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Windstorm closes some hotels, fills others to capacity in Washtenaw

ANN ARBOR, MI - Widespread power outages across Washtenaw County that began on Wednesday, March 8, are forcing some residents to check into hotels and look for hot meals away from home.

High winds, some as strong as nearly 70 miles per hour, also closed some schools and businesses in the Ann Arbor area on Thursday as DTE Energy crews work to repair power lines and enlist the help of crews from other states.

With hundreds of thousands of people throughout Michigan without power, Consumers Energy and DTE Energy are updating customers on the timetable for when power will be restored.

The DTE Energy app shows a list of places with power, including hotels, medical offices, grocery stores and restaurants when looking at the outage map. Some hotels listed are the Embassy Hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn Ann Arbor, and Weber's Inn, though some businesses are reporting rooms are sold out for Thursday night.

Michael Weber, vice president of [Weber's Inn](#), said the hotel was sold out both Wednesday and Thursday night, with many guests citing the power outage as a reason for their stay.

"We had a huge demand for last-minute hotel reservations," Weber said. "It's hard to everybody to lose power and not be able to use their home. We're happy we can provide a comfortable place for them to stay and have a nice, hot meal

until their power comes back on and they can return home."

Weber's Inn brought in extra staff to handle the business volume Wednesday and Thursday nights, and Weber said he anticipates the Weber's Inn Restaurant to be busier than normal.

The [Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites](#), 3155 Boardwalk in south Ann Arbor, is almost sold out for Thursday night, said general manager Chris Newsome. It is hard to determine how much extra business came from the power outage than normal business, he said, but phones have been ringing off the hook with room queries. "It was mostly last night," Newsome said, adding he came back to work to help staff field the calls. "We've had a lot of guests extending their nights."

The [Wyndham Garden Ann Arbor](#) is in the middle of three large outage areas, according to the DTE Energy app, and the general manager said the hotel was almost sold out Wednesday night.

"We almost sold out last night and we're in the process of probably selling out in the next five to ten minutes," said Dustin Brockmiller, general manager. "It's been non-stop phone calls. It's all power outage-related."

Some hotels reported to be out of power include the Red Roof Inn locations in both south and north Ann Arbor and the Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest in Ypsilanti.

Restaurants confirmed as closed Thursday include:

- Juicy Kitchen
- El Harissa
- Cross Street Coffee
- Got Burger
- Encuentro Latino

Some nearby spots like Frita Batido's and Isalita are shown as having power on the DTE Energy app.

Briarwood Mall is up and running, and offers 22 restaurants and fast-casual spots to get a hot meal, said Denise Murray, director of marketing.

"We've had lots of calls, people looking for places to go," Murray said. "If you can't prepare food, this is a great resource and a chance to try our new food offerings."

Share what hotel and restaurant closures you are aware of in the comments below.