



«THE ROAD BEFORE THEM

Schedules set for local teams; coaches discuss state of game, 6A



AUGUST 15, 2012
Vol. 9, No. 33

Royal Oak REVIEW

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Voters pass millages, select finalists for November ballot

BY CHRIS JACKETT

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ROYAL OAK/CLAWSON —
With the closing of the polls Aug. 7
in Royal Oak, Clawson and

throughout Oakland County, many
decisions were made and even more
ballots were set for the Nov. 6 general
election.

Unofficial voter turnout was as
expected by local city clerks, with

about 25.40 percent (12,356 voters)
coming out the polls in Royal Oak,
25.41 percent (2,395 voters) in
Clawson and 25.69 percent
(236,211 voters) in the county.

"Things went extremely well in

Royal Oak," said Melanie Halas,
Royal Oak city clerk. "I have excel-
lent precinct workers, and I couldn't
have such a smooth day without
them. They are extremely dedicated,

See PRIMARY on page 5A

WAREHOUSE OF DREAMS

The Woodward Warehouse co-owner Joe Polito stands next to his 1956 Corvette inside the 14,000-square-foot facility in Royal Oak. The warehouse, which opened in June, can house up to 56 classic cars and also serves as a clubhouse for car lovers, many of whom will likely take part in the upcoming Dream Cruise.

For more on Polito's venture and the cruise in general, turn to our special section on page 12A.

Photos by David Schreiber



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CLASSIC CAR FANS FIND HAVEN in Woodward Warehouse

New facility offers club atmosphere alongside vehicle storage space

BY CHRIS JACKETT

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ROYAL OAK — Classic cars are commonplace in the city during the Woodward Dream Cruise, but a new local business is making Royal Oak a haven for the classic vehicles year round.

The Woodward Warehouse, 4260 Edgeland, just northeast of Normandy and Coolidge, can house up to 56 classic vehicles in its 14,000-square-foot facility, which just opened June 23 and has already earned plenty of attention.

"We're trying to create a car enthusiast environment," co-founder Joe Polito said. "We're not trying to sell just storage as a commodity; we're trying to sell a club-type environment. We're going to have various events here that are of interest to car enthusiasts."

Polito wants The Woodward Warehouse to not just be a storage facility, but a club for car enthusiasts where they can hang out. Several lounges and conference rooms are featured and include a pool table, two vintage Jokerz and Big Brave pinball machines, a cigar lounge, a large conference room, a full-service kitchen, a TV room and a patio with a barbecue. The facility features six



Photo by David Schreiber

The Woodward Warehouse co-owner Joe Polito stands next to a teal 1955 Ford F-100 Panel van. After retiring from a career as a lawyer, Polito wanted to do something he loved, so he opened the state's first car enthusiast club/warehouse combo.

52- to 54-inch televisions, and plans for a storage locker room are under way.

"The concept was to go to a place for guys who like cars, and they can escape from their wives and lives and whatever," said co-founder Ron Pruette.

With the building sitting vacant for more than three years, Polito began toying with the idea while planning for his retirement as a lawyer. He has six classic cars of his own, but had been storing them at various relatives' houses, sometimes in damp garages in less-than-ideal conditions.

"It's just something I've been thinking about for quite a few years," Polito said. "I was looking at retirement and what I could do to keep active."

The warehouse club is the only one of its kind in Michigan, Polito said. They're common in coastal states, and there are a few in Ohio, all of which are pretty successful, and Polito hopes his can reach the local niche audience. He said interest has grown during the past three months, and the facility already houses about 17 vehicles, as well as two motorcycles and the actual 1952 Triumph

See WAREHOUSE on page 20A

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