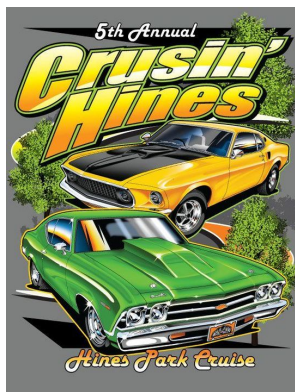


# Volunteers needed for annual Hines Drive cruise

Sue Mason, [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com) 12:06 a.m. EDT August 9, 2015



(Photo: Don Nicholson)

Don Nicholson is hesitant to estimate how many cruisers will descend on Hines Park on Aug. 23, but he believes the number will top the nearly 60,000 classics and hot rods that showed up last year.

"This has grown so much in the last five years, I'm afraid to guess how many," the Westland resident said.

With two weeks to go until Cruisin' Hines kicks off, Nicholson is looking for more volunteers to help with the event that stretches from Ann Arbor Trail in Westland to Outer Drive in Dearborn. Many of last year's volunteers are coming back, but Nicholson would like to add another 15-20 people.

Volunteers help put up banners and mark areas for car clubs and vendors and work at the spectator entrances and main gate. Shifts start as early as 1 a.m. One area Nicholson is looking to improve is having more people delivering food and water to volunteers throughout the day.

"Our volunteers did a great job, but we failed to get them food and water in a timely fashion," he said. "We had someone doing that, but we didn't figure in the traffic jams and taking 45 minutes to do the loop. I want to add two people so we have three making deliveries to volunteers."

Nicholson will hold a volunteer meeting before the cruise. Anyone interested in being involved can contact him at [Don@DonNicholson.net](mailto:Don@DonNicholson.net).

Cruisin' Hines is quickly becoming the Wayne County counterpart to the Woodward Dream Cruise. Hines Drive will be closed to regular vehicular traffic Aug. 23, and Nicholson is once again using the long approach to Hines Drive as the staging area for cruisers. Spectators will still be able to access the park at Ann Arbor Trail, Merriman and the Warrendale entrance near Telegraph.

To also get cruisers into the park quicker, the cruise program and collectibles will not be given out at the entrance. They will be available for free at the T-shirt stands set up along the 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-mile route.

The popularity of the cruise is due in part to its inclusion in the Autopalooza lineup, which promotes car cruises around the world.

The Best Western Hotel in Livonia is the main hotel for the cruise, and based on information he's received, Nicholson said "we have people coming from 18 different states for the event and that's more than we ever have had."

"We have someone coming from Washington state," he added.

The cruise is supported by local business sponsors. In addition to Wayne County Parks and Gateway Classics, the list includes WOMC, My Mechanix Place, Scrap Busters, Parts Galore, MotorCities National Heritage Area and UAW Region 1A.

"I think the Hines cruise is different from other cruises because it's so connected to people," Nicholson said. "You can call and I pick up the phone. I answer the phone for everyone. That's how I'm able to work with cruisers."

For more information about the cruise, visit [cruisinhines.com](http://cruisinhines.com).

[smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com)

734-674-2332

Twitter: [@SusanMarieMason](https://twitter.com/SusanMarieMason)

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