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N.J. brewery finally opens its doors after a 14-month delay

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Buttzville Brewing Company recently opened its doors in Washington in Warren County. Brian Bobal | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

By [Brian Bobal | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

Dave and Erin Anderson just needed to push through the roadblocks in front of them.

Much easier said than done, though, as two of those roadblocks felt more like mountains.

As they both put it, a lot of bootstrapping was needed.

The couple hoped to open [Buttzville Brewery](#) in Warren County in May of 2020. Forces beyond their control postponed the opening for nearly 14 months.

A combination of the global [coronavirus pandemic](#) and not being able to secure key Small Business Administration loans put the whole operation in jeopardy.

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Still, they always focused on the light at the end of the tunnel.

“We kept the focus on Dave’s love of sharing beer and educating people about beer and I think that saw us through to the end,” Erin said. “We really wanted to support this community, too. Washington has a lot of potential.”

The doubt and uneasiness turned into pure elation on a recent Saturday. After all the uncertainty, Buttzville Brewing Co. opened its doors to the public in the heart of Washington.

“This is exactly what I wanted to do,” said Dave. “I want to help the community. I want to bring good beer, a good time, a good atmosphere.”

The hope is to help bring a bustling scene to Washington in a similar vein to what [Czig](#) [Meister Brewing](#) and [Man Skirt Brewing](#) have done in Hackettstown, just a short trip up Route 57.



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Craft beer fans now have a chain of breweries a relatively short distance apart on Route 57 with [Invertase](#) in Phillipsburg, now Buttzville in Washington and the aforementioned spots in Hackettstown.

Opening day comes just over seven years since Dave started home brewing.

Typically someone more prone to staying active rather than sitting down to read a book, it came as a surprise to Erin when Dave fell in love with Charlie Papazian's book "The Complete Joy of Home Brewing."

It ended up being the perfect Christmas gift, which also included Dave's first homebrew kit.

"I'm going to get him this and he's not going to like it," she recalled her thoughts at the time. "Whatever. It'll end up in the basement and we'll sell it at a yard sale."

Instead, a passionate and life-changing hobby was born.

He read it cover to cover, purchased several other books about the hobby and traveled to various conferences and clubs.

Dave brewed his first beer, a cream ale, in 2014. Now just seven years later, he owns his own brewery.

“It sounded like a lot of fun to brew,” he said. “I read the book before I brewed my first batch. It was a year and a half of brewing that I knew I wanted to get serious. It was a matter of can we actually do it.”

His local homebrewing club, the [Lehigh Valley Homebrewers](#), has seen several of its members move on to open their own breweries, most notably ones in eastern Pennsylvania like [Taylor House](#), [Lost Tavern](#) and [HiJinx](#).

Dave can now happily join that list.

His main focus is German beers and there were four available to try this past weekend. A pale ale, a hefeweizen, a milk stout and a blonde ale, which was very crips.

A seltzer is also there for the non-craft beer crowd.

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