

'Cruisin' Gratiot' Supports Local Charities

The 15th annual "Cruisin' Gratiot" car celebration begins Tuesday, June 11.

Cruisin' Gratiot is an annual, week-long celebration of automotive history, tradition and memorabilia in Eastpointe.

The events include many car shows, contests and family outings, all culminating in a day-long extravaganza centering on one of the most time-honored traditions in Detroit history - cruising Gratiot Avenue.

The event, part of Autopalooza, begins with a car show at the Cloverleaf Bar and Restaurant on Gratiot in Eastpointe on Tuesday, June 11. The four-hour car show begins at 4 p.m.

Another car show will be held on Wednesday, June 12, at the First State Bank on Nine Mile and Gratiot in Eastpointe. It goes from 4 to 8 p.m.

A third car show will surface on Thursday on Gratiot in Eastpointe by the Villa Restaurant and WOW Electronics between 4 and 8 p.m.

The car show crowd moves to East Detroit High School, at the corner of Gratiot and Couzens in Eastpointe, on Friday. Again, the hours are 4 to 8 p.m.

A parade will be featured on Saturday at 1 p.m. Event spokesperson Karen Arondski, said that the Saturday cruise, which is on Gratiot in Eastpointe

between 8 and 10 Mile roads, starts early.

"We see people beginning to cruise at 6 a.m.," Arondski said. "We have a dedicated lane on Gratiot for cruisers. People set up chairs on the median and watch, and all of the money raised goes to several local charities in the area. We're all volunteers, so once expenses are done, the money goes to help those who need help."

Arondski said there would also be an "Idol" singing contest this year as well. There will be four divisions - youth, ages six to 12; teen, ages 13 to 17; adult male and adult female.

The two youngest divisions will be completed before the main cruising events take place. The adult finals are on Saturday at East Detroit High School.

"This year, there will be prize money for each category," Arondski. "First place is \$1,000, second is \$500 and third is \$250."

Arondski expects more than 100,000 people to attend at least one event and between 4,000 and 5,000 classic cars to participate in at least one car show and the cruise.

Event sponsors include Faygo, Anderson Eckstein and Westrick, WOW Electronics, Villa Restaurants and Sam's Club.

The charities that benefit from the cruise are East Detroit High School's In-house Scholarship

program, Goodfellows, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, CARE of Southeast Michigan, Champions for Life, the East Detroit Golf Club, Eastside Teen Outreach, Holy Innocents-St. Barnabas Revelations Youth Group, H.O.P.E., the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Macomb Homeless Education Project, Northeast Church of Christ, Play Place for Autistic Children, St. Veronica Men's Club and USA Cares, which helps Michigan servicemen and women and their families.

'INCubate' a Business Plan

The Macomb-OU INCubator Executive-in-Residence program is sponsoring Kathryn Baker and Tim Kuppler of Advicoach of Michigan to give a presentation on Friday, June 14, starting at 7:30 a.m.

The event, called "1% Vision and 99% Alignment," will be held at the Velocity Collaboration Center, 6633 18 Mile Road in Sterling Heights.

Registration is at 7:30. The main presentation begins at 8:15 a.m., followed by networking time starting at 9:30 a.m.

The theme of the program is teaching people how to use a one-page strategic plan to transform an organization's planning procedures to improve a company's bottom line.

The one-page strategic plan is

important because it can increase a business's ability to execute the right strategies.

Attendees will learn how to edit their vision down to one page, as well as learning the importance of having three planning horizons - the current quarter, one year from the present and three to five years down the road.

The speakers will also talk about the importance of aligning all employees with the company's top priorities and how to use the plan monthly, quarterly and annually as a way to focus employees on the things that drive organization growth.

To learn more about the event and to sign up, visit the website advicoachjune14.eventbrite.com/#/, or call 586-884-9324.

Run2Read Race to Help Adult Literacy

The third annual Run2Read event on June 8 at Stony Creek Metropark will feature 5K and 10K runs and a 5K walk along scenic park routes.

The certified Run2Read course takes runners and walkers through beautiful scenery, including wooded trails, rolling hills, and diverse terrain.

Run2Read is a joint fundraiser for Oakland Literacy Council (OLC) and Macomb Literacy Partners (MLP). Registration is \$25 (there also is a \$5 daily Metropark entrance fee) and can be done in advance or on site on the day of the

event. For further information, go to www.r2read.com or call OLC at 248-253-1617 or MLP at 586-286-2750.

All proceeds from the event support free adult literacy education in Macomb and Oakland counties. OLC and MLP were founded in 1984, and their hundreds of trained volunteer tutors have educated more than 10,000 students since then.

Both groups welcome new adult students in their areas and also offer regular training programs for those interested in becoming tutors.



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