



Classic car buffs get together at Limelight's in Warren across from the GM Tech Center every Tuesday evening during the summer.

## Classic Cars in 'Limelight'

It seems pretty natural – having a car cruise across the street from the GM Tech Center in the parking lot of the restaurant Limelight.

The restaurant's manager Ark Jawar said that they have had a cruise at the restaurant every Tuesday during the last six summers.

The event is put on by "Rock Bottom" Bill Milliron through his company Rock Bottoms. Jawar said having the cruise at the restaurant makes sense for him because it attract business to Limelight, which is located on Van Dyke in Warren.

"Usually we have about 30 to 50 classic cars in our parking lot during one of the cruises," Jawar said.

"That brings a crowd here. People will drive by and see the cars and stop. When they stop they often order food and drinks."

Milliron said that the vehicles sometimes attract engineers

from the Tech Center who visit the cruise because they want to see how things were done old-school style.

But given Limelight's proximity to hotels near the GM Tech Center, the cruise also brings out guests who want to look at some classic examples of Detroit steel, Milliron said.

Steve Wilson of Warren was at a recent cruise just because he likes to look at the vehicles.

Wilson said that he loves the look of the classic cars and appreciates the care and effort their owners put into preserving some of the Detroit auto industry's living history.

"I also get to meet and talk with fellow car fans and meet with my friends," Wilson said. "It's always fun."

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## GM Celebrates Making of First Corvettes

Chevrolet last week marked its 60th anniversary of the Corvette.

The first Corvette went into production in Flint on June 30, 1953.

"During the past six decades, the Corvette has been woven into the fabric of American culture, as the sports car of choice for movie stars, musicians and astronauts," said Chris Perry, vice president, Chevrolet Marketing. "The very best Corvettes represent the state-of-the-art for their eras in terms of design, technology and performance."

Here are some key facts highlighting 60 years of Corvette history:

- Corvette is the world's longest-running, continuously produced passenger car. The longest-running vehicle of any type is the Chevrolet Suburban.

- Corvette made its debut as a concept vehicle at the General Motors Autorama in New York City on Jan. 17, 1953. It was such a success that a limited run of 300 production Corvettes began on June 30 of that year.

- All 1953 models were Polo White with a red interior and they were priced at \$3,498. In 2006, the third 1953 Corvette produced sold for a record \$1.06 million at auction.

- Corvette was exclusively available with an inline six-cylinder engine until 1955. That year, the optional V8 engine was ordered by 90 percent of buyers. The six-cylinder was dropped in 1956. Corvette has been available exclusively with V8 power since.

- Corvette was produced only as a convertible for its first 10 years. The fixed-roof 1963 "split-



The first Corvettes came off the line in Flint 60 years ago last week.

window" Corvette Sting Ray coupe launched the second-generation Corvette.

Sales doubled and it became a year-round car for drivers in colder climates.

- Approximately 1.56 million Corvettes have been produced since June 30, 1953. The 500,000th Corvette was built in 1977; the 1 millionth was built in 1992, and the 1.5 millionth Corvette rolled off the line in 2009.

- Corvettes have been produced at three facilities: Flint,

Mich. (1953); St. Louis, Mo., (1954-1981); and Bowling Green, Ky. (1981-2014). The change from St. Louis to Bowling Green happened during the production year. The first 1981 Corvette was built in St. Louis, the last 1981 one was built in Bowling Green.

- No 1983 Corvettes were sold to the public. The model year was skipped in preparation for the all-new 1984 Corvette, which launched the C4 generation. Forty-four Corvette prototypes were built as 1983 models.

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