

Fruitport Leo Club's First Bike Rodeo

by Heidi Tice – Leo Advisor



The Fruitport Leo club had their first bike rodeo on April 20, 2023. The event featured The Muskegon County Polar Patrol: ice cream truck handing out FREE ice cream treats; Fruitport Lions, cooking up FREE hotdog lunch; and Fruitport Leos running games and safety activities. The Fruitport Police Department was at the event talking to kids about bike safety and every child went home with a FREE prize. This all-free event was held at Great Lakes Dental Excellence on Harvey Street in Fruitport and the Fruitport Leos would like to thank Dr. Tim Reilly for allowing them to use the parking lots. Other Thanks go out to Fruitport Township Supervisor Todd Dunham for picking up and manning the ice cream truck; ICS Data for stocking the ice cream truck; Fruitport Lions for providing food and drinks; and Eagle Eye Bookkeeping for donating decorations. The Fruitport Leo Club would like to make this an annual event so look for a flyer coming home with your child again next year and come have a family fun time.

Avenue Banners for Vet's

by Heidi Tice

Are you a veteran or related to a veteran? Not many residents in Fruitport can answer no to that simple question. If you answered yes to the question and would like to honor yourself or your loved ones, consider sponsoring an Avenue banner. These banners will feature a photo, the name of the vet, the emblem of the branch of service they were a part of, dates served, and any war or conflict they were a part of. The veteran can be living or deceased to be honored on the banner. The banners will be displayed on light poles down Airline going into Fruitport and the Fruitport Old Fashioned Days parade route; as well as Heights Ravenna, in Cloverville, from Dangle to the Fire station. As part of the Fruitport Lions 75th anniversary the club and the Fruitport Fire Department will donate their time to hang the banners before Memorial Day and Veterans Day giving honor to our military veterans. The cost of the banner is \$100.00 per side (you do not have to sponsor both sides). If you would like to sponsor an avenue banner for your veteran, please call Heidi Tice (231) 578-6500 and reserve your spot. Your veteran does not have to be a Fruitport resident to be honored on a banner, all veterans are welcome. It's not too late to request a banner for this Memorial Day festivities.

Fruitport District Library Candyland!



During the 2023 Spring Break Holiday between April 3 to April 8th the Fruitport District Library was decorated in gumdrop buttons, Peppermint Forests, marshmallows, large gummy bears, and ice cream cones!

From the outside commuters, walkers, and passerbys could see King Kandy, Princess Lolly, and Princess Frostine in the windows while Mr. Mint hung out behind the circulation desk.

The Fruitport District Library is grateful to its staff, the Friends of the Fruitport District Library, and the many volunteers it took to plan, set up, run, and take down the massive Candyland board.

We are also incredibly thankful to the community who showed up to have fun playing Candyland! Over 400 people came to play! We had little ones less than a year old, lots of toddlers, kids, parents, and grandparents having as much fun as their grandkids!

And everyone was a winner! We are incredibly appreciative of the Fruitport Culvers who donated 400 free ice cream vouchers and to the Fruitport McDonalds who donated 120 free ice cream vouchers!

Ultimately the most rewarding part of our jobs at the library is making people happy and

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Candyland did just that. Watching kids, parents, and grandparents playing and bonding while attempting to reach the Candyland throne all the while laughing and smiling was worth all the hours of planning and setting up.

Fruitport can be assured that the staff, Friends of the Library, and volunteers are already planning something big for next year's spring break!!

To get involved with the Friends of the Fruitport District Library you can attend one of their monthly meetings which are usually on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 in the community room, by liking their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FruitportFOFL>, or emailing them at fruitportfofl@gmail.com.

Stay up to date with fun crafts, programs, and events throughout the year with our community calendar on our website at FruitportDistrictLibrary.org.

Love N Grace Healing Centers

by Kim and Kate Holtrop

Deb Yonkers is the Executive Director of Love N Grace Healing Centers, which became a 501C3 in 2017. Love N Grace is a listening ministry, where people suffering from emotional and physical trauma can come to find hope in their heartache. The team of encouragers at Love N Grace looks at how each person perceives themselves through their experiences and what they believe, and helps them align their beliefs with the truth of what God would say about them.

Trauma, Deb says, can come from neglect, loss, or abuse, and can lead to either emotional or physical effects. By helping clients accept the truth of their purpose and identity, and leading each client to find hope, Love N Grace has provided emotional healing for many people. Love N Grace's purpose is to give people "an opportunity to be all they're created to be," Deb said. "We only try to build their identity, their core identity of what they were born to be...[and] who they are in Christ."

The Love N Grace team does its best to give each client truth and hope to build wholeness and resilience in them. The encouragers do their best to meet each client's individual needs, because every one is unique. "It [takes] a loving person, non-judgmental, that loves to listen and help," Deb said, to encourage those with emotional suffering. "People have or have had issues, but deserve to be given the chance to change."

Love N Grace's Muskegon work has been going since 2010, at Fellowship Church, and with Alive on the Lakeshore. Deb, while a volunteer and prayer coordinator there, went back to school to become a psychologist, intending to go into art therapy. However, during that time, Deb's youngest daughter was diagnosed as a gifted learner, so Deb stopped her college classes to help her daughter through education. This sparked more interest in helping and caring for children that are judged, misunderstood, and hurt, so they can "live a life healed and whole." Deb said, "I'd love to have the ability to reach the general public, churches, schools, and businesses."

Love N Grace uses various tools and programs to help clients find healing, primarily Live Life Healed 1, Biblically-based healing, "the core of where to start the healing process," and Live Life Healed 2, "our life application program meeting people where they are at." Another program is the Empowered Kids Program, a more neutral course directed toward children in the local school districts. Other programs include Empowered Kids Camp, Live Life Healed Group, Artisan Center, and Impressions of Hope. Some of Love N Grace's tools include Treasure Journals, where clients can write the truth of who they are, and their best choices, providing encouragement in bad seasons of life.

Love N Grace does not charge clients for private care sessions. The sessions are funded by community donations.

Some functions that Love N Grace hosts include monthly Learn N Share Dessert Night meetings. Love N Grace's banquet, God Is In Their Story, event and dinner, on May 9, at Barclay Place Event Center, 2330 Barclay St., Muskegon, was sponsored by Eagle Alloy, Inc., which covered all the event costs, so all donations made at the banquet went to Love N Grace. Love N Grace will also host Empowered Kids Camp on July 12.

To RSVP for Love N Grace events, you can call Deb at 231-767-3403. You can also find Love N Grace at their website, www.lovengrace.org.

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E-mail: info@copiesfruitport.com
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