

PRESS-TELEGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS

Beachy Cream ice cream factory opening in Long Beach



Beachy Cream, which brands its ice cream products with 1950s pin-up women, is opening a factory in Long Beach. (Courtesy photo)

By Greg Yee, Press-Telegram

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LONG BEACH >> A Santa Monica-based ice cream business will open a factory in Long Beach, company officials announced Wednesday.

The company, [Beachy Cream](#), sells organic ice cream to 55 stores in the area and operates a retail location at 1209 Wilshire Blvd. in Santa Monica. The local facility will be located in a nearly 13,000-square-foot vacant building at 2310 Long Beach Blvd., close to Signal Hill.

Ann Ryan, the company's founder, said she hopes to have the factory open in March and no later than April 15.

"The plan is to make this a national company," Ryan said. "We've been making our ice cream in a little space behind our store. We're going from a space that's 500 square feet to 13,000 square feet."

Her business plan eventually calls for as many as 75 employees and that she will do some initial hiring for the factory.

"I hope to hire from the community," she said.

Beachy Cream was founded in 2009 by Ryan and her daughter, Beth Stockwell. The two began selling homemade ice cream sandwiches from a cart at farmers markets, parties and events in the Los Angeles area.

The company also employs models dressed in pin-up style outfits to serve the ice cream and ice cream sandwiches at events around Los Angeles including the Elton John Aids Benefit Oscar Party, the American Idol Los Angeles Auditions, Maria Shriver's Best Buddies Fundraiser and other events.

The company's goodies are made in small batches using all-natural, locally-sourced ingredients, Ryan said.

Although business plans do not yet call for a Long Beach retail location, Ryan says she "won't rule it out."

In the meantime, locals can find Beachy Cream ice cream at Gelson's Market located at 6255 East 2nd St., which carries their products.

"In general we're very excited," Ryan said. "Long Beach is a very business-friendly city. We basically looked at what infrastructure was already in place."

The Long Beach factory previously housed an optics manufacturing company and has some infrastructure they need for making ice cream, she said. The city also provided a grant for Ryan and Stockwell to expand their business into the area.

"We definitely felt extraordinarily embraced by the city of Long Beach," Stockwell said.