



WALTER GAVA

Tacoma's Stadium District.

you'll feel like you've gained so much more. It's like magic — only with clothes. — JCB

[**Dame Lola**, 711 St. Helens Ave., Tacoma, 253.272.4140]

BEST HIP HOMEMAKING WITH A FRENCH ACCENT

At **Dwell** you can find aprons Donna Reed would stab you for as well as the prettiest dishwashing gloves you've ever seen to be used with some of the most decadent cleaning products you can find.

But fun items to make young

ladies squeal at the idea of house-keeping are only the tip of the shopping iceberg here, where eclectic-cool repurposed furniture, dishes, candles, and other items that make a house into a pretty home can also be found.

Many of the items have a post-toile French aesthetic with prints and apothecary jars that will have even the manliest of men shouting, "ah, bon!" as they leap with joy.

And just in case you're left floundering as to how to put it all together, Shelly Dalley, who owns **Dwell** with her friend Cindy Hickley, can help you with that, too, with her interior design savvy. — JCB

[**Dwell**, 2716 N. 21st St., Tacoma, 253.761.1889]

BEST KID STUFF WHEN YOU'RE ALLERGIC TO MATTEL

You've figured it out: The makers of mass-produced plastic toys are trying to sell you more and more plastic and less and less toy for the money.

Even though the kid wants one of those heinous "As Seen on TV" items, you resist, because you know where to get way cool, creative, under-packaged toys that will last long after the plastic horse has been buried by the dog.

You go to either the **Learning Sprout**, whose wide-open floor plan and huge variety of learning-inspired (but not lame) goodies inspire you, or to **Teaching Toys**, whose variety is similar to the **Learning Sprout**.

German toys, handcrafted games, books, and educational items all vie for your attention, and you know that once you get them home they'll hold the wee one's attention. — JCB

[**The Learning Sprout**, 809 Pacific Ave., 253.274.0136]

[**Teaching Toys**, 2624 N. Proctor St., Tacoma, 253.759.9853]

"THE BEST OF" FROM
THE WEEKLY VOLCANO