

'Uncommonly Tweaked' coffee-beer to debut

Beer and coffee? Please. Beer *in* coffee? Even better. So it is two local businesses — Saugatuck Brewing Co. and Uncommon Coffee Roasters — have teamed up to create Uncommonly Tweaked, a new seasonal amber ale brewed with organic Peruvian El Cautivo coffee beans.

Uncommonly Tweaked will be sold in the SBC pub — part of the brewery's 2948 Blue Star Hwy., Douglas facility — starting Saturday, Jan. 20, available to go in 6-packs and growlers.

The 2005-founded micro-brewery has used UCR coffee beans in many beers through the years, including another recent release, Café Brown, a barrel-aged brown ale aged with Costa Rican coffee beans.

"We love to have the opportunity to work with local companies," said SBC President and CEO Ric Gillette. "Uncommon Coffee Roasters has always been a great partner for us, and we are ecstatic to finally bring one of our collaborations to package."

The process of creating a new beer with coffee always starts with a trip to UCR's Douglas roasting facility, where SBC brewers test different coffees through a process they call "cupping." They test for flavors, aromas,



Celebrating release of Uncommonly Tweaked are (from left) SBC Head Brewer Steven Scheerhorn, UCR Controller Casey Boeve, SBC President and CEO Rick Gillette, UCR Marketing Specialist Angie Smith, SBC Vice President of Marketing Megan Scheerhorn, SBC Brewer Terry Lancaster, SBC Production Manager P.J. Goudreauld and UCR Production Manager J.L. Mokma.

acidity and mouth-feel; then discuss how each bean can affect the beer. The two business teams work together to select a coffee that will complement the profile of the beer.

"The different coffee beans all have such intricate flavors that really add to the complexity of the beer," SBC Head Brewer Steven Scheerhorn said. "The variety of flavors creates a

unique drinking experience for the consumer."

Uncommonly Tweaked will be available throughout SBC's distribution footprint in 6-packs and on draft February through April while supplies last.

SBC is a full-production microbrewery with a traditional family-style pub featuring a full menu, outdoor seating and live entertainment year-round. It has a

combined 31 taps between two tap rooms, offering unique beer styles all produced in house, plus wine and hard cider.

The business distributes 18 signature styles in bottles and kegs, plus others available on tap only throughout Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Florida, New Jersey and Nebraska, plus several

foreign markets.

The brewery also features the only active brew-on-premise program in Michigan, using five copper kettles and an array of ingredients and recipes, allowing individual groups to brew, bottle and label their own unique creations.

Uncommon Coffee Roasters is a U.S. Department of Agriculture-certified organic small-batch specialty coffee

roaster. The firm provides wholesale coffee services to more than 200 businesses of all sizes in the Midwest.

UCR's ready-to-drink Cold Brew Coffee beverages can be found in more than 400 stores throughout 15 states. The business takes pride in its diverse partnerships and strives to work with companies that share similar values.

County gives go-ahead for bike trail's southern stretch

BY RYAN LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

Allegan County Commissioners agreed again last week to own a southern section of the proposed Blue Star Trail.

The county had previously supported owning trail sections in Casco and Ganges townships, but rescinded it last fall after a nonprofit group fundraising for the trail reorganized its plan. The county's prior

resolution no longer referred to the correct phase.

The proposed 20-mile non-motorized path is planned to run on the west side of Blue Star Highway from Saugatuck to South Haven.

Friends of the Blue Star Trail have pledged to provide the grants, matching money and endowments to provide for its building, maintenance and repair, but Casco, Ganges and Saugatuck city have balked

at assuming ownership within their boundaries.

State and federal grants the Friends plan to continue pursuing require a local government to own the path and be responsible for its upkeep, which is why the group continues to seek the county's pledge for the Casco and Ganges sections.

At the meeting Jan. 11, county board chair Dean Kapenga said the Friends had more than 100 members

giving money to enhance their area.

"They're putting their money up for this," said Kapenga. "It's not going to cost us anything initially, but maybe 50 years down the road, who knows? So why are we not moving ahead? I'm very much in favor of this."

"We can't get every question answered — no trail system could. Our risk is minimal; we know trails like this bring economic development. It's a very positive, low-risk decision."

Commissioner Max Thiele said no one was attacking the plan.

"We know this is not just a parochial proposition," he said. "It's a potential benefit across the board, but it presents some liabilities. This resolution, if properly constructed, will address that and take care of items we're not aware of today and cannot address."

Commissioners voted unanimously in passing a resolution designed with broad protections to ensure the county does not end up owning any section of trail without first signing off on aspects such as its design, location and making sure funding is provided for its maintenance.

The southern sections of trail are slated for work in approximately 2022 or 2023.

The new plan estimates the total cost of the trail at \$11.1 million, which includes \$600,000 for a maintenance endowment.

"I think this is as encompassing as possible given what we know now," commissioner Gale Dugan said.

Friends president John Adams said he was thrilled at the commissioners' decision and appreciated the work the county had put in to understand the issue.

"I think it's a good option to have this trail owned by the county," Adams said. "We're glad they agree."

He said the group is continuing to focus on the next trail section it hopes to build, a connection from what was built in Saugatuck Township last year. It would run from where the path leaves off at North Street to the existing trail at Holland Street. He said that connects to the Beeline trail, which runs north through Lake-town Township and connects to Holland and beyond.

"There's an undeveloped park in Saugatuck Township, and we're working with the them to go through that," said Adams. "There's a river back in there; it's a pretty area. We'll build some nice boardwalks and maybe work with the township parks department to put in a picnic table."

He said the group would apply for grants this spring to help pay for that.

Commissioner Jim Storey said the trail segment that would pass through Saugatuck city remains an issue.

"Right now, the path stops at the city limit," he said. "They're not enthused with the project. That needs to be settled."

"What difference does it make to us?" asked commissioner Tom Jessup. "We're only concerned about the south end of this, just the two townships."

Commissioner Don Black expressed doubts that hang over the project. "By my math, (the county's eventual section of trail) is going to cost more than \$4 million," he said. "I don't want to rain on anyone's parade, but I want to be financially responsible. These people have this dream, but it can't fall on taxpayers' shoulders."

County executive services director Dan Wedge said there would always be some risk involved, but that "the group has committed to, prior to construction beginning, having the maintenance funds in hand." That would be in addition to having secured the cost of the construction, including matching funds for grants.

NOTICE

The Tower Marine Douglas office will be open January 20 & 27, Saturdays from 10am to Noon to discuss harbor planning, engineering and to answer any harbor questions.

Two (2) harbor plans were recently completed, the "Saugatuck Harbor Maintenance Plan" and the "Douglas Waterfront Master Plan." These plans represent the community supported vision for the future of the harbor. The next (and very important) step is to identify a cost strategy for achieving the vision.

There will be free coffee, orange juice and etc. available. There will be information available for:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Dredging of harbor entrance | 14. EPA funding |
| 2. Bulk head lines | 15. MDEQ mission |
| 3. Pierhead lines | 16. Dinghy Docks |
| 4. Seaweed | 17. Chain Ferry |
| 5. Public ownership of Tower Marina | 18. Copies of Harbor Plans |
| 6. Silt traps | 19. Floating Docks |
| 7. Up river erosion | 20. Boat building |
| 8. Maintenance dredging | 21. US Army Corps of Engineers |
| 9. Dredge spoil disposal | 22. Harbor Authority |
| 10. Harbor infrastructure | 23. New harbor on Denison |
| 11. Wetlands | 24. Situation control |
| 12. Navigation Buoys | 25. Financing |
| 13. PCB arsenic contamination | 26. Our 100 day economy |

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