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Exciting, New Eateries to Open in Perris

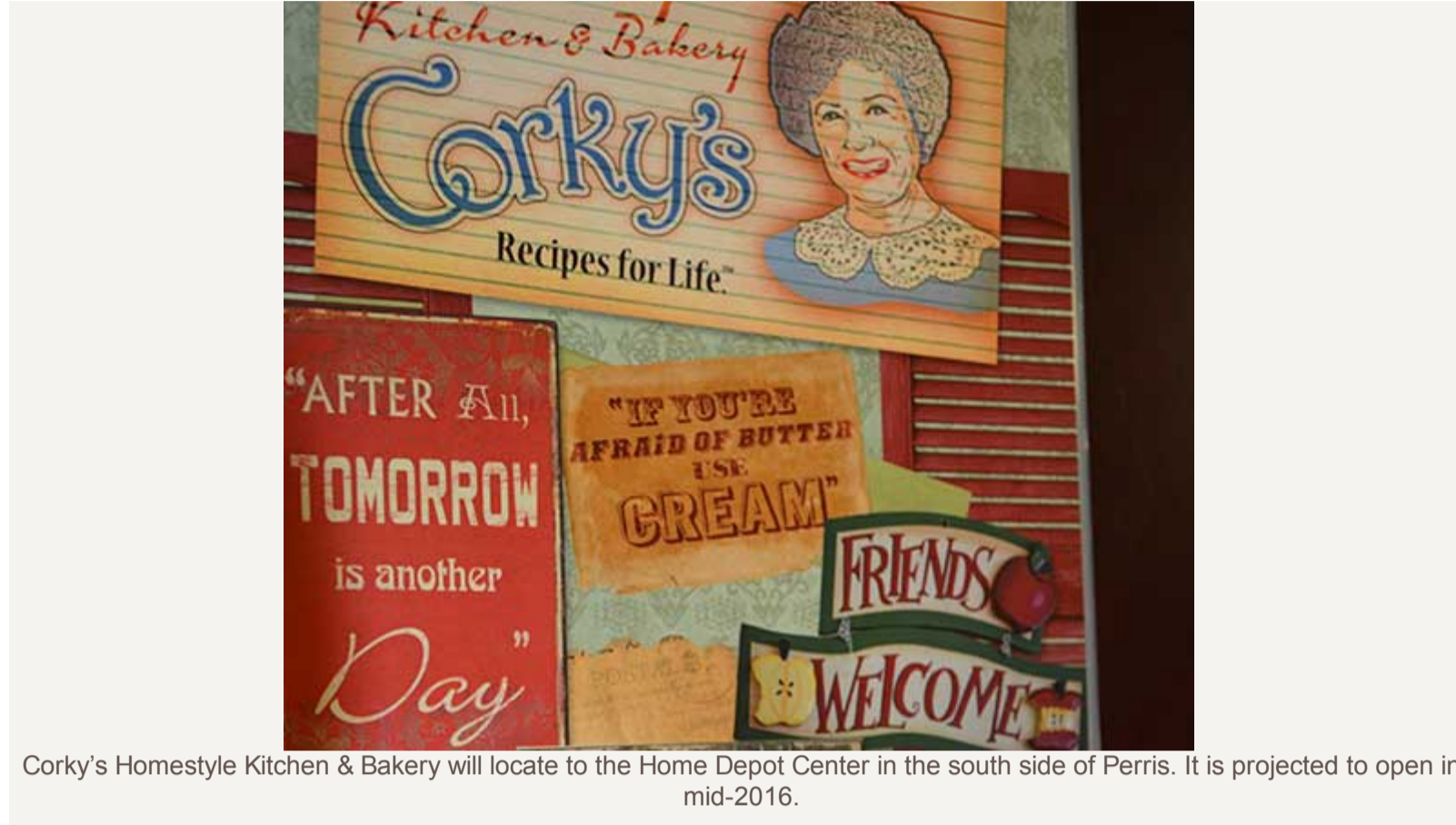
Perris residents, elected officials and business-development specialists hailed the arrival of a new 24-hour sit-down restaurant and a high-end coffee, sandwich and pastry shop set to open in the next few months.

"This is a really big deal," said Michael McDermott, chief operating officer of the Perris Community Economic Development Corporation during the Sept. 29 City Council meeting. "It's something we're very pleased to bring to the City."

The new eateries include Corky's Homestyle Kitchen & Bakery and La Gare Café and Coffee Roasters. Both restaurants address City concerns for the need to provide greater menu selections for residents dining out.

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Corky's Homestyle Kitchen & Bakery will locate to the Home Depot Center in the south side of Perris. It is projected to open in mid-2016.

Corky's, a Southern California-based chain with 10 stores, will be located in the Home Depot Center near Interstate 215 and Ethanac Road. The 5,000-square-foot restaurant will have freeway frontage access, McDermott said, and will offer around-the-clock service. The restaurant offers a wide variety of breakfast, lunch and dinner menu choices.

McDermott said the City has been working to attract Corky's for an extended time and is pleased to seal the deal.

"It's a coup for the City of Perris to land this project," he said in comments to City elected representatives.

The Community Economic Development Corporation will provide about \$200,000 in specially-designated funds to help defray some development fees and other costs but that money will be offset by "substantial sales tax and the increased property tax generated by the project's construction." Corky's is expected to open in mid-2016.

The owner and some employees of La Gare Café attended the City meeting and said they are eager to get up and running. The business is located on historic D Street adjacent to Perris City Hall on the ground floor of Perris Station senior apartments, a spot that provides easy access to Metrolink passengers using the system that's expected to operational by the end of the year.

The restaurant offers varieties of flavored coffee roasted on site, pancakes, crepes, muffins, croissants. Paninis, salads, soups and burgers. Veggie and vegan choices also are part of the menu.

"We're pleased to be in Perris and to offer new choices to residents and visitors," said café owner Odir Silva, who has lived in the City for 15 years. "We think it fill a niche that's need in Perris and attract people to the City."

The Perris CEDC is offering \$100,000 in incentives to La Gare Café and will receive sales tax revenue from the business. Silva said he hopes to open for business by January.



The new La Gare Café and Coffee Roasters, which is expected to open by early 2016, adds new food and drink offerings to the Perris Downtown area.

Mayor Daryl Busch predicted both will thrive in Perris. He noted that La Gare has supported many City activities in recent months, including the signature Rods & Rails Festival.

"La Gare Café provides the kind of place our Downtown needs," he said. "It will benefit our Metrolink riders who board and stop in Perris, our D Street businesses and visitors, residents living in the Perris Station apartments and the City Hall crowd."

Busch said Corky's is a short drive from the Perris Valley Airport, a world-class skydiving center, the DropZone Aquatics Center and Big League Dreams sports complex. Those venues attract thousands of visitors annually from all over the U.S. and overseas who will enjoy first-class dining.

"We are very excited," he said.

Mayor Pro-Tem Tonya Burke confined her comments on the dais to one word: "Yummy." In remarks after the meeting, she called the additions on Corky's and La Gare Café "something our residents want and what they deserve."

"I'm elated," Burke said.

Councilman David Starr Rabb encouraged the audience to tell friends and neighbors to support the new businesses and all City restaurants.

"Spread the word," Rabb said. "Let people know about the choices they have."

City Councilwoman Rita Rogers, who called herself a "foodie," said she was eager to study the menus of both restaurants to become familiar with the selections they offer.

"I'm very excited to see the new food options," Rogers said.



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