

THE MIRROR *Weekend Section*



Kim Ward, co-owner of the new Dinner By Design in Maumee's Suffolk Square, believes that her business will save busy families time and stress when it comes to meal preparation. Each month, 13 new recipes are offered for customers to prepare.

MIRROR PHOTO BY LAURA KILISCH



A grand opening banner is displayed outside the new Dinner By Design location at Suffolk Square in Maumee. Open since November, the business provides stations for customers to prepare meals for their monthly dinners without the shopping, chopping and mess of cooking at home.

MIRROR PHOTO BY LAURA KILISCH

Dinner By Design Takes Away The "What's For Dinner?" Worries

BY LAURA KILISCH
MIRROR REPORTER

They're only three little words, but when asked at the right time, they can send any stressed-out mom over the edge.

What's for dinner? Thanks to a new Maumee business, that age-old question can now be answered with confidence.

Since November 12, Dinner By Design has been

"bringing families back to the dinner table with healthy, delicious dinners," according to the company's slogan.

The Maumee location, owned by David and Kim

Ward, can be found two doors down from the Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant in Suffolk Square.

According to Kim, the premise is simple: Dinner By Design allows busy families

to prepare six or 12 meals at a time without any of the shopping, chopping or mess associated with cooking at home.

"You're following a recipe and putting ingredients into

a pan that we provide, then taking them home and putting them in the freezer," Ward said. "We are saving families time and money. You can plan a little bit bet-

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New Maumee Restaurant Opens For Business

Dinner by Design, located at 429 W. Dussel Dr. in Maumee, recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate its opening. Pictured (from left) are Dave Ward, Kim Ward, Josh Ward, Kaitlyn Ward, Mayor Tim Wagener, Brenda Clixby, Beth Warren, Angie Mahoney and Sharon Himburg.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE ALLEY

Dinner By Design Opens In Maumee

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ter, and it's giving you a good alternative from fast food."

Each month, Dinner By Design offers 13 meal options on its menu, including low-fat and vegetarian options, along with one breakfast item and one dessert.

Chock-full of customer favorite meals, December's menu just so happens to be one of Ward's favorites.

Take, for example, "Shirley's fiesta chicken," which is described on the menu as "a customer family favorite."

The boneless, skinless chicken breasts get a kick from black beans, salsa and cheddar cheese, the menu says.

But, as Ward pointed out, since customers prepare the meals, they are able to leave out any ingredient that their families don't like.

"If you don't like broccoli, you don't have to put it in," she said. "It's nice because you know what's going in all of your meals and you feel a little more confident about what you're serving to your family."

Additional popular December entrees include parmesan-crust pork chops, coconut mahi mahi and a hearty cheddar chicken chowder.

The dessert of the month is a double chocolate mousse cake, which combines layers of chocolate brownie and creamy mousse topped with Oreo cookie crumbs.

With so much variety and convenience,

the prices must be through the roof, right? Wrong.

For \$199, 12 full-size entrees can be made to feed four to six people each, equaling out to around \$3.00 per serving.

For smaller families, Dinner By Design allows customers to split the 12 entrees into half sizes for a small additional charge, leaving 24 meals for the month.

It was, after all, the reasonable prices paired with the delicious dinners that hooked the Ward family in the first place.

After trying out a Chicago-area Dinner By Design while visiting family, the Wards were pleasantly surprised.

"Once we tried it and found out our monthly food bill didn't increase, we were hooked," Ward said.

The only problem was, there wasn't a Dinner By Design location close to their hometown of Maumee.

That problem has now been solved, though, thanks to their purchase of the Suffolk Square location.

"I was a working mom for many years," Ward explained. "We're just the average family, so I thought (opening a Dinner By Design) would help other families, too."

The response to the new location has been "really good," Ward said, listing off a number of different customer types.

Apparently, it's not just busy moms who are catching on to the convenience and tasty meals that Dinner By Design offers.

"We've had a group of bachelors come in," Ward said. "They don't cook, and they're tired of eating out all the time."

For those on-the-go customers who can't find the two hours needed to prepare the meals, the Dinner By Design kitchen staff will do that for you, too.

A well-stocked to-go freezer is offered as well, allowing customers to drop in and choose a meal for that evening.

To schedule a kitchen session or request meals to go, call Dinner By Design at (419) 794-4699.

For more information, including nutrition facts and printable menus, visit the Dinner By Design Web site, dinnerbydesignkitchen.com and click on "locations" to find the Maumee store.



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