

Old Fashioned Days / Graduation Issue

FRUITPORT Area News

The Hometown Paper Reaching All Homes in
Fruitport and Sullivan Townships

Online: www.fruitportareanews.com

Email: mail@fruitportareanews.com



To subscribe or advertise
call 865-3134

\$1.00

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 18
FRUITPORT, MI

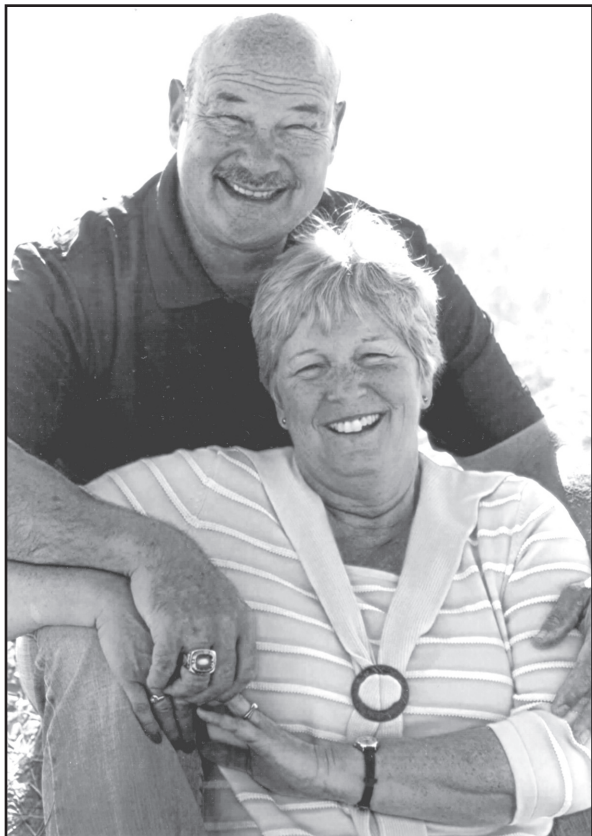
Carrier Route

May, 2018 • Volume 36 • Number 1

The purpose of this paper is to be beneficial to the community it serves in every way possible.

Well-known community servants to greet parade visitors

Familiar faces will greet parade attendees this year as “Mr. and Mrs. Coach,” Steve and Holly Wilson, assume the titles of King and Queen of Old Fashioned Days. As the football coach at Fruitport High School for 23 years with his wife by his side, Steve and Holly have come in contact



Steve and Holly Wilson, Royalty

with most of the families in the Fruitport area.

Steve was born in Flint, Michigan, one of four children. Holly was born in Muskegon; she has three sisters. Both attended Muskegon High School where Steve played football. Holly attended Michigan State University, originally in the veterinary medicine program, but transferred into education, receiving her degree in special education. Steve followed Holly in the education field, along with athletic coaching.

Steve taught at Muskegon High School for 11 years. While he was there, he wrote a program for computer literacy which he taught at both Muskegon and Fruitport. Holly was a special

education teacher with the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District and an autism teacher consultant. Together, Steve and Holly have a combined total of 64 years of teaching and coaching.

The couple has been married for 40 years. Their son and daughter are married. They and their spouses are all special education teachers. The Wilsons have three grandchildren with a fourth expected in June. In addition to working with special education students at schools, Holly offered respite care in her home for families. The Wilsons often hosted special needs children, giving both their children and those of others an introduction to accepting and getting along with others, while giving families a much-needed break.

Although Steve coached the football teams, Holly was a key part of the program helping at the concession stand and wherever her help was needed. She received the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association’s Fran Herrington Woman of the Year award in 2011, in recognition of the time, energy and patience needed in a coach’s wife. She was always there to help and was always called “Mrs. Coach” by the players.

Steve and Holly are members of the Fruitport Congregational United Church of Christ. Steve has been on the Board of Trustees for 30 years, and Holly serves on the Christian Education and Stewardship/Mission Board.

It was the influence of the late Pastor Don Wood and the church men’s group that ignited Steve’s interest in building wheel chair ramps beginning in 1994. At first, the ramps were done through Love, Inc. Now Wilson’s helpers are members of the Fruitport football team and staff.

Steve has been a volunteer with the Red Cross and is a current member of the Fruitport Lions Club and Muskegon County Men Who Care. He is on the Fruitport Hall of Fame Committee and the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Board of Directors.

So, whether you know them well as “Mr. and Mrs. Coach,” or address them by their royal titles, send out a special greeting when you see them in the parade.

Introducing.....

Your new Fruitport District Library Director, Adam DeWitt, was born in Lansing, Michigan, one of five children. His family moved to Mason, about ten miles south of Lansing, when he was in elementary school.



Adam DeWitt

He attended Great Lakes Christian College, graduating in 2010. During that time, he met and married his wife, Iris, and worked a number of jobs, including the college library. The couple’s daughter, Evelyn, was born in 2011. He and his family live in Grant.

Adam attended Wayne State University in the School of Information Sciences, graduating with a Master of Library and Information Science in December, 2017.

In addition to his Fruitport District Library position, Adam is the Associate Minister at Ashland Center Church of Christ in Grant.

Meet the New Pastor!- Rev. Rebekah Rathman-Wingrove

It is an honor and a thrill for me to introduce myself to the Fruitport community as the new Pastor of Fruitport Congregational United Church of Christ. My roots are here in Michigan. I am from Port Huron, attended Alma College as an undergraduate student, taught music for a year at a charter school in Flint, and attended seminary in downtown Detroit. Music and education continue to be passions of mine. I am a vocalist, and I particularly enjoy singing. I would describe music as my doorway in



to ministry. I have been fortunate to have already served in a variety of ministry positions both during and following seminary. One of the most meaningful was the opportunity to participate in a program called Clinical Pastoral Education. Through this program I served as a hospital chaplain intern for eleven weeks at a hospital in suburban Detroit. Fruitport Congregational UCC is the second church where I have served as pastor. My first call was serving a small, rural church in southern Illinois. I am so excited about the potential for ministry here in Fruitport. I feel an energy beginning to happen in our congregation! There is particular enthusiasm for a couple of events coming up this summer. We are partnering with other area churches for a Summer Youth Blast program. This will actually be six or seven events hosted by the participating Fruitport churches throughout the summer. We are also coming together once again for our service in the park in July. We hope that this event is even bigger than it was last year! I look forward to meeting more folks and getting to know the community better at these events as we have some summer fun together!

Something old, something new

by Mary Weimer



For over 30 years, Burger Crest, at 376 N. Third, has been a Fruitport original. As of January 1 of this year, the restaurant has been under new management, as Troy and Cathy Hagen have purchased the business. Troy has a full time job at Quality Tool and Stamping, but he is available to pitch in wherever he is needed.

Cathy has worked at “The Crest” for many years, so she is a familiar face, but now the responsibility falls on her shoulders. She considers the restaurant as much her “home” as her house in Fruitport Township.

Over the years, Cathy had several jobs, including delivering the Fruitport Area News back in the day. She worked at the Ravenna Auction Sales and at Stafford’s (now Norm’s) Ice Cream stand, but she stuck with Burger Crest the longest.

When she began at Burger Crest, she worked for Joe and Jenny Roberts. Upon their retirement, their son Russ and his wife Renee took over. Then, about ten years ago, the Roberts were beginning to consider retiring themselves, and the discussions began for Cathy and Troy to consider their future as the new owners.

Currently, there are ten employees, and over the years this has been a good beginners job for many high schoolers. Few changes are planned beyond some menu choices. You can expect the same quality food made to order and the same old fashioned service. Watch the sign out in front for customer appreciation days, when burgers, fries and beverages are just 70 cents each, and for their community service nights when a portion of the proceeds are donated to school groups.