

Oakland Tech News

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GM Sees Sales Drop 11 Percent In 'Short' Month

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for 17 consecutive months.

The figures had Chevrolet Malibu sales up 29 percent, sales of the Spark were up 6 percent and retail sales of the Impala increased 64 percent. Chevrolet Tahoe sales were up 14 percent.

Third quarter retail sales for GM were up 13 percent and total sales were up 7 percent, said company spokesman Jim Cain.

Through the first nine months of the year, Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac and GMC have posted double-digit retail sales increases compared with 2012, Cain said.

Year-to-date sales of Buick and Cadillac cars are up a combined 15 percent; large pickups are up 20 percent; large SUVs are up 15 percent; and compact crossovers are up 13 percent, Cain said.

GM's fleet sales in September reflect the strategic repositioning of the Impala, the temporary discontinuation of the Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon, and lower Chevrolet Cruze sales, Cain said.

September 2013 sales compared to September 2012 broke down as the following:

- Chevrolet - 127,785 for an 8.8 percent decline;
- GMC - 29,959, which is a 4.5 percent drop;
- Buick - 15,623, a 2 percent increase;
- Cadillac - 13,828, a 7.6 percent improvement.

Year over year total sales are:

- Chevrolet - 1,493,329, a 5.1 increase;
- GMC - 333,213, a 8.7 percent improvement;
- Buick - 157,503, up 14.7 percent;
- Cadillac - 133,414, a 28.9 percent improvement;
- Total GM sales - 2,117,458, a 7.6 percent increase.

Chrysler Donates To Help Clean Up Colorado Floods

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and to the families that call the Centennial State home."

The Chrysler Foundation has previously partnered with the First Response Team America on disaster relief efforts. Their most recent efforts provided a \$100,000 grant to the disaster relief organization in response to the Oklahoma tornadoes in May, Frazier said.

"We are humbled by the unwavering spirit of those who strive to endure in the wake of the flooding, and by those who answer the call to aid and comfort them," said Reid Bigland, president and CEO, Ram Truck Brand.

In 2012, the Ram Truck brand announced a partnership with The First Response Team of America and The Weather Channel Companies (TWCC), Frazier said.

Engineers Bring Clean Water to Central America Towns

by Jim Stickford

The Detroit chapter of Engineers Without Borders is in the midst of helping a community in Nicaragua get clean drinking water and those wishing to help finance the project can attend a fundraiser called "A Pint With the Past" on Friday, Oct. 18, at the GM Heritage Center in Sterling Heights, beginning at 6 p.m.

Michelle Taylor, a group member and DC fast charge technical lead for GM, works at the Tech Center in Warren, and said the Detroit chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) has been sending members to Central America for the past few years to help out.

"Our organization is set up along the lines of 'Doctors Without Borders,'" Taylor said. "It's engineers using their skills to help create engineering projects that benefit those in need around the world."

Taylor said the Detroit chapter recently sent some members to a small town in Nicaragua - Laguna De Apoyo. They looked around and collected technical data about the area.

"This is information like elevation, soil consistency and the like that will be used when the engineers actually start designing the water system in question," Taylor said. "The project we are currently working on will be designed to provide safe water to the community around Laguna De Apoyo, Nicaragua."

The Detroit chapter of EWB is working with a group called The Peace Project, Taylor said. They heard about the group and what

Faurecia Sponsors Operations Day

Recognizing the need for skilled workers, Auburn Hills-based Faurecia of North America was a sponsor of Oct. 4's National Manufacturing Day, which is part of an initiative to give students and others a realistic view of today's manufacturing operations, which are more high-tech and desirable than the prevalent public perception.

"The work of our employees at Faurecia operations across North America reflects the new course of manufacturing, as we develop innovative systems and products that help automakers meet tighter fuel economy standards and provide new levels of comfort and convenience for drivers and passengers," said Michael Heneka, president of Faurecia North America.

they are trying to do via word-of-mouth. Members decided that what The Peace Project is trying to do is worthwhile.

EWB members work with The Peace Project and a local water board to design a water system based on local needs.

"Questions are asked like, 'How big is the community that will be served by the system?' and 'How do they get their water now?'" Taylor said.

"On our end, this is the third water system that our chapter will have designed. The first two projects were in Buenos Aires, Honduras, and Las Glorias, Honduras."

This latest project, Taylor said, will have the advantage of the chapter's experience in building the two previous systems.

"The first time we started on a water project, we came to the realization that perhaps our skill sets as mostly auto engineers didn't translate directly into being able to design a water system," Taylor said. "We found out you really need to have civil and environmental engineers on the project."

Fortunately, Detroit has quite a number of both, Taylor said.

"We reached out to our colleagues in civil and environmental engineering and they really helped us learn the skills we

needed for our water projects."

Once they actually design the water system, Detroit EWB members will go down to Nicaragua next year to help with its construction.

One of the things they learned was that any project they design must be able to be constructed using local labor and local materials, Taylor said.

It does not seem any good to design a system using parts they can't get and requiring construction workers with skills that aren't available.

What's great about the chapter's latest project is that people who want to help out don't have to be trained engineers, Taylor said. They just have to like looking at classic cars and buy tickets to the "A Pint With the Past" fundraiser, a beer-tasting event.

General admission tickets are \$75 apiece if ordered in advance, Taylor said. They are \$100 if bought at the door.

To learn more about the event and to order tickets, go to eventzilla.net or contact Taylor at MichelleZTaylor@gmail.com.



Detroit-area engineers in Nicaragua for Engineers Without Borders.

Ford Reports September Sales Up 6 Percent Over Last Year

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September Ford Fiesta sales of 5,043 are up 29 percent over last year, marking Fiesta's best September sales performance ever, said company spokesman Erich Merkle. Through the first nine months of this year, Fiesta's largest retail sales market is in the West, which is growing at the fastest rate of all of Fiesta's markets - up 41 percent.

Posting a 26th consecutive monthly sales increase and its fifth straight month above the

60,000-vehicle sales mark, F-Series sales were 60,456, up 10 percent, Merkle said.

The new Lincoln MKZ posted its best-ever September with 2,874 sold, up 12 percent compared with September last year. MKZ has reported record sales for five of the last six months.

Sales by brand, September 2013 compared with September 2012:

- Ford - 178,693 vs. 168,174 for a 6.3 percent increase;
- Lincoln - 6,453 vs. 6,802, a 5.1 percent decrease.

Sales by type, comparing Sep-

tember 2013 with 2012:

- Cars - 57,584 vs. 50,694, a 13.6 percent increase;
 - Utilities - 54,299 vs. 56,625, a 4.1 percent decrease;
 - Trucks - 73,263 vs. 67,657, an 8.3 percent increase.
- Sales highlights 2013 vs. 2012:
- Fiesta - 5,043 vs. 3,923, a 28.5 percent increase;
 - C-MAX - 2,182 vs. 969, a 125.2 percent increase;
 - Fusion - 19,972 vs. 12,300, a 62.4 percent increase;
 - F-Series Truck - 60,456 vs. 55,077, a 9.8 percent increase.

Chrysler Sales Paint Rosy Picture, 'Lose' Selling Days

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of year-over-year sales gains, Kisiel said. It was the brand's best September sales since 2007.

Sales of the Ram pickup truck also were up 8 percent, its 41st consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains and its best September sales since 2007.

Dodge brand sales were up 3 percent in September, the brand's best September sales month since 2005 and its 28th consecutive month of year-over-

year sales gains, Kisiel said.

The Dodge Challenger and Dodge Dart compact sedan each recorded their best sales for the month of September.

Sales of the Dodge Durango full-size SUV were up 66 percent for its 11th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains. Sales of the Dodge Charger were up 49 percent, its best September sales in three years.

Chrysler recently introduced special 30th-anniversary editions of the Dodge Grand Caravan and

the Chrysler Town & Country minivans. The 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan 30th Anniversary Edition will be available on both the SE and SXT models.

Chrysler brand sales were up 2 percent, its best September sales since 2007. Sales of the Chrysler Town & Country minivan were up 4 percent, its best September sales since 2006.

Sales of the flagship Chrysler 300 full-size sedan were up 6 percent, its best September sales performance in six years.



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