

Dancing into Sunset Fruitport
2025 Season Recap

(Dancing into Sunset – Pomona Park Fruitport on Facebook)
by Sue Halter

Another successful season in the books. 2025 Season 9 went off without a hitch.

Week 1 - June 5, 2025 - Our opener was a local favorite, The Silverado Band, with two new band members, the drummer, Mike, and on the keyboard, Scott, who joined MacKenzie, Woody, and Tom. The night had a bit high air quality due to the fires in Canada but not bad enough to keep the people away to listen and dance. The night’s sponsor was **Deitz House Moving Engineers**, which is celebrating 80 years in business. **Thank you to Dick and Pat Deitz and their son Dan for their continued sponsorship!**

Week 2 - June 12, 2025 - Sponsored by **A-Team Construction Co.** It was a perfect evening with The Carl Webb Band compared to last season when we literally froze at this time of the month. We welcomed Simply Glazed Gourmet Popcorn for the first time and fresh squeezed lemonade, a crowd favorite.

Week 3 - June 20, 2025 - Sponsored by **Prestige Storage**. Next up was The Bourne Brothers Bands. Boy oh boy, did Mother Nature throw us for a loop. Large storm front heading directly at us at 5:30 pm, with lightning strikes just miles away! “Take cover,” the radar said, just when Bourne Bros just set up. Prestige Storage had free popsicles to pass out but was too late to move indoors at the school and to iffy to wait it out. Unfortunately, for all making decisions to cancel the night, Mother Nature once again threw yet another curve—THE SUN CAME OUT.....as the winds blew the storm up north of Pomona Park and it missed us. But we could not take the chance as we have been on the other side of it not. We have such an understanding community, it is so unpredictable to put on an outdoor event and I do my very best along with the volunteers, bands, etc. to make it all happen. Much grey hairs on this one as Tom Bourne said, “Hey we can play Friday night—we have it open.” So I contacted the Village to see if bandshell was available and went into action to get the word out. Kate Holtop has been a God-send for me, and her last minute posting with her having to be in class early in the morning during the transition to teaching yours truly about Facebook postings. So Friday night here we come..... And what a nice turn out for a last minute change up. Way to go community for following the Facebook page and WGHN for the very latest changes. All turned out perfect.....Food would have been provided by Dodger’s Doggies and Carlson’s Almonds, but due to moving to Friday night they both already had other bookings so I bought snacks, chips, and Little Debbies to hold off the hunger crave.....

Week 4 - June 26, 2025 - Sponsored by **Pincrest Bar and Lanes** and **Ashley Robbins MI Insurance Services**. We welcomed back The General Assembly Big Band with 13 band members playing their hearts out for the community. We sure do appreciate them playing at Dancing into Sunset in Pomona Park! I have to thank all of you who aome out to support the bands each week to help make them feel this way. High five to all! Happy Matt’s Kettlecorn and Dodger’s Doggies provided the food for the evening.



Week 5 - July 3, 2025 - **MILITARY NIGHT CELEBRATION!** Oh and what a night it was! So many showed up to not only listen and dance to The Silverado Band but to pay tribute to all of our community veterans with the flag ceremony carried by the local Boy/Cub Scouts and their leaders. Participating this year were **Dale and Curtis Oosterhart, Andy Peck, Nick and Jace Howard, Becky Hudson, Windi Sievers, Bennett Terry and Matthew Williams**. Thank you to all of you.



Added this season, we welcomed the Honor Guard: Gary White, Billy Walker II, Rod Siegel, Nick Deville, Mike Meyers, Leo Smith, Darrel VanFosson, Norm Hosko and Dave Cherney, to pay honer to all our fallen soldiers. They presented the United States flag to Valerie Keway, whose brothers, Vinny and Edward, served in the Army and both passed in the year 2020 within three months of each other. Needless to say it was a great loss to this family, and we wanted to make them feel special with the Honor Guard presentation. Tears were flowing. The night earned enough donations with the Military Luminary Glow kit that included a tea light and a marker to decorate a luminary bag in memory of a loved one. Although I was hoping for it to be a little bit darker so the hillside could glow with love and appreciation for our Military, a few that stayed to the very end did see that glow. I am happy to say through the Glow Kits and the water sales and funds donated by Smoke and Ashes and K B Designs, I was able to present a check for my goal of two hundred dollars to Gary White and the Honor Guard.

As in each year the veterans always receive a treat of cupcakes from Orchard Market and Meijer, and flowers from Garden House Floral and Chalet Floral, and many decorations throughout Pomona Park. It was so nice to see so many many veterans in attendance and their families to be honored. To top it off Mather Nature gave me a break from worry and we had a beautiful blue sky and full sunshine.

Our United States Coast Guard joined us if there were no emergencies on the water so they could carry the United States Coast Guard Flag with the Scouts, plus so anyone could have a photo or tour the boat. Well, as the saying goes, better late than never. Yep! They were on their way to Pomona Park when they got a call of a boat in distress so they had to turn around and assist, of course. But as soon as they handled that situation, they made their way to Military Night as promised. Officer Rivera, who has joined us for several years, mentioned this was his last summer in Grand Haven after twenty one years. He will be missed. Also we were joined Officer Walters, and MK2, Stillson. We could not thank them enough for full filling their promise to join us at Dancing into Sunset’s Military Night.

Thank you to the Fruitport Lions Club for the use of all the flags each year. All the helpers for the night, Rosalie, Ken, Bill, Kate and Kim, Nancy, Tami, Adrienne, Ken Jr., Rex and Shirley, Diane, and my grandkids Brinley and Branch for passing out the mini flags for all to have. Can not thank this group of volunteers enough! When I needed extra help they were here for me. Thank you to all.

The night was sponsored by **Doug Heins State Farm Insurance Spring Lake** office and boy, were those ice cream bars a

nice relief to the warmer weather! Over 400 of them were given out. Thank you Doug Heins and staff.

Week 6 - July 10, 2025 - Sponsored by **Excel Propane**. We welcomed back for a second time this season another crowd favorite, The Carl Webb Band, always a hit with the dancers. Have to say the crowd that follows Carl and band showed up on the hillside (shade, we love the sun but it was sure bright and hot) was full of chairs, blankets, happy dancers and listeners. Big fans going to keep it all cool. A special mention to Bill and Carol and Bill and Veronica who both this coming week celebrated Wedding Anniversaries. 65 and 15 years! Congratulations to both couples who are regulars at Dancing into Sunset!

Week 7 - July 17, 2025 - Sponsored by **Waypoint Dock and Spirits**. Lakeshore Big Band, with 18 total band members, played the sounds of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Glenn Miller, just to name a few. The weather was perfect. There was a last-minute hiccup with the food vendor, so I need to say thank you to Mr. Bill’s Pizza Shop for filling in on a moment’s notice. I will have to add that this night was different from most Thursday nights. It was full of music and dancing, along with sadness for a local Fruitport family who lost their five-year-old son in a swimming pool accident while they were at work. Our hearts were heavy as the announcement was read that The Lakeshore Big Band was forgoing any tips, along with myself giving back any donation to the parents. At the same time the community in attendance stepped up as well and kept walking up, inserting into the can in front of the band. What a wonderful caring group of people who also signed a card that was being passed around, and for the parents to know that even strangers have them in their thoughts and prayers to go with the donation of one thousand two dollars that was given to the family the day of the memorial service. No amount of funds can ever replace the lost of a child—we can only hope it can help with the unplanned expenses. On another note, Max will live on in others, as in their sorrow his parents gave the gift of life: his heart, kidneys, liver and pancreas. **Max, you will live on forever.....**

Week 8 - July 24, 2025 - Sponsored by **Michael Heck State Farm Insurance Grand Haven**. We brought one of the Bourne Bros members, brother Lucas Bourne and his Leftovers Band, to Pomona Park for the first time! Well, actually we had to move indoors to the Fruitport High School, although not because of rain but because of the extremely high heat index of 98 to 103. Ahhhhhh that air conditioning sure felt good for many! Lucas’ classic rock got many up dancing to the beat. Joining us indoors was Cadena Bros Pizzeria. They came on board as Dancing into Sunset’s new food vendor for the remainder of the year.



Week 9 - July 31, 2025 - Sponsored by **Sethco Lumber and Melching Demolition**. Dancing into Sunset welcomed another newcomer, Olivia Van Goor, all the way from the Detroit area to entertain the crowd, as well as her other band members from Lansing, Kalamazoo, and Ann Arbor. Her sound was sweet and tone was soothing. Line dancers were kind to find a way to line dance. Couples loved the jazz and listeners just sat back and enjoyed it all. The sweet tooth vendor was Simply Glazed Gourmet Popcorn who also had a thirst quenching Lemonade. For the dinner taste buds was Cadena Bros Pizzeria who also had freshly made bread for delicious cold-cut sandwiches.

Week 10 - August 7, 2025 - Sponsored by the **Village of Fruitport** and **Fruitport Township**. Husband and wife team of Glen and Mary, the Bridge Live Band, whom many of you requested do come back, were back from last season for the full evening. And they agreed to share their talent all the way from Cleveland,