

**Hot Rod H-D® named number one Harley Davidson dealership**

(Submitted by Hot Rod Harley-Davidson)

Hot Rod Harley-Davidson was recently named a Dealernews top 100 dealer for the fourth year in a row. Dealernews is the premier business information resource for North American powersports retailers. The annual Top 100 Awards is the industry's largest, longest-running and most prestigious retail competition and is open to all powersports dealers in the U.S. and Canada, of which approximately 700 are Harley-Davidson dealers.

Hot Rod H-D® was also a finalist in two merit award categories including "Best Event" for Muskegon Bike Time and "Dealer of the Year" in which they placed second runner-up. •

**Fruitport preschool**

(Submitted by Fruitport Community Schools)

Fruitport Community Schools provides three programs for preschool-aged children. All programs follow curriculum guidelines from the State of Michigan Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Pre-kindergarten. Children must be three- or four-years-old by November 1, 2013. Because there are limited openings, it is important to enroll early.

The three programs are:

**Head Start**, a free preschool program for income-eligible three- or four-year-old children. Children must reside in the Fruitport or Mona Shores school district. Classrooms are located at Edgewood Elementary in Fruitport and Ross Park Elementary in Norton Shores. Classes meet for half-days, Monday through Thursday. Meals and transportation are provided.

**Great Start Readiness Program**, a free preschool program for children who are four years old and reside in the Fruitport or Mona Shores school district. Families are required to meet qualifying factors. Classes meet for half-days, Monday through Thursday. Classrooms are located at Edgewood Elementary, Fruitport Early Childhood Center, and Ross Park Elementary.

**Child's World Preschool**, a tuition-based preschool program available to all three or four-year-old children regardless of home district. Tuition for the two-day program (for three year olds) is \$160 per quarter. Tuition for the three-day program for four year olds, is \$205 per quarter. Classes are located at Edgewood Elementary.

For more information, please contact the Fruitport Early Childhood Center at (231) 865-4102. •

**Life in the fifties: The cars we loved**

By Joe Tomodachi

As a child of the 1950s, one certainty we could count on was that we would forever have Chevrolet, Ford and Plymouth. Well, at least Chevy and Ford. The recent discontinuation of car brands finds us without Pontiac, Mercury, Oldsmobile and Plymouth and is a sobering reminder of the cars of the fifties that we lost, too. Oh, yes, Saturn also came along and went away.

Nearly every car on the road at that time was American. If you think we didn't have small cars, there were the Henry J and Crosley — wasn't that a Crosley that Braun's had on their sign for many years? Other brands that survived into the fifties included DeSoto, Hudson, Kaiser-Frazer, Packard, Nash, Rambler, Studebaker, Willys, and let's not forget the Edsel. Each year, the distinctive styling and features changed, so most of us could recognize the make and year of every car from a block away.

Lots of features became popular during the fifties: Automatic transmissions, power steering, power brakes, windows and more. We briefly had four-headlight systems: Two low-beam and two high-beam. My '57 Ford had seat belts, but they were tucked away and never used, but just in case I was ever in a race, they were ready to be strapped on. We didn't have a seat belt law then.

If you were one of those rare birds who opted for an imported car, you may have owned a Borgward, Anglia, Renault Dauphine, Isetta, Simca, Triumph or a Vauxhall. My recollection was that if these cars ever needed repair parts, the dealer would have to order from overseas, which took months while your exotic car sat in the shop.

Let's not forget the Canadian Perisienne, which was really a Pontiac or a Mercury pickup truck. Those crazy Canadians!

While being reminded of trucks, in addition to Ford, Dodge, Chevy, GMC and Studebaker, there were many other truck brands on our roads. Those included Diamond T, FWD, Reo, Autocar, Brockway, Divco, Mack, White, and International. Some of these were specialized as milk trucks or hauled trailers; a few survive under different names, but all of them helped bring us through the 1960s and into the 21st century.

You must have recollections of historic vehicles that took you and your family far and wide! Share them with someone. •

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