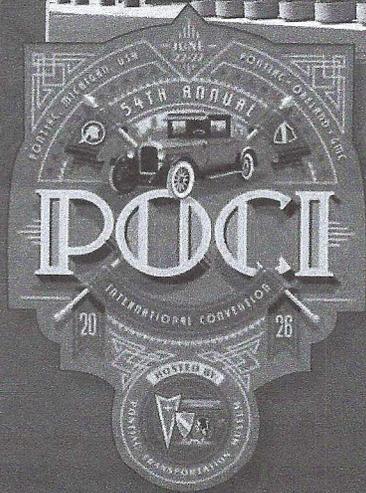


# Pontiac Transportation Museum to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pontiac by hosting the 54th Annual POCI Convention, June 22-27, 2026 in Pontiac, Michigan!



*Oakland Expo Center*

*by Tim Dye*



## A Convention Like No Other! “Home for the Hundredth!” Update #5

### Change of Venue!

Every convention presents its own unique challenges and issues. Many months ago, the club had signed a contract with MI Concourse as the site for our Wednesday Night Welcome Party. This impressive facility in Pontiac, Michigan was to also serve as the location for our big Saturday car show and to handle our trailer parking needs. When I introduced this historic site to you in my initial 2026 convention update, I proudly described the MI location as a “near ideal venue” for our needs.

Well, since that time, the top manage-

ment at MI (the folks who we signed the contract with) have moved on. Those are the folks who sincerely cared about the club and the museum, and they wanted to see our convention succeed. However, in what seems to be a profit-driven decision, the new team at MI decided to exercise a clause buried deeply within the contract to terminate our agreement. They had found

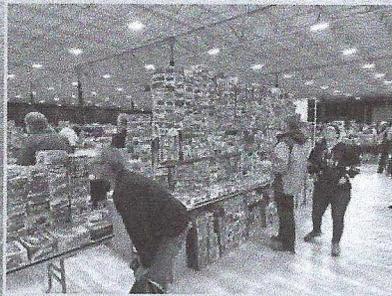
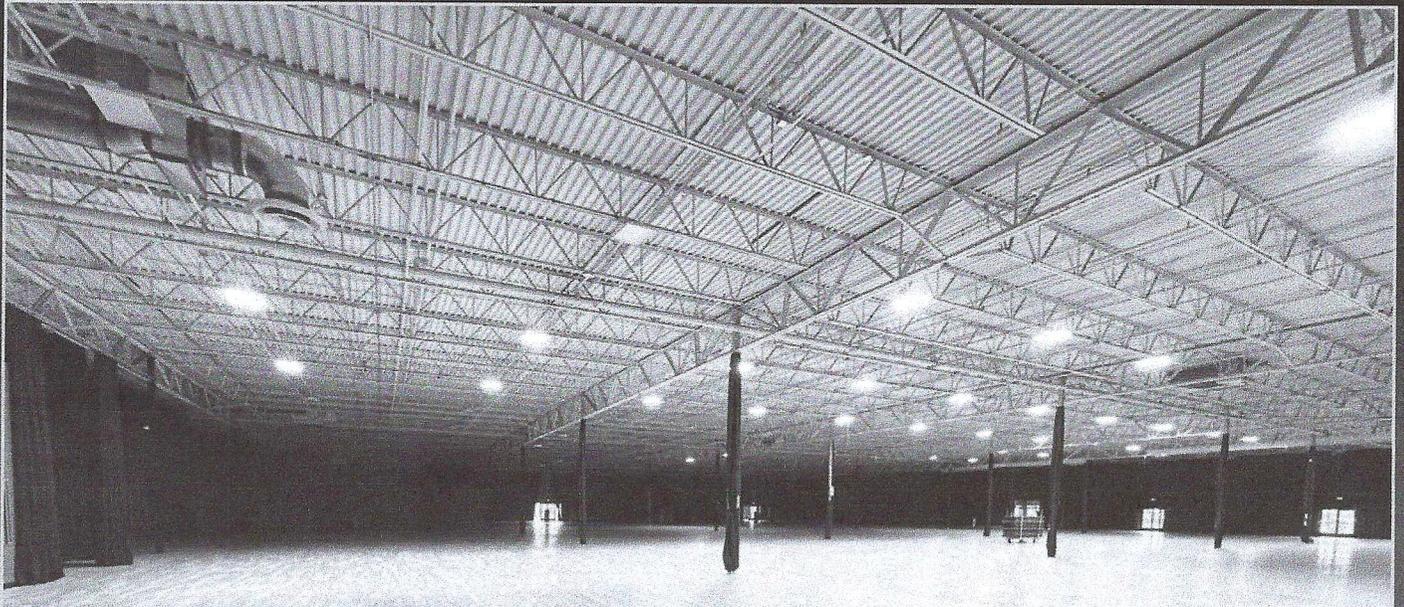
another group willing to pay more for our June 2026 dates, essentially kicking us to the curb. I was beyond disappointed with this less-than-ethical business decision.

And with that, we suddenly became a convention without a site to host our signature event!

One of my first thoughts immediately afterwards was to look into holding our car



*Tech Inspection and some other activities will take place within this outdoor covered area at the Oakland Expo Center.*



*We have attended two events at the Oakland Expo Center, including a model/toy show and a car show. Both were well attended, and the facility with its two sets of restrooms and concession stand handled the crowds quite well.*



show in the parking lot of Pontiac Motor Division's second Administration Building — an iconic local structure that has stood since early 1970 (see its complete story in the June 2020 issue of *Smoke Signals*). Its large parking lot has in previous years played host to many Pontiac shows, and the building itself was the backdrop of many official Pontiac press photos. Historically, it would have been an appropriate location for our upcoming 100th anniversary celebration.

Unfortunately, my inquiries with GM seeking permission to use that lot just weren't getting anywhere — and I just recently found out why: they intend to demolish the building. There is a good chance it will be gone by the time our convention is held!

While there seems to be no "perfect" alternate location available for our needs, fortunately, we think we've found a *very good* one in the nearby Oakland Expo Center.

This is a new facility, a converted "big box" store with 70,000 square feet indoors. It offers two sets of restrooms, a concession stand, large overhead doors, a very large parking lot and, at one end, an additional 40,000 square feet of fenced and (mostly) covered outdoor function space.

## Important Information

With this new facility, we can properly accommodate the Points-Judged car show indoors on Friday, along with some displays of special feature cars. The Popular Vote show will be held on the building's expansive parking lot outdoors on Saturday, while the Points-Judged and special feature cars remain on display indoors.

TECH INSPECTION will take place under the covered outdoor area at one end of the building, with photos being taken nearby. As in years past, a 5B-C fire extinguisher will be required inside the car at Tech Inspection.

TRAILER PARKING will be located just next door to the Expo building. *Reminder: Trailer parking will NOT be allowed at the host hotel.* So, if you are considering entering a Points-Judged vehicle, there could hardly be a better setup with the trailer parking, Tech Inspection and car show all in the same location!

The Oakland Expo Center is located at 2212 Mall Dr. E., Waterford, MI, 15 minutes from the host hotel.

## Additional Convention Information

Once again, I urge you to register early so that when the Activity Sheet is released you will be among the first to receive it. This will allow you to have first access to the various tours that will assuredly sell out. There are still other line items on the Activity Sheet that may have limited availability, so don't delay!

**OUTDOOR SWAP MEET SPACES** are 10x20' and are priced at \$40 each), and will be located in Lot A adjacent to the host hotel.

**INDOOR SWAP MEET SPACES** include a provided 8' table and are priced at \$50 each. Spaces are very limited.

**CAR CORRAL** will offer a great space to sell your Pontiac, Oakland or GMC Truck. Spaces are priced at \$40 each and will be located in Lot A within the Swap Meet area.

**TRAILER PARKING** is located next to the Oakland Expo Center at 2212 Mall Dr.

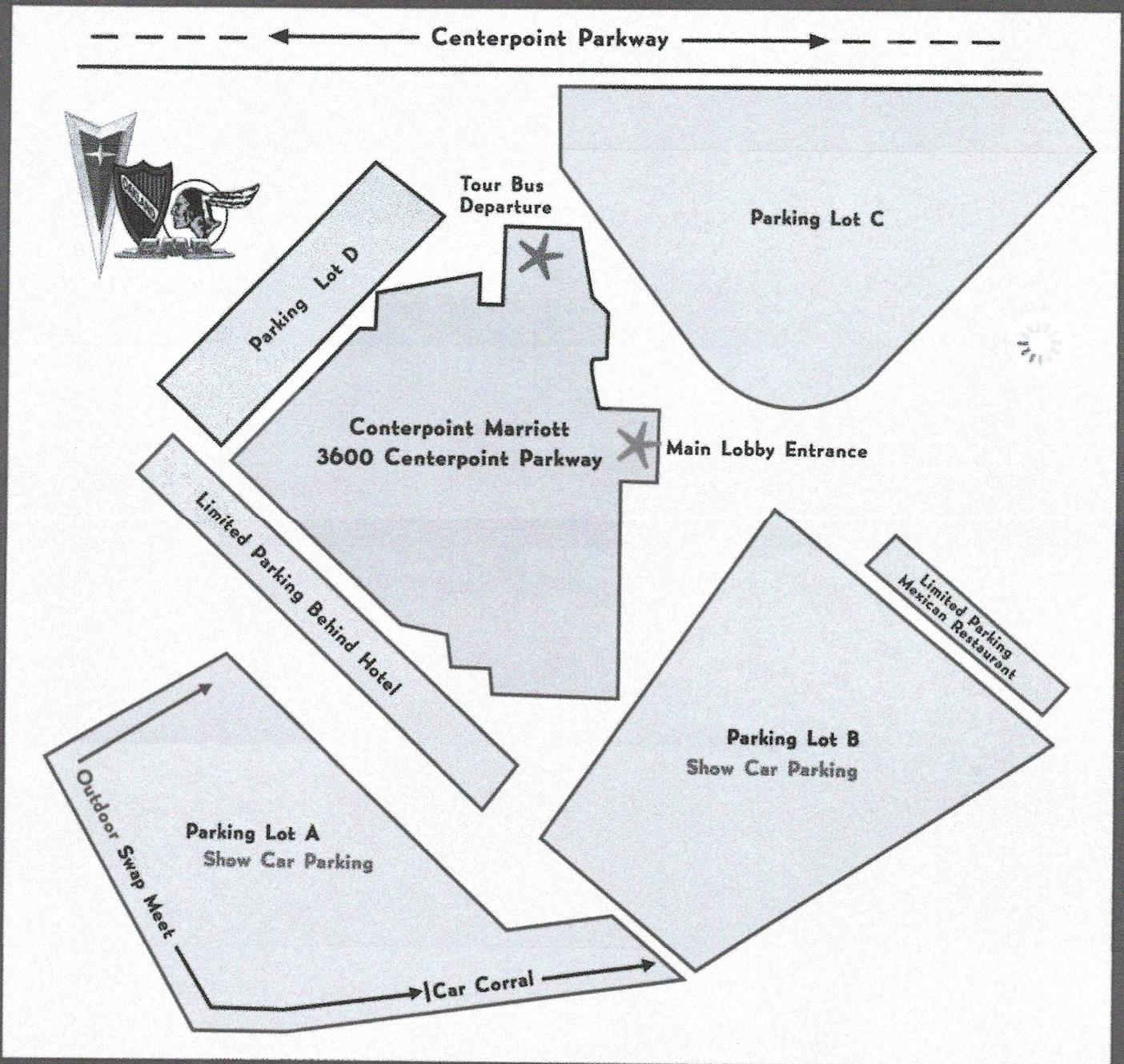
E., Waterford, MI (just off of Telegraph Rd.), and is \$25 per space. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Convention attendees with a trailer should drop off their trailer here upon first arrival in town, as there is no room at the hotel parking lot for trailer parking — not even temporarily!

**ADDITIONAL SHOW VEHICLES.** As you know, Convention Registration is priced at \$65 through May 15th and increases to \$85 afterwards. This covers one vehicle entry in either the Popular Vote show or Road Warriors category. Any additional vehicles that you bring for either of these two categories are \$20 each. Entering a vehicle in any of the Points-Judged classes is \$70; no discounts are offered for additional vehicles in this category.



15 min (6.6 mi)  
via Woodward Ave

 DIRECTIONS



**We are working on getting the Activity Sign-up Form ready and available for on-line sign up.**

**Sign in to the [POCI website](#) with your member credentials to register for the convention. Click on MY DASHBOARD and then the CONVENTION REGISTRATION link.**

**The host hotel is sold out. We have added some more overflow hotels:**

**Hampton Inn /Auburn Hills**  
South [2200 Featherstone Drive](#)  
Auburn Hills, MI 48236  
Phone: (248) 334-3324  
Room rate - \$129

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites / Auburn Hills South**  
[907 N. Opdyke Road](#)  
[Auburn Hills, MI 48326](#)  
Phone: (248) 285-9300 Room rate - \$129

**Staybridge Suites Auburn Hills**  
[917 N. Opdyke Road](#)  
[Auburn Hills, MI 48326](#)  
Phone: (248) 236-7006  
Room rate - \$129

**Please register for the convention as soon as possible if you plan to attend. This helps immensely with our planning and scheduling. Help us make this the best convention ever!**