



Jefferson North Plant Manager Jason Ryska, center, talks to the media.

Labor Day Weekend to Bring Ford's Arts, Beats & Eats Fest to Royal Oak

Metro Detroiters will have the chance to celebrate the end of summer at the 16th annual Ford Arts Beats & Eats Festival in Royal Oak Labor Day weekend.

The event takes place between Aug. 30 and Sept. 2.

Now in its 16th year, Ford Arts, Beats & Eats, presented by First-Merit Bank, will be held in downtown Royal Oak.

The festival will offer more than 200 performances on 10 stages. A juried fine arts show will be featured, and local restaurants with cuisine from across metro Detroit will present their fares.

Festival admission is \$3 until 5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday and \$5 after 5 p.m. every day.

Ford Arts, Beats & Eats is free to enter until 5 p.m. on Friday only.

The "arts" portion of the festival will be represented by a selection of local and national talent.

The arts section will be physically located in the southern portion of the event's location and will expand on to Lincoln Street to allow room for even more artists.

Work from artists specializing in sculpture, painting, ceramics, jewelry, wood, glass, drawings and pastels, metal and photography will be represented.

For the "eats" part of the festi-

val, more than 50 local restaurants will set up booths.

Participants include Green Lantern, Oxford Inn, Eskimo Jack's, Sisro's Cakery, Vintage House Banquets and Catering, Trattoria Pizzeria Da Luigi, and more.

Those restaurants join a list of several returning restaurants that include Mitchell's Fish Market, the Soaring Eagle Cuisine Machine, Gaucho Steakhouse, bd's Mongolian Grill, Gemmayze, Hamlin Corner, Polish Village Café, Pronto!, Palm Palace, Jackson's Five Star Catering, Peking House, Prime29 and Lockhart's BBQ.

The "beats" part of the festival will feature a variety of musicians and musical acts, including hip hopper MC Hammer, classic rocker Eddie Money, Beatles cover band Beatlemania Live, and alternative rock band Smash Mouth.

For a complete schedule of musicians and musical acts, visit artsbeatseats.com.

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Jefferson North Rolls Out 5 Millionth Jeep

Chrysler opened up the Jefferson North Assembly Plant (JNAP) in January of 1992 and on Aug. 13 of this year the automaker celebrated the five millionth vehicle coming off the facility's assembly line.

Jason Ryska, JNAP's plant manager, said at the ceremony celebrating the achievement that a lot had happened over the last 21 years.

He noted that in 1992 Bill Clinton was first elected president, Hurricane Andrew hit the United States and the Mall of America first opened with more than 500 stores. Lee Iacocca was Chrysler's CEO and the Viper was first introduced.

Ground was broken on JNAP in 1989, Ryska said. The company pledged to invest \$1.2 billion in facilities.

The plant originally took up 1.75 million square feet and the Jeep Grand Cherokee was the plant's bread and butter.

Since then, Ryska said, the facility's size has grown to 3 million square feet. When it first opened, 1,600 employees worked at the plant. Now, that number has grown to more than 4,000 employees working three shifts. He said the workers' dedication to quality have helped make the Grand Cherokee the success it's been for 20 years.

"It's on the assembly plant floor where the magic happens," Ryska said.

Scott Garberding, senior vice president, Manufacturing and World Class Manufacturing – Chrysler Group, said he was glad to be able to celebrate "this event right here in Detroit."

Garberding said the first Grand Cherokee was built at JNAP at a time when Chrysler needed a win. The Grand Cherokee turned out to be the winner the company required.

"This team at this plant made that happen," Garberding said. "But then, later, the company got in worse financial trouble. About 2.7 million vehicles ago, I was plant manager here. All the pundits said Chrysler was finished. But we were able to launch a new Grand Cherokee and begin the company's turnaround."

Chrysler persevered, Garberding said. And the workers at Jefferson North stepped up and helped make the launch of the new Grand Cherokee four years ago a success – a success that Chrysler has built on.

"Our next challenge is to have someone talk about the 10 millionth vehicle coming off the assembly line," Garberding said.

Jim Morrison, Chrysler director and head of Marketing – Jeep Brand, said he's driven 27 Jeep

Grand Cherokees and it's the workers and their dedication who have been responsible for so much of the vehicle's success.

And the Grand Cherokee, Morrison added, has regained the title of the number one-selling full-sized SUV in the country, "something that everyone at JNAP can take pride in."

The actual 5 millionth vehicle is a 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee Overland in Billet Silver. It rolled off the JNAP assembly line on Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 2:30 a.m.

The Jeep brand will donate it to the USO, as part of a multifaceted partnership that continues the Jeep brand's commitment to the military by providing support and aid to returning U.S. military heroes.

Earlier this year, Jeep brand officials announced that Jeep will donate more than \$1 million in vehicles and funding to the USO to be used in programs that directly support returning service members and their families.

GM Shuffles Its International Executive Team

General Motors is making top leadership changes in its International Operations management team to focus on China, the world's largest auto market.

Tim Lee will become chairman of GM China with responsibility for 12 joint ventures, two wholly owned foreign enterprises and more than 55,000 employees.

Lee has spent nearly four years in charge of GM's International Operations. He will continue in his role as executive vice president, Global Manufacturing.

Bob Socia, president of GM China, will continue to report to Lee.

Stefan Jacoby, most recently the CEO of Volvo Cars, will become executive vice president, Consolidated International Operations, leading the company's operations in more than 100 countries and territories in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East.

"Stefan is a great addition to an already strong team," said GM Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson. "We expect him to continue building on his record of delivering results in markets around the world."

In addition to running Volvo Cars, Jacoby's nearly 30-year career includes positions at Mitsubishi and several key jobs at Volkswagen. Jacoby reports to Akerson and began serving in his new post Aug. 5.

In his role as executive vice president, Global Manufacturing, Lee has responsibility for manufacturing, labor and manufacturing engineering.



2014 GMC Sierra

GMC Sales Climb as Buyers Take Sierras 'Off the Truck'

GMC retail sales were up 23 percent year over year in July, closing at the highest sales volume since 2006. Total sales, up 14 percent, were the best since 2007.

Sierra, Acadia and Terrain all posted July sales gains as the brand had its best seven-month start in six years, said Brian Goebel, manager of GMC Communications.

The new 2014 Sierra full-size pickups are leaving dealer lots almost as soon as they arrive, Goebel said. The average "days to turn" is 14 days, compared with the segment's 76-day average.

Combined with 2013 models, the new Sierra helped drive the pickup's best July sales since 2007. Year-over-year Sierra retail sales were up 53 percent while total sales were up 49 percent, Goebel said.

"The all-new 2014 Sierras are selling as soon as they come off the transporters, especially those with the SLT trim package," said Tom Sheehan, owner of Sheehan Buick GMC in Lighthouse Point, Fla. "Our customers have told us they enjoy the luxury features that the Sierra SLT has to offer."

With new advertising hitting the airwaves, and the new double cab Sierras now shipping to dealers, the momentum continues for GMC's best-selling model, Goebel said.

Earlier this year, in the 2013 J.D. Power and Associates U.S. Customer Service Index Study, GMC ranked first among mass market automotive brands in customer satisfaction, Goebel said. The study examines satisfaction among vehicle owners who visit a

service department for maintenance work during the first three years of new vehicle ownership.

Acadia crossover SUV retail sales were the best ever for the month of July, with 6,615 units delivered. Year-over-year Acadia retail sales were up 1 percent, total sales up 2 percent.

Terrain small SUV retail and total sales also were the best ever for July. Year-over-year Terrain retail sales were up 24 percent and total sales were up 3 percent. Both Acadia and Terrain are off to the best-ever start to a year, Goebel said.

New Fiat 500L Included in KBB.com's List of '10 Best Back-to-School Cars'

Keeping the GPA up in school is challenging enough, so the last concern students want to think about is the MPG efficiency of their ride.

To make it easier, the editors of KBB.com have developed a list of the "10 Best Back-to-School Cars" and the new Fiat 500L delivers high marks in fuel economy, style, versatility and affordability.

"With a loft-like interior, Italian style and innovative technology, our all-new Fiat 500L will strongly appeal to the back-to-school crowd," said Jason Stoicevich, head of Fiat Brand for North America, Chrysler Group.


"Expanding on the charm of the iconic 500, the Fiat 500L adds two more doors and 42 percent more interior space with comfortable accommodations for five passengers, plus numerous per-

sonalization options – all for under \$20,000."


With summer coming to a close and a new school year rapidly approaching, editors of Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com, a leading provider of new and used car information, included the Fiat in their list for the 2013-2014 school year, Stoicevich said.

"Parents and students alike will be surprised at the variety of amenity-laden, affordable new cars available on our '10 Best Back-to-School Cars' list for 2013," said Jack R. Nerad, executive editorial director for Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com.

KBB.com editors also added that the Fiat 500L "packs a stunning amount of space into a tidy package. Nerad said, "Throw in Euro charm and easy road manners, and it may be the parents who are begging to drive."



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