

Dancing into Sunset 2025
Season Nine
by Susie Halter
Creator of Dancing into Sunset Fruitport
Established in 2017
Where: Pomona Park – Fruitport, at the Bandshell (93 S. 3rd Ave.)
Times: June and July 7:00 pm to Sunset (of course) 9:30 pm ish
August 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm ish



Hard to believe nine years ago, on May 16th, 2017, Dancing into Sunset Fruitport started in the Village of Fruitport in Pomona Park, with me not having a clue how I was going to put all this together. But with a lot of determination to bring dance and music back to such a historical park that had a beautiful Pavilion on the water with such greats as Tommy Dorsey, Doris Day, Buddy Holly who had performed, I knew I had to figure this out. So with the help some of the local dancers I started on a Wednesday then a few years later moved to a Thursday, to not compete with Dancing on the Grand in Grand Haven. A few more adjustments to have it start after Old-Fashioned Days, not before, and slowly we transitioned from DJ music to live bands, and from roughly only 50 people attending to now a couple hundred. We have tweaked the times in August to accommodate the sun setting earlier and have an indoor back up location in the new high school. My, have we grown! I guess the saying is true: “If you build it they will come.” I might not be a baseball game but the same applies here, as the community has rallied around Dancing into Sunset as the place to be on a Thursday night during the spring and summer months.

People come from as close as walking distance to driving as far as Ludington, Kentwood, and Holland to dance the night away or just sit and listen to their favorite bands. Most bands are booked back each year by their suggestions to have them back or add a few new ones in the schedule.

Each season I like to add something new. This year I am adding to Military Night. During Military Night on July 3rd I would like to do something special for the community. For those who lost loved ones that served in the Military, who passed away during the 2020 and 2021 shut-down years, and perhaps did not have the presence of the Honor Guard in attendance due to the shut-down, I have made arrangements with Gary White of the local Honor Guard to join our Military Night the week of the Fourth of July with a “Community” ceremony to honor and give closure to the Military families. Their presence will be a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by the deceased, which none of us want to ever forget. This added tribute to our nation’s heroes, the rituals carried out by the Honor Guard, magnify the meaning of the ultimate sacrifice, echoing the appreciation of a grateful community as a whole.

Please help me pass the word, adding this tribute to yet another special Military night so we can include as many families as possible by passing their loved ones’ name and branch they served in to give to me each Thursday Night in June so I can have an official list to read off and honor those dedicated loved ones who missed

this proper farewell. I will then draw a name from all that I receive to be presented with the flag. I would also like to include their picture on the wall of fame I have up each year. Let’s make this night even more special for our community. With all your help I know we can.

In order to make all this possible each year, none of us would be in Pomona Park on a Thursday during the summer without the backing of the sponsors which I can’t thank enough. When the season ends in August I already have most the band line up set for the next season. Then after the first of February I start contacting and sending out sponsorship letters, hoping all will return, and approach a few new ones each year who I have heard want to be a part of Dancing into Sunset. Even though our community may be small, they have a big heart to support Dancing into Sunset in order to keep it a free event. That is always my goal: to have a place where the community can come together and enjoy a free evening of dance, music, and friendship while watching the sun set in the background.

Please when you visit the following businesses or see their vehicles around town, make sure you say thank you for being a part of Dancing into Sunset Fruitport:

State Farm Insurance

Doug Heins

Spring Lake Agent,

who will be joining us on Military Night July 3rd with ice cream and giveaways.

State Farm Insurance

Michael Heck

Grand Haven Agent

Hazekamp’s Premier Foods

Village of Fruitport

Pincrest Bar and Lanes

Ashley Robbins MI Insurance Services

A-Team Construction Co.

Community Foundation for Muskegon County

Prestige Storage

Waypoint Dock and Deli

Excel Propane

Sethco Lumber Co.

Deitz House Moving Engineers, Inc.

Schap Speciality Machine, Inc.

Fruitport Township

Shelby Bank

The Sandi Gentry Team Re/Max Lakeshore

The Storage Group

Village Diner

Melching Demolition

Source One Digital

Orchard Market Fruitport

Meijer

Chalet Floral & Events

Spring Lake Flowers

CSP Printers

Ginman Tire

Once again Parkside Pizza and Sub will have their tent down at the bandshell area with pizza on the spot. Plus you can order from the



menu either at the table or call it in and have them deliver it to the tent.

Our favorite Carlson’s Almonds will be returning, and Happy Matt’s Kettlecorn will fill in when Carlson Almonds is away for a few Thursdays, as well as new to Dancing into Sunset Fruitport Simply Glazed Gourmet Popcorn.

Those that attend Dancing into Sunset know that a Memory Journal is passed around each Thursday night to have entries made of the night. Some like to share memories of the original Pavilion that was on the water. Some like to comment on their favorite band playing or that they are celebrating a birthday or anniversary etc. Bottom line: this Memory Journal and all your entries will be a part of Fruitport’s history for the future generations to read. So please don’t be shy, and when you see the Memory Journal being passed around, do be a part of history in the making. You can even bring a photo of one of your nights at Dancing into Sunset, and paste it in the Journal to be preserved as well.

I would also like to recognize all the help I receive throughout the season, putting down and cleaning up the shredded rubber, etc. Paula, Kathy, Bill, Gary, Bill & Carol, and the extra help during Military Night, Ken, Rosalie, and Tami. Couldn’t do this without their help!

Please take note of the RAIN LOCATION: Fruitport High School Cafeteria at 357 N. Sixth - Fruitport, MI 49415. Watch Facebook closely to see if rain may change locations. Working together to bring some of the “alumni” back to the school when the weather does not cooperate brings back great memories for many. Those in attendance are so appreciative. Many thanks to Fruitport Community Schools for being a part of Dancing into Sunset Fruitport.

Now what you been waiting for! The band line up for each Thursday is below:

Once again June and July we will start at 7:00 pm and end at 9:30 pm

June 5, 2025 – Silverado Band – Country Rock

Presented by Deitz House Moving Engineers

June 12, 2025 – Carl Webb Band – Rock/Blues/Jazz/Latin/Folk

Presented by A-Team Construction Co.

June 19, 2025 – Bourne Bros Band – Classic Rock

Presented by Prestige Storage

June 26, 2025 – General Assembly Big Band – Big Band Sound Jazz/Swing

Presented by Pincrest Bar & Lanes and Ashley Robbins MI Insurance Services

July 3, 2025 – Silverado Band – MILITARY NIGHT – Country Rock

Presented by Doug Heins State Farm Insurance Spring Lake

July 10, 2025 – Carl Webb Band – Rock/blues/Jazz/Latin/Folk

Presented by Excel Propane

July 17, 2025 – Lakeshore Big Band – Jazz/Ballroom Dance/Pop

Presented by Waypoint Dock & Spirits

July 24, 2025 – The Leftovers – Lucas Bourne from Bourne Bros Band - Classic Rock 50’s to 80’s

Presented by Michael Heck State Farm