



1849 Michigan State Fairgrounds Cornerstone to find new home at the Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

Media Advisory: Please note ceremony not open to the public

Novi, MI: On Friday, September 1, at 9:00 am, a treasured relic from the original Michigan State Fair will find a new resting place, and be celebrated by the Michigan Agricultural Community with a breakfast and reception, to welcome it to a new home at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, as part of the new 175,000 square foot facility expansion now under construction. This celebration will also incorporate placing a new cornerstone for the expansion project. The massive, 7-foot wide, 3-foot tall State Fair cornerstone, featuring a blue marble ribbon flowing across the surface, was created in 1849 for the Administration Building at the Michigan State Fairgrounds at Eight Mile and Woodward Ave. The welcoming reception takes place during the second day of the 2017 Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave in Novi, open through Monday, September 4. Tickets are available at all Southeast Michigan Kroger stores and at www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com

In 2010, after the State Fair was discontinued by then Governor Granholm, County Fair Boards from across the state were invited to claim and repurpose usable remnants from the State Fairgrounds. With heavy hearts over the demise of the beloved Michigan State Fair, the Oakland County Fair Board traveled to Eight Mile and Woodward in search of livestock gates, benches and other items that might be put to use at the annual Oakland County Fair in Davisburg. As they were preparing to leave, two members of the O.C. Fair Board, Mary Ann Floyd and Lori Bositti, approached L.C. Scramlin, the Chairman, because they had glimpsed the massive cornerstone that remained unclaimed. "They had to talk me into saving it", recalls Scramlin, "It was enormous, and we had a heck of a time finding a way to move it. In that moment, I really felt that the Michigan State Fair was gone, forever."

Since then, the Cornerstone has been residing at the Oakland County Fairgrounds, and, since 2012, L.C. Scramlin and his wife, Jackie, have been integrally involved in helping to revive and reimagine the Michigan State Fair, LLC. The annual event has been a private entity, since its inception five years ago, with no taxpayer funding involved. The Scramlins, lifelong sheep breeders and stalwart figures in the Michigan Ag Community, are beyond delighted that the new, private entity State Fair has reached a milestone 5th year in 2017. In June, the Oakland County Fair Board voted to pass the State Fair Cornerstone along to the home of the Michigan State Fair, presented by Ram Trucks, at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

"As Co-Superintendents of Livestock, and lifelong members of the Michigan Ag Community, the Scramlins have been absolutely crucial in helping to provide continuity and bring legacy to the Michigan State Fair as a private event", says State Fair Executive Director Steve Masters, "their contribution to the success of the Michigan State Fair, LLC, simply cannot be overstated. We are so grateful to them for all their efforts, and also for this gracious gesture by the Oakland County Fair Board. It truly feels as if we are celebrating a Homecoming, to welcome the 1849 Michigan State Fair Cornerstone to a place where it will be revered for years to come."



For additional information, interviews or hi-res State Fair images, please contact
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