

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

By Jennifer Knightstep

One would expect that, at 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 muscle-y 1968 Firebirds and the many generations of Corvettes, there were also some non-GM vehicles, like Terry Trasatti's eye-catching 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 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.



GM retiree Terry Trasatti and his 1954 Kaiser Darrin.

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

Though some may argue, Trasatti says the Kaiser Darrin is also notable for being the first American sports car

(it was released in 1952, before the Corvette made its debut) and for being the first fiberglass production car.

Whatever the historical details, Trasatti's Kaiser Darrin is beautiful, a styling wonder.

Does he plan to display it at next year's event?

Yes, answered Trasatti, and if anyone wants a look at it before then, they might be lucky enough to catch him driving it around town.

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'

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.



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

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.

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, the polyethylene white 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 recycled – melted down for the

raw materials and start over again. This way, at least 250 of the parts containers have been permanently re-purposed on behalf of the new Cadillac Urban Gardens agricultural project.

The Clark Street plant stood here for 66 years before it was effectively recycled into an industrial district that is now part of the federal Empowerment Zone in southwest Detroit.

Mich. Novelist Coming to Library

Michigan author B. David 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.

Meanwhile, in the novel, "Freeze Frame 2016," Detroit

advertising executive Darcy James discovers the secret of Benjamin Aguirre, a third-party candidate who's about to be elected President of the United States.

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

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, although pre-registration is encouraged.

Sterling Heights Stevenson High Grad Organizes Local Blood Drive

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 Heights Stevenson High School and a member of the St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church parish in Warren.

On her 18th birthday, Monette organized a much-needed blood drive to benefit American Red Cross, which is experiencing severe shortages of whole blood across the state 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

a full row of donors at mid-afternoon and organizer Monette was pleased.

"Instead of doing the generic thing, going to see family or going out to eat, I was like,

'You know, I want to try doing a blood drive.' It's good for college (through a scholarship connection).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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
OFFER ENDS JULY 31, 2012

MALANA
Barber Shop
Village Plaza
5831 13 Mile Rd.
Warren
586-979-4285

The Changing Weather... Means Changing Footwear

• Waterproof & Insulated
• Work & Sport
• Professional Fitting
• Wide Widths In Stock

RED WING SHOES®

M-F 10-8; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 12-4

SHELBY TWP.
13989 Hall Rd.
(NE. corner of Schoenherr)
586-566-9600

RED WING SHOE STORE

STERLING HEIGHTS
33289 Mound Rd.
(N. of 14 Mile Rd.)
586-264-4500

INDEPENDENCE AUTO REPAIR
American Owned & Operated
We do all factory scheduled maintenance!
Certified ASE Technicians

Full Service
★ We Have Tires ★
FREE Shuttle Service within a 10 mile radius
FREE Courtesy Check on any vehicle
FREE Coffee to everyone

OPEN:
Mon-Fri 7:30 am-6pm
Sat. 8am-3pm

2 Locations:
28775 Van Dyke • Warren
12 & Van Dyke
586-751-4440

15075 32 Mile Rd. • Romeo
Corner of 32 Mile & Powell Rd.
586-336-4440

Trans. Flush
w/ cleaner & additive.
Includes 17 qts. transmission fluid.
OR Coolant Flush
w/ cleaner & additive.
Inclu. 3 gal. of Coolant
\$99.99
In-store offer good through 8-31-12

Full Service Oil, Lube & Filter Change
\$17.99
w/ Tire Rotation
\$26.99
In-store offer good through 8-31-12

Front End Alignment
\$39.99
4-Wheel Alignment
\$79.99
Camber & Caster Adj. Additional
In-store offer good through 8-31-12

Ceramic Brake Special
\$99.99
Includes pad installation
In-store offer good through 8-31-12

10% OFF Parts
to All GM Employees w/ Badge
In-store offer good through 8-31-12

ASK YOUR SERVER ABOUT THE BEER OF THE MONTH!

Line Light
SPORTS BAR & GRILLE
Karaoke & DJ

Good Food, Good People
DINING • COCKTAILS • 32 TVs
The Best Burger & the Coldest Beer in Town!
PIZZA OR WINGS SPECIAL
Buy 1 Get 2nd One 1/2 Off *During Game Dine-in Only*

Try Our Every Day Hot Lunch Specials under \$4.95

We've got you covered on all Tiger Games

BUCKET OF BEERS & \$2.50 Boombas
6 FOR \$12.00 till 7pm

10% OFF to All GM Employees

30200 Van Dyke • Warren
586-751-7883

Michigan's Glass Experts

Henderson GLASS
RE-OPENS IN WARREN

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

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

14 Mile Rd
★ 32680 Van Dyke
S. of 14 Mile Rd.
Van Dyke

t f