

# Asian/Neighborhood open to anyone

» From A-1

Schmitt said. "I think it's something worth looking at."

Although Asian Taste Supermarket has operated at its current location for three years, it has recently been joined by several other Hmong-owned businesses.

Main Oriental Market opened earlier this year at 607 Pine St. in a building once occupied by Pomp's Tire Service.

Bruce Yang, who operates the market with his wife, Kao Shoua Yang, said camaraderie exists among the neighboring Hmong merchants. He said he has no problem referring customers to a competing business for products he doesn't have.

Designating the area as Asian Town could help all the merchants attract more customers, Yang said.

## PHOTOS ONLINE

To see a gallery of other photos from Asian-American businesses in Green Bay, go to [www.greenbaypressgazette.com](http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com).

## ABOUT THE HMONG

During the Vietnam War, people of Hmong ethnic background in Laos joined U.S. troops in battling the communists from North Vietnam. After the war ended in communist victory, thousands of Hmong people fled to the United States.

"It'd be like Chinatown," he said. "Everybody would be like, 'Let's go to Chinatown.'"

The growing number of Asian-American businesses popping up in the neighborhood offer an assortment of food, fashion, music and other products

*"It would make them feel that they have a part of the community — something that's theirs. That would be really neat."*

Kao Nou Vang, whose family owns Asian Taste Supermarket, 722 Bodart St. in Green Bay

from a variety of Asian countries and cultures. Asian Taste Supermarket includes a hot deli for lunches, and Main Oriental Market plans to do the same soon.

One of the newest businesses, Vue's Custom Fashion & Alteration, opened in April at 618 Bodart St. The store sells men's and women's clothing, as well as accessories, music and videos.

Pa Voua Vue, whose family owns the store,

said she would welcome the chance to help anchor an official Asian Town shopping and cultural district.

Saying she was happy to see people "stepping outside" their native cultures, Vue said she sees people of many races and ethnic backgrounds coming inside the store because of a healthy curiosity about Asian products.

"It's pretty much open to anyone and everyone," she said.

Yeng Khang, a Green Bay resident who is Hmong, said she enjoys finding so many Asian-American shops in proximity to one another on the east side of downtown. Calling the area Asian Town is a worthwhile idea, Khang said.

"It's good to have our own town," she said, "or just a little part of it."

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