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Tuesday April 17, 2007

Local News

Friday, March 4, 2005

Planners OK ice cream store

Owners of Captain Sundae hope to open second store
Sentinel/Dan Irving

By KRISTA CHAMBERS Staff writer |

After 25 years of serving ice cream in Holland, Captain Sundae is hoping to open a second location in Zeeland.

Captain Sundae Inc. is run by Holland residents Karen and Tom Van Dam, whose proposal to make renovations to the existing Dairy Y ice cream store at 537 W. Main Ave. was approved unanimously by the Zeeland City Planning Commission Thursday.

"The location is great because of the proximity (to Holland)," Karen said. "Zeeland is a great community experiencing lots of growth and the store is a great location."

The ice cream operation has been looking to expand for some time, and when the owner of the Dairy Y retired and the facility went up for sale, Karen said they decided it was the perfect opportunity.

"We've always known we wanted to expand," she said.



Karen said several changes will be made on the exterior of the existing building.

"Our goal is to create green space, a garden area, a pirate ship and additional seating," she said. "We're going to tear up the asphalt and redo the parking lot."

She said the building itself will remain the same size and

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dimension, but the couple plans to decorate the exterior of the building to keep with the nautical theme of the Holland location.

The parking lot will flank each side of the building, so it will be like docking up to the pirate ship, she said.

"We're hoping it will be a safer environment," she said. "We'll get green space and life onto the property in keeping with the appearance (of businesses) in Zeeland. We're hoping to open this spring."

While the sale on the building has not yet been finalized, Karen said that will happen next week. The Zeeland City Council must also approve a lease for the business to use some city property for parking and landscaping, said City Manager Tim Klunder.

"We're glad to see the property continued to be used," he said. "There's going to be some good improvements down there, and we're glad to see that."

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