

NEWS



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Washington Auto Show Debuts Congressional Gala to Benefit Six Area Health and Children's Charities

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Nov. 7, 2004) – The Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association (WANADA) will inaugurate the all-new **Washington Auto Show Congressional Gala and Charity Preview** on Mon., Dec. 20 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the new Washington Convention Center. The Gala will unite automakers, dealers and civic leaders with Washington's elected and government officials for the benefit of D.C. area health and children's charities, providing patrons attending a sneak preview of The Washington Auto Show® before it opens to the public, Dec. 26, 2004 – Jan. 2, 2005.

"The Congressional Gala and Charity Preview is a new event for us that 'capitalizes' on The Washington Auto Show's enviable position here in D.C., the home of Congress and the many federal agencies that work closely with the automotive industry," explains Tamara C. Darvish, Congressional Gala chairperson and Vice President, DARCARS. "At the same time, the Gala continues the generous charitable tradition of the Snow Ball, which raised over \$850,000 for area charities in past years."

The Honorable Mayor Anthony A. Williams and Mrs. Diane Williams will serve as honorary chairpersons for the event.

Proceeds from the Congressional Gala will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of the National Capital Area, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, the Parkinson Foundation of the National Capital Area, the Primary Care Coalition, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, and the Washington Hospital Center Foundation. Hosted by WANADA, the event is sponsored by the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA), *The Washington Post* and XM Satellite Radio.

The Gala will close a busy day at the auto show, all designed to ready the event for the public opening on Dec. 26. The Washington Auto Show Media Preview Day will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Dec. 20,

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Washington Auto Show Congressional Gala/add one

attracting hundreds of media members and VIP industry guests. The agenda features a full-slate of new model introductions and special announcements. James E. Press, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Toyota Motor Sales (TMS), U.S.A., Inc., will be the keynote speaker for the day, addressing attendees about the new wave of hybrid vehicles during the annual luncheon, co-hosted by WANADA and the Washington Automotive Press Association.

"The Congressional Gala and Charity Preview will provide much-needed funding to six of the area's valuable charities. This will mark the 18th year that WANADA has rallied our membership, industry executives and civic leaders to support the important charitable work done in D.C., northern Virginia and suburban Maryland. This year, we're delighted to reach out to the Congressional community in a more direct way," says Ms. Darvish.

The Congressional Gala, successor to the auto show's Snow Ball, leads the way for The Washington Auto Show's upcoming date change. Beginning in 2006, the auto show will move to late January show dates, Jan. 23-29, 2006 initially. The auto show and the Gala will be held next year while Congress is in session, a move popular with manufacturers, auto dealers and civic leaders. The change also means that Washington Auto Show attendees will find a bigger, better auto show, marked by increased manufacturer involvement and attention.

Gala attendees will be treated to continuous entertainment and an "insider" look at auto show preparations. Tickets for the Gala are \$150 per person with group sponsorship packages also available. For more information, contact WANADA at 1-866-WASH-AUTO or 202.237.7200.

The 2005 Washington Auto Show: "Driven by Design" will bring more than 700 new cars, trucks, mini-vans and sport utility vehicles from over 37 domestic and import automakers to the Washington Convention Center from Dec. 26, 2004 through Jan. 2, 2005. For auto show operating hours, ticket information and discounted "e-tickets," visit the Washington Auto Show online at www.washingtonautoshow.com.

Now entering its 88th year of existence, WANADA represents dealerships throughout the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia area.

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