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## Cafe pays tribute to Detroit Dream Cruise

Nick Gallup  
Special for The Republic

People who move here from other parts of the country give the Phoenix area diversity, and the car scene is no exception. Sunshine's Motor City Cafe in Tempe is steeped in Detroit nostalgia with food and memorabilia.

The third annual Dream Cruise at Sunshine's Motor City Cafe, which will take place Saturday, Aug. 16, pays homage to Detroit's annual Woodward Dream Cruise.

Michelle "Sunshine" Taylor, a Detroit native, established the cafe to honor her roots. The cafe gives people a chance to experience a piece of Motor City car culture the way she remembers it — in its glory days.

"The cafe is about everything that I grew up with, and it feels like home to me," she said.

The cafe will stream the Woodward Dream Cruise live on the Internet while serving such Michigan favorites as Coney Island hotdogs, Faygo soft drinks, Bettermade potato chips and hot-fudge sundaes made with Sanders vanilla ice cream.

The cruise-in is open to cars built before 1970. Car entrants can enjoy a free lunch of two Coney dogs, one Faygo soft



drink, and one bag of Bettermade chips.

Members of the University of Michigan Alumni Association will attend the cruise, which is expected to attract 30 or more cars.

Retired Detroit-area disc jockey Robin Seymour also is

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### DREAM CRUISE

**When:** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16.

**Where:** Sunshine's Motor City Cafe, 7425 S. Harl Ave., Tempe.

**Admission:** Free.

**Details:** 480-730-1114, sunshinesmotorcity.com.



Chris Walsh will display Brock's Auto Wreckers 1958 GMC tow truck at the Dream Cruise in Tempe. The body is a Chevrolet Viking 60 model sporting a Holmes 525 wrecker.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS WALSH

## Detroit

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expected to make the scene.

"He was a very popular '60s DJ of 'Teen Town' on CKLW radio, and the host of the popular dance show 'Swingin' Time' out of greater Detroit," Taylor said.

Not wanting to miss the fun, Chris Walsh of San Tan Valley will be there in a fully restored 1958 GMC tow truck, owned by Brock Supply Co. of Tempe.

The body is a Chevrolet Viking 60 model with a Holmes 525 wrecker. A Chevrolet 350-cubic-inch V-8 is mated to a Chevy four-speed transmission linked to an Eaton two-speed rear end.

"Although it's primary use is that of a show vehicle, everything on the truck is fully functional," Walsh said. "Brock Supply, which I work for, rebuilt this truck from the ground up, and I get to drive it to various car shows and parades."

The wrecker's only creature comfort is a Vintage Air air-conditioning system.

A white paint job has red accents and "Brock's Auto Wreckers" painted in black lettering. The interior is period-correct with beige cloth covering the bench seat. A CB radio keeps Walsh in contact with the office.

"I was at the Dream Cruise last year with the tow truck, and I'm looking forward to it again this



In 1970, Charlie Wright bought the "pile of parts" that is now his 1938 torch-red Ford Standard coupe. He finished restoring it in 1994 and will display it Saturday, Aug. 16. CHARLIE WRIGHT

"I bought the coupe back in 1970 from a friend when it was basically a pile of parts,"

CHARLIE WRIGHT  
MESA RESIDENT

year," he said.

Mesa resident Charlie Wright will head over to the event in his torch-red 1938 Ford Standard coupe.

"I bought the coupe back in 1970 from a friend when it was basically a pile of parts," he said.

Wright finally got around to restoring the coupe in 1987, and he applied the finishing touch-

es seven years later.

"I was in no hurry," he said.

Wright did most of the restoration except for the urethane paint and the tan-tweed leather interior.

To power the coupe, he salvaged a 5-liter V-8 from a totaled 1988 Ford Mustang. The engine puts out 225 horsepower through a four-speed automatic-overdrive transmission for a nice mix of power and fuel economy.

Crager five-spoke Rally wheels feature black-wall tires, which give the coupe a street-rod look.

"I originally bought the coupe for my son, and when he lost interest in it, I kept it and finally restored it," Wright said. "I enjoy taking it to car shows."

Saturday will mark the 20th anniversary of Detroit's Woodward Dream

Cruise, which bills itself as the world's largest one-day automotive event, drawing 1.5 million people and 40,000 classic cars each year from around the globe.

It was the brainchild of Nelson House, a plumber from suburban Ferndale, Mich., who wanted to raise money to build a soccer field in his town. Drawing on Woodward's long tradition as a place to street race and see and be seen in the hottest wheels, he envisioned a small event in August 1995.

But that first cruise drew 250,000 people — nearly 10 times the number expected.

The cruise, which is held each year on the third Saturday in August, is open to any make, model and year, but the vast majority of cars were made in Detroit from the 1950s through the '70s.