

Oakland Tech News

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Fireworks Events Offer Family Fun

With the Fourth of July coming up soon, here are some suggested fireworks events in the area.

Rochester Hills' Festival of the Hills is Wednesday, June 26, starting at 6 p.m. with family games and entertainment, and fireworks at 10 p.m., at Borden Park, 1400 East Hamlin Road.

The Lake Orion Fourth of July Fireworks will launch Thursday, July 4, promptly at dusk from a barge on Lake Orion.

Oxford's Seymour Celebration will be held Friday and Saturday, June 28-29, at dusk at Seymour Lake Township Park, 2795 Seymour Lake Road in Oxford.

Need a few more options? More fireworks events can be found at michiganfireworks.com.

OU's 'Replicant' Robot Romps Past 41 Collegiate Teams

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teams negotiated autonomous robotic vehicles through an exterior course with defined lanes. The ORA team – and Replicant – also placed second in both the Design competition and the Joint Architecture for Unmanned Systems (JAUS) Challenge, and third in the Autonomous Navigation-Advanced category. The OU team also snagged the First to Qualify Award.

"We at the School of Engineering and Computer Science are very proud and excited for our students and their advisor for winning first place at the 21st annual Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition," said Louay Chamra, dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

"This accomplishment reflects commitment and hard work on the part of all of our SECS Robotic Team, and we celebrate this milestone with them and applaud them on their triumph."

The ORA advisor is OU Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor KaC Cheok, Ph.D, who is also co-chair and founder of the annual IGVC.

"The automotive industry is moving in a huge concerted and competitive direction in active driver's assistance systems (ADAS) where cars and trucks help to mitigate accidents," Dr. Cheok said.

"We are already seeing the robotics technologies incorporated in the automobiles today – collision warning and avoidance systems, automatic parking (and more). You'd notice that Continental, Magna, Valeo and Takata are sponsors of the IGVC."

For the Grand Award, OU was first, Hosei University of Tokyo, Japan second and California State University-Northridge third. Hosei University ranked first in the Design competition.

In the Autonomous Navigation-Advanced contest, California State University-Northridge placed first, the U.S. Naval Academy came in second, and Oakland U. third.

Cherokee Badge Returns to Jeep with 'No Compromise'

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The \$22,995 base model of the Jeep Cherokee Sport comes with fuel economy of up to 31 mpg and a class-exclusive nine-speed transmission.

Powering the Sport is the new 2.4-Liter MultiAir2 Tigershark I-4 engine, rated at 184 horsepower and producing 171 lb.-ft. of torque. Given its estimated fuel economy, that gives the Sport a range of nearly 500 miles on a tank of gasoline, Jeep officials say.

Standard equipment includes the high-strength steel body, drivetrain with rear axle disconnect, black power mirrors and door handles, Uconnect 5.0-inch touchscreen media center with Bluetooth, a media hub offering USB, SD and auxiliary ports and charging capability, a 3.5-inch full-color LED center cluster, cloth seats with driver and passenger manual height adjuster, 60/40 split rear seat that reclines, power windows, sliding sun visors, 10 air bags (including multi-stage driver and front passenger air bags, and driver and front passenger knee bags), LED tail lamps and daytime running lamps, halogen projector headlamps, four-wheel antilock disc brakes, electronic stability control, traction control, Hill-start Assist, electric power steering, electric park brake, cruise control, air conditioning, remote keyless entry, power remote open fuel door, tire pressure monitoring system with four tire display, 17-inch steel wheels with all-sea-

son tires and class-exclusive Jeep Cargo Management system.

Optional equipment includes Jeep Active Drive I 4x4 system, Selec-Terrain drive mode selector (standard with 4x4 equipped vehicles), SiriusXM radio, ParkView rear backup camera, 17-inch aluminum wheels, engine block heater, Cold Weather Group and Trailer-tow Group.

Graham said, according to research clinics conducted by Chrysler, people expressed a lot of excitement and enthusiasm at the return of the Cherokee name to the Jeep midsize lineup.

"And the initial response when people see it in person is their excitement rises," she said.

Next up in the Jeep Cherokee lineup is the 2014 Jeep Cherokee Latitude, with a starting MSRP of \$24,495. The Latitude includes all of the standard equipment avail-

able on the Sport, along with other features like the front passenger fold flat seat with in-seat storage space, leather-wrapped steering wheel, ambient LED interior lighting, 115-volt outlet and compact spare tire.

Optional equipment for the Latitude includes the new Pentastar 3.2-liter V6 engine producing 271 hp and 239 lb.-ft. of torque, providing a driving range of 460 miles on a tankful of gas; Jeep Active Drive I 4x4 system; Jeep Active Drive II 4x4 system, Selec-Terrain drive mode selector; 8.4-inch touchscreen Uconnect radio, 506-watt Alpine premium audio; engine block heater, Cold Weather Group, Comfort-Convenience Group and Trailer-tow Group.

Next up is the 2014 Jeep Cherokee Limited with a starting MSRP of \$27,995, which, in addition to coming with an extensive listing of luxury amenities, can be equipped

with the optional Pentastar 3.2-liter V6, Jeep Active Drive I and II and Selec-Terrain, CommandView dual-pane panoramic sunroof, Cold Weather Group, Technology Group, Comfort/Convenience Group, Trailer-tow Group and Luxury Group.

Chrysler also offers the 2014 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk, with a starting MSRP of \$29,495.

The Trailhawk includes all of the standard equipment available on the Latitude, Trail Rated 4x4 capability, as well as features like red tow hooks, skid plates, off-road suspension, heavy-duty engine cooling and auxiliary transmission oil cooler, new Selec-Speed Control with Hill-ascent Control and Hill-descent Control and one-inch increased ride height.

The 2014 Jeep Cherokees will be available beginning in the third quarter of the year.



Crowds filled the Culver's parking lot to feast on butterburgers, ice cream and a bunch of good-looking cars.

300 Classic Cars Hit Culvers for Food, Fun

by Irena Granaas

The scene on a recent summer night at Culver's was not only as American as ice cream and apple pie, there was plenty of the fast food chain's signature ice cream to go around.

A Tuesday Night Cruise brought out hundreds of classic, customized, new and one-of-a-kind vehicles representing a wide variety of makes and models, which spread out around the grounds at the Lake Orion Culver's at Lapeer Road and Dutton north of the Palace of Auburn Hills.

By 6 p.m., the grounds were bursting at the seams with more than 300 vehicles showcased, representing Chrysler, GM, Ford and others – the weekly Tuesday Night Cruise welcomes all comers.

"Classic Cars & Classic Burgers" is the theme, and there definitely was a fair share of car owners and other visitors enjoying the eatery's famous Butterburgers and fries while taking in the automotive eye candy on display.

"We just had a beautiful night," said store owner and Tuesday Night Cruise founder Joe Zimmer. "At last count, we had 310 cars, which is a lot of cars."

He explained that he and his photographer walk the lot every week and decide on the winning 'cruisers' of the week, who get a \$25 Culver's gift certificate for a first prize.

Eight to 10 sponsors also supply items to give away as prizes to support raffle fundraisers. For example, the Lake Orion Culver's supports the Lake Orion Dance Team with its 50/50 raffle.

"So we're giving back to the

community in this way," said Zimmer.

The scene was definitely family-friendly as many couples with children could be seen strolling the grounds and admiring the cars.

And a lot of seniors came, whether to point with pride to a classic car they had restored themselves, play poker or just to enjoy a meal with friends.

The laid-back, friendly atmosphere is what attracts a lot of the cruisers, including people like Joe and Sherry Prince of Auburn Hills, who held court next to their striking red-and-white, two-tone 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air.

"This is a good show they have here every Tuesday," said Joe. "The food, the people – we know a lot of the people."

"It's the Butterburger," added Sherry with a smile, "and the real ice cream."

Hugh Stroube of Lake Orion brought his gleaming, black 1983 Jeep Renegade along with his son and daughter, ages 8 and 4.

"I like the family atmosphere and the wide variety of cars," said Stroube.

"They're such loyal car people. They don't care what car you bring as long as you have fun with it."

Zimmer said it's Oakland County's largest cruise night event. He noted this is the fifth year Culver's has hosted the Tuesday Night Cruise.

"It's not limited to the '50s. Anything considered a classic," he said.

"We've even hosted a 2014 Chevrolet Corvette. If it's special to you, it's special to us."

There's more to do than just gawk at cars. In addition to the

all-American menu of burgers, fries and ice cream, cruise nights at Culver's feature meal discounts for cruisers, gift certificates, raffle prizes and entertainment by D.J. Beth.

More than \$200 in prizes, many donated by local businesses, are typically given away each week. The Culver's cruise also serves as a fundraiser for worthy local causes.

The cruise night event has definitely grown – Zimmer said about 35 cars would show up at each event the first year. Now, up to 350 cars provide a chance for car buffs of every stripe to see their favorite makes and models represented.

Formal cruise hours are from 5 to 8 p.m., but enthusiasm runs high among many of the regulars who have a tendency to show up much earlier.

"Ted" will be here at 3:30 sharp. He's one of our cruisers," Zimmer noted.

The Culver's host explained that when he came up with the idea to host a cruise five years ago, he thought it would be good for the community and a good fit for Culver's, to showcase classic cars at a venue with classic American food.

"We have over 3,000 cruiser members who get a 15 percent discount any time they come to Culver's . . . We e-mail them once a month," Zimmer said.

The Tuesday Night Cruise draws car owners and classic car enthusiasts from as far away as Imlay City and Westland, and some from Detroit's east side suburbs.

Zimmer admits, though, that most of those who attend come in from about a 10-mile radius.