

## Tech Center News

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## Club GM Needs Raffle Donations

Club GM is hosting a raffle on "Take Your Kids to Work Day" April 24, said club president Katie Murphy.

"We are asking local businesses and individuals for donations for the raffles," Murphy said. "We will take the donations and make baskets of several items that people can win. In this difficult economy, we must offer assistance to the less fortunate."

To learn more about the event and how to help, contact Murphy at 586-441-8670.

# Chrysler's Hemi Became Legend at Racetracks, Showrooms

You never know where a good idea is going to come from.

In the case of the street edition of the 426 Hemi, it came from stock car racing, said Chrysler spokesman Dale Jewett.

Fifty years ago, two legends were born on the same day on the track in Daytona Beach, Fla., Jewett said.

A 26-year-old stock car driver named Richard Petty dominated the field to win the sixth running of the Daytona 500. And under the hood of his Plymouth was a brand new race engine, the 426 Hemi.

Petty, the legend, would win the Daytona 500 six more times in his career.

His performance in the 1964 season would cement the prowess of the 426 Hemi racing engine.

Mopar is spending this year celebrating the 50th anniversary of this legendary powerplant.

In 1964, Petty started the 200-lap race on the front row, Jewett said. But early in the race he fell to 15th place due to a bungled pit stop.

The combination of Petty's skill and the 426 Hemi's power enabled him to lead 184 of the Daytona 500 race's 200 laps. He set a then-record average



Richard Petty won his first Daytona 500 in 1964 with a Hemi.

speed of 154.334 miles an hour.

How dominant was this new Hemi? The first three cars to finish the 1964 Daytona 500 were Plymouths powered by the 426 HEMI racing engine.

Petty took the win with a one-lap-and-9-second gap over second-place driver Jimmy Pardue. Pole sitter Paul Goldsmith finished third and was another lap behind. Petty went on to finish that season as the 1964 NASCAR champion.

The 426 Hemi was originally designed as a pure racing engine

– and the same basic design continues to power cars in the National Hot Rod Association drag races today, Jewett said.

In fact, it was such a dominant factor in NASCAR racing that they changed the rules.

"Basically, NASCAR said that engines were required to have more production parts from the 'street' versions of the vehicles entering races," Jewett said.

"At the time, there was no street edition of the Hemi. The upshot was that Petty's team and other teams sponsored by

Chrysler couldn't race using Hemi engines in the 1965 NASCAR racing season."

Because of that new rule, Chrysler executives, in order to get back on top of the NASCAR circuit, decided to develop a street version of the 426 Hemi. So, while the Hemi wasn't allowed in the 1965 season, it was back in action for the 1966 racing season, Jewett said.

Chrysler was able to achieve great success on the NASCAR circuit and the public had the opportunity to enjoy the 426 Hemi, which until then was something available only to racecar drivers.

"Unfortunately, the Hemi left the marketplace in the early 1970s," Jewett said. "Between the gas crisis and the newer and stricter standards for emissions, the Hemi was put out of business."

But thanks to technology such as electronic controls and variable valve tuning and improved multi-displacement systems, Chrysler was able to bring back the Hemi in 2005.

"It's proven to be a great success and is available on a lot of different models," Jewett said.

"And all this started because Chrysler wanted to win on the NASCAR circuit."

## GM Credit Card Can Help Buy a New Vehicle

Credit GM where credit is due.

General Motors announced that the GM Card from Capital One, an automotive rewards credit card, has passed the seven-million mark in Cardmember vehicle redemptions.

GM Card members accumulate earnings with each purchase, and those earnings can be redeemed to buy or lease a new GM vehicle.

Thomas E. Jama, Sr.'s eighth new-vehicle redemption using his GM Card earned him a \$7,000 bonus in GM Card earnings toward a future GM vehicle purchase or lease, Carney said. Jama's Feb. 12 purchase of a 2014 GMC Terrain Denali from Nick Abraham Buick GMC in Elyria, Ohio, was number seven million. He has been a GM Cardmember since 1996.

"The GM Card is a great way to

save money on a new car or truck and it's really easy – you just show up at the dealership and show your card," Jama said.

Said Chuck Thomson, general manager, GM Retail Sales and Marketing Support: "The GM Card has been the key to putting a new Chevrolet, Buick, GMC or Cadillac in our customers' driveways since 1992, and this is a great milestone."

GM and Capital One last year introduced the new GM Card from Capital One, which Thomson said sets a new standard in the automotive rewards card category.

The GM Card offers consumers 5 percent earnings on their first \$5,000 worth of net card purchases every year and an unlimited 2 percent on all other purchases. It comes with no annual fee and offers no limits on the rewards con-

sumers can accumulate and redeem toward the purchase or lease of a new Chevrolet, Buick, GMC or Cadillac.

Rewards don't expire and there are no foreign transaction fees.

"I can't say how people use their credit cards," said GM spokesperson Ryndee Carney. "But my husband and I make all our purchases with a credit card and then pay the card off at the end of the month."

"If you do that, you can rack up quite a few points that will go toward the purchase of a GM vehicle."

Carney called the GM Card a benefit to the cardholder. Ac-



Thomas E. Jama, Sr., with his new 2014 GMC Terrain Denali.

cording to the automaker's records, the monetary value of the average card user's points that go toward a GM purchase is \$1,200.

"The card helps people make purchases," Carney said.

"They can even use the points to offset the cost of getting a feature such as a sunroof."

## Let's Talk Pysanky Easter Eggs

The Warren Public Library is holding a special discussion by Roman Seniuk on pysanky Easter Eggs on March 6 at 6 p.m.

Pysanky are Ukrainian Easter eggs decorated with traditional Ukrainian folk designs. The tradition of pysanky decorating precedes Christianity and reflects ancient myths in which the egg symbolizes life, the sun, and the universe. Seniuk has been creating pysanky since he was a boy.

During his presentation, he will talk about his work and display many examples, said Warren librarian Kathleen Faba.

Also, during the months of March and April, Seniuk's work will be displayed in the showcases at the back of the Civic Center Library.

This program will be held in the conference room next to the Civic Center Library. To register, call 586-574-4564.

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