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STORE

'Gin Mill on steroids' to take the place of Amos' Southend

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It looks like the Amos' Southend spot on South Tryon Street won't be vacant for long.

The popular music venue closes March 5, and its next-door neighbor, the Gin Mill, will take over its renovated 4,400 square-foot space at 1423 S Tryon St. soon after. The plan is to open as a neighborhood bar and restaurant this summer, while Gin Mill closes at its current location.

John Ellison, who owns both Amos' and Gin Mill, said he expects construction to begin on the new Gin Mill space in mid-March. Renovation includes the addition of a kitchen, a rooftop patio and back patio, and removing the exterior stucco to expose the original brick facade.

"It's going to be a bigger version of Gin Mill. Like Gin Mill on steroids," Ellison said.

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It won't be a concert hall like Amos' was, Ellison said, though it will have a small stage and a sound system to host bands on the weekend. "We may book bands on a more regular basis, but we're basically just going for the neighborhood bar/restaurant concept right now," he said.



The new Gin Mill's menu will feature American bar food, including sandwiches, appetizers, flatbreads and wings, Ellison said. The plan is for the back patio to be dog-friendly, he added.

The Gin Mill originally opened as an upscale bar and grill in the summer of 1996 at the corner of Church and Trade streets. It moved to South End in 1997 and two years later, Ellison came on board as a general manager.

Ellison originally operated Amos' as a bar and bistro in the Park Road Shopping Center from around 1990 through 1998. In 2000, he reopened it as a music venue at its current spot.

It's unclear what will take Gin Mill's old spot at 1411 S Tryon St.

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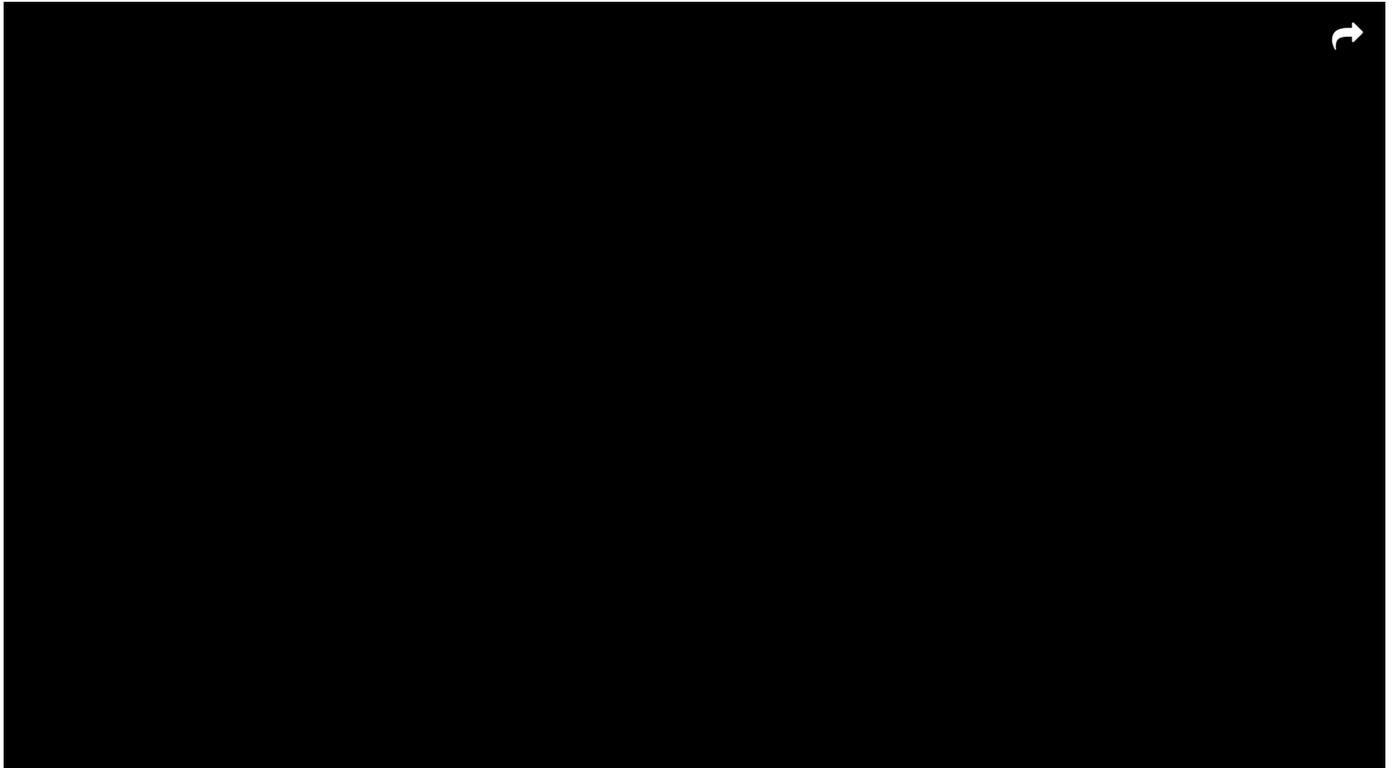
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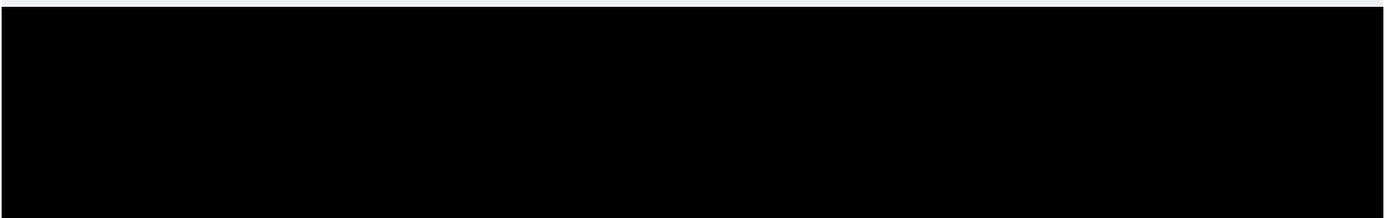
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