

NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

HAVANA CUBAN CUISINE

Open less than a month, Havana Cuban Cuisine on Park Street has already generated strong word-of-mouth recognition for its fresh Cuban/Californian flavors, its mojitos and a fun and friendly atmosphere.

Owner Zack Scott developed the formula in Walnut Creek, where his first Havana restaurant opened almost six years ago.

"We have a really good reputation in Walnut Creek," Scott said. "I think people were excited to see us coming. We had a sign up in the window for about six or eight months."

With Cuban music playing over the

stereo and giant photos of Cuban life on the walls, patrons can enjoy tapas and entrees such as plantain crusted halibut (\$19) and marinated steak over rice and beans with grilled pineapple (\$18). Havana also offers a dozen different flavors of mojito, a very popular drink made of rum, sugar, mint and lime juice.



■ **WHAT:** Havana Cuban Cuisine

■ **WHERE:** 1518 Park St.

■ **HOURS:** 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. every day.

■ **PHONE:** 510-521-0130



SHERRY LAVARS/STAFF

HAVANA OWNER ZACK SCOTT mixes a pitcher of mojitos at his Alameda restaurant on Friday. The Cuban restaurant offers a dozen different flavors of the popular drink.