

out&about

THE CORNER ALLEY | VIP Grand Opening



1. Creative director David Lieberman and operations veep Ravi Shankar, both of Los Angeles.
2. Linda and Richard Sheehan of Rocky River.
3. Gina Gretchko of downtown Cleveland and Ben Sabol of North Olmsted.
4. Brandi Amadio of Shaker Heights and Karen Baker of Pepper Pike.
5. MRN partners Ari Maron of Cleveland's East Fourth Street district and Ron Lam of Simi Valley, Calif.
6. East Fourth Street residents Billy Meade and Phil Loftus.

Strike one: Like the words "good" and "toupee," the words "upscale" and "bowling" rarely go together. But developers of the Corner Alley and 4th Street Bar & Grill pulled off this unlikely marriage of chic, high-style entertainment with 12 lanes of bowling for the establishment's grand opening Dec. 7. Opening night found velvet ropes and valet parking greeting 500 of the city's movers and shakers, young professionals, media members and VIPs

for a night of dining, drinking and bowling. Just for fun, executives from concept creator and operator Trifecta Management Group and developer MRN Ltd. bowled an inaugural game against Downtown Councilman Joe Cimperman and Council President Martin Sweeney while guests packed the restaurant and bar to enjoy free food and drinks.

Strike two: Party planners left no de-

tail to chance. Even the bottles of Bud Light were shaped like bowling pins. "Now I hope I can find a martini-shaped bowling ball," quipped Pickwick & Frolic owner Nick Kostis as he marveled over the glass bottle of beer.

Strike three for the win: Guests got their first sight of the club's distinctly downtown digs and were seemingly delighted by the floor-to-ceiling windows

on Euclid Avenue, the six jumbo video screens lined up at the end of 12 bowling lanes, the loungelike furniture in muted teal and brown (with bowling balls and shoes to match) along with the generous buffet of menu items including lemon pepper chicken, pasta Bolognese, red-skin potatoes and steamed vegetables.

In the fast lane: Developers Richard and Ari Maron, developer Brian and

Emily Owendoff, Pickwick & Frolic folks John Lorince and Nick Kostis, photographer/writer duo Barney and Laura Taxel, Dan Tranberg, Advertising Association exec Rick Squire, Playhouse Square head honcho Art Falco, publicist Howard Landau, museum-maker Dennis Barrie, www.cleveland365.com owner Terry Travis and artist Hector Vega.

— Kathleen Murphy Colan,
Special to the Plain Dealer