

The newsletter of the Motor City Chapter of Pontiac-Oakland Club International

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Meetings held at Bakers of Milford www.bakersofmilford.com





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LaFontaine family opens classic car showroom in Milford

reprinted from www.hometownlife.com

While the Woodward Dream Cruise <u>is canceled officially this year</u>, there's a new way you can get that classic car fix, right in Milford. Especially if you're looking to buy.

The LaFontaine family brought its most recent business to the village, a showroom featuring classic vehicles, all for sale. The business, located at 211 S. Main just north of Huron Street, has more than a dozen vehicles inside the building and many more in the adjacent parking lot.

"We've been having fun so far," said Mackenzie Hinsperger, who helps run LaFontaine Classic Cars and is the grandson of Mike and Maureen LaFontaine, founders of the automobile dealership empire. "We get a lot of people through the door.

"It's been exciting. We've been learning a lot."

Hinsperger said the classic car showroom is a new venture for the LaFontaine family of dealerships. It's a development in the works for several years, a concept dreamed by his grandmother, Maureen LaFontaine, who <u>died late last year</u>.

When the property at 211 S. Main — a building that housed a former Chrysler dealership — opened up, Hinsberger said was a perfect fit to launch the classic car showroom.

"This was my grandmother's wish right here," he said. "This building popped up and it was just meant to be."

The showroom aims to bring buyers back in time to a more classic feel. In addition to all the vehicles in the showroom, the space is decorated with vintage signs from vehicle brands of the past. In addition to those vehicles in the building, the parking lot to the south contains many others available for purchase.

Hinsperger said they always wanted to remain in the Milford area, eschewing more densely-populated areas to stay close to home.

"This area is perfect for us. We have a lot of roots here, we love this little town," he said. "It's a good fit for us and it's a good fit for what we're trying to do here."

Vehicles of all kinds

The business opened in early June several months delay created by the coronavirus pandemic. Inside, classic car enthusiasts will find several vehicles to fawn over, including a 1969 Chevrolet Camaro SS, a 1965 Ford Mustang and — for those of you who can't wait to get your hands <u>on a new one next year</u> — a 1977 Ford Bronco. Those are just a handful of the classics up for sale in the showroom, and the selection of vehicles on display will rotate as new ones arrive.

The showroom acquires vehicles several ways, with a majority of them coming through auction. The coronavirus pandemic has slowed in-person auctions, Hinsperger said, requiring them to resort to more online auctions.

While Hinsperger likes attending in-person auctions more to get a feel for vehicles, the online auctions have started to provide more detail about each vehicle. He said the showroom specializes in domestic vehicles, but they'll acquire any classic and put it up for sale.

While many of the showroom's visitors are just wanting to see the space, they've had a handful of sales since opening. Despite current economic conditions, Hinsperger said collectors are still out looking for new wheels to add to their garages.

"It's a little different, it's a little tricky," he said. "But the people that are after the cars are still after the cars."

The shop is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. More information, including an online listing of vehicles, can be found at <u>lafontaineclassiccars.com</u>.





Join us on Cruise Saturday, August 15!

Cruise in your classic (or non classic) car and have fun following clues while learning about local Pontiac Transportation history... all with your family team and Smart Phone, while practicing social distancing.

CLASSIC CARS! . FUN! . HISTORY! . TEAMWORK! . PRIZES!

PTM Cruise & Clues: Transportation History Hunt / Road Rally

NOTE: This is NOT a race. This is a FUN event designed to safely but separately connect Classic Car* and History-enthusiasts. The Pontiac Transportation Museum aims to Excite, Engage and Educate about the Pontiac-region's transporation legacy that literally moved our nation and beyond. Classic Cars and themed attire encouraged, but not mandatory.

Where: Event begins at the location of the coming museum - 250 W. Pike St. just west of downtown Pontiac

COMING MUSEUM - 200 W. FIKE ST. just west of downtown Pontiac But the History Hunt will take you all around the Pontiac metro area.

Saturday, August 15, 2020, 1 to 5 p.m.

Don't be late...as we have special packages and a photo opportunity.

came: 2 to 5 People per Car

Score points with the most creative team name! Minimum of 2 people (a driver and navigator) up to a maximum of 5 people per car or depending on your car's stated capacity.

^s35 per Team Car

Pre-Registration suggested: Teams are limited, so reserve your spot at LOCALHOP.COM

The Fine Print:

More details & team packs to come on the day of the event. REQUIRED: Running Car (gas-filled suggested), Smart Phone and a sense of Fun! For Covid-consideration, bring face mask for each team member as some locations/situations may necessitate. Water will be provided, but feel free to pack a lunch & additional non-alcoholic beverages. "PIM Board and/or Committee members are ineligible for prizes.



PONTIACTRANSPORTATIONMUSEUM.ORG

Contact us via email or social media ADMIN@PONTIACTRANSPORTATIONMUSEUM.ORG THE SITE OF THE MUSEUM IS LOCATED AT 250 W. Pike Street, PONTIAC, MICHIGAN



Hosted by the Yankee Chapter of P.O.C.I.

Snapshots In Time



Somerset Pontiac Troy, MI Spring 1988

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