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## Ickabod's gets a formidable facelift

Created on Wednesday, 19 April 2017 | Written by [Mandy Feder-Sawyer](#)

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Beaverton landmark bar will celebrate and showcase its new look on Friday.



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BEAVERTON - Ickabod's Tavern in Beaverton underwent a massive remodel recently and will hold a grand re-opening on Friday.

Bonnie Aman, 81, wakes up at 3:30 a.m. every day, just as she has been for nearly 40 years, to clean the tavern she and her husband Newt bought in 1978.

Newt, who has since passed away, was a character with a Clint Eastwood aura. He loved his bar.

"He used to say, 'if I'm going to spend all day in a bar, I might as well own it,'" Bonnie said as she laughed and shook her head.

Ickabod's came with its name when the Amans bought it from the former owners of the old Tillicum bar on Southwest Beaverton Hillsdale Highway.

It was a hole-in-wall, with no windows, and sort of resembled an airplane

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hangar.

But that has all changed now.

The new design inside-and-out preserves the history while simultaneously allowing the place to literally shine, with its large picture windows, modernized storefront and outdoor seating.

Matching grants from the city of Beaverton made the transformation possible.

The look has changed, but it still feels the same, as most customers are greeted by name, hugs are exchanged and some don't even have to order their drinks or food because the familiarity doesn't require words.

Pool leagues and poker tournaments take place all week at the tavern.

Customers tout the hamburgers as the best in town and some come in specifically for the fried chicken gizzards.

Ickabod's is run by family members, Bonnie, her daughter Lisa Alleyne, and about seven employees who are considered family.

Alleyne said "working at Ickabod's is about the people and the friendships," for her. "Whether it's encountering a colorful individual or hearing a touching story, each day is different and each day is special. It has just become part of the fabric of my life. It is like a second-home."

Alleyne worked at a large retail store for many years, but ultimately came back to work side-by-side with her mother. "Besides," Alleyne joked, "the drunks are easier to deal with than women looking for clothing."

Bonnie attributes employee longevity to always remaining thoughtful and concerned for everyone who works there and treating them like family.

Past and present employees say Bonnie is one of the hardest working people they have ever known and she won't ask anyone to do anything she would not do herself, which is why she is the first one there each morning cleaning the bathrooms and readying the bar.

"It might be the cleanest dive bar in town," Bonnie said with a smile.

Ickabod's Tavern and the City of Beaverton will hold a grand re-opening celebrating Ickabod's new look on Friday. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held from 3 and 4 p.m., followed by a grand re-opening with happy hour specials from 4 to 7 p.m. The public is invited to come check out the new Ickabod's and enjoy happy hour specials, a new food menu and pool tables.

Ickabod's is at 12475 S.W. First St.

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