



## Healthy Roots & Happy Gardeners @ Green Thumb Garden Supply

From the street side, Green Thumb Garden Supply can too easily be overshadowed by fast moving traffic and a jungle of auto shops and dealerships. But step inside this local premium garden and hydroponics supply store and let your spirits settle in the large, warming space ornamented with countless strings of lights, flourishing plants of all shapes and sizes, water fountain features, lawn décor and furnishing, green houses and so much more. Gnomes and fairies peek out from gorgeous plant displays and a life-sized lion statue guards the center of the store just past an extravagant indoor gazebo surrounding the registers.

It's in this enchanted, living sanctuary that owner Julie Gunderson has transformed her hobby into a full-blown professional operation. The new Tacoma location moved to South Tacoma Way last spring from a small, soilless plot on Center Street. Initially it wasn't ideal to uproot the business, but it would transpire into what the owner refers to as a blessing in disguise in a new space that functions extremely well for the business, turning commodities like the old auto part booth into a red barn themed green house. The expansive garage-like space, previously functioning as Gerber Collision, opened a whole new realm of possibility and the creativity poured in and continues to grow into every nook and cranny. A second Green Thumb location in Puyallup, open since 2012, offers more outdoor products while the Tacoma store boasts of tropical themed plants like the pineapple and plumeria strands or the popular lime trees. Between the two locations, the business model stands true: *We believe customers need a one-stop shop where they can purchase all the needed supplies to successfully start or maintain their gardens. We provide a professional, friendly environment where all gardeners, from beginners to experts, using soils or not, can walk away with the information and skills needed to achieve the results they expect.*

Julie is a lover of many things, including her plant

preferences, a lengthy list of almost a dozen varieties including orchids, to her love of animals. The lion statue is a testament to this, a symbol for the ongoing raffle that helps to raise money for African wildlife rescue and preservation. Hummingbird feeders and ladybugs for sale, represent the harmony between plant and animal life. Two friendly shop cats, Trump and Obama, have grown up in this location and contribute to the quality of life that transcends species where human, plant and animal work hand in hand. Of the greenery, purchase full grown mothers like the proud banana plant recommended for natural privacy around your home or opt to start fresh with the seedling starter kits that become popular around this time of the year.

Julie knows this is an ongoing labor-intensive undertaking and even tends to miss some of the plants after they have been rehomed, but that, nor her allergies to plants, grass and animals, can keep her from a life close to her passions. She tenderly tours the back end of the shop where plants are rehabbed and propagated for new growth. Julie's green thumb was inherited as a child while shadowing her grandmother in the garden. She now juggles her time between the two store locations, hand-picked purchasing in Snohomish and upkeep for the mother plants she keeps at home, many of which are moved into or breed seedlings into the shops. When on location, Julie greets customers with heartfelt interaction and gardening advice. Both her plants and her customers leave happy.

"My goal is to have the prettiest store with the nicest people," Julie says. "A nice place for people to come, enjoy free coffee or tea, and find stuff in the store to grow anything. I'm a garden freak. The people who work here are garden freaks."

Green Thumb is open daily from 10 am to 7 pm and will satisfy all of your horticultural needs. Be sure to follow the shop's Facebook page for upcoming sales and monthly classes, like the fairy garden and terrarium workshop on February 11th (see calendar). Just call to secure your spot.

Julie's tips for successful gardening:

- Don't over water! Over watered leaves will curl and limp
- Be sure to use the right dirt. The soil shouldn't be too heavy
- Let water filter out to allow roots and soil to breathe
- Be sure pot size or gardening area suits the plant variety
- Use a mister or turkey baster to water plants like succulents that don't need excessive watering

Interested in joining the team at Green Thumb? Julie would like to welcome a green-house specialist to help with the growing inventory. If you know someone who might be a good fit, please contact her at: [gtindoorgdn@comcast.net](mailto:gtindoorgdn@comcast.net)  
**6240 S Tacoma Way Phone 253-460-4769**  
**Hours: Thurs-Tue 10am-7pm - Closed Wed**

# 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 Jason Milles .....253-591-5692

CLO Mike Sborny .....253-594-7858

## So. Tacoma Business District

Association Office .....253-475-5676

C.M., Joe Lonergan .....253-591-5100

C.M., Keith Blocker .....253-591-5100

## 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](http://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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# February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Groundhog Day	3 ●	4
5 SUPERBOWL 51	6	7	8	9 GENERAL MEETING 5:45pm Guardian Security 5424 STW	10 ○	11 Garden & Terrarium workshop at Green Thumb Garden Supply, \$25 12 - 4 pm
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Heritage Bank Open House 10am-3pm CAR SHOW MEETING 5:30pm at Chili Parlor	16	17	18 ●
19	20 Presidents' Day	21	22	23	24	25
26 ●	27	28				

February is national canned foods month (stock up)  
 \*\*Live music at Stonegate Pizza 7 nights a week\*\*  
 Taste of Asia Cooking Classes at Asia Pacific Cultural Events Center, first Saturday of each month  
 Ladies Night Out Thursdays at Cultura Events Center  
 Latin Fridays at Cultura Events Center



## Youth Drop-In Shelter Coming to South Tacoma

The City of Tacoma has purchased a building on the corner of 54th & STW for the purpose of placing a Youth Drop-In/Young Adults Homeless Shelter there. The business district and surrounding neighbors are protecting themselves as any citizen would when government unjustly encroaches into their life. The business district has retained counsel and will be moving forward in preparation for an appeal to the Hearing Examiner. The board has prudently created a list of conditions to be made part of the Conditional Use Permit that will be presented in that appeal to help mitigate negative impacts in a fair and equitable manner for all parties. If that fails, then the STBDA will take this issue to Superior Court.

This facility will bring 100 troubled youth into a struggling business district without any process to mitigate issues that will arise. City Council Members have stated that this facility will benefit the business district. We are all wondering what world they live in. The only condition that was listed on the Conditional Use Permit approval was that city staff would meet with the business district four times a year to discuss any problems with no mention of how to solve them or if they could.

The entire process, including the public process led by the Neighborhood & Community Services Dept has been an exercise in old-fashioned political theater. It was decided long ago on the siting of this facility and nothing that the community had to say was going to change the outcome. The entire process was a typical dog and pony show to placate the ignorant citizens of South Tacoma. Well, we aren't as ignorant as they think.

Attend the General Meeting on February 9th to learn more about our appeal to the Hearing Examiner.

## Heritage Bank Event February 15th 10AM – 3PM

Merchant Services Open House - Learn about the latest technology for accepting credit and debit cards Demonstrations on site at 5448 S Tacoma Way

## Things to Remember When Choosing a Tax Preparer *Suggested by the IRS*

- Check the Preparer's Qualifications
- Check the Preparer's History
- Ask about Service Fees
- Ask to E-file
- Provide Records and Receipts
- Never Sign a Blank Return
- Review Before Signing
- Ensure the Preparer Signs and Includes Their PTIN
- Report Abusive Tax Preparers to the IRS

## Call to action for train safety installations near you

Philip deMaine along with members of the Cross-District Association and Advocacy Committee are asking for community participation regarding an important safety concern. Phillip deMaine employed the young woman who was struck and killed by a train at the McCarver crossing on November 18, 2016, the same crossing where a jogger was fatally hit the year prior. The new initiative is to implement significant safety upgrades to avoid future casualties. Please use local resources to educate yourself and participate in this movement. Resources and plans of action include the Tacoma News Tribune article by Matt Driscoll (article 127861924), the online petition which exceeded 1,100 signatures in its first week (available at [www.change.org](http://www.change.org)), the Tacoma Pedestrian Rail Safety Facebook page and sending of typed or handwritten letters to city council members and the mayor addressing these serious concerns.

"We plan to do whatever it takes to get adequate safety measures put into place but we know we cannot do it alone," deMaine says. For more on the topic, contact 253-203-1724.

## Trains Reroute through South Tacoma

Amtrak will be rerouting all of its trains through South Tacoma later this year. Testing of the new routes and signals will occur from mid-January through the end of February. During testing, trains will travel at speeds up to 79mph and come from either direction, any time day or night. Please be aware and cautious when venturing into these areas.

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1-800-203-3361

**Brown's Flowers INC.**

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email: brwnsflwrs@aol.com



**So. Tacoma Business District Association**  
PO Box 9445 - Tacoma WA 98490-0445  
[www.stbda.com](http://www.stbda.com)

Return Service Requested

**General Meeting**  
**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9TH**  
**AT GUARDIAN SECURITY**

5:45 Refreshments 6:00 Meeting



**Dawson's Bar & Grill**  
5443 S. Tacoma Way  
Tacoma, Wa. 98409  
(253) 475-1421

**Kenny Bender**  
Owner



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**Ed Tuck III**  
President / CEO

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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.**

**[www.stbda.com](http://www.stbda.com)**

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