

Pump It Up in Gurnee offers inflatable fun

By **ABBY SCALF**

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GURNEE – Traveling along Grand Avenue in Gurnee, families can find a plethora of entertainment.

Now add Pump It Up to the options where children and adults can bounce, shoot hoops and climb onto indoor inflatables.

“Kids just love to jump and play,” said Geetha Bandedy, owner of Pump It Up in Gurnee. “We’re also year-round, so whether it is hot or cold, we’re climate controlled, safe and clean.”

Pump It Up operates 175 locations nationwide and eight within Illinois. Before opening her business, Bandedy noticed that the closest locations to her home in Kenosha, Wis., were in Brookfield and Vernon Hills, so she opened within the strip mall across from Six Flags Great America last December.

“This is a mecca for entertainment. It was a wonderful idea to open one here,” she said.

Pump It Up features two arenas. The first room features a cannon air-ball blaster, dual lane slide, octagon extreme, where kids can play soccer and joust, and a T-ball game. The second room features a basketball bounce, obstacle course, slippery slope and a



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Both children and adults can have fun at Pump It Up in Gurnee, says owner Geetha Bandedy. The business is located at 5328 Grand Ave., east of Dilleys Road.

rock wall.

Bandedy said safety is a priority at Pump It Up.

In addition to posting instructions on each piece of equipment, guests view a safety video prior to entering arenas. Party attendants also super-

vise children.

“We pride ourselves and our safety at our facilities as a franchise,” she said.

Pump It Up specializes in offering private parties. Bandedy said while birthday parties are popular, the busi-

Want to know more?

Pump It Up, an inflatable party zone, is located at 5328 Grand Ave. in Gurnee. For more information, call 847-672-9972 or visit www.pumpitupparty.com.

ness also hosts field trips, Scouting events and team-building events. Two-hour weekday and weekend packages are open to between 15 and 25 children and range from \$209 to \$299.

“We try to entertain and offer a stress-free party for everybody,” she said.

Pump It Up also offers “Pop and Play” for kids ages 2 to 6 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays for \$7 a child. Family jump night runs from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. Thursdays and costs \$8 a child and \$7 a sibling.

The business also hosts special jump nights, such as the Valentine’s Day party event it hosted Feb. 14.

Bandedy added Pump It Up also will host a fundraiser jump night in partnership with Autism Speaks on April 7.

She noted that the inflatables are open to all ages, adding that her business has hosted adult parties. All ages enjoy Pump It Up because it is colorful and lively, she said.