



Thanksgiving / Christmas Issue

# FRUITPORT Area News

The Hometown Paper Reaching All Homes in  
Fruitport and Sullivan Townships

Online: [www.fruitportareanews.com](http://www.fruitportareanews.com)

Email: [mail@fruitportareanews.com](mailto: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

November, 2019 • Volume 37 • Number 2

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

## Fruitport Time Capsule

story & photos by Larry J. Pellet



### State Senator Jon Bumstead

Amid a close knit community gathering highlighted by a certificate read by State Senator Jon Bumstead and signed by Governor Whitmer, Fruitport once again laid claim to the future on June 22, when it poured its heart, personal artifacts, and hopes for the year 2069 into a 4 ft long brass container, bestowing its blessings upon the time capsule to be opened on another Saturday 50 years from that exact day.

Various local officials, media personnel and business owners also attended the event, including village president Roger Vanderstelt, library board president Rose Dillon, businessman and F.A.N. owner Ron Cooper, historians Roger Dykehouse and Brian Zwart, village patriarch Donna Pope and longtime village resident Jerry Alger, who's idea 51 yrs ago spawned the event. Also making a cameo appearance was none other than Fruitport's own miniature Caped Crusader.



### Zwart, Vanderstelt and Alger

On June 22 1969, in commemoration of Fruitport's centennial, Alger along with Art Aldridge and a group of leading citizens filled and buried the polished brass cylinder. 50 years later, Aldridge says "I am glad to be here for this one".

"I came up with the idea for the capsule in 1968 when I was 22", said Alger. "I brought the idea to the city council, and they immediately made me chairman", he laughed.

Along with the original belongings placed in the capsule (minus 60lbs of commemorative coins), residents were encouraged to bring mementos, and to sign the original guestbook to be placed inside. Also included inside was a rich history of the town named after its once-extensive fruit industry. The canister slowly began to fill, and villagers in the next half century will be sure to be treated to some surprises, circa pre1969-2019.

Alger, for his part, gave a heart warming emotional speech, saying "It's been a lot of fun for me...very exciting", and library board president Dillon read a resolution declaring the importance of the event.

"It adds substance to our community", added Fruitport mainstay Cooper.

Bumstead asked the crowd of approximately 50 souls, "who here is under the age of 50?", then retorted, "we'll see you back here in 2069!".

Once a small cement slab is placed over the capsule and buried, a 400 lb stone bench donated by Superior Monument and engraved with a basic history outline of what was once known as Crawville will be set on top for a sentimental and practical memory of a unique and family oriented

community.

Zwart, one of the ones in the under-50 crowd, says he "appreciates the recognition Fruitport's Sesqui-centennial was getting, in particular the capsule". "I'll be here or there in 50 yrs", he grinned slyly.

As for Alger, a longtime Fruitport activist, this will be the last of his contributions before he rides off into the sunset, selling his Fruitport home and moving to Nunica.

His hope for the future of the capsule, of Fruitport, and of the spirit that has made the community proud, is that the younger generation will carry out the tradition he sought to preserve, and to remember the history of a town that so many feel blessed to have shared in.

## Fruitport 150th Anniversary

by Heidi Tice



2019 Fruitport celebrate 150 years. There were time capsules dug up and buried, commemorative calendars sold and the Fruitport Old Fashioned Days had even more fun activities. The John Buist Freedom Train was repaired and driven in the parade after several years' absence. Thank you to Ron Cooper for spearheading the restoration of the iconic, patriotic entry. Fruitport Township entered a float for the first time in the Memorial Day parade. The float depicted 50 year time frames of Fruitport throughout the years. Large photos of 2 historic buildings were displayed with volunteers in costume portraying the different eras. The float began with the Fruitport Pomona house, built in 1871 and stood on the shore of Spring Lake until it burned in 1875. In the middle of the float, the Pavilion, which was built in 1901 on pylons over the Fruitport end of Spring Lake and was a hopping fun filled location for great bands until it also burned down in 1963. At the end of the float was "Smiley" Fruitport Charter Townships water tower that was built in 1975 and is a bright greeting to people that come and go on our main drag. Walking behind the float, were a few members of the Fruitport High School Honor Society proudly carrying a banner of the newest attraction for Fruitport; a rendering of our almost

completed flagship high school. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped build the float and participated in the parade. Pictured below is Fruitport Charter Township Clerk Andrea Anderson as a '20s flapper and her daughter Harper as a prairie girl.

