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New restaurant group to take over eatery in Memorial City

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Cherry Pie Hospitality, Lee Ellis' recently formed company, has announced its second new restaurant.

State Fare will take over a 7,000-square-foot space at 947 Gessner in Gateway Memorial City, Cherry Pie announced in a statement. It is currently the home of Bradley Ogden's Pour Society, but the State Fare menu is already in place. The restaurant will stay open during the expected renovations, which will occur at night and on weekends.

MetroNational is the landlord.

State Fare will offer Texas-style Southern food. The menu features more than 70 items, including snacks, bowls, salads, plates, mac and cheese, sandwiches, side, cakes and pies. It will also offer 48 craft beers on tap, and a wine and cocktail menu designed by Cherry Pie Hospitality's beverage director, Laurie Harvey. Susan Molzan, pastry chef at Petite Sweets, will create the dessert offerings.

The State Fare team also includes Rob Harvey, general manager, and Bill



SCOTT DALTON

Lee Ellis, co-founder of F.E.E.D. TX, holds donuts in front of Lee's Fried Chicken and Donuts in the Heights. The new restaurant opened in Oct. 2015.

McKinley, executive chef. Jim Mills, a partner with Cherry Pie, will oversee operations of State Fare and other locations.

When he announced his new company on April 26, Ellis said he was developing several concepts in Houston. Just days later, he announced the company will open a brick-and-mortar location of Pi Pizza Truck in the space previously home to Ogden Hospitality's Funky Chicken.

James Beard Award-winning chef Bradley Ogden's company opened its first of three Houston concepts — Funky Chicken— back in 2013. Both Funky Chicken and Ogden's second concept — Bradley's Fine Diner — officially closed a few months ago. The restaurants were located in the same strip at 181 Heights Blvd. and 191 Heights Blvd., respectively.

Now, Cherry Pie Hospitality also is planning to take over the Fine Diner location for an unnamed concept. Ellis is still working to finalize elements of that concept.

Currently, Cherry Pie Hospitality owns and manages two former F.E.E.D. TX Restaurant Group concepts: Lee's Fried Chicken and Donuts and Petite Sweets. Lee's Fried Chicken and Donuts opened in a former Church's Chicken location at 601 Heights Blvd. in October. Petite Sweets is at 2700 W. Alabama.

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