

## Checkers fast-food restaurants coming to Bethlehem, Allentown



By [Precious Petty | The Express-Times](#)

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A Checkers restaurant is opening next month in Bethlehem. Express-Times Photo | KURT BRESSWEIN

A Checkers restaurant is slated to open next month in [Bethlehem](#) and a [Allentown](#) location will follow close on its heels, officials say.

Based in Tampa, Fla., [Checkers/Rally's Drive-In Restaurants](#) has more than 800 locations nationwide, but these will be the fast-food chain's first in the Lehigh Valley.

Checkers has 16 locations in Pennsylvania, in the Philadelphia and Reading areas, and 14 in New Jersey, throughout the southern and eastern regions of the state.

The chain is known for its hamburgers, french fries and milkshakes.



A Checkers restaurant is under construction in Allentown. Express-Times Photo | SARAH CASSI

The Bethlehem eatery, according to company spokesman Greg Avdoian, will begin welcoming customers in mid- to late-August at 2585 Easton Ave., [the site of an Arby's that closed in October](#).

The Allentown restaurant under construction at Fourth Street and Emmaus Avenue will open next month, as well.

Avdoian said Checkers franchisee Jay Pandya owns both locations.

The planned openings come amid a changing tide in local fast-food offerings, with [losses this year of Sonic Drive-In locations in Lower Nazareth and Pohatcong townships](#); openings of [White Castle](#) locations in Pohatcong and Whitehall townships; and [re-dos of Taco Bells](#) in Allentown and Wilson Borough.

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