

# POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: MAY 2021

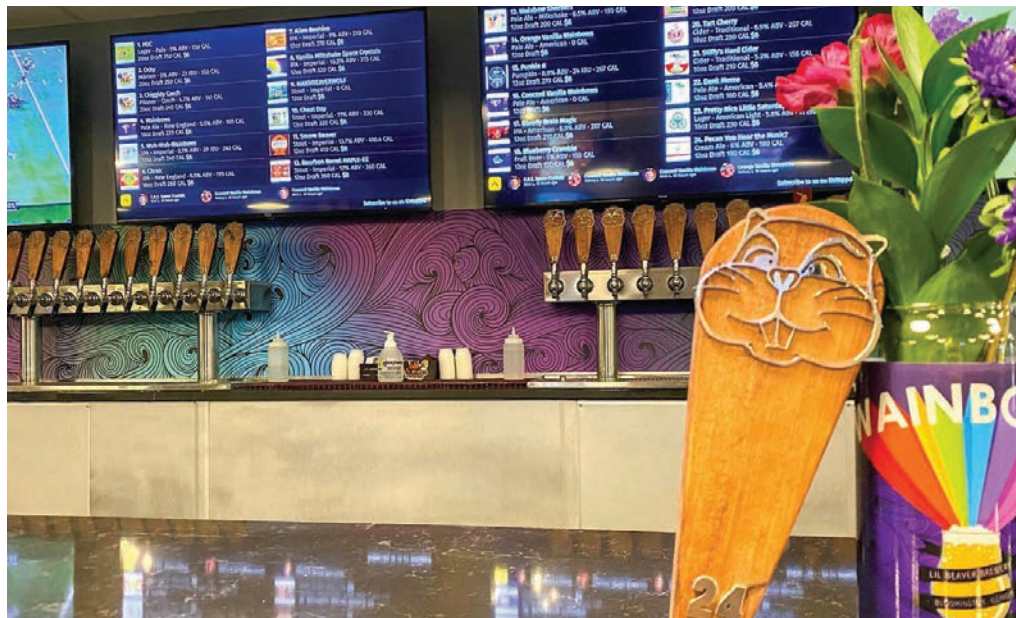
## Lil Beaver Brewery - the art and science of great beer

### Beginning of a passion project

Founder of Lil Beaver Brewery, Chad Bevers turned a hobby that began over 20 years ago, the love of brewing his own beer, into a full-time business.

From home brewing, trading home brews with others, serving as a volunteer and beer vendor at Bruegala, a charity beer and wine festival hosted by the Bloomington-Normal Jaycees, to entering and placing in several beer competitions, Bevers refined his art of home brewing.

Starting out as a hobby, Bevers loved to share his beer with others and was constantly working to improve his craft. After winning a silver medal in the National Homebrew Competition and being a finalist in the Sam Adams LongShot competition at the Great American Beer Festival, Bevers made the leap from hobbyist to business owner opening his first brewery location in



Bloomington, Illinois, in 2017.

Lil Beaver Brewery began as a local carry-out and self-distribution business. However, as the brewery developed, Bevers had a strong desire to expand his business and make it a full-time venture.

### Expanding the brewery

Adam and Justin Bellas, owners of Bellas Landscaping a well-known landscaping company with over 15 years in the community, became business partners with Bevers approximately 8 months after the brewery was up and running bringing their business acumen and established community presence to the business.

“Many may think that this is an unusual partnership of a landscaping company and a brewery, but together we have been able to form a great relationship. We work together with a common goal and have the same local, community focus,” stated Bevers about the partnership.

The partnership allowed them to expand upon Bevers' vision of transitioning from a carry-out only business to a full-service brewery and restaurant. Lil Bever Brewery was able to purchase an additional building, create a parking lot and patio. The design and construction expertise of Adam and Justin Bellas are artfully demonstrated in





the new taproom and beautifully landscaped outdoor seating patio area.

While the business changes were well underway prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many consumers were not aware that the brewery was expanding. To ensure business continuity, the Lil Beaver Brewery continued its local

carry-out business, self-distributed throughout the state of Illinois as well as Arizona, and participated in an online mail order beer service called Tavour.

“The pandemic has had its challenges, but it also gave Lil Beaver Brewery the time to focus on the expansion of the business and bring it to what it is today,” said Bevers.

**Now offering a full-service taproom and restaurant**

As businesses began re-opening locally, Lil Beaver Brewery opened its doors with a full-service taproom and restaurant. The restaurant menu includes appetizers ranging from Beef Birria Tacos to Chicken Wings, salads such as Grilled Steak Salad or Beer Can Chicken Cob Salad, sandwiches including the Beaver Burger, Beer Braised Pork Sandwich and Turkey Avocado Panini, and a wide variety of specialty pizzas made with in house beer pizza dough.

The brewery now employs 30 people locally whose focus is

making sure that their food is exceptional and the beer taps always flow.

**Formulas make the craft**

Breweries can tell you the count of yeast cells going into the freshly brewed wort and they can tell you how many volumes of CO2 are contained in a finished product. If brewers didn't have specific formulas such as this, they would not be able to maintain consistency.

So, while brewing is an art, it also relies heavily on the science of the art. Without the science, we would not have the delicious variety of craft brews.

**Art of craft beer**

Walking the line between art and science is where a great beer is formed. Like art, beer is an acquired taste. Not everyone will enjoy the same thing. However, at Lil Beaver Brewery, they pride themselves in helping consumers find a beer that suits each individual's taste.

Some people think that they don't like beer or don't like a certain type



## Meet our employees

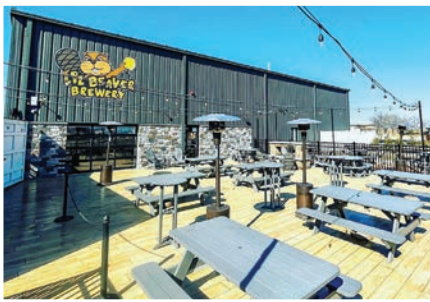
of beer due to past experiences, but at Lil Beaver with a variety ranging from stouts to IPAs to sours, they'll work to help you find something that you do like. "We try to have something different that will match each person. Seltzers have become kind of popular so we are working on those too," said Bevers.

And while you're there, be sure to check out the whimsical artwork that so vividly matches the beer can labels and describes the stories behind them.

Some examples include, the first IPA produced by Lil Beaver Brewery, called "Line Leader", named after Bevers' daughter who was enamored with being a line leader at school, another beer "Wainbows" named after his daughter's love for rainbows at a time when she couldn't pronounce her Rs, and "Space Crystals", an entire line of Lil Beaver Brewery's beer, is named after a very imaginative story told by

Bevers' daughter including space crystals.

A local designer works with Lil Beaver Brewery to create the beer label designs, and one of the Lil Beaver Brewery employees has painted the creative artwork reminiscent of the beer can label designs. This artwork adds to the inviting atmosphere and not only promotes an enjoyable place to drink craft beer but also a family friendly environment.



Lil Beaver Brewery is open from 11 am - 9 pm, Sunday through Thursday and 11 am - 11 pm, Friday and Saturday. Visit the brewery in person at 5 Finance Drive, Bloomington, IL 61704, or you can order by calling 309-808-2590 or visiting [lilbeaverbrewery.com](http://lilbeaverbrewery.com).



**Dennis Stremming**  
Meter and Service  
Journeyman

*How long have you worked at Corn Belt Energy?*  
**7 years**

*What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?*  
**I am responsible for maintaining our metering infrastructure from the field perspective. I ensure meters are reporting accurately, install new services, and resolve unexpected metering issues with members.**

*What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?*  
**I enjoy finding and repairing problems before members experience any loss of service.**

*If there is one piece of advice that you could share with our members, what would it be?*  
**Electricity can be very dangerous. Please call a certified electrician or your representatives at Corn Belt Energy to assist rather than trying to handle electrical issues on your own.**

*Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?*  
**Stay away and stay in your vehicle if downed power lines are nearby. Contact CornBelt to report downed lines or 911 for guidance if you are at risk and unsure what do to.**

*What are your hobbies and outside interests?*  
**Hiking and spending time with family.**

*Who or what inspires you?*  
**My family inspires me to always give my all.**

*Is there anything else that you would like to share with our members?*  
**I am happy to be serving you as part of Corn Belt's team.**



## Levelized billing

Levelized billing gives you a way to guard against large fluctuations in your monthly electric bill, without ever having to play “catch-up” at the end of the year. The program is designed to keep your electric bills consistent every month of the year, as long as you remain on the plan. It’s the ideal way to accurately anticipate your monthly electric bill, which makes budgeting your expenses even easier.

With Levelized billing, your monthly electric bill becomes a “rolling average” of your electric usage for the most recent 12 months. By averaging your changes in usage over a 12-month period, your bill will remain fairly consistent every month, even in very cold or hot months when usage may be significantly higher. Our Levelized billing program is completely free for members with accounts in good standing and with at least 6 months of service history.

Members can deactivate the Levelized billing program at any time by contacting our billing department. If a member on Levelized billing becomes delinquent or enters into a delayed payment agreement, they will be removed from the program.

For more information on Levelized billing or other billing related questions, please contact us at 800-879-0339.

## Help us keep our records up-to-date

If you have changed your phone number or disconnected your landline phone and are now using a cell phone number, Corn Belt Energy would like for you to help us keep our records updated.



Check your latest bill stub or log in to your online SmartHub account to see which number(s) are currently linked to your account. Phone numbers listed on your account can be found in SmartHub by going

to My Account > Notifications > Manage Contacts. You may also add additional phone contacts on this screen.

To update your phone number(s), simply call us at 800-879-0339, email us at [cbec@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:cbec@cornbeltenergy.com), or correct the info on your next bill stub. We can record up to three numbers to associate with your account, including cell phones. We won't sell or share your contact

information with anyone else. By having your current phone number(s) on file, it will also help our automated outage reporting system to work efficiently. When you call in to report an outage, our automated system takes the phone number you are calling from and checks it against phone numbers we have on file in our account management system. If your number is on file, it makes outage reporting faster and more efficient.

### CONTACT US

1-800-879-0339 | [cbec@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:cbec@cornbeltenergy.com) | [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) |    
1 Energy Way, Bloomington IL 61705 | Office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

