

Cruise continued from page 12

presenting sponsor, everything just seems to fall into place. It just turns into a win-win situation for everyone involved — the communities, the car owners and the spectators.”

Michaels said the most challenging part of the cruise is to make sure the day is fun for the whole family. The morning begins with the annual Cruise in Shoes 5K fun walk/run presented by AAA. The route stretches along Woodward and winds

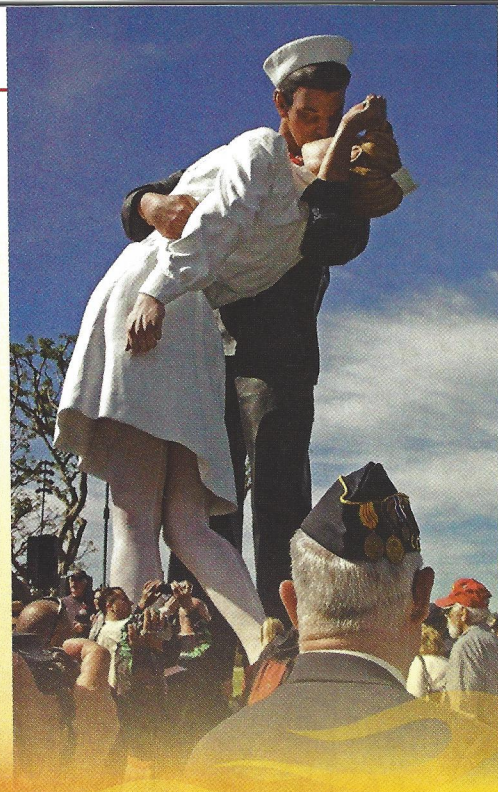
through several neighborhoods in Royal Oak. Folks can register for the run on the Dream Cruise website at woodwarddreamcruise.com.

Michaels said the best part of the day is watching the car owners and the pride they take in their vehicles.

“It’s just a positive event for everyone,” he said.

THE SCULPTURE

Cars aren’t the only stars of the 2016 Woodward Dream Cruise.



“I haven’t missed one yet. Here we are, more than two decades later, and it’s still an amazing event. As long as these cars are around and the interest is there, I’m sure we’ll be cruising.”

Jim Ellison, Royal Oak Mayor



On June 20, the iconic “Embracing Peace” sculpture by American artist Seward Johnson was installed at Memorial Park at the northeast corner of Woodward Avenue and 13 Mile Road. The 25-foot-tall sculpture is helping to raise \$3 million in funding for a permanent WWII memorial at the Royal Oak park.

“Michigan is the heart of

the ‘Arsenal of Democracy’ and home to Rosie the Riveter and we’re going to celebrate those who served our country with a memorial,” said Russell Levine, vice president of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial group that’s raising funds for the memorial.

The bronze sculpture weighs 7.5 tons and took two years to complete. It will stay in Memorial Park through the end of the year and folks are being encouraged to participate in a fun fundraiser called the “Kiss and Tell 5” program.

First, there’s the kiss:

“We’re asking people to take a picture of themselves at the sculpture or they can take a picture recreating the kiss someplace else,” Levine said. “Then we’re going to ask them to make a donation on our website



Cruise continued on page 16

Cruise continued from page 14

(michiganww2memorial.org). They can make the donation in honor of something that inspires them while looking at sculpture — whether it's a relative who fought in war, or something along those lines.”

Next, there's the telling:

Anyone who takes a photograph in front of the sculpture is being asked to post it on social media, like Facebook or Instagram, with the hashtag #kissandtell5 and encourage five others to take a similar photograph of themselves, donate and tell five others to do the same.

Photos will be used to make a mosaic of the statue that may be used for a billboard in Royal Oak. Readers visit www.kissandtell5.org for details.

More than 600,000 residents from Michigan served in the military during WWII, and tremendous efforts were made on the home front as many of the automobile factories were converted overnight to help with the war production.

“When the previous government contractor was building B-24 bombers it was



taking them two weeks, and Henry Ford said he could build one in an hour — and he built the Willow Run plant,” said Levine. “It's a great example of what was done in the state with our capabilities and our human resources.”

The Sunday prior to the Dream Cruise, on Aug. 14, folks are being encouraged to gather around the sculpture at 1 p.m. to recreate the kiss. Organizers will be at Memorial Park selling T-shirts, along with memorial bricks that can be purchased at a 25 percent discount.

Details of the permanent memorial are listed on the group's website. Levine said Memorial Park is the perfect spot because it's located along Woodward and was originally dedicated as a WWII memorial park.

MORE ACTIVITIES

The 2016 Woodward Dream Cruise could be the last time that classic car groups congregate at the Northwood Shopping Center at 13 Mile and Woodward. Beaumont Health owns the property and has announced plans to redevelop the property into some type of mixed-use project involving retail and office space.

Demolition is expected to occur before the end of the year, but the space will be available in August for this year's Dream Cruise.

Memorial Park will have more than 500 classic cars on display, while Pioneer Park off Normandy in Royal Oak will have a Kids Zone sponsored by Kroger.

Royal Oak DPS Director Greg Rassel said folks can park at 13 Mile and Coolidge for a \$10 fee, or they can park

22ND ANNUAL WOODWARD DREAM CRUISE

WHEN: Saturday, Aug. 20

WHERE: Stretches along 16 miles of Woodward Avenue in 9 different communities, including Royal Oak.

MORE INFO: Visit woodwarddreamcruise.com or find Woodward Dream Cruise on Facebook.

for free at Upton Park near 14 Mile and Coolidge and take a free shuttle to the cruise.

Ellison, who hopes to have his 1955 Ford ready for the cruise, said folks always seem to be on their best behavior throughout the weekend.

“I always compare it to the world's largest church picnic because it just seems like everyone goes out of their way to be super friendly and accommodating,” he said. “Everyone's out there with lawn chairs and umbrellas, watching the hot rods and having a great time. It's just a terrific family event.”



Photo by Karen Kish Photography