

New owners serve up a summertime tradition

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Christopher Harris, 4, and brother, Connor, 2, are two lucky kids - mom and dad just bought the Silver Dairy.

"They come up here and they go crazy," said Laura Harris, 31. She and husband Christopher, 32, have added 24 frozen custard flavors, ice cream cakes, waffle cones and waffle bowls and cone burris since opening April 1.

The couple say their goal is to maintain and upgrade the 50-year-old business, a Farmington summertime tradition. They bought it in February from Robert Ahn, who held it five years.

"It was a Dairy Queen at first," said Christopher Harris, adding his grandparents recall buying ice cream at the Grand River site.

"We apologize to the city for the condition of the sign; we are going to get a new sign out front," he said. "We actually had to scrape paint off it," Laura Harris added.

Other planned changes include a classic car cruise night. Christopher owns a burgundy 1967 GTO. "His other



Laura and Christopher Harris are the new owners of the ever-popular Silver Dairy.

woman," his wife quips.

He's also rigged speakers to the front of the ice cream parlor, to play oldies for customers including *Little GTO* and *Where Did Our Love Go?*, along with other Motown and rock classics.

"The couple also plan to ask the city to approve a drive-through.

Laura, who also works at a Ford Motor Co. parts plant in Monroe, will put in the most time, managing 13 employees. Christopher, who works for a

private investigator firm, takes over for her some evenings.

Current business hours are noon to 9 p.m. seven days per week. Once school lets out, the ice cream shop with the replica cow on the side will be open until 11 p.m.

"What can I get you?" Laura asks, as two customers approach the sliding front service window. Longtime customers Paul and Cheryl Parcha order ice cream in small clear plastic cups - vanilla for Cheryl and a mix of chocolate

and vanilla for Paul.

"They used to have a bigger cow," Paul said, recalling the vandalism done in recent years to the replica bovine that helps make the Silver Dairy a landmark. "We have two kids; we usually ride our bikes here - that way you burn it off before you get home."

Tending to another customer, Laura Harris passes by bunches of yellow-green bananas in plastic bags, and trays of Spanish peanuts, chopped pecans and walnuts. In another plastic tray are multi-colored blue, green, red and yellow sprinkles. Spatulas and large metal spoons rest on end in an oversized clear plastic measuring cup, with red markings.

The Silver Dairy "has a great following - great customers," Christopher Harris said. Along with the cow replica, another remaining Silver Dairy tradition is the foot-long, five-scoop banana split.

In the Harris family, now living in Canton, plans to move to Farmington. "It's a long commute," Laura Harris said.

"My goal would be to have more than one Silver Dairy," Christopher Harris added.

Police calls

Theft at large
A man stole two gold chains with crosses Monday from Howard's Discount Store West, 28350 Eight Mile, as he ran from the store without paying.

Police got the incident call at 12:58 p.m. Witnesses described the man as 5 feet 8 inches, in his 20s, African-American, of medium build with dark skin and dressed in sweat pants, T-shirt and skull cap, all gray. After asking to see some gold chains in a case, the man was holding two of them, then ran to the store entrance and out, fleeing to the east, the report stated. Store staff valued the items at \$1,465. Police planned to seek the suspects' fingerprints from the top of the glass case.

Trailer gone

A 16-by-8-foot Haulmark dual axle trailer valued at \$4,000 was reported stolen Sunday from the parking lot at Reinforcements, Inc., 20788 Orchard Lake Road. There were no witnesses to the theft, discovered at 10:50 p.m.

Pickup stolen

A \$5,000 1997 silver Dodge

Ram pickup was discovered stolen at 8:30 a.m. Monday near an office complex on Haggerty Road near Ten Mile. According to the report, there was no glass at the scene, which would have suggested a window smashing to get inside.

Car break-in

A purse, passports, cell phone, driver's license and credit cards were reported stolen at 3:47 p.m. Monday from a Ford Escape parked in the driveway of a home on Doreen. Police said a thief forced the front passenger door window open to get inside.

Stolen Taurus

A silver 2001 Ford Taurus was discovered stolen at 5 p.m. Monday from the parking lot of Botsford Hospital.

The owner told police the car had been parked at the Botsford lot at 1 p.m., and that she thought the car was locked.

Compiled by staff writer Kevin Brown from reports on file at the Farmington Hills Police Department.

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OBITUARIES

Keith E. Uhrig
Services for Keith E. Uhrig, 73, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, were held May 2 at Henery-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. John Paton officiating. Burial followed at Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens in Livonia.

Mr. Uhrig was born Aug. 27, 1929 in Flint and died April 26, 2003, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He retired in 1988 after 42 years of employment with Fisher Body in Livonia. He served in the U.S. Army from 1951-1956 and was a member of the Amvets of Mt. Vernon.

He is survived by his wife, Audrey; sons, Michael (Mary), Wayne (Rebecca), Steven and Jeffrey; sister, Elizabeth Scherf; and grandchildren, Corey, Danielle, Spencer, Gabriel and Brynne.

Rosemary E. Knighton
Services for Rosemary Elizabeth Knighton, 75, of Farmington Hills, were held May 3 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Larry Austin officiating.

Mrs. Knighton was born April 17, 1928 in Detroit and died April 30, 2003 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. She was a first and second grade teacher for Detroit Public Schools.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Burton; son, John; daughters, Deborah (Leo) Talliaro and Beth (Michael) Knighton; brother, David (Kate) Lloyd; sister, Rachel (Kenneth) Wright and grandchildren, Christopher, Erin and Abby.

Donald A. Beger
Services for Donald Allen Beger, 73, of Farmington Hills, were held April 30 at St. Gerard Church in Detroit. Mr. Beger was born March 9, 1930 in Detroit and died April 27, 2003 at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. He retired after 47 years from Cunningham-Futthouse & Hayes, a family owned insurance adjusting company. He was a U.S. Marine Corps Korean War veteran and a member of the Blue Goose International Claims

CORRECTION **BEST BUY**

Our May 4 insert incorrectly shows the price for a Toshiba \$255 notebook computer as \$1549.99. \$50 Price Drop - \$150 Best Buy Mail-In Rebate - \$100 Toshiba Mail-In Rebate = \$1249.99. We advertised the \$50 Price Drop in error. The correct price after mail-in rebates is \$1299.99.

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