

Tech Center News

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Warren Hosts
Movies, Music for
Summer Season

With the summer season here, the city of Warren is offering a host of events designed for families and young people.

The “Outdoor Movies” series, which is held at City Square beginning at dusk, kicks off on Thursday, June 20, with a showing of the film, “Parental Guidance.”

On Thursday, July 18, the city will show “Rise of the Guardians.” The movie, “Hotel Transylvania,” is the fare on Aug. 1. “The Avengers” will be shown on Aug. 15, and the Michigan-made film, “Oz: The Great and Powerful,” caps the series on Thursday, Aug. 22.

The city hasn’t ignored music lovers, either. The “Thomas H. Carey Memorial Concert Series,” also known as “Concerts at the Square,” will be held each Sunday starting on July 21. The series concludes on Aug. 18. In case of rain, the concerts will be held in the city hall’s atrium.

For more information on the concert series and the movie shows, call 586-268-8400.

GM is No Featherweight at Manufacturing Process

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may be tainted in the eyes of the consumer.”

To ensure long-lasting paint quality, GM plants use female ostrich feathers on each vehicle before the top coat of paint is applied. The paint feathers remove microscopic bits of dust that could affect paint quality.

The pre-paint ostrich feather process resembles a car wash without the water. Ostrich feathers are wrapped around six cylinders, two that roll over each of the vehicle sides and two overhead that clean the fascias, roof, hood, and decklid.

As a vehicle’s steel body approaches, the cylinders roll over the body front to back to capture fine dust particles before the final top coat of paint is applied. Female feathers are softer and last longer than their male counterparts.

The feathers are durable, yet delicate enough to prevent scratching. Each feather possesses microscopic fingers, which remove fine dust particles from the body by creating static electricity. As the cylinders of feathers do their job, a high-powered vacuum removes dust residue.

The amount of pressure and feather surface or “crush” applied to each vehicle varies from one to three inches, depending on model and body part being cleaned. Once a vehicle makes its way through the station, a flash-light is used to inspect for any missed particles.

One ostrich feather has no impact on a vehicle’s paint quality. But combined with thousands of other feathers, they are a critical tool used at GM plants. No birds are harmed in the feather collection process, as they are collected as a part of the bird’s natural shedding process.

Gap stick ensures uniform body fits. Employees at GM plants receive hours of training on body panel fit and flushness.

To ensure vehicles meet extremely tight tolerances, finger-sized measuring tools called gap sticks are used to ensure gaps between body panels are consistent and uniform on the finished vehicle.

At Detroit-Hamtramck, highly trained and skilled Quality inspectors take gap measurements in about 61 seconds, and document the results at the rate of 45 vehicles inspected per hour. At GM’s Ft. Wayne Assembly Plant, where nearly 4,000 employees build the 2014 Chevrolet Silverado

and GMC Sierra full-size pickups, each Quality operator averages a minimum of 20 hours of classroom and on-the-job training annually, depending on the complexity of the job task.

Ft. Wayne’s Quality Department employs more than 250 people on three shifts who conduct a variety of detailed testing and standardized inspection on each vehicle built.

The velocity meter gauges door-closing efforts. Once fit-and-flushness levels are

achieved, a door velocity meter is used to measure door closing effort to ensure that a gentle push is enough to close it.

The door meter is a high-tech tool designed and patented by GM. It attaches to the body by covered magnets. Once in place, on the rear quarter panel to test rear doors and on the rear doors to test the front doors, the doors are opened and closed several times to generate a reading that must meet a required velocity that translates to force (effort).

EyesOn Design to Honor Ex-GM Design VP Wayne Cherry

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Design at GM’s Opel Design Centre in Germany where his team was responsible for the design of all GM vehicles in Europe.

There, he oversaw the design of the Opel Junior, which eventually influenced the 1993 Corsa that received 20 international design awards.

In addition, he was responsible for the 1987 Omega, named the European Car of the Year, the 1991 Vectra, the 1995 Astra, the 1996 Omega and two sporty models – the Calibra coupe and the Tigra. During this period, Opel became number one in European sales.

Cherry returned to the U.S. in 1991. Named General Motors’ vice president of Design worldwide in 1992, he was responsible for all of GM’s North American brands – Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Saturn, and Hummer.

Among the many signature production cars and trucks produced under his leadership were the Pontiac Solstice, the H2 Hummer and the Chevy SSR, as well as more than 40 concept vehicles, among them the Cadillac Evoq, Cien and the Cadillac Sixteen that was unveiled in 2003.

In addition, he was responsible for Cadillac’s “Art and Science” design philosophy of sharp lines and crisp edges as seen in his de-

signs for the Cadillac XLR, CTS, SRX and Escalades.

Since retiring from GM in 2004, he has continued to design cars, including the VSR Concept Sports rod, expressing the Cadillac design genre and powered by a 400-horsepower Cadillac V-series engine.

A special “garage crawl” will be held on Saturday, June 15, where attendees will be able to see the Lingenfelter Collection, 7819 Lochlin Drive in Brighton.

The cost is \$15 per person, and the collection, considered by many experts to be one of the greatest in the country, contains Corvettes, muscle cars and other exotics.

On Sunday, June 16, the day’s festivities begin with a special brunch at the Eleanor & Edsel Ford Estate, 1100 Lake Shore

Drive in Grosse Pointe Shores, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The cost is \$75 per adult, and tickets for children 12 and under are \$25.

The EyesOn Design Car Show – titled, “Revolution Over Evolution” – starts at 10 a.m. and goes until 4:30 p.m. at the Ford Estate. The cost is \$20 a person. Those attending will have the chance to see more than 200 classic vehicles that show off the best of Detroit car designs over the years.

To purchase tickets for the events, visit the EyesOn Design site – eyesondesigncarshow.com.

All proceeds from the weekend go to benefit the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology. The DIO is the research arm of the Henry Ford Department of Ophthalmology.

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