

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The City of Youngstown and J.A.C & SMG Management Groups are pleased to announce that beginning on June 1st the Chevrolet Centre will be renamed the **Covelli Centre**. Covelli Enterprises and its owner, Warren, Ohio native Sam Covelli, have agreed to a three-year contract as the city-owned facility's "Naming Rights" sponsor. Covelli Enterprises owns and operates over 150 Panera Bread and O'Charley's Restaurant locations, 9 within 30 minutes of Youngstown's premier entertainment facility that will bear its name.

Mayor Jay Williams said "An increasing number of the Mahoning Valley's most successful business people are investing in one of our area's leading event centers in Downtown Youngstown. I believe that this is further confirmation that the City of Youngstown is continuing to move in the right direction. These business partnerships will yield significant benefits not only to the City of Youngstown but also the entire Mahoning Valley". Mr. Covelli was quoted as saying "It is an honor for our company to partner with this world-class facility in bringing the people of the Valley quality family entertainment".

The Covelli Centre is a 42 million dollar, seven thousand seat facility located between Cleveland and Pittsburgh; the Covelli Centre is Northeast Ohio's newest destination for family entertainment. An attractive 'in-between' city, Youngstown now sees first-rate events making a stop to entertain the area. Families can expect to see nationally-recognized circuses, chart-topping musicians, jaw-dropping sporting events, as well as crowd-pleasing family shows like Disney on Ice and Monster Trucks. "We are extremely please to have Mr. Covelli and his staff involved in such a crucial sponsorship in the arena. We are looking forward to a fantastic partnership with them." Said Eric Ryan, president of J.A.C. Management.

Prior to Panera Bread and 1998, Sam Covelli was the largest franchisee of McDonald's worldwide with 43 units at the end of 1997. Mr. Covelli grew up in the restaurant business and worked his way up from an entry-level position in the company to becoming the owner/operator and the largest franchisee in McDonald's history. Approximately ten years ago, Mr. Covelli began looking at phasing out of McDonald's and began looking at new concepts during this time.

In 1997, Mr. Covelli sold all of the 43 McDonald's Restaurants he owned to twelve different operators and embarked on a brand-new concept; Panera Bread Bakery Cafes. The first Panera Bread bakery-café opened by Covelli Enterprises was in Boardman, Ohio in 1998. By the end of 2009, Mr. Covelli will own and operate more than 150 Panera Bread bakery-cafes in four states: Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Florida with gross sales revenues exceeding \$350 million.

In 2006, Covelli opened his first O'Charley's Restaurant. His second O'Charley's Restaurant opened in Erie, Pennsylvania in November of 2007. His third restaurant opened in February of 2008 in Boardman, Ohio. In April of 2009 a fourth restaurant was opened in Orlando, Florida. Covelli has plans to build up to 50 units.

The Covelli Centre is owned by the City of Youngstown and is managed by privately-operated JAC Management Group LLC of Struthers, Ohio and SMG, a Philadelphia based company that provides facility services to more than 215 public assembly facilities.

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