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Panera set to open on Ety Road

Manager: 'We want to be everyone's hometown bakery'

BY MICHELLE GEORGE • THE EAGLE-GAZETTE STAFF • JUNE 30, 2008

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LANCASTER - Lisa Thomas knows the traditional way for a business to celebrate its grand opening is by cutting through a red ribbon.

But Lancaster's Panera Bread - slated to open July 2 and to celebrate its Grand Opening July 11 - it's a loaf of bread, and not a ribbon, that she will be cutting.

"We'll be cutting a baguette to celebrate our grand opening," said Thomas, who will serve as general manager for the 1374 Ety Road store. "It's just one of the ways that we like to set ourselves apart and do something a little different."

Setting themselves apart is one of the things Thomas likes most about Panera Bread, which has been serving homemade breads and bakery items to people for 11 years.

Thomas said she feels Lancaster is more than ready to have the newest Panera Bread establishment in the Columbus market. This is the first Panera Bread to open in Fairfield County.

"We want to be everyone's hometown bakery, and we're ready to bring that to Lancaster," said Thomas, who has lived in Lancaster for 10 years.

She joked that one Lancaster resident in particular was adamant about encouraging Panera Bread executives to bring their bakery cafe to Lancaster.

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Panera Bread, 1374 Ety Road, will be having its soft opening Wednesday, followed by its Grand Opening on July 11. (E-G photo by Michelle George)

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The inside of Panera Bread is pictured Thursday in Lancaster. (E-G photo by Michelle George)

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