

The Buzz: Mr. Brews Taphouse opens



Maureen Wallenfang, Post-Crescent Media 3:25 p.m. CDT June 15, 2015



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Mr. Brews Taphouse opened at lunchtime today, joining an elite group of restaurants that take advantage of riverfront scenery in Appleton.

The new burger-and-beer joint is in a modern two-story space on the lower river side of RiverHeath's Evergreen apartment building.

It's at 201 S. RiverHeath Way, midway between Lawrence University's Banta Bowl and Telulah Park on the east bank of the Fox River. Reach the restaurant from either side.

(Photo: Dan Powers/Post-Crescent Media)

Local owners Tammy and Craig Verhagen signed up for a franchise of the Madison-based Mr. Brews and will be the seventh in the growing chain.

"Most of them are in strip malls. We're the first that's a destination," said Tammy Verhagen. "The opportunity to go hang out by the river is the thing that drew me to the site."

She and her husband were UW-Stevens Point classmates with Mr. Brews Taphouse founder Steve Day and invested in his company when it started several years ago.

Besides two levels of indoor seating, it has a fenced-in patio on the boardwalk. Boaters can tie off at the nearby dock. An outside stage can be used for future live music concerts.

The restaurant is a modest size with a limited menu, which Verhagen said was perfect for their first venture. They're being trained and assisted in the start-up this week by members of the Mr. Brews corporate office.

The menu is limited to 14 gourmet burgers, one salad, freshly cut chips and fries, cheese curds and a kids' menu. Beef comes from Greenville's Meat Block. Diners can also get turkey, chicken or black bean patties instead of beef. Burgers are mostly \$6.50 to \$8.

Meanwhile, it has 48 craft beers on tap and a Cicerone-certified bar manager. Craft beer averages \$5 to \$7 for a 16-ounce glass.

"The beer menu is larger than the food menu," said Verhagen. "People are probably coming here to relax and enjoy the casual environment and the view."

Hours: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday. The kitchen closes one hour earlier. Families get 10 percent off on Sundays and it has discounts for teachers and military members.

More information: mrbrewstaphouse.com, Facebook or 920-815-3516.

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