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Life On Havana Street  
E-News April 2011



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: Sam's No. 3 to appear on Food Network April 11, 7 p.m.



Our very own Sam's No. 3 at Havana & Parker Road will be featured on the Food Network's popular show **Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives on Monday, April 11 at 7 p.m.** You won't want to miss this!

Sam Armatas has operated Coney Island type restaurants in the Denver area since the 1920's. The original Sam's No 3, located at 1527 Curtis in Denver, was the third of the five Coney Islands that Mr. Armatas opened. In 1998, Sam's son, Spiro, and grandsons, Sam, Alex and Patrick re-established Sam's No. 3, which was the most famous of the coney islands. "The Boys" made a promise to each other to continue the excellent food, quality, and warm atmosphere that was started by

"Mr. Sam" more than 75 years ago.

Their hard work has paid off! Sam's No. 3 has become local favorite offering honest portions and fair prices. They serve breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. The phone number at Sam's No 3 is 303-751-0347.

Oh, and **they are hiring** now in anticipation of increased popularity after appearing on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. This is going to be big!

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## FOOD AND RECIPES: Celebrate National Hamburger Month on Havana Street in May!



From May 1-27 while you are out grabbing a delicious, juicy burger from one of our On Havana Street restaurants, be sure to take a second and enter our **"Buns On The Run" drawing**. We will have entry boxes with entry forms set up in the participating restaurants. We will be giving away \$100 in restaurant gift cards every Friday in May. No purchase is necessary and the winners will be notified by phone.

Also from May 1-27, be sure to pick up your special **Burger Wristbands** from each of the participating restaurants. Each restaurant will have 500 wristbands with their restaurant's name imprinted on the band. Some of the restaurants are adding a special offer on the wristband, too. No purchase is necessary, simply ask for a wristband when you go into the participating restaurants. You can get a wristband every time you visit a participating restaurant while supplies last. Collect them all for some great special offers and more chances to win the Grand Prize!

May 27 is officially National Hamburger Day. **We are asking that you bring all of the wristbands you have collected during the month to Gibby's Sports Bar at 1555 So Havana from 5-7 p.m. on May 27.** For every three wrist bands you have collected, you will get one entry form for a chance to win the **Big Grand Prize: A 4-**

**Burner Gas Grill, Propane Tank, Grilling Utensil Set and Grilling Cash--a \$600 value!** No purchase is necessary. The winner will be notified by phone if not present at Gibby's for the drawing. Of course, you get to keep your wristbands so you can take advantage of the special offers on the bands.

A list of participating restaurants will be posted on the OnHavanaStreet.com website by April 30, and we will also have a list of restaurants available at Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers at The Gardens on Havana. Freddy's and Gibby's will be appearing on Martino TV on Fox 31 in May to promote our National Hamburger Month festivities.

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### Events/Happenings:

## Earth Day: Free Electronic Recycling and Document Shredding Event



**SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2011  
NOON - 3 P.M.**

**In the parking lot at Havana Exchange Shopping  
Center  
2892 S Havana ST, Aurora, CO 80014  
(South of Yale Ave in front of Bicycle Village)**

**WHAT DOES IT COST? Nothing, it's free!**

The "Green Team" from Techno+Rescue returns for another great electronic recycling event On Havana Street. [www.technorescue.com](http://www.technorescue.com) 303-482-2207

The Better Shredder, Inc, will be at the event to accept your confidential documents for safe, secure destruction by shredding and recycling. The Better Shredder is a Cornerstone Records Management Company with an A+ rating by the Denver Better Business Bureau. [www.thebettershredder.com](http://www.thebettershredder.com) 303-426-5722

**What Electronic Items Can I Recycle for Free:** We will accept old/used electronic items that plug in, including but not limited to PCs, CPUs, towers, laptops, notebooks, cell phone, office phones, cords, pagers, monitors, keyboards, printers, copiers, faxes, mice, wires, and, yes, **even Television Sets of all sizes!!**

**Free, Secure Document Shredding:** Please bring any documents you need shredded in boxes or bags.

[Click here](#) for the site map of the Havana Exchange lot so you know which entrance to use to get into the lot and where our trucks will be set up in the lot to accept your items.

Thank you for doing your part to help the environment and prevent identity theft this Earth Day. On Havana Street is subsidizing this event to provide free recycling and secure document destruction as a service to our businesses and customers/neighbors.

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## Rose Garden Volunteer Training: Saturday, May 7, 12 noon - 2 p.m..



Do you enjoy gardening? We are recruiting volunteers to tend our beautiful community rose garden at The Gardens on Havana.

Members of The Denver Rose Society will be doing a free, hands-on training session in rose garden on Saturday, May 7 from noon - 2 p.m. Bring sturdy gloves and a pair of pruning shears if you have them and join us! You will learn the proper techniques for pruning and dead-heading roses. **Call or email Gayle to RSVP as lunch will be delivered to us in**

**the garden, courtesy of Miller Weingarten Realty. Gayle 303-360-7505 or [Gayle@OnHavanaStreet.com](mailto:Gayle@OnHavanaStreet.com)**

Rose garden volunteers will need to sign a waiver form to allow them to work in the rose garden for the training session and throughout the 2011 growing season.

This summer, we will be holding monthly concerts in the rose garden (see related article below). Any trained volunteers who are available are encouraged to come together to work in the gardens on the Saturdays before the rose garden concerts for a garden clean up and dead-heading. We want the roses to look **marvelous** for the concerts!

Where is the Rose Garden? View/Print the [Map](#)

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## Summer Rose Garden Concert Series Kicks Off on May 24!



**When:** Tuesday, May 24, 6-8 p.m.

**What does it cost?** Nothing, this is a free concert

**Entertainment:** OldSkool Country Rock Band

**Where:** In the rose garden plaza at The Gardens on Havana (former Buckingham Square Mall). The rose garden plaza is located at the east end of Garden

Drive (Main Street) in between Dick's Sporting Goods and Petco on the back row of stores. If you want to Google Map the garden, please use the address 1350 So Ironton, Aurora CO 80012.

Bring your lawn chair and picnic dinner. This is an **outdoor concert** in and around the rose garden. If you don't want to cook, call ahead to Chick-Fil-A, Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, Jimmy John's, Qdoba or Noodles & Company at The Gardens on Havana to place your take out order ([click here](#) to go directly to the business directory for restaurant phone numbers). You can pick up your food on the way to the concert. Some of the restaurants will even deliver you order to you at the concert.

### More 2011 Free Rose Garden Concerts--Save the Dates!

- Tuesday, June 21: Six Foot Joe and the Red Hot Rhinos perform big band/big horn 1930-1950's hits and more contemporary music like the Blue Brothers!
- Tuesday, July 26: Maynard Mills Blues Band
- Tuesday, August 23: Symphony music and singers with our 3rd Annual Free Ice Cream Social



### 4th Annual Cruzin' Havana Car Show & Poker Run Presented by Stevinson Toyota East & Scion Saturday, June 18, 2011, 3-9 p.m.

5,000 classic cars and hundreds of spectators! Cruzin' Havana is a benefit for the D.A.R.E. program and the Collector Car Council of Colorado. This is a **free event**, there are no admission or entry fees.

**Poker Run:** The poker run kicks off from all Festival Sites at 3 p.m. Pick up your FREE poker run registration form at any of the Festival Sites. The poker run ends at 8:30 p.m. at The Stampede Festival Site. If you have a crappy poker hand, place your losing registration form in the Second Chance boxes at any of the festival sites for a chance to win \$500 cash!

#### Festival Sites:

**1) The Stampede Festival Site, 2430 S Havana:** DJ Randy Jay and Cruisin' Oldies Radio will be doing a live. The Cruisin' Cats band will be performing live. The poker run grand prize winner, runner up and second chance winners will be announced at The Stampede at 8:30 p.m.

**Poker Run Grand Prize: A 50" Big Screen HDTV courtesy of Havana Auto Parts**  
**Poker Run Runner Up Prize: \$200 cash**  
**Second Chance Drawing: \$500 cash**

**2) Gibby's Festival Site, 1555 S Havana:** Mobile Rock & Roll DJ Van Jeffries and the NAPA trailer will be at Gibby's this year.

**3) The Gardens On Havana Festival Site (former Buckingham Square Mall area):** We will set up in the parking lot along Mississippi in between Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburger and Sprouts. The fabulous doo-wop group, The Coppertones, will be performing live.

**4) Havana Machine/Colpar Festival Site, 850 So Havana:** Rusty the Ragtop Rocker and the Atomic Drifters will be performing live. This is the place to be if you love Rockabilly and classic 1950's Rock 'N Roll music!

**5) Stevinson Toyota East & Scion:** Da Boogiemán will be spinning the tunes at Stevinson Toyota East & Scion. Boogie is best known for his Wolfman Jack voice on Kool 105 radio for years. Boogie has a great collection of old school rock & roll and lots of stories to tell about the classic music he plays.

**Crusin' Havana Vendor Booth Space Available:** The food booth registration form and information, as well as the food vendor booth application packet required by Tri-County Health can be found on this link: [Upcoming Events page on our OnHavanaStreet.com website](#). We are looking for food and general vendor booths for The Stampede Festival Site and only general vendor booths for Gibby's and the Havana Machine/Colpar festival sites.

## **HBID Open Golf Tournament at CommonGround: Monday, July 18**

This is your chance to play the course that is co-hosting the 2010 U.S. Amateur Golf Championship! The HBID Open is a benefit for the Junior Golf Training Program at CommonGround, providing scholarships for local kids to learn to play the game of golf. The cost is \$100 per player. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with warm up and a Continental Breakfast. Announcements and departure is at 7:45 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8 a.m.

The tournament price includes entry into all events, breakfast, range balls, 18 holes of golf with riding cart, lunch and prizes. There will be an awards presentation and lunch directly after golf on site.

[Please pre-register by completing the form that can be found on this link](#). For more information, call Mark Vissering at Mark Vissering State Farm Insurance, 303-745-0034, Matt Rauzi at Colorado's Pro Gym at 303-671-9586 or Dumitri Palea at 303-752-0553.

## **2011 Havana Farmers Market: New Day, Location and Times!**

New Day: Every Monday through the end of October

Opening Date: June 20, 2011

New Times: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

New Location: The Havana Exchange Shopping Center, 2892 S Havana in the parking lot along Havana in front of Bicycle Village (Yale & Havana)

Vendor applications are being accepted. [Click here for the vendor information and application](#)

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## **Tidbits: What's New On Havana Street?**

### **Carmen's Mexican Restaurant Now Open:**

Carmen's opened last week at the Iliff Pointe Shopping Center, 10375 E Iliff Avenue, next to the Concentra Health Care Clinic. Carmen's is open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Their phone number is 303-671-0818. Yes, they do take-out!

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### **Two New Stores Open in Havana Exchange:**

**Denver Books and Gifts** and **The Thrift Store** have opened at the Havana Exchange Shopping Center, 2790 S Havana Street next to Tequila's Restaurant. Forrest Kucsmarski is the owner of both new stores.

Denver Books and Gifts is both a bricks & mortar and an online book and collectables store. Their website is [www.denverbooksandgifts.com](http://www.denverbooksandgifts.com) They are open daily from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and their phone number is 720-748-0378. They specialize in buying and selling books and collectables. Forrest said they will soon be buying gold, too. They have a large selection of vintage toys, NASCAR items, Barbies, Star Wars, signed sports memorabilia and movie memorabilia and jewelry.

Forrest has opened The Thrift Store next door to Denver Books and Gifts. The Thrift Store is opened daily from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at 2790 S Havana, Unit U. They share the phone with Denver Books and Gifts (720-748-0378)

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### **Buffalo Wild Wings To Open May 9:**

The beautiful new Buffalo Wild Wings at The Gardens on Havana is scheduled to open May 9, if they get all of their construction approvals and certification of occupancy in time. They are planning a big grand opening celebration in conjunction with National Hamburger Month. Watch the April Life On Havana Street E-News for updates.

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### **Major Public Art Project On Havana Street:**

On Havana Street is partnering with the City of Aurora Arts in Public Places (AIPP) on this major art project. A sculpture project is planned for 2011. We will be forming a steering committee to work on site selection, the call for artists process, art selection, and promotion of this project. AIPP will be installing the pads for the sculptures. On Havana Street is providing the money for the artists' stipends and awards. The plan calls for 10 sculptures to be placed in the Havana District in 2011. This will be a rotating exhibit with the sculptures on display for a year at a time. AIPP will purchase one permanent piece of art for this project each year. In future years, the steering committee will look at doing other types of art projects in the Havana Corridor. We are hoping to have the sculptures in place by early Fall of 2011. Watch this newsletter for updates on this very exciting project!

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### **Custom Condominium Newspaper Rack Project Moving Forward:**

The racks for the 17 final sites along Havana have been shipped from the factory and should arrive some time next week. On Havana Street is spending thousands of dollars on this streetscape improvement project by replacing the plastic red, yellow, green and blue newspaper boxes with custom newsracks. We are providing more newspaper slots in our custom racks than are currently available in the plastic newspaper boxes.

Getting approval for this project from Aurora Public Works has been a very difficult and lengthy process. The current plastic newspaper boxes at the street edge are not regulated by any entity. These unregulated plastic boxes can appear anywhere along Havana, including in the sight line. Boxes in the sight line pose a public safety issue because people cannot see around the boxes when exiting business' driveways. We have worked with Public Works to make sure all of our custom newspaper condos are out of sight lines, making exiting our businesses much safer.

Our goal is to get all of the custom newspaper condo racks installed by the middle of June so the street will look really sharp for Cruzin' Havana on June 18.

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### **Alternative Plan for Medians On Havana Street:**

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) was awarded some Federal Highway Safety Funds to use on State Highways to reduce the number of "T-bone" type accidents. T-bone accidents are primarily caused by people turning left onto a highway and crashing into the side of a vehicle. CDOT decided to spend over half a million dollars on State Highway 30 (Havana Street) on a median project to improve safety. CDOT sent out letters to commercial property owners along Havana the last week in January, informing the owners about the median project. With the original configuration of the medians, at least 30 businesses would have lost some customer access to their businesses as a result of the medians.

On Havana Street stepped in to work with CDOT traffic engineers and City of Aurora traffic engineers to schedule a stakeholders meeting in February. About 30 business owners came to that meeting with many concerns and fears that they would go out of business as a result of the medians.

CDOT and Aurora Traffic Engineers listened and came up with some alternatives to the original median configuration. Stakeholders met again with traffic engineers on March 26 in a workshop to further tweak the median configuration. The goals were to minimize impact to the businesses but still address the public safety concerns.

We are still working on the final version of the median configuration and plan to meet at least one more time with the stakeholders before the final version is approved. CDOT plans to go out to bid on this project as soon as the final version is approved and start construction of the medians in late summer/early fall 2011.

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### **Urban Renewal Plan for Havana North:**

The final public hearing for the urban renewal plan for Havana North is on the City Council Schedule for April 11, 7:30 p.m. in Aurora City Council Chambers. If approved, the urban

renewal plan would finally be in place. However, due to the continued sluggish economy and depressed housing market, it will likely be 3-5 more years before we see any redevelopment activity happening in the Havana North Area. There are no imminent projects on the horizon.

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#### **Ink It Over Hosting Fund Raisers for Japan Earthquake Relief:**

Sue Smith, owner of Ink It Over, is hosting a month-long fund raiser for Japan at her two restaurants, Cody's and New Orient. Here's how it works:

During the month of April, when you eat at Cody's Cafe & Bar at 10253 E Iliff, Cody's will donate 50% of its proceeds for the month of April to the cause. They will be hosting various wine and beer tasting events and art auctions at the restaurant.

Also during April, New Orient Restaurant at 10203 E Iliff will be hosting several events as a part of this fund raiser for Japan. Tickets can be purchased at Ink It over, 10329 E Iliff, during April and redeemed for meals and drinks at New Orient. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of these tickets goes toward the Japan Earthquake Relief Fund.

Ink It Over has also agreed to match all contributions from the Cody's and New Orient fund raisers during April! Patrons can make a cash donations at the restaurants or Ink It Over. Checks should be made out to "Japan Red Cross" and mailed or brought to Ink It Over at 10329 E Iliff Ave, Denver CO 80247. Call Susan Rodriguez, GM of Ink It Over, for further information (303) 369-8485.

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#### **Freddie's Barber Shop Owner Hosting Charity Golf Tournament:**

Our On Havana Street business owners are very community minded! Freddie Gayle, owner of Freddie's Barber Shop at 2495 S Havana is hosting a Charity Golf Classic presented by his nonprofit foundation, The Gayles Foundation. The Gayles Foundation is a 501c3 charity set up to help the kids and adults dealing with diabetes so they can enjoy a full life. Proceeds go to provide support for research and services for the children and their families. Freddie is looking for tournament sponsors and teams to play in the tournament. The tournament is August 25, 2011, at the Green Valley Ranch Golf Club, shotgun start at 8 a.m. The cost is \$100 per player. If you are interested in sponsorships or playing in this tournament, please contact Freddie Gayles at 303-901-6586 or email Freddie at [freddiegayles84@msn.com](mailto:freddiegayles84@msn.com).

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#### **Rummage Sale for Local Community Garden, May 14:**

Denver Urban Gardens is supporting a community garden adjacent to the Havana District. The garden is located at Mt. View United Church, 10700 E Evans. A rummage sale is being held on May 14 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the church to raise money for a water tap that will be needed to establish the community garden (a minimum cost of \$10,000). Stop by to shop and support community gardening. For more information on the rummage sale or to donate contact Sara at 303-923-3458.

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#### **Retirement Community Hosting Antique & Classic Car Show, May 21:**

The Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community at 2445 S Quebec St, Denver 80231, invites you to bring your car out to their classic and antique car show to be held Saturday, May 21, 2011, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. There will be prizes for the crowd favorite. Free event. Call Pati Sawyer Boex at 303-753-2160 for more information or if you plan to bring your car out for the event.

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### **Jiffy Lube's New Signage:**

The next time you drive past Jiffy Lube at 1657 S Havana take a look at their new sign. As a part of our District Identity project, On Havana Street paid to have the beautiful ledgestone and the On Havana Street logo panel installed on the base of Jiffy Lube's new monument sign. Jiffy Lube recently underwent a major remodel and is looking good!

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Watch us on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/onhavana](http://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: What's Up With Budget Car Sales?**



I have lost track of the number of people who have asked me, "What's up with Budget Car Sales?" Here's the Scoop:

Long-time car guy and owner of Budget Car Sales, Jack Tierney, has decided to retire. Jack is one of the founding members of the Havana Business Improvement District and still serves on the BID's board of directors. Jack was a driving force behind the formation of the Havana Motor Mile and also helps plan the annual HBID open golf tournament. He recently served as chair of the City of Aurora's Business Advisory Board. Jack decided it was time to spend more time with his family and at his condo in Naples, FL.

Jack purchased the former Mikel Gamber Photography Studio to the north of the larger Budget Car Sales building a couple of years ago. Budget was running an Internet Sales office out of the former photography studio. Jack has put both properties on the market:

- The 835 So Havana property is 2.083 acres, has 330 feet of Havana frontage and a 13,776 sf building with showroom, offices and a shop area. There are three 14-foot doors and the property is zone B-1.
- The former photography studio building at 813 So Havana is a 17,030 sf lot with 150 ft of Havana Frontage and a 1,875 sf building. It is also zoned B-1.

Bob Behrens from Re/Max Alliance is the agent handling these properties: 303-300-8915

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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  
303-360-7505  
[www.OnHavanaStreet.com](http://www.OnHavanaStreet.com)

Visit our web site at  
[www.OnHavanaStreet.com](http://www.OnHavanaStreet.com)

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