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Reopened Checkers breaks company sales record
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Summerville has shown outstanding support for Checkers since it reopened Nov. 5. The Summerville location, at 601 N. Main Street, broke the Checkers Drive-In Restaurants, Inc. record for the highest earning opening week, previously held by the Las Vegas location.

“It was an outstanding achievement for us,” District Manager Garnett Howard said. “We had to increase our food deliveries to four days a week – every two days.”

It’s a constant hustle and bustle inside the narrow kitchen as a crew of employees keeps the burgers, fries and milkshakes coming, even in the slow weekday hours of 3 - 5 p.m.

Checkers employees stay busy shaking up the seasoning salt and malted milk into the wee small hours of the morning. From Thursday through Saturday they are open until 4 a.m. and open until midnight the rest of the week.

The Main Street location closed around April 2008 and is now under new ownership.

Andy Pye, of North Augusta, S.C., is the new owner. He owns about 40 franchises, including the Checkers at 4399 Dorchester Road, which is set to open sometime before January.



Pye plans to open three to four more locations in the Charleston area in the next two years, he said. Pye purchased the Summerville restaurant earlier this year and made interior renovations over a period of several weeks. The Summerville location originally opened around 1990 and was one of the first in South Carolina, Pye said.

“The community really likes Checkers,” Pye said. “It’s less expensive than a lot of the competition.”



Checkers is 1950s themed with shiny silver metal and neon lights gracing the exterior. It also has a double drive-through – one on each side. Checkers is known for fast service, flavorful and affordable burgers, seasoned fries and milkshakes, according to Pye.

“Fries are our claim to fame,” said his son, Drew Pye, director of operations. “People who come here want good food fast.”

“You’ve got to have a lot of good people working for you. There are a lot of balls in the air at once. The managers have been with Checkers for a long time.”

The family business owns about 18 Checkers throughout the southeast, the younger Pye said. “We’re still a family-owned small business. We treat it like a family. We take managers on cruises.”

Drew Pye’s brother, mother, uncles and cousins all work in the family business. He has been in the business for 17 years.

“I’ve been groomed from a very young age on how to treat people, how to run a restaurant.”