

Home > Sample Page

Connect to your customers with 99.9% network reliability



SWITCH TODAY

Home > Industries > Capital Goods > R.I. Brewers Guild to hold inaugural 'Craft Beer Week' in March

Industries Capital Goods Economy Economic Activity Food & Agriculture Hospitality & Tourism Manufacturing

R.I. Brewers Guild to hold inaugural 'Craft Beer Week' in March

By James Bessette - January 28, 2022 10:40 am



THE RHODE ISLAND BREWERS Guild will hold its inaugural 'Rhode Island Craft Beer Week' in early March.

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island’s breweries have been forced like so many other industries to adjust operations during the pandemic.

But the good news “was there was still demand for the product,” said Matthew Gray, co-owner of Portsmouth-based Ragged Island Brewing Co. LLC. “It was how you get it to customers that was different.”

The Rhode Island Brewers Guild will celebrate the state’s local brewing industry and pandemic lessons learned this year with its inaugural Rhode Island Craft Beer week.

The week, March 5-13, is sandwiched in between the guild’s Rhode Island Brew Fest in February and Newport Beer Fest in April. It will allow various breweries and distilleries to showcase their products and hold various events within their own manufacturing facilities, local bars, liquor stores, pubs and restaurants. The week will also have virtual events to be planned online.

- Advertisement -

Gray, who is the guild’s marketing committee chairperson, told Providence Business News that the state’s craft beer industry has matured over the last decade from people considering a regional brewery as “local” to one where a brewery is located either in town or one town over across the state. Since 2013, the guild has grown from five member breweries to close to 40.

Also, breweries have become “more like a restaurant,” where beer connoisseurs are provided more options at a particular location, Gray said. Plus, he said the industry has changed in that it has become more of a tourism-based model encouraging people to visit different breweries across Rhode Island.

“People are going to want to take vacations and plan around that,” Gray said. “I think Rhode Island Craft Beer Week is a great example of that where ... folks will come to Rhode Island that week if they are big beer fans.”

Gray also said the pandemic has impacted the distillery industry, even though local breweries found ways to adjust. While he does not know of any breweries that permanently closed due to the pandemic, they are dealing with inflation challenges and higher costs of raw materials as a result, he said.

Along with doing more with less employees at times, Gray said brewers also had to switch from selling draft beer because tap rooms and restaurants were closed for a period to bottling them for sale in liquor stores.

Gray said brewers for Craft Beer Week will be scheduling their own events to take place during the nine-day stretch. All events will be finalized and listed on the guild’s website on Feb. 25.

Some events for that week are in place. Narragansett Brewing Co., for example, will host on March 5 an “Ultimate Rhode Island Day” event to launch a new beer and other Rhode Island food staples, such as Del’s Lemonade and New York System wieners.

Various restaurants, such as the Back 40 in North Kingstown, Black Oak Kitchen & Drinks in Coventry and Pour Judgement in Newport, will have “Tap Takeover” events where the majority of their tap beer offerings will be of beer from the Ocean State.

“These places might typically carry four, five different Rhode Island brewers at a time. Now, we might look at them carrying 15 taps of Rhode Island beer that week,” Gray said.

Another unique event slated for Rhode Island Craft Beer Week is the Rhode Map Challenge. Beer tasters, the guild said, will utilize the guild’s passport phone app to check into, purchase a sample of beer and post photos from as many Rhode Island-based breweries as they can that week – the guild also strongly promotes having a designated driver for this event.

Gray said there will be prizes offered for all the different tiers that beer tasters can hit and grand prizes for those who go “above and beyond.”

“We think [this] is a great time for us to host this [event] annually and give a little boost to what is a quieter time of the year for all of us,” Gray said.

James Bessette is the PBN special projects editor, and also covers the nonprofit and education sectors. You may reach him at Bessette@PBN.com. You may also follow him on Twitter at [@James_Bessette](https://twitter.com/James_Bessette).

Want to share this story? [Click Here](#) to purchase a link that allows anyone to read it on any device whether or not they are a subscriber.

TAGS Back 40 Black Oak Kitchen And Drinks Breweries And Distilleries Del's Lemonade Matthew Gray Narragansett Brewing Co. Pour Judgement Ragged Island Brewing Co. LLC Rhode Island Brewers Guild Rhode Island Craft Beer Week

Like 1



RELATED ARTICLES

Economy

Economic Activity

Economic Activity



No posts to display

LEAVE A REPLY

Logged in as Faye Pantazopoulos. Log out?

Comment:

Post Comment

SUBSCRIBE TO

PBN's All Access Subscription

PBN subscribers get ahead with unlimited access to PBN news, information, and insights from our editorial team, research and data, webinars and much more.

Subscribe

SIGN UP FOR

PBN's Daily Newsletter

Get PBN's top stories every morning in your email inbox.

Enter Email SIGN UP

FOLLOW US

@ProvBusNews

Follow PBN for the latest news, insider access and more.



This Week's Print

Latest News

- Business groups seek steeper cut in tax penalty interest rate
January 31, 2022 9:00 am
- Ranglin-Vassell named 2022 Maternal and Child Health Fellow
January 30, 2022 10:45 pm
- Five Questions With: Dr. Marty Nager
January 30, 2022 10:30 pm
- RIMI holiday donation drives bring in food, gifts for nonprofits
January 30, 2022 10:20 pm
- Smithfield opens new COVID-19 testing site
January 30, 2022 10:10 pm

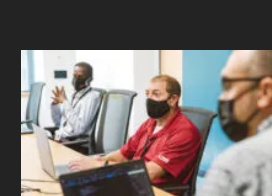


MOST POPULAR

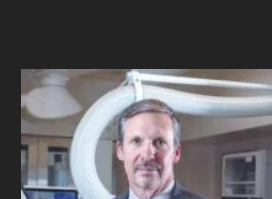
TPG acquires Marshall Hotels, moves HQ from R.I. to Maryland
January 28, 2022 12:02 pm



Adaptive model allows Gilbane to continually innovate
October 1, 2021 12:56 am



Hovan out as Southeast Health CEO, months after domestic assault charge
January 28, 2022 5:06 pm



OUR MISSION

To be the trusted business news and information source for the Rhode Island and Southeastern MA business community providing timely, insightful, in-depth and breaking news coverage that advances individual and company growth and success in local, state and global markets.

ABOUT PBN

- Subscribe to PBN Newsletters
- Advertising Opportunities
- PBN Editorial Calendar
- PBN Connect
- PBN Storefront
- PBN Data Lists
- PBN Events
- Jobs
- Contact Us