

NEWSLETTER



August 2016

Dear Friends,

The 12th annual "Back to the Bricks" is now history. The celebration began with ["Tune-Up Parties"](#) in Flint Township, Clio, Linden, Fenton, Davison, Beecher, and Mt. Morris. Despite extremely hot and humid temps, there were a record number of both spectators and collector car owners participating at each site. Only Beecher/Mt. Morris were forced to deal with showers early in the day, and the Party in Davison ended a little early because of rain. The influx of visitors and car owners, as always, is a boon to the local economy, and each of the host communities is already looking ahead to next year to make their respective events even better.



[Main Event Week](#), August 16th - 20th, began on Tuesday with the traditional "Bricks Flick" at the nostalgic US-23 [Drive-In](#) Theater. The featured movie this year was "Bullitt" starring Steve McQueen with some incredible car chase scenes through the streets of San Francisco. Heavy rain on Tuesday morning proved to be a blessing in disguise, and helped to keep the dust down. Thankfully, the weather cleared in plenty of time, and the grounds were packed with car owners and families who came to enjoy the fun. Accolades to Steve Hobson, his crew, and our sponsor, ELGA Credit Union, for another outstanding "Bricks Flicks."



Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday featured ["Rolling Cruises"](#) along Saginaw Street that began in downtown Flint, and travelled through Burton, Grand Blanc Township, and the City of Grand Blanc. Thousands of smiling, waving, and picture-taking spectators lined the approximately 12 mile route to watch cars of every age and description. Vintage, classic, muscle cars, and custom vehicles - there was something for everyone! For the first time this year, my wife and I and our friends, George and Marilyn Smith from Indiana, parked our collector cars at the South End Mega Site, and watched the procession as it passed our location. For four hours straight, there was a constant stream of amazing and unique vehicles. When we finally joined the Cruise, it took us forty five minutes to travel about a half-mile. Local restaurants and bars along the way, many with outside venues and/or live entertainment, were packed with people. Some businesses hosted private parties for their clientele. The parking area around Grand Blanc's historic "Hot Dog Stand," always an annual attraction for car collectors, was jammed.



Friday night featured a ["Cruise -'N'- Concert"](#) at a new venue, the site of the old GM Fisher One plant on South Saginaw Street and Hemphill. Plenty of paved parking was available for both collector car owners and spectators. DJ B Steel and country western singer Dave Lagness opened for the MO-TORTOWN ALL-STARS whose Motown Revue got the crowd rockin' and rollin.' The weather was perfect, and the entertainment

was superb. Thanks again to Steve Hobson and his crew for a job well done, and to our sponsors, V.P. Total Solutions, Applegate Chevrolet, Matrix Expediting, Alta Rentals, HAP, and IINN. You are the fuel that runs the engines of these events.

[Saturday](#), approximately six hundred collector cars began arriving before dawn in the staging area to take their places on the coveted red bricks of Saginaw Street prior to the opening of the gates at 6AM. Kudos to Chuck and Nancy Sekrenes who orchestrated the parking arrangements with the precision of a well-oiled machine. The ["Flat Lot"](#) was ready to go with commercial automotive vendors and a variety of interactive displays for all ages. Buick, our presenting sponsor, once again had an exciting display featuring the "Avista," an absolutely gorgeous concept car that I would be proud to have in my own garage NOW!



The [Opening Ceremony](#) was dedicated to our veterans and active duty personnel. It was moving to see so many veterans from WWII to the present in attendance, and



to honor them for their service to our country. There were more than a few moist eyes during the presentation of colors, the singing of the "National Anthem" and "God Bless America," and the flyover of the vintage military aircraft. Shout out to our Flat Lot coordinator, Chairman Dale Frey, fellow committee members, and volunteers who spent many hours preparing and setting up for Saturday's Main Event.

Based on an ominous weather forecast of high winds and heavy rain headed this way, we made the decision to suspend Saturday's festivities at 3 PM instead of 5PM in order to allow car owners, vendors, sponsors, and spectators adequate time to dismantle tents, and move merchandise, vehicles, and people to safety. Although Grand Rapids and points West were hammered, Flint saw only a brief shower around 4PM. In hindsight, closing down may have been a bit premature, but safety of all involved and protection of property is always a major consideration.



Smiles and positive comments from participants and those in attendance were abundant all week. Thanks to all of our [sponsors](#), the BtB Board of Directors, Event Committee Members, especially our Main Event Chair, Dave Wood, Public Safety Officers, first responders, volunteers, and the leadership of the various governmental entities involved. Your hard work made this year's "Back to the Bricks" a roaring success. Special recognition to the City of Flint. Despite the time and attention required by the Water Crisis this year, they were extremely helpful. It was a pleasure to work with the city officials and staff. We thank you for continuing to be a major host and supporter of "Back to the Bricks." Plans are already underway to make next year better than ever. Suggestions and ideas for improvement are always welcome.