

## Oakland Tech News

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## Growing Sales Of F-150 Pickups Drive Ford to Add 900 Employees

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• F-Series sales increased 22 percent in the January-to-July period, compared with the same seven months last year;

• F-Series sales were at 60,449 in July, representing the best July sales month since 2006 and a 23 percent increase over 2012;

• Based on July U.S. sales results, F-Series sales now have increased for 24 consecutive months.

F-150 leads in a variety of fields, including:

- 68 percent market share in hazardous materials work;
- 67 percent share in the oil pipeline industry;
- 62 percent share in road and highway maintenance.

With the additional crew at the Kansas City Assembly Plant, Ford has reached 75 percent of its goal to create 12,000 hourly jobs in the U.S. by 2015.

Ford has added 2,335 hourly jobs and 1,500 salaried jobs in the U.S. this year alone.

## GM to Add \$167M For 2 Tennessee Vehicle Projects

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top quality for our customers.”

Located 40 miles south of Nashville, GM Spring Hill Manufacturing operates as a flexible-assembly plant, capable of building a variety of products on a range of platforms, Grotz said. The facility is designed to supplement production for plants being retooled for new products or add production to meet sales spikes in real time.

Chevrolet Equinox production began at the site in the third quarter of 2012 to meet growing consumer demand and support GM's Canada operations, Grotz said. GM Spring Hill Manufacturing, home to the former Saturn brand from 1990 to 2007, operates as a fully integrated complex.

## GM Foundation Donates \$200K To 'Safe Kids'

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stroke prevention,” said Kate Carr, president and CEO of Safe Kids.

“By partnering with NHTSA for ‘National Heatstroke Awareness Day,’ we hope to reach parents and caregivers across the nation and put a stop to these tragic losses.”

Through Safe Kids and its network of 600 coalitions and chapters across the nation, the “Never Leave Your Child Alone in a Car” campaign provides parents and caregivers safety tips and tactics to help prevent unnecessary deaths due to heatstroke.

## Women Gather to Support Working Moms

More than a hundred Southeast Michigan influential businesswomen, elected officials and professionals will gather in West Bloomfield on Thursday, Aug. 15, to celebrate the fifth of seven Twilight Gathering fundraising events taking place this summer across the state to support the Women's Caring Program (WCP).

This week, the gathering will take place at the home of Alicia Masse, Midwest Restructuring Leader at EY, a professional services organization.

The idea is that successful women will join forces in helping struggling Michigan women and their children achieve economic stability, said Blanca Fauble, WCP board member.

Auburn Hills City Council member Anne Doyle, author of “POWERING UP! How America's Women Achievers Become Leaders,” is a co-hostess for the event and a longtime Women's Caring Program supporter. Doyle understands that women can be both wonderful parents and effective breadwinners for their families, Fauble said.

“I'm passionate about the Women's Caring Program because it is a very targeted way for successful, Michigan women to help other working women lift themselves out of poverty,” Doyle explained.

“Many of the parents WCP helps are single mothers. When they know their children are safe, they can focus on finishing their

educations or earning money to care for themselves and their children.”

The WCP provides scholarships for children aged 0-5 who are from low-income, working families that earn too much to qualify for governmental child-care assistance but frequently struggle to make ends meet and are unable to afford quality early care and education for their children, Fauble said.

WCP's Twilight Gatherings sprouted from a small front porch gathering of women in 1979 with the initial goal of expanding their circle of friends. Each year thereafter, friends invited more friends, and now, more than three decades later, the Twilight Gatherings attract hundreds of women statewide for a festive evening of spirited laughter and mingling in gorgeous outdoor settings, Fauble said.

In recent years, the issue of quality early care and education has become a major discussion point among state and federal policymakers, Fauble said.

However, the WCP recognized the need early on and has been delivering services to children from low-income families for 15 years via ChildCare Commitment, Michigan's only statewide program of its kind.

In total, the nonprofit has awarded over \$2.5 million to families in 81 of Michigan's 83 counties.

Tickets for this week's Twilight

## Library Celebrates Summer Reading

The Auburn Hills Public Library is holding its annual Summer Reading Cookout at the city's Hawk Woods Nature Center, 3799 Bald Mountain Road, on Friday, Aug. 16.

The event starts at 6 p.m. and will go until 8:30 p.m. The Summer Reading Cookout is for all teens who have participated in

the library's summer reading program.

Attendees will be eligible for door prizes and have the chance to decorate a kick ball while celebrating the end of summer.

Registration for the event ends on Thursday, Aug. 15. To sign up, call Devan Green, teen librarian at 248-364-6709.

## Theater to Hold 5K Run/Walk Aug. 18

Meadow Brook Theatre will hold its 5th annual “Feet for Seats,” a 5K run/walk on the campus of Oakland University Aug. 18.

The fundraising event is intended to increase awareness for the professional theater, which has been located on OU's campus since 1966.

“We are honored to have been selected as a (Governor's Council on Physical Fitness) endorsed event,” said Meadow Brook Theatre Artistic Director Travis Walter. “‘Feet for Seats’ is such a great community event.”

Check-in for the Sunday event

begins at 8 a.m. at the Theatre. The run/walk starts at 9 a.m.

Cost to participate is \$25 in advance or \$30 on the day of the event.

After the event, participants will be invited to watch special performances by the Mike Duncan Band, the Peanut Gallery Players and others.

In addition, participants will be able to order individual tickets to the Theatre's upcoming season immediately following the walk, long before tickets are available to the public.



Anne Doyle

Gathering are limited so guests are encouraged to register online before the event.

Tickets are available at the door until the event is sold out and payment can be received either by credit card or check, Fauble said.

In addition to Masse, Doyle and Fauble, co-hostesses for the event are Shannon M. Hannon, Terry Olejnik, Carol Walters, Tricia Llewelyn, Diane Antishin, Celeste Arduino, Debra Kiteley, Judy Malburg, Terry Barclay, Tricia Sherick, Beth Gotthelf, Faye Shamoun and Carole Winnard Brumm.

To purchase tickets, go to WomensCaringProgram.org.

## To Increase Tigershark Engine Output, Chrysler Will Invest \$52M in Michigan

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paying jobs,” said General Holiefield, UAW vice president and director of the Chrysler Department. “This is what can happen with dedication, commitment and a focus on delivering quality products to our customers.”

Trenton North ceased operations in May 2011, but Chrysler Group announced a \$114 million investment a month later to repurpose nearly 400,000 square feet of the plant to produce core components for the Pentastar engine produced at its sister plant, Trenton South, Harlow said.

Trenton North began producing the Pentastar engine in January 2012. Then, in November 2012, the automaker announced an additional \$40 million investment to add a flexible production line that can run both the Pentastar engine and the Tigershark

## Cosma's Millmun Takes Vari-Form Development Role

Dan Millmun has been named Business Development Director – China for Oakland County-based Vari-Form. In this role, Millmun is spearheading the development of new business opportunities throughout Asia.

“Mr. Millmun brings more than 30 years of industry knowledge to Vari-Form globalization initiatives,” said Terry Nardone, head of Sales and Business Development. “His well-developed business and operational expertise has opened doors and built lasting relationships with partners in North America, China, Germany and Japan. These skills are of great value as we expand sourcing of our patented Pressure-Sequence Hydroforming technology among automotive manufacturers and suppliers in China, Asia and around the world.”

Prior to joining Vari-Form, Millmun was director of Sales with the Cosma International Group of Magna International, where he specialized in working with both traditional and non-traditional customers, Nardone said. He is a graduate of the University of Windsor in Windsor, Ontario.

Applying its proprietary hydroforming process, Vari-Form is manufacturing engine cradles for two high-volume Chinese-built midsize sedans.

(I-4) engine. Trenton North is also building the 3.2-liter Pentastar engine for the all-new 2014 Jeep Cherokee.

The Dundee Engine Plant, built in 2004, is owned by Global Engine Manufacturing Alliance (GEMA), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chrysler Group that was formerly a joint venture between Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, Hyundai Motor Company and DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Harlow said.

In December 2009, Chrysler Group announced a \$179 million investment to launch production of an advanced-technology, fuel-efficient 1.4-liter engine for the North American market, a collaboration between Chrysler Group and Fiat powertrain groups.

Harlow said Chrysler announced in October of 2010 an additional \$150 million investment to expand capacity and prepare the plant for production of future engines.



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