

## **ROSSMOOR RESIDENT OWNED BUSINESSES -- NEW FEATURE**

In the name of supporting each other and staying local, don't miss this new feature in our Rossmoor Signature Newsletter. Each month we will be highlighting a neighbor who owns a business -- owned local, so we can support local. Let us know if you know of someone who might like to be featured in an upcoming issue.

### **PREP Kitchen Essentials**

*The Shops at Rossmoor, 12207 Seal Beach Blvd.*

Proprietors: Sydney Gavin and Eric Colbert

By Cathy Larson

---

I sat down with Sydney, PREP's new owner, one beautiful Thursday afternoon this July, and I was struck by her enthusiasm, knowledge, and passion. I tell you right now, PREP couldn't be in better hands. But how did she and her husband's hands end up owning PREP just one short month ago?

Sydney Gavin and Eric Colbert have lived in Rossmoor since 2015. Theirs is a typical love story -- a Long Beach guy falls in love with a Valley girl. But Valley girl, having been born and raised in LA, isn't too keen on moving to Long Beach. She will consider moving, but unless they can find a house in budget, in a beautiful neighborhood, with good schools for their three kids, it isn't going to happen.

Enter Rossmoor. She fell in love immediately with our little OC Mayberry.

Eric owns his own digital software business out of Santa Monica that builds apps, designs websites, and handles digital marketing. He only commutes, however, once a week to the office. Sydney, on the other hand, was still working in West LA once they moved to Rossmoor, spending over 15 hours every week commuting. She did it because she loved her job -- in the coffee industry. Yes, coffee was her job. Sounds awesome, right? Managing specialty brands, coffee sales, operations, teams. And always with a cup o' joe in her hand.

She is passionate about coffee and wasn't aggressively looking for another job, but definitely open to it. The commute was becoming a drag, and she wanted to be home more to cook dinner for the family -- she loves to cook. But not just cook. Bake, too. When she was just 23, she made homemade cupcakes out of her home for the local Valley real estate agents. Apparently, "once an entrepreneur, always an entrepreneur" as the saying goes.

Enter Eric's friend this past February. He knew that the then-current owner of PREP was looking to sell. This friend believed PREP to be perfect for them and right up Sydney's alley given her love of retail, cooking, food, and team building.

Sydney and Eric weren't sure they were exactly looking for new business venture, but everyone, Eric, Sydney, and the seller, felt this business was right for them. Without any further hesitation, they went for it. Sydney and Eric became PREP's new owners on May 25th, just three short months later after that first mention from their friend.

If you haven't been to PREP Kitchen Essentials in The Shops at Rossmoor, then you're missing out. Because they are nestled in between big box corporate stores, you feel the warmth of their family-owned and operated business immediately. With an artisan store front and a high-end retail space, including professional-grade cooking supplies, Made in America products, Shun knives, handcrafted towels, and unique one-of-a-kind gifts, you won't be disappointed. You buy a PREP kitchen essential, you will own it for life. A retail store throwback to the "good old days" when Rossmoor streets were newly constructed and kitchen tools were handed down to posterity.

Sydney's favorite part of the new business, however, is the fun part -- cooking classes and private parties. They have a professional kitchen in the back of the store and can host corporate parties (i.e. Boeing, Wells Fargo, and Too Faced Cosmetics most recently), bachelorette parties, retirements, kids' birthdays, special events. Best part? Not only are the classes a blast, but they are also taught by professional chefs -- and beer and wine are available for purchase to accompany the event.

As part of the new launch, Sydney and Eric are planning an end-of-summer "Meet Your Neighbor" gathering with wine, hor d'oeuvres, and a sidewalk sale to introduce the "new PREP" to Rossmoor. This is an event you won't want to miss.

To find out more and stay in-the-know about the PREP cooking classes, store, the end-of-summer Rossmoor gathering, and upcoming coffee education courses, visit their newly-redesigned website, redesigned by Eric and his company Spark6.com in fact, and subscribe to the PREP mailing list. You'll find it at **[prepkitchenessentials.com](http://prepkitchenessentials.com)**.

And be sure to stop by and say "hi" to Sydney. She's a new business owner, so you can be 98% sure she'll be on site. You can't miss her -- she'll have a coffee in her hand.