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THIS WEEK™ - FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT

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ESD Hosts Rare Tour of Chrysler's Scientific Labs

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

The Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD) will be hosting a rare tour of five test labs at the Chrysler Technical Center in Auburn Hills on March 19.

There are only 18 spaces available, so register soon by contacting (248) 353-0735. The cost is \$25 for ESD members and \$54 for non-members, but you can join ESD for a reduced rate and attend the tour for free.

On view on the tour will be the following Chrysler Technical Center labs and locations:

- Road Test Simulator – The Road Test Simulation Group has nine Road Simulation development cells to perform

durability development for full and half vehicles. Testing here generally covers vehicle body, chassis and suspension structures.

- Climatic Cells – Chrysler's Climatic Test Facilities are used to simulate and control environmental conditions. The climatic cells are capable of simulating the most frigid conditions in mid-winter to the extreme heat of the Gulf Coast countries. Development in climatic chambers allows the customer to design and develop their product to survive the harsh environments.

- Electromagnetic Capability Lab – An important element in the design and development of today's complex

vehicles is to assure the compatibility of the electrical system and its numerous subsystems with itself and the environment in which it is used.

To assure electrical system compatibility, researchers must understand and control Radio Frequency (RF) emission and immunity characteristics of all components and systems in the vehicle.

Furthermore, inductive components, such as motors and solenoids, must be evaluated to determine their potential to generate transient voltages within the vehicle's electrical system.

- Noise, Vibration & Harshness Facilities – The NVH test facility provides technical data solutions that address vehi-

cle or component NVH problems. Data is acquired in these state of the art facilities using cutting edge instrumentation and software performed by skilled professionals that have hundreds of years combined experience.

- Aero-Acoustic Wind Tunnel – the tour offers a rare peek inside of Chrysler's main on-site wind tunnel, one with a 300 ft./2 nozzle exit area. Wind speed is up to 140 mph with a unique two-stage system to provide low boundary layer turntable thickness.

Chrysler Headquarters and Technology Center in Auburn Hills is a 5.3 million square foot facility. Chrysler moved from Highland Park to Auburn Hills in the early 1990s.

Miller Visits Ford Romeo

U.S. Rep Candice Miller will meet with Romeo student FIRST Robotics team 1718, the Fighting Pi, on March 12 at 4 p.m. at the Ford Romeo Engine Plant.

The Congresswoman will witness a live ground robotics demo by the student team.

The Fighting Pi is a group of 30 high school members and is part of the national FIRST

Robotics organization.

The Romeo Ford Engine Plant sponsors the Fighting Pi and provides them with dedicated workspace for accomplishing all of their planning, design work and construction of their ground robots.

Romeo produces 4.6L 4-valve V-8 engines, 5.4L 4-valve supercharged engines, and other Ford auto engines.

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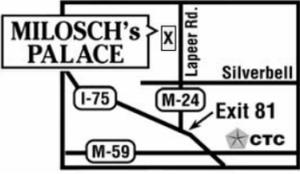
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Meadow Brook Elevated to 'Landmark'

ROCHESTER HILLS – Meadow Brook Hall joined an elite group of constituents, architecturally speaking last week.

Indeed, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar last week announced the designation of 13 new National Historic Landmarks in nine different states – including Meadow Brook, of course.

The overall list of 13 includes a site associated with the famed Apache scouts, the largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright buildings in the world and an early 18th century parish church.

"Each of these landmarks teaches us about the history of our land, our people and our nation – from pictographs dating back two millennia to a World War II warship," Secretary Salazar said in making the announcement.

"By designating these sites as National Historic Landmarks, we are ensuring that future generations will know these important chapters in our nation's story and expand opportunities for tourism that generates economic returns for our local communities."

National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States, the Dept. of the Interior says.

The program, established in 1935, is administered by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.

Meanwhile, according to the facility's Web site, Mead-



The Dept. of the Interior designated Meadow Brook Hall as one of 13 new National Historic Landmarks in nine different states.

ow Brook Hall is the historic home of one the automotive aristocracy's most remarkable women, Matilda Dodge Wilson, her second husband Alfred Wilson, a lumber broker and their four children, Frances and Danny Dodge, and Richard and Barbara Wilson.

It exists as an indirect product of the achievements and good fortune of her first husband, automotive pioneer John F. Dodge, co-founder of Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company who quickly prospered in the burgeoning auto industry before his tragic death in 1920, leaving Matilda one of the world's wealthiest women.

Both of the pioneering Dodge brothers reportedly died from effects of the 1918-20-era influenza outbreak that circled the globe and their fledgling auto wealth wound up with their surviving spouses and family members.

This fortune not only built one of America's finest residences and country estates, it also supported numerous Detroit charities and organizations, and made possible the founding of Oakland University.

Meadow Brook Hall was built during the country place era, a time when wealthy American industrialists pursued rural life in settings of great beauty.

It represents one of the finest examples of Tudor-revival architecture in America and is especially renowned

for its superb craftsmanship, architectural detailing and grand scale of 88,000 square feet. Inspired by the country manor homes in England, it was designed and built by the Detroit architectural firm of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls between 1926 and 1929, at a cost of nearly \$4 million.

Carefully preserved with original family furnishings and art, the 110-room mansion is elaborately detailed with carved wood and stone, ornate plaster ceilings, Tiffany stained glass, custom made hardware, and filled with fine and decorative art. Although the interiors reflect various historic styles, the house is equipped with every "modern" amenity appropriate to the active lifestyle of the Wilsons and their children.

Meadow Brook Hall was built on the 320-acre farm estate John and Matilda Dodge had purchased years earlier as weekend country retreat. The Wilsons' expanded the estate to include 1,500 acres and several residences.

For the Dodge and Wilson families, the farm estate provided a splendid setting for recreational activities and pastimes such as equestrian sports, motoring, and gardening and developed into one of the finest agricultural complexes, producing the finest lines of pedigree livestock.

Wilson Hall, a dormitory at Michigan State University in East Lansing, is named after Matilda Dodge Wilson.

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