

West Sixth sets opening date for Covington taproom

LinkNKY-by [Staff Report](#) January 2, 2025

Expanding from their current location at Newport on the Levee, West Sixth Brewing will be moving into one of the city's most historic buildings: an original NKY firehouse.



Photo Provided | West Sixth Brewing on Facebook

Lexington-based West Sixth Brewing is opening Their new Covington location this Saturday January 11th., 2025

West Sixth's Cov Haus, its first taproom in the Greater Cincinnati area, is inside a historic firehouse at 100 W. 6th St. in Covington's Central Business District. West Sixth had a smaller storage container location at Newport on the Levee, but it was phased out in favor of its new, more prominent, location. The space, which was previously Flying Axes, is directly below the popular Second Story cocktail bar. Flying Axes closed in June.

Starting at noon on Jan. 11, West Sixth is hosting a grand opening ceremony where the first 100 guests will receive a free ceramic Cov Haus stein, exclusive merchandise, to-go specials and more. West Sixth first announced its expansion into Covington last July. Since then, construction crews have renovated the space's interior, including the construction of a new L-shaped bar. Cov Haus' beer menu will feature over 20 beers on tap. It will also feature an in-house restaurant. Its menu has yet to be revealed. The name Cov Haus is an homage to Mick Noll's [Covington Haus](#), a restaurant and bar that operated in the space in the 1970s and 1980s.



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Tours details:

- Length: One hour
- Limit four (4) tickets per transaction
- Guests 21 and over only
- Proceeds benefit Friends of Music Hall – a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, visit friendsofmusichall.org. Tickets may also be purchased at (513) 621-2787 or the Aronoff Center Ticket Office To purchase presale tickets, use promo code: **HOPS**

Fire & Ice Nights Return to Moerlein Lager House

Enjoy specially curated drinks from Molly Wellmann, fire performers, ice carving displays and more.

By [Katherine Barrier](#) CityBeat Jan 3, 2025



Fire & Ice event at Moerlein Lager House *Photo: Aidan Mahoney*

Warm up a bit this winter with a fusion of opposites at Moerlein Lager House's Fire & Ice nights.

On Friday, Jan. 24, the restaurant and brewery will transform its outdoor and indoor beer gardens into a display of fiery entertainment and chilled indulgences. Fire & Ice dates also include Saturday, Feb. 1 and Saturday, Feb. 8, and guests can enjoy fire performers, drink luges at the Ice Bar, ice displays and fire pits. Moerlein will also still have heated dining igloos available to rent.

Also returning to Fire & Ice this year will be themed culinary experiences. Each night will feature two themed dinner sessions, featuring a welcome reception with a cocktail and light bites, followed by a three-course meal and beverage pairings. Renowned Cincinnati mixologist Molly Wellmann will share stories behind the evening's theme, introduce the chef courses and discuss the paired drinks. She will also have specially curated drinks available throughout the nights at both the Ice Bar and Igloo Bar.

Themed dinners include:

Friday January 24th., 2025

Session 1: Seafood dinner with wine and cocktail pairings

Session 2: Latin dinner with Latin-inspired cocktails

Saturday February 1st., 2025

Session 3: Weller Bourbon dinner optional Pappy Van Winkle pours for an additional charge

Session 4: Girls Just Wanna Have Fun dinner with wine and cocktail pairings

Saturday February 8th., 2025

Sessions 5 and 6: Mardi Gras Celebration Dinner

All theme dinners are \$65.

For more information, or to book a dinner, visit moerleinlagerhouse.com.

Barleycorn's CEO talks innovation and relevance, reveals new details on fifth NKY restaurant



Barleycorn's logo in neon photo by: Corrie Schaffeld | CBC

By [Christian LeDuc](#) – Staff reporter, Cincinnati Business Courier Jan 6, 2025

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Barleycorn's will open its fifth location in Independence in 2025.
- The new location will feature a brewery and 12,000 square feet.
- The opening will create 70 to 100 job opportunities.

One of the region's largest restaurant groups plans to open its new "landmark destination" in Northern Kentucky. Barleycorn's is expected to open its fifth location at the Downs at Nicholson in Independence in the summer of 2025 as the restaurant brand enters its fifth decade. The project was first announced in the summer of 2022. Taylor Mill-based restaurant group One Holland purchased the company in 2021 and opened Barleycorn's Brewhouse about a year later. Barleycorn's CEO Jay Shelton is spearheading the expansion. "The best part about Barleycorn's is that it's not just a restaurant, it's a community institution," Shelton told me. "We create special moments for our guests that last generations." The brand is known for being a great place to watch sports, drink beer and eat wings. Brothers Ken and Joe Heil opened the first restaurant back in 1974. "We set a target from the very beginning, and we hit that target for five decades – attract and build a loyal customer with friendly service, quality food and a great and inviting atmosphere," Ken Heil said in a statement. The opening of the new Independence location is going to set the brand up for success as it looks ahead to the next 50 years. Once open, the Independence location will serve as the flagship for the Barleycorn's brewery operations. It will host the 1842 Barleycorn's Brewhouse, an expansion of the brand's brewing operations, which started producing beer two years ago. The space will have a 10-barrel, three-vessel brewing system capable of producing 1,500 barrels of craft beer annually with potential for further expansion as the company continues to grow. In addition to the brewery operations, the restaurant will have 12,000 square feet of space including party rooms. The design is modeled around a horse farm/horse barn. "We want to highlight Kentucky's equestrian heritage," Shelton said. The opening will create an additional 70 to 100 job opportunities. "A lot of places are shrinking their footprint because they aren't what the customers want ... we are experiencing the opposite," Shelton said. In 2024, more than 40 Cincinnati area restaurants called it quits. Barleycorn's has been able to stay relevant over the decades for many reasons. Ken Heil said treating his employees fairly and spending a lot of time training and educating them is key to the brand's longevity. "Our employees bought into the culture. We had many employees stay 25, 30 even 40 years. They loved working in a great, neighborhood place where they were appreciated by the owners and build long-term relationships with customers," Ken Heil said in a statement.

Both the Heil brothers and the staff at One Holland are committed to keeping the menu fresh and innovative, while making sure not to get rid of customer favorites. This tactic helps keep the brand relevant.

"We've worked hard to maintain the connections to our customers and to the community. But we've also focused on innovation and new offerings, such as brewing beer, serving brunch, opening new locations and trying new menu items," Gary Holland said in a statement. "Barleycorn's is 50 years (old), yet we continue to evolve." The Downs at Nicholson is One Holland's 30-acre, \$22 million mixed-use development that was first announced in 2021. It also will include a few of the restaurant group's other brands, such as fine-dining establishment Limestone and breakfast spot First Watch. Barleycorn's has four other restaurants located in Florence, Lakeside Park, Cold Spring and Wilder. One Holland Group has been around for 25 years. In addition to the Barleycorn's brand, it operates multiple restaurant franchises and standalone businesses, including Skyline Chili, LaRosa's, Dunkin, First Watch, Roney's, the Greyhound Tavern in Fort Mitchell, the Spear Ridge Cafe in Florence, the forthcoming Limestone in Independence and the Merrick Inn in Lexington. It also runs an event space called the Trifecta Club in Taylor Mill.



Karrikin Cincy Pils 5.2% ABV

I had a chance yesterday to enjoy the new reformulated version of Karrikin Cincy Pils. This is a great example of Pilsner Style.

Karrikin is currently open to the public each Friday and Saturday from 4-10:00 PM. They offer a wide variety of house made Beers, Ciders and Spirits. They also have awesome rental space available for rental and private parties.



3717 Jonlen Drive Cincinnati, OH 45227 Website: karrikinspirits.com

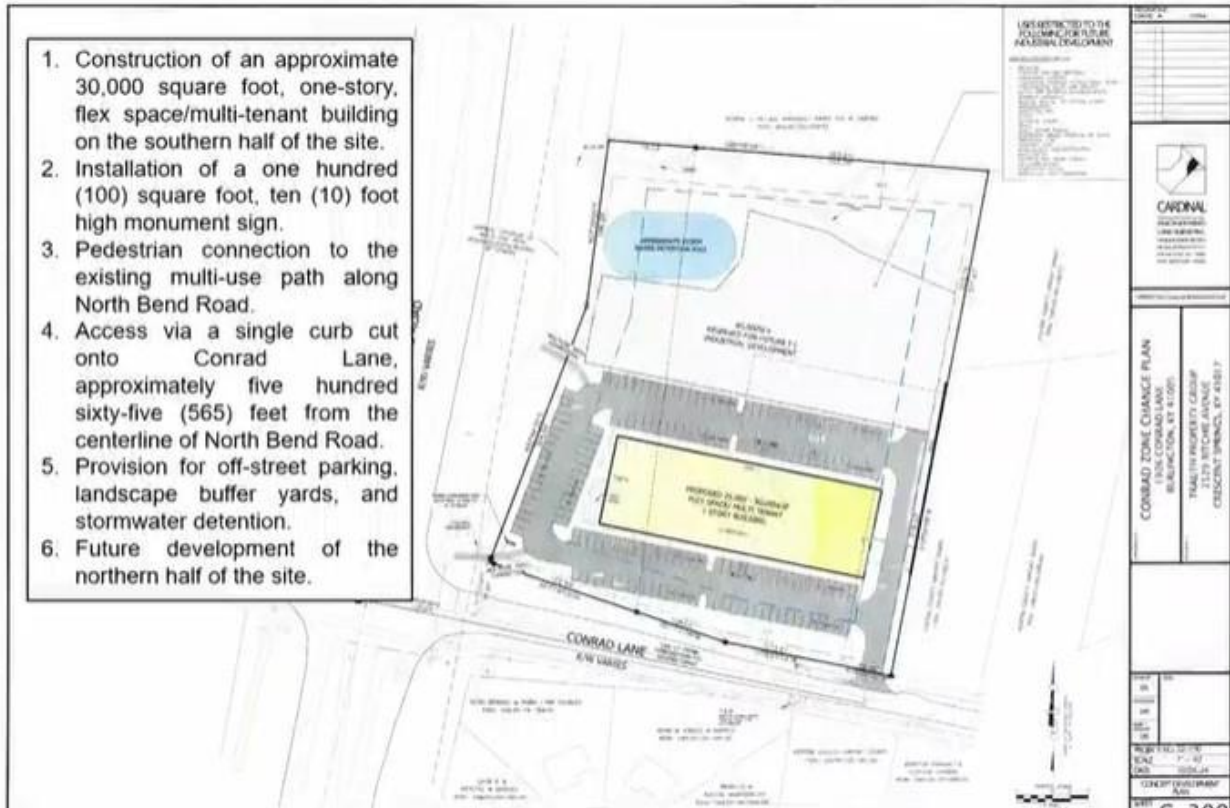
A brewpub multiplex may be coming to Boone County

by [Kenton Hornbeck](#) Link NKY, January 9, 2025

A Northern Kentucky-based developer wants to build a brewpub multiplex with recreational soccer fields on a wooded parcel of land in Burlington. All he needs to move forward is an approved zoning map amendment.

On Jan. 8, the Boone County Fiscal Court conducted the first reading of a zoning map amendment ordinance that would change the zoning designation of a 5.3-acre plot of land from Rural Suburban to Industrial One. The land is located at the intersection of North Bend Road and Conrad Lane in Burlington. “The proposed I-1 district will allow the site to be developed with a variety of small to medium scale light manufacturing, warehouse, distribution, related service uses, as recommended by the Comprehensive Plan,” Boone County Zoning Administrator Michael Schwartz. “The existing RS district is not appropriate for the site due to that deed restriction prohibiting residential development.”

Concept Plan - Plan



The proposed brewpub and recreational multiplex. Photo provided | Boone County

The entity behind the zone change request is Trauth Homes, a Crescent Springs-based real estate developer. Brad Trauth, the operator of the firm, owns the land, according to Boone County property records. Currently, the parcel is undeveloped and covered by woods. Suburban residences lie directly to the south of the land, while small manufacturers and the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport are to its north. If approved, the zone change would allow for the development of a one-story, 30,000-square-foot multi-tenant flex space featuring a tap room, indoor pickleball courts and turf sports fields. The complex would be directly related to Boone County’s newly installed multi-use path along North Bend Road, which is used by pedestrians, runners, and cyclists. As of now, there is no reported name for the development. “The proposed I-1 district, along with the submitted concept plan, is reasonable and appropriate in that the proposed recreational and commercial uses, along with the smaller building size, will provide for a transition between that residential area to the south and the future industrial development anticipated to the north of the site,” Schwartz said. During a zone change committee meeting on Nov. 1, the legislative body recommended a condition restricting the site to specific uses, such as a brewpub, active recreation space, non-commercial recreation space, eating and drinking establishments, microbrewery and retail space. Trauth likened the prospective development to Fifty West Brewing’s complex along the Little Miami River in eastern Cincinnati. As an avid biker, Trauth said his family frequently uses the Little Miami Trail. He envisions bringing that same concept to Boone County. “We really see it as a community amenity of sorts,” Trauth said. “It’s like we do for Fifty West – we take our bikes and park and hop on bike trail and come back and the kids can play in the sand and get root beer floats and burgers and what have you.” With a wife and three children, Trauth said he heard from local soccer programs that the county needed more field space. He described the development as a “community amenity” for parents and children.

The Boone County Fiscal Court is responsible for finalizing all zone change requests recommended by the planning commission. A second reading is slated to take place at the next fiscal court meeting on Jan. 21.

Commissioner Jesse Brewer gave his stamp of approval for the project, touting Trauth’s previous developments in Boone County. “I know Brad is a local Boone County developer,” Brewer said. “He’s done a few other small projects around here and puts a pretty decent product from the other stuff we’ve seen.”

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