

# Braxton Brewing permanently closes Newport taproom

By [Andy Brownfield](#) – Senior staff reporter, Cincinnati Business Courier Jan 14, 2022

Braxton Brewing Co., Northern Kentucky's largest craft brewery, is closing one of its four regional taprooms, but the beer it became best known for will still live on. Braxton Brewing, which first opened in Covington in 2015 and quickly expanded to three new locations in the following years, has closed its Braxton Labs brewery and taproom inside of the Party Source at 95 Riviera Drive in Newport. Braxton Labs [first opened in 2017](#) after the closure of Ei8ht Ball Brewing, which was formerly housed in the space, with a focus on producing innovative beers and pushing the envelope on flavor.

Braxton CEO Jake Rouse told me that during the Covid-19 pandemic – especially when states like Ohio and Kentucky closed bars and taprooms for in-person business in 2020 – Braxton Labs became more of a brand than a location. With its taproom closed, Braxton shifted its business to ecommerce, an uncommon move for breweries. While it did develop the capability to ship its beer to multiple states, Braxton began by offering limited time "drops" of Braxton Labs more creative and innovative brews, which consumers would purchase online and pick up at the Covington brewery. They would often sell out within an hour of being released.

Rouse said that with the resumption of in-person business in taprooms, Braxton Labs' beers gained significant traction in the brewery's locations outside of its Bellevue home. So when Party Source, the brewery's landlord, approached them with an idea for a different use for the space, he decided it was a good time to step away from it.

In conjunction with the closure of the Newport brewery, Braxton unveiled a new look for its Labs line. The Braxton Labs line of beer is now produced out of its Cincinnati taproom in Pendleton.

"The future of Braxton Labs is translated into a brand where we have amazing releases across our three taprooms," he said. "This was not Covid killing Braxton, it's a strategic play to allow us to really cement that brand as our innovation line so we can plan on opening up several more taprooms."

## A NEW PATH TO INNOVATION



Braxton Labs unveiled a new look for its line of innovative beers. PROVIDED BY BRAXTON BREWING CO.

# Party Source Opening New In-House Bourbon Bar to Replace Braxton Labs

The as-yet-unnamed bar is slated to open in late spring or early summer this year.

By [Maija Zummo](#) on Fri, Jan 14, 2022



Photo: Provided by The Party Source

Everyone's favorite gigantic liquor store The Party Source has new plans to get even more boozy.

They just announced they will be adding a new in-house bourbon bar to take the place of Braxton Labs, in the south end of the store. The sipping destination doesn't have a name yet, but the Party Source says it will offer "the best selections of bourbon in the Greater Cincinnati area."

Patrons can either sample spirits or order full drinks there. They also say plans are in the works to build a full indoor event space where Braxton had its brewery equipment.

"We are excited to finally have a space to hold educational tastings and events," said Party Source Marketing Director Ali Daniels in a release.

"We do plan to have a vast array of bourbons from the everyday bottles to rare and hard-to-find," Daniels says in a follow-up email to *CityBeat*. "We have an outstanding barrel pick program at The Party Source, and we will certainly include some private barrels on the menu."

Daniels says Braxton Labs announced their closure on Jan. 14.

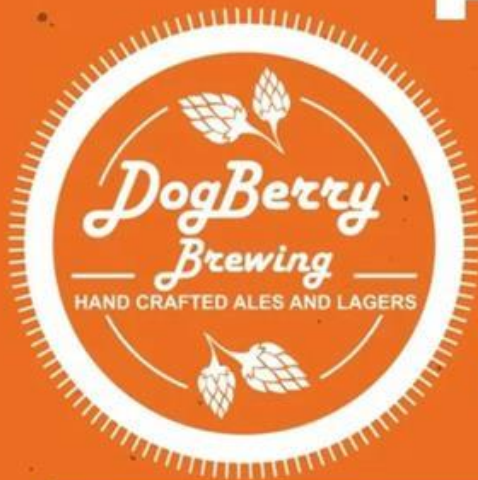
The bar is slated to open in late spring or early summer this year. And while it is connected to the Party Source and owned by the company, they say it will be its own fully separate entity.

The Party Source is located at 95 Riviera Drive, Bellevue. Get more details at [thepartysource.com](http://thepartysource.com).





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# Bockfest is BACK!



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We have a new Bockfest Hall in the heart of Over-the-Rhine's historic Brewery District at Findlay Playground, 1811 Vine Street (near Findlay Market).

Bockfest Hall and the adjacent outside spaces around the Brewery District will host several popular traditions including:

- **Bockfest Parade:** [Friday, March 4th](#), 6P stepping off from Arnold's Bar & Grill, 210 East Eighth Street
- **Bockfest Hall:** open [March 4th](#), 5P-11P, [Saturday, March 5](#), 11A-11P, and [Sunday, March 6](#), 11A-6P at Findlay Playground, 1811 Vine Street.
- **Bockfest 5K:** [Saturday, March 5th](#), 10A starting from Bockfest Hall. Registration now open at [www.Bockfest5K.com](http://www.Bockfest5K.com)
- **Brewery District Tours and Programming:** [Saturday, March 5th](#) and [Sunday, March 6th](#) at Bockfest Hall and Rookwood Pottery
- **Sausage Queen Crowning:** [Saturday, March 5th](#), 9:30P at Bockfest Hall

Details and sales for all events including ticketed events and packages will be available by **February 1<sup>st</sup>** at [www.Bockfest.com](http://www.Bockfest.com), **STAY TUNED!**



## Bakers moving doughnut shop from brewery to Norwood brick-&-mortar



Starlight Doughnut Lab is opening Jan. 15 in Norwood. PROVIDED BY STARLIGHT DOUGHNUT LAB  
By [Andy Brownfield](#) – Senior staff reporter, Cincinnati Business Courier Jan 12, 2022

A duo of bakers who got their start selling doughnuts at a local craft brewery are set to open their first brick-and-mortar in Norwood. Ben Griewe and Jack Nowlin are opening Starlight Doughnut Lab at 4603 Carter Ave. in Norwood on Jan. 15. The brick-and-mortar represents the culmination of more than two years of work, with the duo beginning their doughnut-making enterprise in 2019.

Griewe and Nowlin got their start making doughnuts and selling them at Nine Giant Brewery in neighboring Pleasant Ridge, where Griewe served as chef. They expanded their business with catering and weddings, as well as selling doughnuts at other retail establishments around the city.

Within months the duo decided their business had grown to the point of being able to sustain its own brick-and-mortar, so they purchased the former Potts Heating and Air Conditioning in Norwood for \$25,000 in October 2019. Then the Covid-19 pandemic hit. While the pandemic and restrictions of in-person food businesses put a damper on the new storefront, Griewe and Nowlin took the down time to test new flavors.

When restrictions started to lift, they got back to work on the Norwood retail shop and set for the grand opening on Jan. 15. Starlight Doughnut Labs will offer six staple flavors and six rotating options each month. Staples include:

- Churro with dulce de leche
- Vanilla glazed with sprinkles
- Chocolate glazed with sprinkles
- Raspberry lemonade
- Everything bagel with goat cheese

The January rotating flavors include:

- Raspberry jam-filled
- Dreamsicle cake
- Lemon poppyseed
- Maple butternut squash
- Brownie batter
- Carrot cake

Starlight Doughnut Lab's regular hours will be Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

# Dayton-Based Warped Wing Brewing Sets Opening Date for Mason Brewpub and Smokery

The 13,000-square-foot location will feature a large taproom and a menu starring house-smoked meats.

By [Maggy McDonel](#) on Tue, Jan 18, 2022



Provided by Warped Wing Brewing Company

The suburbs are getting another brewery as Dayton-based Warped Wing Brewing Company announces they are opening another location in Mason.

The suburbs are getting another brewery as Dayton-based [Warped Wing Brewing Company](#) sets an opening date for their previously announced Mason location.

The new “Brewpub & Smokery” is slated to open its doors **Feb. 4**, per a release. The 13,000-square-foot location – in the former Brazenhead and Basil's on Market space – will feature a large taproom with many of Warped Wing's popular beers, like the Trotwood Lager, and a new collaboration with Mason-based [Sonder Brewing](#), Ryesing Tides.

The food menu will feature smoked wings plus loads of sandwiches, tacos, platters and sharable options that feature house-smoked meats.

“It was definitely a unique and rewarding experience melding what was once an old-world Irish pub and a fine dining restaurant into a brewery and taproom, but our contractors and design team knocked it out of the park,” said Nick Bowman, VP of Sales & Marketing at Warped Wing, in a release. “I’m proud of what we’ve put together and excited to share it with the Mason community.”

This new location will also be available as an event space and houses a small “pilot brewing system.”

This new location will also be available as an event space and houses a small “pilot brewing system.” In the spring, guests will be able to enjoy an outdoor Biergarten.

If you’re not a beer fan, don’t worry, Warped Wing will offer lots of other options like hard cider, wine and specialty cocktails. And if you’ve got kids or are taking Dry January into the next month, they serve up mocktails and housemade sodas.

Find Warped Wing’s Mason location at 5650 Tylersville Road. Check out the beer selection and their menu at [warpedwing.com](#).



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