

### **Vibrant; Eclectic; Distinct; Hawthorne!**

When you think about all the neighborhoods in Portland, the Hawthorne District is likely one of the first ones that comes to mind. And why wouldn't it?! Hawthorne has a Main Street feel to it. It is unlike a lot of other neighborhoods, with eclectic local businesses, including distinctive restaurants and excitingly peculiar shops, giving it a small town in a big city feel.

"Hawthorne is a place that's diverse, it's active, and there are so many great things to see and do here. It's something that tourists notice right away," noted Michele Machado, operating manager of Hi-Portland Hostel.

If you're looking for just about anything, Hawthorne's likely to have it. There's Roosevelt's Terrariums (1510 SE 44<sup>th</sup> Ave #101), Portland's premiere terrarium shop, which offers "more classes than maybe anyone else in the country," according to owner Gregg Harris. The magical gallery at Fernie Brae (4035 SE Hawthorne Blvd) is a magnificent space that invites wonderful magic and mystery into visitors' lives "through the thoughtful collection and curation of enchanting art and artifacts" (fernibray.com). And The Toffee Club, located at 1006 SE Hawthorne Blvd, is "one of Portland's premier destinations during English Premier League matches," says owner Nikki Diamond.

With a vast array of unique businesses intermingled with a robust residential population, you might be led to believe that businesses and residents have difficulty in working together to promote and improve the neighborhood. But that could not be further from the truth. Take the case of Bryonie and Eric Arnold, owners of The Fernie Brae.

"We haven't left our neighborhood in months, there's just no reason to," boasts Eric Arnold.

And in fact, working and living in the neighborhood seems to be a common theme amongst many of the residents. Adorn Body Art (3941 SE Hawthorne Blvd) owner Desta Spence takes it a step further, living and working with her employees on-site, giving her shop a unique character—even for Hawthorne!

Clearly the Hawthorne community comes together to support each other when times are well, but how do they work through troubling issues that can plague any community? The answer can be found in how they are dealing with a current hot-button issue—the local transient population that has taken residence amongst the neighborhood.

Many of these transient individuals are "not interested in developing relationships in the community...the issue is not homelessness, it is behavior," cautions Harris.

"We've been broken into two times in the last six months, the first two times we've ever been broken into," cautions Spence.

But this problem has served to galvanize the local population. On Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, Pomegranate Pet Boutique owner Sarah Balzer spoke in front of the Portland City Council to raise light on this issue and request the help of the city and the Portland Police Department in solving this issue. Balzer requested a walking police patrol presence for the area, a request that was echoed by Harris and Machado when we spoke with them.

Hilda Stevens, the owner of Bazi Bierbrasserie (1522 SE 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave) and President of the Hawthorne Blvd Business Association, perhaps put it best when she remarked that "This neighborhood thrives when businesses and neighbors come together, which is something that we're seeing right now."

In spite of any issues the neighborhood might have, there is a certain charm within the neighborhood that seemingly never fades away.

"There's still a lot of heart on Hawthorne and I hope it stays that way," beams Eric Arnold.

"I would love to freeze Hawthorne in time, and keep it as eclectic and charming as it is," gushes Spence.

Vibrant and funky, hopefully the character of this fascinatingly bohemian neighborhood never does change.