

### Tech Center News

31201 Chicago Road South  
Warren, Michigan 48093

586-939-6800

Contact us:  
Info@TechCenterNews.com

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William Springer II, publisher  
Lisa A. Torretta, operations  
Jim Stickford, news

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## Concert-Goers will Hear 'Sleigh Ride,' Other Favorites

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favorites and traditional audience sing-along tunes.

"Jenkins' 'Gloria' will be the highlight of this performance, spreading holiday musical joy. 'Gloria' is an ancient hymn of praise announcing the birth of Jesus.

"Using Latin, with nods to other religions and cultures, Jenkins' hymn will be sung by the Cantata Academy Chorale, of Royal Oak, returning as a special guest of the WSO."

The vocal group has been entertaining Metro Detroit audiences for 53 years.

The program also will include holiday standards and an opportunity to sing along, including "Sleigh Ride."

According to the American Society of Composers, "Sleigh Ride" has for more than 60 years been among the most popular pieces of Christmas music performed worldwide, Cunningham said.

Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for students. Youths 12 and under get in free.

For tickets or further information, contact the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts box office at 586-286-2222 or visit www.macombcenter.com.

The Warren Symphony Orchestra is in its 41st season serving the tri-county area, said Cunningham, who is in his fourth season as the WSO conductor.

The group, which is made up of up to 65 professional musicians, performs a broad spectrum of music from traditional classical pieces to works that blur the line between classical and contemporary.

In addition to performing its regular concert schedule, the WSO also operates educational programs that bring thousands of elementary school students to an orchestra concert, many for the first time.

# GM Converting Gas Into Electricity, Reducing Tons of CO2

by Jim Stickford

GM is doing well by doing good.

The automaker is helping reduce energy costs and trash production by using landfill gas to produce electricity for two plants – one in Ft. Wayne, Ind., and one in Lake Orion.

Rob Threlkeld, global manager of Renewable Energy for GM, said that the plant in Indiana and the Orion Assembly Plant were chosen for the landfill gas projects for a couple of reasons unique to the two sites.

"There are landfills that produce gas from waste that are owned by private companies near this Orion facility and our plant in Ft. Wayne," Threlkeld said. "They were producing steam to power heating and cooling as well as for the paint departments.

"But thanks to our energy conservation efforts, we have managed to reduce the demand for steam, so it made sense to use some of that excess capacity to generate electricity."

To convert the gas into electricity, GM has purchased \$24 million in electrical generation equipment. The new equipment will generate more than 14 megawatts of electricity from landfill gas, which will help GM avoid producing more than 89,000 metric tons of CO2 every year.

That, Threlkeld said, is the equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions of 18,542 passenger vehicles. GM will also save a combined \$10 million in energy costs each year at the facilities.

"We have made a public commitment to increase our use of renewable energy within GM to 125 megawatts by 2020," Threlkeld said. "This expansion represents more than 10 percent of that goal."

He said that when the project is completed in May, a full 54 percent of Orion's energy will come from renewable landfill gas.

"With this project in place, we

are converting landfill gas into our own electricity, which, in essence, allows us to act as our own utility," said Bill Mortimer, GM co-generation project manager.

"Not only does this help us save on energy costs, but it limits the amount of greenhouse gas released into the atmosphere."

Christine Sitek, GM's North American Manufacturing manager, said the landfill gas projects are just a few of the things the company is doing to be greener and to save money.

For example, Sitek said, the company now has 85 manufacturing facilities that are landfill-free out of a total 156 global manufacturing facilities that report through GM's Environmental System. Overall, GM has 109 landfill-free facilities.

The most recent one was just announced on Dec. 2 at the GMCH Rochester site in New York State.

In addition to announcing the new landfill gas plan on Dec. 4, the GM Foundation also donated \$50,000 to be divided among five charities that operate in and around Lake Orion.

Lori Wingerter, vice president of the GM Foundation, said the people who work at the Orion Assembly Plant are a part of the larger community and are generous with their time and money in supporting worthy local causes.

Through the GM Foundation's Plant City, donations were given to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan. The

money will help provide quality youth development programs and services to local children, Wingerter said.

Money was also presented to the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency to help with its mission of empowering people to gain the knowledge, skill and resources to improve their lives, Wingerter said.

The CARE House of Oakland County also received a grant, Wingerter said, as did the Lake Orion Veterans Memorial and the Clinton River Watershed Council, which has a program that allows

students to have an outdoor classroom experience while testing water quality along the Clinton River.

"This year, the GM Foundation is providing \$1.6 million to nearly 200 organizations in 45 plant cities where GM employees live and work," Wingerter said.

"Through the Plant City Grants initiative, we're helping our neighbors in Lake Orion and Pontiac, as well as those in communities across the country, continue to receive critical services from vital nonprofit organizations."

## Hallelujah! Chorus Sings

Christmas is a busy time of year for the GM Chorus. The group will be holding a series of concerts featuring Christmas music for the next couple of weeks.

On Friday, Dec. 13, the Chorus will be performing at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, in Grosse Pointe Farms. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m.

This will be followed by a show on Sunday, Dec. 15, at American Lutheran Church, 38795 Mulberry Street, in Clinton Township. The music starts at 3 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 20, the chorus performs at Holy Innocents Catholic Church, 26100 Ridgemont, in Roseville, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Among the Chorus' repertoire

for the 2013 Christmas season are "Caroling, Caroling," "And the Glory of the Lord," "Baby, What You Goin' Be," Bach's "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light," "Home for the Holidays," "Silent Night," "The Three Kings," "Somewhere in My Memory," "Let it Snow" and the "Hallelujah Chorus."

The General Motors Chorus has been performing and entertaining audiences in the Detroit area for more than 80 years. It was organized in 1933. Since 1978, the Chorus has been self-supporting and independent of General Motors, but many chorus members are still associated with General Motors.

The rest of the membership is composed of singers from many communities in the Detroit area.

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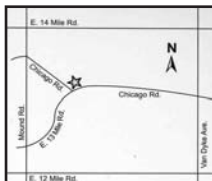
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