

## Local Preview

# LOOP LOUNGE

By Alicyn Hanford



As the first decade of the new millennium wears on, nostalgia for the 1980's seems to be increasing. Fan sites dedicated to the decade's tunes, toons and movies are all over the Web. The Breakfast Club reunited at this year's MTV Movie Awards, and all of those pundits over at VH1 totally love the 80's. If you miss the eighties, or missed out on them because you were still in diapers, The Loop Lounge is the place to go. It's pretty doubtful you'll see Judd Nelson picking on Anthony Michael Hall or catch VH1's Michael Ian Black or Hal Sparks discussing Thundercats there either, but two nights a week, DJs are spinning 80's dance music.

"We do 80's on Wednesdays and Saturdays," said manager Carl Ciccone. "On Wednesdays, we do dollar drafts (They have Miller Light and Yuengling on tap.) and three

dollar Pretty in Pink cosmos, and on Saturdays, we have free admission for girls and three dollar Pretty in Pink cosmos."

On a Wednesday night, the front room of the bar is partially illuminated by bubbling red lights. The DJ spins mod, glam and punk rock music. Patrons who make their way to the back room will find a small, but accommodating space, complete with a second bar and room to dance. There, a DJ is playing 80's dance, new wave and synth.

"We mix it up between 80's dance and new music like Bloc Party, Louis the XIV, Kaisar Chiefs and The White Stripes," said owner Bruce Ciccone.

Traditionally, Thursday and Friday nights have featured bands; however, there have been some recent changes to the weekly line-up. On a "Far Gone Friday" instead of seeing just one band, The Loop hosts a few different groups, and it's unlikely that you'll catch a cover band at this bar. According to Bruce, the Loop Lounge has never hosted a cover band.

"We host local and international bands and most Thursdays the Super Karaoke Fun Time Band plays," said Carl.

This is not your run-of-the-mill Karaoke. Anyone who dares to perform on a Thursday night should be warned. There is no bouncing ball to follow and no pre-recorded music. Anyone brave enough to take the stage temporarily becomes the lead singer of the Super Karaoke Fun Time Band. With a microphone in hand and a lyrics sheet clipped next to the mic stand, brave and occasionally talented singers can become the Tom Petty to the S.K.F.T.B.'s Heartbreakers. Or if they prefer, the band also plays songs by David Bowie, KISS, The Ramones, AC/DC and Madonna, just to name a few. A full song list can be found at [www.otisball.com](http://www.otisball.com).

In addition to the drink specials and nightly entertainment, customers will also find an experienced staff. "They're great," said Bruce who added that some of his employees have been there since the club opened 20 years ago.

The Loop Lounge located at 373 Broadway in Passaic Park is open from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m., Wednesday through Saturday. For directions or further information, check out [www.thelooplounge.com](http://www.thelooplounge.com) or call 973-365-0807.

## Steppin' Out

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