

Live Music Rules at Green Oaks Tavern

By SUSAN MCFARLAND

Tribune Correspondent

The smoke-free Green Oaks Tavern is easy to find. Just look for two mighty oaks adorned with thousands of bright green LED lights that mark the entrance of the original Humble Courthouse building (1928). It is located at 211 E. Main Street in the center of Humble's historic district. When you enter the tavern, you will find a beautiful, well-appointed bar, walls of 90-year-old brick and windows with black iron bars. It is then that you realize that this was originally the Humble Jail. This building housed not only the courthouse upstairs and the jail, but the fire department and a library as well.

You will likely be greeted by the proprietors, Debbie and Steve Bixby, and served by Humble bartending legends Angie Paris and Joe McGuirk, as well as newcomer Stephanie Ware. The tavern is full service, featuring a variety of vodkas, bourbons, scotches, tequilas and rums. There are 10 varietal wines by the glass, 20 bottled beers and three taps with a rotation of local craft brews. The tavern opens at 4 p.m. and celebrates happy hour every day from 4-7 p.m. This includes a bucket of four domestic beers for \$10, \$3 well drinks and \$5 martinis. House margaritas are \$5 all the time.

Steve and Debbie met at the Cactus Moon in 2002 and were patrons of the tavern when it was Main Street Pub and Twin Oaks Tavern. Houston native Debbie worked at her family's business, Eastex Camper Sales, for over 25 years until 2006, and then she became the office manager for a Kingwood driving school for almost 10 years. Back in the 1970s, Debbie taught English at Humble High School, and sometimes former students come in to the club and recognize her. An Indianapolis native, Steve moved to Texas in 2002 and met Debbie not long after. They were married in 2005 at the Elvis Chapel in Las Vegas and had a reception at the Cactus Moon shortly after they got back home to Humble.

Steve is no stranger to the bar business. He owned a neighborhood bar and restaurant in Indianapolis for several years, so he has a good taste for what goes into running a tavern. Upon his move to Humble, Steve spent 14 years as a

bar manager for the Club at Carlton Woods in the Woodlands.

Debbie has been a live blues music fan for years, having been a regular at Cactus Moon when it was open as well as frequenting downtown music clubs like The Big Easy and Dan Electro's, where she built a rapport with many top-notch Houston musicians. Steve has been around live music all of his life.

"My father was a musician and made me promise that I would take good care of any musicians who played in my club," he said. "He asked me to treat them honestly, properly and with respect. We put our own PA system in so that musicians don't have to haul their own equipment, and we have the seats in the front room facing the band, so the band knows people are here to listen."

In December they decided to make Green Oaks Tavern totally smoke-free inside, with a patio in the front for smokers. Debbie and Steve have turned this local landmark into a regional destination for Houston area musiclovers. The cozy, smoke-free environment and the extraordinary musicians on stage make an evening at Green Oaks Tavern a terrific entertainment experience.

On Sundays, Humble music icon Alan Lee hosts a 4-8 p.m. acoustic jam with

a great lineup of the area's best players. On Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., the lovely Jill Donahue brings her awesome vocal talent to the stage. On Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., you will find a variety of talent showing what they've got. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., there is another acoustic jam with a great rotation of hosts who open the mic to fantastic area players and singers. Fridays and Saturdays, you will find a lineup of blues bands from Texas and beyond, such as Jonn Del Toro Richardson, Mark May, Eric Demmer, Evelyn Rubio, Brad Absher, Soul to Soul, Tony Vega, Hillbilly Bayrats, Campfire Soul, Southern Crown, Steve Krase, Annika Chambers and Billy Bourbon, to name just a few. Many of these acts play venues around the U.S., Europe and South America. We are very proud to bring them to Humble! A small \$5 cover charge guarantees you a memorable evening.

For more information and a line-up for future shows, check out their Facebook page or website at greenoakstavern.com.



OWNERS:

Debbie and Steve Bixby



OPENED DOORS:

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We're a live music venue and neighborhood "gathering place" in historic downtown Humble.