

**FOOD NEWS**

## So long CK's: Locals say goodbye to Midtown restaurant after demolition

By [Jada Ojii](#), Daily Memphian

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**The CK's Coffee Shop at Poplar Avenue and Evergreen Street was demolished on Tuesday, June 13.** (Courtesy Jamie Harmon)

Memphis residents said their final goodbyes to the closed Poplar Avenue location of CK's Coffee Shop at 1698 Poplar Ave. after the building was demolished on Tuesday, June 13.

CK's regularly served Memphians coffee, as well as homey breakfast food options, pastries and diner favorites like BLTs and burgers, even into the late night hours.

[Scooter's Coffee drive-thrus planned for Memphis area](#)

In August 2022, the Memphis Landmarks Commission approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for plans to demolish the building and replace it with a drive-thru location of Scooter's Coffee.

The Nebraska chain's menu includes a variety of hot and cold beverages, as well as breakfast sandwiches, burritos, cinnamon rolls and muffins.

Jamie Harmon, a CK's regular and local photographer known for his "Memphis Quarantine" photo series and Amurica photo booth trailer, managed to not only grab footage from the inside of CK's during its Tuesday demolition, but also took home the canopy sign.



**Scooter's Coffee site plan renderings for its 1698 Poplar Ave. in Midtown location.** (Courtesy Lindfield, Hunter and Junius Inc.)

After hearing that demolition had begun on Tuesday, he drove over and began snapping pictures and chatting with the demolition workers about their plans for the front sign.

"I said, 'If you guys are gonna throw it away, can I have it?'" Harmon recalled about the exchange. After getting the okay, the sign was removed and placed beside a dumpster for him, with Harmon adding, "So I just put it on the truck and drove home with it."

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### Scooter's Coffee one step closer to brewing in Southaven

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Many also took to social media following the demolition of CK's to lament and share fond memories of the local treasure.

One user wrote about CK's on Twitter, "U never truly know what you got till it's gone," sharing a picture of the shop reduced to a pile of rubble.

u never truly know what you got till it's gone 😞

[pic.twitter.com/ZgOXi6MOCj](https://pic.twitter.com/ZgOXi6MOCj)

— Grizzlam (@grizzlam) [June 13, 2023](#)

Joel T. Rose, Memphis photographer and co-owner of the Cooper-Young Gallery + Gift Shop, also shot photos of CK's on Tuesday, which show a destruction crane helping to tear down the brick building.

Drawing attention to the coffee shop's red-and-white sign, he penned on Instagram, "Always open' Midtown Memphis."

Mourning the breakfast and coffee staple in Rose's post's comments, several others expressed how much they miss CK's presence in the city, since the local chain has also previously closed its other locations.

"Ugh, I miss CK's," one commenter shared.

Another simply wrote, "Sad day."

#### TOPICS

[CK'S COFFEE SHOP](#)

[SCOOTER'S COFFEE](#)



#### **Jada Ojii**

Jada Ojii is a journalist and avid foodie, born and raised in Memphis. Jada is also a University of Memphis graduate.