

Pancake Supper

What do hundreds of pancakes, dozens of ice cream bars and a bake sale have in common? A great time at the Fruitport Lions Pancake Supper. This year the Pancake Supper was on February 2, 2024 while the Fruitport basketball teams played the Spring Lake Lakers. The Fruitport Lions would like to thank all our residents that came out to support this event.

The whole Lion family was involved again this year, with Lions cooking and serving, Leos selling tickets and keeping the cafeteria cleaned up and the Lionesses selling their home bake goodies. The menu was pancakes, sausages, ice cream bar, milk, or juice. No one left hungry and that is the way the Lions like it.

This year's proceeds from the pancake supper went to the Fruitport Leo Club to help support their bike rodeo. With the extra money, the Leos planned on purchasing 2 bikes to give away at the rodeo and 1 bike to give away at Fruitport Old Fashioned Days Kiddie Parade on Saturday May 25, 2024.

Thank you again for all your support, and look for us next winter during a Fruitport High School home game.

Heidi Tice
Fruitport Lions

Leo Bike Rodeo

It was a bit chilly but the Fruitport Leos held their 2nd bike Rodeo, Saturday, April 20, 2024. The event was held at the Fruitport Township Hall where Fruitport Lions, Fruitport Lioness and Fruitport Leos came together to give back to their community.

Approximately 30 kids came out with bikes to enjoy the event. First stop was a helmet check, those without a helmet were given a loaner so they could participate and were able to choose a new helmet at the end of the games. Next, they went to the bike inspection area to make sure tires were inflated properly, seats and handle bars were at the proper height and brakes were in working order. The last safety stop was a game of "Simon Says," where the kids were taught or given a review of the basic hand/arm signals for biking; left turn, right turn and stop. Playing a game where they have to display the correct signal and only when Simon says, was a fun way to etch the motions in their memories.

They were all able to show off or improve their bike handling skills through several games directed by the Leos and a Leo Mom. From a snail race, where the slowest bike rider that did not have to put his or her feet down wins, to a crazy 8 obstacle course teaching some turning technics while showing off their hand signals.

After all the learning through games was finished, the kids and their parents were treated to a hotdog lunch, provided by the Fruitport Lionesses and ice cream from the Muskegon County "Operation Polar Patrol" truck. The special truck was driven and manned by retired Deputy Todd Dunham, who is also a Fruitport Lion.

At each game and check point station the kids were given a raffle ticket. The tickets were filled out at the end and the kids could choose to enter in a drawing for either the girl's bike or the boy's bike. Going through each event gave each child multiple chances to win. There were 2 lucky winners at the end of the event and the bikes were picked up from the township at the parents' convenience. However, no child walked away empty handed; they were all able to pick a gift which consisted of a new bike helmet, bike locks, bells for their bikes, spinner for the spokes, or elbow and knee pads.

There were lots of smiles, lots of high fives, lots of thank you and no scraped knees, so all in all a very successful event for the community. See you next year.

Fruitport Leo Club

I pray Heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and on all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof.

—John Adams,
Second President of the United States,
Letter to Abigail, November 2, 1800,
on moving into the White House

Fruitport Old Fashioned Days 5K

I came to Fruitport in 1992 fresh out of college and just landed my teaching job at Fruitport Middle school. My wife and I built our house and made Fruitport our home. Since I was a runner, I spent my time running to work and got to know the Fruitport residents through their honks and waves as I dodged traffic on my way to and from work. At the end of my first teaching year I met Don Wood. Don had started an impressive tradition of hosting a 5K race over the Memorial weekend called the Fruitport Old Fashioned Days and encouraged me to run it.

I was fresh out of college and still in racing shape so the debut in my new hometown had to be a good one. Runners gathered at the street corner, Don gave his pre-race speech and off we went. The race took off as any race did. Little kids flying in front super excited to be running, people zigzagging to get into their ideal position. The race moved along down the road and everyone settled into their rhythm.

What made this race unique wasn't the crowded start or the fans cheering from the sideline. It was the runner themselves. The course is set up so you run out 1.5 miles then turn about and run back the way you came. Runners call it an out and back course. On the way out you are focused on getting into position and checking out the competition. I was not prepared for the "ride" on the way back. Once I made the turn we were greeted by every runner in the race, yelling, cheering, and telling you nice job. The rush of adrenaline from their encouragement is enough to get anyone through a tough spot in the race. The out and back style of the course is simple for everyone to follow and extremely motivating for all who run it. Since that first race, the Fruitport Old Fashioned Days race has become something I looked forward to every year.

30 plus years have passed since my first race. Even though I am not racing, I still go to see familiar faces and reconnect with people I have not seen for awhile. My running focus has changed from me to others. I have been blessed to see my own sons run the race as well as countless track and cross country athletes over the years.

When I learned the race was not going to take place this year, I felt I had to do something. For a runner, the Old Fashioned days is not the same without its traditional race. With a lot of help from Roque Ybara, we were able to get the support we needed to keep the race alive.

I would like to thank the Lions Club for their years of service in creating a true community race that has been a tradition in my family for the past 30 plus years. I am honored and humbled to carry on this tradition.

Runners interested in signing up can do so at [runsignup.com](https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Fruitport/FruitportOldFashionedDaysRunWalk2024):
<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Fruitport/FruitportOldFashionedDaysRunWalk2024>

Sincerely,
Randy Johnson
Fruitport High School
Cross Country and Track Coach

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.
submitted by Howard (Dooley) Eggleton
Rest, comrades, rest and sleep!

The thoughts of men shall be
As sentinels to keep
You're rest from danger free.

Your silent tents of green
We deck with fragrant flowers;
Yours has the suffering been,
The memory shall be ours.

DECORATION DAY.
Sleep, comrades, sleep and rest
On this Field of the Grounded Arms,
Where foes no more molest,
Nor sentry's shot alarms!

Ye have slept on the ground before,
And started to your feet
At the cannon's sudden roar,
Or the drum's redoubling beat.

But in this camp of Death
No sound your slumber breaks;
Here is no fevered breath,
No wound that bleeds and aches.

All is repose and peace,
Untrampled lies the sod;
The shouts of battle cease,
It is the Truce of God!

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