Vacant Properties on 6th
Following up on an email request for information about a vacant property on 6th Ave by a business owner looking to locate here, I asked the question at a meeting: Does anyone keep track of vacant properties? The answer is yes, and no. 6th Ave Business District’s Economic Restructuring Committee used to keep track of vacancies, even posting them to our website. The City of Tacoma Economic Development Department tries to keep tabs on the number of vacancies because they help businesses locate here. I knew we had quite a few vacancies on the Ave, but I didn’t realize just how many until 6th Ave President, Christina Smyre, and I attended the annual Community & Economic Development Director Meeting where Director Ricardo Noguera said that 6th Ave needs help.

Because the Restructuring Committee has been dormant for awhile, I took a walk down the Ave in late February to see exactly how many vacant spots we have. I knew we had quite a few but the number surprised me. As of this printing, I know of possibly 12 vacant properties. That does not include the properties that are under development, but stalled for various reasons, like Spanky Burgers, Fish Fish Fish and the Boom Boom Room next door. We also have vacancies because of the 6th & Alder [continued on page 2]

Talking Trash - Manager’s Report
By Angie Lokotz, District Manager

The theme of this newsletter was not planned, but it seems to have settled on a topic: Trash--trash receptacles, trash on the street, a trash-bashing event (Trashed on the Ave), and even a property that is slowly being trashed before our eyes.

First, the receptacles (garbage cans, if you prefer). Last year Shari Hart informed us that we would be getting new street cans to replace our artsy garbage containers. Those containers were cool, embellished, and unique but they were small, difficult for the solid waste crews to empty, and face it—they had gotten a bit seedy over the years. We will be getting new cans to replace them, some will even be larger solar compacting units (good news for us because 6th Ave can generate some serious trash on a weekend). We learned that the Lincoln District was also getting cans like ours, but theirs had cool wraps to help them promote their message. I asked Shari how we could get something like that.

About mid-February, we were contacted by Jill [continued on page 8]
**Sixth Avenue Business District**

**Tacoma’s Eclectic Destination**

**OFFICERS**

**President**
Christina Smyre
Crown Bar
cchristinasmyre@gmail.com
206-229-4914

**Vice President**
Eliz Stewart
Tapco Credit Union
Elizabeth.Stewart@tapcocu.org

**Treasurer**
Tracy Hansen
HomeStreet Bank
tracy.hansen@homestreet.com
253-680-8801—work

**Secretary**
Jacob Pugh
ilpugh@gmail.com
253-312-0033

**Board Members**

Casey Cowles
Minuteman Press on 38th
ccowles@minutemanpress.com
253-474-9900

Al Switzer (aka Santa)
Lawn Equipment Repair of Tacoma
AChristmasWishes@gmail.com
253-756-7489

Peter Vanrosendael
Turntable Treasures/House of Records
service@turntabletreasures.com
253-372-9229

Angela Wehnert
Crescent Moon Gifts
cmg@tacomaco@aol.com
253-572-8339

**Committee Chairs:**

**Safety:**
Casey Cowles/Minuteman Press
ccowles@minutemanpress.com

**Design:**
John Wolters/WC Studio
john@wcstudio.com

**Promotions:**
Megan Sacks/Rare and Pure
rarebeautybar@gmail.com

**Art on the Avenue**

**Event Chair**
James Allen Tucker
heptapus@hotmail.com

**District Manager**
Angie Lokotz
South Sound Pano | Business Photo 360
SouthSoundPano.com
angie.lokotz@gmail.com
253-228-2337

**Send Articles to:**

Feature Writer/editor
Angie Lokotz
angie.lokotz@gmail.com

---

**From the Promotion Committee**

*Megan Sacks, chair*

**Question: What are some ideas on promoting 6th Ave Businesses?**

Encourage ALL businesses to become members and attend regular meetings Partner with other businesses—

- Examples — Wedding Bell sees tons of brides and bridesmaids; Pure and Rare Beauty Bar & Spa offers spa parties and wedding hair and makeup services — have our brochures in the wedding shop.
- Expand Yoga could sell Crescent Moon’s sage/crystals/tea etc in their shop.
- Attach a link on your website for additional info to another business website.
- Restaurants — On slow sunny days make “small bites” and hand out to passersby – promote catering services — join UBEReats (feature your food and delivery). Retail shops do sidewalk sales.
- Social Media — 6th Ave Facebook more active with news and events.
- New Businesses – advertisement flyers/ Open House.
- Loyalty/Referral program or coupons just for participating 6th Ave businesses.
- **FACILITIES** - Street appeal is key! Fix up exteriors, small tenant improvements, clean up trash and weeds.

**Vacant Properties on 6th** [continued from page 1]

development that will begin this summer, but that project is finished it will only add to our street appeal.

Why are these prime properties sitting vacant? How can we help fill them? According to our Board and talking with Carol Wolfe, our Economic Development liaison, 6th Ave has a perception problem. People seem to think that we have the highest concentration of marijuana stores in the city (Untrue! We have only two marijuana shops—Emerald Leaves and Mary Mart—in the 6th Ave business district boundary. A third marijuana store, Diamond Green, is a member but located on South 12th & Madison, off of Proctor.) We also have a reputation for the most bars in an area. While we have some great bars, restaurants, and beer bars, most serve food and close at midnight or eleven; not very many actually stay open until 2 am—I count only five: DOA, O’Malley’s Crown Bar, The Triple Knock, and Jazzbones).

Let’s work to change our perception problem. We do have some of Tacoma’s most iconic businesses, great coffee houses, award-winning restaurants and pubs, a brewery, a game store, a comic book shop, professional services, record stores, tattoo parlors, spas and salons, wedding shops (two!), event venues, high end framing and bikes, an Indian grocery, costume shop, and even a funeral home. And a dozen spots waiting to be filled with more awesome businesses.

On the following two pages, in no particular order, are photos of empty stores on the Ave. Some are for lease. Others (like the old Taco Stand site and the former Integrated Therapies) do not have for lease signs.

[continued on page 3]
3013a (former Tacoma Custom Jewelers)

2712 (former Sluggo Brewing)

2805 (former Pop’s Liquor)

2602 (former Vapor Cafe)

2706 (former Cannabis Club Collective)

2503 (former Coughy Shop)

3015b (former Mary Mart site; they have now moved across the street to the former Tacoma Food Co-op site)
2407 (space next door to H&R Block)

3107 (next door to Hippie House)

3002b (former El Guadelajara, behind the old Co-op)

2202 (property across from Bluebeard)

2211 (former home of Turning Point Integrated Therapies, trees have been cut down, landscape removal in progress)

2515 (former home of Sonia’s Taco Stand, now looking worse for wear)
5 Questions with Haiku, Trashed on the Ave Organizer

Daniel Russell

By Angie Lokotz

You created Sunday’s Trashed on the Ave Facebook Event (Sunday, March 5)

What gave you the idea?

People complain about trash on the Ave. I thought, “Let’s do something about it!” It makes the area look bad and I thought it would be a good time sauntering down the Ave on Sunday morning and picking up the trash. Friday and Saturday nights we’d go out and see lots of people littering or throwing cigarette butts around. It makes the Ave look run down. So, Sunday morning, we can go out and pick it up. This Sunday, about 15-20 people showed up to pick up the trash.

Can you give us any feelers for future events?

For the first month we are doing it every Sunday. After that, we’ll play it by ear. Brooke Robertson was the event manager who contacted the City to help get the tools and supplies. The City donated bags, gloves, a couple of brooms, and pokers. The City also said that they’d pick up the bags of trash if we left them by Half Pint.

Why 6th Ave?

I live here, about 4-5 minutes away; lots of us do. The Ave seems to attract millennials. DOA to Red Hot is concentrated with people (under 35’s) who like to go out on the Ave. The older generation sometimes seems to look down on us, so we figured we would be responsible and take care of it.

Will you personally be performing any events on The Ave?

I’ve performed Hip Hop and spoken word events at Jazzbones and Half Pint. I try to wake people up and promote positive messages. [You can see Haiku on March 16th at the Dragonfly Cinema in Port Orchard at 7pm, all ages, $8 at the door. Will be at Half Pint in April (firming up dates).]

What would you do to bring more grassroots participation to 6th Avenue?

Promote more events on 6th Ave. There’s some really killer acts here. Half Pint is filled on weekends. 6th Ave is more chill. Downtown is more wild. Support starving artists, musicians, etc. Bring businesses together to help promote the event. House of Tattoo, Half Pint, Studio 6, Ubi’s, Crown Bar, and Tacoma Thrift and Consignment are some of the businesses on board to help support the Trashed on the Ave events. Discounts or incentives would be appreciated for those who participate. It will help support businesses on a Sunday and help the small business community that has grown here.
SABD General Meeting Minutes 02/14/17

Meeting Time & Place: Crown Bar, 9:30AM
Call to order 9:35 am by Pres. Christina Smyre

Introductions

Motion to Approve Minutes (Tracy Hansen moved, Angie Lokotz seconded), Approved

Alex Soldano | Pierce Transit
- Alex is the Government and Community Relations Officer
- Pierce Transit will be expanding its services as of March 12th
  - Main Arterial routes will now be running a bus every 15 to 20 minutes until 10pm
  - A trolley will be running between Downtown and Pt. Defiance from June to September

Tracy Hansen | Treasurer’s Report
- 2 checks haven’t cleared from the Santa Parade
- We have a current balance of $11,433.44
- Membership dues keep coming in
  - We’ve invoiced current members through Square
  - June is the cutoff to become a member for 2017
  - There is a membership form in our monthly newsletter

Imtiaz Norling | CLO Report
- 2 robberies occurred in the last month, the thief was caught and confessed to both robberies
- There have been a lot of property crimes and vehicle prowls
  - Be vigilant and keep informing your customers to keep your cars empty
  - The two biggest times are around 1-2pm in the afternoon and during the weekend bar times
- There have been counterfeit bills coming through the Ave
  - Please use this link as a guide to familiarize yourself with what the currency should look like: https://www.uscurrency.gov/security/100-security-features-2013-present
  - Counterfeit bills will be taken off the streets if they are examined at a local financial institution and proven to be counterfeit

Carol Wolfe | Economic Development, City of Tacoma
- Carol can help your business with issues you may be having
  - If you need any information from the City, please contact Carol. She is your liaison with the City. Her number is (253) 591-5384

James Tucker | Art on the Ave 2017
- Art on the Ave will be held on July 9th this year.
- Art on the Ave gets your business name out there. There is a lot of community exposure with this event.
- Art of the Ave meetings are held once a week on Thursday in the Post Office building downtown at 1102 A St, Suite 202, Tacoma, WA 98402
- James can be reached at (646) 265-6097

Mjr Donald Sheppard | Salvation Army
- The Salvation Army has two local locations
  - 6th Ave (1501 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98405)
    - Overnight shelter that houses 17 families per night with an overflow shelter for 10-15 additional families
    - This location also houses a women’s center, food bank, utilities assistance, and distributes 40,000 food baskets per year
  - 12th & Union (1110 S Puget Sound Ave, Tacoma, WA 98405)
    - This location houses a drop in shelter, day shelter, or cold weather when needed
    - There are computers, phone chargers, and free coffee is available
- A renovation that would accommodate more units, may possibly happen
- If you know of anyone that needs resources, please call the Salvation Army at (253) 651-4783

Anders Ibsen | City of Tacoma Councilmember
- The Interim City Manager is the City Attorney
- Involve Tacoma Power with conversations about lighting on the Ave
- There are only 3 to 4 officers for the City core
  - The police budget has been increased to hopefully get more police on the streets
  - Collect letters from business owners about harassment or property destruction
- There is a new mental health facility at Allenmore Hospital to aid with Tacoma’s population dealing with mental health issues

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am
Members 2017

- Cocoa Sweet Designs LLC, Penny Johnson, 253-267-1717, 4318 Sixth Avenue, Suite 4, info@cocoasweetdesigns.com
- Crescent Moon Gifts, Angela Wehnert, 253-572-8839, 2502 Sixth Avenue, cmgtacoma@aol.com
- Curves, Pati Lynn, 253-761-9766, 5401 Sixth Avenue Suite 305, westgatecurves@gmail.com
- Goodwill, Sarah Butler, 253-759-3701, 253-341-3779, 5401 Sixth Avenue, sbutler@tacomagoodwill.org
- Gray Law Firm, The, Judson Gray, 253-759-1141, 4142 Sixth Avenue, jgrayattorney@harbornet.com
- Homestreet Bank, Tracy Hansen, 253-627-1700, 3315 So. 23rd Suite 104, tracy@homestreet.com
- Law Offices of Terry E. Lumsden, Terry Lumsden, 253-537-4424, 3517 Sixth Avenue Suite 200, telumsden@aol.com
- Melted Muscles Health Spa, Alana Schaser, 253-330-9353, 3701 Sixth Avenue Suite 2, meltedmuscles@gmail.com
- Paul Reilly N.D., Paul Reilly, 253-752-4544, 3620 Sixth Ave
- Primo Grill, Jacqueline Platner, 253-383-7000, 6th Avenue at Oakes, pgrill@qwestoffice.net
- Pure Beauty Bar and Spa, Megan Sacks, 253-267-0367, 2501 Sixth Avenue, brittnee.patiens@yahoo.com, heatherlynnervin@gmail.com

We’re Ready for Your Membership for 2017!

Fill in, clip and mail the form below with your check (the address is in the form) and you’re all set for a great 2017 with the Sixth Avenue Business District. If you’d rather pay by credit card, please email Angie Lokotz, angie.lokotz@gmail.com, and she’ll invoice you via our Square account and we’ll all save postage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Business Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Phone</td>
<td>Mobile Phone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook/Social Media</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Contact Name</td>
<td>Best Way to Contact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ЧOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- $50 New Business Member (1st yr)
- $100 General Annual Dues
- $50 Supporter (i.e. Resident)
- $200 Community Partner

Non-Profit Organization—Inquire RE: Pricing

Mail Checks to: 6th Ave Business District, 2802 Sixth Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98406

Amt Pd | Date | Check #
Talking Trash - Manager’s Report

[continued from page 1]

Jensen of the North End Neighborhood Council who inquired whether we had any projects that could be facilitated with a Neighborhood Innovative Grant. Jill thought that we needed to firm up our signage so that we had a better brand identity. Then one of our members, John Wolters of WC-Studio, expressed his desire to join a committee. Our design committee needed a head, our branding needed a fix, and so John devoted his time to the Neighborhood Grant process, and with Shari’s help and Jill’s encouragement, we actually filed the paperwork to receive a grant. We are lucky that 6th Ave straddles the dividing line between the North End and the Central Neighborhood Councils. We are hoping that they will each be able to divide and conquer to give us the funds to wrap our new cans with the designs that are on our banners. This should spruce up the Ave and give us a better brand identity.

Street trash has been a problem on the Ave. We have lots of bus stops and that generates a lot of paper waste (schedules, newspapers, etc.) and we have a robust bar scene that also generates its own trash mostly cigarette butts and the occasional can or cup. We also have a number of homeless who camp in our doorways at night and tend to leave their trash behind. So last Thursday, Haiku (Daniel Russell) and Brooke Robertson decided to stop complaining about the trash on the Ave and do something about it. Read Daniel’s comments about their Trashed on the Ave event elsewhere in the newsletter.

And last, the property that was the home of Sonia’s Taco Stand has fallen into disrepair and blight. The once-popular lunch spot on the Ave now looks like an abandoned urban building, graffiti, faded paint, bb-gun holes through the windows. The difference really becomes apparent when you compare this Google Street View from July 2015 with its recent photo in the article about Vacant Properties. Just occupying a building makes it better. Occupying a building with a vibrant business makes our district better. And businesses working together to promote each other makes us a destination.

People love 6th Ave. We are a Live-Work-Eat-Play district. The people who live in the surrounding neighborhoods feel possessive of us. A healthy 6th Ave creates a healthy community. This year’s Board is committed to engaging businesses in the district. We have committee chairs John Wolters/Design, Megan Sacks/Promotions, Casey Cowles/Safety, Angie Lokotz/Organization. Economic Restructuring might be your thing. Help us bring vital new businesses to these empty buildings.

Angie Lokotz

Street Beat

By Peter Vanrosendael

This is a combo street beat/promotions committee blurb. I'd twitter something to ya, except that I would not want to give twitter a bad name. So, civic duty. Who is responsible for removing the snow on the sidewalk in front of your business?? and by extension, the garbage/refuse/litter/syringe etc. etc.? Well by law it's the property owner. But in reality, that falls down to us business owners. So lets clean it up folks. And with a clean site we are indeed promoting 6th Avenue Business District.