



# FRUITPORT Area News

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## The Little Library That Could - The Fruitport District Library is Open for Business!

By Bethany Nettleton

Did you know the Fruitport District Library is open? After a separation from the Muskegon Area District Libraries (MADL) was complete on December 31, 2016, the library opened its doors again on January 3, 2017. For those of you that may not know, MADL removed all of the books. The only books, audio, and videos that remained were ones that had been gifted to the Fruitport library in memoriam. We started the library with completely



bare shelves. We are The Little Library That Could, and we did.

Amazingly, we have received over 6000 donated books, audio books/music, and movies. During those first months we checked out the donated books, audio, and movies the old-fashioned way. What does that mean? Your name, phone number, and the title/author of the book let you check out a book. All on your honor.

In the first part of January, the library was accepted into the Lakeland Library Cooperative (LLC,) and on February 9, 2017 we were able to join the Lakeland Library shared ILS. To join the ILS, we needed to order 13,598 books 2015 or newer. At the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the ILS libraries graciously gave us a waiver. This waiver allowed us to link just 6800 books in order to go live with the ILS/Catalog. The Shared ILS is the catalog that we use to check books in and out.

We did it! The Little Library That Could was able to get all 6,800 books linked! On April 10, 2017, we went live with the Lakeland Shared ILS! Again, what does this mean? It means we could start issuing library cards, Fruitport residents now have the ability to put books on hold, and they may visit any of the LLC family of libraries. Even the Muskegon libraries.

Where are we now? Currently, we have a new website, [www.fruitportdistrictlibrary.org](http://www.fruitportdistrictlibrary.org). On this website, you will be able to link to the Lakeland

Library Cooperative to search and put books on hold. Coming soon, Overdrive and Zinio! Overdrive is online books and Zinio is online magazines. We are working on other technology as well. This will take time because start-up costs for a new library are expensive. So please be patient with us. In other news,

- we are hiring a Youth Services Para profes-

## A Christmas story

By Mary Weimer

What do Old Fashioned Days and "Christmas" have in common? The answer is the 2017 OFD King and Queen, Tom and Sandy Christmas.

Tom was the fourth child of Belinda and Charles Christmas of Roosevelt Park. Sadly, Belinda suffered from tuberculosis and the family had to be split up when she could not take care of the children. For a while, Tom lived with a relative in Detroit; later, he, his mother, and a disabled brother came to live with his aunt, Nan Berryman, in Fruitport. She took them on trips and was Tom's first introduction to Fruitport and Old Fashioned Days. Tom has a sister in Wheaton, Illinois; a brother in Florida, and a brother who lives in Branson, Missouri.

Sandy was the fourth child of Aileen and Clifford Bell of Ravenna. Their 80 acre farm was also home to chickens, cows, a horse and a dog. She attended Trinity Lutheran School in Conklin and was a member of the first graduation class at the new Ravenna High School.

The couple met at a horse show on Apple Avenue when Sandy was sixteen years old. They dated for two years, enjoying the Friday night dances in Ravenna.

Tom worked at Cambell Wyant and Cannon (CWC Textron) for 42 years. Sandy enjoyed the family atmosphere at Muskegon Community College where she worked for 30 years in food service; later in baking and catering at the college.

When a family friend lost two daughters to Cystic Fibrosis, Sandy went door to door for fifteen years, seeking donations for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Sandy has a sister, Marilyn Dykstra, in Muskegon; a sister, Walma Picard, in Grand Rapids; and a brother, Lester Bell, in Jenison.

The couple has two children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, with another great-grandchild expected in October. Their son David, a former Marine, and his wife Kathleen have two daughters; son Scott's daughter Kendal and husband Cody are currently serving in the U.S. Army.

The couple has been married for 56 years. They moved to their Fruitport Township home 45 years ago. Tom did most of the work on their home. He

coached Fruitport Youth League Football for "too many years to remember," and has been a member of the Fruitport Lions Club for 32 years where he has served on the board of directors.

The couple serve at Lakeshore Fellowship Church in Ferrysburg. Sandy is active in the children's ministry, and the couple take their turn as greeters as well.

Tom and Sandy enjoy boating and fishing, and Sandy cans all the salmon they catch. They have traveled to California, Mexico, Virginia and



**King & Queen OFD 2017 Tom & Sandy Christmas**

the Upper Peninsula. Sandy and Tom both enjoy gardening and canning the vegetables they grow. Tom has a greenhouse where he grows their garden plants from seed. It was no doubt Tom's gardening interest that led him to partner with Jim Kauppila and the Fruitport Lions Club members in building the hoop house for the Shoreline Lion's Club. The hoop house enables the Muskegon club to grow plants for the Love's Community Garden. Tom is also a cook for the Ox Roast. Tom and Sandy never miss a Fruitport football game and avidly support all of the Fruitport teams.

Tom appreciates Ruth and Kenny Briggs for always giving them a front row seat and a picnic for the Old Fashioned Days parade.

All of us can be thankful to Tom's Aunt Nan for taking him in and for introducing him to Fruitport and Old Fashioned Days. She passed away in 2006 at the age of 100. She told Tom he "doesn't want to live to be 100!"

- sional
- have a Facebook page "Fruitport District Library"
  - 468 library cards have been issued so far
  - a new roof has been installed
  - are working on the library grounds
  - the building is being spruced up
  - four computers have been donated by the MISD
  - a copier / fax / scanner / printer is available for patron use
  - 7740 books have been linked to the shared ILS
  - our summer reading program is being perfected
  - AND our Grand opening is May 20, 2017!!!

Oh yeah, did I mention all of those brand new books 2015 or newer? Presently, we have over 8000 new books on our shelves (or regrettably still in boxes).

How did we do it? I would be remiss, if I did not mention our amazing volunteers! Without their assistance, this would not have been possible. We are so grateful and appreciative to have you all. I thank you, from the top, middle, and bottom of my heart. I think our library is a classic and we are all in this together. Thank you so much!

By the way, my name is Bethany Nettleton, and I am the librarian/director of your new Fruitport District Library. Check us out soon!

### Schedule of Events for the Fruitport District Library Grand Opening:

- 11:00 – Grand Opening Ceremony
- 11:30 – Refreshments at the library
- 12:00 – David Lampman group – food and music
- 1:00 – Kana Music for the children
- 2:30 – Jennifer Vanderklipp – Featured author, lecture "How to write a book", and book signing



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## Fruitport Library

Library Hours

865-3461

Mon., 11 am - 7 pm

Tues. – Fri. 10 am - 5 pm

2nd & 4th Sat. 10 am - 2 pm