

# ROLLERPLEX OPENS FOR BUSINESS

By Astrid Cook



Thanks to Cecil Township residents Greg and Julie Horan, a recreational mainstay of Bridgeville got a major facelift and reopened recently as the Bridgeville RollerPlex. Located on Washington Avenue, the rink has been a landmark for nearly 50 years, but when the Horans purchased the property in 2006, there was a lot of work to be done to bring the facility, formerly known as Great Southern Roller Rink and the Bridgeville Roller Rink, into the 21st Century.

Visitors will immediately see the improvements to the facility when they pull into the fully paved parking lot and see the cheerful red-checked design on the exterior of the building. Even the programs being offered have been revamped to meet the demands of today's skaters.

Julie Horan credits a former Great Southern employee who has stayed on at the RollerPlex for bringing the owners up to speed.

"Scott Mechtel was instrumental in helping us learn about how to run a modern inline roller rink," said Julie Horan.

Among other offerings, the RollerPlex is the meeting place of PUMP (the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project, an organization for

young professionals), which meets there every Tuesday evening to socialize and enjoy a sporting environment.

The RollerPlex has become popular with area school districts who have roller hockey clubs, including Canon-Mac, Baldwin and Bethel Park. More than 35 adult teams, and possibly Pittsburgh's All-Women Roller Derby, will be using the facility to train and compete.

"About 90 percent of our business is from hockey teams, so we don't offer skate rentals during our Friday Night (5 p.m.-8 p.m.) family skate," Horan cautioned.

That said, the public can take advantage of the RollerPlex's five new state-of-the-art locker rooms, along with refurbished bathrooms and the newly resurfaced inline hockey rink. There are plenty of public skate and open stick times for the general public to take advantage of, as well. For

those who may be a bit short on equipment, there is a fully stocked pro-shop at the RollerPlex.

And look for even more exciting and innovative programs yet to come.

Horan explained, "We are trying out different programs based on what people want. Youth in-house leagues—for under 9 years of age, under 14 and under 18—start January 16th. Kid's programs are what we really want to develop and grow."

Possible future programs include a "Me and My Shadow," program for the youngest skaters who need an adult to help them and a "Stroll and Roll" for parents who will be able to push a pram around the rink.

2008 looks to be an exciting year at the Bridgeville RollerPlex. Check them out online at [bridgevillerollerplex.com](http://bridgevillerollerplex.com) and be sure to stop by the facility at 341 Washington Avenue in Bridgeville. For more information, call 412-221-7111. □

