



Delights delivered fresh from Holmes Beach oven

By Sandy Ambrogi
Islander Reporter

Cupcake Delights owner Judy Owens started out like a lot of baking fanatics — a youngster with an Easy-Bake oven and a taste for something sweet.

Now she is preparing to open a second location with her cupcake concept at 3324 E. Bay Drive, Holmes Beach, on May 14. The first location opened in Mount Dora in November 2007.

The fresh space features aqua accents and metal chairs, a bright pink booth with a funky chandelier and ample area to sit and enjoy baked goods with a cup of coffee or tea. The counter stretches out with display cases, ready to hold all manner of cupcakes. Owens has been concocting flavors and combinations since her first baking and decorating class at age 13.

Cupcake Delights will offer 14-20 flavors daily from a list of more than 100 favorites Owens has mastered through the years.

Customers will find favorites such as red velvet, carrot, coconut cream, buttercream and chocolate buttercream. More adventurous offerings will include salted caramel, cookie dough, key lime, cheesecake with fruit and one of Owens' favorites, raspberry truffle stuffed with raspberry ganache.

"I want the customer to think of the dessert that's the cupcake's namesake," Owens says. "We use the best quality ingredients to achieve the taste. When they eat a coconut cream cupcake, I want them to think of



Cupcake Delights owner Judy Owens celebrates with a ribbon-cutting at her new 3324 E. Bay Drive location in Holmes Beach. Family and friends joined members of the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce for the event. The store will hold a grand opening for the public noon-6 p.m. Saturday, May 14. Islander Photo: Sandy Ambrogi



Cupcake Delights owner Judy Owens stands behind the counter in her location at 3324 E. Bay Drive, Holmes Beach. Islander Photo: Sandy Ambrogi

that coconut cream pie they love, too."

Owens comes by her comfort in the kitchen and love of baking honestly. Her father was a chef and a food inspector in the U.S. Army. She grew up in Orlando, where, on dad's days off, she would come from school to a kitchen table covered with baked goods.

"Even though he was a chef, baking was really his

passion," Owens said.

Cupcake Delights continues that family baking tradition. Owens says her 18-year-old daughter, who has worked at the Mount Dora location for the past three years, helped design the interior space and is assisting with the store operations.

"We've been coming to Anna Maria as a family for many years," Owens said, since her daughter was a toddler. She has been working on opening the new space on East Bay Drive for months.

"Demolition, permits, codes. It all just takes a lot of time.

"I saw the potential for growth here, so many families come here, keep coming here and then end up staying here," Owens said of selecting Anna Maria Island for her second location.

In addition to cupcakes, the new store will offer specialty cakes for birthdays, showers and special events, as well as coffee, tea and frappe service, Owens said. Muffins and breakfast items may be added in the future.

For now, customers will have to decide between the classic flavors or sampling an ever-changing buffet of baked creations.

Start-up store hours will be noon-6 daily beginning May 14 with a day-long grand opening celebration.

At the celebration, guests will receive a chance to win six free cupcakes a week for a full year.

For more information, call 941-779-CAKE or visit cupcakedelightsami.com.

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