

A Fun Corner for Halloween and all year long

Michel Nolan, Staff Writer Posted: 10/24/2011 01:00:33 PM PDT

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Michelle Chavez, 32, helps her boyfriend dress as a woman at Fun Corner in San Bernardino. The store is open year-round. (**Gabriel Luis Acosta** Staff Photographer)

Photo gallery: Fun Corner

The Fun Corner lives up to its name, says co-owner Linda Sutherland.

"When someone parks in front of the store, I know they're coming to see us and they're going to have fun," she said.

The Fun Corner, on West Base Line between E and D streets, has been a San Bernardino landmark for 55 years.

Not only is The Fun Corner amped for some seriously fun business, but its moving sign is moving again.

The huge, puffy white Fun Corner letters used to "dance," but that stopped about 10 years ago, according to Sutherland, who bought the business with her husband in 1984.

The letters are now "dancing again" against the festive, bright-colored stripes on The Fun Corner's facade.

Fun business includes costume sales - not just at Halloween - but 365 days a year.

"We're not one of the 30-day stores - we do this year-round,"

Special Halloween hours at Fun Corner

The store will be open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday through this month.



Regular hours will continue in November: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.



Sutherland said. "We are a tamily-oriented store, doing theatrical stuff, themed weddings and parties, school plays, church plays. We sell a lot of accessories and props for theatrical productions."

For more information, call 909-885-7648, or visit <u>FunCorner.com</u>.

Hundreds of wigs, from the OMG Afro to the Peggy Sue; thousands of costumes - from Smurfs, Dalmatian puppies and astronauts for kids to movie characters, monsters and outlandish looks for adults.

Feet, legs, hands, eyeballs and bloody noses can be found

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in the Parts Department, next to what Sutherland calls "the ooey gooeys" - bugs, spiders and snakes.

Sutherland's husband, Steve, is a makeup artist and shares makeup tips with customers.

"Steve is at a Chamber of Commerce Business Expo at the mall teaching people how to create `ouchies and boo-boos," said Linda, who is president of the San Bernardino Sunset Rotary Club.

"Steve does great black eyes, cuts and blisters, and zombie looks," says Mike Bersamin, a seven-year Fun Corner employee.

"It's a lot of fun working here - blood and gore using latex, cotton and paint, playing with Steve and his toys."

Costume sizes range from newborn to 3X, from "very pretty to mass casualties," Linda said.

"People will come in and are amazed we're still

here," she said. "They tell us they remember our store from when they were kids. Now their kids and grandkids are coming in.

"There are still old-fashioned stores around, which is really what we are. We love this - we love being downtown."

michel.nolan@inlandnewspapers.com 909-386-3859 3pm & 6pm NO OBLIGATION LOCATION: 1801 Orange Tree Ln #230 Rediands RSVP BY PHONE SEATING IS LIMITED

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