

Anthony's Steakhouse is Omaha's Answer to 'Where's the Beef?'

Steaks, a friendly atmosphere, live music in the lounge, and that iconic fiberglass steer. These are all trademarks of Anthony's Steakhouse, 72nd and F Streets, which has been an Omaha dining tradition for more than 45 years.

Named for Anthony Fucinaro, Sr., who died last year at the age of 82, the steakhouse opened in 1967 with a 130-seat dining room, 70-seat lounge, and a packaged liquor store. After a fire in 1969, the dining area and lounge were expanded, and banquet facilities replaced the liquor store, increasing overall capacity to more than 900 seats.

The current owner of the steakhouse, Anthony Fucinaro, Jr.,



In 2008, Fucinaro completely renovated the 9,000-square-foot banquet facility, which includes an outdoor patio, dance floor, multiple service bars, and audio/visual capabilities.

credits the success of the restaurant to his father's strong work ethic and instinct for creating a dining and entertainment experience that gained a loyal customer base over the years.

"My father was the best people person you'll ever meet and everybody enjoyed him," Fucinaro explained. "He was a fun man to be around who knew how to treat people. And even though he lacked experience in the food industry, he was able to learn as he went along and became very successful."

While attending school, Fucinaro worked for his father on weekends and during summer vacations, learning every phase of the business from cleaning floors to tending bar.

"There isn't a single job in this building that I haven't done," according to Fucinaro. "That was a requirement of my father. He made sure I knew how to do everything so I would have a well-rounded background in this business. Without his leadership, I would never be able to do this."

As one of Omaha's original Italian steakhouses, Anthony's is famous for its selection of steaks, seafood, and pasta dishes made from family recipes. Leading the list of best sellers on the menu are Anthony's filet mignon, prime rib, and ribeye marinated in bourbon and flame broiled.

Adding to the dining experience is Anthony's inviting atmosphere where customers are made to feel welcome and appreciated. "We are fortunate to have some very good employees here and with their help, we're going to continue to give our customers



With its kitschy fiberglass steer, impressive dining facilities, state-of-the-art kitchen, and popular nightclub, Anthony's exemplifies Omaha's reputation for steaks and hospitality.

what they want," Fucinaro emphasized.

The past decade has seen a number of major renovation projects at Anthony's, including a complete remodel of the Ozone Lounge, where live music is played six nights a week.

"Everybody wants to go out, dance and have fun," Fucinaro noted. "And from a talent standpoint, there are so many good musicians in Omaha, it's unbelievable."

In 2008, Anthony's renovated its 350-plus seat banquet facility with a business loan from First National Bank. Improvements included adding an outdoor patio, the latest audio and

video technology, and a full-time events coordinator to help schedule and plan wedding receptions, anniversary parties, and business meetings. Fucinaro plans to renovate the main dining room sometime in the near future.

"Without the help of First National Bank, I probably would have never remodeled the banquet facility," Fucinaro acknowledged. "I have to feel comfortable with what I'm doing and they make you feel that way. It's been a very good relationship and I really enjoy working with my business banker and the other people I've met. They are professional and look after my best interests."

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