

Flipping for Automobile Alley: S&B's Burger Joint adding another restaurant

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Published: October 19th, 2011



Denise McConnell, general manager at S&B Burger Joint, brings food to tables Wednesday. (Maïke Sabolich)

OKLAHOMA CITY – S&B's Burger Joint on N. May Avenue has gained a devoted following for its burgers, sliders and eclectic fries. Next month, it's bringing its rock-'n'-roll restaurant approach to a second location on Automobile Alley.

S&B's is taking over a building on Ninth Street across from Iguana Mexican Lounge, the latest addition to a growing retail and restaurant area. Shannon Roper, co-owner of S&B's, said they began thinking about the expansion a year ago when they were approached by Automobile Alley developer and landowner Steve Mason.

"We couldn't pass it up," Roper said. "It's a really neat, hip spot and is an up-and-coming area. We feel like it will be a great

spot for us and we can add to the area with the style of food we do."

S&B's building at 20 NW Ninth St. offers about 2,000 square feet, Roper said, and they're planning a patio. It's double the size of the May Avenue restaurant. He's aiming for the end of November to open.

S&B's offers about 16 burgers – also sold as sliders so people can try different ones. They range from a traditional burger like "The Fatty" to "The Fire" with roasted green chiles and "The Asian" with gingered onions, soy glaze and wasabi mayo. They also offer several other sandwiches. French fry options include regular and sweet potato or, more elaborately, the Thanksgiving sweet potato fry with marshmallow crème, dried cranberries and chopped pecans.

Roper owns S&B's with Bryan Neel. The burger joint began nearly two years ago. Previously, they ran it as a bar for 10 years. Roper said they simply wanted to add a kitchen, but the food took off. They still offer a full bar, but it's no longer the focus.

Roper said they plan to continue their rock-'n'-roll decor on Automobile Alley. At their May site, the walls feature paintings of rock icons by a local artist along with Rolling Stone covers.

Audrey Falk, who owns the nearby Automobile Alley store Shop Good with her husband, Justin, said S&B's will be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

"The more great places there are to eat and hang out, the better it is for us," she said. "We love getting walk-in traffic from restaurants, and they're great at referring their customers to us while they wait. The street's changing very quickly. We're excited to be here."