A popular Lafayette sports bar will reopen this summer with a fresh, new look after a half-year hiatus.

Pete’s on Johnston closed its doors in November to “repair and replace” items inside of the 27-year-old restaurant and bar. But the closure was in part due to a change in ownership — from Mark Hutcherson, an ex-pitcher for the Ragin’ Cajuns, back to the original owner, Preston Guidry.

“After cordial discussions, it was mutually agreed that my dad would take over Pete’s again,” said Danny Guidry, who serves as the project manager and spokesman for his 72-year-old father.

Pete’s lovers need not fear change. The building won’t be radically different from what it was before. The new Pete’s is cleaner, brighter and more open.

There’s fresh paint, new flooring, a new bar, a designated game room and fewer photographs on the walls. The ceiling has been raised by about 2 feet, and a partition has been removed to bring more light and vibrancy to the once-dim space.

The menu has been parsed down to focus on what Pete’s is known for: burgers and fries. But even with all the change, the overall restaurant — with its same tables, chairs, TVs and sports theme — will feel familiar to long-time Pete’s customers.

“The new Pete’s strives to maintain the original feel and

Danny Guidry, project manager of repairs and renovations at Pete’s, speaks near a room that will now be dedicated to video games.
flavor of Pete’s combined with updated and new technology, meshing together for yet another evolution of Pete’s,” Danny Guidry said.

The evolution that he speaks of has been ongoing since the original Pete’s — then called Uncle Pete’s — opened in 1968 on General Mouton Avenue in the building the Bulldog currently occupies.

Named for owner Preston Guidry’s brother, Pete, the spot started out as a dance hall and evolved into a pool hall and finally a burger spot.

“My dad didn’t want to call it Uncle Preston’s, so he called it Uncle Pete’s,” Danny Guidry said. “He just thought it sounded better than Uncle Preston’s, so that’s where the name comes from.”

The Guidrys quickly opened new burger spots on the north side in 1980, on the McKinley Street Strip where The Keg is in 1985, the current location in 1986 and on Pinhook where Blue Dog Cafe is in 1995.

But while rapidly expanding, the Guidry family also became involved in the entertainment machine industry, leasing out items such as jukeboxes, pool tables and ATMs to area bars. They soon began leasing out buildings they owned that were former Pete’s locations and even leased the Pete’s restaurant name and building on Johnston to different people over the years.

The family still owns about a dozen buildings around town.

“The Guidrys have been involved in the community in that not only is it a good place to enjoy yourself, but my family has always given and supported sports from little league all the way through college.”

There isn’t an official opening date set yet for the new Pete’s, but Danny Guidry thinks the building and employees will be customer ready in about a month.

Preston Guidry will be resuming the day-to-day ownership operations of the classic Lafayette sports bar.

“We’d like to invite everybody to come back in and continue the tradition that has made my family so proud to serve in the food and restaurant industry for all of these years,” Danny Guidry said. “With my dad spearheading the project, I am confident that you will be satisfied.”

And to anybody who is having a hard time letting go of the old Pete’s, here’s a secret: There’s a private room in the back right corner of the restaurant that hasn’t been touched. And that’s where all of the old photographs and sports memorabilia will be housed.

It’s going to be called Preston’s Room.