

# 'Cruisers tell it's the best cruise in the country'

Diane Gale Andreassi 4:18 p.m. EDT August 22, 2016



(Photo: submitted)

Thousands of classic cars will be on display during Cruisin' Hines Aug. 28, but unlike the cruise on Woodward, this parade of sweet wheels will only include vehicles at least 25 years old, it's in a serene park setting and squealing tires are banned.

The sixth annual Cruisin' Hines is 9 a. m. to 5 p.m. from Ann Arbor Trail to Ford Road.

"It's probably the biggest car show around of its type," said event promoter Don Nicholson, of Don Nicholson Enterprises, LLC. "The cruisers tell us it's the best cruise in the country."

## Stand out

"It's a great day to come to Hines Park and enjoy the rolling car show," Nicholson said. "Families come down on bicycles and tour the park and see classics parked along the 7.5-mile route."

The safety of spectators and drivers is the first priority, he said adding that burnouts, the practice of keeping a vehicle stationary and spinning its wheels, causing the tires to heat up and smoke, is prohibited.

"If they do it, and they get caught, they will get a ticket," Nicholson said. "All the rules of the road are still enforced. As a promoter of the event we have zero tolerance for anything like that. This is a safe, fun, family-friendly event."

When it comes to comparing Cruisin' Hines with the Dream Cruise, Nicholson said: "We're not better, but not worse. As a cruiser, most people prefer the Hines Drive cruise, because only classic cars are allowed, and it's in a park setting where you aren't dealing with the backups. I would never want to compare myself to them, because we are the same, but different."

Wayne County Department of Public Services Director Beverly Watts called Cruisin' Hines "a unique classic car cruise because we require cars to be at least 25 years old to participate. It's an opportunity for the entire family to experience an incredible collection of historic vehicles in their natural habitat — on the road."

Car buffs will see the Batmobile, Munsters Koach, Herbie, Mach 5 from Speed Racer, The Mutt Mobile van from the movie "Dumb and Dumber," and other car celebrities.

## Early starters

Some enthusiastic cruisers start lining up as early as 3:30 a.m. at Ford Road west of Evergreen. Only street-legal vehicles are allowed to cruise, which leaves out mini bikes and golf carts. Spectator parking is at Merriman Hollow Park, Parr Park and Warrendale Park. People riding bicycles are asked to use the bike path or follow the flow of traffic.

If you can't wait to get your cruising fix until the event, a kick-off cruise is planned at the Best Western Livonia from 5-9 p.m. Aug. 25 featuring food, music and of course cars.

"It's an evening where we get together, and a lot of cruisers come out to get more information about the cruise," Nicholson said.

There's more. A kick-off charity car show will be held at CrossPointe Community Church in Wayne Aug. 27.

"Last year, they fed over 2,000 people and they had just under 600 cars at that show," Nicholson said.

Event sponsors and supporters are Wayne County Parks, WOMC Radio, MotorCities National Heritage Area, Pure Michigan, Detroit Visitors and Convention Bureau, Leake Auction, Gateway Classics, UAW 1a, Best Western Livonia, Hagerty Insurance and Don Nicholson Enterprises, LLC.

Cruisin' Hines is an official Autopalooza event, which showcases car shows, cruises and other events and is supported by The MotorCities National Heritage Area, VisitDetroit.com and Pure Michigan. Go to Autopalooza.org and CruisinHines.com for more information.