

BEST HAPPY HOUR T. Paul's Supper Club

Astoria, Oregon

Runner-up:
Baked Alaska, Astoria
Honorable Mention:
Carruthers, Astoria

By LYNETTE RAE
McADAMS

When it's time to get happy, the choice is clear: T. Paul's "Snappy Hour" is the best of the bunch. Available every weekday from 3 to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., this local hot-spot combines the best attributes of a classic downtown bar with fantastic bites from an accomplished kitchen, coming together to bring you the absolute most mirth for your money.

Each day of the week brings a different signature beverage on special, like Martini Madness Monday, which sports novelty concoctions such as the delectable Key Lime Pie or Razzle Dazzle martinis. If that seems a bit too flashy for your taste, consider Get Well Wednesdays, when every well drink comes with a \$5 price tag, or even Three Buck Thursday,



PHOTO BY LYNETTE RAE McADAMS

Stefanie Schneider, one of T. Paul Supper Club's expert bartenders, pours a perfectly rendered Cosmopolitan during a recent happy hour.

which features a specialty beer for a bargain. Plenty of non-alcoholic drinks also adorn the happy hour menu, including virgin varieties on old favorites as well as some newer, juice-inspired fusions.

For food, the choices feel endless: \$3 buys you two oyster shooters, house-made chips and salsa, or sweet potato fries with garlic aioli. Spend a dollar more for smoked chicken tiki tacos, onion rings, or an ample Caesar salad. \$5 or \$6 options come packed with flavor and panache, like the bourbon prawn cocktail which comes bathed in a rich butter sauce and served

with crostini, or fried raviolis in a house-made marinara. The carne asada nachos have just the right touch of spice and a little tang, and the cheeseburger-in-paradise is always sure to please.

Whether it's your first time dropping in or you're a seasoned happy hour veteran, you'll be welcomed warmly by the bar crew, which is heavy on charm and stocked with expert tenders who are as quick and deft with a joke and a smile as they are with a shaker and a squeeze of lime.

Best Happy Hour in the region? Hands down. (And bottoms up!)

BEST HOME IMPROVEMENT STORE

City Lumber

Astoria, Oregon

Runner-up:
Home Depot, Warrenton
Honorable Mention:
Vintage Hardware, Astoria

By NANCY MCCARTHY

City Lumber must be doing something right: North Coast customers have been buying their boards, nails and paint there since 1904, and the Astoria company won the Readers' Choice Award for Best Home Improvement Store since 2011.

"We've been a fixture for (over) 112 years," said Jeff Newenhoff, who owns the company with his brother, Greg Newenhoff.

It's more than the free popcorn that keeps customers coming back. Newenhoff believes it's the customer service.

"We treat people like we would want to be treated," he said.

Founded in 1904 as City Lumber and Box Company, it is the oldest lumber company in Oregon, according to its website. A major part of business in those early days was to supply boxes to



PHOTO BY NANCY MCCARTHY

Thought to be the oldest lumber company in Oregon, City Lumber has added myriad other products to its continual supply of boards and nails.

the local fishing industry.

Now, City Lumber supplies myriad products, ranging from building materials to garden furniture, and much, much more in between.

"We've got a lot of inventory," Newenhoff said.

But it's more than inventory that keeps people coming to the store because it's an "environment of fun and efficiency. People know they're appreciated."

Employees stay there a long time, too. Four are members of the "40-year club," and a few others have put 30 years behind them. The typical employee has spent a decade at the store,

Newenhoff said.

"It's a stable place to work," he added.

A remodeling project is planned for the store's interior. Products and displays will be updated, and all the lumber will be put under cover.

Receiving the Readers' Choice Award "is kind of humbling," Newenhoff said. "It means that people appreciate us, that we do a good job."

City Lumber Company, Inc., 2142 Commercial St., is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Call 503 325-4511 for information.

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- BEST DESSERTS
- BEST HAPPY HOUR
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www.tpaulssupperclub.com

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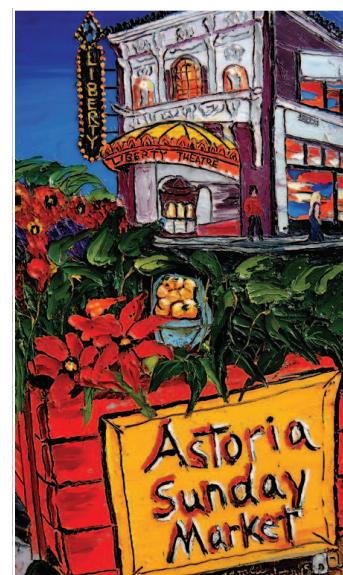


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