

## 'Super Saturday' Is Set for Dec. 8; River Church Seeks Sponsors for Annual Auburn Hills Family Event

Continuing the warmhearted, festive tradition established in 2010, the River Church of Auburn Hills is once again hosting "Super Saturday," a family event with fun activities for all ages, on Saturday, Dec. 8.

Doors open at 11 a.m. at the church, located at 315 S. Squirrel Road in Auburn Hills, and continue to 4 p.m.

The event is part of the church's third annual "Holidays in Auburn Hills" winter holiday fundraiser, with all proceeds going to benefit Auburn Hills groups.

The church developed the event as a way to bring Auburn Hills families together for family enjoyment, as part of the church's commitment to being an active, contributing member of the Auburn Hills community.

Fun activities for all ages run the gamut from a Film Festival of old and new holiday favorites to a Children's Carnival featuring boardwalk games and other activities.

Other popular returning activities include the Cookie Walk, 50/50 raffle and Ice Bank Guessing Contest. The person who comes closest to guessing the

value of the coins frozen in the ice bank wins that amount.

Also on the agenda:

- Ice sculpting competition
- Christmas with Barkimaus
- Concessions and pizza
- Christmas tree and wreath sale fundraisers.

The tree sales are sponsored by Korson's Tree Farms. For each tree sold, a contribution is made to local groups. Also, special wreath fundraising opportunities are available to local groups.

The church is seeking companies to sponsor Super Saturday events. Platinum sponsorships start at \$500; Gold sponsorships are available for \$350 to \$499; Silver for \$250 to \$349; and Bronze for contributions up to \$249.

Korson's Tree Farms in Sidney and Sound-Wave Music & Arts in Auburn Hills are already on board as Platinum sponsors.

Donors will receive a tax deductible receipt for the value of the sponsorship. Donors can mail their contributions to the River Church at 315 S. Squirrel Rd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326, along with a memo identifying the Super Saturday Event sponsored.

## Manufacturing Jobs Returning To U.S., According to Alongi

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Also, Alongi said, there is still risk in setting up operations in foreign countries.

"Brazil has a very complex tax code," Alongi said. "You think ours is complex, well you haven't seen Brazil's. I went down there to visit a facility and asked why there were so many people in the front office. I was told it was because there were so many tax codes that had to be followed."

Other factors are helping drive manufacturing back to the United States, Alongi said. There is currently a low-interest rate environment. Commercial real estate prices are very low and the states and local governments have been pushing tax incentives.

The news isn't all good, Alongi said. Domestic manufacturing is threatened by currency manipulation, especially in China. He said increased U.S. regulations and related costs aren't helping either.

"The U.S. needs to keep attention focused on manufacturing," Alongi said. "We need truly free trade policies and we really need to focus on training skilled labor for tomorrow's workforce. We've stopped training for that."

Anthony Pratt, director of forecasting, Americas, for R.L. Polk of Southfield, also spoke about how this manufacturing environment directly affects auto suppliers.

He said car sales for 2012 should be in the range of 14.3 million. By 2014, he estimates, those figures will be in the area of 16 million, so there will be more demand for suppliers' goods.

"The auto industry is still a growth industry," Pratt said. "Most of the growth will be outside the United States, though. It will take place in the emerging markets. But the U.S. and European markets should see some recovery of sales as well."

Additionally, Pratt said, U.S. automotive sales increases between now and 2017 should be steady, which is better than the up-and-down sales patterns of the past.

Pratt said he believes the days in which OEMs sold 17 million new cars in the U.S. are gone. Those sales were driven by too-easy credit and the Detroit manufacturers had overcapacity,

which meant they had to move iron at any cost to service that capacity.

He added that the deals with the UAW are better and some plants have shut down. Europe, on the other hand, will be dealing with overcapacity for the next several years.

The status quo relating to how consumers buy cars has really changed, Pratt said. People are keeping their cars longer. So someone who might buy 13 new cars in his lifetime, will now only buy nine. He said suppliers should make capital investments in their plants carefully. There are opportunities, but the dangers are real. Things may get better, but consumer brand loyalty is down and competition for business will be fierce.

Pratt (before the presidential election) said whoever wins will probably do the right thing for business, but something like Israel or the U.S. bombing Iran to prevent them from developing nuclear weapons, which has not been talked about during the election, could result in the mining of the area around the Suez Canal. Those waters are used to transport 30 percent of the West's oil. That kind of event makes it difficult to predict future trends with great certainty.

## Fed Urged to Require Collision Protection

The National Transportation Safety Board said recently that automakers should be required to make the latest collision prevention technologies standard equipment on all vehicles, despite the auto industry's concern that doing so would add thousands of dollars to the cost of a new car.

Such technologies can prevent accidents that involve running off the road, rear-ending another vehicle and lane-change maneuvers, the board said.

Those types of accidents account for 60 percent of fatal highway accidents.

There were more than 32,000 traffic deaths in the U.S. last year.

The board's recommendation also includes tire-pressure monitoring systems and speed-limiting technology for commercial trucks.

The board included the recommendation as part of its annual list of "10 most wanted" safety improvements.



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