



Sweet Cravings owners Richard Rosenbaum (left), Kenneth Lenchner, Les Lenchner and Larry Lenchner in their downtown Farmington store.

Sweet shop

Family opens downtown store

Sweet Cravings, a family-owned sweet shop and cafe featuring family recipes, has replaced Sanders in the Downtown Farmington Center, 2310 Farmington Road, at Grand River.

The grand opening was Jan. 26. The fare in the Ron Ren-designed store includes freshly made bread, croissants, muffins, fine chocolates and cookies.

Fudge brownies, cheesecakes, coffee cakes, specially blended coffee and candy also vie for a customer's taste buds.

Many goods are made from scratch, in full view of customers. The fountain features ice cream sodas or waffle cones, Columbo Yogurt, hot chocolate and tea.

Sweet Cravings is the brainchild of Kenneth Lenchner, a commercial and residential developer. His company, the Southfield-based Equitable Group, owns the Downtown Farmington Center.

As a youngster, Lenchner accompanied his father, Sidney, to work on Saturdays at the family-owned candy business, established in 1918. Those hours at the United Confectionery Co., a specialty candy and packaging business in western Pennsylvania, made a big impression on Lenchner.

BUT ADULT life brought a career outside of confections. Lenchner found success in home construction. His company, Equitable Building, grew and diversified. It added commercial, industrial and office buildings and changed its name.

The Equitable Group now provides management, leasing and brokerage services, as well as development. It owns and manages 39 shopping centers in Michigan and one in Canada.

Ken and Barbara Lenchner's sons, Les and Larry, as well as son-in-law, Richard Rosenbaum, have joined The Equitable Group.

The whole family is involved with Sweet Cravings. "I couldn't do this without my family. They keep it going, make it perfect every day, and help it grow. This is an idea that will go beyond one store. It will certainly need more talent and effort than I alone could provide," Lenchner said.

The family has its sights set on opening a Sweet Cravings, tailored to individual markets, in each of their shopping centers. Four to five new Sweet Cravings are planned in Michigan over the next 18 months, Rosenbaum said.

THE FARMINGTON store, which opened last fall, employs 20. Annual sales are expected to be between \$300,000-\$500,000.

The breakfast menu includes muffins and specially blended coffee. The luncheon menu includes a croissant stuffed with one of a variety of fillings, homemade soup or chili, sandwiches, pastas and salads.

Gift ideas include stuffed toys as well as boxes and baskets packed with candies.

Store hours are from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Monthly cable rates rise 12 percent at MetroVision

MetroVision cable-TV increased rates 12 percent effective Wednesday, according to MetroVision general manager Robert McCann.

Basic service rates will rise \$1.50 to \$18.95 per month. Rates for premium services will remain unchanged. The company last increased rates two years ago.

"We are proud that our rates are still pretty much the lowest in the area," McCann said.

MetroVision, based in Farmington Hills, serves about 25,000 subscribers in Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

The City of Novi is currently investigating whether or not MetroVision's claim of being the lowest in the area is actually true.

McCann, who refused to talk to the Novi News about a possible rate change on two previous occasions, notified subscribers of the rate hike by letter. Such letters began going out to residents Jan. 21.

It also refused additional comment last week.

"It's pretty much self-explanatory... It's in the letter," he said.

Subscribers were told the increase was needed to "maintain the quality of services you deserve and keep up with our cost increases..."

This story was prepared by the Novi News.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

- WAREHOUSE FIRE**
 A Friday afternoon fire in a Farmington Hills furniture warehouse caused about \$95,000 in damage, investigators said.
 "The cause is still under investigation, but at this time, we believe the fire was of suspicious origin," fire marshal Stephen Hume said.
 When firefighters arrived at M.T. Hunter about 5:45 p.m., the south end of the one-story masonry-frame building was in flames. The building is at 38180 Grand River, just west of Hathaway.
 The fire was extinguished within 30 minutes.
 Property loss included \$20,000 worth of furniture, chandeliers and fixtures. The building is used to store merchandise for retail stores in Birmingham and Northville, Hume said.
 Flame damage was confined to the building's south end; there was smoke damage throughout, he said.
- WINDOW SMASHED**
 The driver of a car northbound on Orchard Lake Road, near 10 Mile, was not hurt when a BB was fired into his rear window at 10:45 a.m. Tuesday.
 According to a Farmington Hills police report, the 19-year-old Royal Oak man was northbound on Orchard Lake Road when the driver of a 1979 Monte Carlo in the left-turn lane sped in behind him and shot out his rear window. The car then turned left onto Rocky Crest.
- SUSPICIOUS ACTION**
 A strange man approached a 13-year-old boy standing on his driveway on Jacksonville in southeast Farmington Hills at 10:40 p.m. Jan. 26.

- According to a Farmington Hills police report:
 The man, thought to be in his 40s, stopped in front of the house and asked the boy if he wanted a beer and if he wanted to party.
 When the boy's mother approached the gray or silver car, he yelled at her, then drove north on Jacksonville without the headlights on.
 Neither the boy nor his mother had seen the car or the driver before.
- COCAINE SEIZED**
 A 30-year-old Detroit man faces a felony charge after a small plastic bag of cocaine was found in his car in Farmington Hills Jan. 26.
 Arraigned Friday before visiting District Judge Carl Ingraham of Farmington, the man stood mute to one count of possessing cocaine less than 250 grams. Conviction on the charge is punishable by up to four years in prison.
 An innocent plea was entered. Cash/surety bond was set at \$10,000 pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court.
 Police arrested the man after a traffic stop at Orchard Lake Road and Lamar.
- SUSPICIOUS FIRE**
 Damage was estimated at \$1,500 when a suspicious fire gutted the interior of a student's car parked at North Farmington High School, 32900 13 Mile, at 12:15 p.m. Monday.
 The 1978 Mercury Zephyr was parked in the alcove near the gym entrance.
 There was no cause determined, but investigators said the fire was inconsistent with natural causes.
- SHOTS FIRED**
 Damage topped \$4,400 when BBs or pellets were fired at three houses and a garage on Kendallwood Friday.

- Four windows of houses were shattered.
 In one case, batteries and lug nuts were tossed through three windows of a garage. BBs were fired at the side of a garage, damaging the aluminum siding.
- TICKETS ISSUED**
 A 30-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for possessing marijuana when a small plastic bag of it was found during a traffic stop on Liberty Jan. 27.
 A 32-year-old Redford Township woman was ticketed for possessing marijuana when a small plastic bag of it was found during a traffic stop on Haynes Jan. 29.
- THEFTS REPORTED**
 Computer equipment valued at \$3,380 was reported stolen from Compuware, 31440 Northwestern Highway, Jan. 24-25.
 Kitchen appliances valued at \$950 were reported stolen from a house under construction on Blossom Lane Jan. 26-27.
 A snow blower valued at \$200 was reported stolen from a garage on Bonnet Hill Jan. 27.
 A computer greeting card machine valued at \$4,500 was reported stolen from a storage shed at Toss A Party, 28946 Orchard Lake, Jan. 29-30.
- DAMAGE REPORTED**
 Damage was estimated at \$500 when a ball bearing was fired into a window at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington in Farmington, Jan. 19-23.
 Damage was estimated at \$250 when the window of a car parked on Hayden in Farmington was broken out Jan. 21-22.
 Damage was estimated at \$500 when a car parked on Whitaker in Farmington was damaged during an attempted car theft Jan. 25.

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