

## School Bus Safety

Scott Kehoe, Quality Manager 6RWD / 8RWD

According to NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration), the school bus is the safest vehicle on the road. Students are about 70 times more likely to get to school safely when taking a bus instead of traveling by car. That's because school buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road; they're designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in preventing crashes and injuries.

*"The greatest risk to your child is not riding a bus, but approaching or leaving one."*



And in every state, stop-arm laws are supposed to protect students who are getting off and on a school bus by making it illegal for drivers to pass a school bus while dropping off or picking up passengers, regardless of the direction of approach.

But the fall of '18 was a deadly one for children trying to get to schools. In a one-week period, five children were killed and six were injured in five separate incidents;

1. Three siblings were killed and another child was hurt in an Oct. 30 crash in Rochester, Indiana, while they were waiting for their school bus. A 24-year-old woman was arrested and charged with reckless homicide. Indiana State Police said the stop arm on the bus was extended and exterior lights were flashing at the stop, and the children were hit as they crossed the road to board the bus.
2. A day later, a 9-year-old boy in Mississippi was killed in the Tupelo, Mississippi, suburb of Pratts while crossing a highway to catch the school bus. The driver accused of striking the child was arrested and charged with one count of aggravated assault.
3. On the same day, a kindergarten student in Tallahassee, Florida, was injured when he was struck by a car while crossing the street to board his school bus. The bus had extended the crossing arm, and the driver of the vehicle told police he realized too late that the bus had stopped.
4. On Nov. 1, five children were injured while waiting for the bus in Tampa, Florida. Two adults were also hurt when a vehicle heading eastbound hit the group. Witnesses said the driver of the vehicle had been speeding before the crash.
5. Also that day, a second-grade student was killed at a bus stop in a hit-and-run accident Tyrone, Pennsylvania. The boy was already dead when the bus driver pulled up to the stop and called 911, the Tyrone Area School District superintendent said in a statement of the hit-and-run accident.

If the greatest risk to your child is not riding a bus, but approaching or leaving one, what should you teach your child? Again from NHTSA, here are their recommendations

Visit the bus stop and show your child where to wait for the bus: at least three giant steps (six feet) away from the curb. Remind your child that the bus stop is not a place to run or play.

When the school bus arrives, your child should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, the door opens, and the driver says it is

okay before approaching the bus door. Your child should use the handrails to avoid falling.

If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, tell him/her to walk on a sidewalk or along the side of the street to a place at least five giant steps (10 feet) in front of the bus before crossing. Your child should also make eye contact with the bus driver before crossing to make sure the driver can see him/her.

So what are drivers supposed to do? On the Michigan State Police website, their recommendations are

- Prepare to stop when a slowing bus has its overhead yellow lights flashing.
- Stop at least 20 feet away for buses when red lights are flashing, unless driving in the opposite direction on a divided highway.
- Slowdown in or near school and residential areas.
- Look for clues - such as safety patrols, crossing guards, bicycles, and playgrounds - that indicate children might be in the area.
- Watch for children between parked cars and other objects.

### More...

And from the National Safety Council, if you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing;

- Never pass a bus from behind - or from either direction if you're on an undivided road - if it is stopped to load or unload children.
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop.
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks.

## SAVE THE DATE Blood Drive Toledo Transmission

Auditorium  
1455 Alexis Road  
Toledo, OH 43612

**Thursday, September 19, 2019**  
**4:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Appointments Needed!  
To schedule an appointment, please see your  
Team or Group Leader.



East Gate pollinator garden

## ENVIRONMENTAL

# Wildlife Habitat Update

GM Toledo's wildlife habitat has been certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council since 2007. TTO has approximately 5 acres of actively managed pollinator gardens and wildflower prairies. Since the plant exists within the Oak Openings Region one goal of the wildlife habitat program is to help restore and preserve plants and animals that are part of the Oak Openings habitat. Another goal is to support pollinator species like bees and butterflies that are under survival pressure due to habitat loss and pesticide use.

TTO also works to support the community in which we live and work through GREEN STEM events with local elementary schools, habitat restoration at The Nature Conservancy's Kitty Todd Nature Preserve and through native plant and seed giveaways to TTO employees. For more information and for volunteer opportunities contact Joyce Arakelian, Environmental Engineer, at (567) 225-



Wildflower prairie South of RWD Assembly

### How to contact us...

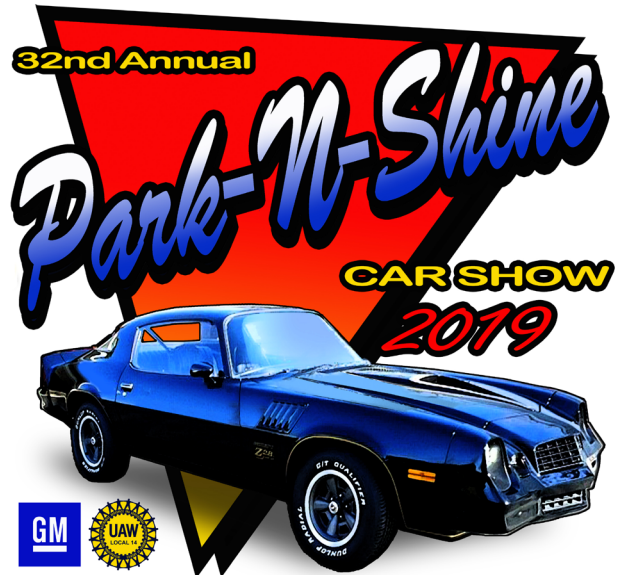
Communications Coordinator - UAW: Daniel Macut  
Email submissions to [daniel.macut@gm.com](mailto:daniel.macut@gm.com)  
Phone: 419-450-0947

Member UAW - LUCA Local Union Communication Association  
Deadline for POWERLine is 3:00 p.m. Tuesday.

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UAW LOCAL 14 & GM TOLEDO TRANSMISSION PRESENT



**ANTIQUES - MODIFIED - STREET RODS  
DRAG - MUSCLE - CLASSIC - SPECIALTY  
SUNDAY, SEPT. 8, 2019**

At the  
**Oscar Bunch Family Park - Jackman Rd. Toledo, OH**  
Drive in time: 9 am 'til Noon / Swap Meet setup at 8 am - Door Prizes!

**SHOW TIME - 12 NOON - 3 PM**  
**GENERAL MOTORS 2019 NEW PRODUCTS on DISPLAY**

**NO Bicycles, Skateboards or Roller Blades, NO Alcohol or Pets**  
**Donations accepted - NO Golf Carts**

General Motors, LLC Powertrain UAW or any of their agents are not responsible for accidents or injuries during this event.

## Volunteers Needed

Anyone interested in volunteering at the Park-N-Shine Car Show, please contact Tracie Chovan, UAW Training Rep.



## ATM Replacement Scheduled

Glass City Federal Credit Union ATM machine, located in the cafeteria lobby will be unavailable on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 due to a complete replacement and installation of a new ATM machine. We apologize for the inconvenience.

