



THE VOICE OF AURORA, COLO.



News Living Sports Opinions Special Sections Blogs Multi Media Obituaries Advertising Classifieds Contact Us Home

Thursday, February 26, 2009

News > Business

Print | E-mail | Comment (No comments posted.) | Rate | Text Size |

Johnny's Diner finds new owners

By BRANDON JOHANSSON
The Aurora Sentinel

Published: Thursday, February 26, 2009 1:58 PM MST

AURORA | The regulars who fill the booths at Johnny's Diner and fill up on the restaurant's famous burgers and shakes don't have to fear the Aurora classic changing anytime soon.

The famous drive thru window at the diner near East Iliff Avenue and South Havana Street isn't going anywhere.

Neither are the famed hamburgers, milk shakes and french fries.

And the 1950s decor and music will be there, too.

The only thing that's changed about the staple on Aurora's dining scene is the owners.

Sean Pak and his wife, Michele, bought Johnny's Diner about a month ago from Doug Beck, who owned the restaurant for more than a decade.

And, Sean Pak said, he wants the customers to know that he doesn't have any intentions of changing Johnny's.

"This is a legend in Aurora," he said during an interview at the diner last week. "I don't want to change anything."

Pak said while he lives in Highlands Ranch, he regularly shops in Aurora and knew Johnny's well before he bought it.

Late last year he and his wife, who previously owned a deli near the Inverness Hotel in Greenwood Village together, were in the market for a restaurant when they found out Johnny's was for sale.

Details of the sale weren't available.

Pak said he bought the restaurant with the plan to change very little, if anything about it.

"I like this style," he said, gesturing to the pictures of classic cars and 1950s memorabilia on the walls. "That's why I bought Johnny's. I want to keep the same menu."

The only change Pak said he is considering is adding wraps to the menu. At the deli he and his wife owned in Greenwood Village, the wraps were always a popular item, he said.

But that won't mean taking any of the classics off the menu, he said.

"The burgers and the shakes, everything is the same," he said.

With the economy slumping, it might seem to some that this isn't the right time to buy a new business.

But Pak said he is hopeful about the future.

"The economy is down presently, but I think it's getting better," he said.

And, Pak said, there is plenty of development along Havana and Iliff to help his business grow.

About a mile to the north is The Gardens on Havana, a \$110 million redevelopment project on the site of the old Buckingham Square mall. The first of the large retail shops in the project, a Kohl's department store, is scheduled to open next month. Other stores, including Dick's Sporting Goods are scheduled to open later in the year and officials hope to have plans for residential properties complete this year as well.

To the west is a recently-built shopping center at Parker Road and Iliff.

Gayle Jetchick, executive director of the Havana Business Improvement District, said she was glad to have Pak and his wife in the neighborhood.

"It's nice to have some new blood in the district," she said.

The centerpiece of the BID's work on Havana is the Gardens project and the new businesses it will bring to the area.

But Jetchick said the classic businesses like Johnny's are also important to bringing shoppers to Havana and keeping customers coming back.

"It's our history and any successful restaurant like Johnny's is a good value for the district," she said. "They've been a



Brad Kendrick reads the paper after eating lunch at Johnny's Diner on Feb. 20 near South Havana Street and East Iliff Avenue in Aurora. (Heather A. Longway/The Aurora Sentinel)


 Search

Daily Headlines E-mail

Local headlines delivered to your Inbox!



Advertisement

FITZSIMONS
Community Credit Union
SAFE. SOUND. LOCAL.
LEARN MORE >

Looking
Best Taste of Mexico
Critic's Choice 2008
La Cueva
Hungry? Click Here!
TRAVEL
303 792 9223

AP Associated Press

Congressional Leaders React to Obama's Budget | India Charges Mumbai Gunman With Murder | Holder: Closing Gitmo Will Be Challenging

star on the street for quite a while."

[« Previous Article](#)

Yahoo CFO leaving as new CEO shakes up management

[Next Article »](#)

JOAs a dying breed

Reader Comments

The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of aurorasentinel.com.

You must register with a valid email to post comments. Only your Member ID will be posted with the comments.

Registered users sign in here:

*Member ID:

*Password:

Remember login?
(requires cookies)

[Forgot Your Password?](#)

Become a Registered User

Do not use usernames or passwords from your financial accounts!

Note: Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required!

*Create a Member ID:

*Choose a password:

*Re-enter password:

*E-mail Address:

*Year of Birth:

(children under 13 cannot register)

*First Name:

*Last Name:

*Zip Code:

Article Rating

Current Rating: 0 of 0 votes!

Rate File: Select Rating: -

[Return to: Business](#) | [Home](#) | [Top of Page](#) ^

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Syndicated Features](#) | [RSS](#) | [e-Edition](#)

Copyright © 2009 Aurora Sentinel. All rights reserved.
Unauthorized reproduction is prohibited.



**First Aurora...
Now the World!**

To advertise
call
303-750-7555



Aurora Sentinel
14305 E. Alameda Ave.
2nd Floor
Aurora, CO 80012
P: (303) 750-7555
F: (303) 750-7699

Powered by TownNews.com