

New Business Profile: Odd Side Brews

by Kim Holtrop

Odd Side Ales, owned by Chris Michner, just opened its second location, at the old Fifth Third Bank building in Fruitport. Chris started brewing in his senior year at MSU, where he was studying for degrees in accounting. Chris would brew in his college apartment a few times a month, but it wasn't until he was laid off from his job due to a decline in the economy that he decided to turn his dream into a business.

Chris started Odd Side Ales in 2010 in Grand Haven, setting up shop in a historic piano factory building. The brewery has since expanded into a larger production, "while staying rooted in creativity and experimentation," Chris said. "The goal from the beginning was simple: make interesting, high-quality beverages that people actually get excited about." Like Odd Side's best-selling brew, the Bean Flicker, a coffee blonde ale, "our most recognizable and consistent seller over the years, and has developed a strong following." Chris also wanted to "build spaces where people want to spent time, not just grab a drink and leave. Whether it's someone grabbing coffee in the morning, meeting friends for drinks, or hanging out longer than they planned—that's what it's all about. Creating something that becomes part of people's routine or memories is the most rewarding part. We want our Fruitport location to feel approachable and welcoming to everyone, whether you're into craft beer or not."

With Odd Side Ales, and the newly expanded Odd Side Brews, Chris is focused on "creating a space that feels unique, comfortable, and a little unexpected." Because the new Fruitport location is located inside what used to be a bank, Chris said he leaned into the character of the former building, even going to far as to



turn the bank vault into another seating area. "We've never tried to be just a 'beer company.' We focus on a broader experience—craft beer, coffee, cocktails, and now even non-alcoholic functional beverages. The new Fruitport location really reflects that...It's more about the overall vibe and experience than just what's in the glass."

In an interview with All About Beer in 2013, Chris remarked that "people really enjoy walking into a brewery in their hometown, and the atmosphere a small brewery creates." He remarked that his inspiration "comes from my customers and positive reviews. My favorite thing is when a non-beer customer comes in and decides to try a beer and walks out with a new appreciation for beer."

Chris can be reached at info@oddsideales.com or through his website, oddsideales.com. "We're excited to be a part of Fruitport."

SCAM ALERT!

by Muskegon County Republicans

If you have received an email from Tim Cross, our executive committee Chairman, asking to respond and talk via email, and asking for gift card purchases or anything similar...THIS IS A SCAM! Please report the email as a scam to your email provider and delete the message.

Please be alert! There are many scams going around right now via text, email or phone calls. If it doesn't make sense.....do not respond!

TICKS ARE ON THE RISE

by Heidi Tice

When I was a child back in the 1970's to get a tick on you was extremely rare. These days you have to check yourself every time you work in the yard. According to Michigan State University the Black-legged tick (deer tick) population has grown exponentially in the past 30 years. The tick population has been present in the West side of the state for decades, however, it has grown and spread from the west coast in the 2000's to reach Lansing by 2014. Black-legged ticks (which carry Lyme disease) were once rare, however currently, can be found in 35 counties throughout Michigan. Warmer winters and climate changes have allowed this expansion and allow for them to remain active longer (according to a Michigan State University Extension article).

More ticks mean more spread of Lyme Disease. Kent county alone saw an increase of 1800% between 2016 and 2024 of Lyme disease cases. Below is from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) website.

In 2022, there were 553 confirmed and probable reported cases of Lyme disease in Michigan, there were over 2,100 confirmed cases in 2025, according to MDHHS. Lyme disease can have long-lasting health problems. Some of the most common effects of Lyme disease are:

- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle and joint pain
- Rash that looks like a bullseye

If not treated you can experience the following:

- Severe headaches and stiffness
- Joint pain and swelling
- Pain in your muscles and bones
- Episodes of dizziness or shortness of breath

There is not a vaccine for Lyme disease, however there are treatments. The sooner you are treated for the disease the quicker your recovery. Some people don't even know they have had a tick bite, however if you have been working in your yard and a red circular rash appears you should see your doctor and get tested. The sooner you remove a tick the better your recovery is as well, so check yourself and your kids over after working or playing in your yard. You can also come into contact with a tick if your pet brings them in with them. Check your pets for ticks daily and see your veterinarian for a tick & flea preventative. Lyme disease can be fatal in your dog if left untreated. If your dog becomes lethargic, stiff limbs, loss of appetite, take them to the vet and have them checked for Lyme disease. The earlier the treatment the better chances your pet will get better.

This summer protect yourself from tick bites by wearing long sleeves and pants that are light colors, repellent containing 20% or more DEET and check for tick as soon as you finish working in the yard (US Forest Service). Remember ticks flourish in tall grassy areas, wooded areas and walk paths, leaves and wood piles.

What to do if you have a tick on you? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, use fine-tipped tweezers to pull them straight out, then drown them in alcohol or bleach. After removal clean the bite with soap and water or alcohol and see a doctor if a rash or other symptoms develop.

For more tick related information, visit mitracking.state.mi.us/?bookmark=555

LYME DISEASE

Warming temperatures due to climate change could lead to more tick-borne disease affecting human health in serious ways.

Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease in the U.S. Cases are increasing in Michigan.

Lyme disease is spread by the blacklegged (deer) tick. Blacklegged ticks are common in Michigan.

Helping to reduce climate change and adapting to its impacts will provide opportunities to improve health.

2024 Michigan Lyme Disease Risk Map

LEGEND
 County with known risk for Lyme Disease
 County with potential risk for Lyme disease
 County with negative tick sampling information or lacking information
Michigan.gov/Lyme

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