

TOKYO TONKATSU

HANDMADE HEALTHY JAPANESE FOOD
ON BROADWAY BY SHANNON FINNELL

Eugene's downtown menu of restaurants is blooming well ahead of spring. One of the next to open up, around Feb. 16 at 201 W. Broadway, is Tokyo Tonkatsu.

Tonkatsu, for those who haven't happened upon it, is a breaded, deep-fried pork cutlet dish invented in Japan in 1899. While it's a widely beloved dish, it's not all the restaurant will serve — the menu includes deep-fried chicken, fried shrimp, sushi rolls, salads and katsudon, which is fried pork cooked with an egg and sweet sauce on rice.

Restaurant owners Hirofumi Kamazuka and Kyounghee Choi, also husband and wife, own Milky Way Bagel and Tokyo Ramen as well. "It's kind of so they can showcase different things that they can serve," says Tokyo Ramen Manager Ayako Smith. Both owners have long backgrounds in food; Kamazuka learned ramen-making for three years in Japan, and Choi owned a successful kimchi business in Japan, though her specialty is tonkatsu. "They also want to have a couple of restaurants because they like cooking and it's their passion," Smith says.

She says that salads will come with unique dressings like peach, orange, avocado and berry. The business has also hired a chef to make desserts, rolls and mochi, which are Japanese sticky rice confections that can be used in different dishes or a la carte.

Smith says Kamazuka and Choi focus on keeping their food handmade and healthy, with no additives like MSG, so they make things like pot sticker skins and noodles from scratch.

"Because it's their food, they really try to focus on making it healthy. It's not like fast food; it's not packaged and sent out food," she says. "It's very from the heart." ■

Tokyo Tonkatsu will open at 201 W. Broadway in mid-February.



BENTO

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