

THREE DISHES TO TRY

- 1 **Ramen (\$8.99)**
The ramen can include add-ons such as shrimp tempura and a soft-boiled egg.
- 2 **Chicken Teriyaki Bowl (\$8.49)**
The bowl, a customer favorite, also can come with other proteins or vegetables.
- 3 **Build-Your-Own Bento Box (\$12.99)**
The box comes with options for an appetizer, meat and rice, sushi and a side.



PHOTOS BY BECCA SMOUSE/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Grill N Chop

Married couple brings Japanese cuisine to community through favorite dishes

Husband-and-wife duo Edward Chung and Joanne Lee celebrated their three-year anniversary of Grill N Chop, a Japanese restaurant inspired by their love of cooking.

Before opening near Baseline and Gilbert roads, the two worked in sushi bars and even owned restaurant franchises. But after a while, they said they did not want to be tied down to a corporation. They were ready to embrace the freedom of owning their own restaurant.

"It's been a long time since we wanted to do something for ourselves, and I think that's the main force behind [our business]," Chung said.

The menu offers a variety of

traditional Japanese dishes, including udon and yakisoba. The demand for certain menu items fluctuates throughout the year: winter is a popular time for ramen, while sushi is a hit during the summer. The teriyaki chicken is a customer favorite year-round.

"[Our menu] is a lot of the things that we wanted to do in the past," Chung said. "We couldn't decide on one specific menu, so we decided on our favorites."

Chung's personal favorite on the menu is the Build-Your-Own Bento Box, a customizable menu option that comes with a choice of an appetizer, a protein, a serving of sushi and a vegetable on the side.

The couple faced a number of

hurdles in the beginning. They had to overcome major road closures, which impacted foot traffic into the business, as well as restaurant construction. After just a month and a half of regular business, the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"Ever since that it's been something different every day," Chung said. "It's been a challenge, to say the least."

Challenges aside, Chung said he and his wife feel thankful for the support of the community. The mom-and-pop business looks forward to continuing to serve Japanese cuisine on its terms.

"We want to keep growing," Chung said. "We want to build our future with the community."



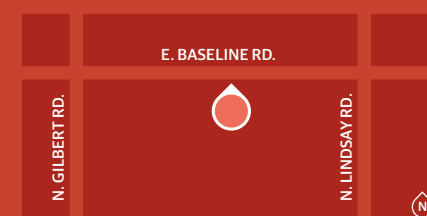
Married couple Joanne Lee and Edward Chung love serving their favorite dishes.

Grill N Chop

2401 E. Baseline Road, Ste. 102, Gilbert
480-632-0977

www.grillnchop.com

Hours: Mon.-Thu. 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.,
4-8:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-
8:30 p.m.; closed Sun.





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