



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONNELLSVILLE RESTAURANT STEEPED IN HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Connellsville, PA – A sign outside Bud Murphy’s Sports Bar and Restaurant in Connellsville proclaims “World Famous Pizza.” It might be an exaggeration, but not by much. Bud’s, as it is affectionately known to locals, attracts hungry visitors from all around the area, as well as more than a few from outside Pennsylvania with its mix of pub grub, home cooking, and of course, the pizza.

What many who step through its doors don’t know is that the well-known establishment got its start as a humble dairy bar. Bob Bubarth, the grandson of founder Francis “Bud” Murphy, said the restaurant began when Bud’s father gave him the dairy bar in 1943.

“After (Bud) was paralyzed in a car accident, his dad set him up with a little store,” Bubarth said. “After that, it became Bud’s Last Chance Bar. That’s where Bud Murphy’s basically started.

The restaurant has gone through some changes over the years, including the addition of what Bubarth calls “the largest bar around, for sure” in 1985 and the addition of patio seating, which Bubarth said was put in when smoking indoors began to be banned.

One thing about Bud’s that hasn’t changed is the family atmosphere. Bubarth said Bud met his wife, Hazel, while he was in Highlands Hospital. The couple had one daughter, Robin, who helped her father run the restaurant until his death in 1994.

“He did all this without the use of his legs. He ran this place his whole life,” Bubarth said, noting that Robin had been “helping him for a while, so it was kind of a team effort.”

Running Bud Murphy’s became even more of a team effort from then on, as Robin took the helm, aided by her husband, Bob “Mr. B” Bubarth Sr., and their three children Bob, Mark and Barbara. Bob had been helping Robin manage the restaurant since shortly after his grandfather’s death and has been in charge of the day-to-day operation since his mother’s passing in September 2023, but he said both of his siblings are involved in its management, as are some of their children.

“My brother’s daughter and son – Maddie and Dylan – they both work as managers, also,” he said, adding Lauren, a pilot, also helps out when she is in the area and able to do so.

Even “Mr. B,” as he is known to regulars, still works a couple of days a week making pizzas and enjoying the karaoke nights, Bubarth said.

Bubarth said the entire family is committed to community involvement, just as it’s always been.

“Still, to this day, we’ll sponsor sports teams or any event coming through,” Bubarth said. “It’s a big part of what Bud did, and we kept going.”

Bud Murphy's sponsors athletic teams at various levels and is a sponsor of the Woodruff Race, which culminates each year in a party at Bud's after everyone has crossed the finish line. That event draws a big crowd, but it doesn't compare to the party that's about to happen. The bar and restaurant goes all-out annually to honor the Irish heritage of its founder with a St. Patrick's Day extravaganza.

"It's like a national holiday. People come, and we serve them corned beef and cabbage, red roasted potatoes, green beer, and shepherd's pie," Bubarth said. "It gets packed, for sure."

Bubarth said in addition to the food and "lots of drink specials and giveaways," there will be plenty of entertainment this year, including a DJ on the patio and a tattoo artist from Youngwood.

This year also heralds the return of the bagpipe and drum duo known as Celtic Chaos.

"We're excited about that," he said.

Three bands will keep the music going, including The Street Level Band and popular local band The Lost Years. Also on hand will be The Tune Tailors.

They've been coming forever. They'll do Irish singalongs, that type of thing," Bubarth said, noting the band brings with it a devoted following, including a former local priest.

"Greg Premoshis brings a whole crew (where the band is set up). They've been coming every year for as long as I've been around," he said.

When St. Patrick's Day is over, the crowd may thin a bit, but there still will be a good many regulars at the bar, as well as newcomers looking to try the world-famous pizza.

"We have some solid customers that have been coming in forever, and we're grateful for their patronage," Bubarth said.

And though the restaurant has undergone some remodels and improvements over the years, Bubarth said the heart of the establishment won't change.

"We're going to keep doing what works," he said.

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