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'New' Eye Camera coming to District 11C-1

By Mariann Cooper, Fruitport Lioness

The Fruitport Lions met for their regular meeting on February 9th, 2011 at Suzi's Village Inn. They had a few visitors: 2nd VDG Rock Wood, from the Rockford club; Ed Osborne came with his wife, guest speaker District Governor Fran Osborne; and District Coordinator of Project KidSight, Belinda Cadena who was invited to inform the club about the cameras. Following dinner and the club's business meeting, Fran and Belinda completed the session with a presentation detailing the procedure and benefits of the eye camera.

The old vision screening camera, the MTI Photo-Screener, is used throughout District 11C, but was due for replacement. This camera takes a picture of the eyes from approximately two feet in front of the very young child. The film is then sent to a lab for processing and analysis which would take about two weeks. It could detect several eye malfunctions or diseases with a 'pass' or 'refer' result, hopefully in time to have corrections made or to have surgery. This is helpful in saving the sight of the child for a lifetime.



L-R front: Belinda Cadena, DG Fran Osborne, Sue Johnson and Bruce Gaultney. L-R back: 2nd VDG Rock Wood, Club President Dave Heylman, PDG Mike Johnson, and Lion Bruce Raymond

The new camera, the PediaVision Automated Assessment Solution, will do all of the above and more. It can pinpoint problems beyond the limits of the old camera; it can work on a person of any age; and the diagnosis is almost immediate.

After the presentation by Fran and Belinda, the Fruitport Lions passed a motion to contribute \$1000 towards the approximate cost of \$10,000 for a new camera for this district. Within minutes another donation was offered from a Fruitport Lion, then another, and then they decided to challenge two other nearby clubs to match their funds. Enthusiasm was high when other Fruitport Lions popped up with more donations until the total pledged reached \$3,400. To date \$2,753 had been collected and used to pay for the camera. Donors were the two in front on the right and the three to the right in the back.

With the coming of Fruitport Lions Old Fashioned Days, the Fruitport club is hoping to find a way to use it on many of the people who come for the occasion, perhaps saving one's eyesight.

Fruitport's Old Fashioned Days begins on May 25th this year and goes through Memorial Day, May 30th. It includes a super carnival, a petting zoo, pony rides, a circus, motorcycle run, car show, community marketplace, Fruitport Lions ox roast sandwiches and a pig roast, nightly variety music at the bandshell, a 5K-10K race, Bike Around the Lake, a horseshoe tournament, Memorial services, Grand Lady Riverboat rides, fireworks on Friday and Sunday nights, Kids Parade and candy scramble on Saturday morning, finishing with a parade through the village on Memorial Day. There's something for everyone especially if you just like to watch! This is the Fruitport Lions big fundraiser for the year.

The new eye camera is housed at a Lions location somewhat centered in District 11C, and will be loaned out to the clubs in that area. The old camera is still capable of saving young children's eyesight, but the new one can be used to help people of all ages.

The stories of eye detection problems goes on and on. One young boy was found to need bifocals. A two-year-old girl had cataracts, which if left untreated, would have resulted in blindness. In the Kalamazoo area, a little girl had different sized pupils which could indicate any number of problems.

As of the date of this paper, the new camera has been purchased and Belinda informed me that they have collected about a third of the cost of a second camera.

If you happen to be in the area during Fruitport Old Fashioned Days, stop by and say "hi." Hope to see you there!

Library Summer Reading program: One world, many stories

By Mary Weimer

"One World, Many Stories" is the theme for this year's summer reading program at the Fruitport branch of the Muskegon Area District Library.

The program begins on June 20 and ends on July 30 with prizes and special programs for students of all ages.

This year, teens in particular are invited to participate. A special program is planned just for teens, so stop by the library at Park and Third and get registered!

Springtime at the library

By Rachel Church

Come in and check out the new language CD audio collection. Learn to speak French while driving back and forth from work. Practice your German when you are out walking with your CD player. We also have a set called "Baby's First Steps in Spanish" that the whole family may learn from. Also, new travel books are available.

Many readers enjoyed our adult winter program called the "2011 Book Blizzard." Fifty patrons completed their required reading and received a nice blue pen that bore the Muskegon Area District Library name. One reader, Sandy D., won an additional prize of a \$25 gift card to Olive Garden.

All of the first grade students in Fruitport Community Schools had a chance to visit the Fruitport branch library during the month of March. They were told about getting a library card, the kinds of things they can borrow from the library, and how to treat library materials. They were also entertained by Amelia Bedelia and Mrs. Rogers, also known as Ms. Michele and Ms. Allison.

In April, a "Go Green" program was held at the library. Twenty attendees came to hear stories, learn about recycling programs, and the things we can all do to help keep our environment clean. Seeds were planted, some beautiful paper was made, and much fun was had by all. Thanks again to Ms. Allison for all of her hard work, and to Ann and Anita, our library friends, who worked to make this an enjoyable evening for everyone.

During April and May, we are celebrating Children's Book Week by offering a drawing for children ages preschool through grade 12. Each day they visit the library they may enter their name for a chance to win a Crate of Summer Fun. One of the crates is on display at the library checkout counter. Stop in, kids, and enter!

Watch for library flyers and posters in June giving the schedule of our summer reading program. As always, many special programs will be held, and reading logs of your reading time will be available for children in eighth grade and younger. New this summer will be something special for high school students.

Help the Red Cross recover their blood supply

(Submitted by the American Red Cross)

With several rounds of severe winter storms, the American Red Cross Great Lakes Region cancelled many blood drives the past several months. As a result, collections in the month of January were the lowest in a decade. Further compounding the issue, many blood drives across the country have also been cancelled due to winter storms.

The Red Cross is asking the public to make and keep an appointment to give blood by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by visiting www.redcrossblood.org. All blood types are needed, but there is a special need for donors with O-negative, A-negative and B-negative blood.

Individuals who are 17 years of age, meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height), and are in good health, may be eligible to donate blood.

Donors may give whole blood up to six times per year or every 56 days or double red cells every 112 days or up to three times a year.

The Red Cross works diligently to ensure that hospitals have the inventory of blood they need. We need to ensure that we have enough blood in the general inventory to respond to an emergency or other additional weather-related issues.

Please consider giving the precious gift of life. Contact the local Red Cross office at 726-3555 for a schedule or visit the donor center, 313 W. Webster Avenue in Muskegon on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. or Thursdays between 1 and 6:45 p.m.

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