



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

Tony Kieliszewski will manage the EBSC at the GM Tech Center. It is designed to be a one-stop-shop for engineers at the VEC.

GM's VEC Opens Center To Assist Internal Staff

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

GM's all-new Engineering Business Service Center (EBSC) has been open for a month now and already it's a big hit.

Opened and developed to help GM engineers get answers to questions and to identify resources to help develop their projects, EBSC is the new one-stop shop to answer questions on behalf of the automaker's engineers.

Conveniently located on the first floor of the Vehicle Engineering Center (VEC) on the campus of the GM Tech Center in Warren, the Service Center has the look and feel of an airport VIP lounge much more so than a traditional call center.

Tony Kieliszewski, Project manager, Release Process/System Definition and Global MPL SME lead, and the center's manager, commented on the EBSC's forward-looking layout and design.

"The (GM) design studio was given the concept and they ran with it and created the room based on our concepts," Kieliszewski said.

"If you look at the logo, you can see people reaching out and then the networking and that was the whole idea for this center.

"But the bottom line is that it's a support center, service center – primarily for the engineer, but we've helped many other disciplines in here so far, (such as) purchasing."

Open only a month, the EBSC is staffed by veteran

GM engineers and staff who are familiar with products, platforms, parts, and release issues and the like.

The center has already opened 300-plus help desk tickets and GM senior executive Mary Barra stopped by recently to measure and understand what EBSC has to offer to its engineering clientele.

Overall, in an effort to provide engineers more time to develop technical solutions and math, the GM Global Vehicle Engineering organization is the parent entity that opened the EBSC.

Literally designed to be a one-stop shop for employees in need of immediate assistance, GM says the EBSC has the potential for decreasing complexity and increasing productivity improvement opportunities.

"The faster and more efficient our designers and engineers can work, the faster we can get great cars, trucks and crossovers out to our customers," said Jeff Boyer, Global Functional leader of Engineering Operations and Systems Development.

Boyer and Vickie Teetsel, director, Business Operations & Engineering Release, led a tour of the center in operation last week.

"These are our people in here staffing this, no third party, and they're trained in customer satisfaction techniques from our Cadillac brand and these folks are here to help whoever walks in the door with the issues that they bring, it's that simple," Boyer said.

Warren's Rating Solid

WARREN – Mayor Jim Fouts is proud to announce that Standard & Poor's has reaffirmed the city's AA credit rating, the one that rates communities for long-term bonding purposes.

S&P said the city's outlook is "stable" and its financial management practices are "good." The rating impacts strongly on the interest paid on long-term bonds sold by the city. Fouts credits "sound financial planning strategies by administrators, city council members and city employees," he said.

S&P's ratings reflect the company's view of the following in Warren:

- Large employment base that benefits from participation in the greater Detroit economic area;
- Adequate income indicators and strong market value per capita;
- Maintenance of strong reserves despite recent and projected drawdowns;
- Moderate overall debt.

Fouts said he is particularly pleased with the following S&P comment: "In response to the severe declines in property taxes, the city committed to a planned spend-down of reserves and made substantial budget reductions in an effort to align undesignated reserves with the target

level of 10 to 15 percent of operating expenditures."

Fouts also cited the following comment as a positive indicator for the city:

"Standard & Poor's considers Warren's financial management practices good under its Financial Management Assessment methodology."

The mayor was also pleased with S&P's final comment:

"Management's willingness to reduce expenditures to maintain the city's current financial position provides additional ratings stability, in our opinion."

Said Fouts, "We are weathering the financial storm by cutting costs."

ASHBY'S STERLING
ICE CREAM PARLOR

DARE to COMPARE
OUR Premium CUSTARD
Vanilla W/Flavorburst

MENTION THIS AD – GET 75¢ OFF

46540 Van Dyke - Shelby Twp.
3 blocks south of 21 Mile

586-991-0106
www.icecream-parlor.com

MALANA
Barber Shop

Village Plaza
5831 13 Mile Rd.
Warren

586-979-4285

Stage 3 Gets a Chance to Exhibit to 100 in Warren

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

Stage 3 Productions, Inc., a staple in the auto industry as far as car photography goes, got to show off its corporate skill set at last week's D-Day function in Warren.

Stage 3, in concert with Automation Alley, hosted a morning breakfast, hurrah and facility tour, all built around the D-Day theme, what with this event being on June 6 and all.

Andre LaRoche, owner of Stage 3, observed, "Today happens to be D-Day and the reality is that if D-day wasn't successful, we probably wouldn't be here.

"When I was 21, I had the opportunity to go to Omaha Beach . . . you don't want to have been one of the guys . . . it was phenomenal to think they pushed through and saved the world."

Indeed, with Warren being the historic Arsenal of Democracy and further with Stage 3 being located a few doors down Van Dyke from the original Chrysler tank plant (now U.S. Manufacturing), well, it all just seemed to fit in honoring June 6, D-Day and world history alike. Some 100 attended.

Meanwhile, the networking event allowed Stage 3 to show

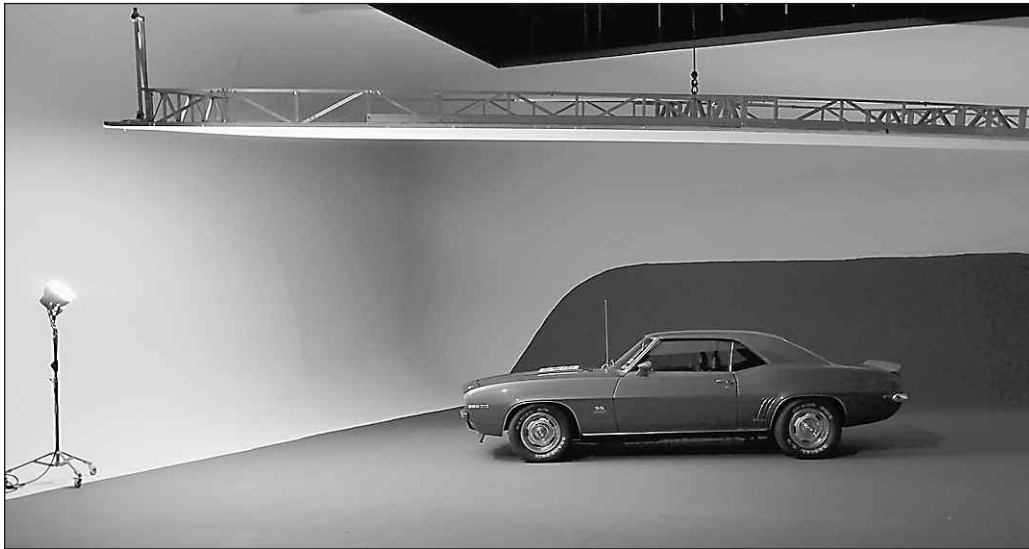


PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

At Stage 3 Productions in Warren, the south studio, above, is used regularly by General Motors for a variety of product shoots, including this new concept car styled in retro fashion.

off its wares, talents and services as an industrial media and production house.

"What we are at Stage 3 is we are storytellers – we'll tell stories about a person's product or service: whether through photography, animation, CGI, video, stills, whatever tools are required," LaRoche said.

"We've been doing it in town for going on 32 years now, from small industry and small company up through Fortune

500 and the Big Three (as customers).

"With that has been a lot of great experiences, too many all-nighters and too many things like that, etc."

LaRoche further observed just how much that technology and media delivery have changed in the 32 years Stage 3 has been in business.

The firm's web site says, "Photography, computer-generated imagery, graphic design, retouching, high dynamic

range and illustration – in a nutshell, that's Stage 3," it reads.

"Our one-of-a-kind studio is an award-winning creative resource for many small, medium and Fortune 500 companies throughout the U.S."

The public tour included a visit to the south studio, where General Motors does a variety of car-photo shoots, as well as a tour of one of the Moonlink Satellite trucks that uses Stage 3 as a home base.

Local Guys Who Hit the Beach at Normandy

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

The Motor City seems to have done better than the rest of the nation in remembering that June 6 was D-Day.

Last week, on Wednesday, June 6, the 68th anniversary of D-Day barely drew a mention from national or regional news outlets.

In the Detroit area, June 6 saw Ford Motor Co. send 75 veterans on a flight to Washington, D.C., to see the National World War II Memorial in person.

And in Warren, Stage 3 Productions, in support of an Automation Alley initiative, hosted a D-Day program to celebrate area veterans who participated in the Normandy Invasion, as well as to display Stage 3's many media and industrial offerings.

As far as June 6 fading from the scene goes, John Lind of the Arsenal of Democracy Museum observed, "It will pick up steam on the 70th anniversary (in 2014). Just like next year is the 150th anniversary of Gettysburg, that will get a lot of attention, too."

Indeed, World War II vehicles loaned to the Stage 3 event by Lind's nonprofit organization helped set the mood for some local military veterans with connections to D-Day to enjoy a well-deserved public spotlight.

Attending the event were two veterans from Clinton



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

World War II veterans Arno Whitbread, 92, left, and Patrick Caruso, 89, both of Clinton Township, each participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy in 1944. They were guests at the D-Day historical function hosted by Stage 3 Productions on Van Dyke in Warren last week on the invasion's 68th anniversary.

Township who were part of D-Day. One was Arno Whitbread, 92, who was a glider-borne trooper that flew in 10 miles past Utah Beach and doubled back to the beach to start the European war.

Whitbread is lucky in a sense because hundreds of other U.S. glider troops were killed or injured in a series of ill-timed crash landings on the night prior to D-Day.

And Pat Caruso, 89, meanwhile, was an Army soldier who landed at Utah Beach on D-Day plus 30 days.

Said Caruso, "I was 26th Infantry, Yankee Division, 3rd Army – George Patton. He was quite a guy."

Presumably, local vets like Caruso and Whitbread were

quite-some-guys, too.

Whitbread landed safely in his glider, fought through Utah Beach to Bastogne, and beyond the Battle of the Bulge he ended up touring Hitler's Lair at Berchtesgaden at the end of the war. So Whitbread is like a one-man storehouse of institutional knowledge about D-Day and World War II. "I was at Bastogne for seven days. The worst part was it was freezing and the snow was up to your knees," Whitbread recalled.

Meanwhile, John Lind and the Arsenal of Democracy Museum have been making progress as far as getting an actual museum facility to display their vehicles.

Lind has been shopping the

14 Mile corridor to please constituents in both Warren and Sterling Heights all because so many veterans populate those cities.

"I'm kind of glad we waited this long because the (real estate) market settled down a bit," Lind said.

"Even when we do have a brick-and-mortar building, these vehicles are still going to go out like the old traveling circuses.

"We had a very generous donation from CSX where they donated a tractor and we're getting a trailer from government liquidation.

"We're going to have a mobile museum so we can take it – a 48-foot trailer – around to schools. We'll have a complete mobile museum right there. Nobody else in the country has got that (a military-themed mobile museum).

"With the economic cutbacks, schools today can't afford the field trips. Now, we'll be able to bring history straight to them.

"There's over 85 members and there have to be over 100 vehicles in the collection. This is a living history.

"Our vehicles are not like old museum (relics). They go out, they run, they come back. If they don't go out and breathe, they die."

With a planned museum site, perhaps all of those disparate World War II-era vehicles will have a place to live, so to speak, forever after.

UP TO \$50.00 OFF
WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT
(WITH INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE)

Michigan's Glass Experts

Henderson
GLASS

RE-OPENS IN WARREN

COME SEE OUR NEW SHOWROOM

CUSTOM SHOWER DOORS & ENCLOSURES

10% OFF*

*MATERIAL ONLY, LABOR EXCLUDED.
Not valid with other offers, some restrictions apply.

FOGGY HOME WINDOWS?
BUY ONE DOUBLE PANE GLASS ... GET ONE -

50% OFF*

*MATERIAL ONLY, LABOR EXCLUDED.
Not valid with other offers, some restrictions apply.

STONE CHIP REPAIR

\$29.95
RETAIL IN SHOP

Not valid with other offers, some restrictions apply.

FREE MOBILE SERVICE AVAILABLE

800-ASK-GLASS
275-4527

22 Convenient Locations
www.HendersonGlass.com