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Two Georgia roller skating rinks set the bar for new era of design

we opened Frames and Games in 2009 we received many phone calls asking why not add a roller skating center too?" The calls stimulated him to begin research into roller skating and prompted visits to many rinks in the southeast United States. His research made it clear to him that if he wanted to build a roller skating center it would have to be something different than the existing traditional rink design. He

center includes a playground and inflatable play space, Laser Maze, arcade and large party rooms, including a princess-themed and a glow party room. The snack bar café serving a variety of finger foods, pizza, hot dogs, burgers, snacks, beverages and fun foods, shares the dream kitchen with the soon-to-open full service restaurant/bar with private entrance.

later this year. It is a 50,000 square foot facility with 10 bowling lanes, roller skating rink, Lasertron multi-level arena, large arcade, restaurant/café/bar and a mezzanine mini-conference center featuring a fully equipped corporate meeting and break out rooms. The conference center has a balcony overlooking the bowling and roller skating action below.

It is a dawning of a new age for roller skating in design and function. With the opening of the new SK8 City Roller Skating Center in Pooler, Ga., and later this year Rigby's Family Fun Center in Warner Robins, Ga. The centers set a new standard for what roller skating centers could look like going forward.

The SK8 City roller skating center is part of the Pooler Amusement Center that already includes the Royal Theaters 13/IMAX and the Frames and Games Fun Center 32 lane bowling center. The ambitious family project will get a water park scheduled for completion in 2013.

Owner Jimmy Patel states, "When

certainly has accomplished that with the new SK8 City.

SK8 City is a unique design featuring a whimsical technological contemporary exterior that invites skaters into a warm, happy and energetic interior that radiates, "Check us out!" The

HOT TRENDS by Bill Carlson

If the Bucky's Travel Centers in Texas have the "World's Greatest and Cleanest Travel Bathrooms" then SK8 City is at the top of the list for best roller skating center bathrooms in the world. Inside, the restrooms feature granite counter tops, decorative tile and the ladies will enjoy an extra-large bathroom.

Guests will skate on the blue and orange seamless plastic floor. The sound and entertainment effects are really something to see and hear. The aluminum truss system encircles one third of the floor and includes multiple lighting effects and a ring of LED lights. The huge projection screen with a 4500 lumen projector will provide great visuals while skating. Large flat screens throughout the facility will allow guests to view multiple programs, sporting events, in-house live action and game activities. Digital menu boards will keep guests updated on events, new products, daily admissions, and special offers. The retail store is well stocked to serve every skater's needs and I am told a new line of SK8 City T-shirts is on the way. The redemption prize center will allow guests to redeem or buy, stocking the latest hot novelty items.

Another grand entry into the roller skating industry will be the Rigby's Family Fun Center scheduled to open

The facility will be a cash-less operation making it the first-of-its-kind in the industry

When owner Steve Rigby decided to build a roller skating center he pursued it with a passion. He visited many roller rinks, family entertainment centers, bowling centers, laser tag arenas and anything fun for families. He was a quick study and he realized multi-profit centers and not just a roller skating center would be the best avenue to success. He is excited about bringing such a great facility to Warner Robins, one of the fastest growing population areas in the country. He wears many hats, he is not just the owner but the developer, general contractor, and on-site superintendent, all while running his other companies; impressive.

I recently walked the project with him and watched him multi-task directing sub-contractors, media inquiries, management and of course my questions too. His mind must never sleep. When I was done I felt I was recharged and it reinforced my feeling that the best years are ahead for an entire industry.

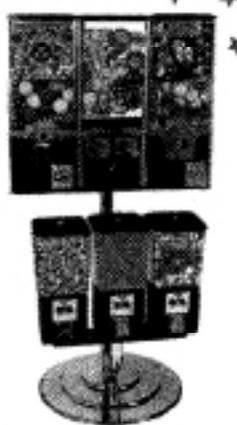
What do these two facilities mean to the industry? Image, a new standard and media exposure; we are hard at work to get national media lined up for an introduction to the concepts. If the facilities are successful endeavors

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