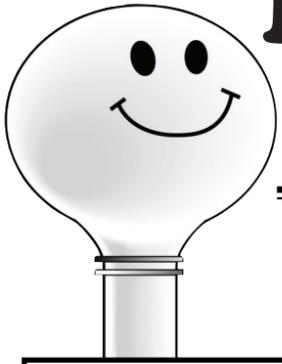


# FRUITPORT Area News



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The purpose of this paper is to be beneficial to the community it serves in every way possible.



## Fruitport Lions supports kids at Fruitport Old Fashioned Days

Submitted by Heidi Tice

Photos provided by Bernie Langlois

One of the four basic areas Lions International supports is kids; and the Fruitport Lions promotes that in spades at their Fruitport Old Fashioned Days. This year and in past years, Saturday is devoted to the kids.

The morning is kicked off with a kid's parade. They come dressed up from all around the township anxious to win a trophy or other prize. All participants go home with a ribbon just for showing up. This year there were many different themes from red, white & blue to Old Wild West, and even a tank with Rosie the Riveter theme.

After the judging at Ram Electronics, the main street is blocked off by Fruitport police and fire and the kids promenade down Third Street to the park. Loyal Fruitport residents come out to line the parade route cheering the kids on.

In the park, the Fruitport Lions, Fruitport High School football team and Fruitport Leo Club are there to offer face painting, bounce house, balloons, games and a wonderful Trout Pond.

The Michigan Anglers Association brings in a trout pond complete with fish and poles for the kids to experience rod and reel fishing. They even clean the catch.

The Fruitport Lions have always provided some type of free activity for the kids each year beyond the free fishing, face painting and games. This year Saturday's entertainment was Brian's Balloons, a balloon artist who makes all sorts of balloon animals and hats.

Sunday's free activity was a sideshow act with magic and bubble acts. In addition to the activities at the band shell from Friday to Monday, for more added safety, the road in front of the park is closed off and smaller kids' rides and concessions are moved onto it so the littler ones can get out from the crowds of older rides and families can enjoy a more relaxed setting.

This opens up more handicapped parking for the disabled as well. This year's signage for the road closure and detour was donated by "Give 'Em a Brake" organization. A big thanks for helping make it safer and more kid friendly.

So whether it is FREE fishing, FREE parade, FREE face painting, FREE games, FREE sideshow acts, FREE balloon animals – Oh, don't forget about the FREE petting zoo which is at the event and open to the public all week long; the Fruitport Lions really know how to promote our community's kids.

