dancing into Sunset began winding down with only tonight and two more nights left.

We welcomed back Butch Grenell and the Unbreakable Pride Band for another night of dance and music. Well, it almost did not happen. Mother Nature decided to play games with us all day AGAIN. It poured in the morning. Then, in the afternoon, I went down to the bandshell and brushed off all the puddles it made on the concrete, having faith the sun would come out and dry it up for the band’s electrical equipment. Whew.....The sun and clouds kept taking turns, while I had to keep in close contact with John at the Fruitport High School. Were we moving inside at the high school or not? Did Butch want to chance it outdoors? We were coming up on the deadline to let Kate know what to post online for all to know. In or out? I let Butch and his band make the call and it was the correct one. We only got a sprinkle out of the clouds, and the night of music and dancing started. Thank you to Mother Nature and to all that were on hold just in case.

Week 12 - August 24th – THE LAST THURSDAY NIGHT OF DANCING INTO SUNSET FRUITPORT

What a way to close out season 7! With The Most Requested Band, who was there for me and