

## 'Proclamation' Enthralls HFM Visitors

by Gerald Scott  
Editor  
U.S. Auto Scene

In a flash of brilliance, the Emancipation Proclamation visited The Henry Ford and neither the fading document, nor the institution, might ever be the same.

In an exciting 36 hours, some 21,015 metro Detroiters turned out for a 20-second glimpse of one of the country's founding documents.

Signed into law by President Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863, the EP is considered one of this nation's founding documents as it set the nation on a path to eventually repeal slavery, Jim Crow and everything that the

### 21,000 Metro Detroiters Line Up To View Document at Museum

Civil War represented in the way of human rights, personal dignity and the institution of slavery.

The Emancipation Proclamation didn't quite literally "free all the slaves" as is sometimes attributed to it, according to historical experts, but it did set the nation on a path truer to its actual founding documents and at a key moment during the Civil War, it called to mind Lincoln's philosophical summoning of the "better angels of our nature."

That helps explain why so many locals spent as long as 5-

6 hours in line just for that 20-second glimpse of this living and truly American document.

Patricia Mooradian, president of The Henry Ford, and U.S. Circuit Court Judge Damon Keith, metro Detroit's most prominent African American jurist, held court over the kickoff proceedings welcoming the Emancipation Proclamation to town for the first time since 1948.

"I have to say I'm the proud president of The Henry Ford. It is wonderful to welcome you here tonight to what truly is a once-in-a-lifetime event," Moora-

dian said.

"In January of 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, war-weary and approaching Year Three of the largest armed conflict ever conducted on American soil, put into effect the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all person held as slaves in the 'rebellious states, are, and hence forward, shall be free.'

"This document, written like a legal brief, is a simple piece of paper that became an extraordinary symbol of hope and changed our lives forever.

"This fragile treasure, written and signed by our 16th president of the United States, not only changed the course of the



U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Damon Keith was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony to welcome the Emancipation Proclamation to the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn last week.

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## Village Ford Hosts Tent Sale

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Nothing like a giant tent sale to shake the sales tree for a local car dealership.

That would be Village Ford, which hosted its annual giant tent sale at the Westborn Mall Shopping Center, located at Michigan Ave. and Outer Drive, just a stone's throw from the dealership itself further west on Michigan Ave.

"It's our 29th annual tent sale," said Village Ford sales manager Bob Wheat.

"And yes, it takes a lot of planning to pull this off every year.

"In past years, we've held it

in May, June and July. When we hold it depends on a variety of factors including the availability of vehicles, incentives (from the OEM), programs and other factors."

U.S. Auto Scene visited the tent sale last Wednesday, which was the third of four days of the big gathering of cars and promotions and, of course, tents.

"We've sold 73 cars in the last two days, we're on track for 80 cars (before the end of the third day)," Wheat said.

Wheat added that small cars were selling well, both at the tent sale and otherwise at the dealership of late.

He said that Focus, Fusion and Escape are all moving exceptionally well in terms of new car sales.

"Fusion and Escape have exceptional value in the marketplace right now," Wheat ob-

served.

Although, curiously, Wheat said that the Escape Hybrid was not selling as well as the mainstream, gas-engine Escape was.

His reasoning is that the 4-cylinder Escape has high mileage as it is, so customers aren't compelled to entertain buying the Escape Hybrid as much as Ford marketers might like to see.

Otherwise, the Village Ford sales and support staff, including Linda Chavis, 60, Britney Fournier, 16, and Paige Radtke, 13, together posed for photos in the bed of a big F-150 pickup truck that was used at the recent NASCAR race at MIS in Brooklyn to ferry car drivers around in.

Chavis, who has worked at the dealership for 16 years, says the truck carted Jeff Gordon around the track.



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

The Village Ford dealership support staff, including, from left, Linda Chavis, Britney Fournier and Paige Radtke, stand in the bed of the F-150 pickup truck that was used to parade NASCAR drivers around the track at the recent race at MIS.

## Mechatronics Unites LTU and German University

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. – Lawrence Technological University and the Thuringia Center for Innovation and Mobility, which is associated with Ilmenau University of Technology in Germany, have signed a three-year agreement to cooperate in the development of mechatronic vehicle systems and other innovative technologies for "green" mobility such as hybrid and electric ground vehicles.

The agreement was signed in Southfield by Lawrence Tech President Lewis Walker and Matthias Machnig, minister for economics for the central German state of Thuringia where Ilmenau University of Technology is located.

Mechatronics is a multidis-

ciplinary field of engineering that incorporates aspects of mechanical engineering, electronic engineering, computer engineering, software engineering, control engineering, and systems design engineering. Lawrence Tech's master's program in mechatronics, launched in 2006, concentrates on conventional and unmanned ground vehicle and industrial robot engineering.

The two institutions agreed to explore programs to benefit researchers, students and faculty in Germany and the United States, in keeping with their commitment to "mutual understanding for scientific and

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Vladimir Vantsevich, left, director of the mechatronics program at Lawrence Tech, presents a document to be signed by Lawrence Tech President Lewis Walker and Matthias Machnig, minister for economics of the German state of Thuringia.

## Ford Adds Rear-Inflatable Seat Belts to Flex, Lincoln

DEARBORN – After launching its industry-first rear inflatable seat belts on the new Ford Explorer, Ford Motor Co. is now expanding availability to the Ford Flex and Lincoln vehicles set to arrive in dealer showrooms next summer.

"This advanced restraint system is designed to help reduce head, neck and chest injuries for rear seat passengers, often children and older passengers who can be more vulnerable to such injuries," said Sue Cischke, Ford group vice president of Sustainabili-

ty, Environment and Safety Engineering.

"Expanding the rollout of this technology is another example of Ford leading the way to enhance vehicle safety for our customers."

The addition of the inflatable rear seat belts to Flex builds on the Top Safety Pick ratings the vehicle recently earned from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Ford plans to continue offering the inflatable belts affordably after launching them on the new Explorer.

Early data show approximately 40 percent of Explorer buyers are parents who are ordering the rear inflatable belts, said Amy Marentic, Car and Crossover Group marketing manager.

"The addition of inflatable belts enhances Ford's well-earned reputation of adding technology that enables safety," she said. "This is especially important to customers of products, such as Explorer, which often serve large families who are looking for that extra peace of mind found in

technology like inflatable belts."

The inflatable belts were added this spring, bolstering Explorer's already extensive suite of safety innovations. The vehicle already has seen strong demand from customers for its safety and driver-assist technologies.

Of the first 19,000 Explorer orders received:

- 87 percent include rear view camera
- 40 percent include BLIS

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## TRW Offers Enhanced Electric Power Steering

LIVONIA – TRW Automotive Holdings, Corp. last week announced a range of advanced steering features which can be programmed within the software of an Electrically Powered Steering (EPS) system to assist the driver.

Any number of the functions can be selected by vehicle manufacturers to help enhance driver safety or mitigate vehicle "error states."

Frank Lubischer, vice president, TRW Steering Engineering, said, "With the given mechanical and hydraulic constraints of traditional hydraulic steering systems, there are limits to what can be achieved – compromising the ability to implement functions and steering 'feel' characteristics beyond conventional physical boundaries.

"One of the beauties of electric steering is that these functions are controlled through software – and can be programmed quickly to allow for the desired outcome.

"For example, the amount of power steering assist can easily be varied – full assist at lower speeds for tight turning maneuvers such as parking,

or a stiffer, sportier response at high speeds such as highway driving, and these modes can be chosen by the driver.

"Likewise, the electric steering system can be programmed to respond intelligently to varying vehicle and environmental conditions – such as different tire types, payloads or road surfaces."

TRW says that Electric steering safety enhancements are also achievable through integration with other systems. When combined with driver assist technologies, such as camera-based systems for example, electric power steering can help assist the driver in staying in the intended lane by providing a torque through the steering wheel that guides the driver back toward the center of the lane.

Note that a full lane guide system can actively assist in keeping the vehicle in the center of the lane.

With 2010 sales of \$14.4 billion, TRW Automotive ranks among the world's leading automotive suppliers. It otherwise employs over 60,000 people around the globe.

## Dearborn Resident Cynthia Morris Earns 'Outstanding Student' Award

DEARBORN – For some, the fields of engineering, technology, biology and medicine may seem somewhat unrelated. After all, what does a computer, engine, molecule and prescription have to do with each other?

But as human life continues to evolve and new advances are made in each of these fields, it is clear the degree to which these areas of study are actually inter-related and dependent upon one another.

The evidence bears this out – artificial hips now last more than 25 years; artificial human vision is a growing possibility for those who once could see but have lost their sight; and the engineering discipline is

now considered one of the best ways to prepare for medical school among a growing population of high-achieving students.

Biotechnology is a field of biology that involves living organisms and processes in engineering, technology and medicine that require bioproducts for purposes such as manufacturing.

In the case of an artificial hip, all of these fields come into play as manufacturers continue to seek the right ingredients to one day create a lifelong hip replacement component.

Most importantly, professionals who work in Biotechnology often make discoveries

that fight diseases, help improve the production of food sources and create technologies that help keep the environment cleaner. According to many analysts and experts, biotechnology will become one of the most important fields in the 21st century.

Recently, the HFCC Biotechnology Program, headed by Dr. Jolie Stepaniak, presented the first Outstanding Biotechnology Student Award to Dearborn resident Cynthia Morris.

This award symbolizes the HFCCs Science Department's Biotechnology Program as an academic field that students are interested in studying



Cynthia Morris, center, with Dr. Jolie Stepaniak, Biotechnology faculty member, right, and Paul Root, Chemistry faculty member.

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