

Saturday Chronicle



Chronicle photo HOLLY LUNDH

Nancy Crowe of Maple Park looks out the service window Wednesday afternoon of the ice cream truck she converted from a minibus.

Ice cream truck makes DeKalb appearance

By Renee Messacar
Staff Writer

Summer might get a little sweeter for parts of DeKalb County.

Maple Park resident Nancy Crowe has become the area's only full-time, local ice cream truck driver through her new business, Cream King, Inc.

She bought a mini school bus and converted it into an ice cream truck.

"It turned out great," she said of the bus that plays music from a disc of 52 songs.

The blue bus with white stripes already has delivered frozen treats in Maple Park, Cortland and St. Charles. She picked up her permit on Friday to deliver in DeKalb and has

received permission from Sycamore to sell ice cream there.

She also intends to take the truck to festivals, block parties and other events.

To become an ice cream vendor, she had to undergo certification from the DeKalb County Health Department that ensured the products she sells are safely kept and receive permits from each city.

The health department has issued three other certificates for ice cream trucks this year; two are only to serve ice cream at special events and the other is for Yummy Ice Cream Company out of Summit, which hasn't applied yet this year for Sycamore or DeKalb permits.

Several unlicensed vendors

also visit the area, DeKalb City Clerk Donna Johnson said.

One drove by her home three times in one day last weekend.

Unlicensed vendors face a possible fine of between \$100 and \$500 for a first violation.

"But enforcement is a real problem," she said. "When people come from out of town, they have no real stake in maintaining their business here, they tend to disregard the need for a license."

Crowe said she intends to closely follow all the cities' regulations, such as Sycamore's rule that she not sell ice cream on busy roads, because she intends to be in business for years. She also hopes to expand the business.

"I hope to have a whole fleet

someday," she said.

When Crowe and her husband considered a seasonal business she could run, she thought back to her college days driving a Polar Bear Ice Cream truck in the Bensenville-area for three summers.

"It was a great job," she said. "It was a lot of fun, and the longer you worked, the more you made."

Crowe sells 24 types of Good Humor, Popsicle and Klondike products for between 75 cents and \$2.

Her most popular item is the SpongeBob Squarepants bar, similar to the Mickey Mouse bar Crowe remembers eating as a child.

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She said she looks forward to giving children the same kind of memories she had of being visited by an ice cream truck.

"The best part of it is the smiles you bring to children's faces," she said.

Sycamore Police Lt. Darrell Johnson said knowing

an ice cream truck is coming to the area is "kind of a neat thing."

Police are concerned that children might run into the road after the truck, but Johnson believes parents can monitor and stop that from happening. Overall, he said, he is looking forward to see-

ing the truck rolling down the road.

"I remember visiting my grandmother's house and waiting for the snow-cone truck to come by," he said. "It was the highlight of the day."

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