

# The Buzz: Mr. Brew's Taphouse signs riverfront lease



Maureen Wallenfang, Post-Crescent Media

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(Photo: Submitted)

A recent story on Appleton restaurants by an out-of-town travel writer included an appealing photo of the Fox River. Only problem was that none of the restaurants in the story were anywhere near the river.

A handful of restaurants have taken advantage of river views, but now one upcoming restaurant plans to make the scenery the star attraction with a side of gourmet burgers and craft brews.

Mr. Brew's Taphouse signed a lease to take a prime riverfront perch along the boardwalk in RiverHeath's Evergreen apartment building. That mixed-use complex is on the Fox River in Appleton, on the east side of the College Avenue bridge between Banta Bowl and Telulah Park.

The restaurant should open by early summer.

It's taking the building's lower level along the boardwalk, and will have outside tables when the weather is hospitable.

"The opportunity to go hang out by the river is the thing that drew me to that site," said Tammy Verhagen, operator and franchise owner with husband Craig. They were UW-Stevens Point classmates with Mr. Brew's Taphouse's founder Steve Day and invested in his company when it started several years ago.

Mr. Brew's has three locations in Wisconsin and is about to open two more. It has more branches in development. It started as Brews Brothers, but switched to the Mr. Brew's Taphouse name recently to allow franchising.

The beauty of the restaurant, said Verhagen, is that it isn't a big operation.

"It's got the small-town feel. It has a limited seating capacity and simple menu," she said. "It's a small burger and brew restaurant with a pretty spectacular view. We have windows on three sides for watching the river, eagles and wildlife. For our first venture, it's really perfect."

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