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PRESS RELEASE

FRANK THOMAS'S NEW VENTURE BRINGS CONTEMPORARY DINING TO A BERWYN LANDMARK



Big Hurt Brewhouse livens historic American State Bank Building on Berwyn's Cermak Road.

Berwyn, IL (December 2014) On Saturday, Nov. 1, Frank Thomas's flagship restaurant and sports bar, Big Hurt Brewhouse (bighurtbrewhouse.com), opened its doors at 6801 W Cermak Rd in Berwyn, IL. The new destination restaurant is an adaptive reuse of the historic American State Bank building, which was vacant for over 30 years, and has transformed the space into a haven for Chicagoland beer enthusiasts and sports fans alike. Much of the historic architecture, including the original bank vault and dome ceiling, was preserved. Other highlights in the space include a replica bronze statue, beer garden, HDTVs tuned to sporting events and excellent food prepared on a wood fired grill. Billed as a family-friendly environment, the Brewhouse is planning promotions such as athlete appearances and on-site live broadcasts of sporting events.

Big Hurt Brewhouse celebrated a ribbon cutting in partnership with the City of Berwyn and the Berwyn Development Corporation (BDC) on Dec. 5. The project was facilitated by a Redevelopment Agreement with the City of Berwyn. Frank "Big Hurt" Thomas welcomed guests, stating, "Big Hurt Brewhouse is a dream come true. I thank Mayor Lovero, the City of Berwyn and the BDC for their support of this project from day one. It's been a long time coming, and we're so proud to be here."

Big Hurt Brewhouse was established as the official home for Big Hurt Beer (bighurtbeer.com), which was launched in 2011 with BHB Original. The line of specialty brew has expanded to include an Imperial Lager; MVP, an All-American lager; and Honeygirl, an American Pale Wheat Ale. After Thomas – legendary Chicago White Sox first baseman and heavy hitter – was inaugurated into the Hall of Fame, HOF Pilsner debuted. This Fall, BHB expanded its portfolio to include Hoppy Girl, a full- flavored American IPA. The full line of Big Hurt Beer along with many popular craft and domestic beers, wine and spirits are featured at the brewhouse.

The menu has been carefully curated by Chef Orin Crumrine in his first appearance as an executive chef. He has worked under Michael Kornick of Chicago's Marche and MK and under Giuseppe Scurato at Boka. He also spent time under Barry Dakake at N9NE Steakhouse at the Palms in Las Vegas.

Mayor Robert J. Lovero remarked, "Big Hurt Brewhouse turned this historic building into a treasure again. It truly is a tremendous addition to Cermak Road both for our residents and for visitors. I am grateful to Frank and his team for their vision." BDC Board

President Mal Montoya concluded, “It’s great to see how this space has been transformed into a lively restaurant while maintaining its architecture and integrity as a historic landmark.”

Additional information on the grand opening of Big Hurt Brewhouse in Berwyn, IL can be obtained through the Berwyn Development Corporation at (708) 788-8100.

About the Berwyn Development Corporation

The Berwyn Development Corporation (BDC) markets Berwyn regionally and nationally as a prime business and leisure destination. We are here to promote Berwyn’s energy and culture to visitors and residents and to create unique development opportunities for business. The BDC is a public-private partnership with the City of Berwyn that provides economic development and Chamber of Commerce services to all segments of the Berwyn community. We are a not-for-profit membership organization that serves over 300 businesses and individuals. The BDC continually strives to develop new programs, services and events that promote the community. For more information, visit berwyn.net, whyberwyn.com or follow the BDC at facebook.com/WhyBerwyn.

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