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Local Engineers Use Skills to Help 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 engi-

neers 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 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,

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Detroit-area engineers in Nicaragua for Engineers Without Borders.

Knight Rider Man



We spotted Warren's Chris Palmer driving around in his "Knight Rider" re-creation, which he built from parts. See story, page 3.

Art Van Sponsors Parade

Everybody loves a parade, and thanks to Warren-based Art Van Furniture, the residents of Southeast Michigan will have the chance to share their love at the 2013 America's Thanksgiving Parade, held in downtown Detroit.

Art Van will be this year's presenting sponsor, said Diane Charles, director of Corporate Communications for Art Van Furniture.

The company has been a sponsor of the parade for almost a quarter of a century, she said, and is proud to continue that tradition.

"There is nothing that brings our families and communities together like a parade," said company founder Art Van Elslander.

"This is one of Detroit's real treasures, and I couldn't be more proud to be a part of it."

Detroit Three 'Lose' 2 Retail Days

GM Sees Sales Drop 11 Percent In 'Short' Month

General Motors dealers delivered 187,195 vehicles in the U.S. in September, down 11 percent compared with last year.

Retail sales were down 6 percent versus a year ago and fleet sales were down 27 percent. Retail sales were up 2 percent on a selling day-adjusted basis.

"We held our own when it comes to retail market share this month thanks to strong new products, including the Chevrolet Impala, Buick Encore, GMC Sierra and the Cadillac ATS and XTS," said Kurt McNeil, vice president, U.S. Sales Operations. "We expect a strong finish to the year and more growth in 2014 thanks to new products and a healthier economy."

Car sales volumes, of course, were affected by fewer selling days and the absence of Labor Day from September figures.

Sales figures released by GM showed September highlights when compared with September of 2012 had Buick sales increasing 6 percent and Cadillac sales up 10 percent. On a retail basis, Buick sales have now increased

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2013 Chevy Tahoe

Ford Reports September Sales Up 6 Percent

Ford Motor Company U.S. sales last month totaled 185,146, marking its best September since 2006 with a 6 percent increase, marking Ford's 11th consecutive month of year-over-year sales increases.

"The combination of great styling, fuel economy and value delivered another solid monthly result for Ford in September," said Ken Czubay, vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service.

"We're particularly encouraged by the strength of the Fusion and Fiesta, especially in coastal markets. The F-Series also keeps delivering, with our fifth straight month surpassing the 60,000-vehicle mark and continuing as America's best-selling vehicle."

September Ford Fusion sales of 19,972 are up 62 percent compared with a year ago. Through the first nine months of the year, Fusion retail sales are experiencing their strongest rate of growth in the West, up 59 percent. In the Southeast, Fusion is up 26 percent.

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2013 Ford C-Max

Chrysler Sales Paint Rosy Picture, 'Lose' Selling Days

Chrysler reported U.S. sales of 143,017 units, a 1 percent increase compared with sales in September 2012 (142,041 units), and the group's best September sales since 2007.

The Chrysler, Dodge and Ram Truck brands each posted year-over-year sales gains in September compared with the same month a year ago, said company spokesman Ralph Kisiel.

"Even though industry sales dipped during September, Chrysler Group still managed to eke out a slight sales increase for the month," said Reid Bigland, head of U.S. Sales.

"Our dealers had two less selling days in September compared with a year ago, but they still . . . extended our sales streak to 42 consecutive months of year-over-year sales gains."

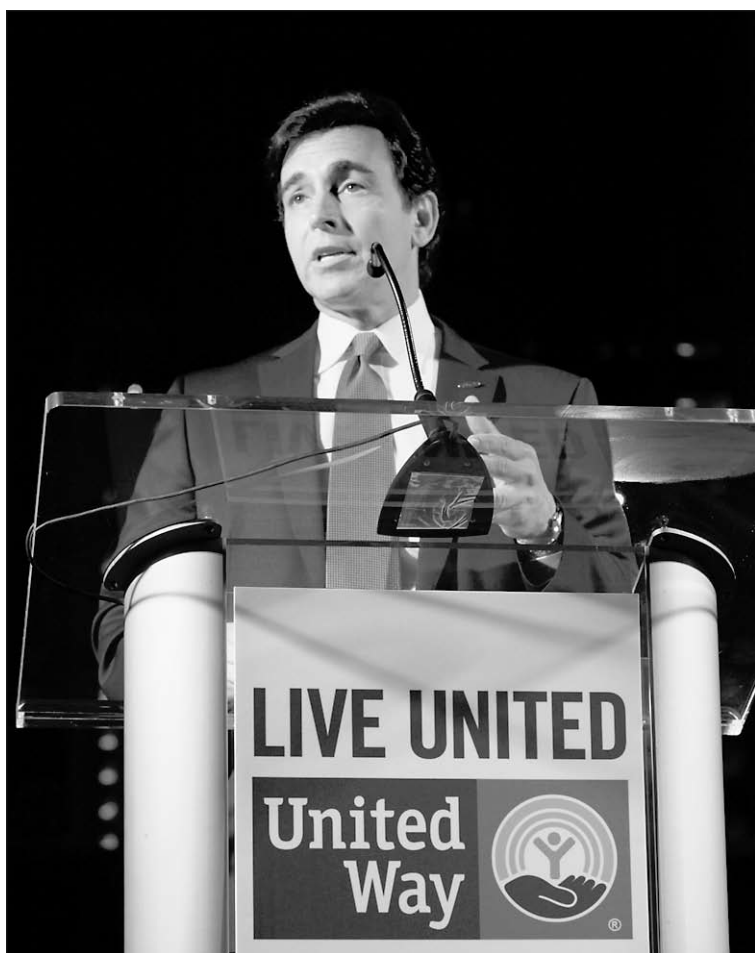
Chrysler had four models that set sales records in September. - the Jeep Compass and Jeep Patriot, the Dodge Dart compact sedan and the Dodge Challenger.

Ram Truck brand sales were up 8 percent in September, the brand's 26th consecutive month

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2013 Dodge Durango



Ford's COO Mark Fields

Mark Fields Leads United Way

Ford Motor Company Chief Operating Officer Mark Fields, who also serves as chair of United Way for Southeastern Michigan's 2013 campaign, kicked off the annual community-giving initiative last week with a symbolic torchlighting ceremony at Detroit's Hart Plaza.

Fields announced a fundraising goal of \$40 million - \$5 million more than last year's target. The funds will accelerate United

Way's work toward improving the first five years of the lives of children in Southeast Michigan to ensure that in 2030, when many are high school seniors, they will graduate as the most college- and career-ready class in the nation.

"There is new energy building in Detroit and the surrounding communities," said Fields.

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Contact us: info@techcenternews.com