

BUSINESS AND PEOPLE



Photos by Robert Korman/Special to The Sun

Some of the baked goods displayed inside new Village of Hamburg bakery and more Mr. Pot Pie, which is located in the Hamburg Village Plaza.

Bakery and more expands with site in Hamburg Village Plaza

By Megan Tomaszewski
HAMBURG SUN CORRESPONDENT

When September comes around, thoughts of outdoor barbecues and chilled drinks are replaced by tantalizing images of warm coffees and teas, savory soups and pumpkin-spiced goods.

And of course, the piece de resistance of autumn: good old-fashioned, homemade pies.

Fortunately, Mr. Pot Pie has opened up shop and is happy to cater to all of these comfort food desires.

An offshoot of the family-run McDuffie's Bakery in Clarence, Mr. Pot Pie opened its third store in June in the Hamburg Village Plaza — its other location is in East Aurora. The store held a ribbon-cutting, grand-opening ceremony Aug. 30.

"People have been asking me for years to open a retail store in Hamburg — there's really no competition in town," owner Brian Thomas said.

Thomas has been a vendor at the Hamburg Farmers Market for 10 years, allowing him to establish a solid customer base before the brick-and-mortar shop opened.

While McDuffie's originally only worked in wholesale production of all-natural Scottish shortbread cookies, the idea to create a retail bakery came about in 2010 when Thomas and his father, founder Dave, decided to turn 500 square feet of unused office space in the Clarence facility into a store.

"We went into it with real low expectations, but within two weeks we saw that people really wanted to have a bakery," Brian Thomas said.

Thomas found that customers were clamoring for a

local retail bakery, with shops like Pumpernick N' Pastry having to close their doors due to competition with chain grocery bakeries.

"Since supermarkets have got involved with in-store bakeries, that's really hurt retail bakeries," Thomas said. "It's tough for a stand-alone retail bakery to make it. We're fortunate that we have the wholesale part of it that covered all the overhead."

Starting only with their shortbread cookies and locally sourced coffees, Thomas listened to customer feedback and hired a pastry chef to meet the demand for specialty breads, coffee cakes and pastries, which he said he originally "had no idea how to make."

What Thomas did know how to do well, though, was make a mean pot pie. Using his mother's homemade recipe to initially offer a classic, frozen chicken pot pie, Thomas was stunned to see how quickly the pies were selling out.

"It kind of threw us for a loop," he said.

However, Thomas and his staff rose to the challenge, coming out with a unique variety of "conveniently delicious" frozen pot pies, combining quality ingredients with easy prep for busy customers.

The menu rotates through 10 pot pie flavors a month, with current offerings including chicken, chicken cheddar broccoli, steak and Guinness, seafood, fiesta BBQ chicken, chicken curry, shepherds pie, turkey bacon gouda, fall-favorite butternut squash and "Pie of the Month" beef taco.

While the chicken and seafood pies come in individual sizes, all other pot pies are a full 9 inches. All pies except for the full seafood (\$26.95) are



At the ribbon-cutting of Mr. Pot Pie in the Village of Hamburg, Mayor Tom Moses joins owner Brian Thomas and his family and friends, as well as board members of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce and other local business owners.

under \$20.

If you're not a pie person, though, you still have plenty of lunch and dinner options with quiches, chicken marsala, chicken cordon bleu, stuffed chicken breasts and macaroni and cheese.

And if you want to pair your entrée with a side, look no further than one of the store's 40 homemade soups, with two rotating flavors available daily, as well as chili. Popular flavors include loaded baked potato, Italian wedding, cheeseburger and tomato basil.

For dessert this fall, try one of the shop's upcoming pumpkin-flavored coffee cakes or pies.

While Thomas admitted that it's always a challenge "keeping food costs in line," the dedication of his staff and pastry chefs consistently keep the products coming out fresh and inventive, and are largely influenced by changes in seasonal ingredients and flavors.

"We've got a really good team right now," he said. Aside from the food,

Thomas places his focus on ensuring that anyone who walks through the door of his store feels right at home.

"The customer service that you get from a family-run business is going to be far superior to any chain," Thomas said. "I'm in each store everyday talking to customers, and I think of so many of them like family — I know probably half of my customers by name. And consumers' money stays local when you buy from a family-operated business."

While Thomas has been fully immersed in the business for decades and loves his job, the bakery game wasn't part of his career plan — he graduated from SUNY Oswego with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

"I was going to work at the bakery temporarily until I found a job in law enforcement, but here I still am," he said. "I enjoy it."

Mr. Pot Pie is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call the store at 202-1717.

Transactions July 31 - Aug. 4

Real estate transactions for Hamburg and the surrounding communities for the period of July 31, 2017 to August 4, 2017. Information provided by the Erie County Clerk's Office.

ANGOLA

• 29 Miller Drive, Mary M. Addison to Randolph J. Addison II, \$60,000.

BLASDELL

• 77 Gilbert Avenue, Rachael N. Partridge to Angela Tetkowski; Justin M. Tetkowski, \$135,000.

BOSTON

• 9720 Zimmerman Road, Ann R. Metcalf; Russell W. Metcalf to Sprada Family Trust 082613 Tr; \$419,000.

• 7841 Zimmerman Road, Rita J. Ippolito to Ashley J. Bauerlein; Erik L. Bauerlein, \$287,500.

• 7104 Boston State Road, Donna J. Huson; Kim F. Huson to Kathryn M. Bolles, \$128,500.

EDEN

• 8505 Jennings Road, Brian W. Henry; Cheryl A. Henry to Joseph Mischel; Kendra Mischel, \$249,900.

EVANS

• 8778 Lake Shore Road, Gene M. Geber; Marilyn P. Geber to Eric Heffler, \$415,000.

• 716 Bennett Road, William Bursee Jr. to Glenn & Evelyn J. Brumagin Revocable Trust 041494, \$150,000.

• 6822 Minuteman Trail, Queen City Home Repair LLC to Brandon M. Fyock; Rachel M. Fyock, \$140,000.

• 1472 Gowans Road, Bryan J. Hart to Christina Gajowski, \$8,000.

HAMBURG

• Hmb 3138 Amsdell Road, Cheryl A. Howe; John P. Howe to Darlene Filion; Matthew Filion, \$385,000.

• 1370 Evergreen Drive, Megan F. Hanrahan; Robert J. Hanrahan III to Melanie C. Aromola; Donovan J. Grandits, \$247,200.

• Hmb 6569 East Eden Road, Karen M. Mertzluff; Paul M. Mertzluff to Jayson D. Clark; Katie L. Clark, \$215,750.

• 4250 Arthur Court, Nvr Inc dba; Ryan Homes of New York to Sue A. Peters; Paul N. Pijacki, \$210,390.

• 3033 Pleasant Avenue, Michael A. Palmowski; Lisa M. Viscuso to Shauna Russell; Thomas Russell, \$205,000.

• 4310 Abbott Parkway, Michael S. Gugliuzza to Kyle Long; Sarah Long, \$166,000.

• 5265 Innesbrooke Court, Dawn M. Sardo to Edward L. Avis Jr.; Linda K. Avis, \$162,500.

• 3421 Dickens Road, Holly L. Cavanagh to Antione M. Myles; Katie L. Myles, \$162,000.

• 5693 Walden Drive, Amy L. Bush; Kimberly S. Wilson to Lisa Ferrara; Angela Vullo; Charles J. Vullo, \$159,900.

• 3721 James Avenue, Warren W. Herdic Jr. to Kelsey N. Cole, \$145,000.

• 1640 South Bend Lane, Sandra Gale Cribbs; Cribbs William Lee Jr. to Valerie J. Socha, \$142,000.

• 40 South Lake, Anthony Drew McNichol; Erin M. McNichol to James Brendan McNichol, \$140,000.

• 6260 Eckhardt Road, Kimberly Battista; Marcy Hagen; Kimberly A. Hersperger to Bmg Property Holdings Inc; Milhap Capital Group LLC, \$138,751.

• 4746 Morgan Pky, Daniel Scanlon; Richard Scanlon to Sandra M. Gullo, \$137,500.

• 4969 Mount Vernon Boulevard, Daniel J. Cimato to John J. Kaczor II, \$135,000.

• 3646 Center Lane Drive, Nanci J. Lilga; Nancy J. Lilga to David P. Franklin; Elizabeth C. Franklin, \$132,000.

• 6878 East Eden Road, Margaret D. Altherr to Robert T. Altherr; \$132,000.

• Vacant land 6850 Castle Ridge, Timothy A. Lannon Special Needs Trust Tr to Peggy Davis Smering; Robert G. Smering, \$105,000.

• 4261 Fairview Parkway, Bernard P. Faltisco; Catherine L. Faltisco to Michael D. Gzyl Jr., \$100,000.

• 71 Robert Street, Anthony J. Caggese; Lavonne J. Caggese to Lydia Yuhas; Peter Yuhas Jr., \$62,000.

• 5490 Cooper Ridge, Pleasant Development LLC to Kari A. Smith; Michael G. Smith, \$60,000.

LACKAWANNA

• 180 Ridge Road, Bill Vogels Cars Inc to Kevin Hill, \$185,000.

• 312 Martin Road, William J. Moretti Jr. to Jaclyn Diapaul; Antonino Rocco, \$140,000.

• 1754 Abbott Road, Thomas A. Nyitrai; William T. Vogel Jr. to Kevin Hill, \$100,000.

• 29 Grape Avenue, Crop Franron to Abdurrub A. Abbadi, \$69,900.

• 120-124 Ingham Avenue, Anthony F. Sabuda to 120-124 Ingham Ave Inc, \$60,000.

• 45 Cloister Court, Eugenia McDonald; Joseph Mintz to Diane Victor, \$57,614.

• 586 Martin, Melody Thomas Jr Grd; Szczesniak Edwin J Ben to Thomas Melody Jr., \$37,600.

• 128 Lincoln Avenue, Mark Elliott; Mark Wayne Elliott to Suzanne M. Rydzik, \$20,000.

• 67 Ingham, 67 Ingham Avenue LLC to Mushtaq Kaid, \$6,500.

ORCHARD PARK

• 3349 Southwestern Boulevard, Arc Cafeusa001 LLC to Morning Star Restaurants LLC, \$981,145.

• 25 Scattertree Lane, Joyce M. Okeefe; Michael J. Okeefe to Leigh A. High; Michael S. High, \$294,900.

• 6171 Boston Ridge Road, Janet L. Rayner; Donald A. Raynor to Christina M. Ramsey; Clinton D. Ramsey, \$214,900.

• 19 Bielak Road, Sure Lock Homes LLC to Allen Leight; Cheri Leight, \$196,000.

• Orpk 85 Lawrence Place, Enna Lee; Liang Lee to Kenneth M. Osborn, \$189,000.

• 7746 Milestrip Road, Donald K. Dieter; Roy A. Dieter; Daniel Oconnor; David Oconnor to Connie Evjen; Logan Evjen, \$175,000.

• 7200 Gartman Road, Dean E. Weber to Nicole M. Stasio, \$164,900.

• 6200 Lake Avenue, Donald Babski Sr. to Gloria Reyes; Salomon Villalpando, \$150,000.

• 26 Shore Drive, Shauna Russell; Thomas J. Russell to Christine Mellerski; Kerry Shearer, \$140,000.

• 54 Oakwood Street, Brian P. Adamczak; Meredith L. Maddock to Jennifer R. Nelson; Jennifer Romer Nelson; Shane Nelson; Shane M. Nelson, \$126,000.

• 3 Creekside Drive, Janice M. Podlas to Spencer D. O'Neill; Chelsea P. Randorf, \$65,000.

• 35 Lakewood Drive, Alma T. Germain; Philip W. Germain to Rudolph Demarco Jr., \$53,000.

Iwanenko named to National Society of High School Scholars

Erek Iwanenko, who will be a senior at Hamburg High School this fall, has been selected to become a member of the National Society of High School Scholars.

The society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and community commitment. In becoming a lifetime member, Iwanenko is now connected to resources that help develop a student's strengths and guide them from college to career in pursuing their passions.

Iwanenko is also the vice president of the Hamburg Senior Class of 2018, a member of the HHS National Honor Society, involved with the high school library club and is on the varsity wrestling and lacrosse teams. He plans to study engineering and



Contributed photo

Erek Iwanenko is a senior at Hamburg High School.

business/entrepreneurship at Gannon University following graduation from Hamburg High.

Papelian joins Stellar Capital as research specialist

Rob Papelian, a former resident of Hamburg, has been hired as a research specialist by Stellar Capital Management in Phoenix.

His primary investment responsibilities involve conducting various types of industry research, coordinating that research with the firm's economic outlook and supporting the Investment Committee by providing input on industry trends which could affect securities considered by the firm.

Prior to joining Stellar Capital, Papelian spent six years with Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.

There, he most recently served as a global services specialist, assisting both clients and business partners with all aspects of foreign



Contributed photo

Hamburg native Rob Papelian works for Stellar Capital in Phoenix.

equity transactions. He is a Level III Chartered Financial Analyst candidate.



Contributed photo

Bowers recognized for work in Flower Show at Fair

Virginia Bowers of Hamburg was honored for her 30 years of service to the Flower Show on Aug. 20 in the Erie County Fair Creative Arts Building. She is known as a knowledgeable, loyal worker who loves floral design and has established a special relationship with the public every August.