

## RESTAURANT REVIEW Pat Connolly Tavern November 20 2018

The Pat Connolly Tavern building has been around since at least 1904 when it was first a neighborhood grocery. It has been a tavern since 1942, located at 6400 Oakland Avenue at the corner of Tamm Avenue, west of Hampton Avenue and across I-64 from the St. Louis Zoo. There is plenty of parking across the street.



On the Tamm Avenue side of the building they have a Griesedieck Brothers Beer sign, that is again brewed by contract after going out of business in 1957, being sold to Falstaff, which had their headquarters on Oakland Avenue.

Connolly's has a reputation on being busy for lunch and on the weekends. In fact they have Brunch on Saturday and Sundays starting at 9 AM.

We went on a Thursday night at about 7:30 and the place was maybe 30% full. Sometimes when a place is super busy with a waiting list you worry that the kitchen staff is overworked and the food won't be that good. The same is true if it is real slow, maybe the staff will be out of synch. That was not the case on this Thursday.



If my cardiologists reads this and sees what I ordered, I'll be in real trouble.

The place is well known for its fried chicken (\$11.75), but I went with the chicken strips. They also had fresh cut French fries, who could not order those? My wife got a Rueben sandwich. A friend of ours recommended the Onion Rings and we were ready to prove him wrong. Turns out we couldn't.



A fried chicken plate

My wife liked the Rueben \$10 with \$1 up charge for Onion Rings as a side, eating half and taking the other home from lunch. However, the Onion Rings vanished.



The Onion rings are not frozen and are battered in the kitchen. My wife and I agreed to split the Onion Rings and French Fries.



The chicken strips were also battered on premises. The thing that was unique about all the fried foods was there was no grease residue on your fingers while you ate it. The chicken strips are an appetizer for \$8.50. They were a meal in themselves.

The French fries come as a side with most entrees and sandwiches and as an appetizer they are \$3.00.

The night we were there they also had jazz, featuring Jim Manley on trumpet, Chris Swan on piano and Southern Illinois lawyer Jim Smith on vibes.



Past Connolly's for gourmet or upper end dining NO. Pat Connolly's for bar food, YES. A VERY GOOD CHOICE!