

Chrysler Gets 'Gold Medal' for Healthy Workplace

AUBURN HILLS – The National Business Group on Health (NBGH) has recognized Chrysler Group LLC for the fourth consecutive year as one of the nation's leading corporations providing comprehensive programs that enable a healthy workplace and promote healthy lifestyles of employees and their families.

This year, Chrysler Group received a gold medal award for the fourth consecutive year and, again, was the only automaker to earn this recognition.

The NBGH's Best Employers for Healthy Lifestyles Award recognizes employers that have truly embraced a culture of wellness and are working collaboratively to improve their employees' health, productivity and quality of life.

This is the fourth consecutive year and the fifth time since the award was established seven years ago that Chrysler Group has received either a gold or silver medal recognizing the quality and relevance of its employee wellness programs. Chrysler Group was among 66 employers that received the Best Employers for Healthy Lifestyles Award in 2012.

The automaker accepted the award on June 27 at the National Business Group on Health's Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

"Chrysler Group recognizes that providing a healthy workplace and improving the health and well-being of our employees and their families is essential to our building and sustaining our success in the future," said Nancy A. Rae, senior vice president - Human Resources, Chrysler Group LLC.

"This award validates our invested efforts in creating a culture of health, which is a clear indication of our corporate values and a strategic differentiator as we recruit and retain talented people who enable the Chrysler Group to compete and grow."

The Chrysler-UAW National Wellness Program was implemented in 1985 for both represented and non-represented employees and is focused on promoting a healthier workplace, healthy life styles and reducing the risk of illness and chronic disease. The program comprises services offered in a wide range of formats, including health assessments, biometric screenings, workshops, campaigns and health coaching. Program topics are selected based on health assessments and screening results, disability data and employee interests. Incentives linked to wellness activities are used to increase employee participation.

"Our leadership teams are convinced that supporting improvement of the health and well-being of our members is vital to developing the world-class work environments that will support a successful and sustainable company and union for the future," said General Holiefield, UAW vice president and director of the UAW Chrysler Department.

"On behalf of our members, we are proud to receive this recognition and to achieve a consistent level of excellence."

"We are very pleased to recognize Chrysler Group for its ongoing commitment to providing lifestyle improvement programs that encourage healthy lifestyles for their employees," said Helen Darling, president and CEO of the National Business Group on Health. "Chrysler Group and its management team should be proud for their dedication and recognizing the importance of promoting and maintaining a healthy workforce. We congratulate them on receiving this award."

Asker Awarded By Sam's Club

Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, announced that Denise Asker of the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce has been awarded a Sam's Club scholarship.

Awarded to 20 first-year attendees from across the U.S., the Sam's Club scholarships recognize individuals that exhibit excellent nonprofit management practices in several areas, including involvement in professional industry organizations, community involvement and demonstrated leadership.

Since 1921, chambers of commerce have used this program as a training platform for their staffs.

'Woodward Warehouse' Offers Boutique Classic Auto Storage

By Gerald Scott

A good auto idea whose time has finally come has reached the Motor City, it seems.

Other states have them: high-end warehouses to store cars in a facility that is part Man Cave, part social club and part Car Guy collective, so to speak.

Metro Detroit has any number of high-end, private car garages, but the Woodward Warehouse in Royal Oak is among the first to want to have a high public profile.

Located adjacent to the railroads in the older part of Royal Oak near Normandy and Edgeland, the building itself, a former light-industrial site, is similar in size to the now defunct Saab headquarters building just a couple of blocks away.

Says a brochure, "Our modern facility and professional staff provide state-of-the-art security, climate-controlled, museum-quality storage, convenient access, well-appointed lounge, meeting and game areas."

The Warehouse hosted its kickoff party on a Saturday evening recently and some 400 people showed up for the hurrah and excitement.

Woodward Warehouse owner Joe Polito sat for an interview recently to discuss the concept of a high-end car storage warehouse. He visited similar operations on the East and West Coasts before plunging forward in Royal Oak with the Motor City's first version of the concept.

"We have a couple of programs," he said. "Our primary program is to lease a car space and you get a membership. We prefer a 12-month commitment."

"You pay \$250 per month on a 12-month basis, you get one storage space for your car and you get 24/7 access to the building and the facilities, including the detail shop that we have, with a hoist for light maintenance and repair work."

"We have a vacuum, hot and cold running water . . . washing machine (for rags), hoist, some tools that we haven't brought in yet."

"And then you have a lounge with a clubhouse - we have six flat-screen TVs. That's the basic program."

"What we want to do is create an environment where Car Guys can hang out with other Car Guys and enjoy each other's company and the cars that are here."

For customers who just



Joe Polito, creator of the Woodward Warehouse in Royal Oak

want to store a car but aren't interested in the socializing, it's \$175 per month.

"We store motorbikes on the same principle at a reduced rate."

"Then we have a social membership - you can use all of the facilities, including the detail and repair area, but you can't store, and that's \$150 per month."

"No matter what the program is, whether a storage member or social member, you get to use the detail and

maintenance area for two hours a week free. After that, you pay \$35 per hour and you have to schedule your time."

"Conference room, you get to use it for two hours a month free, and then you pay \$50 an hour in excess of that."

Polito said the facility is ideal to rent for, say, an auto or union retirement party, car club gatherings, Woodward Dream Cruise week Cruise-In functions and the like. There are about 40-50 open parking spaces outside the building to

host cruise functions and yes, Polito figures that Dream Cruise week figures to be very busy at his new shop.

"We have the ability to have events here, like if you want a party for 50 people," he said.

"So far, we've had two events here: my retirement party and we had the grand opening on Saturday and both worked fine. There's so much space, it all worked out fine."

Contact Joe Polito online at joe.woodwardwarehouse@gmail.com for more details.

OCC Signs Pact With Counterpart in India

Oakland Community College (OCC) and Shriram IGNOU Community College in Chennai, India, signed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding in a brief ceremony conducted via Skype recently.

The agreement promotes virtual cultural exchanges between students of the two schools using Web 2.0 tools such as wikis and interactive online forums.

Faculty and staff members will share information and training through the Internet as well. Among the topics to be covered is English as a Second Language, counseling practices, assessing student learning styles and the conduct of academic placements.

AH's Kowal to Serve

The City of Auburn Hills announces that Auburn Hills City Clerk Terri Kowal has been elected to serve a three-year term as a regional director with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), an association with about 10,000 members worldwide.

Kowal, who holds a Master Municipal Clerk certification, was elected by the members of Region V, which comprises Midwest states she will represent in her role.

GKN: Acquisition of Getrag Unit Pays Off

AUBURN HILLS – GKN Driveline's recently completed, all-wheel-drive (AWD) acquisition positions the company as the only driveline automotive supplier capable of providing complete driveline systems to its customers.

The earlier acquisition of Getrag's driveline products business has added geared driveline products including power transfer units (PTUs), rear drive units (RDUs) for AWD vehicles and final drive units (FDU) for high-performance rear-wheel-drive vehicles to GKN Driveline's product portfolio.

The \$440 acquisition, which was completed last October, included manufacturing plants in Koping, Sweden and Newton, N.C., as well as engi-

neering facilities in Cologne, Germany and Sterling Heights, Mich.

Thanks to the transaction, approximately 1,500 employees were added to global supplier GKN Driveline's worldwide workforce.

"The acquisition now allows us to provide our global customers with 'one-stop' shopping for our leading-edge products by offering complete driveline systems - from the transmission differential all the way through the wheel-end," said Dr. Ray Kuzera, vice president of engineering for GKN Driveline Americas based in Auburn Hills.

"We can now offer greater value to our customers with driveline systems that eliminate components, reduce in-

terface complexity and provide packaging benefits, while at the same time taking sole responsibility for the entire driveline integration."

In addition to a complementary geographical and customer footprint, the acquisition further gives GKN the ability to support customers with state-of-the-art AWD and eDrive systems technology, including a next generation of fuel-efficient driveline systems.

"It is amazing how the technologies developed by the two companies complement each other so perfectly with almost no overlap," said Robert Genway-Haden, GKN Driveline's all-wheel-drive global product technology director.



The Chrysler 300 offers high fuel efficiency with the ZF transmission and the V6.

BorgWarner Supports ZF on 8-Speed

AUBURN HILLS – BorgWarner's expertise in friction plate design and materials improves shift performance and efficiency for the ZF full-hybrid, 8-speed automatic transmission.

The parallel hybrid transmission launched in the 2012 Audi Q5 Hybrid Quattro and will also be featured in the Audi A6, A8 and BMW 5-Series hybrids.

"BorgWarner's advanced friction technology delivers improved mechanical stress resistance and exceptional reliability," said Robin Kendrick, president and general manager, BW Transmission Systems.

"Our technology leadership in friction plate design and material together with ZF's know-how supports the development of state-of-the-art transmission technology for low-emission vehicles without sacrificing responsiveness and driving comfort. Drivers benefit from enhanced per-

formance while optimizing fuel consumption."

Meanwhile, BorgWarner's leading friction plate technology enables the ZF 8-speed hybrid automatic transmission to shift smoothly between the electric motor and combustion engine.

The technology is employed in BorgWarner friction plates for the wet separating clutch and the launch clutch. The separating clutch is used to engage and disengage the electric motor for both separate and simultaneous operation of the electric motor and combustion engine. An integrated launch clutch replaces the conventional torque converter and achieves similar launch performance in terms of comfort and thermal load capacity.

For both clutches, BW developed innovative groove designs and uses advanced friction materials for a stable friction coefficient and improved

temperature resistance. BorgWarner operates manufacturing and technical facilities in 59 locations in 19 countries.

The Post Renamed As 'The Venue'

The Auburn Hills establishment known as The Post has new owners, and a new name. "We just wanted to start with a clean slate," said manager Greg Marselis, who previously was with The Masters.

He added that even though the former bar was known as "The Post," it was not part of the chain, known by the same name, found in Novi, Detroit, East Lansing and elsewhere.

As for The Venue, Marselis added, "We'll have great pizza, ribs, pasta and salads and especially our brick-oven pizza."

The Venue Bar & Grille is located at 3880 Lapeer Road, across the highway from the Palace of Auburn Hills.

GM Plant 6 Bites the Dust, Literally



A trackhoe takes prey Tuesday on what used to be, the truck plant at Opdyke and South Blvd.