



Galaxy Drive In, located at 3712 Quebec Ave. S., serves up lunch to customers, Aug. 24. The updated Galaxy Drive In offers an old fashioned menu with an intergalactic twist.

Photo | Kelsey Reid

Galaxy lights up old space

Nico Johnson | Staff writer

Having Wagner's as its humble predecessor, Galaxy Drive In offers an experience alien to many.

Steve Schussler, the mind behind the Rainforest Café and several other restaurant concepts, bought Wagner's, focuses on providing a unique atmosphere for customers.

But in the case of Galaxy, he wanted to do more than create an interesting appearance and strove to connect with customers on a more personal level.

"I wanted it to remain a family and neighborhood friendly place," Schussler said. "We really put an emphasis on making people smile."

This meant appealing to several audiences. Taking the interests of teens into account, Schussler packed as much eclectic entertainment as possible into the small lot. He added fire pits, a large-scale chessboard and tick-tack-toe set. The menu also received a facelift, with options for vegetarians and canines.

Still, Galaxy's appearance is a highlight.

It seems the originality of Galaxy resonates with a lot of its clientele.

"I love the whole retro-futuristic theme," freshman Rachel Geressu said. "The colors of it and everything are perfect."

Sophomore Pablo Silva believes Galaxy's popularity is a result of its uniqueness.

"You can't really find a place like it around the metro area," Silva said. "And it's not like your normal restaurant where you have to sit inside. You can walk around, eat your food, and hang out with friends."

Despite excitement over Galaxy's look, some don't think the drive-in compares to Wagner's.

Senior Alec Hickerson, a former Wagner's employee, preferred Wagner's less busy ambiance.

"I liked how it was really old-school," Hickerson said. "The Galaxy stuff is a little overdone."

Many teens grew up with Wagner's, and the arrival of Galaxy starkly contrasts with their childhood restaurant.

"Wagner's was the original thing. Everyone knew Wagner's," junior Chris Knudsen said.

★ What's Hot ★



Galactic Burger- Galaxy's signature burger loaded with the works.



Saturn's Onion "Rings"- Batter fried onions seasoned with Galaxy's own spices.



"Big Dippers" Chicken Tenders- a teen favorite, served with your choice of sauce.

Art | KT Lindemann

Wagner's also tended to be quieter and kept a lower profile.

"It never brought so much attention," said Hickerson, who lives nearby Galaxy. "It gets a bit annoying trying to go through [the neighborhood], and having so many people there."