

THE DAILY GAZETTE

'Just as dirty the 2nd time around': Slidin' Dirty opens in Schenectady

Brett Samuels

June 29, 2017

Tim and Brooke Taney stood in front of their latest business venture Thursday wearing shirts that likely caused passersby to raise an eyebrow.

The front read “Sloppy Seconds,” while the back said “Just as dirty the second time around,” a tribute to the grand opening of a second location for the beer and burger spot Slidin’ Dirty.

“From start to finish we had a ton of bumps in the road,” Tim Taney said. “But the end result is just as good as our first attempt.”

Slidin’ Dirty opened its second brick-and-mortar shop Thursday, this one located at 512 State St. Tim and Brooke Taney founded the business as a food truck and catering service in 2012, then opened their first restaurant in Troy in 2014. The eatery specializes in gourmet burgers and appetizers.

The new location is about double the size of the Troy restaurant, Tim Taney said. It occupies 4,000 square feet spread over two stories, enough space to house a bar, seating for 110 people and an outdoor patio. The upstairs can be used for private parties, Taney said.

The food truck and catering operation will also be based in Schenectady moving forward. The new branch will employ roughly 30 people, Taney said.

The restaurant isn’t afraid to play off of its name, with the word “dirty” featured in many menu options — the Dirty Yankee, the Dirty Hottie and the Dirty Soprano are just a few examples.

“We play with innuendo a lot and we push the envelope, but we want people, whether they’re coming from a rough day or from happy hour and want to keep the good vibes going, we want them to experience something fun,” Tim Taney said.

Both he and Brooke have a favorite menu option.

For Brooke, it’s the Dirty Hangover, a slider topped with cheddar, bacon, fried egg, arugula and chipotle cream. Tim said he prefers the Dirty Ninja, a slider covered in sautéed bok choy and shiitake mushrooms, scallions, sesame seeds and Asian mustard.

In addition to creative sliders, the restaurant will offer about a dozen beers on tap, with a focus on local brews, Tim Taney said. The establishment also offers appetizers, salads and a kids' menu, he said.

The Schenectady location, which was announced in January, is one piece of a multimillion-dollar overhaul of the old Foster Building. The façade features a large arching window, harkening back to its original architecture.

Slidin' Dirty was one of three area businesses to celebrate recent openings and expansions on Thursday, something that's been more common in the area lately.

Just steps away, Great Flats Brewing celebrated its growth in the months since it opened on Lafayette Street. The craft brewery started out with just a few beers on tap, but now has seven with more in the works.

Across the river in Glenville, the new Homewood Suites hotel held a grand opening celebration, though the business had a soft opening in May and has been hosting guests in the time since. It is one of three new hotels to open within about a mile of each other as the region touts itself as an up-and-coming destination.

Ray Gillen, chairman of the Schenectady Metroplex Development Authority, recalled that in 2004, State Street consisted of "two pizza places and Proctors." Now, he said, the city is making progress through collaboration and having success luring new developers and tenants.

"Economic development is a momentum business," he said. "And clearly we have momentum in downtown Schenectady."