

## Lian Oriental Food Market

**Location:** 4181 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43228. It is in the northwest corner of West Broad Plaza. It is very close to the Hollywood Casino (The Hollywood Casino is pretty big and a lot of people visit every day). It boosts the economy of the struggling west side community including West Broad Plaza.

**How to Get there:** Starting from Downtown Columbus. Take I-70 West; then take I-270 South/toward Cincinnati; Take exit #7A/US-40 E/Broad St onto W Broad St (US-40); Turn right on West Broad St. In around 1000 feet, West Broad Plaza is in the right. The food market is in the right corner.

**Date Opened:** Lian Oriental Food Market was opened in March 2012. It is the first Chin food grocery opened in Columbus, Ohio. The market is owned by Mr. Ram Lian Thang and his wife, Dawt Hnem Sung. The owner told me that they did not make profit yet because of road construction and the market is new in the community. Many people do not know it yet. But he is hopeful to make profit in the future. Mr. Ram Lian Thang is the first Laimi Chin who settled in Columbus in 2004. He previously was a self-employed for sushi bar. He made sushi foods for the past 10 years starting in Texas, New Mexico and then in Columbus, Ohio. He has food service experiences a lot.

**Available Groceries:** It is basically an international food market. Most international foods are available. Some Burmese, Thai, Vietnam, and Indian foods are available. Some Chin traditional dresses are also available for gift and personal use. Dried fish, many kinds of noodle, fresh and good vegetable, dried and refrigerated fish, many kinds of sauce, special tropical cold drink, special fresh tropical vegetable and many other kinds of sea foods.

**Neighborhood:** Some 350 Chin people are living in the surrounding areas. Some 200 Chin people live in north side of town around Morse Rd. The Chin people are a growing community in Columbus. Most of the people in the community are Whites, Spanish and African American. Asians are very few. The location is pretty good for shopping and the store has a potential to grow.

**Hours of Operation:** It is opened daily from 9:00 Am-7:00 PM (Monday-Saturday). People can buy things on Sunday up on request.

**Other Stores:** There are some famous stores like Pay-less Shoe store, Next Day Sign, Staples, Sears, Bargain furniture stores, some hair and nail salons, China Wok etc. Huntington Bank, US Bank, Key Bank and Postal service are nearby. Three thrift stores, Wendy's and Burger King are in the north side of W. Broad St and Bob Evans is in South side of W. Broad St. Lian Oriental Food Market is in a very good area for shopping. Many people in the neighborhood can walk and buy things a lot here.

Hai Vung Lian

Columbus, Ohio

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