

# LIVING WELL

THE REPOSITORY SECTION D

## Pizza: 100 years in U.S. and still a hot seller

Whether topped with sausage or sauerkraut, popular pies spark unbridled passion in Stark

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REPOSITORY FOOD WRITER

I know what you're thinking. You're eyeing this story and saying, "Pizza? We're knee-deep into December and she's writing about pizza? She should be featuring festive appetizers and crown roasts and plum pudding — anything but pizza!"

Bet you think I'm not the sharpest knife in the drawer.

Let me explain. We have good reason to celebrate pizza right now. This November marked the 100th anniversary of pizza in America. A century ago Gennaro Lombardi cranked up a coal-fired oven and opened Lombardi's Pizzeria in Little

Italy in Manhattan. Lombardi's still makes pizza the same way and consistently ranks as one of the finest pizzerias in New York.

Also, the holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year for pizza shops.

"August through January, that's harvest time for pizza industry," said Steve Green, publisher of Pizza Marketing Quarterly, a magazine that keeps a pulse on the nation's pizza industry and its 69,000 pizza shops.

So we're celebrating pizza in December. We probably won't get too much flak, though. After football, Stark Countians seem to rank pizza

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### PIZZA FACTS

- **Busiest day of year:** Super Bowl Sunday
- **Another huge night:** Halloween
- **A big week:** Daylight-saving time switch in the fall
- **Busy period:** About a week after Thanksgiving to New Year's
- **Surprisingly slow period:** Thanksgiving and the few days before and after

STEVE GREEN, PUBLISHER,  
PIZZA MARKETING QUARTERLY



**PIE TIME** Jon Zepp displays a pepperoni pizza from Zepp's Pizza in North Canton. In honor of peak pizza season and the 100th anniversary of pizza in America, we are showcasing unusual local pizzas made by independent pizza purveyors. See Page D-2

REPOSITORY SCOTT HECKEL





REPOSITORY **SCOTT HECKEL**

**SPECIALTY PIE** Zepp's spinach, chicken, bacon and tomato pizza in a white sauce.

## PIZZA:

# An emotional experience

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next on their list of favorite things.

Green is among those impressed by our unbridled passion for pizza.

"We put together a Pizza Hall of Fame on the Web," Green said via phone from his headquarters in Mississippi. "But if it had to have a real location, it should be Canton or New York City."

Pizza zeal is understandable to Green. "Everybody has a part of their brain which causes

them to be a pizza fanatic," said Green, who was a Domino's franchisee before embarking on current pizza pursuits. Green once ate a slice of pizza at Tottono's in Manhattan that was so delicious, he teared up at the beauty of the thing.

"I felt my eyes start to water up, it was just so good. I thought, 'These guys really get it,'" Green said. "I felt so satisfied and felt so proud of the people that made the pizza. It was just an emotional experience for me."

## YOUR FAVORITES

Here is what pizza lovers had to say about their favorite unusual pizzas made by independent purveyors:

■ "The odd but exceptional sauerkraut and Canadian bacon pizza from Jay's Pizza in Massillon. It sounds awful but it's oh so good!" – Michael Schario of Canton.

■ "Your list just wouldn't be complete without my favorite Thai pizza from 91 Wood Fired Oven. I actually crave it." – Donna Nixdorf of Canton.

■ "My favorite is a Greek pizza from South Erie Pizza in Massillon. It has feta and olives and is just really good." – Cheryl Hill of Massillon.

■ "Tomato basil pizza from Curley's Pizza in Canton." – Nancy Stewart, Malvern.

■ "My favorites are the Thai chicken pizza and the tomato basil pizza from Kozmos in Massillon. Pizza in a wood-fired brick oven is the only way to go!" – Michelle Stahleke of North Canton.

## UNUSUAL PIES

■ White veggie pizza with ricotta cheese: Girolamo's Pizza in Jackson

Township.

■ Spinach-ricotta pizza: Papa Bear's Pizza Oven in Jackson Township.

■ Argentinean pizza (thin crust with tomatoes, ham and olives): Pizza Palace in Canton.

■ Spinach, chicken and bacon in a white sauce: Zepp's, North Canton.

■ Pierogi pizza: Pizza Hood in Alliance.

■ Pesto pizza and bacon double cheeseburger: Fox's Pizza Den in Jackson Township.

■ Austin Texas pizza (barbecue sauce, chicken, bacon caramelized onions): Angello's Restaurant in Perry Township.

■ Pizza with horsey garlic sauce, seared tenderloin, sautéed mushrooms and onions, cheddar, mozzarella and pepper Jack cheeses: 91 Restaurant in Jackson Township and North Canton.

■ Philly cheese steak with ranch dressing sauce: Espresso Pizza in East Canton.

■ Double-crust pizza: Kraus' Pizza, various locations.

■ Taco pizza: Your Pizza Shop in North Canton.

■ Meatball pizza: Italo's in Canton South.



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