

Tech Center News™

AUGUST 31, 2009

Covers the hub of Macomb County's auto industry

VOL. 33 NO. 52



PHOTO: STEFANIE CARANO

AT STAGE 3 IN WARREN, Gordon Michaels, star of the movie, "Unbeatable Harold," leans on the 1939 Cadillac convertible featured in the film, produced in part by local director John Lauri.

Party Touts Warren Being Attractive to Filmmakers

By Stefanie Carano
Staff Reporter

A glamorous party to rival those held in New York or L.A. took place at Stage 3 Productions in Warren recently.

Intended to attract Hollywood filmmakers, as well as raise funds for Gleaners Community Food Bank and the Warren Fire Department, local actors, models and directors gathered to network and demonstrate what metro Detroit's creative community has to offer.

The setting was studio rooms washed in stage color. The sound was a deejay spinning club tunes and a local band performing on the roof. Black-tie servers passed top-shelf cocktails and samples of

fine cuisine to fashionable guests from all over the Detroit area.

"It was extremely helpful in meeting people - actors to investors to film producers," said Lark Samouelian, communications director for the city of Warren. "It was a very wonderful way to help."

Samouelian was introducing Mayor Jim Fouts to Stage 3 executives and some others responsible for trying to attract the filming industry to the area.

Fouts said the party reminded him of something he'd see in downtown Detroit, perhaps at the Opera House.

Samouelian and Warren's Downtown Development Au-

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Equinox Fuel Cell Vehicle a Hit at Selfridge Air Show

By Gerald Scott
Staff Reporter

GM has often complained that it has some of the most

technologically advanced vehicles in the world, yet the public often looks at the automaker as "old school" and low-tech.

For the busy 2009 Air Show at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township Aug. 22-23, however, GM was in the front row, so to

speak, with the simple display of its Chevy Equinox Fuel Cell vehicle powered by hydrogen.

The Equinox was inside of Selfridge's high-tech pavilion, along with the U.S. Army's latest ground robots and NASA's historical timeline display that included moon rocks from the Apollo missions.

The Equinox turned out to be right at home in Hangar 6, where thousands toured and gathered around all of the resident technical displays, especially including the Equinox.

The public especially cooed over the vehicle because, although it has been on display before at various car shows and trade shows, this time, the doors were open and the hood was up - although a flat metal plate was bolted above the engine works, presumably to keep all the pieces in one place.

Otherwise, it was flattering to GM and Chevrolet that visi-

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PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

THE PUBLIC gets a look under the hood of the Chevy Equinox Fuel Cell vehicle that was on display at the Selfridge Air Show recently. The Equinox was in a transportation technology pavilion together with the Army's ground robots and NASA historical timeline panels.



PHOTO: STEFANIE CARANO

A MONARCH COMES TO REST in the Butterfly Garden at Warren City Square during the city's opening ceremony on Thursday.

City Sq. Butterfly Garden Opens

By Stefanie Carano
Staff Reporter

Among the colorful spread of blossoms in Warren's City Square, two people approached Mayor Jim Fouts, each with a small, hand-sized white box.

The sides of the box were clear, and within, the tips of several black wings could be seen, blinking as they attempted to open.

They were Monarch butterflies waking up from a long trip from Florida and were being introduced to the city's new butterfly garden, designed as a special place for

the Monarch.

"The area needed to be landscaped anyway and we decided to put in perennials and plants to attract butterflies," said Fouts.

At the conclusion of the opening ceremony, Fouts opened the white containers to free the Monarchs. They didn't fly away immediately, many found spots to land on people in the crowd, or on the ground, trying to wake up from being preserved on ice.

After gaining strength, a few decided to nestle in the new garden, where containers

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Detroit Cattle Baron's Ball Aims to See Cancer Ride into the Sunset

By Irena Granaas
Staff Reporter

They say laughter is the best medicine, and, as the American Cancer Society's Cattle Baron's Ball returns to Metro Detroit for the sixth year, organizers have as usual planned a fun-packed program to help battle a grim disease.

Diamonds and denim come together with Midway games, mechanical bull rides, live coun-

try western music, casino games and some of the finest Western food catered by prominent local restaurants and caterers, all to generate smiles (and open wallets) in the name of a great cause. Tickets are still available for the CBB, which will also feature evening headline entertainment by famed Western band Lonestar, by calling (248) 663-3400 or at www.cbbdetroit.com.

In just five short years, CBB,

first held in 2003, has become one of the premier fundraisers in Metro Detroit, offering plenty of down-home fun while leading the charge against cancer, a disease that affects virtually every family, by supporting the American Cancer Society (ACS).

General Motors Corp. is the presenting sponsor of the 2008 event, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Michigan State Fairgrounds, from 7 p.m. to midnight. The volunteer-driven

festivities will be led by Ray G. Young, GM's executive vice president and chief financial officer, with support from some of the nation's most influential automotive executives as well as other prominent individuals from local top corporate and medical organizations.

Young said in an interview he first became involved in the CBB in 2003.

"Gary Cowger (GM group vice president at the time) was the

chair of the event in the inaugural ball, and I got involved in the 2003 event as the finance chair to support the event," he said.

Young explained that in Texas, ACS fundraisers use a Western-style theme in their events, and for the first Detroit



GM'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, Ray G. Young, leads this year's cancer-fighting fundraiser.

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AUGUST 25, 2008

Warren, Michigan - covers the hub of Macomb County's auto industry

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PHOTO: STEFANIE CARANO

THE WARREN COMMUNITY CENTER'S fitness area is one of the key reasons people visit the facility on Arden Road.

Warren Facility Rated as 'Best Recreation Center'

By Stefanie Carano
Staff Reporter

Touted as a city destination, the Warren Community Center has been offering activities for visitors of every age group since opening five years ago.

"It's like a Great Wolf Lodge would have to offer, just on a smaller scale," said Henry Bowman, director of parks and recreation.

to residents or those who frequent the area. For those who work in Warren but live somewhere else, a membership is \$300 annually that provides unlimited access to the facilities.

The center facilities are also available to organizations for use in conferences and trade shows. Bowman said TACOM is interested in holding a conference at the center

Motor City Hosts Dream Cruise



PHOTO: JEFFREY SAUGER FOR GM

A PARADE OF CLASSIC GM CARS motored north on Woodward Avenue in a Dream Cruise kickoff, called the GM Century Cruise.

GM Holds Special 'Century Cruise' To Celebrate 100th Anniversary

By Gerald Scott
Staff Reporter

General Motors Corp. provided the cherry on top of the icing that was the 2008 Woodward Dream Cruise by hosting its own kickoff event, the GM Century Cruise.

Motoring from the RenCen to Woodward and then north into Oakland County on the Saturday morning of the overall Cruise, the GM event proved to be a signature way to kick off this year's Cruise.

Leading the parade was no less than GM Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner, who earlier in the week was in Thailand and China on business.

Jet lag be darned, Wagoner was there at the start, leading the motor parade in a special E85 Corvette sports car, all to emphasize GM's lean-and-green attitude these days. Wagoner rode up Woodward in that special E85 Corvette

with Bill O'Neill, GM executive director of Global Communications Operations, in the passenger seat. They looked like they didn't have a care in the world.

Even at 8 a.m., the parade of 100 GM cruisers lined up along Woodward Avenue from the riverfront north to 14 Mile Road in Royal Oak and "stopped traffic" at every intersection it passed by.

Once it arrived at GM's ground zero gathering point, the Athens Coney Island, Wagoner, just as fresh as you please, hopped out for a live TV interview with Channel 7 auto reporter Mary Conway.

"This event is truly a celebration of GM's 100 years and kicks off the month leading up to the launch of our second century on Sept. 16," said GM's O'Neill.

"What makes it very special

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