

Tech Center News

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Concept Cadillac Ciel On Its Way To Production

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"From the materials used to create it to the space and experience it offers passengers, the Ciel represents a unique perspective on luxury, but not the only one," said Dean. "Along with other concepts, such as the ULC, Cadillac is demonstrating that the bandwidth of the Art & Science philosophy is wide, indeed – and we're going to make it even wider."

The Ciel was developed at GM Design's North Hollywood Design Center, which is managed by Frank Saucedo. Niki Smart was the lead exterior designer, with Gael Buzyn leading interior development.

USA Today reported that the car will use a rear-drive chassis and it is not based on the Australian Holden.

Caldwell said that more information on the Ciel will be released as time goes on, but for now, GM is keeping quiet on the exact details.

Chamber to Host Networking Event

The Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in conjunction with the Detroit Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau, is holding a "business card exchange" event on Wednesday, Aug. 21, between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. at the MacRay Harbor Banquet Hall, 30675 North River Road, Harrison Township.

The event is open to any Macomb County Chamber or DM-CVB member. The cost is \$10. Attendees will have the chance to meet other members and network with fellow business people in a relaxed atmosphere.

For more information, visit the chamber's website at www.shrci.com, or call (586) 731-5400, ext. 11 for Lori or ext. 13 for Lisa.

Hot July Brings Hot July Auto Sales

GM's Four Brands Post Double-Digit Retail Sales Jumps

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pickup sales were new 2014 crew cabs, McNeil said. Double-cab models are now being shipped to dealers and regular cab production begins later this summer.

Crossover sales were up 6 percent, with the redesigned Chevrolet Traverse and Buick Enclave up 33 percent and 14 percent, respectively.

Sales of the new Buick Encore increased 39 percent from June 2013.

All four brands posted double-digit retail sales increases compared with the same time last year, McNeil said, and Buick retail sales have now increased for 15 consecutive months.

Full-size pickup deliveries were up 51 percent and crossover sales increased 18 percent, McNeil said. Deliveries to small business customers increased 61 percent, including a 107 percent increase in full-size pickup deliveries.

Sales of the Chevrolet Malibu increased 31 percent and the Chevrolet Equinox had its best-ever July retail sales with deliveries up 9 percent, McNeil said. Also, GMC Terrain sales were up 24 percent for its best-ever July.

Got News?

If you have solid business news for this paper, please contact us at News@TechCenterNews.com.

Writers Can Discuss Work at Library

The Warren Public Library is forming a writing group, which will meet at the Civic Center Branch. Author, editor, and writing consultant Dr. Gloria Nixon-John will lead the group. Participants will share and respond to individual pieces of writing in a non-threatening, constructive way. This group is for writers 18 years of age or older, writing in any genre.

Ford's July Sales Of Small Cars Up 32 Percent

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F-Series sales increased 23 percent to 60,449. F-Series sales now have increased for 24 consecutive months, and July 2013 marks the best July sales month for F-Series since 2006, Czubay said.

Here are July 2013 sales compared with July 2012:

- Fiesta – 7,667, up 88.9 percent;
- Focus – 16,764, up 1.9 percent;
- C-MAX – 2,700, not sold in July 2012;
- Fusion – 20,522, down 12 percent;
- Taurus – 6,373, up 21.3 percent;
- Mustang – 5,768, down 21.7 percent;
- Escape – 22,343, up 3.6 percent;
- Edge – 10,541, up 14.9 percent;
- Flex – 2,689, up 16 percent;
- Explorer – 12,742, up 12.6 percent;
- Expedition, 2,744, up 1.6 percent;
- F-Series – 60,449, up 22.6 percent;
- E-Series – 9,724, up 13.4 percent;
- Transit Connect – 2,885, up 9.8 percent;
- Lincoln MKZ – 2,809, down 7.4 percent;
- Lincoln MKS – 1,038, up 18.2 percent;
- Lincoln Navigator – 633, up 20.6 percent.

Chrysler Sales Up 11 Percent; Best July Since '06

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sales since 2005 and the 26th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains. The Avenger and Challenger each recorded their best July sales ever, while sales of the Durango full-size SUV were up 88 percent. The Dart compact sedan had its second straight month of year-over-year sales gains.

Sales of the Charger are up 10 percent this year through July.

Bigland said all Jeep brand models in production recorded sales gains in July compared with the same month last year, led by the Jeep Grand Cherokee. Sales of the Grand Cherokee were up 30 percent, its best sales month since 2005 and largest percentage increase of any Jeep brand model.

The Jeep Wrangler and Jeep Compass each had their best sales for the month of July. Sales of the Jeep Compass were up 27 percent compared with the same month a year ago.

Last month's Fiat sales were the best in July since the Fiat 500 was launched in 2011 and its 17th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains.

Sales of the brand's flagship Chrysler 300 full-size sedan were up 12 percent, the vehicle's best July sales since 2008.

Chrysler brand sales were down 4 percent in July compared with the same month last year.

Dealers Expected To Increase Profits

The average number of sales in each dealership across the country will rise to 877 units this year.

That's what the midyear Automotive Franchise Activity Report released last week by Urban Science says.

The figure is based on vehicle sales of 15.6 million, which has been predicted by LMC Automotive, a worldwide forecaster of automotive sales and production.

"Automakers are keeping their retail networks stable even as sales continue to rise, creating a tremendous opportunity for dealerships to reap the benefits of the industry's most profitable periods in two decades," said John Frith, vice president, Urban Science.

While these levels are on track to crush last year's all-time high, said Frith, "we believe we're hitting the top of the curve."

He added that historical trends say that these increases "should slow in the next year or two before they start a mild decline."

LMC Automotive previously was the forecasting division of J.D. Power & Associates.

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