

SUBSCRIBER CONTENT:

Food & Lifestyle

Nine & Night restaurant opens temp site at Buffalo State



Htay Naing, owner, Nine & Night Thai Cuisine

MIKE MORETTI, WEDI



By Tracey Drury – Reporter, Buffalo Business First
Sep 1, 2023

Nine & Night Thai Cuisine has reopened – this time inside the SUNY Buffalo State University Campbell Student Union in preparation for a new site on Amherst Street.

The business will offer a takeout menu of Thai cuisine and bubble tea throughout the fall semester as it works to open a full-service location nearby at 414 Amherst St., formerly home to Ashker’s juice bar and café.

Owner Htay Naing previously operated his business at the Westminster Economic Development Initiative’s West Side Bazaar at 25 Grant St. before a fire destroyed the site. An expanded bazaar is scheduled to open this fall.

Naing worked with the WEDI staff to identify the opportunity at the college, where plans call for other WEDI graduates to rotate in and out of the space each semester, said Erin Kelly, director of external relations.

“They’re technically graduates of our program and we stay connected and committed to our graduates,” she said.

The opportunity developed after conversations on how the college could find ways to better connect with its city neighbors, said Glenn Bucello, resident district manager for Chartwells, the company that operates Bengal Kitchen.

”Our strategy was, how can we bring local vendors in to help support not only the community but to also be able to add some cultural diversity to what we’re offering in the retail food court,” he said.

Last semester, Bucello identified some vendors for popups through the on-campus Small Business Development Center, then talked to WEDI to work on a longterm partnership. He’ll look to WEDI to identify which food vendors will be a good fit.

“It’s one of those really beautiful situations where everyone wins: The campus wins to be able to have another food offering on campus; we win to diversify our portfolio; and the students and faculty win, they get to try some new and different foods that are local,” he said. “And the vendor wins - it gives them the opportunity to expose themselves to thousands of people every week.”

- The **National Buffalo Chicken Wing Festival** will hold its 22nd annual event Sept. 2-3 at Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park, with two dozen food vendors including from the local area: **Anchor Bar, Just Pizza, Buffalo Wild Wings, Danny’s Restaurants, Perry’s Ice Cream, Pop N Bob’s, Not Just Cakes** and **Steelbound Brewery & Distillery**.
- The **Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA** has two new food and drink vendors opening this fall: **Dream Juice Bar** is expected to open in September at entrance 5 near the Nike Factory Store, offering protein shakes, energy bombs and fresh salads; while national franchise **Cinnabon** will open in the food court before year’s end.
- **Chipotle Mexican Grill** is getting closer to opening in Buffalo at 2236 Delaware Ave. The national company filed for its liquor license in late August for the new site at Delaware Commons in a new Benderson Development building where Tokyo II Seafood & Steakhouse previously operated.