



PRESS RELEASE  
(For Immediate Release)  
July 22, 2011

Submitted by: Cindy Timmerman, Executive Director/Summerfest Coordinator, 616-997-5164 or  
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## Coopersville Summerfest & the Del Shannon Car Show to Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hometown Superstar's #1 Hit "Runaway" During Upcoming Festival, August 8 – 13

**Coopersville MI:** Coopersville Summerfest featuring the Del Shannon Car Show is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. In addition to all of the hometown favorite activities visitors have come to expect, event planners have many special celebrations planned to honor the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Del Shannon's #1 hit "Runaway".

Del Shannon, known to locals as Charles Westover, was a significant Rock & Roll Singer-Songwriter and Producer to many well-known artists such as Tom Petty, Johnny Carver and Jeff Lynne. In the early days of Rock & Roll, the soon-to-be discovered band, The Beatles were Del's opening act. Prior to his untimely death, Del was under consideration to replace Roy Orbison in The Traveling Wilbury's whose members included George Harrison, Tom Petty, Jeff Lynn and Bob Dylan.

To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "Runaway", event planners have organized the following events for the public to enjoy.

### Monday – Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

- **50th Anniversary "Runaway" Quilt Raffle**  
*Sponsored by the Del Shannon Family*

Benefits: Miss Coopersville Scholarship and the Del Shannon Memorial Scholarship Programs

Two beautiful quilts have been lovingly crafted by Shirley Westover, Del Shannon's wife. Tickets available at the Coopersville Area Chamber of Commerce, 289 Danforth Street or at the Coopersville Area Historical Society Museum and at the Charter Communications Information Booth on Saturday August 13th. Drawing at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday August 13th at 199 Main Street. Need not be present to win. Info at 231-799-9679.

- **Visit the Official Del Shannon Memorial located at the Coopersville Area Historical Society Museum**

This extensive collection has recently been expanded and includes many personal and professional items of Coopersville's most famous son. Open: Tuesday 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Thursday (meet the family, friends and fan club members) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Friday Noon – 6:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, August 10th

- **CAPS Summer Daycare "Runaway on the Roadway"**

Eastmanville & Main Streets in Historic Downtown Coopersville, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Information at 616-240-7610.

Children of all ages are invited to help "paint" a large "Runaway" record at the intersection of Eastmanville & Main Streets, then get their feet sprayed clean by members of the Coopersville/Polkton Fire Department, then move on to enjoy the additional kids activities including Kid's Waterball, Soapbox Derby, PTA Carnival, Dancing in the Street, Tractor Games at the Coopersville Farm Museum and more!

### Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. (Line-up) 6:00 p.m. (Cruise)

### **Del Shannon Car Cruise**

Line up eastbound on O'Malley Street from 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Cruise map available at [www.coopersville.com](http://www.coopersville.com)

Join the excitement of the Del Shannon Car Cruise. Crowds line the streets of Historic Downtown Coopersville to view the beautiful cars, trucks and motorcycles of every era. Car Cruise ends at the High School near additional Summerfest evening activities.

Sponsoring Organization: A Coopersville Rotary Production, Runaway Sponsor: Keyser's Port City Racing. See Car Show Sponsor Page.

Contact: Gina Otterbein, [info@delshannoncarshow.org](mailto:info@delshannoncarshow.org), 616-947-2055

7:30 p.m.

### **The Del Shannon Runaway Tribute**

Centerstage Theatre, located on the campus of Coopersville Area Public Schools High School, 198 East Street

Admission: \$10.00 General Admission, Students \$8.00

Join us for a tribute concert commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Del Shannon's #1 Hit "Runaway". The program will feature the musical talents of Johnny Carver and James Popenhagen. Johnny Carver was discovered by Del Shannon and has had several country hits. James Popenhagen is a singer/songwriter who was influenced by Del Shannon. James' grandfather was in Del's band in Battle Creek. James has also worked with several well known recording artists and has contributed to a dozen albums over the past 15 years. Additional musical entertainment will be provided by 9 year old Luke Cunningham, an avid fan of Del Shannon's music.

Len O'Kelly, of WGVU Real Oldies 1480/850 AM will emcee the event, which will include a bit of musical history of the era and photos of Coopersville's most famous son, Del Shannon.

Come early to enjoy a delicious dinner provided by the CAPS Band Boosters and stay afterwards for the My Personal Credit Union 3-D Fireworks. Get your FREE 3-D glasses at My Personal Credit Union, 73 – 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue or at the venue.

Tickets available at the Coopersville City Hall, 289 Danforth Street, Coopersville Area Historical Society Museum, Comerica Bank and at the door.

Sponsoring Organization: Coopersville Area Historical Society Museum & Del Shannon Memorial

Contact: Jim Budzynski, [historicalsoc@allcom.net](mailto:historicalsoc@allcom.net), 616-997-6978

## **Saturday, August 13th**

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### **Del Shannon Car Show**

Historic Downtown Coopersville

*Show Cars enter eastbound Main Street from 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue*

Celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Del Shannon Car Show. Unique for its cars and guitars theme. Cars, trucks and motorcycles from every decade line Main Street in Historic Downtown Coopersville.

Need to get from one end of the show to the other? Take a Shuttle Train Ride provided by the Coopersville & Marne Railway. Train Shuttle wristbands are just \$4.00. Del Shannon Car Show T-Shirts available online and day of show.

Sponsoring Organization: A Coopersville Rotary Production, Runaway Sponsor: Keyser's Port City Racing. See Car Show Sponsors Page.

Contact: Gina Otterbein, [info@delshannoncarshow.org](mailto:info@delshannoncarshow.org), 616-947-2055, [www.delshannoncarshow.org](http://www.delshannoncarshow.org)

**Electronic photos available upon request. A full listing of all Summerfest events is available at [www.coopersville.com](http://www.coopersville.com)**

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