

in the Loop

Dishing About DISH: New downtown dining spot soon to open

Once the doors open to Hartford's newest restaurant in late September, downtown Hartford may never be the same. Located in the former Sage-Allen Department Store, now known as the Temple Street Complex, DISH Bar & Grill is putting the finishing touches on what is certain to become "the" place to go.

"We're incredibly excited about the restaurant," says Dan Keller, managing partner. "It really has one of the most pristine locations in all of downtown Hartford. It's adjacent to new condominiums, plus we're close to existing businesses. So we've made it an upscale American restaurant – a chop house, if you will – with a casual, comfortable feel and great items on the menu. From Certified Angus steaks to short rib pot roast to lobster pot pie, we believe there will be something for everyone."

An earthtoned décor will welcome diners for lunch, dinner and a dessert bar – a Hartford first. Plus, there will be a raw bar on display right in the bar area.

The 8,200-sq-ft restaurant, which has a seating capacity of 210, will use district heating and cooling from Hartford Steam, which is serving the entire commercial portion of the Temple Street development. Citibank is immediately next door. The balance of the development consists of The Lofts, The Garage and The Townhouses, all located on the newly reopened Temple Street, which had been closed to through traffic since 1970. The development is part of the Six Pillars initiative undertaken in 1998 by the Capital City Economic Development Authority.



The former Sage-Allen Department Store was designed in 1898. Recently renovated, the building, now known as the Temple Street Complex, is home to the new DISH Bar & Grill. It also features new residential space, which has been added on each side of the original center structure.

Keller has been part of the Hartford restaurant scene for 22 years and has partnered with Bill Carbone, who serves as executive chef, to create DISH Bar & Grill. "Bill and I worked together for 12 years at the Hot Tomato's Restaurant Group," says Keller, "so we know each other's strengths. Plus, we were both born and raised in New Jersey, so we have a kindred spirit. We started putting plans in place last December, and we're confident DISH Bar & Grill is the best we have to offer."

The restaurant's grand opening party will serve as a fundraiser for the Hartford Arts Council. Keller and Carbone are both committed to being involved in the community and making the new restaurant part of downtown Hartford's renaissance.

"Hartford means a lot to me, as does the restaurant business," says Keller. "The restaurant business is in my blood. I love the people. I love putting together a team of employees to pull off a really busy night. Both Bill and I are looking forward to opening night – and many successful years to follow."

Hartford Steam is pleased to be of service to DISH Bar & Grill – and to the many patrons bound to walk through its doors.



Plant Supervisor has Energy to Spare, Share

Whether he's planning the next project at Hartford Steam's main plant or hosting a group of Eagle Scouts at home, Bruce Linder is full of energy and willing to share it with those around him.

Originally from Atlanta, Bruce serves as Hartford Steam's district heating and cooling plant supervisor. He made the move to the Northeast when he joined the Navy in 1980. He attended nuclear power school, met his wife and moved to Hartford when his military service was completed. He joined Hartford Steam in 1986 as an electrician and has worked his way up the ranks for the past 21 years. Now he's responsible for developing and implementing major capital projects, budgeting, handling all operation and maintenance activities, developing the refurbishment projects and more.

"I've seen a lot of growth and change over the years," says Bruce, "but I think one of the most satisfying projects I've been involved with is the recent addition of two 2,500-ton electric chillers. They're working out wonderfully and beating all of our



Bruce Linder is Hartford Steam's district heating and cooling plant supervisor.

expectations. The project came in on time and under budget. I only gained a few gray hairs on this one. It went great.”

“I am happiest when I’m busy,” says Bruce. “So I’m studying and analyzing all the time. I never stop looking at ways to further improve efficiencies and better serve our customers. I’m determined to figure out how we can do it differently and better than anyone else.”

The truth is, the chillers are producing an average of 30 percent more tonnage than expected and, at the time they were installed, they were the largest electric-driven variable-speed-drive units in the world.

Bruce credits his operating crew with helping to optimize the units. “They are the cat’s meow,” according to Bruce. “It’s a good team effort. We have a lot of talent and everyone is helping one another all the time. Our team is the best you can expect. Phenomenal.”

Bruce has a great crew at home as well. He and his wife have two sons and a daughter in their early 20s. The daughter is an honor student, the sons are Eagle Scouts, and Bruce has served as an advisor for many scouts over the years.

Hartford Steam thanks Bruce for his two decades of service and is proud to have him as part of the team.

The Intelligent Use of Energy: Going green by going lean

Richard R. Vaillencourt, PE, Canterbury Engineering Associates LLC

Editor’s Note: Below is an abstract of an article written by consulting engineer Richard Vaillencourt. The article appears in full on Hartford Steam’s Web site at www.hartfordsteam.com/articles/intelligent3.htm. Hop on line and take a look at this third in a series of articles to help you optimize your building’s energy use.

Just as the color green is made by mixing other colors, green energy results from ‘mixing’ a number of ecologically friendly actions. Green energy sources must be renewable and nonpolluting and have minimal environmental and carbon dioxide impacts. Another key ingredient in the green energy mix is conservation: To go green, you also need to ‘go lean.’

Building owners and managers can cut their energy use in three ways. First, they should maintain the control valves on

heating and cooling coils, which quite often do not close all the way – allowing hot or chilled water to leak past the valve into the coil. Second, building managers can tap into ‘free cooling,’ utilizing outside air when it is the correct temperature to do the job. Third, building owners can install variable frequency drives to improve the efficiency of fan operation. To find out more, visit www.hartfordsteam.com/articles/intelligent3.htm.

Yes, Winter Is Around the Corner.

Just over a month from now – Oct. 10, according to the Old Farmer’s Almanac – is the average first frost date in Hartford.

So it’s not too early to get your building ready for winter.

Check out our heating season preparation tips at www.hartfordsteam.com/seasonal.htm. If you have questions, contact Diane Wojcik at (860) 548-7357.

District Energy Technology Gets Rave Review.

“The district energy concept is actually an old idea that is an increasingly responsible solution to today’s environmental concerns,” says Olivier Barbaroux, CEO, Veolia Energy, in a commentary published Aug. 1, 2007, on the Forbes Web site. To read the full article, go to www.hartfordsteam.com/resources.htm and click on “What’s Green and Is Both New and Old.”



Visitors From Around the World and Around the Corner. Last fall, a group from the Japan Heat Services Utilities Association toured Hartford Steam’s district heating and cooling system and exchanged operating ideas with the management team. Both district heating and cooling are growing exponentially in Japan. This spring, Hartford Steam hosted approximately 16 members of the Greater Hartford Building Owners and Managers Association. The group toured the main plant and had a chance to ask questions about the system’s operation. If you were unable to attend, but would like a plant tour, contact Diane Wojcik at (860) 548-7357 or dianewojcik@hartfordsteam.com, and she’ll set it up.

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For information, call (860) 548-7348.
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