



## SHOP RAG



Greetings!

We are living through unprecedented times and I hope this message finds you and yours well.

We've heard from a couple owners here at GSC how happy they are to have their garages during this time. The garages are proving to be a welcome getaway to pursue hobbies, enjoy a change of scenery, work on projects, and enjoy camaraderie at a safe distance. Dan and Tracy Strantz shared "It's been nice to have projects in the garage to keep us occupied during these quieter-than-normal weekends." Time in the garage is a welcome part of our "new normal."

Progress continues here. Two garages are currently available in Building I. There is Unit 220 a 30'x50' garage (see above) and Unit 218 a 40'x50' garage. These spaces are blank canvases awaiting customization. Pre-buying in future Buildings J or K is also an option that offers a wide range of flexibility.

This month we'll share a historical story and some hope for those missing their car shows.

Happy Motoring!

Joe Bazey

[joebazey@gmail.com](mailto:joebazey@gmail.com)

612.581.0591

Visit our Website



## Lessons From World War II

So much of what is happening these days feels unfamiliar, but history shows us America has gone through hard times before and come together.

During World War II the enemy didn't stand a chance against the economic might of the United States. The American auto industry played a crucial role. The industry transformed from manufacturing autos into making cannons, aircraft engines, bombers, and the like. Much the way today's factories are being called on to manufacture medical equipment and personal protective equipment.

In a recent article in Hemmings there was an [interesting and timely read](#). According to the article, production of the 1942 cars got underway in July 1941 while the war was threatening the world. Chromium had already been designated as a strategic metal by Washington, and its availability for civilian use was strictly limited.

Plymouth, managed to build nearly 123,000 cars before civilian production stopped, had already shorted the side spears on its 1942 models to save chrome before going to entirely painted "brightwork," including the cars' new grille treatment. These cars, soon duplicated by the rest of the industry, became known as "blackout" models. This blackout look is currently very popular even though chromium is readily available.

At Chevrolet, 1942 car production came to a few less than 255,000 units, mainly in the Master DeLuxe and Special DeLuxe model ranges, their trim now painted in contrasting shades of blue, green, or maroon. By August 1942, the government had ordered that all unsold civilian automobiles be placed in interior storage for the duration of hostilities, with prices federally set to forestall gouging in the marketplace. Today, an authentic blackout Chevrolet from the war years is a rare and valuable find.

Despite the changes and challenging times 1942 U.S. car production still topped 900,000. Within months, about 95 percent of Detroit's massive capacity was dedicated to wartime production.

There are many lessons to be learned from that period of history in our country. We've collectively been through hard times before and we'll get through this as well.

## You Can Still Cruise!



Unfortunately, a bunch of fun events have been cancelled. It leaves lots of car lovers with cars all shined up and nowhere to go. While social distancing has forced car shows to cancel, it is the absolute best time to go for a drive.

If ever there was a time when the open road was calling, it is now!

In Owatonna, a simple Facebook post asking if anyone wanted to cruise Main Street on a Friday night got 300-500 vehicles cruising. [Reports](#) say the age range was 16-60+. Some of those people were reliving fond memories of long ago Friday nights spent cruising, some young cruisers getting their first chance at

the experience, and others were just look to get out of the house. Whatever drew them to Main Street, they all left smiling.

Owatonna is looking to cruise again on April 10 and other cities are rumored to have similar gatherings as well.

---

## Do you like us?



**We hope so!**

Head to our Facebook page and give us a like to stay up-to-date and see pics of what's going on here.

[Visit us on Facebook!](#)