

# John's Korner Bar Provides Perfect Balance Of Music, Food And Fun

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With the sweet sounds of Rusty's Jazz Café Orchestra welcoming patrons every Tuesday night, John's Korner Bar and Grill is everything you would picture a corner bar to be: inviting, fun and full of familiar faces.

According to the bar's owner, John Martinez, the inviting atmosphere is exactly what he was after when he opened for business nearly three years ago.

"It really is a corner bar," Martinez said. "Everyone here knows almost everyone else. I've found that people like to know who the owner is."

Located in the former building of Rusty's Jazz Cafe at 2202 Tedrow Rd. in Toledo, John's Korner Bar and Grill plays host not only to the wildly popular Rusty's Jazz Café Orchestra on Tuesdays, but also to Johnny Rodriguez, a.k.a. the "human jukebox," on Thursdays.

The 50s and 60s band known as the Watermelon Men are just another musical group that keeps the place a-rocking.

Even though the two bars have shared the same outer shell, the interior has been completely redone by Martinez.

The renovated space now welcomes people into a brighter, less smoky environment, which has aided



**John Martinez (left), owner of John's Korner Bar and Grill, visits with Rusty's Jazz Café Orchestra founder and drummer Jeff McDonald on a Tuesday evening. To accompany the popular music group, Martinez offers a buffet-style dinner every Tuesday.**

PLAYLIST PHOTO BY NANCY GAGNET

Martinez in finding a solid base of customers.

As the customer base continues to grow, Martinez indicated that he and his partner, Laurie Sarvo, have plans to expand, and in more ways than one.

Beyond offering a full menu daily from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 a.m., John's Korner Bar and Grill offers a steak

dinner on Thursday nights for \$13.00.

"It's a New York center cut strip steak," Martinez said. "That's a very good deal."

Martinez also recently added a buffet offered by the bar every Tuesday night, complete with indulgent desserts.

However, even though the

menu has been recently expanded, Martinez and Sarvo are looking for more.

"We're always looking to expand," Martinez said. "Right now we're looking into expanding the food business even more."

Beyond food, the business partners hope to provide additional space for parking, and also one day to put a bar

bar), and the rest of the people out on the patio," he said.

Equipped with speakers that allow for patrons to soak up all of the tunes coming from inside, it is no wonder that the patio is the place to be on a warm summer night.

The patio is undoubtedly where all of the softball teams chill after a grueling game, thanks to Martinez's generosity of providing a free second round of drinks to any softball team that walks through his doors.

Two of the co-ed softball teams stopping by John's Korner Bar and Grill for a couple of cold brews are sponsored by Martinez and Sarvo.

They sponsor a golf league in the summer, which also assembles at the bar afterwards to forget about any bogeys that may or may not have occurred.

"The key to success is activities," Martinez said, which is why his bar stays busy with fun things for its customers to take part in, including men's and ladies' groups.

About as stereotypical as you can get for a true "corner bar," John's Korner Bar and Grill has all of the elements that keep it big enough to entertain a wide variety of patrons, yet still small enough for everyone to know your name.

on the front patio.

"That's one of the things on our wish list at this point," Martinez said.

Even without a bar of its own, however, Martinez has been very pleased with the patio's popularity in the summertime.

"You'll come here in the summer and there will be five people sitting (inside the