

Michigan's Earth Day Set for Rochester

The Michigan Earth Day Fest returns to downtown Rochester April 26-28, after a three-year hiatus.

The 2010 event drew more than 50,000.

The Michigan Earth Day Fest will highlight environmental issues and solutions through education, product/service innovation and community building, and will feature green and healthy living exhibits, presentations, programs and networking, as well as entertainment, awards, food and family fun. Admission is free.

The event is sponsored by Pure Eco Environmental Solutions, Republic Services, Bosch Automotive and Meijer.

"Earth Day is the world's largest secular observance, and we're joining the celebration with an event planned to inspire, entertain and educate about how we can all make every day Earth Day," says John Batdorf, general manager of presenting organization MI Green Team.

The Michigan Earth Day Fest will be held at Third and Water Streets in downtown Rochester. It starts on Friday, April 26, and goes from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday's festivities begin at 10 a.m. and run through 8 p.m. Sunday's hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Highlights will include the Kickoff & Awards Ceremony, which starts at 7 p.m. on Friday.

There will be a Parade & Pep Rally 11 a.m. to noon Saturday. The Local Music Talent Showcase begins at 6 p.m. that evening.

Exhibits will include eco-friendly and healthy products and services on display in the areas of food, energy, transportation, clothing, home, kids, garden, finances, art and more.

There will be presentations on international climate change by expert Michigan-based environ-

mentalists Peter Sinclair, County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash, beekeeper Rich Wieske and others.

Those interested in issues of personal health can check out the wellness programs at the event. There will be weight loss advice from best-selling author

Dr. Kerrie Saunders. DMC cardiologist Dr. Joel Kahn will also be on hand, plus there will be free massage, yoga and health screenings.

For maps/directions, program schedules, lists of participants and to register or sponsor, visit www.miEDF.org.

Spring Expo Focuses on Seniors, at AH Rec Center April 18

by Irena Granaas

The motto for the Auburn Hills Community Center is "Where Seniors are living life to the fullest," and the Thursday, April 18 Spring Expo is an opportunity for area seniors to learn about the different center programs designed to help them do just that.

Event hours are 4-7 p.m. at the community center, 1827 N. Squirrel Road. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by April 15 by calling 248-370-9353.

"It's to showcase the community center and all the programs we offer to seniors," said Jennifer Angus, health and wellness coordinator for fitness programs for seniors at the center.

Invitations to the event were mailed to close to 4,000 households. Giveaways, raffles, food and refreshments will be part of the event.

Angus said the Expo will provide an opportunity for seniors to learn of all the new classes being offered as well as the existing classes. The open house format event will include exhibits from local businesses, who will have tables set up displaying products and services geared toward seniors.

Yoga, Zumba and Tai Chi instructors are scheduled to be there to give demonstrations. Visitors will also be able to tour classrooms and the facility.



Women enjoy the comfortable surroundings at the Auburn Hills Community Center during a book discussion.

"This is an opportunity for seniors to learn about all of the programs available to them," Angus said.

Some of the center's fitness instructors will also be on hand to hold class demonstrations. Also, representatives from the travel department will talk about the many trips offered through the senior travel department, and what's on the schedule for spring and summer.

The center has an indoor

recreation area with active pickleball teams playing on a regular basis.

Angus said the city of Auburn Hills received a Brookside Way mini grant award in January.

"With those funds I was able to revitalize our walking programs (for seniors)," she said.

The center offers a walking program designed for those with arthritis called Walk With Ease, where participants go through a seven-week program using a

The Oakland University Art Gallery, located on the main campus at 208 Wilson Hall in the city of Rochester, will hold an opening reception Friday, April 12, 5-7 p.m., for a new exhibit entitled "Archetype."

The event, which heralds the opening of a BA in Studio Art

How to Save Up for College

The Auburn Hills Public Library is hosting a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of different college savings plans in the Large Meeting Room in the main library building, 3400 East Seyburn Drive, on Tuesday, April 23, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Attendees will hear about how much parents should save for

their children's college education based on estimated future expenses.

There is room for 48 people to attend. For more information, contact the Auburn Public Library at auburn-hills.lib.mi.us or call the library at 248-370-9466.

Those wishing to attend are advised to register in advance.

GM to Invest \$332 Million in Engine, Transmission Production Facilities

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marketplace leader and our members can continue to support and share in the company's growth."

GM's newly announced \$331.8 million investment includes \$215 million in Flint Engine Operations for a new small Ecotec gasoline engine, which is part of a new family of engines that includes 3- and 4-cylinder variants with displacements ranging from 1.0 to 1.5 liters.

Details of what variants the plant will build will be announced later. The plant will also upgrade tooling for its current V6 engine.

GM is putting \$55.7 million in Toledo Transmission Operations for increased capacity and tooling to produce an all-new, advanced 8-speed automatic transmission and an existing 6-speed transmission. The Toledo-based 8-speed will be used in numerous GM vehicles by the end of 2016.

The company is spending \$31.7 million in Bay City Powertrain, including \$19.2 million to produce components for a new V6 engine and \$12.5 million to produce components for the small Ecotec gasoline engine.

And \$29.4 million is being invested in Bedford Castings, including \$19 million to produce

components for the small gas engine and \$10.4 million to produce components for the new 8-speed and existing 6-speed transmissions.

The additional \$46 million brings the total to \$646 million for the V6 project, including a \$41 million increase to \$256 million for Saginaw Metal Castings Operations to produce castings for the new V6 engine.

GM also makes a \$5 million increase to \$390 million for Romulus Engine Operations to build the new V6 engines.

The new small Ecotec gasoline engine is part of a global engine family that could top 2 million engines a year by the end of the decade, based on production in Flint and other locations around the world. The new engines, say GM officials, will offer improved fuel economy, higher quality, better performance and reduced carbon dioxide emissions.

The 8-speed automatic transmission, GM says, will assist in improved fuel economy and performance. Details about the new V6 engine program will be announced later.


Since 2009, GM has announced investments of more than \$8.5 billion in its U.S. operations – \$1.2 billion so far in 2013 – creating or retaining more than 24,700 jobs.



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