Written by MARK JAEGER
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Started in Cedar Grove, restaurant keeps focus on affordable dining choices

A noticeable void in culinary options will be filled in Fredonia in early December, when Bada Bing Pizza opens.

The pizza shop will be located in the Highland Center just west of the Fredonia Family Restaurant. Because of space limitations, it will offer only carry out and delivery service.

Vicki Koepke has operated Bada Bing in Cedar Grove for the past nine years, offering free delivery to Belgium, Oostburg and Gibbsville.

The Fredonia location will extend that delivery market.

“For the first six months, we will probably limit our deliveries to Fredonia and Waubeka, and maybe extend into Saukville later. We want to take things slow, because we only have one chance to make a good first impression,” Koepke said.

She said the owner of the strip mall, Peter Demopoulos, has been urging her to open a pizza shop in his building for the past year.

Koepke said the timing of the opening depends on when the kitchen can be completed. Installation of a venting hood is causing uncertainty.

The kitchen will feature a Marsal double-oven, which is a step up from the single-oven used in Cedar Grove.

“They aren’t cheap, but is a really nice oven,” Koepke said.

The Fredonia location will have about 10 part-time employees who will prepare the food and make deliveries.

While splitting time between the two locations, Koepke said she will continue to make all of the pizza dough.

She said the menu offerings will be identical to those at the Cedar Grove location, although the new site may give her some room to experiment.

“I have been thinking about adding a few items. Every month we feature a different pizza, and I may be adding the ones that have proven to be most popular to the menu,” she said.

Her best selling pizza in Cedar Grove is the Bada Bing — covered with an abundance of sausage, pepperoni, black olives and onions.

“My favorite is probably something we call The Skinny, which has fresh veggies and cheese,” Koepke said.

“I also really like the BBQ Chicken pizza. We use white meat chicken marinated in hot sauce, a sweet barbecue sauce and crumbled blue cheese.”

Eight other varieties of pizza are offered. Three sizes are served, with prices ranging from $10.50 to $23.

“Our largest is an 18-inch pizza which can feed five people, so the price is pretty reasonable,” Koepke said.

Koepke said she is very aware of how value conscious people can be in this area, and has made a point of holding her prices steady.

“We haven’t raised our prices in years, even though the price of cheese has gone through the roof lately,” Koepke said.

The menu will also include a selection of sandwiches and pasta, along with such side orders as garlic bread, chicken wings, breaded mushrooms and mozzarella sticks.

Koepke has gained recognition with the name Bada Bing and plans to keep it with the Fredonia location.

“The name Bada Bing just came to me. It just slips off your tongue and reminds you of something really tasty,” Koepke says on the website

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Image Information: BADA BING PIZZA shop owner Vicki Koepke prepared one of her favorite pies, The Skinny, at tthe Cedar Grove location. Next month, she will open a location in Fredonia. Photo by Mark Jaeger
www.mybadabingpizza.com.