

Local to introduce big city taste to small town

By Kylie Stamper
Staff reporter

Shiok, a Singaporean word that translates to sheer pleasure or delight especially when it comes to food, will soon be a common sight on Winfield's Main Street. A new restaurant will take the place of the vacant building at 822 Main Street, where Kathryn's Fine Dining once resided. That restaurant will be called Shiok!, drawing inspiration from the owner's cultural background.

Jamilah Ismail-Farid, a Winfield resident and owner of Shiok!, is hoping to have the restaurant open for business in early to mid-April, although there is no set open date until she hears from the contractor as the building is currently under renovation to prepare for the restaurant's opening. Shiok! will be a Singaporean/Malaysian cuisine setup in a "scoop and go", food court style for fast and easy dining experiences.

Jamilah's hope for the restaurant is to deliver great customer service and a different kind of food in the authentic Malay cuisine. Customers can walk in, grab a plate, fill it with their choice of food, pay, and sit down to eat without having to wait too long for service. Although wait staff will be present. Jamilah says it will be like a family, everybody will take care of everybody.

Jamilah said the best things about the dining experience at Shiok! will be the culture, the customer service, and the casual dining atmosphere. "I want it to be a community restaurant where you are comfortable with each other. I'm not leaning towards fine dining or anything. It will be a place you will want to hang out is my goal," she said.

After researching the restaurant for 12 months, Jamilah felt driven to use her restaurant to get food to customers in a timely manner especially after taking into consideration that the restaurant will serve those who may have short lunch breaks. Her research has served the purpose of figuring out how to best serve the town of

Winfield and surrounding areas and has helped her determine what Winfield wants and needs. She says, "That was how this came about. If everybody works as a family, [it will be] one big thing and the customers don't have to wait for the food.



Jamilah Ismail-Farid, owner of Shiok!, stands in front of the unfinished counter top where food and drinks will be served. (Kylie Stamper/Staff photographer)

That's where we came up with the food court idea. We are trying to go a little bit contemporary but not too contemporary. We are still keeping the little town concept in it." The goal with opening a restaurant like this is to bring a taste of the city to the small town and to make it something new and refreshing for local residents.

With a clean and simple feel, the restaurant will bring a sense of diversity and a new culture to the area. Jamilah said she hasn't found another Malay restaurant within 50 miles of Winfield that serves authentic Malay food. "I'm hoping to bring attraction to people from

happened before and it can happen again," she said.

Coming from Singapore, Jamilah said her inspiration for the Malay-style restaurant came from living in rural Kansas, a part of the world where she doesn't have access to the foods she grew up with. Jamilah has friends over at her house constantly for dinner where she will make traditional Malay food. These dinners, she said, were very encouraging and her guests would inspire her to share the culture with the community.

The menu has not been solidified yet, but traditional Malay foods that are currently being planned are curry, rendang, herbs, chicken and soy sauce, vegetables, cabbage, green beans, and other foods prepared in an authentic Malay style. "Basically what I will serve is what I would serve to my family," Jamilah said, "Every time you are in [the restaurant], it is like you are a guest in my house." There will also be plenty of rice, a meat dish, and a vegetable with every meal. The restaurant will also incorporate snacks and bar foods like traditional spring rolls and chicken wings with garlic parmesan and Asian-inspired flavors.

Jamilah anticipates the restaurant hours to be along the lines of opening for lunch on the weekdays and opening for lunch, dinner, and live entertainment on week-

ends. The restaurant will also feature mocktails and other non-alcoholic drinks.

The restaurant has received several comments leading up to the grand opening showing the excitement and interest from the town. Molly Just, director of discipleship, said, "I think it definitely brings some diversity when it comes to the options we have for restaurants in Winfield, which is cool. I also think it creates space for somebody to use their gifts and create an atmosphere of hospitality through food, and I think that kind of stuff is really important in a place like Winfield."

Winfield certainly has no problem creating a family atmosphere in its restaurants and business, and the addition of Shiok! will further prove that concept. Jamilah said, "You want to make it hard for people to leave, you want them to be that comfortable. You want to make it like home and that [your customers] are a guest in your house, that's what it is. That's the Malay culture."

The restaurant is currently looking for a sous chef, wait staff, and maintenance staff. Those interested in applying for a position at Shiok! can call Jamilah at 620-218-3323 for an application. More information about applying and about the restaurant can be found on the restaurant's Facebook page by searching for Shiok or Shiok Winfield.

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other towns and to bring people in. We commonly see people going to Wichita, so we are wanting to keep that [business] in town. The whole idea is also to bring Main Street back to life, to make it a happening place, more exciting. It has