

INSIDE: LOOKING FOR FUN THIS SUMMER? CHECK OUT 22CM'S SUMMER FUN GUIDE

The Orland Park Prairie™

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Fill 'em up
with fun

The Bridge Teen Center
expands, unveils The
Garage | PAGE 5

Pictured is one of the vintage gas pumps
inside The Bridge Teen Center's new addition,
The Garage. The teen center hosted an open
house to unveil the new addition on Saturday,
May 14. HEATHER WARTHEN/22ND CENTURY MEDIA



SHOWIN' SUPPORT Orland baseball team shaves
heads to support Orland boy, PAGE 4

WHO WON? Check out the Orland Park winner of
22CM's Vacation Photo Contest, PAGES 27-28

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News COVER STORY

The Bridge Teen Center unveils new addition

HEATHER WARTHEN, Editor

The Bridge Teen Center unveiled its new 2,400-square-foot expansion, The Garage, to the public Saturday, May 14 — and it's certainly far from a typical garage.

Priscilla Steinmetz, the center's executive director and co-founder, said the name for the new addition came from where most bands start out: the garage. Live performances will happen on the stage, which has an actual Volkswagen Beetle crashing through the back of it.

"[Co-founder Rob Steinmetz's] dad is a car collector and restores them, so it's in his blood," Priscilla said. "We wanted to create a cool venue for young people. The name, The Garage, makes it a little bit cooler."

The new space doubled the size of the teen center, which opened last June. The new space increases the occupancy from 49 people to more than 175.

The expansion was built by volunteers, and construction materials were donated. Home Depot in Orland Park provided a \$15,000 grant to cover the costs. Michael Lunford of Lunford Construction was the volunteer general contractor on the project.

Rob Steinmetz estimated attendance to be a couple of hundred people between a ribbon cutting for key volunteers and donors on Friday, May 13, and Saturday's open house.

"We hope to have 400 to 500 people

Please see **BRIDGE, 25**

THE GARAGE'S SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The following concerts will be offered free for students in seventh through 12th grades. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for all shows. For more information, call (708) 532-0500 or visit www.thebridge-teencenter.org.

Friday, June 3 - Summer Kickoff

Made Avail (pop, rock, indie), Icon For Hire (rock)

Friday, June 17

Philmont (power pop), Jay Hughes (acoustic)

Friday, July 1

Makeshift (blues, reggae, rock), M.G. Bailey (one-man band)

Friday, July 8

Sean Lea with Corey Martin from The Radiance Effect (acoustic night)

Friday, July 15

Me In Motion (pop), Kenya (R&B, soul)

Friday, July 22

Sick of the Day (pop, rock, acoustic)

Friday, July 29

TBA, Christal Luster (folk, R&B)

Friday, Aug. 12

The Aaron Williams Band (rock, jam, acoustic), Sweet Deal (jazz, funk), Dead Split Egos (punk)

Friday, Aug. 26 - Back-to-School Night

The Heights (rock, blues), The Lemming Band (alternative rock)



New Lenox residents (left to right) Paige Batinich, Taylor Kross and Alena Batinich check out the summer program guide at The Bridge Teen Center. The three girls attended the open house for the center's new addition, The Garage, on Saturday, May 14. HEATHER WARTHEN/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

BRIDGE

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throughout the weekend,” he said. “What’s great is I’m seeing a lot of new faces.”

One of the new features of The Garage is a recording studio.

“We’re raising funds to purchase equipment,” Rob said. “We will do free recording workshops. Not everyone wants to perform. Some like to work behind the scenes.

“Where else can you go and learn that for free?”

In addition to the recording studio, there are pool tables, booths and even vintage gas pumps emblazoned with The Bridge Teen Center logo.

New Lenox resident Taylor Kross, who brought along a couple of friends, was excited to see the new addition put together by her former youth leader.

“It is awesome, and I’m so happy [Priscilla] finally did it,” Kross said. “I was so excited when she told me she was doing this.”

The Bridge Teen Center and The Garage are located at 15555 S. 71st Court in Orland Park.

For more information, call (708) 532-0500 or visit www.thebridgeteencenter.org.