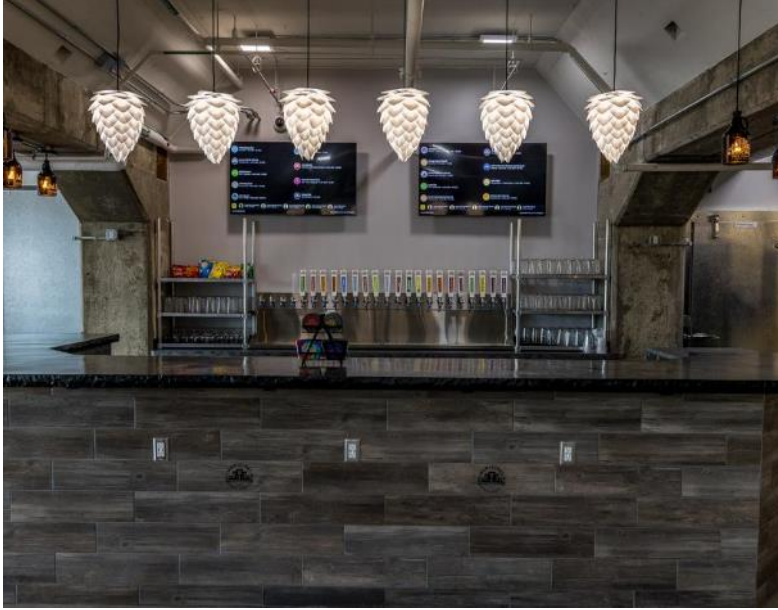


Municipal Brew Works opens Oct 1st. at Spooky Nook



By [Andy Brownfield](#) – Senior staff reporter, Cincinnati Business Courier Sep 28, 2022

A Cincinnati-area craft brewery is ready to open its second location inside of Spooky Nook Sports Champion Mill, a massive indoor sports complex and hotel in Hamilton. Municipal Brew Works, which first opened in Hamilton in 2016, will celebrate the opening of its second location inside Spooky Nook with a ribbon cutting on Oct. 1. Municipal Brew Works signed a 15-year lease to locate inside the \$165 million development's Mill Two site, which also will be home to a 233-room hotel.

Municipal will brew beer on-site at Spooky Nook. Owner Jim Goodman, who founded the brewery with Mark Jackson, told me Municipal will have about half of the brewing capacity of its original location, with a 7-barrel brewhouse and 15-barrel fermenters, capable of producing about 700 to 1,000 barrels of beer annually.

Goodman said despite the smaller brewing capacity, it will have larger coolers, allowing Municipal to brew more and different styles of beer. "That's one of the main reasons we looked at doing this: we've been blessed with the success of having our current taproom tanks full," he said. "It's a blessing that they're full, but it's hard to make new beers when the demand for what you have is constantly being rotated."

Municipal's new taproom is twice as large as its original at 5,000 square feet. Goodman said so much work has been done to restore Spooky Nook – which was built inside of the former Champion paper mill – to its original 1890s style the brewery will stay true to that style: polished concrete floors, support beams and original windows.

The brewery space was designed by Mike Dingeldein of Community Design Alliance in Hamilton, who the brewery worked with for its original location. Municipal invested about \$1 million into the new brewery space.

Spooky Nook has about 55,000 square feet of retail space remaining. The development includes a fitness area, climbing/adventure center, hardwood, turf and sport courts for volleyball, field hockey, basketball and more.



Rare Beer Fest Brings More Than 50 National Breweries to Rhinegeist in Over-the-Rhine

By [Maija Zummo](#) on Tue, Oct 4, 2022 CityBeat

The fest features "rare and sought-after offerings from breweries not normally accessible to the Ohio market." For the first time since the onset of the pandemic, Rare Beer Fest is returning to Rhinegeist's taproom in Over-the-Rhine. The festival, which launched in 2017, brings together more than 50 breweries from across the country, serving "rare and sought-after offerings...not normally accessible to the Ohio market," per a release. Rare Beer Fest is divided into two sessions: noon-4 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Oct. 29. Tickets are \$55 general admission and \$85 VIP and are available at [etix.com](https://www.etix.com). Admission includes 12 sample tickets and a branded tasting glass and tote. VIP levels up with access to five additional breweries, a T-shirt and food. Thunderdome Restaurant Group will be providing food for the event. "We're very excited for the return of a full-scale Rare Beer Fest," says Jon Colusard, general manager of the Rhinegeist taproom, in a release. "We've had some exciting breweries on our invite list for the past few years, and we're finally at the point where we can make it happen. We have over 50 fantastic breweries lined up, including 10 locals."

Rhinegeist is located at 1910 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine. For more info on Rare Beer Fest, visit rhinegeist.com.

Braxton Brewing, Dewey's Pizza partnering on Covington restaurant space



The brewery's logo still dominates the wall behind the bar. CORRIE SCHAFFELD | CBC
By [Andy Brownfield](#) – Senior staff reporter, Cincinnati Business Courier Oct 5, 2022

Braxton Brewing Co. is partnering with a popular Cincinnati pizzeria to take over a neighboring restaurant space, which will provide slices to the taproom through a window between the venues.

Braxton Brewing CEO Jake Rouse announced Oct. 4 the Covington craft brewery, headquartered at 27 W. Seventh St. in Covington, is partnering with Dewey's Pizza to go into the former Parlor on Seventh restaurant space next door. The pizzeria will open adjacent to the brewery in early 2023.

"The revitalization of the community and the alignment between brands made it an appealing choice," Dewey's President Chuck Lipp said in a news release. The move of Dewey's Pizza into the restaurant space at 43 W. Seventh St. brings it back to the location's roots. The space, inside of the \$67 million Duveneck Square development, was originally Alto Pizza Kitchen. It closed in May 2019 after just under a year in business, and was replaced by Parlor on Seventh, a restaurant that pulled from Covington's German heritage and Kentucky's Southern roots.

The owners of Parlor on Seventh partnered with Braxton Brewing on the opening of Pendalo Wingery at the brewery's Cincinnati location in Pendleton in 2021. Dewey's Pizza will operate a full-service pizzeria in the Covington space, serving up pizzas, calzones, and salads. It will be the second Northern Kentucky Dewey's location.



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Rhinegeist adds Stone Brewing alum to C-suite of Cincinnati brewery



Adam Bankovich is Rhinegeist's chief commercial officer. RHINEGEIST

Andy Brownfield – Senior staff reporter, Cincinnati Business Courier Oct 6, 2022

Cincinnati's largest craft brewery, which is in the midst of a growth spurt under a new CEO, has added an alumnus of Stone Brewing to its C-suite.

Over-the-Rhine-based Rhinegeist announced Adam Bankovich, who most recently served as vice president of sales with San Diego-based beer giant Stone Brewing, is the Cincinnati brewery's new chief commercial officer. In his new role, Bankovich will oversee the development of Rhinegeist's commercial strategies with an eye toward driving growth. While Bankovich has spent the last nine years with Stone – the ninth-largest craft brewery in the U.S. by sales volume (Rhinegeist is 25th), according to the Brewers Association – he was based out of his hometown of Cincinnati. “I vividly remember the turning point when Cincinnati really came into its own as a legit craft beer town,” he said in a news release. Bankovich joined Stone in 2013 as its senior national account manager for the eastern U.S. He rose through the ranks in the sales organization, becoming vice president of sales in 2019. He joins Rhinegeist as Cincinnati's largest locally owned craft brewery strives to become even bigger. Rhinegeist brewed 103,500 barrels of beer in 2021, more than four times second-largest MadTree Brewing. Mike Parks, the new CEO who joined late last year after the company initiated a plan to become employee-owned, told me earlier this year Rhinegeist has a plan to grow as much as 10% in 2022, and even more in the future.

The brewery in January announced a new line of non-beer craft beverages its calling RGBevs, which officially launched in the first week of March. The following month Rhinegeist announced that it is expanding its distribution into Michigan. Since then, Rhinegeist has continued to expand its distribution footprint, this month sending its beer to Texas. The brewery now distributes to 10 states:

Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Massachusetts, and Texas