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BUSINESS

Ozzy's Fun Center, formerly Family Grand Prix, sold to plow business

The longtime amusement complex is officially closed, having never fully reopened after COVID-19 restrictions.

Formerly known as Family Gran Prix, Ozzy's Family Fun Center in Ontelaunee Township has closed permanently after an August sale to Stork's Plows. (Andrew Kulp)

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By **ANDREW KULP** | akulp@readingeagle.com | Reading Eagle

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After spending the better part of 17 months closed, Ozzy's Family Fun Center in Ontelaunee Township was sold in late August.

The property at 5411 Pottsville Pike was purchased for $3 million by Stork's Plows, a supplier of snow plows, parts and accessories in Penn Township.

Jeen Stork, business manager for Stork's Plows, confirmed the sale and said the plan is to move the business to the new location next year, with hopes to hold a grand opening in September 2022.

The property consists of 9.5 acres of land and a 52,571-square-foot structure, according to commercial real estate website LoopNet.

The Fun is over

Previously named Family Grand Prix and best known for its go-kart racing, the facility underwent an aggressive expansion beginning in the late 90's.

During the 2000s, the business rebranded as Ozzy's Family Fun Center to reflect the addition of laser tag, a roller skating rink, athletic courts, ropes course and an indoor playground to its existing amusements — go-karts, miniature golf, bumper boats, batting cages, arcade games and snack bar.

Ozzy's Fun Center was forced to shut down operations amid statewide COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020 and did not immediately reopen when prohibitions on recreational facilities were eased and ultimately lifted.

The business briefly resumed operations later in 2020, but closed permanently soon after.

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Stork's Plows in Penn Township will move to Leesport in 2022 after purchasing the former Ozzy's Family Fun Center on Route 61 in August. (Andrew Kulp)

Stork's swoops in

Founded by Gene and Theresa Stork, Stork's Automotive opened along Route 183 in 1986, initially serving as an auto repair shop specializing in Jeep and Renault models that also sold and rebuilt plows on the side.

During the 90s, Stork's became a plow sub-dealer and purchased the neighboring properties on both sides of the original business.

Driven in part by strong plow sales, expansion continued in the decades that followed and, in 2015, Stork's dropped auto repair to focus on the plow aspect of the business.

Now known as Stork's Plows, but still operated by Gene and son Jeen Stork, along with family members Theresa and April, the dealership stocks over 2,000 plows and has 20 employees, according to its website.

More development in Leesport

The future site of Stork's Plows located on the northbound side of Route 61 near the intersection with Route 73 appears to have been a highly desirable commercial property.

Blueprints recovered online by the *Reading Eagle* revealed a potential plan to subdivide the Ozzy's Fun Center lot into three retail businesses — one of them a Wawa convenience store and gas station — though no such subdivision ever occurred, and most real estate websites have since removed the images.

With the influx of new businesses, warehouses and redevelopment at the east end of Leesport borough extending into Ontelaunee Township and the amount of vehicular traffic through that stretch of 61, the property provides a high degree of visibility.

Details for how Stork's Plows plans to convert the former amusement complex into a dealership and warehouse were not immediately available.

Tags: **Coronavirus**, **Local Businesses**

Andrew Kulp | Food and business reporter

Andrew Kulp became the food and business reporter for the Reading Eagle in 2020. After getting his start with the independent sports blog The700Level.com, Andrew joined Comcast

SportsNet/NBC Sports Philadelphia as a freelance writer in 2010, staying on for over a decade including five seasons on the Philadelphia Eagles/NFL beat. The Berks County native has also written for the Lebanon Daily News and Bleacher Report, and currently contributes commentary on esports and video games for Nerd Street Gamers.

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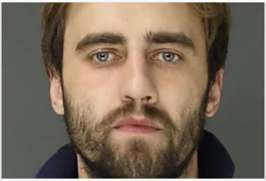

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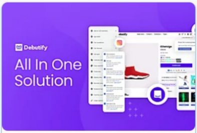

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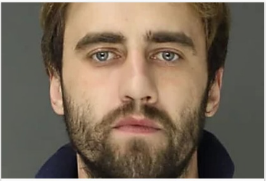

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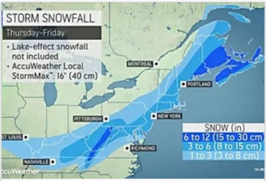

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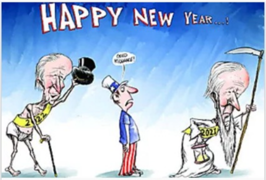

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