

Established in 1942 The Eastside Club Tavern has been more than just a local watering hole, but an Olympian community staple for decades. The Eastside Club Tavern has been a part of Olympia's important beer industry, Evergreen College culture, and music scene. This tavern is one of many local businesses that have helped form what Olympia is throughout the years, and deserves to be recognized as an integral part of our community.

Babe and Agnes Haumann purchased the club in 1942. The couple would also run a flower shop next door, but the tavern was always the primary business. Agnes, while not being allowed to initially drink beer with the men at the tavern ran the business side of operations while husband Babe bartended and was the face of the company. Both stayed active with running the tavern for their entire lives. Babe passing away in 1981, and Agnes in 2009. The business has stayed within the family and continues the legacy that Babe and Agnes left behind.

When the Eastside Club Tavern first opened, it was common practice to not serve hard alcohol. Throughout the years, many taverns in the area began adding hard spirits to their offerings, but the Eastside stuck true to their roots and passion, beer. As such they were the first bar in the area offering a wide variety and introducing the community to smaller brewers, and a wide variety of beer types. While Olympia Beer had a large impact on Olympia's early formation and history, the Eastside continued the tradition and helped foster the large microbrew industry our community enjoys today.

In 1959 4th Avenue of Olympia experienced a devastating and dramatic event when a train derailed and crashed into a group of businesses. The Eastside Club Tavern was one of the businesses struck, and was miraculously able to make a recovery after a short closure.

Throughout the decades the Eastside has become a stomping ground for local legislators and Evergreen College students alike. Famous Evergreen Alum Matt Groening (The Simpsons) was a frequent visitor during his time in Olympia, and during one of his more recent returns he gifted the bar a coaster drawing of his appreciation of the club.

Taverns are a place for community members to gather. Ideas are shared, as are experiences. The Eastside Club Tavern has hosted countless performers, musical and otherwise, that have made an impact on the local creative scene and beyond. Such acts as Frank Black and the Catholics (Frank Black would later be a part of The Pixies), Dead Moon, The Dirty Birds, Hill Stomp, CAverage and many more. Recently they have hosted comedy shows by up and coming comedian Sam Miller who is beginning to gain national attention for his brutally honest standup about addiction and houselessness.

The Eastside Club and Tavern has helped to form Olympia over the past 80 years of being a family run and operated business. Institutions such as these deserve to be recognized as a building block of our community. The impacts this tavern has had in Olympia is unfathomable to calculate, but one thing is for sure is Olympia would not be the same today without their 80 years of serving our community.