

Fairport Brewing to open retail spot, launch Kickstarter campaign

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Apr. 11

democratandchronicle.com

Fairport Brewing Co. is opening a new retail spot, raising funds for a new brewing system and partnering with JD Wine Cellars.

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The young brewery will keep its out-of-the-way spot in a business

park at 1000 Turk Hill Road, Suite 298, Perinton, as a production facility, founder Tim Garman said. However, it will open a retail site at 99 S. Main St., Fairport, by early summer.

The site, a former Pure Oil Co. gas station

built in the 1930s, is a historic landmark. Because of that, Garman said, the renovations won't include the exterior.

Garman said he's excited about having a presence in the village, where he lives. "We've always wanted to be in the ... village that we love," he said. "... We can be an institution this community can be proud of."

Garman said he had not anticipated the number of customers his brewery has drawn already. "It's a good problem to have," but "We ran out of beer several times ... the end of the year last year," Garman said.

Garman, a lifelong resident of Fairport and Perinton, founded the brewery in 2010 in a one-bedroom apartment and opened the brewery in October 2012 at the Perinton site. Garman was joined in January by Paul Guarracini, a past president of the Upstate New York Homebrewers Association.

Fairport Brewing offers offer tastings and sell growlers on weekends, hold tasting and brewing classes and present Community Brew Nights, which have been popular.

Garman said the brewery's current half-barrel brewing system, which yields 15 gallons

of beer per batch, isn't enough to support accounts at restaurants or bars, though some have expressed interest.

So the brewery is starting a Kickstarter campaign on Monday or Tuesday. The campaign is designed

to \$25,000 of the \$75,00 needed for a three-barrel brewing system, which Garman said would enable the brewery to support six or seven accounts. For more information, go to kickstarter.com.

The half-barrel brewing system will be moved to the Fairport site, where visitors will be able to taste beers, purchase growlers and attend classes. Later, it will serve as a pilot brewery for specialty or one-time beers and for experimenting with new recipes, Garman said.

Garman and Guarracini don't plan to give up their day jobs — at Medtronic and Kodak, respectively — anytime soon. “The first five years in a brewery ... is all about reinvestment,” Garman said.

Despite the amount of work involved, though, he said, “We're having a blast.”

Fairport Brewing also is partnering with JD Wine Cellars, 1342 Eddy Road, Macedon, Wayne County. The winery will offer samples and sell two of Fairport's brews in growlers and grumblers starting April 20. The first beers there will be Raider's Red, an Irish red ale named for Garman's alma mater, Fairport High School, and Peter J IPA, another popular beer. Others may be available later, Garman said.

Beginning April 22, the winery will be open from noon to 5 p.m. daily.

A winery spokeswoman said owners Doug and Joan Allen had been looking for something to serve people who don't drink wine, and they approached Fairport Brewing in December. JD Wine Cellars has new drinkware in which to serve the beers.

For more information, go to fairportbrewing.com.