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Al Deeby makes car buying a fun and easy process with no hassles or gimmicks. All rebates to dealer. Deals apply to stock units only. Must be a Chrysler employee, military and TDM. Chrysler 300 requires \$1,995.00 down, Dart requires \$1,995.00 down plus taxes, title, plates, CVR rebate. Security deposit waived on S or A tiered approved credit. All leases calculated at 10k miles per year. Vehicle shown may not represent actual vehicle. Prices subject to change without notice. See dealer for details. Exp. 04/30/13.

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Patrick Elwell Talks About His Life and Times in AH

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He retired in 2000 and leased the building to Kip Bourdeaux, who operated the Bourdeaux Bistro until it closed its doors in 2009.

Meanwhile Elwell was enjoying a very busy "retirement," working at Heather's Club, a private country club in Bloomfield, where he did hosting duties, seating patrons and rotating the wait staff. After a year and a half, he moved on to a job at Metalworking Lubricants Company in Pontiac, going to their plants and monitoring their oil and lubricants.

After a year or two at Metalworking, Elwell entered what he likes to call his "contemplative period," working for Oakland University as a groomer, driving a big commercial Toro mower, smoothing the grounds.

"It's like you're waking up to nature. I'd get there at 5 a.m. – if there was frost I couldn't get out there of course," he said. "It's one of those jobs where it's instant gratification. You look back and see how nice it looks."

Elwell followed up the OU stint with a couple of years at Red Run Country Club doing grooming. During all this time Elwell enjoyed the challenges, but when the Bistro closed and he realized in 2010 that the site had been vacant for a year, he came to the conclusion that if he was going to be working, he might as well go back to working for himself.

Shortly after that he began the remodeling work in preparation to re-open.

"What I find challenging is surrounding myself with the right people," said Elwell. "You hire and you fire until you get the people that can put it together."

For example, Elwell hired Ron Rea, who's designed restaurants in the region for over 30 years.

"He's not cheap, but he's very good. He's designed most of the restaurants in southern Oakland County."

Elwell is doing the thing he loves best, in his favorite place.

"I love this area," he said. "Part of it's from the heart. I am hopeful I can keep the same rapport with my old customers. I love my customers and I love people."

Elwell says he's "shocked" (albeit pleasantly so) that many of his loyal customers from the past have returned.

One aspect that's taken some getting used to is all the technology used in the business today.

"It seems like everything's electronic," Elwell said. "That's

been an adjustment for me, with all the computers and all the information you get from them."

As someone who's seen the Auburn Hills area evolve and grow over the years, Elwell has a good feeling about those who are steering the city into its future.

"Auburn Hills has a board that has a lot of foresight in what they do," he commented. "They're always doing something to enhance it . . . a university, putting in a medical school. With the city fathers, there has to be somebody steering the ship and they are steering the ship."

"I have confidence in the management of this city."

Elwell has seen many changes over the past five decades or so.

"When I first came out here, Squirrel Road was gravel and in back of the restaurant was an old grist mill," he said. "There was a house across the street from me that was 100 years old at that time, which I bought and fixed up, and it became an apartment building."

Elwell said it's always been a kind of quiet town, although the city fathers are molding it into an area where people can come down and enjoy themselves.

There have been some changes, notably with major companies like Chrysler building its headquarters in town, as well as Comerica Bank, Hewlett-Packard, BorgWarner and Volkswagen, as well as Oakland Community College Auburn Hills campus, OCC's largest campus.

Since he reopened, Elwell admits to being "pleasantly surprised" by the changes. "What they've done with the streets, the sidewalks, the whole commercial area . . . I like the boulevard down Squirrel Road, the trees they planted – they did a beautiful job."

A new college dormitory is going up across the street, and Elwell noted the city is putting in a four-story high rise with commercial rentals and three stories of student housing, and just put in a new parking deck.

Elwell said the business climate may be perking up a little.

"I think people are a little more optimistic . . . people are starting to feel a little freer with their money."

The Elwell Grill is located at the northeast corner of Auburn and Squirrel Court in downtown Auburn Hills. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Saturday it's dinner only, 5 to 10 p.m., and it is closed on Sunday. For more information visit www.elwellgrill.com.

SAE Detroit to Showcase Jeep Diesel

The SAE Detroit Section will host the 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee EcoDiesel Vehicle Event Wednesday, April 17, during the SAE World Congress at Cobo Center in Detroit.

After attendees enjoy a social hour at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m., the main program at 7:30 p.m. starts with an extensive lineup of informative Chrysler speakers, including Ben Winter, vice president of Vehicle Engineering; Jim Morrison, director, Jeep Brand Product Marketing; Ray Durham, Vehicle Line executive, SUV Vehi-

cles; Larry Nowak, Diesel Engines Platform manager; and Mircea Gradu, vice president, Powertrain, Transmission and Driveline Engineering and head of Virtual Analysis. Gradu is also serving as general chair of the SAE 2013 World Congress.

"Guests will have a chance not only to see examples of the vehicle (the 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee) up close, but will also hear directly from the key players responsible for its product development," said Jeremy Goddard, 2013 SAE Detroit Section chair.

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