

## NEWS

# What's 'weagling' anyway? Find out what Worcester bars are popular with the college crowd

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Telegram &amp; Gazette

Published 9:50 p.m. ET March 31, 2022 | Updated 2:00 p.m. ET April 2, 2022

WORCESTER — Visit the White Eagle on Green Street on a Thursday night and you will likely find the bar crowded with students from College of the Holy Cross "weagling."

While there are dozens of places in the city for students to gather after hours, "Weagle" has become one of the most popular bars for students from Holy Cross and other local colleges and universities.

"It's mostly Holy Cross kids. There's a few local Worcester people there but you can tell the bulk of the crowd is our class year 2022," said Caroline Tyler, a senior at the college. "There's music and some dancing but not a lot. It's more social."

With COVID-19 numbers declining, masks no longer required in restaurants, businesses and schools in Worcester, and college students in the area beginning to trickle back into bars, pubs and clubs.

A handful of students took the time to share their go-to local watering holes.

## White Eagle

The White Eagle shot up in popularity for Holy Cross students after hosting some events for Working for Worcester, a nonprofit organization driven by Holy Cross students, she said.

"There's a \$3 cover fee for Working for Worcester, so there's a regular kind of stream of donations going there, which is nice," Tyler said.

Tyler said that the bar scene at the White Eagle is fairly generic but can quickly become chaotic as students fight for attention from the bartender, holding up their credit cards trying to order drinks.

"It's such a long wait for drinks and I just feel bad," said Anna Vrontas, also a senior at Holy Cross. "It's like 100 (students) on three (bartenders)."

Vrontas said her favorite part of the White Eagle is the \$1 Jell-O shots, which are not very strong but "make you feel good."

## Husky's Pub

For some students, including Willow McKeon, a senior at Clark University, going to a bar or club closer to campus is preferable.

McKeon said that she and her friends will go to Husky's Pub at May Street and Park Avenue since it's within walking distance.

"Over the summer Husky's was a big place for my roommates and I would join them sometimes," McKeon said.

The owner will often bring his dogs into the bar with him, McKeon said.

"I would say it's closer to a sports pub than like a club," she said. "They did karaoke night one time when I came."

The pub is also popular with Worcester State University students due to its proximity, said Will Sjogren, a senior at the university.

## Scruffy Murphys, Funky Murphys

Sjogren, as well as Matt Thomas, a junior at Worcester State, said they prefer Scruffy Murphys in Tatnuck Square or Funky Murphys on Shrewsbury Street.

"Funky's it depends on the night but Scruffy's is a sit-down place — food, beer and full bar," Sjogren said. "That's probably my favorite in the city."

Thomas said that Funky's is "more like a shoebox — you walk in and you can't really move too much, loud music all that."

Thomas said that he has also gone to Leitrim's previously.

For Sjogren, who turned 21 right at the start of the pandemic, he has only just been able to start going out and using his "real ID."

"I'm 23. I'd rather go sit down and have someone ask me what I want than for me to have to go up and get it myself," he said.

"If you're just turning the age of 21, you're down for really whatever."

He said aside from going to local bars or clubs, house parties are still popular with students.

"It depends where you're at and what your friend wants to do as well," Sjogren said. "Not a lot of people are going to go sit at a bar by themselves ... so if not everyone wants to go, then you'll probably end up sitting at home or in the dorm doing whatever."

## **Leitrim's Pub**

The common denominator for students at universities in the area is Leitrim's Pub, self-described as "Worcester's Oldest College Bar."

"It's a little dingy but I think it gives it character," said Maya Flores, a senior at WPI. "They have this wall you can take pictures at, that just says 'Leit's,' with the neon sign. The music's OK. Everyone just gets really drunk together and has a great time."

Flores has only been going since reaching the legal drinking age but on Friday nights the pub opens its doors to patrons 18 or older, sectioning off underage people from the 21-and-older crowd to ensure that no one is illegally consuming alcohol.

"I think it's more about the fact that everyone goes and about being together, especially as a senior class," Flores said. "It's definitely a fun thing to do because you only get a couple more times to do it."

The pub, which was hit hard financially by the pandemic, was able to raise over \$3,000 in GoFundMe donations and was circulated by students throughout Worcester.

Despite the financial troubles, the pub has managed to stay open, attracting students from around the city with things such as theme nights.

One of the more recent theme nights was Euphoria Night, in which patrons dressed up as characters from "Euphoria," the HBO series.

## **Boynton, Sole Proprietor and Taqueria del Pueblo**

However, for Worcester Polytechnic Institute students, the "trifecta" is a tradition that is not done just once but multiple times, Flores said.

Students travel in groups to get a "bucket" at the Boynton Restaurant and Spirits, a "bowl" at the Sole Proprietor and a "bowl" at the Taqueria del Pueblo.

"I went with a bunch of my friends for my friend's 22nd birthday. It was a lot of fun," Flores said. "The Sole Proprietor, I think, has the best bowl out of all of them. We did like, it was like a blueberry lemonade-type."

She said the bucket at the Boynton is "a little rough."

"It just tastes like Malibu and Gatorade pretty much but it's definitely a really fun experience," she said.

The trifecta replaced the Sahara Restaurant, which closed down in December last year, with the Taqueria.

"I think people were definitely sad when Sahara closed because it's not part of it anymore," Flores said. "I think it's nice to bring the Taqueria into it."

She said that while people may look down upon the Trifecta because it involves drinking, it is fun and a way for students, particularly seniors, to get together.

"I think it's like a staple to going here as a student and it's just a good time," Flores said.