

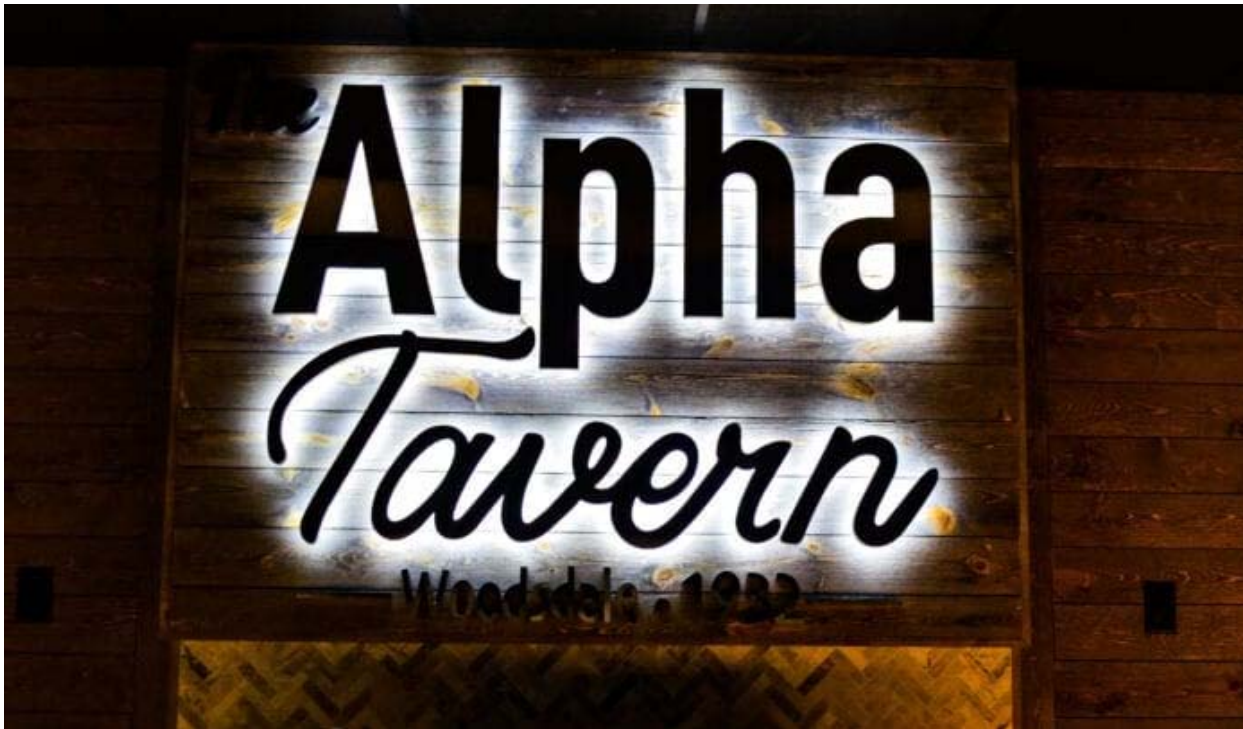
Here is an article about a historic restoration, addition and renovation that we worked on with one of our best repeat clients. Here is what he had to say about our work:

“Brad and Tim at Breisch & Crowley, LLC are two guys that do great design work at a reasonable price and are very timely in meeting with a customer to grasp what their thoughts and ideas are on a project. I have used them on numerous commercial and residential jobs from anything from new construction, design and build, to extensive historic renovation projects. They are always there to meet and make suggestions for various phases of any project. They are never ones to hold up a project, but to help move it forward in a timely fashion. After dealing with them, it’s difficult to ever think of using anyone else.” Gary Glessner

And now, below are two articles about the project with photos provided by LedeNews.com :

The Alpha Tavern : A New Era at 50 Carmel Road

By Steve Novotney on LedeNews.com August 22, 2020



The only aspect that will look familiar when the Alpha Tavern opens will be the rock slats on the exterior.

Everything else, though?

Let’s just say the costs of the restoration have been quite significant, confirmed Wheeling Coin partner Gary Glessner. “That is fair to say,” he said. “But we got involved with this building because it’s been a community icon and staple for such a long time. We just felt the need to restore it and bring it back to life,” Glessner explained. “When we bought it when it was on auction, I didn’t think it was in the shape that it was. What we found inside here was a complete surprise.

“And yeah, it was pretty bad because of the age of the building, how it was put together piece by piece over the years, and because of a lack of maintenance for far too long,” he said. “We have had to address pretty much everything on the inside and on the outside. Let’s just say it’s been a lot of work to get us to this point.”

More Than Expected

Soon after the Ohio County Health Department shuttered the former restaurant on January 7, the property went up for auction and was purchased by Wheeling Coin for \$380,000. The original plan called for only four months of interior and exterior renovations, but once contractors entered the structure, the timeline immediately changed.

“The biggest problem that we found inside the building involved the sub-floors and the flooring,” Glessner said. “There were crawl spaces in probably half of the building, including under the kitchen and under the bar area, and those areas

had water in them whether it was ground water, fresh water, or drain water. What we did was eliminate those crawl spaces by filling them in with gravel and concrete.

“We also had to redo all of the plumbing and all of the electric, along with a lot of other things. That’s why I say that pretty much everything has been replaced and renovated. It has been a from-ground-up restoration,” he said. “As far as when we will open, right now we’re looking at the first part of September for the bar area with the restaurant opening a little bit beyond that.”

Pandemic Delays

Once “social distancing” and “new normal” became popular terms in everyone’s vocabulary thanks to Covid-19, Glessner was confronted with a construction conundrum because all of the necessary crews could not be inside the structure at the same time. In reaction, a 24-hour schedule was adopted in order to meet requirements set forth by lottery laws in West Virginia.

“The pandemic did slow us up by about 45 days,” Glessner reported. “That’s because different crews could not come in here while another crew was working. The general contractor has been in here during the days, the electricians were coming in during the night, and the others have come in when they can, too. So, it really took people working on this place around the clock.

“It’s been about safety, of course, because we couldn’t have as many people in here working at the same time as we would have liked,” he continued. “But those crews figured it out so we could get to this point by now.”

The Alpha Tavern : Iconic. Legendary.



Outdoor dining will be available at the Alpha Tavern as long as the weather allows.

Since 1936, a business known as “The Alpha” has operated at 50 Carmel Road, and in the near future, that will become true once again. Glessner explained the name of the soon-to-open eatery was selected with local residents in mind.

“We wanted to keep the ‘Alpha’ for sure because that’s how this place has been known for a very long time,” Glessner said. “And we chose ‘Tavern’ because these days a tavern is not known just for the alcohol. Now a tavern has really good food, a great atmosphere, and a vast array of beverages.

“So, yes, we wanted to keep the Alpha in the name but also to give it a twist that is going to surprise a lot of people the first time they walk back in this place,” he said. “All of us who are involved with this project are looking forward to seeing and hearing our customers’ reactions to what we have been able to accomplish here despite all of the challenges this building presented to us on that very first day.”

The Grub : The Sparachane family, owners of Undo’s restaurants in Benwood, Wheeling, St. Clairsville, and Weirton, will lease the renovated building and operate food service, but Glessner said potential patrons should not expect the menu to be similar to those eateries.

Instead, the cuisine will be, let’s say, different from what’s offered elsewhere.

“Wheeling Coin owns the property, and the Undo’s group formed an entity to run the restaurant operations,” Glessner explained. “They are leasing the property from Wheeling Coin, but folks should not expect the Alpha Tavern to have the same Undo’s menu.

“Beau (Catalano) has worked very hard to design a unique menu for this place, and he’s been working the past six months designing those items, and now he’s testing them for quality,” he said. “It’s going to be different from any other eatery we have in this area.”

The Alpha Tavern : The Unveiling of 50 Carmel Road

By Steve Novotney on LedeNews.com October 5, 2020

Local residents of the Upper Ohio Valley will get their very first look at the interior of the new Alpha Tavern beginning tomorrow when the new eatery opens for the first time since it was shuttered by the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department in January.

Since the new purchased the property in February, the structure has been completely gutted and reconstructed into a 125-seat restaurant and tavern despite the challenges encountered because of the coronavirus pandemic. Of course, W.Va. Jim Justice still has in place occupancy restrictions for the interior, and that’s is one reason why the side bar will open tomorrow, and the restaurant will begin operations a week later.



Managers Lyn Ballog and Terri Tennant are ready to open the new Alpha Tavern after the owners Beau Catalano, Herk Sparachane (in photo), Garry Glessner and Nick Sparachane completely renovated the building over the last nine months.

"Tomorrow we will open the bar, and our bartenders will have some appetizers and sandwiches for our customers," said partner Beau Catalano. "And then, about a week after that, we will open the full restaurant with the full menu, and we're excited about that because our employees have worked very hard to learn it and get it down."

"Over the next week, our catering division is scheduled to feed thousands of people, so our crew members will take care of those commitments first and then get it going here at the Alpha Tavern," he explained. "We're going to be here for many years, so when we open, we want to do it the right way."



The rubbed and smoked ribs will be one of a few different meats on the menu.



Catalano expects his patrons to really enjoy the smoked meats on the eatery's menu.

Belief in the Friendly City

The Alpha Tavern has hired more than 40 team members for this week's opening, and according to Catalano, as many as 25 of them are full-time employees with hopes of adding more in the future. The menu will include appetizers, sandwiches and burgers, and Catalano expects the smoked ribs, turkey, chicken, and wings will be very popular with his patrons. "The No. 1 goal for the Alpha Tavern was to bring back the icon that it has been for so long," Catalano explained. "We want to bring it back to its glory, and that's because we believe in Wheeling. We want to bring this place back to that greatness that it once had.

"That's one of the reasons why everything in this bar and restaurant is all brand new," he said. "I believe the only thing that was not changed here involve the front way of the building and those rocks, but everything else has been replaced and improve so we very excited to see how our customers react to the new appearance and to our food."



Flat-screen TVs are a new feature in the bar and dining areas.



There are heaters on the patio so future patrons will be warm while they eat.

From Scratch

When patrons initially stroll into the Alpha Tavern, the experience will be far different than simply viewing the photos that have been published on LEDE News and on the eatery's Facebook page. The "old house" area was demolished and transformed into a large, enclosed patio area, and there is now seating along Carmel Road, as well.

The tavern side of the establishment is no longer separated, and the area where the pool tables once were located was renovated for additional dining tables. Flat-screen televisions hang on a plethora of the eatery's walls, including a bank of them above the bar. Every piece of furniture is brand new, and the kitchen is larger and is loaded with the latest equipment.

Along with lunch and dinner services, the kitchen crew also will be tasked with catering services, too. The Alpha Tavern will open at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning, and food will be available beginning at 11 a.m. Once the full menu is available, lunch will begin at 11 a.m. and the establishment will remain open until during 10 p.m. during the week and until midnight on Friday and Saturday evenings.

"I believe this place turned out even better than what I imagined when we first got started here," Catalano admitted. "Normally when you lay something out, at the end you always think you should have done something differently. But not here, and I have been in this kitchen for a couple of weeks now.

"This kitchen has been designed the right way, I believe, but I am sure there will be a change here and a change there," he said. "Everyone who works here has to be comfortable with it, too, so that will be a short process over the next couple of weeks."



The kitchen crew members at the Alpha Tavern have been practicing the preparation of item of the new menu for a few weeks.



The Alpha Tavern prepared lunch on Monday for the people who helped transform the property since February.



Outdoor dining will be available at the Alpha Tavern as long as the weather allows.

Articles and photos by Steve Novotney on LedeNews.com