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Life On Havana Street E-
News March 2010

Dear On Havana Street Community Member,



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.

If you cannot see all of the great pictures in this newsletter when you receive this email in your inbox, please see the notation at the top of the email, "To view this email as a web page, go **here**," and click the word "**here**."

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Featured Businesses of the Month: Mom & Pop Business Series



Pictured above right: Solomon Gurzhiev and a friend and customer, Egor Kushnir.
Pictured on the left is some of the freshly baked breads at Solomon's.

Solomon's Grocery & European Deli: From Russia With Love

By: Matt Mauro

When making a morning commute one seldom has a chance to really pay attention to what shops and businesses they may be passing along the way. A glance to the right or left and one might find a whole array of shops and businesses one might have overlooked. These businesses win awards and draw loyal customers yet seldom receive the recognition they deserve for the services they provide.

Solomon's Grocery & European Deli has been serving Havana with a taste of Europe for almost seven years now. Established in November of 2003, and run as a family business, with patriarch Solomon Gurzhiev at the helm, Solomon's has cornered the market when it comes to European products. Nestled in the corner between a gym and a restaurant, Solomon's might be the best kept secret when it comes to specialty items as well as domestic necessities.

"We don't worry too much about competition," says Mark Gurzhiev, Solomon's son. "We offer products that are different than your average grocer."

Boasting a fabulous array of chocolate, tea, grain, bread, sausage, and frozen treats, from one end of Europe to the other, its no wonder why the family doesn't fret. There are no less than fifty different kinds of chocolate, including but not limited to authentic German! Such an array of goodies leaves one to question, "How do I know what to get and what not too?" Fear not because as one anonymous shopper put it, "The service here is outstanding, very personal."

As if service and selection weren't enough to warrant at least a peek, Solomon's has also been a feature in the Westward receiving "The Best Secret Russian Deli Award." They also were a central participant in the Havana Street Chocolate Tasting.

Given the success so far there is no reason to believe that Solomon's is going anywhere soon. Their dedication and commitment to their regular as well as new customers make

Solomon's a must see for anyone who is looking to spice up their culinary or cultural palate. Stop in and experience to care taken to bring Europe to you, from Russia with love.

Note: Matt Mauro works at Dozen's Restaurant and has volunteered to write some feature articles for Life on Havana Street E-News. Thank you Matt!

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FOOD AND RECIPES: The Beautiful New Al Bae Nae Korean Restaurant



"Havana Street is home to some of Denver's best Korean, Ethiopian, Somalian, Vietnamese, Mexican, Indian, Greek American, English and Japanese cuisine, among others," according to a recent front page article in the February edition of the Glendale Cherry Creek Chronicle. Since that article came out, we have added another

feather to our culinary cap! We are proud to announce the opening of Jimmy and Lily Kwon's newest restaurant, Al Bae Nae Korean Restaurant. Jimmy & Lily open the opulent Seoul BBQ Restaurant in 2009. Al Bae Nae slightly smaller but equally as lovely.

Al Bae Nae's menu includes Tangsuyuk (sweet & sour pork), Udon noodles, as well as seafood soups like Jjamppong and Jaengban Jajang. Deep fried pork, fish, chicken or beef cutlets and Bokkeumbap (a stir-fry with vegetables, beef or pork) are also on the menu. Steamed rice, rice cakes, and dumplings are in the \$6.99 - \$7.99 price range. Menu items are priced from \$5.99 up to \$13.99.

Al Bae Nae is located in the M-Mart Center at 2040 S Havana Street, Aurora, CO 80014. Their phone number is 303-751-0014. They are open 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily. Stop in for a unique dining experience On Havana Street!

(Pictured: The Beautiful dining room at Al Bae Nae)

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Events/Happenings:

MARCH 2010 EVENT: Cabin Fever Party On Havana Street, Friday, March 12, 4-8 p.m.



You are invited to come and shake off the winter blues at our inaugural **Cabin Fever Party at Dumitri's Restaurant, 1911 S Havana, on Friday, March 12, 4-8 p.m.** This is our first neighbor-business get-together event of the year On Havana Street. Stop by after work for **free appetizers** ! We will have checkers and backgammon, card games like Euchre and Go Fish, Pictionary and other board games set up at the tables. Come find out what's new and experience for yourself all of the positive energy and optimism that is present in our On Havana Street Community. You may even win a door prize! (No purchase necessary; No cover

charge). Please join us!

The Aurora Singers Benefit Night & Concert: Saturday, March 27, 5-9 p.m. at Noodles & Company



Noodles & Company at The Gardens on Havana is hosting a benefit night for the Aurora Singers on Saturday, March 27, 5-9 p.m. That evening at 7 p.m., the Aurora Singers will be performing a free concert at Noodles & Co, singing songs from their upcoming concert called, "Hometown Favorites." Noodles & Company will donate 25% of the price of dinners purchased that evening to the Aurora Singers. The Aurora Singers will have flyers and tickets for their upcoming shows available at this Benefit Night. Come enjoy great food and music. You can even help pick the songs that the Aurora Singers will perform at their May Concert!

Earth Day Recycling Drive On Havana Street: Saturday, April 24, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



The On Havana Street Community is partnering with Techno+Rescue to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Techno+Rescue will safely recycle your old electronic devices and compact fluorescent bulbs domestically. Do your part for Earth Day by recycling!

WHEN: Saturday, April 24, 2010, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Techno+Rescue's recycling truck will be in the back parking lot at Mark Vissering's State Farm Insurance Office, 1852 So Havana ST, Aurora, CO 80012 (just south of Mexico Ave, next to the former Wolf Camera). Enter the State Farm lot from Havana Street and exit onto Mexico Avenue. Volunteers will be available to help unload your vehicle.

COST: Free recycling, except for Televisions

Free Recycling of the following items: PCs, CPUs, towers, laptops, notebooks, cell phones, office phones, pagers, monitors, keyboards, printers, copiers, faxes, mice, wires, cables, cords, compact fluorescent bulbs, clothing, and textiles.

Television Recycling Cost: Techno+Rescue charges \$20 to recycle TVs less than 24" and \$40 to recycle TVs 24" or larger. You can visit their website www.technorescue.com for more information about the company and safe recycling.

Lunch & Learn: Rose Garden Volunteers Needed--Come Learn How to Prune Roses in Colorado



This is your chance to really dig in and support our On Havana Street Community. We are looking for community volunteers to help tend the beautiful Lisa Strawn Memorial Rose Garden at The Gardens on Havana for the 2010 growing season.

When: Lunch & Learn Session, Saturday, May 1, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Where: Meet at Qdoba Mexican Grill on Garden Drive at The Gardens on Havana at 11:30 a.m.

What: After a light lunch, members of The Denver Rose Society will conduct a pruning demonstration and discuss the proper way to prune roses in Colorado. We will then walk down to the The Lisa Strawn Memorial Rose Garden at the end of Garden Drive (1 block) for a general rose garden clean up.

Registration: Registration is free but limited to 25 people, due to space limitations. These 25 people will receive a free lunch, courtesy of Miller Weingarten Realty, the owners of The Gardens on Havana. To register, call or email Gayle: 303-360-7505 or Gayle@OnHavanaStreet.com

What to bring: Please bring a sturdy pair of garden gloves and some pruning shears, if you have them. You will be given pruning handouts and a map of the Lisa Strawn Memorial Rose Garden showing where the 21 varieties of roses and 98 rose bushes are located in the garden. We will be coming up with a schedule for tending the roses, as well.

Our goal is to keep our community rose garden in top shape for the summer concert series that we are planning. (Pictured above is the Golden Wings Shrub Rose in the Lisa Strawn Memorial Rose Garden in the summer of 2009)

Celebrate National Hamburger Month in May On Havana Street:



We are planning our second annual National Hamburger Month Celebration at all of our restaurants serving hamburgers in May. The restaurants will be offering their own burger specials all month, with some of the restaurants offering deeper discounts on the weekdays. You can sign up for a chance to win prizes including restaurant coupons packages and a beautiful gas BBQ grill. No purchase is necessary to enter the drawings. More information coming soon!

CRUZIN' HAVANA CAR SHOW & POKER RUN, SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2010, 3-9 P.M. and HUGE COMBINED DEALERSHIP NEW AND USED CAR SALE ON HAVANA

STREET, JUNE 19-30:

Stevinson Toyota East and Scion returns for a third year as our Presented By Sponsor for Cruzin' Havana in 2010!

The Poker Run kicks off from all festival sites at 4 p.m. with the grand prize and second chance winners of the poker run announced at the Gibby's Festival Site at 8 p.m. You can pick up a poker run registration form at any of the festival sites; there is no entry fee. You can also try your luck at rolling the Fuzzy Dice for a chance to win some great prizes (no purchase necessary, no admission fee).

In 2009, Cruzin' Havana attracted 4,000 classic cars and hundreds of spectators.

2010 Festival Sites/Poker Run Stops Include:

- 1) The Stampede at Parker Road and Havana. Entertainment--Da Boogiemán. U.S. Marines Toys for Tots Summer Toy Drive Site, NSRA street-rod safety testing, Colorado's Pro Gym's sanctioned Strong Man Competition. Food and Kidz Zone.
- 2) Gibby's/Buckingham Village Shopping Center, just south of Florida on the west side of Havana: Entertainment--Cruisin' Oldies AM 950 Radio Station with DJ Randy Jay, The Cruisin' Cats Band. NAPA/Havana Auto Parts Display and Trailer, and Gibby's Dunk Tank with models. Gibby's Sports Bar is handling the food at this festival site. The Kidz Zone will be set up in the sand volleyball courts behind Gibby's.
- 3) Central Festival Site--Wells Fargo Bank Building and former Aurora City Building parking lots, 1450 and 1470 S Havana. Entertainment--The CopperTones (the fabulous doo-wop group of The Nacho Men). The restaurants from The Gardens on Havana will set up food booths at this festival site and will be giving away free samples. Kidz Zone.
- 4) Stevenson Toyota East & Scion, 444 S Havana: Entertainment--Six Food Joe & the Red Hot Rhinos; live DJ for the entire event. Toyota and Scion displays. The girls from Bench Warmers will be helping out at this festival site. Food and Vendor Booths.
- 5) Gateway Mazda, 90 Havana (1st Ave & Havana); Entertainment--Rusty The Ragtop Rocker. Food, Kidz Zone, Vendor Booths. More special plans are in the works.

Cruzin' Havana is a free event with no entry or admission fees. It is a benefit for the D.A.R.E. program and the Old Car Council of Colorado. The Aurora Kiwanis Club will be helping out with the event and manning two booths with The Children's Hospital.

BIG NEW AND USED CAR SALE JUNE 19-30 ON HAVANA STREET: Saturday, June 19, is also the kick-off date for our first **combined dealership car sale On Havana Street** for 2010. Watch for exciting pre-cruise festivities on Saturday the 19th at the dealerships. Some of the dealerships will also be hosting classic car clubs. Each dealership will be offering special sale pricing from June 19 through the end of the month. Watch for more details in this newsletter and on our website.

Our next Cruzin' Havana Car Show Committee Meeting is Friday, March 19, 3:30 p.m. at Dumitri's Restaurant. Come see how you can be a part of the biggest free community event of the year On Havana Street.

Calling All Golfers!



The Second Annual HBID Open Golf Tournament tees off Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at the beautiful CommonGround Golf Course at 1st & Havana Street. This tournament is a benefit for the Junior Golf Training Program at CommonGround, with proceeds going towards scholarships for area youth to learn the game and lessons of golf. The tournament format is a 4-player modified scramble. The cost is just \$100/player. The price includes entry into all events, breakfast, range balls, 18 holes of golf, riding cart, lunch and prizes. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with warm up

and a Continental Breakfast. Announcements and departure is at 7:45 a.m. with a shot gun start at 8:00 a.m. There will be longest drive contests for men and women, closest to the pin challenge, and a chance to win cash prizes. To help us properly plan for this event, please pre-register by completing the registration form on the Upcoming Events page of our website: www.OnHavanaStreet.com/denver-events.cfm For more information, please contact Mark Vissering at State Farm Insurance, 1852 S Havana ST, Aurora CO 80014, phone 303-745-0034.

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March Tidbits: What's New On Havana Street



The Next Steps for the Havana North/Fan Fare Renewal:

The Havana North Concept Plan went before Aurora Planning Commission on February 24 and received unanimous approval. Our next stop is City Council Study Session on March 8. If City Council decides to move the plan on to full City Council review, we will go before a regular City Council meeting for introduction on March 22 and then again before City Council for final approval on April 5. At the same

time, the city is close to hiring a consultant to perform the Blight Study on the Fan Fare area. Phase I and II environmental evaluations will also be performed. The city plans to take a formal Urban Renewal Area Plan before council for final approval by the third quarter of 2010.

M&M Abuja International Market Now Open:

Mary Majekodunmi and her husband Tayo have opened a beautiful new International Market at 880 So Havana Street. The market carries African, Nigerian and Caribbean groceries and products. There is a large selection of cosmetics and hair care products, too. You will find Nigerian Iyan Eko Yam Flour, Banku Mix from Ghana, Goya products, Nigerian Garri Ijebu Flour, smoked turkey, smoked chicken, Sahadi couscous, fruits like coconuts and bananas, okra and vegetables, party supplies, and baby clothings. Mary has a wonderful collection of jewelry and fashion clothing for sale. The market is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. The phone number is 303-856-7386. Stop in to welcome Mary and Tayo On Havana Street.



Carquest's \$40,000 Store Remodel:

The staff at the Carquest at 2892 So Havana proudly showed me around their brand new \$40,000 showroom remodel. Everything in their showroom has been upgraded. The new shelves hold more items, so they were able to go from six rows down to five rows to increase the aisle space. I was told that about 85% of Carquest's business is with commercial shops, but 15% is with the ordinary citizen who wants to do their vehicle repairs themselves. Their phone number is 303-752-2886.



City's Best Auto Repair Opens:

When I stopped by the new City's Best Auto Repair shop the other day to welcome them to the Havana District, I was thrilled to see familiar faces of the mechanics who formerly worked at the Firestone Auto Center on North Havana. These guys are really good and had kept my old Dodge van running smoothly for years! The owner of the Firestone Auto Center had relocated that store to the Chambers and 6th Avenue area, but the mechanics had always wanted to be back on Havana Street. City's Best Auto Repair is at 890 So Havana Street, behind MGM Auto Co on the NE corner of Kentucky and Havana. They offer complete bumper-to-bumper car care including computer diagnostics, suspensions and alignments, engines and transmissions, tune-ups and oil changes. They accept foreign and domestic cars and trucks, but their specialty is Audi, BMW and Mercedes. They also do mobile service calls. City's Best is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; they are closed on Sunday. The phone number is 303-214-3013.

What's New at The Gardens on Havana?

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers Ribbon Cutting: That's Freddy cutting the ribbon at his newest restaurant at The Gardens on Havana on Tuesday, March 2. This is Freddy's 37th restaurant in the country and 2nd in Colorado. That's manager Brian Pyle in the red shirt, dad Bill Pyle to the right of Brian, Freddy, City of Aurora Ward IV Council Member Molly Markert, and Arnie Schultz, with a couple of the Freddy's employee. That is Michelle Berzins, the daughter of Ward III Aurora City Council Member Marsha Berzins in the front row between Brian and Bill Pyle.



Aurora Modern Dentistry to open March 9:



Pacific Dental Services is opening up its fourth dental clinic in the Denver Metro Area--**Aurora Modern Dentistry** . Aurora Modern Dentistry is scheduled to open March 9 at 10650 E Garden Drive, STE 106, at The Gardens on Havana. It is directly across the street from the Lisa Strawn Memorial Rose Garden and our community plaza. Pacific Dental also has

clinics in Cherry Creek, at Corner Star and at River Point Sheridan. They are accepting new patients for their Aurora Modern Dentistry location and have a \$39 new patient special which includes, exam, digital x-rays and cleaning. Their office hours will be Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please visit their website for more information and to request an appointment:

<http://www.auroramoderndentistry.com/>

Saturn of Aurora Becomes Courtesy Motor Company:



You will soon be seeing new signage going up at Saturn of Aurora. With the demise of the Saturn brand, the dealership will continue in business as Courtesy Motor Company. Courtesy Motor Company will be selling used and certified used cars.

Watch us on YouTube: www.youtube.com/onhavana

OnHavanaStreet is now on Facebook - [Come Become a Fan](#)
 Make sure to [Join the OnHavana Meetup Group](#) for upcoming events.

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Automotive Innovations: Jim Paris Tire Center is now Ellis Tire Pros



Rod Ellis, long-time owner of Jim Paris Tires at 10593 E Mississippi, has joined forces with Tire Pros. The new center is called Ellis Tire Pros & Auto Service. New name and new signage--but the same great staff and superb customer service!

The first Tire Pros store opened in 1971. They have grown to over 300 stores, becoming one of the most successful and respected tire chains in the country. They believe in good service, honesty, and will not push products on their customers. There are no hidden fees for mounting, balancing and valve stems. They sell Continental, Bridgestone, General Tire and Michelin tires. Besides the store in the Havana District, Rod owns two other Ellis Tire Pros stores, one on So Tower Road in Aurora and the other on West Littleton Blvd in Littleton, CO.

Ellis Tire Pros is open Monday-Friday 7 a.m. -5:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Their phone number is 303-341-4836.

Cruzin' Havana at The Denver Auto Show: When you come down to the Denver Auto

Show, April 7-11, 2010, be sure to stop by the Club Auto booth. Club Auto houses the LeMay Museum, an incredible classic car museum in Lakewood. Check out their website: www.lemaymuseum.org/page.php?id=76

The owners of Club Auto have invited us to share booth space with them at the Denver Auto Show to promote Cruzin' Havana and the Colfax Avenue Cruise. As you know, our logo for Cruzin' Havana this year is a 1959 Chrysler 300. We were able to find a beautifully restored 1957 Chrysler 300 C coup to have on display at our booth at the Denver Auto Show to promote Cruzin' Havana! This was truly a miracle--since there were only 18 Chrysler 300C's ever built! If you come down to the Denver Auto Show, stop by our booth.

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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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