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## Dave Kwiatkowski's Detroit Optimist Society to take over management of Buhl Bar

By Kurt Nagl



Detroit Optimist Society

The Roxbury Group, which owns the Buhl Bar in the Buhl Building at 535 Griswold St. in downtown Detroit, is bringing on the Detroit Optimist Society to handle operations effective Nov. 1.

- Roxbury Group to maintain ownership
- Hours to expand
- Menu and membership structure to be enhanced

The Buhl Bar in downtown Detroit is set to be revamped under a new operating agreement that will expand hours, enhance the menu and shake up staff.



The Roxbury Group, which owns the bar in the Buhl Building at 535 Griswold St., is bringing on Dave Kwiatkowski's Detroit Optimist Society to handle operations effective Nov. 1.

Terms of the partnership were not disclosed. Kwiatkowski said the ownership structure at the Buhl Bar is not changing.

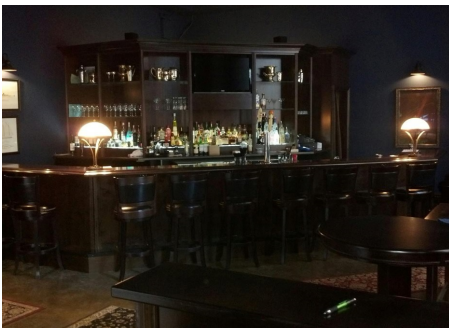
"It seems like a really good opportunity for (the Roxbury Group) to do what they do best and for me to do what I do best," he said.

The Detroit Optimist Society operates five bars/restaurants in Detroit, each one majority-owned by Kwiatkowski: The Sugar House, Wright & Co., Honest John's, The Peterboro and Bad Luck Bar.

The Buhl Bar "will run like any other of our properties," Kwiatkowski said.

The sole bartender at the 1,000-square-foot Buhl Bar is leaving as part of the operations change, Kwiatkowski said, and a new manager and three new employees have been hired.

A full selection of craft cocktails and an increased whiskey selection — particularly, rare bourbon — are being added to the menu.



Detroit Optimist Society

The bar's current hours are 3:30-7:30 p.m. Monday -Friday. Those will expand to 4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 4 p.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday.

Kwiatkowski also plans to expand the bar's Savoyard Club by offering members private whiskey tastings and bottle purchases. Membership will require a minimum \$100 spend per month.

"After over five years as downtown Detroit's best known after work cocktail bar, we felt it was time to expand our hours and offerings to a wider audience," said David Di Rita, co-owner of the Buhl Bar and founder and principal of the Roxbury

Group.

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