



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Curtis Upholstery

You can't judge a piece of furniture by its cover, but that is certainly an important part of the product and process at Curtis Upholstery. This long-standing business has a lifetime under its belt, opening in the 1950's under founder Mitch Curtis. Within the last decade and under the ownership of Tim Wicklund, Curtis Upholstery moved from University Place to South Tacoma Way and added a new trade to the industries of the South Tacoma strip. This local craft has been displayed across the South Sound, in the Governor's Mansion, in the capital building, 135 chairs for the Tacoma City Council Chambers, local hospitals and clinical offices as trends move to vinyl, and in homes near you!

A fine, old piece of furniture is structurally sound but a little outdated and dingy from an outside perspective; A recliner is the perfect fit and style for your unfurnished space, but some of the inner workings require a tune-up; A boat is due for fresh fabric and padding; A family heirloom needs new life; A treasure on the side of the road may have a little luster left. It's a job for the team at Curtis Upholstery.

Tim entered the world of professional upholstery after finishing a post-high school trade program through the state. The experience channeled him into upholstery, a hobby he had picked up as a child from his mother. He originally began working for a shop in Puyallup but aspired to a position at Curtis, "the shop to work for." That dream came true in 1987, on his 21st birthday, and he would later purchase the enterprise from Scott Loftus.

The full-time staff of seven is a testament to lengthy tenure; some being employed for over ten years, like lead upholsterer Jeff Johnson and fabric consultant and office manager Heidi Nelson. Tim's fiancé Laura Fisher also adds to the talent as head seamstress and cane/wicker specialist. Now in South Tacoma, things are bigger and better. The "wise move" made more space available for current operations and improved visibility for new customers. Those walk-in inquiries, welcomed by an approachable and experienced staff member, have tripled since the move.

"It's nice saving old furniture and not just throwing stuff away," Tim says. "We're supposed to be a recycle nation. What's funny is that a lot of the frames that do get tossed are way better than what they're putting out now. They may be all loosey-goosey but once they're knocked apart, re-glued and put back together, they'll go another 40 or 50 years."

Business is always changing with different fabrics and new innovations to style and technology. A few custom pieces are made from scratch and antiques seem to be a favorite around here, but large commercial orders are also welcomed and on the rise. The staff knows furniture and are happy to offer professional advice about the life-cycle and structure of a piece when giving an in-home or in-shop estimate for an incoming project.

"We want to make sure the frame is going to outlast the new fabric," Tim says, going as far as addressing potential problems and returning a better product than the original. "We may not be the cheapest in town but we take things completely apart and go through the frame, springs, padding, everything, before we put it back together."

Eventually all materials and products wear and business stays steady throughout the year. With a deposit to purchase the fabric, orders can be expected about 4-6 weeks out. A piece is typically held in the shop for two weeks unless it needs wood work or refinishing, a team effort performed by neighbor John Moran at Cyphers and Kallander located at 5014 S Washington Street.

- Reupholster boats now! Come in during winter to prepare your craft for warm weather's return.
- Curtis also restores classic car and motorhome interiors and even reupholsters car seats and exercise equipment.
- Popular fabric names in store include Robert Allen, Kravet, Charlotte, Barrow, and more.
- Old recliners are typically designed and crafted better, with longer-lasting frames and mechanisms, as opposed to newer pieces.

If you have a favorite chair or a valuable piece of once-upholstered property, visit Curtis Upholstery. 5234 South Tacoma Way M-F, 9:30 to 4:30 pm (253) 564-0233



TACOMA POLICE TRAGEDY

This is a very sad time for the City of Tacoma. A dedicated police officer gave his life in the line of duty while protecting others. We recognize the sacrifices that our officers make to keep us safe. We want to extend our gratitude and condolences to all law enforcement officers and their families.

2017 CAR SHOW MEETING

There will be a Car Show meeting on the 14th of December, 8:00 am at the Chili Parlor. Here are a few topics on the agenda: 1. We were approached by Robert Wells at the Cultura Event center to host a food venue and beer garden. 2. We are also in touch with other food vendors to bring a great mix of authentic food for the event. 3. We want to allow any one that registers for the car show to display their classic cars for sale at the show. 4. We will be inviting classic car buyers and appraisers for the event. 5. We have already talked with Rock n Roll Magic band that has a huge following to be at the show for live entertainment. We also are in contact with a Tacoma Flamenco group for dancing, music and great cultural entertainment. 6. We would like to expand the car show area to 58th street and Washington St. We would love to receive input from anyone with great new ideas to improve the South Tacoma Way Classic Car Show. We are always in need of volunteers. If anyone would like to participate please contact Shane Sabeti, Amy Tyler or Corey Bonar at Sabeti Motors. **Shane:** (253) 307-1085 **Amy or Corey:** (253) 472-1921

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

Association Office253-475-5676

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**

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- ▶ Spotlight your business in the STBDA Newsletter - circulation 300
- ▶ Link your website to the STBDA website at www.stbda.com
- ▶ Use the Membership Directory - to utilize your fellow business district members when you do business.
- ▶ List your events on the monthly calendar - a great way to invite your fellow district members to sales and events at your place of business
- ▶ Complimentary booth at the Annual Classic Car Show
- ▶ Introduce your business to newcomers in our "Welcome Kit"
- ▶ Host a membership meeting at your place of business
- ▶ Showcase your business at the district booth during community events.
- ▶ Additional 10% discount in Tacoma Weekly Advertising
- ▶ Your dues support the continuation of Beautification Projects.

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 Fax (253) 830-5142
sotacoma@groceryoutlet.com
www.groceryoutlet.com
 Facebook

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 12pm Taste of Asia @ Asia Pacific Cultural Center \$25
4 5:30 pm Seahawks vs Carolina Panthers	5	6	7	8	9	10 PEARL HARBOR DAY 11:00 am Tzu Chi Cooking Class at Asia Pacific Cultural Center \$5
11 1:25 pm Seahawks @ Green Bay	12	13	14 2017 CAR SHOW MEETING – 8:00AM The Chili Parlor	15 5:25 pm Seahawks vs LA Rams	16	17 9 pm Led Zeppelin at the Stonegate
18	19	20	21 WINTER BEGINS	22	23	24 1:25 pm Seahawks vs Arizona Cardinals
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE

Weekly events at the Stonegate:
 Sunday Jam Sessions with Tim Hall at 8 pm
 Thursday Jam Sessions with Jimmy Shew at 8 pm

Monthly events:
 2nd Saturday 9-12 pm, Wapato Hills Park clean-up (6231 S Wapato St.)
 3rd Saturday 9-12 pm, Oak Tree Park clean-up (S. 74th & 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 Cultura Events Center:
 Thursday Ladies' Night at 10 pm. Free cover and drink specials. "Dress to impress"/21 +.



THE NEXT MOVE PROGRAM

Tacoma Public Schools is joining the movement to place local teens in professional internships across the city of Tacoma. The program is called Next Move and is specifically focused on Juniors and Seniors from Mount Tahoma, Lincoln and other local public high schools. As students fulfill job-like responsibilities and aid local businesses at “no charge”, they earn class credit for “Internship 101”.

These young adults, the next generation, connect with local professionals in the fields they might like to pursue after graduation. Suddenly a gap between high school and college becomes a head start into specialized training. The aimless pursuit of a loan-induced degree is a first-hand testament to an individual interest in trade work. These hard-working students are offered the chance to work with over 200 participating businesses, with experienced mentors in real-life scenarios. Currently, candidates from Mt Tahoma High School are earning eligibility for the program as they complete the Intro to Internship professional coursework. With a passing grade, they will graduate and move on to a second semester where 5-8 hours a week will be devoted to local business efforts. The next internship session will run from February to May.

“What do you want to do when you grow up? is very hard [question] to answer when most information comes from TV and movies,” says Program Manager Michael Sein-Ryan. “We want to help Tacoma students make informed choices, based on real information ... they learn and demonstrate career research, professional dress, professional communication, resumes, cover letters and interviews.”

The final incentive to get involved honors local business. That’s you! By opening the door for this opportunity in your work place, you will be supporting your own business with no charge labor while simultaneously supporting young adults, economic development and the future work force in your community. Some students even go on to become long-term, dedicated staff as initiated by these internships. The program advisors are currently seeking growth in the South Tacoma area. If this sounds like a good partnership for your business, please visit www.nextmovetacoma.com or contact Michael Sein-Ryan at 253-571-7991 or mseinry@tacomak12.wa.us. Interested businesses can sign up directly at: www.tacomaschools.org/next-move/Pages/Sites%20-%20Supervisors.aspx

THANKSGIVING IN REVIEW

The **American Veterans Ladies’ Auxiliary** prepares Thanksgiving dinner baskets every year and closed out another busy season of meeting the needs of local veteran families. If you would like to learn more about their ongoing efforts, please call 253-472-2552, #7, then leave your name and phone number and someone will call you back.

The **Cultura Events Center** fed over 200 families on November 23rd. The event offered a free meal and holiday photography to anyone without a place to go for Thanksgiving. The feast was prepared by chef Robert Wells in collaboration with the Cultura Event Center owner Marvin Gaviria and his staff, who were all grateful for a way to give back to the community.

HOLIDAY EFFORTS BRING JOY THIS SEASON

Tacoma’s first Responder’s Dinner: Tacoma police officers and fire fighters have a lot on their plates, especially when being called out into the line of duty around the holidays. While many families are sitting down together for a celebratory meal on Christmas Day, Sector 3’s responsibilities continue. To honor these public servants, home cooked meals are served every year, on December 25th, at the designated **First Responders’ Dinner**, as a way of giving back to those who spend their lives serving others. With a bounty of hands in on the meal preparation, the table is set and an open invite is extended to local heroes throughout Pierce County. Leftover portions are then distributed to stations around the city.

Food and monetary donations and volunteers are still needed for the day of the event. If you can assist, please contact Donna Buck at 224-7837 or mrsdonnabuck@gmail.com.

December 25th from 1:00pm – 9:00pm Sector 3 Precinct 1501 South 72nd Street

Other ways to give back:

- Toys for Tots, drop off at Bunce Rental by December 15 (for donations to be used in 2016).
- FISH Food Bank food drive, drop off at Heritage Bank by December 20.
- Winterfest new coats, gloves, hats, etc., drop off to Harkness Furniture by December 8.

TACOMA’S MINIMUM WAGE ORDINANCE

In case you missed the memo, the minimum wage ordinance has been released and as of January 1st, all local businesses must comply with a minimum hourly rate of \$11.15 and paid leave for employees. Businesses must also display the appropriate signage. The posters come in six languages and can be downloaded from the city’s website OR send in a request and your district officers will gladly send a copy via email. Penalty fees may result for those who are not in accordance.

According to Employment Standards published by the City of Tacoma, employers are offered model work place notices, training, tools for evaluating paid time off policies, and more. Contact CityofTacoma.org/employmentstandards or call (253) 591-5306 for more information.

Tacoma’s minimum wage will eventually round out at \$12/hour by 2018. However, Washington State Initiative 1433 will ultimately require a base pay of \$13.50/hour by the year 2020.

2017 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Congratulations to the following 2017 Executive Board Members, who were voted in at the November 10th meeting. We look forward to an eventful year with our business community!

- President – Brenda Valentine
- VP – Pete Bristow
- Secretary – Vacant
- Treasurer – Karen Rich

No Board Meeting In December

So. Tacoma Business District Association
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www.stbda.com

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President / CEO

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A BETTER POINT OF SERVICE.

S. Tacoma Business District Board

Brenda Valentine, President

New Era Contract Sales 253-272-3553

Pete Bristow, Vice President

Bristow's Exclusive Auto Repair 253-471-1663

Karen Rich, Treasurer

Guardian Security Group, Inc. 253-474-5855

Casey Cowles, Secretary

Minuteman Press 253-474-9900

Brian Arnold, Director

Farmers Insurance 253-752-0234

Cindy Atwood, Director

Heritage Bank 253-671-4458

Bruce Petersen, Director

Brown's Flowers 253-472-3361

Rose Mednick, Director

Image 360 253-475-7446

Larry Henning, Director

Tacoma Eagles Aerie #3 253-473-9123

Lisa Kaye, District Manager

info@stbda.com 253-475-5676

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

www.stbda.com

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