



The 2014 Chevrolet Malibu received NHTSA's highest possible 5-star Overall Vehicle Score for safety.

Malibu Ramps Up Safety Technologies

Small doesn't mean unsafe, say GM officials.

The 2014 Chevrolet Malibu midsize sedan has 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.

"Safety is an increasingly important consideration for new vehicle buyers, especially for those in the midsize segment," said Gay Kent, General Motors general director of Vehicle Safety and Crashworthiness.

"The customer is at the center of our day-to-day operations and

when we design vehicles, it's their safety that we have in mind."

Safety technologies featured on the Malibu include an ultra-high-strength steel safety cage, rollover protection and 10 standard airbags, including knee airbags for both driver and front passenger.

In addition to these passive safety features, several other available active safety technologies, such as Forward Collision Alert and Lane Departure Warning, can assist in avoiding a collision.

Side Blind Zone Alert uses sen-

sors to warn drivers of vehicles entering their blind spot on either side. The pairing of Rear Cross Traffic Alert, new to Malibu for 2014, and rear vision camera can make backing out onto busy streets a less-stressful affair, said Chevy spokesman Chad Lyons.

Every Malibu comes with On-Star service standard for the first six months. In the event of a collision, OnStar Advisors can contact the vehicle even if occupants cannot respond, Lyons said.

Malibu had its best retail sales year since 1999 last year.

Barra Looks for Leadership, Growth in Global Operations

(AP) DETROIT – General Motors' new CEO, Mary Barra, says she will largely keep in place the plans of her predecessor, from a restructuring in Europe to a focus on improving profit margins. But she hopes to accelerate that progress.

"We're no longer just looking for viability, but we're looking for growth and leadership in the operations we have around the world," Barra told a small group of reporters Jan. 23.

"Now that some of those things have gotten the attention and are righted, let's take it and go."

The Jan. 23 50-minute session was Barra's first interview since she became CEO on Jan. 15. Barra, 52, joked that the quiet conference room at GM's Detroit headquarters was a better place to talk than last week's Detroit auto show, where she was mobbed by hundreds of reporters.

Former CEO Dan Akerson announced last month that he was stepping down to care for his ailing wife.

Under Akerson, GM made bil-

lions in profits and pushed to turn around struggling parts of its business, like Europe.

Barra, a 33-year GM veteran who was Global Product Development chief before Akerson named her CEO, said she and other members of GM's leadership team helped Akerson develop his strategy, including a restructuring in Europe that will cost the automaker \$1.1 billion this year.

GM still expects to achieve 10 percent pretax profit margins and break even in Europe by the middle of this decade, she said. It also wants to increase annual sales in China to 5 million by next year, up from 3.1 million last year.

Among her priorities is making GM's brand messages clear and consistent worldwide. Cadillac has the potential to be a global luxury brand, for example, and Chevrolet needs to make the case that it provides a lot of value to buyers.

The new Chevrolet Corvette – a relative bargain with a starting price of \$52,000 – should help, she said.

Those Who Work in City Can Use Library

The Warren Public Library offers a lot of services to people who live in the city. Now it's possible for people who work in the city to enjoy those same services.

Warren library director Oksana Urban said employees and owners of businesses in Warren can now obtain one of the Warren Public Library's free Warren Worker Cards or Business Owner Cards.

"It's easy and quick to obtain a Warren Worker Card," Urban said. "You just need to show proof of employment in Warren by providing a combination of a company badge, paycheck stub, as well as driver's license, or a letter from the employer, then fill out an application for a library card."

Most materials check out for 21 days, Urban said. Some exceptions are: Feature Film Pay DVDs (rental fee is 50 cents a day), and Xbox, Wii, Nintendo DS, and PS3 games (rental fee is \$5 per week). These items are not renewable over the phone and must be returned to the owning library. The Library also provides notary and laminating services.

A Warren Worker Card can place holds through the library website on Warren library materials only (www.warrenlibrary.net), Urban said.

Holds on materials owned by other libraries in the Suburban Library Cooperative in Macomb are not allowed. Likewise, MeLcat (Michigan Electronic Library) holds can only be placed at the home library, Urban said.

Book reserve lockers are available next to the drop box in the City Hall Atrium, open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. A drive-up return box at the rear of City Hall for Warren Library returns is available at all times for print and AV materials.

The Warren Public Library system has four libraries to help fill reading and listening needs, whether print materials (books and magazines), talking books (CDs, MP3-CDs), music CDs, or downloadable eBooks and Internet access, Urban said.

There are four branches in the Warren library system: Civic Cen-

ter Library, Burnette Branch, Busch Branch and Miller Branch.

For more information on the Warren library program, call 586-574-4564.

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