

Tech Center News

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Stop-and-Go? This Car Does It For the Driver

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even work under stop-and-go traffic conditions, such as automated toll booths.

Adaptive cruise control still requires the driver to pay careful attention to traffic and road conditions and override the system when necessary by manually accelerating and/or braking, Lyons said.

Two other Impala features help avoid or reduce the damage caused by crashes. Forward collision alert warns the driver when he is approaching a vehicle ahead too quickly or if he is following much too closely, Lyons said.

Crash imminent braking, available with the ACC package, can intervene to automatically apply the brakes, such as when a driver fails to respond quickly enough to Forward Collision Alert warnings.

Other available features on the Impala that can help the driver become aware of possible crash hazards include Lane Departure Warning, Side Blind Zone Alert, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Rear Vision Camera, and Ultrasonic Rear Part Assist, Lyon said.

GM's statement said the new Impala recently received the highest possible 5-star Overall Vehicle Score for safety as part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's New Car Assessment Program, and has one of the most comprehensive collections of standard and available safety features in its segment.

SAE Engineers Tour BAE Facility

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going strong, I'm seeing contract employees move back from defense to the automotive industry," Pope said.

In the past, the U.S. Army has had displays set up at SAE gatherings, Pope said. One year, before 9/11, the military even had a missile launcher outside Cobo Center during the annual SAE Congress.

Mark Pedrazzi, armored technical director of BAE's Combat Systems Land and Armaments division, said it was an honor to show fellow engineers what BAE could do.

"I'm just happy to provide the Mid-Michigan SAE chapter with the opportunity to talk about what we do and what the similarities and differences are in the defense and auto industries," Pedrazzi said. "We're proud to open our doors to the SAE."

Got News?

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

We always like hearing from our readers, and like hearing your story as well. So, don't hesitate to contact us.

Faurecia Fights Hunger with Employee Food Collections

Faurecia might be an international company with offices and production facilities around the world, but that doesn't stop the company's employees from helping out people on a local basis.

Officials of the Auburn Hills auto parts supplier are challenging employees in the U.S., Canada and Mexico to exceed last year's collection total of more than 700,000 meals donated to participating food banks.

The effort is a corporate initiative called FUELS - Faurecia Unites with Employees for Local Service. Faurecia and its employees have provided more than 1.3 million meals since the program began in 2010, said Stacie Tong, Faurecia North America's director of Communications.

Throughout September, which marks Hunger Action Month, Faurecia's more than 20,000 employees from its 47 locations in North America are challenged to collect the highest quantity of non-perishable food items to help fight hunger.

In addition to donating food, Faurecia employees will participate in volunteer days with their local partner food banks.

"Millions of people struggle every day with hunger, which affects one in six hard-working adults, children and seniors within our own community," said W. DeWayne Wells, president of Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

"It's inspiring to see programs like FUELS, in which citizens are recognizing community needs and reaching out to their deserving neighbors. The impact it has made has been remarkable."

Now in its fourth year, FUELS continues to evolve as the program grows and participants consistently identify new ways to benefit more people in need.

For the first time, employees are joining together to contribute more cash donations. A single

dollar donation can provide three meals. Cash donations will be used to secure food from local farmers to ensure families have access to nutritious, high-quality produce, further benefiting communities by buying locally grown goods.

Faurecia will contribute monetary donations as sites' collection totals rise. For each site that meets its collection goal, the

company pledges to contribute \$500 to the site's local food bank partner, Tong said.

The site that collects the most meals per employee each week will receive an extra \$1,000 donation for its food bank. Faurecia is further pledging \$5,000 for one site in the U.S./Canada and one site in Mexico that collect the most meals per employee.

"Companies are more than the

products they make," said Mike Heneka, president of Faurecia North America.

"They are citizens of their communities and, above all, people who care about their colleagues and neighbors.

"FUELS is Faurecia's way of giving back to all the people and organizations that have supported us, as well as a way to help communities grow and thrive."

New-Vehicle Sales Continue Growth Spurt

The new-vehicle sales pace in September has slowed slightly from its sprint in recent months, as volume is impacted by fewer selling days and the absence of Labor Day from September tallies, according to a monthly sales forecast developed jointly by J.D. Power and LMC Automotive.

New-vehicle retail sales in September 2013 are projected to come in at 933,400 units, a 2 percent increase from September 2012. Retail transactions are the most accurate measure of true underlying consumer demand for new vehicles. The seasonally adjusted annualized rate (SAAR) in September is expected to be 12.4 million units.

"Although the year-over-year sales gain in September is smaller than has been observed in recent months, it's important to

recognize that September reported sales are being heavily influenced by a quirk on the industry sales calendar," said John Humphrey, senior vice president of the global automotive practice at J.D. Power.

The auto industry reports sales on a sales month basis rather than a calendar month basis.

Historically, the Labor Day holiday has fallen in the September sales month; however, in 2013, it fell in the August sales month, meaning that sales delivered over the holiday weekend were counted in August sales rather than September. J.D. Power estimates that more than 248,000 new vehicles were sold during the Labor Day weekend. Had those sales been included in September, LMC Automotive indi-

cates they would have lifted the monthly SAAR into the low 13 million unit range.

Humphrey commented that due to this difference in the sales reporting calendar in 2013, it makes sense to evaluate August and September sales in combination.

"When combined, August and September retail sales are expected to be up 10.6 percent, compared with August and September 2012, which underscores the continued positive trajectory in growth and overall health of the industry," said Humphrey.

Total light-vehicle sales in September are expected to rise 4 percent, benefiting from a higher share of fleet sales relative to August. Fleet share returns to 18 percent, up from 11 percent in August.

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