Tech Center News

COVERS THE GREATER TECH CENTER AREA OF MACOMB COUNTY

AUGUST 6, 2012

Kaiser Darrin Sports Car Built in '52-Before 'Vette

By Jennifer Knightstep

the GM Tech Center Employee Car Show, there would be hundreds of GM employees, past and present, proudly displaying their vintage rides, and this year, that was certainly the case.

But tucked among the iconic 1957 Bel Airs and the muscley 1968 Firebirds and the many generations of Corvettes, there were also some non-GM vehicles, like Terry Trasatti's eyecatching 1954 Kaiser Darrin.

Trasatti's champagne-colored sports car drew many admirers, many of whom had never seen one before. Trasatti, a retired GM engineer, is used to the attention, and seemed to love answering questions from curious show-goers.

He spent five years meticulously restoring the Kaiser Darrin, which he inherited from his late father

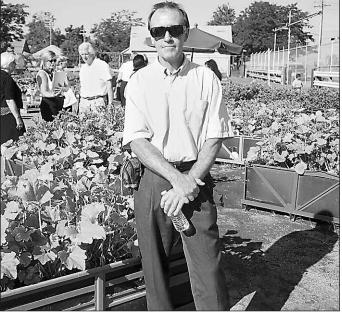
"I took it apart, right down to every nut and bolt," said One would expect that, at Trasatti, flipping through a photo album that documented the restoration project.

> It was clearly a labor of love, earning him accolades and trophies, and a spot in the September 2012 issue of Automobile Magazine.

"Notice the color," Trasatti said, explaining that it took several attempts to get the rich champagne hue just right several attempts from three different paint suppliers – but don't ask, he won't share the formula. The color, popular on sports cars at the time, goes with the car's curvy lines.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the Kaiser Darrin is the sliding doors, which open and close on a track much like sliding elevator doors.

Also quite striking is the chrome grill, undersized compared with other Dagmar-appointed grills of its era.



John Bradburn, GM's manager of waste reduction efforts.

"Dutch" Darrin, was inspired by the human heart, said Trasatti, and upon close inspection, the tiny grill does resemble a heart.

if anyone wants a look at it before then, they might be lucky enough to catch him driving it

His car will be easy to spot, being so unique, and so will he, the driver with the delighted grin on his face.

Scout Troop's Car Show Part Of 'Birthday'

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Warren's annual August city "Birthday Bash" festival will have a new twist this year.

That's because local Boy Scout Troop 390 will be hosting a car show at the Warren City Square on Sunday, Aug. 26 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The event is sponsored by Showcase Collision & Auto Care Center and is part of the big Warren birthday bash.

Classic and muscle cars are welcome. Events on show day include Chase's Racing Pigs, and carnival with food and fun, a Kid Zone, a petting zoo with camel rides, bird trailer and exotic animal exhibit. a 50/50 raffle and music from the stage all day long.

Trophies and dash plaques will be given out and there will be prizes for all 1957 model year vehicles - that's the same year that Warren grew from a township to a city, of course.

Bradburn Coordinates GM Efforts Toward Gardens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

This vision came true with fast action on the part of our collaborative partners. In four short months, we are well on our way to linking sustainability with producing growth."

Invitations for southwest Detroit families and residents to participate in the urban gardening project are facilitated through community partners like Detroit Cristo Rey High School, Detroit Hispanic Development Corp., Southwest Detroit Business Association, and Community Health and Social Services Center.

The former GM parking lot borders a residential neighborhood and the Ideal Group.

"Instead of doing the gener-

GM's Bradburn, for one, was pleased with the turn of events that resulted in these retired Orion parts containers being re-purposed for an urban garden.

"They were carrying parts such as coolant containers, polyethylene white the coolant containers, windshield-washer solvent, those sort of things," Bradburn said.

"As they arrive at the plant, we said, there's got a better way to re-use these as opposed to recycling them."

These particular parts containers are described by GM as one-way units, which means they would otherwise have to be completely recvcled – melted down for the

a blood drive.' It's good for

college (through a scholar-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

ship connection).

raw materials and start over again. This way, at least 250 of stood here for 66 years before the parts containers have it was effectively recycled inbeen permanently re-pur- to an industrial district that is posed on behalf of the new now part of the federal Em-Cadillac Urban Gardens agricultural project.

Mich. Novelist Coming to Library

Warner will be visiting the Warren Public Library's Civic Center Library on Wednesday, Aug. 8, at 7 p.m. to discuss his novels, "Dead Lock" and "Freeze Frame 2016.'

Set in the WWII era, Dead Lock tells the story of *Detroit Times* reporter Kate Brennan.

Forced to leave town by the mob, she travels to Sault Ste. Marie where she works for her uncle's newspaper. Investigating the murder of a close friend, she runs headlong into a Nazi plot to destroy the Soo Locks and change the course of the war.

"Freeze Frame 2016," Detroit encouraged.

powerment Zone in southwest Detroit.

The Clark Street plant

Michigan author B. David advertising executive Darcy James discovers the secret of Benjamin Aguirre, a third-party candidate who's about to

> United States. The novel is packed with action reminiscent of today's world of politics, drug cartels and international terrorists.

> be elected President of the

The chance to listen to and meet B. David Warner will take place in the conference room at the Civic Center Library.

Books will be available to be purchased and signed at this event. To register, call 586-574-4564. The event is free and open to the public, Meanwhile, in the novel, although pre-registration is



Sterling Heights Stevenson High Grad Organizes Local Blood Drive On her 18th birthday, Mon- a full row of donors at mid-af- 'You know, I want to try doing

By Gerald Scott

Who says today's kids are all self-centered and out of touch?

Certainly not Julia Monette, a recent graduate of Sterling Stevenson High Heights School and a member of the St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church parish in Warren.

ASHBY'S STERLING

ette organized a much-needed ternoon and organizer Monblood drive to benefit Ameriette was pleased. can Red Cross, which is experiencing severe shortages of ic thing, going to see family or whole blood across the state going out to eat, I was like, and across the nation.

Held at the parish's community center, just west of the big church on Hoover Road in Warren, the 1-7 p.m. drive had

ΔΙΔΝ

GM retiree Terry Trasatti and his 1954 Kaiser Darrin. (it was released in 1952, be-Yes, answered Trasatti, and The designer, Howard fore the Corvette made its debut) and for being the first fiberglass production car. Whatever the historical dearound town. Though some may argue, tails, Trasatti's Kaiser Darrin is beautiful, a styling wonder. Trasatti says the Kaiser Dar-Does he plan to display it at rin is also notable for being next year's event? the first American sports car

