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Nine on Nine alum to open new restaurant in Shadyside

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In search of a new opportunity after the Nine on Nine restaurant in which she worked closed in February, [Franki Wasik](#) opted to open her own restaurant for the first time at the age of 27.

Working with her mother, Susan, a long-time chef at Nine on Nine, and with her father, David, Wasik bought the business of the former Stack'd on Copeland Street in Shadyside and is working to reopen it with a two-concept approach, a sit-down restaurant called Frances on the first floor with the companion Frank's Bar and Grill upstairs.

Wasik is drawing on her family as the source of her inspiration for the new restaurant.

"My family is very big on Sunday dinner. That's our favorite time," she said. "Basically, we just wanted to open up a place that gave a Sunday dinner feeling, a place that's comfortable and not pretentious, Nothing fancy, just good fun food."

Look for the two companion operations to open over the next couple of weeks as Wasik and her staff work to change out the first floor of Stack'd, outfitting it with new chandeliers and other vintage touches to give it a new look.

She's working with chef [Patrick McFarland](#), formerly of The Warren downtown, on a menu that's expected to include a variety of vegetarian items along with a selection of modern American fare in which entrees are slated to run between \$20 and \$40.

It's a quick turn around for her and her family. She closed on buying the business only about a week ago, and is hoping to open within six weeks.

"As soon as we got in, we started full force," said Wasik, describing the experience of opening her first restaurant "scary but exciting at the same time."

The ownership of Stack'd opted to sell their business at 728 Copeland Street where it had operated since 2010 and convert their Topsy Cow restaurant on nearby Ellsworth Avenue into a Stack'd location instead.

[Sidney Sokoloff](#), a managing director of Specialty Group, who worked with Wasiks to get the restaurant plans in place, expects the Francis/Frank's strategy to be successful.

"I think it's a great opportunity because it's so close to Walnut Street yet it's far enough off that it won't attract that college bar crowd," he said.

Tim Schooley

Reporter

Pittsburgh Business Times

FRANKS

BAR AND GRILL

FRANKI WASIK

The logo for Franks Bar and Grill.

