



GM assembly team member Jim Clarke uses "Ergo Chair."

'Chair' Helps Driver Comfort

A lot of people spend a lot of time in their cars, so it only makes sense that comfort plays a big role in what makes a vehicle great.

But what about the workers who actually make the car? How does their comfort translate into better vehicles for drivers?

In the case of the Chevrolet Traverse, "Our goal was to get the operator (worker) in and out of the vehicle in the safest and most ergonomic fashion to allow them to do the high amount of overhead and rear work required," said Ergo Chair design team lead Dave Bentoski, a GM

manufacturing systems engineer.

Traverse customers list its "family-friendly" third-row seat as one of their favorite features – and it's a reason the midsize SUV was named by Kelley Blue Book as one of KBB.com's 12 Best Family Cars of 2014, said GM spokesperson Otie McKinley.

The third row can comfortably accommodate three adult passengers with their own safety systems, infotainment, lights, climate control and even coat hooks, McKinley said.

But it required special equip-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SRT Challenger Hellcat Piles on the Power

The newly consolidated Dodge and SRT brands are launching out of the gate at full throttle.

Chrysler is introducing the new 600-plus horsepower 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT with a Hellcat engine just one month after taking the wraps off the new Dodge Challenger 392 Hemi Scat Pack Shaker at the New York Auto Show.

The SRT Hellcat debuted with its stablemate, the Dodge Challenger SRT.

Driven by five SRT performance hallmarks, the two new SRTs are redesigned and totally reengineered to be the most true-to-form muscle coupes on the market with performance-enhancing technologies inside and out, said Chrysler spokesperson Dan Reid.

Reid said the five hallmarks are: drive modes tailored to individual drivers; power; outstanding ride and handling; benchmark braking, and high-performance interiors.

The Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat will feature the most powerful V8 engine ever produced by Chrysler Group – the supercharged 6.2-liter Hemi V8.

"The new 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat is the ultimate performance muscle car," said Tim Kuniskis, president and CEO – Dodge Brand.

"Dodge is the Mainstream Per-



2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Supercharged with Hemi Hellcat engine

formance brand, and now combined with SRT, we are able to unleash a true GT car with an all-new driver-focused interior and the TorqueFlite eight-speed transmission combined with the most powerful V8 Chrysler has ever produced. The Challenger Hellcat has been released."

The 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT coupes will be built at the Brampton (Ont.) Assembly plant. Production is scheduled to begin in the third quarter of 2014, Reid said.

The 600-plus horsepower rating of the Challenger SRT with a Hellcat engine will be the highest of any V8 engine in Chrysler Group's history.

The all-new V8 engine can be mated with an upgraded six-speed manual transmission or a beefy, new TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic – the first such

gearbox ever offered in the Dodge Challenger SRT's time-honored segment, said Reid.

"This new Hemi Hellcat engine is Dodge and SRT's first application of V8 supercharger technology, delivering the full brand experience with fresh potency," Kuniskis said.

"The breakthrough supercharged engine features a forged-steel crankshaft with induction-hardened bearing surfaces. The result is a crank so well-engineered it can withstand firing pressures of 110 bar (1,595 psi) – the equivalent of five family sedans standing on each piston, every two revolutions.

"And, its unique, specially tuned crank damper has been tested to 13,000 rpm."

High-strength, forged-alloy pis-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Grabowski, left, accepts award from SMDI's Lawrence Cavanagh.

Silverado, Sierra Design Team Earn Award for Use of High-Strength Steel

GM's Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra 1500 design team has been awarded the 2014 Automotive Excellence Award for its use of advanced high-strength steel.

The Steel Market Development Institute (SMDI), a business unit of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) initiated the award.

The team, which successfully incorporated advanced steels to enhance safety and performance, and offer significant low-cost lightweighting benefits, was recognized last week during the 13th annual Great Designs in Steel (GDIS) seminar in Livonia.

Thomas Grabowski, GM design release engineer, accepted the award on behalf of the GM design team. During last year's seminar, Grabowski delivered the award-winning presentation, titled, "Advanced High-Strength Steel Technologies in the 2014 Chevrolet Silverado."

The 2014 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra 1500 feature ad-

vanced high-strength steel stampings, which enable significant increases in safety performance, said SMDI spokesperson Deanna Lorincz.

According to Grabowski, the vehicles' designs also feature enhanced mass efficiency, reduced tooling investment and an average weight reduction of 110 pounds compared with their major competitors.

"The GM design team has done an outstanding job redesigning the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra 1500 models with consumer-focused improvements in safety, performance and fuel efficiency," said Ron Krupitzer, vice president, automotive market, SMDI.

"Their use of advanced high-strength steel stampings contribute to the vehicles' mass efficiency, fuel economy and safety performance ratings, all essential

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

U-M Recommendation: Eliminate Gas Tax, Add Road Repair Fee Based on Mileage Use

Under a recent proposal, drivers would pay for road repairs on the basis of a vehicle mileage fee system.

The system would replace the current gas tax system.

The University of Michigan's Sustainable Mobility & Accessibility Research & Transformation (SMART) department for the Michigan Environmental Council made the recommendation.

The report urged the state to adopt a vehicle mileage fee system because vehicles are getting better mileage and some don't even need gasoline, resulting in gas taxes being down while the amount of miles being driven stays the same or even increases.

The report's authors stated, "in other words, they (mileage fees) are a simple market-based fee for service. Mileage fees can also include time, geography or congestion levels.

"Instead of continuing to raise fuel taxes to pay for transportation infrastructure, a mileage fee could more fairly allocate costs based on the number of miles driven, the time of day, the route taken, and the weight of the vehicle."

The report went on to state that a mileage fee has a number of other advantages. It can:

- Improve transportation efficiency and access;
- Reconcile transportation funding shortages;
- Increase public and institutional cost effectiveness and accountability;
- Address institutional waste;
- Support environmental sustainability.

The report stated that Michigan is recognized worldwide as a hub of transportation technology and ingenuity, and the state now has the opportunity to play a leading role in a growing nation-

wide movement toward a mileage fee and other innovative market-based financing mechanisms.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

GM's New Workplace Charge Stations Raise Awareness for Plug-in EVs

Owning an EV is getting a little easier.

Based on growing employee demand, General Motors has installed 401 electric vehicle charging stations at its U.S. production and business facilities, said GM spokesperson Kevin Kelly.

More than 20 percent of the stations use electricity generated from solar canopies to help charge employee vehicles.

The majority of the stations are located at GM's large engineering and corporate facilities in Michigan, where employee EV ownership is growing steadily, Kelly said. All charge stations are available free of charge to GM employees and visitors.

"GM's commitment to installing a workplace charging infrastructure is among the most

expansive of any corporation in the U.S.," said Britta Gross, director of GM advanced vehicle commercialization policy.

"Workplace charging is one of the most important things a company can do to raise plug-in electric vehicle awareness and energize employees.

"Once employees see how easy it is to plug in at home and work, and they realize the fuel savings, plug-in electric vehicles like the Chevy Volt begin to sell themselves."

In addition to the workplace charging, GM has another 400 charge spots dedicated exclusively to vehicle development and testing.

Chevrolet and Cadillac dealers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



One of GM's 401 charging stations at its U.S. facilities.

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GM Employees Help Kids to Pedal Around

More than 200 children waiting to be adopted in Wayne County have never had the opportunity to experience the joy of owning new bicycles.

That changed, said Judson Center spokesperson Peggy Kerr, thanks to the generosity of GM Warren Transmission Operations and UAW Local 909 employees who have raised money that went to the purchase of new bicycles for the children, who received the bikes May 17.

"We would like to thank the men and women of Warren Transmission Operations for once again donating their time, effort and money to support such a worthwhile organization in our local community," said Mike Dulaney, plant manager, Warren Transmission Operations.

"In addition to the foster kids program, the Judson Center provides services for autism and vocational skills training. We are so excited and proud to know the bikes we donate will bring smiles and happiness to so many children in our community.

"Today, a bike – tomorrow, they may become customers of GM's great cars and trucks."

In addition, Channel 955/WKQI and Time Team Detroit, a volunteer program created by morning radio program, "Mojo in the Morning," donated new bike helmets that were delivered to Judson Center's Royal Oak campus.

"We're so looking forward to our first event with The Judson Center," said Shannon Murphy, co-host of the "Mojo in the Morning Show" on Channel 955.

"Mojo, Spike and myself, along with our amazing Time Team Detroit volunteers, are constantly looking for opportunities in and around the city to impact by volunteering our time.

"We are thrilled to be able to be on hand that day to donate bike helmets and beautify the grounds of Judson Center with the help of Chad's Landscaping in Waterford.

"We are wowed by The Judson Center and how it helps foster children and the families who love them, and we're beyond proud to be a part of that."

Chrysler Awakens a Sleeping Giant – Its Tipton, Ind., Plant

After sitting idle for seven years at the corner of US 31 and State Road 28 in Tipton County, Ind., a production facility was reborn.

Fiat Chrysler Chairman and CEO Sergio Marchionne last week officially dedicated the new Tipton Transmission Plant (TTP) and celebrated the production launch of a fuel-efficient nine-speed transmission.

Chrysler spokesperson Jodi Tinson said that the Tipton facility was, at one point, owned by a Chrysler supplier and was going to manufacture six-speed transmissions for the company.

"But the supplier went bankrupt and the facility was empty," Tinson said.

"It was then going to be used by a company to make solar panels, but that company went out of business. So the Tipton site has been empty for about seven years."

Last year, Tinson said, Marchionne confirmed that Chrysler would acquire the nearly 782,000-square-foot facility and invest \$162 million to establish an additional assembly site for the nine-speed transmission.

Marchionne also announced that up to 850 new jobs would be created by the end of 2015, subject to market conditions. Current employment at the plant is 204.

During a ceremony at the plant, Marchionne told the audience that Tipton is an operation that will play a vital role in creating prosperity for the company and for the surrounding communities.

"My confidence is rooted firmly in the knowledge that those of you who work in this area have shown a consistent dedication to delivering products with out-

standing quality," said Marchionne.

"You have embraced the principles of World Class Manufacturing, which is enabling us to compete with the best manufacturers in the world. You are the authors of a major success story, creating a great turnaround and making it possible to create the need for this new plant in Tipton."

"The UAW is pleased that Chrysler Group recognized the value of this highly skilled, represented workforce when it decided to establish an additional transmission manufacturing facility in the region," said UAW Local 685 President Rich Boruff.

"Their commitment and dedication to building high-quality products has led to the creation of more good paying manufacturing jobs and extraordinary growth in the industry.

"The UAW looks forward to working with our Chrysler Group partners to continue this momentum."

Tipton will become one of the global hubs for nine-speed production, Tinson said.

When the plant reaches full capacity, she added, it will ship about 800,000 finished transmissions to Toledo, Ohio, for use in the Jeep Cherokee, and Sterling Heights for the Chrysler 200, as well as to Fiat plants in Melfi, Italy; Tofus, Turkey; Pernambuco, Brazil; and China.

The potential exists to expand production to other international facilities as needed.

Production of the first nine-speed transmissions began in May 2013 at Chrysler Group's Indiana Transmission Plant 1 (ITP1), Tinson said.

The opening of the Tipton facility represents phase two, which means additional work



An employee helps make transmission at Chrysler's new Tipton site.

for three of the company's facilities in Kokomo, Ind.

Castings for the new transmission will come from Kokomo Casting; machining of the prismatic parts – housings, blocks and heads – will be done at Kokomo Transmission; and the rotating parts – gears and crankshafts – will come from ITP1. All will be shipped to Tipton for final assembly.

"With the startup of TTP, we are enhancing the status of this region as the largest transmission installation in the world," said Marchionne.

"Just recently, we reached the landmark numbers of 17 million four-speed transmissions and three million six-speed transmissions built in Kokomo."

Both the four-speed and six-speed transmissions are built at the Kokomo Transmission Plant (KTP), Tinson said.

Since 1974, KTP has built more than 67 million transmissions. The 17-million four-speed milestone was achieved over a 25-year period from 1988 to December 2013. The plant began building the six-speed in 2006 and reached the three million mark in April.

Since June 2009, Chrysler has invested more than \$1.6 billion and hired more than 2,600 people in north central Indiana in its efforts to produce the company's next generation transmissions.

Chrysler employs more than 7,000 in the region's five plants.

GM's Employee 'Chair' Adds to Car Driver's Comfort

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment to make it possible for the worker to do the best job.

"Making it so required some unique manufacturing innovation – a new assembly technology to deliver workers, tools and parts to the rear of the vehicle to install wiring harnesses, air bag connectors and brackets," McKinley said.

"Working with a custom equipment supplier, manufacturing engineers developed the 'Ergo Chair,' a groundbreaking ergonomic device built to GM's specifications that carries a team member to each operation necessary for their vehicle assembly responsibilities in the rear of the vehicle."

Moving with the precision of a ballet dancer, Bentoski said, the chair sweeps the assembly worker into the vehicle on a high-tech pivoting seat driven by a robotic arm and controlled by their body motions. The worker is placed at just the right height for the job to be performed.

The Ergo Chair carries the cor-

rect parts and tools with the team member to each operation, Bentoski said, entering through the side door and extending down the length of the vehicle. Gone are the days of workers crawling through the vehicle or reaching in through window or liftgate openings to install critical components.

"To build a vehicle successfully, you need a great product and a great process, but at the heart of that process are the people, and the care they put into each and every vehicle," said Tony Francavilla, Lansing Regional plant manager.

"Having the Ergo Chair put our employee with the parts and tools at the optimal position for each operation improves both vehicle quality and worker health and safety."

That attention to detail is noticed, McKinley said, by Traverse owners like Ande Noktes, a moth-

er of three and an educator in Atlanta, who values the third row of seats and, alternatively, the 24.4 cubic feet of cargo room.

"I realized just how much I love the third row one day when I chaperoned a field trip at school one morning, transporting six students and a teacher, then, just hours later, quickly and easily flipped the seats down to pack in 10 suitcases and five people for a drive to the airport," Notkes said.

"On my way home, I picked up 40 bags of mulch for a garden project, and then flipped the seats back up minutes later to pick up the kids and a couple of friends from school. The third row is an indispensable part of my life."

GM, McKinley said, is believed to be the first automaker to use ergonomic robotic chairs to help its workers safely and reliably assemble today's increasingly complex vehicle interiors.

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GM will soon offer technology that requires drivers to buckle up.

GM, OnStar Joining Effort To Get Everyone Buckled Up

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's annual 'Click it or Ticket' public safety campaign opens this year amid the first increase in fatalities in five years for unrestrained passenger vehicle occupants.

General Motors and OnStar are joining in the effort to get people to buckle up whenever they're in a vehicle, said GM spokesperson Jennifer Ecclestone.

According to NHTSA, wearing a seat belt is the single most effective way to reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes.

The Click It or Ticket enforcement mobilization aims to continue to help raise the national seat belt use rate beyond the estimated 87 percent in 2013.

In support of the Click it or Ticket campaign, GM is announcing plans to launch a new Belt Assurance System on select fleet vehicles later this year, Ecclestone said.

The belt assurance system was developed by GM to help ensure that the driver and the right front passenger are belted before the vehicle can be driven.

This system does not allow shifting from “park” until the driver and right front seat belts are buckled.

"Customer safety is on the forefront of everything we do,"

said Jeff Boyer, vice president of GM Global Vehicle Safety.

"It is essential for the safety of our customers' and all drivers' safety to develop the habit of buckling up each and every time they get into their vehicles."

"We continue to support this program by NHTSA to remind our drivers to buckle up each time they start their vehicles, while also developing other safety features like our Belt Assurance System."

According to NHTSA, seat belts saved an estimated 12,174 people from dying in 2012, Ecclestone said.

From 2008 to 2012, seat belts saved nearly 63,000 lives, say NHTSA officials.

OnStar, Ecclestone said, will be supporting the effort by reminding subscribers who press the blue OnStar button for non-emergency requests to "Remember to stay buckled up."

The reminder will take place throughout the duration of NHTSA's Click it or Ticket campaign through June 1.

“General Motors applauds the efforts of law enforcement officers and safety officials who are mobilizing across the nation May 19 through June 1 to enforce safety belt use laws in order to save lives and prevent injuries,” Boyer said.

Aerodynamics Were Driving Force Behind Cadillac's New ATS Coupe – GM's Masch

Sometimes the more things
change, the more things change.

For the 2015 ATS Coupe, Cadillac engineers and designers made a number of changes from the award-winning ATS Sedan to “deliver the performance and styling traits luxury coupe buyers expect,” said Cadillac spokesperson Brian Corbett.

To create a more personal expression of the brand's compact luxury car, the 2015 ATS Coupe rides on the same 109.3-inch wheelbase as the sedan, Corbett said, but features its own bodywork, longer vehicle length, lower height and wider front/rear tracks.

The roof, doors, rear fenders and trunk lid are unique to the coupe, along with a specific front fascia and front fenders to accommodate the wider track. And, 18-inch wheels are standard on the Coupe.

"All of the surface development unique to the ATS Coupe was done with aerodynamics in mind," said David Masch, ATS chief engineer.

"We are able to achieve lift and downforce requirements to ensure, at top speed, we retain handling without having to add a rear spoiler."

The coupe has an "aggressive stance," he said.

At 60.3 inches front and 61.7 inches rear, the two-door has



The 2015 Cadillac ATS Coupe has refined lines for better performance.

a 0.8-inch wider track.

Overall vehicle height is 1.1 inches lower than the sedan.

The wider stance and lower roofline provide the proportions coupe customers want.

"The wider track also helps improve steering precision and direct response," said Cadillac Executive Chief Engineer David Leone.

"The lower roof contributes to a lower center of gravity height, which also reduces roll and improves steering response."

The 2015 ATS Coupe is also 0.8 inches longer than the sedan, although it rides on an identical wheelbase, Masch said.

The extra overall length helps to further enhance the ATS Coupe's dynamic appearance, resulting in a swept-back look to

the front and rear end appearances, he said.

The Cadillac ATS Coupe is intended to be a more personal addition to the award-winning ATS product line, Corbett said.

Designed to be lighter, more agile and more engaging than its competitors, he added, it extends Cadillac's product-driven growth and the brand's tradition of dynamic luxury Coupes.

The 2015 ATS Coupe goes on sale this summer, Corbett said. Drivers will have the choice of rear-wheel drive or all-wheel drive, and a 2.0L turbocharged four-cylinder or a 3.6L six-cylinder.


The Coupe will start at \$38,990, including a \$995 destination charge.

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SRT has been consolidated under Dodge CEO Tim Kuniskis.

All SRT Vehicles Will Link to Dodge Brand

In conjunction with the outlined plans for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), Chrysler has made public a plan that will consolidate the SRT family of vehicles under the Dodge brand.

Tim Kuniskis will lead the effort as he continues his role as president and CEO of the Dodge Brand and head of the company's Fleet Operations.

Ralph Gilles continues as the senior vice president of Product Design and president and CEO of Motorsports.

The change went into effective immediately after the announcement.

"I want to thank Ralph for his dedication to the SRT brand," said Sergio Marchionne, chairman and CEO, Chrysler Group.

"Under Ralph's leadership, the SRT brand expanded its vehicle lineup to include more highly customized models and received numerous automotive awards and distinctions."

Kuniskis was named president and CEO – Dodge Brand, in April 2013. In this role, he has full responsibility for Dodge brand sales, marketing, dealer network and service.

Kuniskis continues to lead Fleet activities for Chrysler Group, which includes managing fleet sales and operations, remarketing and company car programs.

Previously, he served as the

head of Fiat Brand for North America.

Kuniskis joined Chrysler Corporation in 1992 and since then has held a series of positions of increasing responsibility in the company's business center operations and marketing organization.

Kuniskis holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from State University of New York (1991). He was born in Rochester, N.Y.

Gilles was appointed president and CEO – Chrysler Motorsports in June 2011.

He continues to lead the automaker's Product Design Office as senior vice president, a position he was named to in June 2009.

He has also served as president and CEO – SRT Brand, and president and CEO – Dodge Brand. Gilles was named Design vice president in 2008.

Since first joining the former Chrysler Corporation in 1992 as a designer, Gilles has put his academic background in industrial design and business administration to use, holding various positions within the company, including manager, director and vice president in multiple areas.

Gilles holds a Master of Business Administration from Michigan State University (2002) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Industrial Design from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit (1992). He was born in New York City.

Job Fair Coming May 28

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – Job seekers and employers can connect through a State of Michigan-sponsored online career event.

The MiVirtualCareerFair is set for Wednesday, May 28. It's to feature 30 employers and is expected to be the second-largest such event to date.

More than 120 employers and 16,700 job-seekers have connected since MiVirtualCareerFair debuted two years ago.

During the event, job-seekers

can explore customized employer booths, interact with participating employers and search and apply for job opportunities.

Wednesday's six-hour career fair is to include Aflac, Consumers Energy, Hillshire Brands, Shinola, Speedway and Verizon Wireless.

Participation for job-seekers is free.

Additional virtual career fairs are scheduled for Aug. 27 and Nov. 12.

Camaro 'Bumblebee' Stars In New Transformers Movie

Hurray for Hollywood.

Thanks to a long-term relationship with Michael Bay, Paramount Studios and Hasbro Chevrolet, a Camaro that converts into the iconic Bumblebee will once again turn heads.

The Transformers movie franchise returns to screens around the globe June 27 in the upcoming "Transformers: Age of Extinction" from director Michael Bay.

GM spokesperson Cristi Vazquez said GM was able to come together with the makers of the movie and provide vehicles and facilities for the making of the film.

"It's a fun way to get GM products out before the eyes of the public," Vazquez said.

The latest film also features Chevrolets sold around the world, including a Corvette Stingray that converts to Autobot Crosshairs, a Trax and a Sonic outfitted as a Rally Car.

The fifth-generation Camaro was converted into Bumblebee in

the 2007 film, "Transformers," the 2009 film, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," and the 2011 film, "Transformers: Dark of the Moon."

The latest edition features two Camaros specifically built for the film, one a heavily modified vintage 1967 Camaro SS and the other a futuristic concept Camaro.

"The Transformers movies have been a great partnership for Chevrolet by allowing us to introduce our vehicles to new fans, young and old, around the world," said Tim Mahoney, chief marketing officer, Global Chevrolet.

"Now for the fourth time, you'll see a Camaro as a heroic Autobot, a fitting role for one of the stars of Chevrolet's lineup."

Said LeeAnne Stables, executive vice president of Worldwide Marketing Partnerships for Paramount Pictures: "The Chevrolet partnership with this iconic Michael Bay movie franchise has



New Camaro concept car will be in the upcoming film, "Transformers: Age of Extinction."

become one of the longest-running and most innovative movie-brand relationships in film history.

"This new Chevy campaign will definitely bring new and exciting elements to a global audience of Transformers movie fans around the world."

In addition to providing vehicles for the production, General Motors gave permission to film at GM locations, including GM Design at the Warren Technical

Center, the Milford Proving Ground and the Lansing Grand River Assembly plant, among other places.

Sadly, Vazquez said, while the movie company filmed at GM sites, the sets themselves were closed, so employees who work around the Tech Center were unable to watch the film being made.

"You might be able to see the faces of a couple of GM employees in the background, but that

would be it," Vazquez said. "They were very considerate and did most of their filming during off-hours."

The Transformers movie isn't the only recent Hollywood blockbuster to feature General Motors products, Vazquez said.

The company also placed some of its vehicles in the Marvel Studio hit, "Captain America: The Winter Soldier."

"It was only natural that Black Widow, the character played by Scarlett Johansson, drives a Stingray," Vazquez said. "Our Brand and Entertainment group works hard to put GM products in the right kinds of entertainments."

The Transformers debut isn't for a few weeks, Vazquez said. Nothing has been planned at this moment to celebrate the film here in Detroit, but she said she wouldn't be surprised if that changed.

Computer Attack Protection Set

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – Michigan is starting a pilot group that will lead to the creation of a rapid-response team to help the state and its businesses in the event of a major computer attack.

The Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget announced the update on the Cyber Civilian Corps.

It allows government and technology professionals to get more training through the Michigan Cyber Range, which is designed to help computer systems and sensitive data. A training exercise is planned for July 23.

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SRT Challenger Hellcat Powers Up With New Engine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tons – developed using advanced telemetry measurement – are coupled to powder-forged connecting rods with high-load-capacity bushings and diamond-like-carbon-coated piston pins, Kuniskis said.

The new supercharged 6.2-liter Hemi V8 has premium-grade, heat-treated aluminum-alloy cylinder heads that are optimized for superior thermal conductivity, said Reid, adding that its die-cast aluminum rocker covers are Hemi Orange.

In addition to the supercharged Hemi V8 in the Challenger SRT Hellcat, the new 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT model engine also gets a power boost with upgrades to the 392 Hemi V8.

Horsepower climbs to 485 from 470, while peak torque jumps to 475 lb.-ft. from 470 lb.-ft., Kuniskis said.

The 392 also can be mated with a new TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic or Chrysler's proven six-speed manual transmission.

And, Kuniskis said, the new Drive Modes tailors the driving experience to each individual driver whether it's on-road or on-track.

The Drive Modes feature is controlled through the Uconnect system and may be accessed by performing any of the following: Pushing the SRT button on the instrument panel switch bank; selecting "Drive Modes" from the "SRT & Apps" menu, or by selecting "Drive Modes" from within the Performance Pages menu.

Dodge and SRT designers and engineers spent 35 percent more time in the Chrysler's full-scale wind tunnel in Auburn Hills (compared with the previous-generation Dodge Challenger SRT) developing and further refining the aggressive and functional exteriors on the Challenger SRT and Challenger SRT Hellcat, Kuniskis said.

The result is a reengineered Challenger capable of maximum aerodynamic performance for spirited driving on the road or the race track, he said.

At the front, new fascia designs and all-new vertical-split grille provide a menacing update of its 1971 inspiration, Kuniskis said. A larger, power-bulge aluminum hood features a dedicated "cold-air" intake – a visual styling cue from the first Viper coupe built in 1996.

The SRT Hellcat features a larger front splitter designed for optimal downforce to minimize lift, Kuniskis said, adding that the performance cockpit of the 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT carries an essence of the 1971 Challenger, in an artistic and more organically styled way.

To make cruises more pleasurable, the new 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT features redesigned seats with improved cushioning and more comfortable contours, Kuniskis said.

For improved comfort and convenience, he said, new for 2015 are standard heated and ventilated front seats – and the passenger seat also has an easy exit/entry function to provide access to the rear seat. The access is controlled by a release handle on the top shoulder of the seat.

For the first time in Chrysler history, Kuniskis said, the new 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT with a Hellcat engine comes standard with two key fobs – red and black. The red key fob is the only key that can unlock the full horsepower and torque potential of the Challenger SRT Hellcat engine, while the black key fob limits the driver to a reduced engine output.

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Northwest Press Names Jeep Top ‘Outdoor Activity Vehicle’

Jeep brand vehicles cleaned up at the recent 20th annual “Mudfest” competition hosted by the Northwest Automotive Press Association (NWAPA).

The new 2014 Jeep Cherokee took home top honors, being voted “Northwest Outdoor Activity Vehicle of the Year” by the more than 20 automotive journalist members of NWAPA in attendance, said Chrysler spokesperson Kathy Graham.

In addition, the 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee was named the winner of the Premium Standard Utility class, and the 2014 Jeep Cherokee also was the winner of the Compact Utility class.

“The 2014 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk was named the winner based on its outstanding performance, off-road capabilities, features, fuel economy and value after rigorous testing,” said Ryan Douthit, NWAPA member and co-chair of the event.

“The new Cherokee represents a near-perfect blend of the features and performance that northwest buyers expect.”

More than 20 NWAPA automotive journalists spent two days testing vehicles on an autocross, paved and off-road routes at the 310-acre DirtFish Rally School site in Snoqualmie, Wash.

Journalists tested 23 vehicles from 16 manufacturers to select winners in five categories: compact utility, family utility, premium compact utility, premium standard utility and extreme capability vehicles.

The overall winner, the all-new 2014 Jeep Cherokee, was selected from the class winners.

“Jeep is honored to win these

prestigious awards from the NWAPA journalists, especially because the terrain and weather in the Northwest is the perfect environment for Jeep vehicles,” said Mike Manley, president and CEO – Jeep Brand.

“We’re pleased that NWAPA members – along with consumers nationwide – have recognized Jeep Cherokee and Grand Cherokee for the benchmark off-road capability, world-class on-road driving dynamics and fuel efficiency that they offer.”

The new 2014 Jeep Cherokee “completely redefines the mid-size SUV segment, delivering legendary Jeep 4x4 capability, improved fuel economy, superior on-road ride and handling, revolutionary design, world-class craftsmanship, clever functionality and versatility, more than 70 safety and security features and user-friendly technology,” Manley said.

He added that the Jeep Cherokee “delivers unmatched off-road capability while not sacrificing on-road ride and handling, comfort or segment-leading features.”

Manley said the Jeep brand recorded the best two sales months in its 73-year history in March and April.

April’s new record-setting performance included more than 85,000 sales globally and nearly 60,000 in the U.S.

In April in the U.S., both Cherokee and Grand Cherokee recorded more than 15,000 sales.

Jeep brand sales are up 46 percent in 2014 through April versus the brand’s sales during the same time last year.

Toyota Recalls Vehicles for Tire, Airbag, Brake Problems

DETROIT (AP) – Toyota is recalling 516,000 vehicles worldwide – including 430,500 in the U.S. – for three separate safety problems, including brakes that can activate without warning.

Company officials said last week it has no reports of accidents or injuries due to the defects. In all three cases, the automaker will alert owners, and dealers will repair the issues at no charge.

The largest recall, of 450,000 Sienna minivans from the 2004-2011 model years, targets vehicles sold in cold-weather areas. Toyota said road salt can corrode the spare tire carrier under the vehicle and the tire can fall off.

Siennas from the 2004-2010 model years were recalled for the same issue in 2010, and a splash protector and anti-rust protection were applied. But the company says the splash protector can fall off and rust can still occur.

The recall involves 370,000

minivans sold in the U.S., 80,000 in Canada and 400 in Europe.

Also recalled last week were:

- 16,000 Lexus GS 250 and 350 sedans from the 2013 model year because a manufacturing defect can cause the brakes to activate without warning, and without turning on the brake lights. Most of the vehicles – 10,500 – were sold in the U.S. Also included are left-hand-drive sedans sold in Canada, China and Europe.

- 50,000 Highlander and Highlander hybrid SUVs from the 2014 model year. Toyota says a software glitch may prevent the vehicle from properly calculating the size of the front passenger when determining whether to fire the air bags. The vehicles assume the passenger is smaller, so the bags may not fire or they may fire at a lower speed than necessary for a larger passenger.

Toyota says most of the affected vehicles – 45,287 – were sold in the U.S. Around 3,400 were sold in Canada, the rest in Mexico and Europe.

J.D. Power Expects Strong May Sales

With strong new light-vehicle retail sales anticipated over the Memorial Day weekend, the selling rate in May is expected to be at the highest level of the year, according to a monthly sales forecast developed jointly by J.D. Power and LMC Automotive.

Retail light-vehicle sales in May 2014 are expected to come in at 1.3 million units, 4 percent higher than in May 2013, said J.D. Power spokesperson John Tewes. The seasonally adjusted annualized selling rate (SAAR) is expected to be 13.6 million units, up from 12.8 million in May 2013, a significant improvement from the beginning of the year and the highest monthly SAAR recorded so far in 2014.

J.D. Power estimates that consumers will spend more than \$37 billion purchasing new vehicles this month, surpassing the previous May high of \$34.3 billion set in 2004, Tewes said. May is the eighth consecutive month that consumer spending on new vehicles increased on a year-over-year basis.

“The anticipated strong performance in May reflects the combination of strong underlying demand coupled with a quirk of the industry sales calendar, with the May sales month containing five weekends, compared with just four weekends last May,” said John Humphrey, senior vice president of J.D. Power’s global automotive practice.

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GM's New Lightweight EV Battery System To be Built at Brownstown Assembly Plant

General Motors will bring all its electric vehicle battery building capabilities in-house with production of battery systems for the 2015 Chevrolet Spark EV at its battery assembly plant in Brownstown.

"Using our in-house engineering and manufacturing expertise enabled us to deliver a battery system that is more efficient and lighter than the current Spark EV system without sacrificing range," said Larry Nitz, executive director of GM Global Transmission and Electrification Engineering.

"Our successful working relationship with LG Chem has allowed us to deliver a new battery system for the Spark EV that helps us to better leverage our economies of scale."

The newly designed battery system features an overall storage capacity of 19 kWh and uses 192 lithium ion cells, Nitz said. The cells are produced at LG Chem's plant in Holland, Mich. The battery system weight of 474 pounds is 86 pounds lighter than the system in the 2014 Spark EV.

The Spark EV battery is built on a dedicated production line at Brownstown, which also manufactures complete battery packs for the Chevrolet Volt, Opel Ampera and Cadillac ELR.

Changes in battery design will not affect the Spark's MPGe – or gasoline equivalent – performance compared with the 2014 model, Nitz said. Range will remain at an EPA-rated 82 miles and MPGe will remain at 119.

Priced at \$19,995 with full federal incentives, the Spark EV is one of the most efficient – and affordable – all-electric vehicles available, said GM spokesperson David Darovitz.

Currently on sale in California



Brownstown's Tina Oaks puts wiring harnesses on a Spark EV battery.

and Oregon, the 2015 Spark EV features segment-leading technology, including Siri Eyes Free, 4G LTE and DC Fast Charging.

Brownstown Battery Assembly's 479,000-square-foot, landfill-free facility south of Detroit produces the lithium-ion battery packs for GM's extended-range electric vehicles.

The facility started mass pro-

duction in October 2010 and is the first high-volume manufacturing site in the U.S. operated by a major automaker for automotive lithium-ion battery production, Darovitz said.

The site was made possible, Darovitz said, with the help of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding through the U.S. Department of Energy.

Brembo Brakes Expands in Michigan

HOMER, Mich. (AP) – The high-end auto parts manufacturer Brembo S.p.A is marking the grand opening of expanded North American operations at its plant in southern Michigan.

Brembo's \$115 million investment enlarged the factory in Homer where brakes, discs, calipers and corner modules are produced.

During a ceremony May 21, the company based in Stezzano, Italy, said North America will become its top market this year. Chairman Alberto Bombassei says the expanded and upgraded plant will let Brembo boost its U.S. presence and offer better service to clients. Brembo began making disc brakes in the U.S. in 2007.

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U-M Report: Eliminate Gas Tax, Add Road Repair Fee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Such a system, the report continued, could improve economic stability of state transportation systems, facilitate fairer and more responsive fee structures, reduce the need for tax increases, and promote more efficient travel behavior.

Michigan's transportation system mirrors a widespread phenomenon of under-invested systems at the state and federal levels, the report stated. Rising fuel economy reduces fuel consumption and, accordingly, per-gallon taxes collected.

The authors of the report stated that combined with resistance to tax increases, the effectiveness of the fuel excise tax as a transportation funding mechanism has declined.

According to the report, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) estimated that in 2010 an additional 12.1 billion dollars was needed to establish a transportation system that could support a competitive economy and improved quality of life. Since then, that dollar figure has only increased.

The report's authors wrote, "A mileage fee can encourage a greater balance between personal automobile travel and other modes of transportation. When users better understand their cost impacts on their own wallet, they become better equipped to understand the benefits and savings associated with other modes of transportation such as public transit, walking, biking, carpooling or telecommuting."

"Michigan, which widely lacks reliable and convenient public transit options, would benefit from allocating some of the increased revenue to improving the quality, accessibility and reliability of alternative travel options."

The authors acknowledged that all successful congestion pricing policies have been linked to a robust transit component. Drivers are much more likely to switch modes if significant improvements to alternative modes have been made.

"For example, when Singapore introduced a congestion pricing system, it also invested in bus and rail transport and saw a 27 percent increase in public transit use over the 30-year period. Understanding and reacting to the cost of one's driving could influence travel time, route, and frequency – but not mode if there is no reliable and efficient alternative."

Having said all of this, the authors freely acknowledged that there would be problems with instituting a new road taxation system.

For example, it would require the addition of technology to vehicles that could track mileage. Adopting such a system would create challenges, which include privacy.

How would the state develop a system that could track mileage without infringing on the right to privacy. People might object to a tax system that could not only count the miles a vehicle traveled, but where the vehicle went as well.

"Public outreach and education efforts will be important to address these concerns," the report stated. "Privacy concerns will vary based on technology options and policy design. There are many opportunities to mitigate privacy concerns. They include providing multiple data and fee collection options and engineering privacy protections into the system."

Then there are administrative costs. The authors freely admitted that implementing an entirely

new system will require significant investment, especially at its inception.

Enforcement of such a tax is also a concern. The report stated that a simple solution would be to tie vehicle registration to mileage fee bill payments.

"For example, an individual would be unable to renew his or her vehicle registration with the state if their mileage fee bill is not current. Further research and pilot projects would likely reveal other opportunities and challenges to program enforcement."

There are two options, the report stated, for gas pump reporting and collection. One option requires vehicles to be equipped with an automatic vehicle identification (AVI) device that transmits vehicle fuel economy rating to the fuel pump.

The fuel economy rating is then multiplied by gallons purchased to estimate mileage, and the resulting fee is added to the price of the gas.

A second option uses an on-board computer (OBC) to collect mileage data. Whenever the driver pumps gas, a shortwave radio would transmit mileage data to the fuel pump service system where both the cost of gas and the mileage fee were included distinctly in one bill.

Systems could be set up that would use smartphone applications for vehicle GPS and telematics technology.

The paper's authors wrote that the study was designed to provide a foundational understanding of how a mileage fee might work in Michigan as well as start a conversation at the state level about the opportunity to provide a long-term, efficient, fair, and sustainable funding mechanism for Michigan's transportation system, and to move away from a less and less sustainable fuel excise tax system.

"The longer any state waits to reform its transportation funding system, the more expensive the fix will be," the authors wrote. "As a leader in transportation technology and innovation, Michigan has an opportunity to lead the nation in transforming the currently outdated transportation funding mechanisms to one that is more fair, sustainable, and self-sufficient."

High-Strength Steel Earns GM SMDI Award

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

criteria for consumers in today's market."

The SMDI Automotive Excellence Award recognizes individuals or teams from automakers, suppliers or the academic community who embrace innovation and make significant contributions to the advancement of steel in the automotive marketplace.

Award winners are chosen from presenters at the previous year's GDIS seminar. Candidates are rated in several categories, including: implementation in production; overall contribution to the advancement of steel; challenges and benefits associated with cost, mass reduction and performance; replacement of competitive materials; and structural performance and efficiency.

GDIS debuted in 2002 and has grown in attendance and scope. In 2013, more than 1,300 North American vehicle manufacturers, Tier I suppliers, equipment suppliers, university representatives, steel company personnel and technical reporters attended the seminar.



One of GM's fleet of hydrogen-powered Chevy Equinox Fuel Cell vehicles

5,000 Drivers Pass 3 Million Miles in Fuel Cell Vehicles

General Motors' fleet of fuel cell vehicles recently passed 3 million miles of hydrogen-powered, real-world driving.

Some individual vehicles have accumulated more than 120,000 miles, said GM spokesperson Dan Flores. By GM's estimate, using hydrogen to power these vehicles, the fleet has avoided 157,894 gallons of gasoline consumption.

This specially equipped fleet of Chevrolet Equinox Fuel Cell vehicles are part of GM's 119-vehicle Project Driveway program, which launched in 2007, Flores said. Since then, more than 5,000 drivers have provided feedback on the functionality and drivability of fuel cell technology.

"Hydrogen fuel cell technology is an important part of GM's advanced propulsion portfolio and we continue to make substantial progress in furthering this technology," said Charlie Freese, executive director of GM's global fuel cell engineering activities.

"These vehicles have operated through seven full winters and a wide range of environmental con-

ditions, proving that fuel cells can meet the demands of real-world drivers."

Last year, GM announced two fuel cell-related collaborations. In July, 2013, GM and Honda announced a long-term collaboration to co-develop next-generation fuel cell and hydrogen storage systems, aiming for potential commercialization in the 2020 time frame, Flores said.

In addition, GM and Honda are working together with stakeholders to further advance refueling infrastructure, which is critical for the long-term viability and consumer acceptance of fuel cell vehicles.

Also last year, GM opened a new state-of-the-art Fuel Cell Development Laboratory at GM Powertrain World Headquarters in Pontiac, Flores said.

In September 2013, GM and the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development & Engineering Center (TARDEC) jointly announced an expansion of their relationship for testing automotive fuel cell technology.

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UAW to Donate Funds to Help Detroit Retirees

DETROIT (AP) – The United Auto Workers union has agreed to help fund the health care costs for retired Detroit employees as part of a deal to protect the city’s art collection from sale under the municipal bankruptcy process.

U.S. District Court mediators said in a statement May 21 that the union and its supporters “will be participating in the so-called ‘grand bargain’” to cover retiree costs and guard the art collection.

The announcement doesn’t say how much the UAW will contribute.

The Detroit News reported that the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council is committing between \$3 million and \$5 million.

The Michigan House is considering a \$194.8 million contribution that’s the equivalent of \$350 million spread over 20 years.

Various foundations as well as the Detroit Institute of Arts have pledged \$466 million over 20 years.

2015 Chevy Cruze Undergoes Facelift Inside and Outside

Chevrolet recently introduced the 2015 Cruze at the New York International Auto Show – and it’s a different-looking car.

The 2015 Cruze will come with revised exterior styling, enhanced interior convenience and greater connectivity – including new Text Message Alerts, Apple Siri integration and OnStar 4G LTE with available Wi-Fi hotspot.

The new exterior styling cues are inspired by the new Impala and restyled 2014 Malibu, while more intuitive controls update the interior, said GM spokesperson Annalisa Bluhm.

New voice-controlled features are designed to enhance safety when responding to text messages in the vehicle, she said.

“We’ve simply made a great, versatile car even better,” said Steve Majoros, Chevrolet director of passenger car and crossover marketing.

“Chevrolet continues to design, build and sell the most compelling small cars in its history and the 2015 Cruze offers more of the features, connectivity and

efficiency that are important to today’s customers.”

The Cruze’s facelift for 2015 refreshes the appearance for LS, LT, RS and LTZ models, Majoros said. A prominent dual-port front fascia takes styling cues from Impala and Malibu, contributing a more cohesive look across Chevrolet’s sedan range – including LED daytime running lamps on LT and LTZ trims.

“They complement the Cruze’s swept-back headlamps, for a sportier presence,” Majoros said. “Several new exterior and interior colors will also be offered for 2015.”

Updates on the interior that enhance convenience:

- Revised cupholders to make it easier to insert and remove cups;
- Trunk release relocated to the center console;
- Door lock switches relocated from the center console to the front doors.

In addition to LS, LT, RS and LTZ models, the 2015 Cruze lineup includes Cruze Eco (EPA-rated



2015 Chevrolet Cruze LTZ

42 mpg highway) and Cruze Diesel (EPA 46 mpg highway), the most efficient non-hybrid passenger car in America, Bluhm said.

“That’s about 10 percent greater efficiency than the Volkswagen Jetta TDI,” Majoros said. “The Cruze also delivers more horsepower (151 hp) and torque (264 lb.-ft.) than the Jetta TDI (140 hp/236 lb.-ft.). Cruze Diesel’s driving range is up to 717 miles per tank.”

Cruze offers more standard safety features than any other car in its class, including 2014 models of the Ford Focus and Toyota Corolla, Majoros said.

Cruze has 10 standard air bags – including side-impact and knee air bags for front passengers – and offers side blind zone alert, rear cross traffic alert, rear park assist and a rearview camera.

“Cruze remains a strong entry in the compact segment, with features that continue to bring new customers to Chevrolet,” said Majoros.

“Along with Spark, Spark EV, Sonic and Volt, Chevy’s lineup of efficient, technologically advanced small cars is one of the industry’s most compelling.”

The enhanced connectivity and convenience features for the 2015 Cruze include a new Text Message Alerts feature for smartphone users with Bluetooth profile (M.A.P.), which reads incoming texts through the vehicle’s speakers, and Siri Eyes Free for iPhone iOS 6 and iOS 7 users to enhance connectivity and convenience, Bluhm said.

Each enables voice-controlled connectivity, to help keep phones in pockets and hands on the wheel.

Additional standard and available features include:

- Seven-inch-diagonal color touch screen and additional USB ports;
- Chevrolet Connected by OnStar 4G LTE with built-in Wi-Fi hotspot;
- Next-generation OnStar and MyLink enhancements with enhanced voice recognition;
- Available Chevrolet AppShop (later availability);
- Available navigation.

OnStar 4G LTE with available

Wi-Fi hotspot provides a mobile hub for drivers and passengers with easy access to apps and services that require a high-speed data connection, Bluhm said.

The Chevrolet AppShop allows owners to view all available apps and download them directly to the vehicle, then organize, update or delete them as needed, Bluhm said. Available apps connect drivers to vehicle data, music, news, weather, travel information and more.

This small-car strategy is producing big-time results, Bluhm said. Cruze is the cornerstone of Chevrolet’s North American small-car lineup, which is attracting a greater share of the market and more young, first-time customers to Chevy showrooms. Cruze is also Chevrolet’s best-selling car around the world, with more than 2.5 million sold globally since its launch in mid-2010.

“These new customers are discovering the fun, value and durability Chevy stands for,” said Paul Edwards, U.S. vice president, Chevrolet Marketing. “In fact, Chevrolet is second among buyers under 25, as the brand continues to grow share in the small-car segments.”

Collectively, the lineup in America – including Spark, Spark EV, Sonic, Cruze and Volt – saw a 15.4 percent increase in overall sales in the first quarter of 2014.

Since Cruze’s launch about four years ago, and the additions of the Spark and Sonic, Chevrolet’s overall share of the small-, compact- and mini-car segments has more than tripled – up 221 percent – with nearly half of the customers new to Chevrolet.

“The diversity of Chevrolet’s small-car lineups, from the efficiency of the Cruze clean diesel and the pure electric performance of the Spark EV, offers a driving solution for everyone,” Edwards said.

“With Cruze sales up 17 percent in the first quarter of 2014, the updated styling and greater connectivity of the 2015 Cruze will accelerate Chevy’s small-car momentum when it goes on sale this fall.”

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Tesla Posts 1Q Loss of \$50M

DETROIT (AP) – Electric car maker Tesla Motors lost \$49.8 million in the first quarter as it accelerated the development of its new crossover and made improvements to its Model S sedan.

Tesla said it produced a record 7,535 Model S sedans during the period and delivered 6,457 to customers, but higher costs led to a loss.

The company also said last week that California is now in the running for a \$5 billion battery factory it plans to build.

Previously, the company was only considering Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Nevada for the factory, which is scheduled to begin producing lithium-ion batteries for Tesla’s Fremont, Calif., car factory in 2017.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said the company will prepare two separate sites for the battery factory to minimize the risk of delays. Work may begin as early as next month on one of the sites, he said.

He wouldn’t say which states

are the finalists. California is a possible choice if permitting processes are streamlined.

Musk said the gigafactory, as it’s known in the company, will help Tesla cut its battery costs by 30 percent. But it has to be built by 2017 to supply batteries for the company’s lower-cost Generation Three vehicle.

“If we don’t have the gigafactory online when we have the vehicle capacity online, we will be in trouble,” Musk told analysts at the earnings conference call.

For the quarter, research and development costs jumped 49 percent to \$81.5 million as Tesla prepares to launch the Model X crossover next year.

Musk said the Model X has some tricky issues, including the seals around its unique back doors, which slide upward instead of opening outward.

Tesla is also spending money to adapt the Model S for international markets including the United Kingdom, Japan and Hong Kong.

Corvette Fest Expects 170 Cars for Show

The 10th Annual "Corvette Fest," sponsored by the GMC Corvette Set car club, will be held at Olde World Canterbury Village, Lake Orion, on Saturday, June 14.

The show is open to Corvettes of all years, stock, modified or custom, said festival public relations chairman Roger Nelson.

The Corvette Fest is also one of the qualifying shows for the Motor City Corvette Concours (MCCC) show to be held on Sept. 13.

"Outstanding Corvettes from our show, and seven other participating area Corvette club shows, will be nominated for selection to the 'invitation only' Concours Class, at the MCCC. We are expecting up to 120 Corvettes to be entered and judged at the Corvette Fest," Nelson said.

An additional 50 or more club member cars will be on display, although not in competition with show entrants, Nelson said. Vehicle registration begins at 8 a.m. with an awards ceremony at 3 p.m.

Trophies will be awarded for first place and "Outstanding" qualifications in 15 classes. General admission to Canterbury Village is free.

Participant registration is \$25 a car in advance or \$30 a car the day of the show. Participants may pre-register online at www.gmccorvetteset.com.

A silent auction will be featured with a wide selection of items for everyone.

Profits from the show and the silent auction will benefit Leader Dogs for the Blind. Leader Dogs has been the designated charity of the club for many years, with

more than \$142,000 donated to Leader Dogs over that time.

This year, the show again will feature live music for a free concert 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"The GMC Corvette Set has actively sponsored car shows for more than 20 years," Nelson said. "Our motto is, 'We joined because of the car. We stay because of the people.'"

Membership in the club is open to all persons with an interest in Corvettes and monthly member meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Leader Dogs for the Blind facility in Rochester. More information on this show and the club can be found at www.gmccorvetteset.com.

For directions and information on Olde World Canterbury Village, visit www.canterburyvillage.com.

Charging Stations Raise Awareness For Plug-in EVs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have installed approximately 5,900 charge stations at their locations for owner use – 17 of these dealerships use solar charging canopies.

"Workplace charging is now part of GM's corporate sustainability plan and our employees want to be part of this positive change," Gross said. "The key for any company is to take the first step and make it simple for employees to engage, in our case, outlets and free charging."

GM's charging count follows the Department of Energy's announcement that 75 businesses have committed to participate in its Workplace Charging Challenge to install charging stations for their employees, Kelly said.

Reuben Sarkar, deputy assistant secretary for transportation, U.S. Department of Energy, praised GM for its efforts.

Charity Golf Event Set for June 13

The 21st annual Myasthenia Gravis Association Golf Classic is set for Friday, June 13, at the Cherry Creek Golf Club in Shelby Township.

The event raises money for the Myasthenia Gravis Association (MGA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of people with MG, a neuromuscular disease, said MGA spokesperson Mark Hosking.

The group assists patients and their families in coping with this disease through education, diagnosis, treatment and support.

Myasthenia Gravis affects all races, genders and at any age, Hosking said.

Most cases of MG are diagnosed in young women, usually under the age of 30, and older men, usually over the age of 55. MG is not contagious.

The major symptoms of Myasthenia Gravis, said Hosking, are blurred and/or double vision, involuntary drooping of the eyelids, slurred speech, weakness in facial muscles, difficulty in chewing and swallowing and sometimes breathing, difficulty in walking and talking, and unusual tiredness in the arms and legs.

"Gravis is not a well-known condition," Hosking said, "but there are 36,000 Americans that have this disease right now."

Tickets for the event are \$125 per golfer, which buys 18 holes of golf, lunch at the turn and dinner. A foursome may get the same deal for \$500 (\$450 if registered by June 6).

For more information on the event, contact the Myasthenia Gravis Association at 248-591-4419.

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