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Rare Meat

Food · People · Recipes · Ideas



December 2010

“For the spirit of Christmas fulfils the greatest hunger of mankind.” — *Loring A. Schuler*

Gourmet food co-op promotes local artisan products

When Debbie Downing and her husband Jerry found a narrow storefront for rent in Old Colorado City, they had a chance to make a dream come true. And not just their own.

“I was praying for this and along came Debbie,” says Tina Peters, a caterer who sells Mama Tina’s chutneys, cheese balls and more.

Involved with marketing Jerry’s Gotta’ Love Garlic! gourmet garlic butter through farmers market as well as Debbie’s specialty cookies and cakes, the Downings knew many local food artisans still needed an outlet for their



bakery space in the back for her new business focusing on creative wedding cakes. She has done nearly 100 cakes since September. Many other small food artisans are entering into cooperative arrangements for prep space, retail space and co-marketing, including Mya Bella Cupcakes, Mountain Lightning Salsa and Wally’s Tamales. “This list will be ever-changing, as businesses grow and

move on, and new ones come in,” Debbie says.

They are also partnering with Ranch Foods Direct, which has a size and scale that Jerry prefers to a mega-store like Whole Foods. Their



products when the farmers market closed for the season. As early as 1996, Debbie had wanted to start a food business, even sketching out ideas on paper. Now, with a storefront identified, the couple immediately began teaming up with other local food makers to create what they envision as a gourmet cooperative kitchen.

Carol Hildebrand subleases a



kitchen storefront will carry Ranch Foods Direct meats, and they’ve begun supplying Ranch Foods Direct with several items, including the signature garlic butter and creamy spinach pestos and dips. (Other products are in the works.) A holiday open house and tasting party is planned at Ranch

Foods Direct from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 4.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & TASTING PARTY
10 am-2 pm, Dec. 4, at Ranch Foods Direct. Come sample artisan products.

GOTTALOVEIT! Kitchen
2521 W. Colorado Ave.
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