

March 13<sup>th</sup>.

# March 2024 Lunch Specials 🦠



2024 NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

	- A-ATIERS					I
Sunday	MONDAY	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Did you know	?			A La Carte	1	2
<ul> <li>Entrées in GREEN are Vegan or Vegetarian</li> <li>Everything is priced a la carte</li> <li>Breakfast is served 7:30-10am</li> <li>Lunch is served 11:30-2pm</li> <li>Dinner is served 5-7pm</li> </ul>				Entrée\$5.98 Vegan Entrée\$4.25 Starch\$1.50 Vegetable\$1.50	Butter Chicken & Rice Vegan Curry Naan Flatbread Carrot-Cumin Slaw	Shepard's Pie Corn Bread Quinoa Kale Salad
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Niçoise Salad French Bread Tomato Soup	Taco Salad Vegan Taco Salad Spanish Rice Guacamole & Chips	Meatloaf Quinoa Patty Mashed Potatoes Sautéed Zucchini	Sausage & Kale Alfredo Vegan Sausage & Kale Pesto Pasta Sweet Potato Arugula Salad	Shrimp Ceviche Quinoa Patty with Mango Salsa Oat Muffin Spinach Salad	Flank Steak Portabella Steak Baked Potato Roasted Beets	Lemon Caper Chicken Steamed Rice Green Beans
	Veggie Quesadilla	Egg Salad Sandwich	Philly Cheesesteak	Turkey Reuben	Ham & Chz Panini	
10 Enchilada Casserole Spanish Rice Sautéed Spinach	Salmon Caesar Salad Vegan Caesar Salad Warm Bread Watermelon Mint Salad	12 Chicken Parmesan Eggplant Parmesan Garlic Bread Green Beans	Greek Turkey Burger Greek Portabella Burger Orzo Salad Greek Salad	Burger Bar Vegan Burger Bar Pasta Salad Side Salad	Cobb Salad Vegan Cobb Quinoa & Rice Cup of Pea Soup	Lasagna Garlic Bread Side House Salad
	Quesadilla	Meatball Sub	Turkey Bacon Wrap	Chili Dog	Reuben	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Corned Beef Boiled Potatoes Cabbage & Carrots	Pozole Vegan Pozole Chips and Salsa Jicama Slaw	French Dip Stuffed Squash Potato Wedges Coleslaw	Gyro Chickpea Falafel Greek Orzo Baba Ganoush with Pita  Turkey & Chz Panini	Crispy Chicken Sandwich Meatless Chik'n Sandwich Macaroni & Cheese Creamed Spinach	Carnitas Burrito Bowl Vegan Burrito Bowl Rice and Beans Chips & Guacamole  Buffalo Chicken Sandwich	Ramen Bowl Veggie Pot Stickers Baby Bok Choy
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Tuna Avocado Boats Toasted Croissant Arugula Salad		Pork Lettuce Wraps Vegan Lettuce Wraps Fried Rice Spring Rolls	Turkey Pot Pie Vegan Pot Pie Cheddar Biscuit Vegan Broccoli Salad	Bento Beef Salad Tofu Bento Salad Soba Noodles Peas & Carrots	Shrimp Po Boy Vegan Po Boy Cajun Sweet Potatoes Collard Greens	Chicken Cordon Bleu Wild Rice Steamed Broccoli
	Portabella Panini	Club Sandwich	BLT	Club Sandwich	Greek Tuna Wrap	
31 Chicken Mole Tacos Refried Beans Spicy Cole Slaw	National Nutrition Month® was initiated in 1973 as National Nutrition Week. It became a month-long observance in 1980 in response to growing interest in nutrition. The second Wednesday of March is Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day, an annual celebration of the dedication of RDNs as the leading advocates for advancing the nutritional status of Americans and people around the world. This year's observance will be				BEY	OND

## National Nutrition Month: Beyond the Table Making Nutritious and Sustainable Dietary Choices Every Day

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It's that time of year again – Happy National Nutrition Month! From trying new foods and testing out new recipes to growing your produce and checking out your local farmer's market, there are so many ways to celebrate. This year, we are thinking beyond the table and reflecting on the origin of our food, our contribution to food waste and our overall dietary carbon footprint. If you're looking to dive into the environmental impact of your eating habits, we've got the tips you're looking for!

### **Sustainable Food Sourcing: Farm-to-Fork**

Walking the aisles at the grocery store, you will find endless options to choose from. However, food is responsible for about 26 percent of our total

greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Choosing to shop locally when it is an option can help reduce the harmful carbon emissions associated with the land usage, transportation, retail and packaging of our food. When you think of your local farmer's market, the first thing to come to mind may be fruits and vegetables. There are plenty of these in Southwest Michigan, but did you know that there are many local places to buy fresh baked goods, too? There are also many local shops where you can buy items like homemade bread and pasta, farm-raised meat and dairy, fresh juices, flavorful condiments and so much more. Some farmer's markets and local shops accept SNAP/EBT, WIC Project FRESH coupons and Senior Project FRESH coupons.

Another way to shop local is to join a Community Supported Agriculture farm (CSA). Or, if you have a green thumb, you can consider growing your fruits, vegetables and herbs at home or by joining a community garden in your neighborhood.

### Reduce Your Carbon Footprint by Eating More Plant-Based Foods

Following a plant-based diet or eating more meatless meals is another way you can reduce your environmental impact. Studies show that eating a more plant-forward diet can reduce diet-related greenhouse gas emissions by up to 49 percent.

No matter where you shop, try centering your meals around nutritionally dense, plant powerhouses like energizing whole grains (barley, quinoa and wild rice), fiber-rich legumes (beans, peas and lentils) and a variety of produce (fresh, frozen and canned fruits and veggies).

In addition to being a sustainable choice, well-planned plant-based eating can be quite nutritious. Research currently suggests that diets rich in plant-based foods and lower in animal foods have been associated with a decreased risk of chronic illness, cardiovascular morbidity and mortality among the general population.

#### Reducing Food Waste Through Strategic Meal Planning

If shopping locally isn't always realistic for you and plant-based eating doesn't seem feasible, you can still work to reduce your environmental impact. Try limiting unnecessary food waste. In the United States, we waste 80 million tons of food every year! Before you even step foot into a store, take inventory of what you already have at home so you don't purchase more than you can use. When planning your meals, use what you already have as a starting point. When looking through your fridge and while at the store, pay attention to expiration and best buy dates.

It's a good idea to take regular inventory of your food. Check what is about to go bad and make sure to use it. For example, if you have a lot of fresh veggies that are starting to go bad, use them in a soup or stir fry right away or freeze them for later. In addition to reducing food waste, building habits around cooking at home is also a great way to save some money.

From sustainable food sourcing to plant-based eating and being aware of your food waste, there are many ways to improve your dietary carbon footprint. No matter what resonates with you, don't expect perfection. Consider making small, intentional changes to your eating habits beyond the table this March and beyond!