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New restaurants to get upgrades

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Plans all part of new development proposal

By OSVALDO PADILLA, opadilla@news-press.com

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Two restaurants along Cape Coral Parkway are scheduled to get makeovers to adhere with redevelopment plans for downtown.

Tommy Sinatra's, an Italian eatery, has opened in the former location of the Island Palm restaurant.

Numerous restaurants have occupied the site, but the new owner said more development and a strong menu will keep this venture afloat.

"Change is coming; it's coming and I want to be a part of it," owner Tom Wisnowski said.

Wisnowski also has bought a 5,000-square-foot building next to the restaurant and said he plans to refurbish it and bring in retail stores and offices.

The investor plans to remodel the exteriors of the buildings to better match the upscale feel the city's redevelopment agency is trying to encourage.

Construction already has begun to convert the building at 1414 Cape Coral Parkway into a Subway sandwich shop.

"It's probably the most upscale Subway I've ever seen," said Chet Hunt, director of the Community Redevelopment Agency.

The franchise will have an outside patio under an awning that will come out to meet the sidewalk.

The CRA is trying to create a downtown district that makes Cape Coral a "world-class city."

The plan calls for strict building codes that create a Mediterranean feel and storefronts right along the sidewalks.

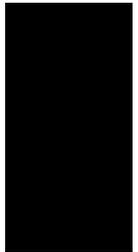
Already several shops have used city funds to help defray the cost of upgrading their businesses to adhere to the new vision for downtown. The Cape Coral City Council is expected to consider the new CRA building codes by early next year.

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