



A scale model of the statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - from the new King Memorial in Washington, D.C. - is on display at the African American Museum in Detroit, courtesy of GM.

## GM Supporting Development of 'King Memorial'

by Gerald Scott  
Editor  
U.S. Auto Scene

GM hosted some big doings at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit last week.

There, General Motors is providing an advance look at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, which will be dedicated on Aug. 28 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

A variety of GM executives including Vice President of Diversity Eric Peterson and GM Foundation President Vivian Pickard gathered to unveil a scale-model replica of the King Memorial, as well as a scale-model of the larger King statue that will dominate the actual D.C. exhibit.

As major contributors to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation, the General Motors Foundation, GM and Chevrolet received one of

only two replicas of the Memorial. GM is donating its replica to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History for its ongoing effort to provide learning opportunities, exhibitions and programs that explore the diverse history and culture of African Americans.

"As the world's largest museum dedicated to the African American experience, we are honored to house the replica of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial," said Charles H. Wright Museum President Juanita Moore.

"The replica is a great addition to the Museum's collection, which documents, preserves and educates on African American history, life, and culture."

Pickard said that GM, the GM Foundation and Chevrolet have donated more than \$10 million to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation, and are committed to remaining a

driving force in seeing the Memorial completed and raising public awareness of its existence.

"This replica of the Memorial will reach many people from around the world who visit the Charles H. Wright Museum here in Detroit and will help to spread Dr. King's message of democracy, justice, hope and love," Pickard said.

"The GM Foundation is pleased to support the MLK Foundation in honoring Dr. King. He continues to be a model of hope and a great humanitarian, whose story of striving for equality should never be forgotten."

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial will be positioned in direct line between the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, the place where Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a

Dream" speech on Aug. 28, 1963.

The centerpiece of the Memorial, the "Stone of Hope," will feature a 30-foot likeness of Dr. King using natural elements. It will contain excerpts of his sermons and public addresses to serve as living testaments of his vision of America. It will be the first memorial on the National Mall to honor a non-U.S. president.

"The GM Foundation and General Motors were among the first to contribute to the legacy of Dr. King by sponsoring this important memorial," said Harry E. Johnson, president and CEO, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation.

"We are grateful for their generous contribution and commitment to uphold the ideals most important to Dr. King."

## Quinn Road Stories Part of Black History Month

by Christine Snyder  
Staff Reporter  
Tech Center News

When it comes to commemorating Black History Month, Macomb county has plenty to share.

Clinton Township was home to an early village of African Americans who settled there around the time of 1816, Eric Jackson, the director of community outreach for Macomb Community College, found in his research of his home town.

"I don't think people knew it had such a rich history," said Jackson.

The area, later known as Quinn Road, grew into a self-contained, self-sufficient black community by the 1920s.

Jackson and other speakers participated in a panel discussion of the historic Quinn Road community at Macomb Community College Feb. 10 as part of MCC's month-long series of cultural events to celebrate Black History Month.

Most of the people who settled on Quinn Road came from small Southern towns and moved to Michigan for the automotive industry, but couldn't get used to city life, said Jackson.

Clinton Township was a rural, hunting area at the time with no running water for homes, but with farming and hunting opportunities.

During its heyday from the 1920s to the 1950s, the community had a school, several churches, grocery stores and even a "downtown" area. Jackson said racial tensions made the community close-knit and self-reliant.

"They had access to everything they needed and rarely shopped elsewhere," said Jackson.

One of the most prominent



PHOTO: CHRISTINE SNYDER

Macomb County historians, from left, John Emerson, Cynthia Donahue and Eric Jackson, spoke at Macomb Community College about Quinn Road, a historic black community in Macomb County.

community leaders of Quinn Road was Prince Drewry. Drewry became the first African American to sit on a school board in Michigan and was also a deputy police officer.

Cynthia Donahue, a Macomb County historian, described Drewry as "King of the Neighborhood." She said her grandfather knew Drewry well.

"When they needed legal enforcement on Quinn Road, Prince Drewry would get my grandfather, Judge Donahue, and they would hold court in a bar or a gas station," said Donahue.

Another hometown hero of Quinn Road was Tuskegee Airman Vincent Mitchell, who flew during World War II and won the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Like many African American communities, church played an important role in the lives of the residents.

"Churches were the only in-

stitutions African Americans could control," said Donahue.

Quinn Road had six churches founded in the 1920s. At the panel discussion, John Emerson, a lifelong Macomb County resident and amateur genealogist, made a presentation on the churches founded on Quinn Road, including the current Vinson Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in 1921 as a prayer service in the Vinson family home on Quinn Road.

Another church founded in 1921 was the Greater Zion Baptist church, which organized the Macomb County Union of Choirs, the goal of which was to provide pianos and other equipment to African American churches, starting with the Quinn Road churches.

"In 1969, urban renewal hit and it hit Quinn Road hard," said Donahue.

It was a long process and

while progress was needed - as one Clinton Township resident put it, "You can't have out-houses in 2000" - it unraveled the tight-knit community.

"A lot was torn down but not a lot put in its place," said Donahue.

Like many urban renewal sites, Quinn Road got all the stuff communities don't want, said Jackson: a dump; an incinerator; an electrical substation and towers.

One of the churches disbanded, the rest relocated. One, the Bethlehem Temple, founded in 1921, fought and finally succeeded in getting the incinerator shut down. Some residents stayed to fight for their community, too, but many left.

At the end of it, 186 acres of land were razed and 200 families were affected by the plan. Displaced business owners were given no offers to start new businesses in the new communities and the new homes were slow to be built.

Some of the positive outcomes included a housing complex that was touted as a model of integration, as well as sewers, street lighting and paved streets.

Recently, the area has been the site of tremendous growth with new homes being built and new businesses growing.

Neighborhood groups have sprung up to bring back some of that sense of community that was the mainstay of Quinn Road.

An annual picnic reunion at the Prince Drewry Park in Clinton Township draws hundreds of people from across the nation with ties to the historic black community of Quinn Road in Macomb County.

A film about the Quinn Road community is available at Clinton Township offices.



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

Donald Pace of Dearborn will have his 1965 Ford Galaxie "Mayberry Police Car" on display at the 2011 Autorama at Cobo Center. Pace is a sergeant in the Detroit Police Department.

## Dearborn Man to Display His 'Mayberry Police Car'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

acquisition of the original Galaxie car.

"Me and my father, we rode a Greyhound bus to Waterloo, Iowa, the guy drove it to the bus station, we gave him the rest of the money and we drove it home.

"White-knuckle ride, can you imagine a 40-year-old car, trying to drive it for the first time, 600 miles? But it ran great all the way home.

"It needed a little body work behind the rear wheels and the front wheels. I had it for 3-4 years before I did anything to it and turned it into a car."

The city of Ferndale has a police car show attached to the Woodward Dream Cruise every August and Pace usually takes the car there, too.

He tells an amusing anecdote that he can be parked next to a hot classic Corvette at a given car show - but visitors inevitably still make a bee-

line for his colorful Mayberry Police Car.

Pace said he thinks the great affection for the old "Andy Griffith" TV show helps explain the ongoing popularity of the recognizable police car.

"My wife and I in 2004, we went to an 'Andy Griffith Show' festival in Indiana, and they had a parade of these cars, they had about a dozen of them. That gave me a spur to get going on the project," Pace said.

"I've got a friend who owns a body shop, he did a little bit of the body work and painted it. And slowly I accumulated the police equipment off the Internet."

Look for the Mayberry Police Car on display amongst the TV-themed vehicles at Autorama this year. By coincidence, another Detroit policeman will have his "Starsky & Hutch" TV police car, a 1975 Ford Gran Torino, on display in the same exhibit as well.

## Borders Bookstore in Dearborn Slated to Close Due to Bankruptcy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

District of New York, Borders had \$1.28 billion in assets and \$1.29 billion in debts as of Dec. 25.

It owes tens of millions of dollars to publishers, including \$41.1 million to Penguin Putnam, \$36.9 million to Hachette Book Group, \$33.8 million to Simon & Schuster and \$33.5 million to Random House.

Activist investor William Ackman, whose Pershing Square Management Co. has a nearly 15 percent stake in the company, also stands to be a big loser.

He offered to finance a \$16-per-share Borders-led takeover bid for rival Barnes & Noble in December, but nothing materialized.

The filing was expected, but it is far from clear if it will be enough to save the company.

"Chapter 11 does not solve any business problems at all," said Jim McTevia, managing partner of turnaround firm McTevia & Associates in Bingham Farms, Mich., the AP.

"They are going to have to be an entirely different company than the one that went into bankruptcy protection if they want to emerge successfully," McTevia added.

It has been a long fall for the national bookseller, which 15 years ago appeared to be the future of bookselling. But big-box bookstores have struggled as competition has become increasingly tough with books being available in

more locations, from Costco to Walmart, online sales growing and electronic books gaining in popularity.

When the Dearborn Borders will close still remains to be seen, but customers can look for the inevitable in-store, going-out-of-business sales in the meantime.

## Gas Station TV Reports Profits

BIRMINGHAM - Gas Station TV, the largest such national away-from-home TV network delivering a one-to-one consumer viewing experience, last week announced major expansion plans for 2011.

No longer bearing the classification of a "start-up," (its last capital equity raise was back in 2007), GSTV reports triple-digit revenue growth in 2010 over 2009, as well as record EBITDA, operating profit margin, and net income for 2010.

Due to the company's sustained financial success and adoption of the video-at-the-pump medium by advertisers, GSTV will be doubling its network size in the next 12 months.

Expansion will include over 50 new markets (bringing GSTV to over 150 markets nationwide), plus additional stations added in GSTV's current markets, further solidifies the supplier's position as the only national presence in video at-the-pump marketing.

GSTV is based in downtown Birmingham, Mich.



Ernie Pickler of Warren will enter his 1969 Pontiac Firebird at this year's Autorama in Detroit.



Don Groth of Warren will enter his 1967 Pontiac GTO convertible in this year's Autorama, which runs Feb. 25-27 at Cobo.

## Local 'Car Guys' to Show Pontiacs at 2011 Autorama

by Christine Snyder  
Staff Reporter  
Tech Center News

For a lot of metro Detroit-ers, GM's Pontiac brand put the muscle in "muscle" cars in its heyday of the 1960s.

Two Warren residents will show up their toned and tuned Pontiac muscle cars at the 2011 Autorama.

Ernie Pickler, a Warren resident has wanted a Pontiac Firebird ever since he ended in a ditch and totaled his first Firebird in high school.

A friend found him a 1969 Firebird back in 1985, but "it was pretty beat up," said the 53-year-old. "I had to take the car apart and restore it."

It was restored over the next couple of years, but then sat for several more. His wife's ul-

matum to get it running or sell it proved the impetus for getting the car running, and ultimately showing it at the Autorama.

This will be the first time Pickler has an entry at the Autorama. His Pontiac will be at the Warren Gear & Axle display.

The car has a 462 Pontiac engine, a turbo 400 trans, a roll cage and other modifications. "They are never finished," said Pickler.

Pickler also owns a 1969 GTO convertible. He said it upset him when GM dropped the Pontiac brand. "It's changed a lot since the 1970s," said Pickler. "It's really changed, but I've owned a few of them through the years."

Another Pontiac fan, who also happens to be 53 years old

and a Warren resident, is Don Groth, who also will be entering the Autorama for the first time with his 1967 Pontiac GTO convertible.

"I've had many cars, but they have all been American-made and most of them have been General Motors," said Groth who also owns a 1966 Chevelle Supersport convertible.

Groth said, to him, GTO is representative of the classic Detroit muscle car. "That's what I like, the Detroit-built muscle cars of the '60s," said Groth. "I've had other GTOs and, when I was younger, I had muscle cars."

Groth has had his current GTO for three years, and it was in pretty good shape when he bought it. He said it just needed some maintenance and new paint job. "I freshened it up,"

said Groth.

The car is original and stock down to its condenser ignition system, a precursor to electronic ignition systems.

While Groth takes the GTO out a lot in summer to participate in cruises and shows, he normally doesn't take it out in the winter.

His "Old Guys' Club" a classic car club, encouraged him to enter it in the Autorama. The club will be displaying together.

"A lot of them have been in it, I have not," said Groth who said he hopes the weather cooperates.

The Autorama, known for showing off vehicles with eye-popping customization or unique restoration/preservation work, will be at Cobo Center Feb. 25-27.