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Life On Havana Street
E-News
June 2009

Dear gmjetchick@comcast.net,



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Welcome to Life on Havana Street E-news. Each month you will find articles and information to make your life more interesting and keep you informed about what is happening On Havana Street.

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In This Month's Issue

This Month's Featured Business...[read story](#)

The Stampede Mesquite Grill & Dance Emporium

Food and Recipes...[read story](#)

Food Critic's Corner: Restaurant Reviews

Dae Jang Geum Korean Restaurant

The Nile Ethiopian Restaurant

Events/Happenings...[read stories](#)



Cruzin' Havana Car Show & Poker Run Saturday, June 20

Farmers' Market Opens for the Season June 23

HBID Open Rescheduled for July 21

Tidbits...What's New On Havana Street?...[read stories](#)

Noodles & Company's Grand Opening Party

Chick-Fil-A Plans Approved

National Hamburger Month A Success!

Smell The Roses at The Gardens on Havana

MGM Auto Company is Open for Business

Become an On Havana Street Fan on Face Book

Automotive Innovations

2009 Scion xD at Stevinson Toyota East & Scion....[read story](#)

Exclusive Email Specials

The Stampede's Coupon...[view coupon](#)

Featured Business of the Month: The Stampede Mesquite Grill & Dance Emporium



Since 1992, The Stampede at 2430 So Havana Street has been Colorado's premier Country Bar and Dance Club. Their motto is, "Two Steps Above the Rest." Owner, Marno McDermott, and general manager, John Fenstermacher, are definitely two steps above the rest when it comes to being involved and giving back to the community. Marno received a Business Recognition Award from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Marno and John were members of the Steering Committee for the Havana Business Improvement District. In 2008, The Stampede was the site of a major fund raiser for Presidential Candidate, John McCain. The Stampede is the sponsor of the Cruzin' Havana VIP/Volunteers Dinner that will be held Friday night, June 19, and is a Festival Site for Cruzin' Havana Car Show & Poker Run on June 20. John & Marno open their business to host Aurora City Council Member Molly Markert's Ward IV Town Meetings, providing free refreshments, too. We are proud to announce that The Stampede is our Business of the Month for June.

If you have never been to The Stampede, you are in for a pleasant surprise. They are open Wednesday through Saturdays, starting at 5 p.m. The inside is much larger than it looks from the outside with its 35,000 square feet of space! There is a big, fantastic dance floor. The Mesquite Grill is open nightly. Have you ever wanted to learn country western dancing? The Stampede offers nightly dance lessons including line dancing on Wednesdays, West Coast Swing on Thursdays and Country Western Dancing including the two step, Cha Cha and Waltz on Fridays and Saturdays. You can see some of Colorado's best swing dancers dancing at The Stampede. If you have an anniversary, birthday, retirement or holiday party coming up, please consider The Stampede to thank them for all that they do for our On Havana Street Community. You can visit their website at www.stampedeclub.net

[View/Print The Stampede's Special E-News Coupon](#)

[\(Return to top\)](#)

Food and Recipes: Food Critic's Corner

In each issue of Life On Havana Street E-News, we will feature a few restaurant reviews by our resident food critic, Mark Tunnell:

Dae Jang Geum, 2040 So Havana, phone 303-751-5490: I was curious to go to this restaurant as it appears to be named after a very food-centric Korean soap opera about the only female physician in the history of the Korean Royal Court. I naturally assumed that the food would be good and I was correct. The family-run restaurant is larger on the inside than it might at first appear, and is very nicely decorated (along the lines of Seoul BBQ). Although the current name is on the window, the building itself still has the sign from the space's previous occupant, New York New York. Dae Jang Geum also has a lunch special as it turns out (for \$6.95); however, I went there for dinner. I chose the Hoe Naengmyun (yummy, chewy noodles with skate wing in a spicy sauce). The dish in fact has a longer name on the menu but this is signifying that it can be prepared with either fish or beef. The meal also came with the customary seasonal side dishes (almost as many as at Seoul BBQ in fact!) and a cup of richly-flavored broth. After eating I made a quick visit to Midopa/M-Mart a few doors down, which still has all of the great Korean/Japanese products I remember, and also took a look at The English Teacup's lovely new space.

Nile Ethiopian Restaurant, 1951 S Havana, 303-748-0239: I had lent yet another friend from work my copy of The Gyros Journey which describes various ethnic eateries in Denver and the Front Range. She ooh'd and aah'd so much over the Ethiopian section that she concluded she simply had to try the cuisine for herself (she is from the Philippines and had never had it before). As Nile was the closest of the four Ethiopian restaurants/food shops on Havana (one of which lies outside the District) we chose that as our destination. I have visited Nile multiple times in the past (in its current incarnation, when it was Artist Inyie Ethiopian Restaurant and, even before that, when it was the original Nile Restaurant which served the area's only Ethiopian buffet lunch). The inside of the restaurant had not changed much from what I remembered. My friend ordered the Doro Wot (chicken stewed with a hardboiled egg in the spice mixture known as Berbere) and loved it - she even raved about the Injera bread which some newcomers to the cuisine find a bit unusual. She was so excited

that she brought her leftovers home for her husband and kids to try! I ordered the Vegetarian Combination which changes depending on what's available - this time it featured lentils, carrots, potatoes, and other vegetables in various bewitching permutations.

Thank you, Mark! You can always discover unique experiences in dining, shopping and living On Havana Street!

[\(Return to top\)](#)

Events/Happenings:



Cruzin' Havana Car Show & Poker Run, Saturday, June 20, 3-9 p.m.

The National Weather Service is predicting 85 degrees and sunny for Saturday, June 20! You won't want to miss this dream cruise of the Rocky Mountain West! The Cruzin' Havana Car Show & Poker run is **presented by Stevinson Toyota East & Scion** and hosted by the Havana Business Improvement District. **Cruisin' Oldies AM 950** is our exclusive radio sponsor this year. There are five festival sites with music, food, and of course over 3,000 beautifully restored, classic cars. **This is a free event; there is no entry fee, so come on out and enjoy!**

The festival sites include:

- The Stampede just north of Parker Road on Havana
- The Wells Fargo Bank building at 1450 S Havana, just south of the new Gardens on Havana Lifestyle Center
- Gibby's/NAPA site in the Buckingham Village Shopping Center, 1555 S Havana
- Stevinson Toyota East & Scion at 444 S Havana
- Concorde Healthcare Building at 111 Havana, just north of 1st Ave on Havana

Parking begins at the festival sites at 3 p.m. There will be a sanctioned Strong Man Competition at The Stampede Site from 3-5 p.m., brought to you by Colorado's Pro Gym. The entertainment will set up from 4-5 and be ready to rock & roll at 5 p.m. at all sites. Here is the entertainment line up:

- Da Boogieman, Mickey Froid, at The Stampede site
- DJ Cruisin' Dave and the Car Toys Super Stage at the Wells Fargo Bank site
- Cruisin' Oldies AM 950 doing a live remote the entire evening with The Cruisin' Cats live band performing from 4-6 p.m.
- The Denver band Synthetic Elements with its famous "punk-ska" form of music performing live at Stevinson Toyota East & Scion
- Rusty the Ragtop Rocker playing the great Old School classics at the Concorde Healthcare site

The poker run kicks off at 5 p.m. from each of the festival sites. The poker run map is in the center of the event program. The cruisers can pick up a registration form from the poker run booths and then drive the 3-mile loop to visit each festival site to pick up a poker card to make their poker hand. At 8:30 p.m., if you have a great poker hand, you need to head on over to the Gibby's/NAPA festival site, because at 9 p.m. the 50"

big screen HDTV, donated by Havana Auto Parts, will be awarded to the cruiser with the best poker hand! Throughout the evening, you can take a chance at free drawings at the festival sites to win gas cards, dinners, and other great prizes.

Be sure to bring your cameras, as there will be beautiful models in poodle skirts and saddle shoes to pose along side the classic cars. Great photo ops! You can then share your photos on our Face Book Fan Page by logging onto our www.OnHavanaStreet.com website and clicking the Face Book Icon to become a Fan..

Watch for the big red balloons as you are cruising Havana Street, as 43 of our On Havana Street restaurants displaying the red balloon will be ready to serve you special "Cruzin' Cuisine." The Kidz Zones at four of the festival sites feature free bouncy inflatables for the kids. Mike the Pin Striper will be at the Gibby's site to pin stripe your ride for free. Each person attending the show will receive a free, full color, glossy, collectors' edition show program. The first 1,000 cruisers will receive a free Cruzin' Havana logo hat pin (200 at each festival site).

Please patronize our Cruzin' Havana sponsors and thank them for their support!
Sponsors include: Stevinson Toyota East & Scion, Cruisin' Oldies AM 950, Havana Auto Parts/NAPA, Costco, The Aurora Sentinel, The Stampede Mesquite Grill and Dance Emporium and your local State Farm Insurance Agents. Cruzin' Havana is a benefit for the Old Car Council of Colorado and D.A.R.E.

[View/Print Cruzin' Havana Poker Run Map](#)

[View/Print Cruzin' Havana Flyer](#)



Get Fresh and Organic On Havana Street! Farmers' Market Opens for the Season June 23

The Aurora Farmers' Market comes back to the Fan Fair Site at 3rd & Havana starting Tuesday, June 23. The market sets up every Tuesday from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. through the end of October. We have a wonderful slate of local Colorado farmers and vendors at the market this year: Domenico Farms, Forte Farms, Hutchison Market, Mazzotti Farms & Greenhouse, Body by Lynn Natural Bath Products, Dog Fathers Hotdogs, J&J Salsa, New Era Distributing (baskets & gifts), Olde Westport Spice & Trading Company, Peachtree (pickled relishes, veggies, jams, preserves and honey), Rocky Mountain Rice Company, Snow Creek Ranch Gourmet Black Angus Beef, Space Monkey Skin Care, and the wonderful Styria Bakery. If you are interested in fresh and organic--The Aurora Farmers' Market at Fan Fair is the place to be this summer!

I have been receiving calls daily from folks asking about becoming a vendor at the Farmers' Market. Here is the link to the vendor information and application:

[View/print Farmers' Market vendor info and application](#)



HBID Open Golf Tournament Rescheduled for Tuesday, July 21

The HBID Open at the new CommonGround Golf Course was supposed to take place on Tuesday, June 2, but due to cold, rainy weather it was canceled and rescheduled for Tuesday, July 21. We had several calls and emails from golfers who had registered for the June 2 date thanking us for rescheduling, since we experienced a steady, cold rain that entire day. We did have two foursomes pull out due to scheduling conflicts with the new date, so we have some space available if you would like get your foursome together and play on July 21.

CommonGround Golf Course, the new 18-hole championship course designed by Tom Doak, opened over Memorial Day weekend. Even though we had pretty cool, rainy weather, golf course manager, Dave Troyer, said there were 1,700 rounds of golf played over that three-day weekend! The HBID open is a 4-player modified scramble format. All proceeds from this tournament will go towards scholarships for youth to learn the game of golf at CommonGround's Junior Golf Training Program. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with warm-up and a Continental Breakfast. Announcements and departure is at 7:45 a.m. with the shot gun start at 8:00 a.m. The cost is \$100 per player which allows you to enjoy a complete program of special events, 18 holes of golf including cart, Continental breakfast, lunch, door prizes for each player and an awards banquet with great prizes. This new course has received rave reviews from golfers already.

The course was named CommonGround for several reasons: It is a place for golfers of all ages, ethnicities, and incomes to have a chance to play a beautiful, resort-style course, it is shared in common by both Aurora and Denver as the city line runs through the middle of the course, and it is common ground for the course's owners--the Colorado Golf Association and Colorado Women's Golf Association. This is truly a remarkable gift that Tom Doak has given our community. Join us on July 21.

[View/Print HBID Open Flyer](#)

[View/Print HBID Open Registration Form](#)

[\(Return to top\)](#)



June Tidbits: Noodles & Company is Open for Business

The new Noodles & Company at The Gardens on Havana held its pre-grand opening party on Thursday, May 21. The event raised \$2,600 for the Aurora Animal Shelter! The restaurant is open for business Sunday-Thursday from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Friday/Saturday from 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. The phone is 303-695-6000.

Chick-Fil-A Site Plans Approved: On Wednesday, May 27, the Aurora Planning Commission approved the site plans for the new free-standing Chick-Fil-A that will be built at The Gardens on Havana. This new restaurant will be located just south of the Conoco Gas Station at the corner of Mississippi & Havana. It is a 4,000 square foot restaurant. Both the building and landscaping are gorgeous! To make sure we got the plans approved by Planning Commission, Shirley Scott from Tyndall Green and I both spoke at the hearing and voiced support of the Chick-Fil-A coming to The Garden. The site plans were approved unanimously, so you will be seeing the construction begin some time this summer.

National Hamburger Month a Huge Success: Talk about unique experiences On Havana Street--National Hamburger Month was just good old-fashioned American fun! We had 924 people enter our weekly drawing for Burger Bucks and other prizes. Abe Valdez of SE Denver won the \$50 in Burger Bucks the first week with Corrine Priebe of Aurora winning the \$20 Sam's No.3 gift certificate. Kathy Parker of Centennial won the \$50 Burger Bucks the second week with Ken Degh of Windsor Gardens winning the \$20 Sam's No. 3 certificate. Cathy Hakanson of Highlands Ranch won the nice beef cookbook from the Colorado Beef Council. Arletha Davis of Park Hill won the \$50 Burger Bucks the third week, with Chris Reed of Aurora and Michael Bates of Denver both winning \$20 Sam's No 3 coupons. For week number four, it was Fred Slavin of Aurora winning the \$50 Burger Bucks and Bruce & Barb Dutton of Aurora winning the \$20 Sam's No.3 coupon. The grand prize, the beautiful 4-burner Char-Broil gas grill and grilling set, went to Tammy Son of Aurora. Congrats to all! From what I hear from the restaurants, we will be celebrating National Hamburger month again in 2009. Thanks goes out to our sponsors--The Colorado Beef Council, The Aurora Sentinel and Lowe's on South Havana.

Stop and Smell The Roses at The Gardens on Havana: The Lisa Strawn Memorial Rose Garden



Left: The holes are being dug for the rose bushes; right, a row of Knock Out Shrub Roses planted along the walkway.



Three of the beautiful shrub roses planted in the Lisa Strawn Memorial Rose Garden at The Gardens on Havana (left to right) Golden Wings, Winnipeg Parks and Sea Foam.

The lovely brick courtyard and beautiful, unique benches are in place at the rose garden at the east end of Garden Drive at The Gardens on Havana. The obelisk public art piece will be installed the first week in July. On Thursday and Friday, June 11 and 12, the Land Tech crew was on site to amend the soil and dig the holes to plant over 100 rose bushes, add drip irrigation, fabric weed barrier and mulch. That's a lot of holes to dig! Thank you Moses and crew from Land Tech for all of your hard work! Miller Weingarten, the developer, has a custom-made 6' wide trellis on order which should arrive soon.

The rosarians at The Denver Rose Society have donated their time and talents to plan this unique, water-wise rose garden. I am the instigator of the project, soliciting the help of my fellow DRS rosarians to come up with a rose garden through which we can share our love of roses with the community. All of the roses are favorites of the rosarians from DRS and are all known to thrive in our sometimes difficult, high-plains Colorado Front Range climate. We have selected many Canadian shrub roses and EarthKind series roses that are very sustainable and hardy. We have arranged the colors and sizes of roses together to maximize the beauty of the garden. There are 22 varieties with over 100 bushes, including:

1. Winnipeg Parks Shrub Rose, a Canadian Parkland Series cherry red rose (pictured)
2. Golden Celebration, a David Austin English Shrub Rose (very fragrant)
3. Carefree Beauty Shrub Rose, a lovely pink 3' x 3' bush
4. Carefree Wonder Shrub Rose, from Meilland, France, continuously flowers
5. LD Braithwaite Shrub Rose, a lovely, sweet scented David Austin English Rose
6. Golden Wings (pictured above) pale yellow with globing amber stamens
7. Gourmet Popcorn Mini Shrub Rose, 2' x 2' white w/musky rose scent
8. Morden Sunrise Shrub Rose, a Canadian Parkland Series rose, sunny yellow
9. Morden Blush Shrub Rose, a Canadian Parkland Series rose, light pink
10. Victorian Memory Climber, nearly thornless pink climber--a favorite "found rose" from Colorado (for the trellis)
11. The Fairy dwarf shrub rose, an EarthKind series rose, prolific bloomer, pink
12. Shafira Asma Shrub Rose, another David Austin English Rose, strong, sweet scent, pink
13. Knock Out Shrub Rose--An EarthKind series rose, cherry red, continuous flowering
14. Champlain Shrub Rose--Named after the explorer who discovered Quebec, lovely red
15. Sally Holmes Shrub Rose--a modern shrub rose, absolutely beautiful with clusters of 10-40 whitish pink flowers per stem
16. Sea Foam--An EarthKind series rose, low white spreader, tough as nails
17. Graham Thomas Shrub Rose, David Austin English rose, sunny yellow, strong rose scent
18. La Sevellana Shrub Rose, a very much loved landscape rose in Colorado, red
19. Stanwell Perpetual Shrub Rose, an exceptionally fragrant heirloom shrub, continuous bloomer, white
20. Adelaide Hoodless Shrub Rose--A Canadian Parkland Series rose, intricate red blooms
21. Bonica shrub rose--from Meilland, France, lovely tiny pink hybrid-tea shaped blooms
22. Golden Unicorn--A Griffith Buck rose, peachy gold color (pictured above), sweet honey fragrance

Miller Weingarten arranged to have the rose garden named after Lisa Strawn, the economic development/retail specialist for the City of Aurora who was instrumental in making the redevelopment of the former Buckingham Square Mall come to fruition. Lisa had been battling cancer for many years and was too ill to attend our, "Crash--Celebrate" demolition celebration on January 8, 2008, when we gathered to see the old mall being taken down. Lisa passed away shortly after that celebration, but was aware that we had named the rose garden in her honor. Some time in August, we plan to have a party to dedicate the new rose garden and officially open the new lifestyle center--The Gardens on Havana. In the future, we will be hosting classes on rose care, pruning, rose garden planning and planting, and we will offer tours of the rose garden, explaining the history behind the unique roses that were selected. The Gardens on Havana was designed to be a showcase of xeriscape in Colorado, and the water wise rose garden is the highlight of this new mixed-use development. When you are at The Gardens on Havana, take some time out of your hectic schedule to **stop and smell the roses!**



MGM Auto Company Now Open: Reid Rubenstein and family have opened MGM Auto Company on the site of the former Car City Super Store at 890 South Havana. They are specializing in high-end, luxury used cars. Their website is www.mgmautocompany.com.

We are now on Face Book: We have added the Face Book icon above the picture on the right hand side of our Home Page at www.OnHavanaStreet.com. Click on the icon and log into Face Book to become a Fan.

[\(return to top\)](#)

Automotive Innovations: The Scion xD at Stevinson Toyota East & Scion



The 2009 Scion xD is called the, "ride-of-choice for a gang of urban expressionists." If you are looking for something different that you can personalize with an extensive list of add-ons to express yourself, the Scion xD fits the bill. The xD makes a statement about the owner's commitment to rational size and responsible economy. The 1.8 liter 4-cylinder motor is equipped with variable valve timing with intelligence (VVT-I) and electronic fuel injection. It generates 128 hp of torque, which gives the car a lot of extra zip. For those of you who love your tunes, the xD offers a 160-watt Pioneer AM/FM/CD unit with an MP3 player and satellite radio with Scion Sound Processing, a six-speaker sound system and iPod port, providing power and a stereo head unit control. Add in the driver's and passenger's front air bags, and passenger side and curtain airbags, along with head restraints and you are safe and happy behind the wheel. The xD seats five with a cabin offering 84.5 cubic feet. You will have lots of room for your stuff! With a manual transmission, the 2009 Scion xD MSRP is \$15,320 and with the automatic it is \$16,120.

Be sure to check out the great variety of Scion xDs at Stevinson Toyota East & Scion, 444 So Havana, while you are on the street for the Cruzin' Havana Car Show & Poker Run on June 20. Stevinson is one of the festival sites and is the "presented by" sponsor of Cruzin' Havana this year. The Scion expert at Stevinson is Drew Steele. Drew has helped us plan Cruzin' Havana for the past two years.

The Denver band "Synthetic Elements" will be playing live on stage at the dealership on June 20 from 5-9 p.m. Synthetic Elements just released its third album in April of 2009 on the Filthy Beast Records, "Trashed Out in Paradise." Their music has an echo of Sublime influence, but definitely a distinct sound of their own with their punk-ska form of music. They even have a unique twist on the classic song "Wooly Bully," for you "Old School" fans.

Stevinson Toyota East & Scion is located at 444 S Havana. The website is www.stevinsonauto.com. While you are there, please thank owner Kent Stevinson and GM Dave Morrissey for sponsoring Cruzin' Havana!

[\(Return to top\)](#)

Continuing to provide unique experiences in dining, shopping and living On Havana Street.

Sincerely,

Gayle Jetchick, Executive Director, Havana Business Improvement District
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Visit our web site at
www.OnHavanaStreet.com

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