

When Life Gave Him Lemons

Construction Worker Now Makes Smoothies

BY KAYLA SCHROADER | PHOTOS BY CAMERON COWLES

It's now been six years since Tacoma couple Thane Davis and Patricia Lecy-Davis began transforming an old empty cavity of a downtown Tacoma warehouse into what is now their play place, their work place and, most importantly, the place they call home. "We're down to only four leaks now," Thane laughs.»





Both shops are ran out of the same building by a husband and wife team. They live in the building, too.



He tells the story of a crashing economy and dwindling market in his previous life as a construction worker. So he and his wife responded with a fueled desire to “go local,” resulting in what is now a small commercial strip mall run out of their home. The businesses along Market Street include the initial inspiration for the project, Patricia’s beauty salon Embellish, Thane’s own Smooth and Juicy and the two more that they lease to, Northwest Best and a downtown branch of Satellite Coffee.

“We both commute to work,” Thane explains. “She commutes upstairs and I commute downstairs.” On the building’s exterior, a 50-foot spray-painted mural of Tim Burton’s 2010 remake of “Alice in Wonderland” catches the brief attention of passing traffic intersecting Market and 9th Street. According to Thane,

the Two Feet Crew, a group of local graffiti artists, pops in to see him from time to time. He welcomes them with his wall, which they then restyle into a new masterpiece.

It’s this eclectic artsy feel that echoes through the rooms of the home and businesses, diverse prints and paintings cover the cement walls in the steel stairwell Thane has painted a dramatic cherry red. There is no nook or corner left uncrafted, be it the living room wall dressed in ribbed metal roofing or the wood-paneled wall from an old deck in Packwood. Thane doesn’t like to throw much away. He prefers to reuse and recycle.

Thane starts each morning at his juice bar, Smooth and Juicy. Here, tired, sweaty patrons leaving the YMCA next door stumble in for a healthy, natural boost after long, strenuous workouts. That was Thane’s ambition in opening the downtown juice bar 1½ years ago with business partner Doug Mazzine. Thane points out a black-and-white framed photograph of the two on horseback half a lifetime ago when they first became friends as kindergarteners.

Smooth and Juicy offers drinks made with a wide variety of fresh fruits and berries, unique recipes such as the PBB&J (peanut butter, banana, dates and strawberries) and juiced greens, with the option of pure whey protein for a natural, lasting energy source. Wheatgrass also is a hot commodity on the menu, which is packed with both tasty and guilt-free concoctions.

“We’re always working on being as healthy as possible,” he said. “All good, natural ingredients — no canned fruits or pasteurized juices. We juice »



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Green Acres Smoothie

½ banana

¼ avocado

¼ apple

½ cucumber

½ tablespoon of

Stevia

handful of spinach


Directions Blend with ice to desired consistency



everything ourselves. That's what makes us different."

The scents of fresh squeezed oranges linger in the morning air. "I'm 47-years-old and I feel great," Thane says. He is now a whopping 50 pounds lighter than he was before the shop opened. "You've just got to eat right and exercise."

The two principles certainly go hand in hand on this end of Market Street. But Thane isn't satisfied. He has even bigger aspirations for the future, hoping to open a small indoor organic farmers market within the garage on the first floor, the most recognizable remains of what was once a light manufacturing warehouse. It was this cement chamber that Thane rode his 68 BSA motorcycle through during those first days, his brain churning out ideas for his new home and future businesses.

And plenty of room for the growth and change the building soon saw. Despite the hang-ups, four long months of showering at the YMCA during construction, and the overall magnitude of the task at hand, Thane's energy and optimism always has kept him going. "That's how I got the juice bar, I say I'm going to do it and I will," Thane reassures about plans for his future dream of opening a natural foods market. He ushers in imaginary awnings, the idea coming to life in his head. "I feel like an urban homesteader," he said. 

Smooth and Juicy

1122 Market St., Tacoma

smoothandjuicy.com

Summer Hours: Monday-

Friday, 8am to 8pm and

Saturdays 9am to 8pm.

