

# Historic German Village restaurant gets new owner, reopening plan

The Sycamore is has a new owner.



By [Dan Eaton](#) – Staff reporter, Columbus Business First  
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The new owners of The Sycamore plan to build on the restaurant's recent roots.

Lima-based Good Food Restaurants is the [mystery buyer](#) of the historic German Village dining and drinking destination at 262 E. Sycamore St., whose history stretches back to at least 1930.

Grow Restaurants, operators of the Harvest Pizzeria chain, opened the most recent version of the neighborhood joint seven years ago. Owners Chris Crader and Bethany Lovell [opted to sell the operation](#) rather than reopen it under the current Covid-19 limitations.

“We want to return a great restaurant to a great neighborhood,” said Tony Heaphy, Good Food vice president and managing partner.

He called his company's plan a “respectful evolution” of the old Sycamore, by no means a radical transformation. The target opening is late winter or early spring 2021.

“We want to build on Chris and Bethany’s great work and retain what people knew and loved,” he said.

Those previous customers include Heaphy himself, who lives in Olde Towne East and dined at the restaurant many times.

Good Food is an experienced operator. The company has eight Beer Barrel Pizza & Grill restaurants, including three in the Columbus area. It also owns six Happy Daz diners in Northwest Ohio.

Though the more casual Beer Barrel has been the company’s expansion brand, Good Food has experience with more elevated operations. It also owns the Old City Prime steakhouse in downtown Lima.

Heaphy said the company had been looking for expansion opportunities in Columbus beyond their Beer Barrel sites and were hunting for space prior to the pandemic.

“The one thing that crosses all of our brands is that we build restaurants where there’s a real community,” Heaphy said. “With the exception of our Easton and Maumee restaurants, we’re in neighborhoods. We want to be a gathering place with regulars who feel the place is like home.”

As with the previous operation, the emphasis at the new Sycamore will remain on sourcing local ingredients and serving craft cocktails.

One big change will be the hours of operation. The previous Sycamore was a dinner-only operation. The new version will serve breakfast and lunch as well for dine-in or carryout.

That expansion is driven in part to the limitations imposed by Covid-19. Heaphy said Good Food realizes it might have to open at a time when dine-in capacity will still be limited. Adding breakfast and lunch menus and expanding carryout capabilities will help generate sales if the restaurant is unable to use its full dining room.

John Heaphy, Tony's father, started Good Food in 1996 with the purchase of Happy Daz. The company purchased the Beer Barrel in 2005.