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Life On Havana Street
E-News
September 2009



Dear Gayle,

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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Featured Business of the Month: PropWash Laundry



PropWash Laundry is now open at 2670 S Havana Street, just north of the Honey Baked Ham Store. When the store was under construction, I read the sign as "Pro" Wash. There is a story behind the unique name, "PropWash." The owner is a pilot for United Airlines and loves airplanes, and the "Prop" in the store name is short for propeller. This aviation theme is evident in the store's new logo and in the ceiling fans which resemble airplane propellers.

PropWash is being billed as Aurora's Premier Laundry Facility. It is open 7 days a week from 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. (including holidays) with an attendant always on duty to assist you with your drop off dry cleaning and drop off laundry. If you prefer self-service, all machines are coin-operated and you can watch the 4 wide-screen TVs or use the free WiFi while you do your laundry. Bring the kids along to play in the free Kids' Play Area. There is a "soap center" from which you can purchase laundry soaps and fabric softeners and two exchange machines that turn your paper money into coins to use in the machines.

PropWash has four sizes of washers, including "The Monster" washer, for a total of 34 washing machines. There are 28 computerized dryers, including 8 super-capacity dryers and 20 extra-large dryers. Print the September Coupon of the Month using the link below and use the double load washers at PropWash for only \$0.99 a load.

[View/Print PropWash Coupon of the Month](#)

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FOOD AND RECIPES: MORE PHUN WITH PHO AT PHO 79 & GREAT LEBANESE PASTRIES AT AMIRA



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

Pho 79, 1080 S Havana - To conclude my "Phun With Pho" series I thought I would visit the District's third "numbered" Vietnamese eatery, after the previously-reviewed Pho 53 and Pho 75. My last visit to Pho 79 was quite a while ago but today the dining room was still just as busy as I recalled.

Today's meal started with Goi Cuon Chay, or, if you prefer, Vegetarian Summer Rolls consisting of moist squares of tofu, skeins of rice noodles and abundant greens (lettuce, cucumbers) rolled into a firm-yet-yielding rice paper wrapper. These delicious cylinders were accompanied by an intriguing sauce made from crushed peanuts and Tuong (Vietnamese soybean sauce, which bears some superficial similarities to its Chinese cousin, Hoisin sauce). Those who may be more coordinated than I will be pleased to note that Pho 79 also offers "Family Platters" consisting of all the ingredients with which to make one's own rolls, including a variety of grilled meats. For my main course, I chose to sample - surprise, surprise! - the classic soup for which the restaurant is named. Although Pho 79 also has chicken and seafood varieties of pho

on offer, I thought it best to stick with the basic beef-based recipe as it originated in Vietnam's north. More specifically, my prosaically-titled #8 Medium was a very substantial bowl containing many pieces of not only rare steak, but also well-done flank, fatty brisket, soft tendon and crunchy tripe all layered in an inviting beef broth with moist rice noodles. At various times sweet, salty and savory, the pho was served with a plate of the usual accompaniments (bean sprouts, lime segments, Ngo Gai (saw-leaf herb), basil, etc.). Assorted condiments, including the aforementioned Tuong as well as Nuoc Mam (fish sauce) and Sriracha (TM) brand chili sauce (look for the rooster on the bottle!) were also available at each table for added oomph. From Pho 79's wide non-alcoholic beverage roster I chose a mellow-yet-hearty Durian smoothie (or Daiquiri as they are known here), with squishy Boba (tapioca pearls). As they say "Durian tastes like heaven, and smells like..." - well, you get the picture, and my drink certainly didn't disappoint in this regard. (Pictured is the Seafood Bowl at Pho 79)



Amira Middle Eastern & European Bakery, 10375 E Iliff Ave - This charming space formerly housed a Hookah [water-pipe and fruit-flavored tobacco] bar called Shisha Nights; now, it is the new home of a purveyor of a wide range of baked goods. True to its name, Amira has a number of intriguing European cookies, cakes and

creampuffs, available either to eat-in, take-out or have catered (as their in-store flier says, they truly are the "New Cakes on the Block"). However, more atypically (for this part of town), they also feature many savory pastries and pies popular all over the Middle East, such as Sfiha [open-faced meat pies], Fatayer [wafer-thin, crackly pastries often stuffed with spinach and/or cheese] and Manaqish [dense flatbreads with various toppings]. And indeed, these were the reason for my visit today. Although everything looked and sounded delicious, I somehow managed to limit myself to trying three of their pies. Two of these featured different types of Lebanese cheese in a starring role - the Akkawi pie was a salty, gooey delight made even more decadent with the addition of sesame seeds and olive oil, while the Kashkawan pie was a creamier, slightly more restrained affair using a white cheese also popular (with a somewhat different recipe) in the Balkan region of Eastern Europe. My third pie allowed me to sample the aromatic and flavorful beef-lamb sausage called Sujuk which in fact is eaten across a wide swath of the Middle East as well as Armenia, Turkey and sundry other lands. Complemented with a refreshing bottle of mango juice, this was definitely a pleasurable meal.

Thank you, Mark! Don't forget, our Get Cookin' On Havana Street International Market Event is coming up on September 26. Amira is one of the featured destinations. Ahmad, the owner of Amira and head pastry chef, promises to delight you with free samples of the goodies from his bakery and share with you a Lebanese recipe or two. Pictured above are trays of fresh Lebanese pastries hot out of the oven--yummy! You won't want to miss this unique International Market event!

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

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Events/Happenings: Rose Garden Dedication & Ice Cream Social Draws 500+



Over 500 people attended the Community Ice Cream Social and dedication of the new Lisa Strawn Memorial Rose Garden at The Gardens on Havana on Saturday night, August 29. It was a warm, beautiful evening and the roses were in full bloom. The lovely trellis, created by local artist Eric Mesple, with the copper plaque reading, "The Lisa Strawn Memorial Rose Garden," was unveiled at the event.

I had under-estimated the number of ice cream sundaes that would be needed, and had to make three trips back to Baskin Robbins during the evening for more sundaes. A big thanks goes out to the crew working at Baskin Robbins Saturday evening, as I know they all had sore wrists from scooping all of that extra ice cream.

Miller Weingarten Realty donated a dozen potted mums and annual planters which were given away to the crowd in a free drawing. Noodles & Company donated 25% of the sales of dinners at their restaurant to the Aurora Symphony Orchestra. Qdoba handed out coupons for free chips and queso and BYGO entrees. GNC and The Nail Studio both held their grand openings that evening, as well.

It was really neat to see people dancing in the rose garden to the music of the Aurora Symphony Orchestra's Brass Quintet. It was a wonderful way to remember Lisa.

September 17: Taste of Aurora at The Stampede



Going strong for over 10 years now, Taste of Aurora returns to The Stampede on Thursday night, September 17, 5-7:30 p.m. Sample fares from over 30 Aurora Restaurants all in one setting. The Stampede is located at 2430 S Havana, just north of Parker Road on Havana Street. Tickets are \$20 at the door. The participating restaurants set up tables around the huge dance floor inside The Stampede. Your \$20 tickets gets you all the food you

can eat, so come hungry! You could even try some Country Western dancing to burn off some of those calories!

Saturday, September 26: Get Cookin' On Havana Street!



Learn Grandma's special recipe for Ethiopian beef tibs at Cozy Cafe, 350 Havana Street

On Saturday, September 26, from noon-4 p.m., 15 of our International Markets On Havana Street will be opening up their shops to offer a world of far-reaching experiences to make your life more interesting. No longer just a niche, ethnic cooking has become a very popular and more healthful alternative for mainstream America. If you are like many Americans, preparing meals has become a routine, often mundane daily task. Get out of that rut and get cookin'! The International Markets On Havana Street will give you ideas to spice up your life with good, wholesome, interesting meals perfect for your on-the-go lifestyle.

For our special Get Cookin' event, each of the markets is preparing cards with recipes from their home countries and will have the ingredients for these recipes in their shops, giving out tips on how to correctly prepare the ethnic foods, as well. Each market will be offering tasting samples of the food from their countries and will share the music and the heritage attire from their countries with you. Here is the list of participating markets and a map:

[View/Print the Flyer and Map for the Get Cookin' On Havana Street International Market Event](#)

2nd Annual International Restaurant Week: October 17-25



Our On Havana Street restaurants are in the process of preparing special menus and special pricing for our 2nd Annual International Restaurant Week. This is your chance to try a new, unique breakfast, lunch or dinner. We will begin posting the participating restaurants names and their menus on the Upcoming Events page of our www.OnHavanaStreet.com website as they come in. All of the menus and information will be posted on the website by October 1. We will also have

informational flyers and event posters in the restaurants. Don't forget to bring a nonperishable food item to the participating restaurants during the week-long event, as this is a fund raiser for The Food Bank of The Rockies. As always, offering you unique experiences in dining, shopping and living On Havana Street!

[View/Print International Restaurant Week Poster](#)

\$500 Holiday Shopping Spree On Havana Street

The On Havana Street Merchants are planning a huge Holiday Shopping Event for 2009, starting with our Black Friday Weekend Special Sales Event. Santa will be visiting restaurants and strip malls On Havana Street to hand out Secret Santa Gifts to shoppers on Saturday afternoon, October 28. During the entire weekend, you will have the chance to enter a drawing to win a \$500 Holiday shopping spree On Havana Street. There will be entry boxes in various merchants, with a list of those merchants to be found on our website just before the event. No purchase is necessary. The drawing for the \$500 shopping spree will take place late Sunday afternoon, October 29, and the winner will be notified by phone.

On Saturday, December 5, the Aurora Singers will be caroling at The Gardens on Havana (and I hear they will be doing some shopping, too). Then on Saturday night, December 19, we have the Santa's Helpers' Special Shopping Event. Children's Playland at 1555 S Havana, Suite Q, (phone 303-337-1112) will be open from 6-10 p.m. that evening for parents who still need to do their shopping without the kids in tow. The price for the four hours of daycare that evening is \$35/child. We will be holding a drawing for a relaxing spa package to take some of the stress off of Santa's Helper! Again, no purchase is necessary and the winner of the spa package will be notified by phone. Watch for more information in our October newsletter.

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September Tidbits: What's New On Havana Street

THE SAGA OF THE TRAVELING CINNAMON ROLL



Pictured on the left: The Cinnamon Roll Wall of Fame at Dozens; on the right, the original picture of a cinnamon roll in Paris in 1988.

Travelocity has the "roaming gnome," but did you know that Dozens at 2180 S Havana has the traveling cinnamon roll? I was in Dozens recently speaking to owner, Chris Miley, about our upcoming International Restaurant Week. One of Chris' regular customers came up to tell Chris that he was leaving for Ireland in the morning. Chris told him to stop by Dozens on the way to the airport to pick up a cinnamon roll. This seemed a little strange to me at the time, until Chris told me to turn around and look at the Cinnamon Roll Wall of Fame. On the restaurant wall were pictures of Dozens customers in locations all around the world holding the cinnamon rolls: Cancun, Australia, Mazatlan, Xian China, The Bahamas, and Kuwait, etc. What a neat tradition!

Chris started the tradition back in 1988, when one of his customers was taking a trip to Paris. Chris jokingly told the customer to stop by Dozens on his way to the airport to pick up a cinnamon roll for the trip. While in Paris, the customer had someone take a picture of him holding the Dozens cinnamon roll while he was standing in front of the Eiffel Tower. Upon return home, the customer presented Chris with the picture, and the tradition began! Over the years, whenever Dozens' customers travel, they pick up a cinnamon roll so they can get their picture taken while they are holding the roll. When they bring the picture back to Chris, and they get a free meal at Dozens. Take a look at the cinnamon roll wall of fame the next time you are at Dozens. Now you know!

SPROUTS FARMERS MARKET OPENS OCTOBER 2 AT THE GARDENS ON HAVANA



The grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Sprouts Farmers' Market at The Gardens on Havana is all set for 6:55 a.m. on Friday, October 2. The store opens for business at 7 a.m. with lots of grand opening specials. I got a sneak preview of the inside of the store yesterday and all I can say is, "wow!" Stop in on your way to work to take a peak at this absolutely beautiful new store!

GNC LIVE WELL STORE'S GRAND OPENING:



Pictured: Left to right, the first customer in the store, general manager Derrick Forn, and the store owners Raj and Shavina Mohan.

GNC at The Gardens on Havana officially opened for business on August 1, but the grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony took place on Saturday, August 29, at 10 a.m. GNC served cake and energy bars and handed out coupons worth a 40% discount on any one item in the store, valid through September 30. Manager, Derrick Forn, said that the store did a phenomenal amount of business the entire weekend.

THE ELKS ARE COMING! The Elks Club has leased the building at 500 Geneva Street, which is just south of 6th Avenue. This building formerly housed the dental offices of Harley Look, DDS, who retired earlier in the year. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) is a nationally recognized, charitable organization dedicated to supporting Veterans, Americanism and the youth of our community. They sponsor active Drug Awareness programs, provide scholarships to youth, and are sponsors of the Basketball Hoop Shoot and Soccer Shoot programs, held at local schools and open to children ages 8-13. This is Elk's Lodge #1921 which holds a new member seminar on the fourth Tuesday of each month, formerly held at the Aurora Public Library. They will now have a new home in the Havana District! For more information, please contact Dennis at 303-287-1802.

PETCO TO OPEN AT THE GARDENS ON HAVANA:



My Golden Retriever, Samantha, can hardly wait! Petco is coming to The Gardens on Havana! The grand opening weekend celebration will be October 23 and 24. Petco is taking applications and will be hiring for new positions at the store. All of the employment information is available on their website, www.petco.com.

Chick-fil-A Construction Update:



The walls are going up at the new free-standing Chick-fil-A restaurant at The Gardens on Havana. The restaurant will open later this year.

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: Autawash's New Stimulus Pricing and Rain-X



Autawash has announced new Stimulus Pricing! All exterior washes start at \$4.99 and include a towel dry. All Full-Service washes start at \$10 and include interior vacuuming, windows cleaned inside and out, dash and console dusted as well as a towel dry. Autawash is located at 2291 S Havana Street, just north of Iliff on the west side of Havana, 303-695-9331.

Stimulus Pricing is only one of the reasons to stop at Autawash. Autawash has added Rain-X Complete Surface Protectant to the Ultimate Full-Service wash. Rain-X Protectant is designed to deliver increased shine, water repellency and a more durable protection to all exterior vehicle surfaces. It beads and repels water providing better visibility and safer driving in poor weather. And because Rain-X bonds and cures on vehicle surfaces, it levels minor surface irregularities and provides longer lasting protection.

So stop by Autawash for the best value, convenience and service in Aurora! Autawash - Quick and Easy, Clean and Shiny, Every Time!

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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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