



Fruitport Area News

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FAN is starting our 40th year. The masthead above is our original mast that was hand-drawn by someone who lived in this area. Many people have helped this paper survive over the years as we have tried to be a benefit to our community. A big thanks to everyone who has been part of the effort.

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Jerry & Lynda Alger: Fruitport Old Fashioned Days King & Queen



Jerry grew up on the main street (3rd Ave.) of Fruitport. And he lived on 3rd Ave. for 72 years of his life. He is proud of the village he grew up in and has done a lot to maintain its history for everyone else to appreciate and enjoy. As a young paperboy, he once knew almost everyone in the village. As an adult he has strived to keep the history alive.

When he was 23 years old, he went to the Village Council to remind them that the village centennial was coming up. And they put him in charge of organizing it. As part of that job, he built a time capsule that is buried on the Library grounds and now 50 years later he has worked on the sesquicentennial and the plans to organize the opening of the time capsule, checking the contents, adding new things and

burying it again for the next generation.

In the 50 years between time capsules, and with the help of others like the Historical Society and various grants and donations, he has organized many projects:

Jerry and Lynda have traveled to all 50 states and through many small towns. That's where Jerry got the idea for the Peach Tree in Pomona Park. It was his idea to have something historical to mark the history of Fruitport. The village and township both use this image on their websites and other places. How many know that there would be no Peach Tree if it wasn't for Jerry Alger.

- He worked to establish the Veteran's Park and organized its dedication.
- Did anyone remember the name of Fruitport's cemetery before he got a grant to have the granite marker put up? (Pine Hill)
- He applied for the grants to get all of the historical markers placed around the village. And ordered all of the markers.
- He worked to redo and dedicate the park at the end of 8th Ave.
- He has commissioned Little Libraries.

All of the above were done with grants and donations and no tax dollars. And, of course with the help of others that jumped on board with him. An article could be written about each one of these projects and how it was accomplished.

He also served on the Village Council. He worked hard to keep the village beautiful while saving the taxpayers money.

Jerry has served the Fruitport Christian Reformed Church as a Deacon and on the Building Committee, and with the Cadets. He has been a volunteer with the Muskegon Heritage Museum and is on the board of the Jefferson Highway Association.

Lynda, who is retired from the Fruitport Post Office was most interested in helping her husband be recognized for all of the work he has done to keep the history alive in the village he grew up in, and for the benefit of his hometown.

Lions Club is "in good shape" to bring Old Fashioned Days back to Fruitport this year.

Schippers also got the permit for the new bathroom at Pomona Park, so the Lions Club could build it. "You know, I didn't do all the work myself," he said with a chuckle.

Another of the most fulfilling things Schippers has accomplished is raising his family.

"And they all have done very well," he said. "I don't have any hobbies. I have kids and grandkids. My kids keep me busy with projects."



Jim Schippers with his granddaughter

Before his kidney transplant, it was hard for Schippers to run his business as a building contractor. Afterwards, he returned to work, with a kidney working as good as new.

As a building contractor, Schippers specialized in siding and used to subcontract siding from other builders to side many houses in the Fruitport area. Schippers said he also built a few houses. He and his son replaced the siding on the building that is now *The Tree House Child Care Center*, and redid its interior.

Schippers even rebuilt his own house after the windstorm of August 9, 2009, knocked six trees down onto it.

"We gutted [the house] back to the studs and start[ed] over," Schippers said. He recalled having to crawl through the trees to get out, and having to live out of a travel trailer hooked up to the plumbing and phoneline while the rebuild was in process.

Even though he's retired from his construction business, Jim Schippers continues to work for Fruitport's benefit and for the good of his family.

But without that new kidney Schippers got 30 years ago, things would be different for Fruitport. "I wouldn't be here without the operation—the kidney transplant," he said. "Without that, I wouldn't have been able to give back to the community."

With a Kidney that Won't Quit, Jim Schippers Benefits Fruitport 30 Years and Counting

by Calvin Holtrop

Thirty years ago, longtime Fruitport resident Jim Schippers had a kidney transplant. Schippers, whose transplant took place in the early 1990s, said that while most transplanted kidneys usually last from two to five years, his has kept working all this time.

"Never had a rejection episode or anything," Schippers said. And with that healthy kidney, he has done a lot of good in the Fruitport community.

Being a member of the Lions Club is one

of Schippers' most rewarding community achievements.

Throughout his 50 years as a Lion, he has held each of the club's positions. He's currently the Tail Twister again, who brings, as he says, "a little levity to the meeting[s]," with various light-hearted activities. One such activity, as a humorous prank, is imposing fines on other members for Club rule violations. The Lions Club uses the fine money to hold a fish fry at the end of the year.

Schippers has also been on the club's Old Fashioned Days committees since the mid-70's, and has been soliciting for OFD for several years. According to Schippers, the

FRUITPORT REGULATORS

This Memorial Day weekend we'll be hosting the 15th Annual Regulator Motorcycle Run at Pincrest Bar & Lanes. The Regulator Run provides an opportunity to bring folks together and enjoy a great ride, while raising money for the Regulator Fund (managed by the Fruitport Lions Club). This event is our largest fundraising event of the year and we're excited to welcome returning riders as well as meet new folks. This event is always free for Veterans as we remember those who have served, and we hope you can join us on Saturday May 28th at 11 am.

This past Christmas we were able to work with Fruitport Schools and help meet the needs of several families during the holidays, providing food, household goods, and wish list items. Since the start of the Regulator Run back in 2008 proceeds have totaled over \$50K! Thank you to our volunteers, The Storage Group, Village Inn, Young Acres Outdoors, The Raven's Nest, Pincrest Bar & Lanes, Kay Kukulka, Mama Mia's Pizzeria, Mike and Susie Kotecki, Lee Manufacturing, and our Riders, Bar goers and Golfers for your generous support this past year.

Sincerely, the REGULATOR COMMITTEE



Regulator Run 2021