

Our Vision for the Future

From the new owners of the Ajax Cafe

It's rare to have a restaurant actually feel like magic, but the Ajax does. Somewhere in the mix of hats and musicians and really good food, something comes alive. It's both a restaurant and a community. The customers seem to feel that it's really their place, and it is. It's a place that says yes as often as possible, welcomes everyone, and tries to accommodate whatever situation arises. Customers have donated hats, and salt and pepper shakers, and photos of their grandparents, have stored their groceries in the walk-in while they ate dinner, and on occasion have even sat in the front room rolling silverware while they wait for a table, to help out on nights they see we need it.

And we staff feel this same sort of love and protectiveness towards this legendary restaurant, taking it into our own hands to avert disaster when all the napkins in the house are discovered to be dirty, or showing up at a moment's notice to do whatever job is needed. Waitresses help make salads, dishwashers bus tables, and hosts roll up their sleeves and spend the evening washing dishes. Everyone who works here really cares and wants to make sure that the Ajax functions. Even on the most stressful nights when everything that can possibly go wrong seems to go wrong, there is an undercurrent of joy just to get to be part of it.

The Ajax brings so much vibrancy, life, and community to Lowest Hadlock. As tenants of the NWSWB, we would be building on an unofficial partnership which has existed since the school moved to its present location. Many students of the NWSWB have worked in our dining room or our kitchen or both. Students have occupied the apartment above the restaurant, washed dishes or bused tables to make ends meet as they pursued their educational goals in the boat shops and the classroom. It is a fine thing to walk out of the shop at the end of the day, dusty and covered with shavings, and there fifty feet away is a spot where you can have a burger and a beer with a few of your friends. It is quite luxurious really, and a sign that you are in civilized parts. It is even as though the buildings themselves are friends, leaning forward from either side of Water Street to hear what each might have to tell the other... there is a common chord between these two entities, a fine harmony. Let's keep it alive, carry it forward, and help it evolve.

Kristan McCary and the additional employee-owners:

- Jason Bates, Bill Bonyun, Marina Diehl, Colleen Iverson, Graham Welch



The support we received from all of our customers, friends and family during this difficult time means the world to us and we can't thank you all enough. Without the donations we received through our GoFundMe campaign it would have been impossible for us to stay afloat during this closure, the generosity of those people who had faith in us before we had any feasible plan for how we could reopen means so much to us. The crowd funding went towards paying for our incurring bills as well as funding our business and liquor license renewals to ensure that we were able to reopen when this amazing opportunity with the Boat School presented itself to us. This amazing community is what drives us to do everything we can to reopen the Ajax, we feel that we owe it to our loyal customers to reopen and be here for years to come, the Ajax is a really special place that brings people together and we couldn't have gotten to this point without all of your unwavering support and belief in us. Thank you so much.

*-Marina Diehl
Ajax Cafe employee-owner*

