

## Matchmaker Day Brings Suppliers Together



by Gerald Scott

Chrysler held its famous supplier Matchmaker event over three days last week at the Chrysler Technical Center (CTC) and the event has never been larger or more influential, according to participants.

Dozens of vendors representing hundreds of people gathered to generate new activity and fresh business contacts for Tier I and II level suppliers to the Auburn Hills automaker.

Kevin Bell, senior manager, Supplier Diversity, Chrysler Group, LLC, organizes the event and he was pleased with what he saw.

"Even back in 2009, there were 1,200 people," Bell said. "This year we're expecting about 2,600, so we've more than doubled it. We keep expanding it - as long as we get positive results, positive traffic flowing in and we're not congesting the building, who knows, next year we might take over another node (in the building)."

"We've been extremely pleased with the feedback that we get," Bell added. "The other thing we don't advertise widely is that we've made this a three-day event. Monday we had about 25 suppliers at the Financial Forum."

"So we brought three banks in - PNC, Citizens and Huntington. We brought in three local private equity firms and had them talk about financing and what financ-

Chrysler Senior VP Scott Kunselman, fourth from left, hosted the annual supplier Matchmaker event at CTC in Auburn Hills.

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## Auburn Hills Farmers Market Open Three More Thursdays

AUBURN HILLS - the weekly Farmers Market held Thursday during warm weather is winding down to its conclusion in October.

"The season is winding down," said Leigh Wilson, market master for the City of Auburn Hills and organizer of the weekly gathering at 3320 Auburn Road downtown.

"Our last day is Oct. 11," she observed, "I looked around and other markets are closing by Nov. 1, so we're right in there for the length of time we offer the Farmers Market."

"Overall, it's been a very successful season."

What started back on June 7 will conclude on Thursday, Oct. 11 and Wilson likes the growth and development of the function.

Wilson estimates that the weekly markets drew upwards of 200 visitors each, with their attention and spending spread among 10 to 12 vendors at a time.

Besides the farmers with their fruits, vegetables and other fresh foods, there were a number of regular participating vendors offering their goods this year.

The regulars include Avondale Schools (arts, crafts and lawn decorations); Sandy Bottoms Outside (fudge, granola and traditional foods); Farmington Soap Works



Leigh Wilson, left, "Market Master" of the Auburn Hills Farmers' Market

(specialty soaps); and Dangles Focal Art (unique jewelry).

Wilson's own favorite? "Jar-head Salsa, it's a great salsa."

Wilson, with a degree in Natural Resource Communications from Michigan State University, is new to the position of overseeing

the Farmers' Market in downtown Auburn Hills.

"I'm thrilled," she said. "It's really an exciting opportunity."

## 'Talent Townhall' Still Has Room

AUBURN HILLS - Leaders from three sectors share insights on how to harness the power of talent to create a high-performance organization at the Auburn Hills Chamber's next Talent Townhall Luncheon.

Speakers from Plante Moran, the city of Auburn Hills and Bayer Science Materials will educate the business community on Thursday, Sept. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Crown Plaza in Auburn Hills.

Pre-registration is required at auburnhillschamber.org. Talent Townhall is open to members and non-members alike. Corporate tables are available and include signage and recognition.

The event is sponsored by Oakland University, Corp!, Baker College, Snelling Staffing Services and Oakland Community College.

Talent Townhall subject experts include Jeff Antaya, chief marketing officer of Plante Moran and Pete Auger, City Manager of Auburn Hills, among several other scheduled speakers.

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