

GM Powertrain Car Show Was A Family Event

by Gerald Scott

"You've got to understand that the parking lot doesn't look like this every day - today is a special event."

Or so said a GM Powertrain employee to his children as they were exiting the Powertrain headquarters building in Pontiac and heading toward the employee car show.

"This is our 11th annual employee show here," said GM Powertrain spokesman Tom Read as employees embraced the annual car show, which this year had a drag racing and car engine theme.

One GM Powertrain employee really enjoying the show was Denise Myers, a cost engineer, who was there with her husband.

Myers was exhibiting her 1998 Corvette Indy pace car while her husband had his 1996 Dodge Viper Indy pace car on display.

Myers said that there was a recent reunion at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for pace cars and that they brought theirs - you could even run the cars on the fabled track, she said.

"You were allowed to get up to 70 mph but you could actually reach 90 mph," she recalled. "Plus, you looked good driving it."

Myers also has a 1989 Trans Am pace car at home. "It belonged to Kathy George from the Indy Speedway George family, we have paperwork that says she owned it for a year," Myers pointed out.

The employee car show gives employees just like Myers the opportunity to show off classic cruisers like hers.

Indeed, Myers is a 34-year veteran GM employee who



GM Powertrain employees enjoy the 11th annual show in Pontiac.



Children of GM Powertrain employees race small kart cars.

began her career at the old Chevrolet Gear & Axle plant in Hamtramck, which later became American Axle. She worked at the Vehicle Engineering Center in Warren at the GM Tech Center for awhile before eventually returning to Pontiac.

Also, it might be pointed out that on her husband's 1996 Dodge Viper, the interior includes an autograph from

retired GM executive Bob Lutz, who, of course, was at Chrysler in the late 1980s when the Viper debuted as a concept vehicle before Viper production in 1992.

Elsewhere at the employee car show, the children of GM employees were having fun at the UAW-GM exhibit driving small slot cars while even younger kids had small gravity cars that they were testing.

Warren Reverses Itself on Halmich

Reversing a prior decision, the Warren police will be opening Halmich Park to vehicular traffic on Wednesday, July 4, according to a recent release from the mayor's office at city hall.

Note that police patrols will

be increased on that day to assure the safety of park users and to enforce the city's recently enacted fireworks ordinance.

According to an earlier city of Warren release, even though the state of Michigan

has made fireworks legal, they are illegal in parks according to city of Warren code sec. 13.26.

Warren code section 13-20 also refers to limitations on use of fireworks in public parks, highways and more.

Sam Cupp Dies Suddenly; Civic Leader, Businessman

By Gerald Scott

The auto industry in general and the Tech Center community in Warren in particular lost a good one last week when it was announced that Sam Cupp had died suddenly on June 21.

Cupp, 64, was CEO of Hamilton Chevrolet, Inc. as well as the founder of the Winning Futures philanthropic organization.

Cupp was the proverbial local fellow who made good - a graduate of the old Warren High School, he went on to work at and eventually lead the Hamilton Chevrolet dealership as well as other business ventures in the greater auto industry.

Kristina Marshall, CEO of Winning Futures, said, "Sam Cupp was the most giving, kind, caring and inspiring man I have ever known."

"Even though his untimely death is a tragedy for our community, Sam's legacy, character and beliefs will live on through his family and Winning Futures. We will all deeply miss our friend and mentor."

Added Laurie Tarter, vice president at Winning Futures, "Sam's greatest gift was his ability to help others discover and reach their potential. Through his guidance, he has inspired countless people, both young and old, to find their path to suc-

cess. There are no words to describe the influence that Sam has personally had on me and the lives of thousands of people. I will never forget the gifts of inspiration that he has given, and continues to give."



Sam Cupp

Several associates pointed out that Cupp's greatest example of his self-starter attitude was when he first went to work at Gene Hamilton Chevrolet through his high school marketing class.

Sure enough, he climbed the ladder and eventually became the owner of that same dealership and he followed it as it went from the Beebe and Mound location in the old days to its current station at 14 Mile and Mound in north Warren.

"I recall Sam telling me once that he had started at

Hamilton Chevrolet working on the wash rack, and that Gene Hamilton, the original owner, walked over to him and said, 'Sam, one day you will own this dealership,' Bill Springer said.

"And that's what came to be. So you can understand why Sam took such an interest in Winning Futures, it was personal to him - he'd come up the hard way. Sam was a good guy, fair and square all the way. I liked him, he was good."

Indeed, eventually, Cupp's organizations grew to more than 25 companies, 2,000 employees and over \$300 million in annual revenues.

Cupp was once recognized by then Vice President George Bush for his business achievements and he twice received then-Gov. John Engler's "Distinguished Community Service Award."

In his spare time, Cupp had become an instrument-rated, multi-engine pilot. He loved flying his airplane, playing ice hockey and spending time with his three grandchildren, daughters Anne and Amy, and his beloved wife, Betty.

Said Joe Owens, "My thoughts are with Sam's family, friends, the entire Winning Futures family, and all who mourn the loss of such an amazing person."

The local community agrees that Sam's was a life well lived - very much so.

USGA and TACOM Join on Senior Golf Tournament

WARREN - When the United States Golf Association (USGA) and Indianwood Golf and Country Club kick off the 33rd U.S. Senior Open Championship the week of July 9 - 15 in Lake Orion, the two organizations will do so with a respectful nod to a key industry that many don't associate with Michigan - the military.

"The USGA is pleased to honor our nation's military at the U.S. Senior Open," said Tim Flaherty, the USGA's senior director of the U.S. Senior Open Championship.

"The U.S. Army's Detroit Arsenal has more than 8,500 associates, and we are proud to assist in a program that provides quality of life for soldiers, their families and civilian employees. We appreciate the efforts of those soldiers, whether on active duty or retired, as well as those working behind the scenes as civilians in military work."

Together, the USGA and In-

dianwood have coordinated efforts with the U.S. Army TACOM LCMC to show appreciation for those Soldiers currently serving, retired Soldiers and those behind the scenes. These efforts include:

"Military Wednesday" - All military service personnel - both active and retired - are invited to experience the 2012 U.S. Senior Open on Wednesday, July 11. By showing Military identification at the gate, guests will receive one free grounds ticket for Wednesday's practice rounds. As always, children 17 and under are admitted for free and parking for all spectators is free.

"Military Hole" - For the first time at a USGA event, the 448-yard 16th hole at Indianwood will be designated the "Military Hole" on July 11. At the hole, the everyday pin flag will be replaced by an American flag. When golfers reach the putting surface, a caddy

will deliver the flag to a local Soldier who will hold the flag at attention - "tend the pin" - and keep the flag safely off the ground. Caddies will replace the flag as groups move to the 17th tee.

"Ticket Special" - All associates working at the U.S. Army Garrison - Detroit Arsenal are receiving an email from the Army's Family & Morale, Welfare & Recreation (FMWR) offering them a code to receive a special price on tickets good any day of the tournament.

The Detroit Arsenal employs about 8,500 in Warren, Mich., a mere 30 miles south of the course. Army business units there include the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), Program Executive Office Ground Combat Systems, Program Executive Office Combat Support and

Combat Service Support, among others.

"I am equally happy and proud that our folks at Indianwood and the USGA are able to provide this kind of recognition and have Army participation at the U.S. Senior Open Championship," remarked Keith Aldridge, general manager of Indianwood Golf and Country Club and U.S. Senior Open Championship chairman. "This is the type of community involvement and spirit unique to the sport of golf and one that really hits home here in Michigan."

All-time greats such as Fred Couples, Tom Watson, Hale Irwin and Nick Price will be vying for the U.S. Senior Open on a timeless, Wilfrid Reid-designed Golden Age course that opened in 1925. Reid also designed The Olympic Club in San Francisco, site of the recently completed U.S. Open.

"The people at the USGA and Indianwood Golf and



Fred Couples will golf in the tournament TACOM is sponsoring.

Country Club are doing great things for this area," said Major General Michael J. Terry, commanding general of the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. "I appreciate the recognition they are giv-

ing our Soldiers, and I am proud that we at the Detroit Arsenal are able to

State Renews GM Warren Plant's Environmental Quality Standard

WARREN - GM's Warren Transmission plant recently received recognition for its continued environmental stewardship.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) recently recognized ongoing environmental management and pollution prevention efforts at Warren Transmission by renewing the plant's Clean Corporate Citizen (C3) designation.

The plant continues to exemplify corporate responsibility through its ongoing commitment to maintain, protect and enhance Michigan's environmental resources. Demonstrated accomplishments included: the develop-

ment and implementation of a self-certified environmental management system, the practice of pollution prevention, and a strong environmental compliance record.

The plant was originally designated a C3 plant in 2000 and has integrated environmental and energy improvements into daily operations, resulting in positive environmental impact and significant cost savings over the last decade.

Additionally, the plant was also awarded a Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership (MBP3) renewal certificate. This renewal represents ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship.

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