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Empire Palace Asian Restaurant and Bar

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Photo: Yikeng Zheng, Showming Zheng and Xiuzhen Ma prepare to greet their first customers at the new Empire Palace location in McCandless Township.

EMPIRE PALACE ASIAN RESTAURANT AND BAR DAZZLES WITH NEW NORTH HILLS LOCATION

McCandless Township, Pa. – Empire Palace Asian Restaurant and Bar opened its second Pittsburgh-area location on February 18th, 2010, in the former Famous Dave’s Barbecue location at McCandless Corporate Center, McKnight Road. Located adjacent to TGIFriday’s at the business park’s entrance, Empire Palace took less than 90 days to

transform a former barbecue joint into a stunning 200+ seat full-service Asian restaurant and bar offering a complete sushi menu to accompany its traditional Asian fare. Empire Palace is a family-owned restaurant created by Yikeng Zheng and Xiuzhen Ma of Fugian, China. Their son, Showming Zheng manages daily operations at the new North Hills location.

“We’ve created menus that showcase traditional Asian recipes with modern technique,” explains Yikeng. “We’re bringing something fresh and innovative to the McCandless dining scene.”

The Zheng family arrived in Pittsburgh in 1997 and opened their first Empire Palace location in Aliquippa at Hopewell Shopping Center. After 15 successful years in the restaurant business, they believed the time was right to expand their Asian fusion concept. Jared Imperatore and J.R. Yocco of Grant Street Associates Retail Services Group coordinated the lease transaction at 5100 Corporate Drive, a 6,361-square-foot retail building, on behalf of the landlord, Zell Two, Inc.

“The opportunity to move into a freestanding restaurant location with great visibility was tremendously appealing to the Zhengs,” Yocco, Retail Leasing Manager with Grant Street Associates, said. “The retail development activity in the McCandless corridor has been steadily increasing making it one of the hottest submarkets in the region.”

Imperatore said the Zhengs are considering expansion into other submarkets in the Pittsburgh region within the next six to 12 months.

Patrons can enjoy dining at Empire Palace seven days a week, with daily lunch hours from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner hours until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The Asian Bar is open until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. A private dining room is available for parties and special occasions.

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