## Oakland Tech News

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## **Professionals Set Thursday Mixer**

The Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce will host a Young Professionals Mixer on Thursday, April 11, at Duffy's Pub in downtown Auburn Hills near the corner of Squirrel and Auburn roads.

The 5:30-7:30 p.m. events allow young professionals to meet with other emerging leaders in order to create business connections and build a strategic network.

To register visit the chamber website. Bring gently used board games to donate to the Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan, located in Auburn Hills.

## Dodge Durango Production Set to Begin in 3rd Quarter

Dodge had some big news at the recent New York Auto Show – the introduction of the 2014 Durango ever With counts at the range of the street of

When Dodge reintroduced the Durango in 2011, it earned accolades from customers and critics alike. The PBS show, "Motor-Week," for example, gave it the Drivers' Choice Award for Best Large Utility.

According to Dodge officials, the 2014 Durango has been designed to build on past success and adds the latest advancements in technology to enhance its design, capability and functionality.

The new Durango comes with a new standard eight-speed automatic transmission, improved fuel economy and performance, say Dodge officials, new LED exterior lighting, two new interior touchscreens, a new programmable instrument cluster, and an available high-definition dual-screen Blu-ray entertainment system. According to Dodge sources, the 2014 Dodge Durango reaches even higher levels of sophistication, building on its proven performance, utility and

"When the Durango was first launched in 1998, it represented a breakthrough in power, size and style," said Reid Bigland, president and CEO – Dodge Brand. "Now for 2014, we're up-

ping the ante by making it our most technologically advanced, fuel-efficient and dramatically styled Durango ever. With countless class-exclusive features and best-in-class attributes, the new 2014 Durango represents the ultimate no-compromise full-size SUV."

The 2014 Durango is available in five trim levels: SXT, Rallye, the new for 2014 Limited, R/T and Citadel. Production is scheduled to begin in the third quarter of 2013.

Dodge is introducing the new 2014 Dodge Durango just as the SUV segments in the United States are showing tremendous growth. The new Durango competes in the full-size SUV segment, which, with 900,000 units sold in 2012, has jumped 82 percent since 2009.

With its standard three rows of seats and interior seating flexibility, Durango, say Dodge officials, also appeals to shoppers looking for a full-size crossover. The two segments combined are up 48 percent since 2009, outpacing the industry. And of those full-size SUV and crossover sales, approximately 60 percent are three-row vehicles.

Dodge officials said the Durango has a young demographic, one of the youngest demographics in the segment, and the latest Uconnect Access technology and



2014 Dodge Durango

connectivity is aimed at that demographic.

Feature highlights on the 2014 Dodge Durango include segment-first eight-speed automatic transmission with rotary shifter that allows for up to a 9 percent improvement in fuel economy.

Other features include a new front fascia with floating signature Dodge crosshair grille, new projector headlamps with available LED running lights, 5-inch or 8.4-inch touchscreens with available class-exclusive Uconnect Access, and navigation with 3D mapping.

The Durango comes with a new standard capless fuel fill –

making for easy fuel fillups and more than 60 available safety and security features, including auto crash notification/911 call button; adaptive cruise control with stop function, and forward collision warning with collision mitigation. The rear fascia has been re-sculpted to fully integrate the trailer hitch. Large 3.5-inch dual exhaust tips are standard on V8-equipped vehicles, including the R/T, along with the Rallye; other V6-powered Durango models have a 3-inch single tip.

The short/long arm front suspension and isolated multi-link rear suspension features isolated front and rear cradles.

## Faurecia North American Operations Is Coming to Auburn Auburn Hills

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tions Faurecia North America in a more highly visible, easily accessible, more spacious location that is tailored to its needs.

Upon the building's completion in the spring of 2014, up to 700 employees will be transferred to the building from three smaller Michigan facilities: the current Faurecia Automotive Seating Technical Center on Meijer Drive in Troy; Faurecia's Oakland Shared Services Center on Squirrel Road in Auburn Hills; and its Oakland Technical Center for Automotive Exteriors on W. Entrance Drive in Auburn Hills.

The Faurecia Interior Systems Technical Center will remain at its current location at 2500 Executive Hills Blvd. in Auburn Hills. Faurecia Emissions Control Technologies will continue to be based in Columbus, Ind.

The technical centers in the new facility will carry out prototype development, testing and light assembly activities to further Faurecia North America's commitment to pioneering advanced vehicle systems to meet the auto industry's evolving needs.

"Faurecia has called Auburn Hills its home for 10 years, and we enjoy an excellent relationship with the city's leadership team," Heneka said. "They have been a strong partner in the momentum we have generated, and we are pleased to be expanding our presence in the city."

The layout of the new building will be more conducive to teamwork than were Faurecia's other facilities and will enable program teams to sit together. Shop and testing areas will be upgraded and organized for improved efficiency, and considerably more meeting space will be available.

The 278,000-square-foot building will include a new showroom, dedicated innovation areas, numerous conferences spaces, a larger break room and more parking for employees and visitors.

"Auburn Hills is thrilled to add Faurecia's North American headquarters to our roster of leading national and international manufacturers headquartered here," said Pete Auger, Auburn Hills city manager. "Companies like Faurecia are terrific corporate citizens and bring tremendous value to Auburn Hills, solidifying our reputation as the premier global manufacturing address in the Midwest."

Faurecia's newest location will be developed and constructed by General Development Company of Southfield.

Stacy Fields, asset manager at General Development, said that the company is looking forward to completing another project in Auburn Hills.

"The city's ability to process projects with speed and efficiency is outstanding and the renewed availability of the Oakland Technology Park has sparked an increase in 'build to suit' activity, representing a new era of future development for Auburn Hills," Fields said.

"As the auto industry has reinvented itself over the past few years, Faurecia has been a notable success story," Heneka said. "We have grown substantially and now we are ready to extend our technical centers and headquarters operations to further support that growth. Our new location presents a distinctive opportunity to build from the ground up in a way that most suits our needs and to centralize our technical teams and administrative functions."

He said Faurecia has been in Auburn Hills for a decade and that the city has been a strong partner during that time.

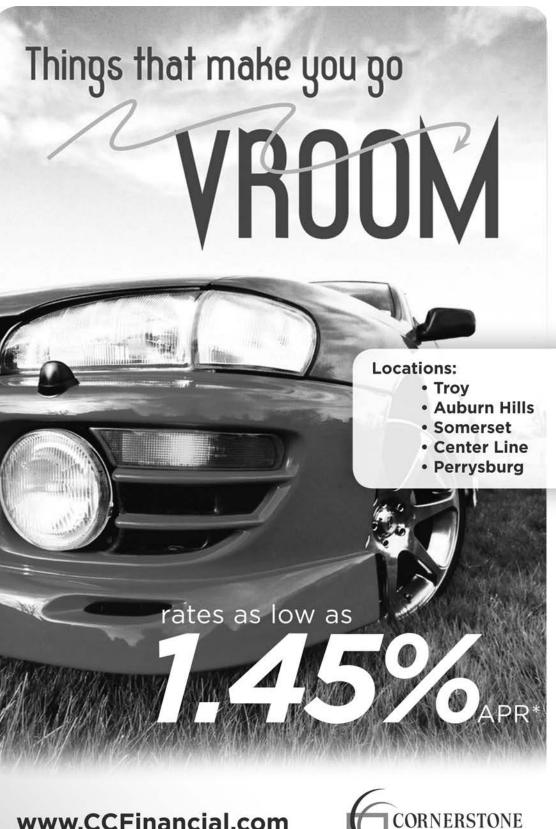
Stephanie Carroll, Auburn Hills Community Relations & Legislative Affairs, said that construction will start later in April. Construction should take just under a year.

"Final council approval of the project is expected to be given at the April 15 council meeting," Carroll said. "They're asking for tax abatements and it is expected that they will get them."

Carroll said that Bruce Brickman of General Development has been working with the city for the past several months.

"He got the land during Chrysler's bankruptcy," Carroll said. "We've worked with Bruce in the past and he's wonderful to partner with."

General Development will own the building and Faurecia will lease it from them, Carroll said. All in all, it's a good deal, she said.



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