



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT - A NEW BEGINNING for the “old” AIRPORT TAVERN

At 5406 South Tacoma Way rests what used to be the old Airport Tavern, a gay-friendly bar and grill. The space has laid dormant for the past few years since it's closing. That's all about to change, but the name will live on as The Airport Tavern, in honor of this South Tacoma landmark and its iconic signage out front.

As of this month the doors are expected to reopen, bringing life back to the building and offering a local, live-music venue on the weekends (Thursday through Saturday) with tavern-esque shenanigans such as karaoke and trivia nights throughout the week. Overall, this space holds limitless potential. The building has been reinfused life thanks to new tenant Dan Rankin, who brings in his wit and experience from past endeavors as the booking agent for Jazzbones and Art on the Ave, to his ongoing success as the owner of Danno Presents entertainment company which brings large scale shows and world famous performers to venues across the city. Dan also affiliates himself with local business and shared interest groups like that of the trend setters at all-ages venue Real Art Tacoma, Stonegate Pizza and the 6th Avenue Business District. By working hand-in-hand with others in similar fields, he represents a modern movement of neighborly support and encouragement as opposed to the competitive rivalry that might otherwise be expected. All-in-all the business model and day to day operations will be a collaboration between Dan, his wife Jessica, and business partner Matt Church.

The team's hard work and the building renovation, which began in mid-July, are paying off this month as business launches, encompassing live entertainment and regular special events. The previous space was reminiscent of an old-school tavern, dark and spacious with a billiard room in back. The new tavern is embracing the atmosphere while inviting the energy of a small but vibrant bar and music scene. It wasn't so much the draw of South Tacoma as it was a fitting piece of real estate that piqued the interest of the new tenants, but Dan certainly sees a bright future for South Tacoma, an area he fondly refers to as “the final frontier”. In terms of menu offerings, the plan is to start simple with soups, sandwiches and paninis.

Dan has been working with the South Tacoma business district to support strong business management practices and ensure that once these doors open, The Tavern will remain alive and thriving, bringing to Tacoma's south-side a greater volume of good times.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - AMERICAN PARTY PLACE CELEBRATES EXPANSION

Ten years ago, all the magic happened out of one little store front on South Tacoma Way. The American Party Place, a locally-owned party supply rental enterprise, consisted of a front office desk and a small showroom in the back of hardware supplier Bunce Rental and American Medical Supply. This network of unique rental niches underneath an umbrella of successful business strategy and customer service, has hit a sweet spot in the South Sound. The work family is an extended one and their legacy is growing.

Mike Blaisdell, general manager of the three entities, started his journey with the rental companies at the ripe age of 15. It seemed as he gained the knowledge and business sense to eventually manage the three, the businesses matured and flourished as well. Like an inflating balloon, the American Party Place outgrew the cramped back room and small, multi-tasking staff, and found a new home-base at the retail space next door. Within the last year, in addition to a showroom remodel, a third phase of expansion came together and incorporated a large warehouse across the street on Washington, where the linens are now laundered.

This chain of unique specialty stores has truly become a neighborhood staple, supplying materials for the annual South Tacoma Car Show and the Jazz Festival, so it's no wonder they've been nominated as this month's member spotlight. This team effort is so much more than meets the eye. From the long-standing employees that keep business and customer service standards up, to the multitude of items available. Catalogs have become a thing of the past here due to the inability to keep up with the constant growth of inventory! (Visit their website for up-to-date listings.)

Driving past that small corner window display beneath the neon American Party Place sign, you might not know that a library of colorful linens is being carefully laundered and prepped here, a collection that has quadrupled since the expansion. “Everything we rent has to be touched and everything has to be cleaned,” says Loree Durham who, for 10 years, has been working for Mike as the Store Manager at American Party Place. “If a linen is stained, it doesn't ruin an event exactly, but it can come pretty close.”

Loree and the staff pride themselves on the services and strategy here. Mike is involved in major decisions, but on a day-to-day basis, he's entrusted Loree and the team to run the show. Clearly, the hard work and attention to detail is paying off as the American Party Place rounds out their busiest busy season yet, hosting parties across the South Sound region for as many as 800 people. In the summer time the staff size more than doubles, adding seasonal help from high school and college employees to meet the work load. This year that party season was met with the chaos of physically facilitating the move to the new building.

Who Should I Call?



Police-Fire-Medical Emergency.....911

TPD Non-Emergency.....253-798-4721

Tacoma Police Dept. Sector 3

Lt. Al Roberts, Comdr. 253-591-5190

CLO John Warczak253-573-2562

CLO Jason Milles.....253-591-5692

CLO Mike Sborny253-594-7858

So. Tacoma Business District

AssociationOffice253-475-5676

C.M., Joe Lonergan253-591-5100

C.M., Keith Blocker253-591-5100

City of Tacoma

TacomaFIRST311: CALL 311 for any complaints or questions that you may have. If they do not have an immediate answer for you, they will find out and call you back. **Just Dial 311**

AMERICAN PARTY PLACE CONTINUES FROM PAGE ONE

"We've taught a lot of kids how to work. It's not an easy job," Loree says. "There's some adults we've hired from different circumstances and given an opportunity. We've definitely changed some people's lives." Loree says she's most inspired by the people, from the kids that mature into hard working adults summer to summer, to the four employees Lori has worked beside for the last ten years.

Cleanliness and quality are superior at this South Tacoma business and finding the perfect size and color for your napkins and tablecloths is almost guaranteed. From dunk tanks and photo booths to fine china and white reception tents, American Party Place has the goods to supply just about any occasion to remember.

2016 QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, November 10th will be the last General Meeting for the association this year. Please join us at **The Mule Tavern @ 5:45pm** for refreshments followed by our meeting at 6:00pm. Sample owner Sam Halhuli's "original ginger beer and check out the "where everybody knows your name" atmosphere. City staff will be updating us on STW LID and the State Farm Grant Art Project. Posters regarding Tacoma's Minimum Wage and Paid Leave ordinances (which are required to be posted at all businesses) will be available to attendees. Car Show Financials will be available. The board would also like input on what projects to work on for 2017.

2017 CAR SHOW & STREET FAIR

Shane Sabeti of Sabeti Motors @ 5639 STW has volunteered to chair the 2017 Car Show. A committee is currently being formed so if you have input on what you would like to see done, happen, changed or anything else, please email Lisa at info@stbda.com with your comments so she can pass them on to the committee. Planning for 2017 will be starting in November as several line items need to be in place before the end of this year. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Shane or Corey at 253-472-1921

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the CHILI PARLOR

The Chili Parlor will be offering a "Holiday Carryout Menu" for Thanksgiving for those who don't want to cook. Choices are **Oven Roasted Turkey dinner @ \$11.95 pp** or **Baked Honey Glazed Ham dinner @ \$10.95pp**. Stop by the restaurant to place your pre-order. NO orders accepted after November 13th.

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Youth Drop In Center Meeting @ APCC 4851 STW 6-8pm	4	5
6	7 SEAHAWKS vs Buffalo Bills 5:30pm	8 ELECTION DAY	9	10 STBDA General Meeting - The Mule Tavern 5227 STW 5:45pm	11 VETERANS DAY - Federal Holiday	12 Lit End 4-piece Band - Stonegate 5421 STW 21+ / Free 9pm
13 SEAHAWKS @ New England 5:30pm	14	15	16	17 Youth Drop In Center Meeting @ APCC 4851 STW 6-8pm	18	19
20 SEAHAWKS vs Philadelphia 1:25pm	21	22	23	24 THANKSGIVING	25	26
27 SEAHAWKS @ Tampa Bay	28	29	30	<i>Monthly events:</i> 2 nd Saturday 9-12 pm, Wapato Hills Park clean-up (6231 S Wapato St.) 3 rd Saturday 9-12 pm, Oak Tree Park clean-up (S. 74 th & Cedar St.)		

Weekly event at Dawson's Bar & Grill:

Monday Jam Sessions with Heather Jones & the Groove Masters at 8 pm

Weekly events at the Stonegate:

Sunday Jam Sessions with Tim Hall at 8 pm

Thursday Jam Sessions with Jimmy Shew at 8 pm

Weekly Events at the Cultura Events Center:

Thursday Ladies' Night at 10 pm. Free cover and drink specials. "Dress to impress"/21 +

Azul Friday at 10 pm. Drink specials and DJ mixes. "Dress to impress"/21 +



MINI GOLF BENEFITS A GOOD CAUSE

Last month, Harkness Furniture hosted Rotary Club Tacoma South's annual Mini Golf Tournament. 24 businesses participated, sharing 18 putt-putt holes decorated with themed props, banners, marketing materials and prizes. The room became a 3-D canvas for local business. NW Home Furnishings placed a handful of home décor and miniature furniture around their run. Communities in Schools used a display of pumpkins spelling out the word "read" on their green. The FISH food bank built towers from canned food items. Other businesses opted to team up with their themes in support of the charitable cause.

Each \$50 ticket included dinner, drinks, participation in the golf tournament and a chance to bid on auction items. Each year the proceeds are gifted to a designated non-profit and this year the Schatz Branch of the Boys and Girls Club earned the nomination thanks to the efforts of the branch's Area Director, Gary Klein. According to Gary, a large van designated for club member transportation, was totaled due to a parking lot accident and other mechanical issues. Insurance did not cover a replacement. The van would cost \$45,000 but the investment was irrefutable, allowing these children access to things like college visits, volunteer and job opportunities, leadership conferences and extra-curricular fieldtrips. "Many families are limited in having the chance to see their community because of finances," Gary said. "The van provides us the opportunity to develop stronger relationships and gives our members life changing experiences ... It is our job to help 300 kids (in daily attendance at the Schatz branch) feel successful and motivated to see their future."

Now, the Boys and Girls Club is a mere \$4,000 away from funding their new vehicle, thanks to generous contributors at the spectacular event orchestrated by Harkness Furniture, the Rotary Club Tacoma South and so many others. To help the club reach their goal before winter chill sets in, please contact Cindy Atwood: (253) 671-4458.

VISITATION PARISH: The SEASON of GIVING

The most wonderful time of the year is upon us, but it's not always the case for many families stricken with homelessness, domestic struggle, unemployment and poverty. Key players in the community, like Visitation Parish on South 58th Street, refuse to turn a blind eye and instead use the opportunity to give a hand-up to community member in need. This month, two outreach programs take the stage.

The annual Giving Tree, decorated with cards featuring up to 150 local families in need, welcomes business and members of the community to pitch in and give back. Each card on the tree details a family in need, with family size, children's ages and their associated wish list. Often the requests are void of fancy toys and electronics and instead suggest simple comforts like new shoes and winter coats. Invest in a greater good and help Visitation Parish by adopting a family this Christmas season, now through December 15th. A gift giving and holiday dinner party will take place for the enrolled families on Friday, December 16th.

Sometimes the need is bigger than a wrapped gift box. From November 13th through the 19th, Visitation Parish welcomes homeless women with children by providing shelter, warmth and safety through the family housing program. The intent is to help

transition these women into sustainable, living-wage jobs by providing housing and community support for a period of ten-days, then rotated between different housing sites and participating churches over a 6- to 8-month term. During this time, women are provided job transition and training. The Parish will take part in specific areas including meal and laundry provisions as well as dinner and overnight hosting.

The Mission Statement at the Parish includes the following: "We celebrate the Sacraments and reach out to embrace all people with Christian hospitality." The message is validated through these generous interactions with the community. Learn how to get involved. Contact the Visitation Parish at (253) 473-4960 or visit them at 3314 S 58th Street, Tacoma.

COMMUNITIES in SCHOOLS CONNECTS STUDENTS w/LOCAL BUSINESSES

Summer seems light-years away, but Communities in Schools is wasting no time in seeking work recruitment for Tacoma students, specifically those at Mt Tahoma High school, where site coordinator Trisha Tracy works to grow this influential program. Just last month, Trisha approached the board to address the concept of student-employee opportunities at local businesses, be it paid employment or volunteer and internship placements. Positions like these provide local teens and young adults with exposure to the workplace and strengthen individual's resumes and self-esteem. Efforts from American Party Place and the South Tacoma flower basket program, which link city beautification and youth employment, often rely on these seasonal staff to manage the rising work load of those mid-year months. But there are still students seeking employment and interested businesses should prepare early. Communities in Schools suggests the following advice for industries considering young hires:

- Student staffing and internships may include seasonal (summer and public school vacations) or after school options.
- Student employees do not necessarily need to be compensated via payroll. Other options include unpaid internships and scholarship opportunities.
- Internships can be considered Community Service Initiatives for students' resumes.

For more info or to join the conversation and consider student employment/internships at your business, please contact Trisha Tracy: (253) 571 – 3843 or trtracy@tacoma.k12.wa.us

PROPOSED YOUTH DROP-IN CENTER

The city has proposed the development of 5401 S Tacoma Way for a Youth and Young Adult Drop-In Center. By day the building would function as an open center where youth and young adults will receive case management, employment resources and educational opportunities. By night, the building will continue as an Emergency Overnight Shelter.

Join the City of Tacoma staff at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, 4851 S Tacoma Way, at one of two community meetings for more information on this project.

MEETINGS: November 3rd & 17th 6-8 pm

SAFETY ADVISORY

Several events in the past two weeks have brought concern to area business owners & employees. While the criminal activity in South Tacoma is no greater than elsewhere in the city (per recent police department reports), it is still extremely alarming when it happens in our own area.

South Tacoma has three TPD Community Liaison officers to assist and they continue to remind us to be aware of your surroundings and to report any unusual activity by calling 911. It is always better to be safe than sorry. Their names & contact information are listed under WHO SHOULD I CALL ?

So. Tacoma Business District Association
PO Box 9445 - Tacoma WA 98490-0445
www.stbda.com

Return Service Requested

4TH QTR GENERAL MEETING
The Mule Tavern 5227 STW
Car Show Financials, LID Progress,
Minimum Wage/Paid Leave Update



Tacoma/Pierce County
Habitat for Humanity®
Store

Rich Flannigan
Store Manager

4824 South Tacoma Way
Tacoma, WA 98409
Monday - Saturday
9am - 6pm

Fax 253.284.2805
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Lisa Kaye, District Manager

info@stbda.com 253-475-5676

**The Board meets monthly Check your monthly
calendar. Meetings are open to Everyone.**

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