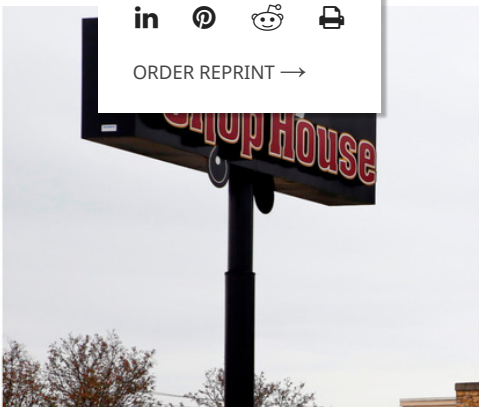
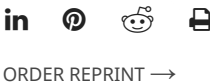


RESTAURANTS NEWS & TRENDS

Long-time Lexington fine-dining icon is about to go through a historic change

BY JANET PATTON
UPDATED OCTOBER 13, 2021 11:22 AM



Lexington lost nearly 40 bars and dining spots in 2020. Here are 10 notable ones that shuttered this year. BY [MARCUS DORSEY](#) ✉



Only have a minute? Listen instead

-02:52

Powered by [Trinity Audio](#)

[Merrick Inn](#), a traditional and popular Lexington fine-dining fixture for more than 45 years, is changing hands.

Jennifer and Bobby Murray, who have owned and operated the venerable restaurant on the former Thoroughbred farm, are selling the business to [One Holland Restaurant Group](#).

🔒 This story is a subscriber exclusive

TOP ARTICLES

June Redneck Rave had arrests, grisly injuries. KY sheriff braces for party sequel.

“Bob and Libby began this institution in 1976 and it has grown to be at Kentucky perennial favorite,” said their son, Bobby, who has overseen the day-to-day operations since 1995.

Dexter Murray, the third generation, is a bartender there and his bourbon expertise has placed Merrick Inn in the top 100 Bourbon bars for the last 3 years.

“We are confident that One Holland group will take the Merrick to the next level,” Bobby Murray said in the statement. “There is no way for us to express the gratitude we have to our employees and guests for all the love and support they have shown us and our family over the past 45 years.”



Merrick Inn off Tates Creek Road has been sold to One Holland Restaurant Group, which plans to keep it largely the same. Matt Goins



Merrick Inn's Southern fried chicken is a popular dish at the Lexington restaurant. Matt Goins

Holland, whose restaurant group has headquarters in Northern Kentucky, also owns Lexington franchises of LaRosa's Pizzeria, First Watch and Skyline Chili. One Holland also operates the historic [Greyhound Tavern](#) in Fort Mitchell, Ky.

Gary Holland, CEO of One Holland, said in a statement that he is honored and humbled to be taking over the Merrick Inn.

"I truly appreciate Bobby and his family for placing trust in our company to take over the reigns of this historic Lexington landmark," Holland said. "He made it very clear that he was impressed with how we handled [the purchase and transition of The Greyhound Tavern](#) last year, and specifically chose us as a first-class organization to succeed him at the Merrick."

The Greyhound Tavern, a nearly century-old restaurant, was owned by Jennifer Murray's family, Holland said.

Holland said that they plan to maintain "the spirit and tradition of Merrick Inn" with little to no changes.

"Why would you change it? It's awesome," Holland said. "Why would you mess with what I think is perfection."



The patio at Merrick Inn is a popular in the Lexington dining scene. Matt Goins

Merrick Inn has been known for a traditional Southern menu, including its acclaimed fried chicken, and its bourbon bar.

The restaurant also has one of the largest covered outdoor dining spaces in Central Kentucky, popular with diners in the Spring and Fall.

But the coronavirus pandemic took a heavy toll on Merrick Inn, which has been known for special occasion dinners and holiday parties. [Last year, the restaurant closed temporarily during the winter.](#)

The Murray's will continue to own Josie's in Chevy Chase.

Based in Taylor Mill, Ky., and founded more than 25 years ago by Gary Holland, the One Holland Corp. Restaurant Group "is wholly driven by an unwavering commitment to operating quick serve and fine dining restaurants with cleanliness, consistent service, outstanding food and a friendly staff," according to its web site.

READ NEXT

BOURBON

Popular Lexington bourbon, wine bar and store closing. You can still get a pour, bottles

OCTOBER 13, 2021 6:00 AM

READ NEXT

RESTAURANTS

North Lexington restaurant closing after just four months, but it's not COVID related

OCTOBER 07, 2021 6:01 AM

READ NEXT

BOURBON

Owner: 'We were just tired.' Popular downtown Lexington bar and restaurant closes.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 6:01 AM

READ NEXT

BOURBON

Last original tenant leaving The Summit's food hall. Where they're going, what's next

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 6:00 AM

READ NEXT

RESTAURANTS

New store from popular Lexington ice cream shop: Soft serve as good as Rupp Arena

OCTOBER 12, 2021 6:00 AM

READ NEXT

RESTAURANTS

Looking for Cubano sandwiches and Cuban cuisine? New Lexington restaurant coming

OCTOBER 07, 2021 6:00 AM

This story was originally published October 13, 2021 11:14 AM.





Merrick Inn’s Southern fried chicken is a popular dish at the Lexington restaurant. MATT GOINS

JANET PATTON

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Email](#) [Phone](#) 859-379-5233

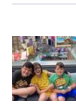
Janet Patton covers restaurants, bars, food and bourbon for the Herald-Leader. She is an award-winning business reporter who also has covered agriculture, gambling, horses and hemp.

Support my work with a digital subscription

[COMMENTS](#)

0 Comments

Sort by [Newest](#)



Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin



RESTAURANTS NEWS & TRENDS

[New store from popular Lexington ice cream shop: Soft serve as good as Rupp Arena](#)

BY JANET PATTON
OCTOBER 12, 2021 6:00 AM

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Email](#) [Share](#)

Details from the Lexington owner on why and what they plan to offer with the soft serve.

KEEP READING →

TRENDING STORIES

[Bounty hunter kills wanted man driving with fiancée and baby in car, Texas cops say](#)
OCTOBER 12, 2021 11:50 AM

[Mark Stoops doesn’t have to leave UK to hold a ‘good football coaching job’](#)
UPDATED OCTOBER 12, 2021 8:21 AM

[Top Kentucky basketball recruiting links: Duke’s shot at No. 1 class takes a big hit](#)
UPDATED OCTOBER 13, 2021 9:04 AM

[Attorney: Former UK student on trial not at fault in boy’s death. Child was in road.](#)
UPDATED OCTOBER 12, 2021 7:36 AM

[Former UK student said he had 2 beers before child was hit. Witness says it was more](#)
UPDATED OCTOBER 13, 2021 6:54 AM



RESTAURANTS NEWS & TRENDS

North Lexington restaurant closing after just four months, but it's not COVID related

OCTOBER 07, 2021 6:01 AM

RESTAURANTS NEWS & TRENDS


Looking for Cubano sandwiches and Cuban cuisine? New Lexington restaurant coming

OCTOBER 07, 2021 6:00 AM

BOURBON & BARS

Seven Lexington, Central Kentucky breweries where the food is just as good as the beer


UPDATED OCTOBER 06, 2021 4:09 PM



RESTAURANTS NEWS & TRENDS

Healthy restaurant option returning to UK campus corridor with delivery

OCTOBER 05, 2021 6:00 AM



RESTAURANTS NEWS & TRENDS

Boutique Lexington hotels upping the restaurant game with bourbon, local specialties

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 7:12 AM



SPONSORED CONTENT

4 Urgent Moves to Make If You Have More Than \$1,000 in the Bank

BY THE PENNY HOARDER




RESTAURANTS NEWS & TRENDS

Lexington restaurants with the best Kentucky football tailgate takeout specials

SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 6:00 AM

Take Us With You

Real-time updates and all local stories you want right in the palm of your hand.



LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER APP →

VIEW NEWSLETTERS →

- SUBSCRIPTIONS
- Start a Subscription

Customer Service

eEdition

Vacation Hold

Pay Your Bill

LEARN MORE

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Archives](#)

ADVERTISING

[Contact Advertising](#)

[Place a Classified Ad](#)

[Digital Solutions](#)

[Media Kit](#)

COPYRIGHT

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[TERMS OF SERVICE](#)