

Detroit Auto Scene

31201 Chicago Road South
Warren, Michigan 48093
586-939-6800

Reader Input or feedback:
News@DetroitAutoScene.com
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William Springer II, publisher
and interim news editor;
Lisa A. Torretta, operations

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Jeep Brings Back Cherokee, Offers 9-Speed Tranny

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highway fuel economy ratings up to 31 mpg and a driving range on a tank of gasoline of nearly 500 miles.

The Cherokee features Chrysler Group's 948TE nine-speed automatic transmission, the first time a nine-speed automatic transmission has been used in the segment and is standard equipment in all models of the new Cherokee.

The nine-speed transmission delivers aggressive launches, smooth power delivery at highway speeds and improved fuel efficiency versus a six-speed automatic transmission.

The available new 3.2-liter Pentastar V6 engine is the first derivative of the .6-liter Pentastar V6, named one of Ward's 10 Best Engines three years running.

The available new 3.2-liter Pentastar V6 engine benefits from the same innovations that earned its larger displacement predecessor industry-wide acclaim for efficiency, power and refinement.

An available 8.4-inch touchscreen multimedia command center or the standard 5-inch touchscreen multimedia command center are located in the center stack.

The 2014 Cherokee equipped with the Uconnect system allows the driver to control the audio, climate, heated/ventilated seats and much more from the touchscreen, redundant controls located on the center stack below the touchscreen or with voice commands.

GM Volunteers Fight Blight, Build Homes

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gram. "Each year, the program gets stronger, which signifies the ever-growing commitment from our teams."

In 2012, the 3,652 teamGM Cares volunteers who chose to track their volunteerism recorded 37,790 hours of service. Through the company's "Dollars for Doers" program, the GM Foundation provides a \$200 grant per year to eligible non-profits each time an employee contributes 50 hours of service to the organization, Mainville said.

To learn more about the teamGM Cares volunteers, visit www.teamgmcared.com.

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Chrysler Matchmaker Event Strengthens Minority Base

by Jim Stickford

While it's not exactly romantic, Chrysler has spent the last 13 years bringing people together.

In this case, the people are representatives of the various suppliers who do business with Chrysler.

Kevin Bell, senior manager – Chrysler's Global Sourcing and head of Diversity Supplier Development and Training, talked about the automaker's 14th annual Matchmaker event held Sept. 12 at Chrysler headquarters.

"We hope to achieve a couple of things at this Matchmaker event," Bell said. "We like to consider ourselves leaders with our supplier base and Matchmaker gives minorities, women and veterans the chance to meet up with Chrysler folks."

And, Bell said, it gives suppliers a chance to meet with other suppliers. Tier I companies, he said, need to get their materials from somewhere – why not a minority or female-owned firm?

"As the auto industry becomes increasingly global, the OEMs tend to use the bigger global suppliers," Bell said. "So an event like Matchmaker provides minority firms the chance to meet with the larger global suppliers."

And, Bell said, they like to educate their suppliers on issues that affect them.

"The last couple of Matchmaker events before this one dealt with the question of funding," Bell said. "When the auto industry hit the skids a few years ago, credit really tightened up. So we invited banks, hedge funds and

other institutions that provide funding to come and talk to our suppliers about how they could get credit."

That also had the advantage of introducing financial institutions to potential new clients, Bell said. At this year's Matchmaker, they talked about the Affordable Care Act because it affects so many small businesses.

"We started a program we call Higher Focus three years ago," Bell said. "As we were coming out of the depths of the recession, we found that we were buying a lot less from minority firms. There were a couple of reasons for that."

"A lot of suppliers went out of business. Some of them were minority and women-owned. And as I said earlier, the industry became more global, smaller companies suffered."

So Chrysler developed Higher Focus. The company meets with its 130 largest suppliers and works with them to set a goal so that 10 percent of a Tier I supplier's purchases are sourced from certified minority suppliers.

Chrysler itself spent \$2 billion with approximately 200 minority suppliers in 2012, representing 7.7 percent of the company's total annual purchasing. Since 1983, the company has purchased nearly \$50 billion from minority-owned suppliers.

"Programs like Matchmaker help Chrysler Group to build and strengthen a diverse and inclusive minority supply base," Bell said. "This enables Chrysler Group to operate efficiently and sustainably, and to bring innovative new products to market that

resonate with a diverse customer base."

And this program has a ripple effect, Bell said. Few Tier I suppliers just sell to Chrysler. That means that a minority firm is now supplying to Ford, GM, Toyota, Nissan and other OEMs via their business with a Tier I manufacturer.

Both the Matchmaker and High Focus programs are part of a larger effort that Chrysler has been making for the past 30 years to help promote minority businesses, Bell said.

John Favorite, the Commercial Sales manager for the Diez Group out of Dearborn, said that he was at the Matchmaker event because it allowed him to speak with a number of different people who purchase metal or might need his company's services.

Favorite said the Diez Group got its start in 1973 when founder Gerald Diez, a steel broker,

bought a slitter – a metal cutting machine – used, among other things, in making auto parts.

That first purchase became the foundation of a company that employs 400 people and has facilities in Dearborn, Grand Haven and Tonawanda, N.Y. Sales last year were more than \$600 million.

By coming to events like Matchmaker, The Diez Group is able to talk with a number of different people who purchase what his company makes, Favorite said.

"If nothing else, it gives us the chance to say hello to people and communicate with people in the business," Favorite said. "I expect to reach out and talk with people who may not exactly know what we do, but could use our services."

Favorite said attendance at this year's Matchmaker event reached more than 3,000.



John Favorite of The Diez Group at Chrysler's Matchmaker event.

GM Tech Center's JDRF Walk Expected to Raise Nearly \$1M

by Jim Stickford

Walkers are expected to raise \$1.8 million in two upcoming events in Southeast Michigan.

Both walks – one at the GM Tech Center in Warren and one in the Hudson Mills Metropark near Ann Arbor – are scheduled for Sept. 29 and will raise funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes at the Tech Center will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Michael Craig, development manager for JDRF Metro Detroit, Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio Chapter, said the organization has held a walk at the Tech Center for the past 31 years.

"GM has been great to us," Craig said. "Not only by provid-

ing a venue in the form of the Tech Center but through financial support. They have been just tremendous. In past years, they've had more than 200 people (from GM) participate in the walk. They've been great about recruiting people to work at the event, getting employees to donate. Their efforts to promote the walk and to help us in the fundraising is greatly appreciated."

Craig estimates more than 7,500 Southeast Michigan walkers will participate this year to help fund research for prevention, treatment and/or a cure for type 1 diabetes and its complications.

"Each day, people with type 1 diabetes must overcome the constant challenges of the disease, monitoring blood sugar levels

and taking the proper dosages of insulin," said Kate Durak, executive director for the JDRF Metro Detroit, Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio Chapter.

"Just as they must be committed to their health, we are devoted to funding the research that could offer them better treatments or develop a cure. The Walk to Cure Diabetes is an important way we support one another emotionally and financially."

Craig said the Warren walk alone is expected to raise about \$955,000. Based on last year's figures, organizers expect about 6,000 people to participate in the Warren walk.

Walkers can register at walk.jdrf.org. There is no registration fee to participate, but participants are encouraged to

raise pledges to support research vital to finding a cure for T1D.

Walkers raising \$100 or more will receive a JDRF Walk T-shirt the day of the event. Walkers raising \$200 or more are eligible for prizes ranging from JDRF-branded merchandise to electronics, toys and housewares.

For this year's walks, Terry Conley, partner at Grant Thornton LLP, serves as the Southeast Michigan Chair.

Club GM is also lending a hand with the event by selling raffle tickets for \$5 apiece, with a grand prize of \$1,000. The winner will be selected at the Tech Center around 11 a.m. on Sept. 29. It's not necessary to be present at the drawing to win.

Tickets will be sold at the club's VEC store until Sept. 20.



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