

# in the Loop

## City Steam Brewery Taps Steam for Quality Beer

Who would have thought that Norm from *Cheers* and the philosopher Plato would have anything in common? But it appears that they do. According to Plato, "He was a wise man who invented beer." Norm and the many patrons of City Steam Brewery would probably agree!

The City Steam Brewery in Hartford was founded in 1997 as a restaurant and brew pub. It has stood the test of time (and the low-carb craze!) and even expanded its offerings. Today the brewery features 10 different beers on tap – a complete spectrum that ranges from low-carb to the darkest beer possible. Nearly 35,000 gallons are brewed on site each year and 4,000 gallons can be produced at any given time. The brewing tanks are clearly visible through plate glass windows behind the bar, and they're kept humming along even during business hours. City Steam also has a traditional lagering (aging) cellar located next to the restaurant's comedy club – Brew Ha Ha – in the lower level.

Ron Page, City Steam's brewmaster, has been in the microbrewery business since the late 1980s – so he's no newcomer. He knows how to brew the best and the finest. In fact City Steam was voted Hartford's best brew pub five years in a row and was named Connecticut's best beer in 2003 by *Connecticut Magazine*.

Page says one of the secrets to his success is the steam brewing process – using steam provided by Hartford Steam Co. "Steam is convenient," says Page. "It effortlessly boils the beer and heats all of the water I use for cleaning and washdown – about 3,500 gallons per week. We use as much or as little steam as we need at any given time. It's really so easy, it's a brewer's dream come true. I'd certainly recommend it to others."

One of the pub's unique features is the steam whistles donated by The Hartford Steam Co. as a symbol of the company's steam service. In reality, they're operating right now on compressed air to ensure no patrons get 'steamed.' Even when they aren't sounding off, however, their polished brass shines, grabbing everyone's attention.

Hartford Steam is pleased to be of service to City Steam Brewery – and wishes it the best as even more residents and visitors have a chance to pass through its doors. For more on City Steam Brewery, check out [www.citysteam.com](http://www.citysteam.com).



In the custom of old-time breweries, brewmaster Ron Page uses a two-vessel brewing process. The beer-to-be is transferred between the mash/lauter tun (the larger vessel at right) and the smaller kettle (near Page) during the first stages of brewing.



The 35,000-sq-ft City Steam Brewery is located in the Cheney Building on Main Street. Built in 1877, the building is considered a striking example of Romanesque architecture. It once housed the famous Brown Thomson and Co. – the state's largest department store. In many ways, City Steam has brought back the warmth and charm of the past by salvaging cast iron railings and millwork from the historic store.

## Behind the Scenes at The Bushnell

Winston Churchill. Katharine Hepburn. Mikhail Baryshnikov. Talk about a star-studded lineup! And they have all taken the stage at The Bushnell Memorial Hall on Capitol Avenue.

Constructed in 1929, The Bushnell completed a \$45 million expansion in late 2001 and began a renovation and restoration project in 2003. The 200,000-sq-ft facility now includes the new 900-seat Belding Theater, the under-renovation 2,800-seat Mortensen Hall, customer relations services, additional bars and restrooms, a new on-site café and more. Additional improvements are still to come.

The goal of the Mortensen Hall renovation is to recreate the original splendor of the theatre, which opened in 1930. The art deco-style building was designed by the same architects who designed Radio City Music Hall in New York City!

*(continued on back)*



**Just as a successful play needs a talented producer, so a great building needs a stellar manager. Lynn Robinson at The Bushnell makes sure all systems are go at all times throughout the entire Bushnell facility.**

*(Bushnell continued)*

Deep magentas, warm grays and shimmery gold already have returned and new carpet has been installed to complement the color scheme. Additional refinishing and lighting projects will continue through 2004 as the hall prepares to celebrate its 75th anniversary in January 2005.

Mortensen Hall has been cooled by The Hartford Steam Co. since April 1997 and the new Belding Theater and periphery spaces began heating and cooling service from Hartford Steam in January 2001. According to Lynn Robinson, senior director of operations at The Bushnell, heating and cooling the facility is critical to overall building operation and successful productions.

“It’s an exciting place with constant activity,” she says. “We serve a variety of functions from the theaters to reception areas, business meetings, classroom and lobby spaces. They all have different needs at different times, so we pay much attention to controlling the environments efficiently and effectively. The large volume of the theater is especially challenging in providing a comfortable environment for patrons at every level. Individual shows also have specific heating and cooling requirements that add to the challenge of maintaining comfortable conditions for all. Different types of productions – like symphonies or dance – have specific temperature needs, while productions with props that are affected by moving air require attention to fan control, etc.”

The Bushnell has teamed up with Servus Corp. and Hartford Steam to optimize the facility’s complex heating and cooling operations. During the past year, Servus evaluated the building and made a number of energy-saving improvements. “We started by recommissioning the building after the major expansion was completed,” says

Steve Link, chief engineer at Servus. “Hartford Steam had done an energy analysis prior to that, and we used it as the basis for a number of our recommendations. We couldn’t have done it without them. I’d say the Bushnell is now saving about \$160,000 annually, three-quarters of which is through energy savings. Even though the 2001 addition essentially doubled the size of the facility, it didn’t double the size of its energy usage.” Among many initiatives, Servus implemented a comprehensive preventive maintenance program and switched the pneumatic control system to electronic controls.

Robinson has been pleased with the difference Servus has made and is appreciative of Hartford Steam’s participation: “Hartford Steam has taken an interest in this building. We’re not just a customer. They do have the best interests of The Bushnell in mind. They’ve been a partner.”

The Hartford Steam Co. is honored to serve The Bushnell and its patrons. To find out more about upcoming Bushnell Memorial Hall productions and events, go to [www.bushnell.org](http://www.bushnell.org).



Photo by Robert Benson.

**Shown here in a view from stage, Mortensen Hall at The Bushnell is undergoing renovation and restoration. Here and in the new Belding Theater, patrons can enjoy the best of Broadway, symphonies and family fun – all under one roof.**

## In a hurry to talk to Hartford Steam?

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