

Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley gets makeover

BY JOSH STALOCH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

ASHWAUBENON – The Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley's mission is to offer customers a unique bowling experience.

With 60 lanes spanning one side of the 60,000 square-foot facility, the venue definitely has the bowling side of things covered, but co-owner Ryan Orvis is on a mission to make the alley, which has been in its current spot off of Waube Lane since 1972, stand apart from the competition.

Orvis said he grew up around bowling. His parents and grandparents were bowlers, and he reported that he bowled his first game at four years old and his first job, only 10 years later, was at a bowling alley in his hometown of Fond Du Lac.

Orvis, along with his brother and co-owner, Matt, are putting their collective knowledge of bowling and business towards making The Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley a unique entertainment establishment with a new atmosphere following some big upgrades which longtime patrons as well as new guests are sure to enjoy.

New features

The main bar of The Ashwaubenon Bowl has been completely renovated.

The old floors have been replaced and all of the plumbing is brand new.

Fresh stools for sitting are placed around the perimeter of the bar (which sports a pristine surface), an outdoor patio was constructed and the bathrooms in the restaurant/bar area are new.

"It's been going good so far," Ryan Orvis said of his customers' response to the renovations. "People seem to like it. It's more modern, it's cleaner, brighter and just, overall, more appealing. We took everything in here down to bare bones and rebuilt it."

The new look didn't come easily though.

The floor plans for all of the work were approved one day before the restaurant was forced to shut down due to COVID-19.

The project was put on hold and construction didn't



This robot server, one of two BellaBots serving customers at the Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley, emerged from the kitchen to drop off a cheese pie as the dinner rush picked up on Friday, Dec. 16. Josh Staloch photo

begin until the first week of May 2022, with things wrapping up for business to resume in October.

The fun, the food

"We definitely push our food away from the direction of typical bowling alley food," Orvis said. "We really put a lot of pressure on our kitchen staff to have things outside of the norm from what you'd consider bowling alley food — the greasy pizza and burgers."

They have pizza and burgers, they're just not what you might expect to find in an eatery attached to a bowling alley.

From an available cauliflower crust to a pair of vegetarian options to a bacon cheeseburger pizza with pickle slices on it — patrons have lots of options in the pizza department.

Same for burgers and sandwiches, with favorites like the Philly cheesesteak and bacon cheeseburger backing up some seriously decadent specials like the Wisconsin Burger, a ½-pound Angus patty on a toasted roll topped with cheese curds, of course.

Adding to the wow factor at The Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley are a pair of robotic food runners called BellaBots, tower-style automated servers that are pro-

grammed to know where each lane is at and can bring food and drink (and even tell a joke) right to customers.

Orvis said they use the bots primarily for bringing food out from the kitchen but they also help out with bussing tables after large groups are done eating.

"Most of our customers find them amazing and are ordering food just to get the Bellas to come to their lanes," he said. "The kids really like to interact with them, sometimes a little too much, which causes them to get a little confused but it's all in good fun."

The overall atmosphere at The Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley aims to be as unique as well.

60 lanes stretching from one end of the facility to the other makes for a lot of room to bowl and the Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley uses all of the space to offer different bowling experiences.

Some days, 30 lanes will be decked out in black lighting for the kids to enjoy while the other 30 lanes remain non-nonsense.

The newly-renovated restaurant space is slated to begin hosting live music in the near future and the alley's proximity to Hwy 41 makes it a prime location for league competition.

OFFICERS

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struggling to find staff. One of the things Green Bay won't do is lower our standards so we have to work that much harder to find you and convince you that Green Bay is the place you want to be."

Goldhahn said a lot of police departments across the country are not getting the support they need from their communities but said the new officers had "hit the lottery" because both the government and the population support law enforcement.

"You'll find that as you go out community members will thank you and welcome you to the police department," Goldhahn said.

Green Bay Police Chief Chris Davis said he often hears the question "Why would you want to be a police officer in this day and age with all the scrutiny and all the stuff going on around policing?"

"My question in return is why wouldn't you? What better time to join this profession and take up the challenge that the seven of you are taking up today? I'll tell you right now this will not be an easy job but it will be a tremendous opportunity. You're going to learn what your limits are and then discover they weren't your limits after all and you're going to push yourself to new limits. You're going to see people at their very best and see them sometimes at their very worst," Davis said. "You will learn to be comfortable in chaos; in situations that a lot of people run away from you will be running toward those."

Davis, however, cautioned the officers that they will also be capable of causing damage.

"That one illegal search, that one time you use unjustified force, that one time you lose your temper will have an impact on that person for

the rest of their lives and it will be very hard for the rest of us to regain their trust. That trust is the foundation of our profession. You're not going to remember the thousands of interactions you have with people, but I'll guarantee they will remember the interaction they had with you," Davis said.

Even after 30 years in law enforcement he continues to be challenged every day.

One of the new officers is Seymour Community High School graduate Abigale Skeens who has wanted to be a police officer since she was a grade school student.

She said her father had considered police work and she wanted to complete his goal, and added that the Green Bay Police Department attracted her because of the wide range of specialties it offers.

Other new officers are: Savannah Anderson, Grace Bessey, Austin Jahnke and Agustin Mahner.

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