



2013 Dodge Journey



2013 Cadillac XTS

Chrysler, GM Experience Sales Gains During November

by Jennifer Knightstep and Jim Stickford

Overall, the sales of vehicles made by Detroit manufacturers went up in November, with Chrysler leading the way.

Citing the growing popularity of

each of its brands, Chrysler Group reported its best U.S. November sales figures since 2007. Sales figures for the month totaled 122,565 units, a 14 percent increase over the same month last year.

The stellar November sales marks the 32nd consecutive

month of year-over-year sales gains for Chrysler.

The Chrysler, Dodge, Ram Truck, and Fiat brands each posted sales increases over the previous November.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Karadjoff Named To OCC Board

Peter Karadjoff, President of the St. John Providence Health System's Providence Park Hospital in Novi, was elected a director of the Oakland Community College (OCC) Foundation at the group's November meeting.

"Mr. Karadjoff is a welcome addition to our Board of Directors who will strengthen our organization," said OCC Chancellor Timothy R. Meyer.

OCC Vice Chancellor of External Affairs Sharon Miller and OCC Foundation Director Cynthia Tanner, serve as ex-officio members of the board along with Meyer.

The mission of the OCC Foundation Board of Directors is to generate resources for OCC students and the college.

The board also advances awareness, knowledge and the perception of OCC.

Service is voluntary and the directors are not compensated.

Gold and Silver Awards



Hirotec was awarded Best Business by the Auburn Hills Chamber on Wednesday. Scott Abbate was on hand to receive the award for Hirotec, flanked by Kathryn Baker of Advicoach, left, and Donna Smith of Plante Moran, right. The award for Best Business was sponsored by Cornerstone Community Financial. Related story on page 3

Chrysler Gets the Checkbook Out Early For UAW Employee Ratification Bonus

by Jennifer Knightstep

In a move that's sure to bring holiday cheer to its employees, Chrysler Group will be paying the second half of a \$3,500 Collective Bargaining Agreement ratification bonus on Dec. 21, far earlier than required or expected.

All UAW employees who were eligible for the first bonus payment - about 26,000 of them - also qualify for the second \$1,750 payment, in addition to the minimum \$500 Quality Bonus that will be paid to U.S.-represented employees on Dec. 7.

The first half of the ratification bonus was paid out in late 2011, immediately after the Collective Bargaining Agreement was ratified, the second half due when certain financial goals were met for four consecutive quarters.

The second half of the bonus wouldn't have been expected until the first quarter of 2013, at the

earliest, but Chrysler made the decision to pay the bonus early in response to what Sergio Marchionne, Chrysler Group chairman and CEO, described in a letter to employees as "tremendous contributions to the survival of Chrysler."

"You have made extraordinary efforts to meet our production needs in order to satisfy the steadily increasing consumer demand for our products," Marchionne wrote.

"You have also demonstrated a great level of commitment and cooperation in building a solid future for our company, bringing the weight of your professional and personal qualities to the achievement of our goals."

General Holiefield, UAW vice president of the Chrysler Department, acknowledged the hard work of union members, agreeing with Marchionne and thanking Chrysler for the timing of the payment.

Chevy SS Rear Wheel Drive Debuts for NASCAR on Zeta Platform

by Irena Granaas

While Metro Detroiters are bracing for the season of snowblowers and subzero temps, Chevrolet already has racing fans dreaming of spring with the recent unveiling of its eagerly anticipated 2013 NASCAR Chevrolet SS race car in Las Vegas.

The rear-wheel-drive performance sedan, powered by the legendary small block V8 engine is Chevrolet's latest entry in the NASCAR Sprint Cup series during the 2013 SpeedWeeks in Daytona, Fla.

Racing action starts Feb. 16 and culminates with the Daytona 500 Feb. 24.

Performance car enthusiasts will have an additional boon to celebrate - Chevrolet has announced a new rear-wheel-drive performance sedan that closely resembles its NASCAR progenitor. The 2014 consumer version of the Chevrolet SS is slated to debut early next year.

The NASCAR Chevrolet SS is the next of a long line of nameplates Chevrolet has used to challenge NASCAR rivals while improving its product lineup with added driving excitement and performance, say Chevy officials.

The commercial Chevrolet SS will share the award-winning global rear-wheel-drive architecture of the Chevrolet Camaro and, in the

Australian market, Holden's upcoming VF Commodore.

"As a passionate race fan, the debut of the SS NASCAR race car is a genuinely exciting moment for me," said GM North America President Mark Reuss.

"With the SS, Chevrolet is delivering a true rear-wheel-drive NASCAR race car that is very closely linked to the performance sedan that will be evaluated for sale, ensuring that our most loyal enthusiasts will have the opportunity to experience the same thrill every day on the open road that our race car drivers enjoy on the track on race day."



2013 NASCAR Chevrolet SS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The new Ram ProMaster full-size commercial van will be based on the popular Fiat Ducato, pictured here.

Ram ProMaster to Go on Sale Next Fall

Chrysler's Ram Truck brand will produce a new commercial van for the North American market.

Called the ProMaster, the 2014 model will go on sale next fall. The ProMaster will join the smaller Ram Cargo Van, or C/V, rounding out Ram's product lineup with a full-size commercial van.

"The Ram ProMaster further strengthens our commercial lineup, offering a full line of work trucks and vans," said Fred Diaz, president and CEO of the Ram Truck Brand.

Chrysler hasn't shared many details, or any photos, of the new full-size van, based on the popular Fiat Ducato, but Chrysler officials are confident that the ProMaster will be popular with their commercial customers.

Though Chrysler says the ProMaster will feature the same iconic styling Ram customers have come to expect, the tech-

nology will be heavily influenced by the Ducato, known around the world for its dependability and versatility.

"We feel that from a product-

feature and launch timing standpoint, the all-new Ram ProMaster van is going to be a home run with commercial customers," added Diaz.

Chrysler Establishes Foundation To Honor Sergio Marchionne

The Chrysler Group LLC Board of Directors has approved the establishment of a charitable foundation in recognition of the leadership and outstanding dedication of Sergio Marchionne as CEO for Chrysler Group LLC.

"Sergio is an exceptional leader with the unique ability to inspire his people and lead change. Creating this foundation is a fitting tribute to all that has been accomplished at Chrysler," said Ronald L. Thompson, Lead Director of Chrysler Group LLC Board of Directors.

"I am extremely privileged and

thankful to have this foundation established given the extraordinary commitment made by all stakeholders in the rebirth of Chrysler after the events of 2009," Marchionne said.

The annual contribution over the next five years is expected to amount to a value of five million Chrysler units, with the initial contribution anticipated in December of 2013.

The foundation's awards for educational support will begin in 2014 with more specific information and guidelines available in 2013.