

Mainstreet car show stirs memories of hot rods and busy downtowns



The Mainstreet Memories Car Show is about more than tail fins, chrome, metal-flake paint jobs and big block V-8 engines. "No. 1 is love of the cars," said Ron Steward, one of the car show's organizers. "No. 2 is supporting the Council on Aging, and No. 3, we're working to resurrect the downtown. We want to bring it back."

The car show, in its second year, will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 29 in downtown Port Huron. Looking is free, but people who want to show a car pay \$15. The money raised by entry fees goes to the Council on Aging Serving St. Clair County.

Mary Taylor, assistant director at the council, said last year's show was the council's largest fundraiser. "These wonderful guys turned over more than \$9,000 to us last year when it was all said and done," she said. Steward said the car show resurrects what had been a Port Huron tradition.

"The show used to be a really big show back in the 80s and 90s, and it kind of faded away," he said. "Last year we brought it back with good success. We had around 200 cars and raised about \$9,300 for the Council on Aging."

The show will be on Huron Avenue from Quay Street north to Glenwood. "I have enough room, if I need it, to put about 450 cars in the area," Steward said. "We're expecting 250 to 300 cars."



The vehicles are on display but there won't be any formal judging. "We're open to all makes and models," Steward said. "Last year, we had everything from a Model T to a brand new Dodge Hellcat Challenger.

"The reason why we are a non-judged show is we feel it is about community, not competition," he said. "Come down, have a good time, visit with each other, eat at the restaurants and shop at the stores."

The Port Huron Senior Center, 600 Grand River Ave., will be open during the car show.

"This year they let us have an arts and crafts show that we are going to have the day of the car show in the Port Huron Senior Center," Taylor said.

Downtown Port Huron's Fourth Friday event on July 28 also will have a car show theme, Taylor and Steward said. Called Wheels, Keels and Deals, the event will be 6-9 p.m. July 28.



Al and Carole Burleigh of Port Huron showed their lime green 1970 Dodge Challenger RT/SE during the 2016 Mainstreet Memories Car Show. (Photo: TIMES HERALD)

Sperry's Moviehouse will be showing "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" and "Christine" on July 28 and 29.

Contact Bob Gross at (810) 989-6263 or rgross@gannett.com.

If you go

- The second Mainstreet Memories Car Show is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 29 in downtown Port Huron.
- The event will include an arts and craft show at the Port Huron Senior Center, 600 Grand River Ave.
- Port Huron's Fourth Friday event, Wheels, Keels and Deals, will be 6-9 p.m. July 28.