

Local duo Sam Vang and his partner, Choua Lor, are officially gearing up for a mid-June opening, and they are bringing a fresh, takeout-focused approach to the Hmong, Thai, and Lao comfort food we all love.

The Concept: Your Plate, Your Way

Forget the long wait times of traditional table service. Asian H Express is designed for the modern, busy diner. Operating with a counter-style buffet model, the restaurant invites you to build your perfect meal by weight. At just \$12.99 per pound, you have the freedom to mix and match your favorites without being tied to a single entree price.

Whether you're grabbing a quick breakfast or powering up after a long workday, the doors will be wide open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

A Rotating Menu of Favorites

The kitchen team is focused on variety and speed. Vang describes the daily lineup as a rotating showcase of Southeast Asian staples. You can expect to find:

Savory Proteins: Brisket, tender pork belly, house-made sausages, and both grilled and fried chicken.

Fresh Sides: Crispy egg rolls, steaming hot fried rice, tangy laab, and fresh, zesty papaya salad.

Specialties: Steamed fish and a host of other dishes designed to satisfy any craving.

"We'll just cook a whole bunch of dishes, trying to put out as much variety of food as possible," Vang shared with Urban Milwaukee.

A Familiar Landmark with a Modern Twist

Longtime Northwest Side residents might recognize the address—the restaurant is taking over the space formerly occupied by the legendary Jackie's Cafe on 76th Street.

Known for its classic Hmong buffet-style spreads, Jackie's was a staple in the neighborhood. Vang, who has previous experience operating a business in this very area, is essentially coming home. While he has kept his signature recipes alive through a successful catering business during the site's renovations, he is eager to get back to serving the neighborhood daily.

With plumbing and electrical upgrades in their final stages, the team is just waiting for the last of the inspections to clear before the doors swing open.

Get Ready for June

Whether you're a longtime fan of Vang's catering or just looking for a new go-to spot for an easy, delicious dinner, Asian H Express is positioned to be a neighborhood favorite. Stay tuned for an official opening date in mid-June—we'll see you at the counter!

Asian H Express will be located at the former Jackie's Cafe site on 76th Street. Stay connected to local news for the official grand opening announcement!