



Memorial / Graduation 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

May 2020 • Volume 38 • Number 1

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

## Fruitport's Parkside Pizza

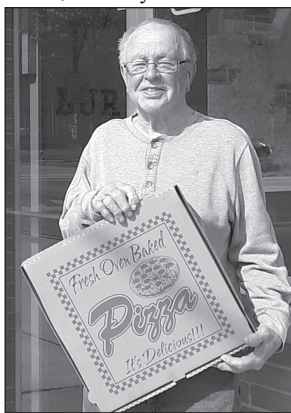
By Larry J. Pellet

Hometown boy Troy Hagen seems to have pizza sauce running through his veins instead of blood. Growing up on Sixth St., the Fruitport native and 1989 high school graduate fondly recalls working for Peppies Pizza in his early days before meeting his future wife Cathy while also helping out at Burger Crest shortly thereafter. Now, after all these years, he and his wife find themselves at



the top of the mountain, owning both establishments.

Cathy, previous manager of Burger Crest and also a Fruitport alumni, says buying the restaurant wasn't much different than running it. "We just opened the doors the next day, same as always", she stated. That purchase in January 2018 led to another in October 2019 when the pair decided to buy Peppies, thanks in part to Troy's previous knowledge of the business. "I lived here for 3 months, just cleaning, putting in new paper, carpet and painting", he said. By January the following year, they were ready for their soft-opening, when in walked



Fruitport legend Art Aldridge.

Aldridge, who's buddies comprise Fruitport's edition of the "Knights of the Round Table" at Burger Crest, heard about the new establishment and happened to arrive at just the right moment, first. While the cash register was being installed, he decided to order a pizza...thus, a fitting birth for the new Parkside Pizza and Sub restaurant. "We still have our first dollar from Art", laughed Cathy.

But, things soon began to change. Covid 19 emerged, and business was stifled. "We had just started to click and gel", recalled Troy. "We had arranged to deliver down to the boat launch for boaters, and were making pizza for Pincrest, the school and the Township Board. Profits dropped dramatically. But, our name had gotten out enough to keep us going". According to Troy, "good" people from business's in town stepped up and made a concerted effort to support Parkside.

Way to go, Fruitport!

Now, on a busy Friday night at the restaurant at 22 S. Third St., Hagen seemed content with his "slice of the pie". Ever one for flowery language, he claimed he "giggled like a little girl" once he found the right taste for his pizza sauce. A math and science major at Fruitport, Troy says making dough is akin to science, only "you get to eat it". Adding, that "if your dough is heading north, mine is heading south" to describe how drastically better it is. He touts his creamy Italian sauce as "unique" and promotes his Pavilion Pizza as similar to the Grand Finale pizza found at Glenside Pub.

And, to "top things off", mother's secret burrito sauce is available to add some family zing. "Mom is gone now – she can't argue with me here", he

grinned. Daughter Melissa also works for the business.

Meanwhile, social media reviews are remarkably well, and first time customer Jordan Summerville agreed while waiting in line. "I heard the pizza and bread sticks are tasty".

Open 7 days a week and including free delivery within restrictions, Parkside offers a wide range of subs, salads, tacos, burritos, combos, and pizza...including gluten free. Call for orders at 231 737-3888.

Hagen asserts his business has been and will



continue to be proactive, adding that all restaurants go through training to stay virus free. Once the economy reopens more towards "normalcy", they will be ready. "I can't wait to show it to Craig and Lori (Peppies owners)".

Parkside joins Kently's Pizza in the village as another fine pizza establishment residents have had the luxury to enjoy.

As for Aldridge and his "Parkview Dairy Bar" hat he brought along, he applauds the new business. "The pizza was good and they decorated the place up real nice...much better than what it was". Only adding that Parkside should consider opening up a hole in the wall to connect to their neighbor Ye Olde Tavern.

Now we're talkin'!

## Fruitport Regulator Run

submitted by Aimee Cohoon

Thanks to the generous support from our friends, neighbors, bikers, bowlers, bar goers, golfers, and sponsors the Fruitport Regulator fund



was able to raise \$7,000 last year. Some of our 2019 contributions included donations to the Fruitport Lions Club, Freedom Run and our Christmas for Families program. 2020 will be our 5th year of partnering with local organizations to connect us with families who need help fulfilling their Christmas wish lists, which typically include a few special gifts, clothing, and some household supplies. The Regulator

Run is a great way to bring folks together for a fun motorcycle ride to honor our Veterans and is our largest fundraising event of the year, generating around \$4,500. With the cancellation of Old Fashioned Days festivities, we will be working to conduct other fundraising events throughout the year so we can continue to make a difference right here at home. This Memorial Day we thank all members of the armed services for their dedicated work and sacrifices. We are the home of the free because of the brave.



**Pincrest Bar & Lanes Staff** donates their time each year to shop and wrap gifts