



Dale's owner Bill Anderson and kitchen staff members Karen Taraschtke and Flo Schuchard work together to serve the daily lunch crowd.



Patrons Rick Amborski, of Oregon, Ohio, and Tim Williams, of Tecumseh, Mich., enjoy their lunch break by digging into Dale's famous burgers. PLAYLIST PHOTOS BY CHRISTY DIEGEL

Dale's Bar & Grill Still A Favorite For Food, Fun And Sports

BY CHRISTY DIEGEL

PLAYLIST REPORTER

Next time you're in the area, take a look up and down what is arguably the heart of Maumee – Conant Street.

It is home to a number of successful locally owned establishments, and one of the most well known of these area businesses is Dale's Bar & Grill, located "down on the corner" of Dudley and Conant Streets.

The building where Dale's makes its home was constructed in 1889, and original owner Dale Holmes opened the eatery in 1920, though in those days it was more likely a saloon, according to current owner Bill Anderson.

During prohibition it was known simply as Dale's Grill, and after years of changing owners, Dale's Bar & Grill was purchased by Anderson, who has been the proud owner of one of the most recognized landmarks in uptown Maumee for almost 19 years.

Dale's is one of those places you can almost compare to the fictional pub Cheers, in Boston – "where everybody knows your name."

Well, maybe not literally, but Anderson says there are definite regulars, and the bar



Dale's Bar & Grill, located at 322 Conant St., is a familiar and welcome sight when driving through Maumee.

has a distinct "neighborhood feel." Both the locals and residents outside of Maumee can make themselves comfortable, and are welcome to enjoy the fun, casual environment.

Anderson also decided on the first day he opened that

the laid-back atmosphere he wanted to emulate would spill over, literally, in the form of peanuts in baskets and the discarded shells found scattered on the floor.

When walking into Dale's, most likely the first thing you will notice is the sports-themed décor, with Ohio State being the dominantly featured team. Anderson, an OSU graduate who played lacrosse for the Buckeyes, says Dale's has been a sports bar – "a true sports bar" – since he took over, "long before sports bars were in vogue."

For a relatively small area, Dale's has lots of TVs (11 to be exact) scattered around the bar. Anderson caters to die-hard Buckeyes fans and stresses that Dale's is "THE place to watch Ohio State."

Unlike other sports bars, when the game is on, the music is off. At Dale's, you can actually hear the game, which is, if nothing else, a sure sign of a true sports bar.

In addition to the variety of sports events available on the televisions, Dale's offers online trivia games and online Texas Hold 'Em.

Anderson has always been into athletics, and to go with the sports themed décor, the menu items are mostly centered on sports. Patrons can enjoy items with unique names such as the Carlton Fish, the Slap Shot burger and the Panther Club.

At times it can be hard to find a table at Dale's during the lunch hour, proof that lunchtime is usually bustling throughout the week. Customers can choose from daily lunch specials ranging from fried bologna to one of the famous burgers, and also can enjoy a different soup every day.

Along with the famous burgers, Dale's offers six varieties of chicken sandwiches, the most popular being the Larry Bird and the Mud Hen. Anderson is also eager to

promote the grill's newest feature – chicken wings – and invites fans of the popular finger food to stop in on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., when

they are only 35 cents each for all you can eat. Anderson says customers have a choice of four different dipping sauces, which are sure to suit any and all taste buds.

On the bar side, Dale's offers nine different varieties of draft beer, including a selection from the Cleveland based Great Lakes Brewing Company. Dale's also hosts a happy hour daily from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a variety of drink specials.

In 2001, Dale's underwent a major remodeling, which included new restrooms, added seating and expansion of the kitchen. The renovations updated the necessities while maintaining the familiar atmosphere the regulars have come to enjoy.

Maintaining the tradition of a hometown bar that began 86 years ago and adding the modern amenities essential to the sports fan, Dale's Bar & Grill continues to be a staple of uptown Maumee.

"We are very fortunate to be on the corner in Maumee, and in such a tight, supportive community," Anderson says. "We all tend to support the local businesses and we're very appreciative of that."

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