

Food & Lifestyle

Stacks Espresso Bar to make first building purchase on Lark Street

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Stacks Espresso Bar will take over the former Cafe Hollywood building on Lark Street.
STACKS ESPRESSO BAR



By [Sam Raudins](#) – Reporter, Albany Business Review
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Stacks Espresso Bar is buying a building on Lark Street to expand operations.

Stacks' ownership is buying the building at 275 Lark St., the former Cafe Hollywood, which closed in November. The company will move its existing Lark Street cafe at 260 Lark St. to the new building in the next month.

Stacks, which is owned by Tyler Wrightson, is under contract to buy 275 Lark Street for \$600,000 and will be leasing it until the sale closes.

The sale should close in March or April, Wrightson said. There is a contingency in place that if the sale doesn't close in six months, Stacks automatically begins a five year lease there.

Pioneer will be providing the mortgage and Stacks is also working with Advance Albany County Alliance for financing, Wrightson said.

Rudy Lynch of Carrow Real Estate Services is representing Stacks in the deal. The seller is Collin Rost.

It's the first location Stacks will own in its portfolio.

"The next strategic step for Stacks is to start to acquire locations, and get as many as we can. That's where I can really see us turning into a scalable, franchise-able, growth business," Wrightson said.

The plan is to move the cafe to 275 Lark St. by Feb. 1 – the day the cafe's lease at 260 Lark ends. Stacks has had a cafe on Lark Street for 10 years.

"We want to move really quickly," Wrightson said.

Wrightson said since the cafe's second year on Lark Street, growth had stagnated due to the size of the cafe.

"We have been capped out on revenue. It's just consistent. We can't grow it," Wrightson said. "We couldn't expand seating. We couldn't expand outdoor seating. We couldn't add our full food menu."

The new location is two floors with a patio, six parking spaces and a full kitchen with a hood and gas. In total, the building is about 3,000 square feet.

The goal is to start operations on the first floor. Eventually, the second floor will likely have seating and rentable space.

Though new businesses like [New Scotland Spirits Tasting Room](#) and [La Polleria Peruvian Rotisserie and Taqueria](#) have opened on Lark Street in 2024, the neighborhood has faced some challenges. Cafe Hollywood was shut down by the city in November after a shooting inside the bar, and another November shooting destroyed Bitchin' Donuts storefront.

But Sue Duncel, CEO of Stacks, said the company is doubling down on Lark Street. With more space, Stacks will be able to host community events, be open for evening cocktails, and explore potentially offering weekend brunch.

"Stacks started on Lark Street and has been part of that community for 10 years. It's basically its birthplace. And when times get tough, it's really hard to say to the community that supported you, 'Thanks so much for the memories. We're out.' That's not who we are as a company, and I think recommitting and making this New Year's resolution that we're going to be a part of this community, we're going to be its biggest cheerleaders, we're going to continue to invest in it is an important thing for us to do," she said.

Stacks is in the process of opening [another Albany location at 90 State St.](#), which will be its fifth location in the region. The other cafes are on Third Street in Troy, Broadway in Albany, and in the Pioneer Bank building on Albany Shaker Road in Colonie.

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