

## 'Vette, Hellcat, Fiesta Among Top 10 Engines

The Big Three enjoyed big success with the "2015 Ward's 10 Best Engines" list.

Among the winners announced Dec. 10 were the Corvette Stingray's 6.2L LT1 V8, the Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat 6.2L V8 and the Ford Fiesta's 1.0L EcoBoost 3-cylinder engines.

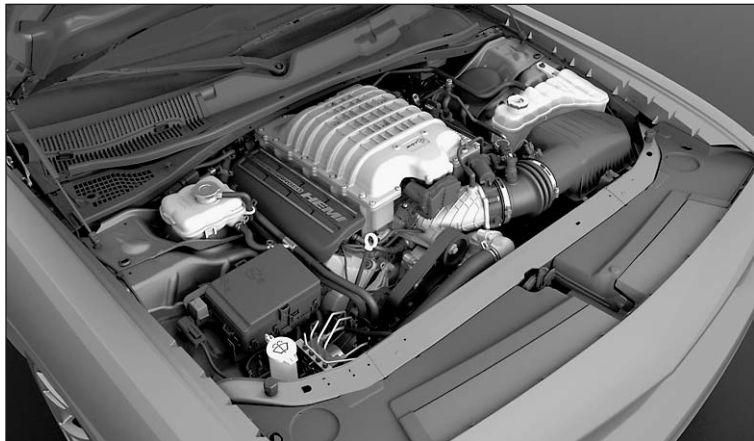
Wards editors wrote of the Stingray engine, "the 7-speed manual transmission makes the 'Vette a riot to drive, but the new 8-speed automatic is stealthy and crisp and worth the \$1,725 option price.

"WardsAuto editors flogging the coupe for more than 300 miles managed better than 20 mpg with the 8-speed auto."

"This recognition is another step in earning customers for life," said Dan Nicholson, vice president, GM Global Powertrain.

"Having the WardsAuto experts choose the LT1 as one of the best in the industry two years in a row is proof of what this Powertrain team can deliver – uncompromised performance, durability and efficiency that helps make the Stingray one of the best sports cars in the world today."

The LT1, part of the Gen 5 family of Small Block engines, combines several advanced technologies – direct injection, Active Fuel Management, or cylinder deactivation, and continuously



2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat 6.2L V8 Hemi

variable valve timing – to support an advanced combustion system that has resulted in a vehicle with power and performance, Nicholson said.

Wards editors also had great things to say about the Challenger Hellcat SRT. They wrote, "the Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat terrorizes concrete with a 6.2L V8 that draws inspiration from a massive supercharger that lets this significantly re-engineered Hemi howl under a heavy boot and deliver terrifyingly fast runs to the redline.

"It takes dazzling technology to corral 707 ponies, such as diamond-coated washers, reinforced bulkheads and crankshaft, and extra-strong alloy pistons.

"Yes, it's one of the few Ward's 10 Best Engines winners to shoulder a gas-guzzler tax, largely because the Hellcat can be downright docile for easy daily driving. Plus, it's reasonably fuel-efficient, thanks to a 2-stage fuel pump and an engine controller programmed to upshift the 8-speed automatic as soon as possible. Every editor got at least 15 miles per gallon."

"These two distinctly different engines," said Bob Lee, Chrysler vice president and head of Engine, Powertrain and Electrified Propulsion Systems Engineering, "represent the wide range of powertrain-engineering

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## GM Donates \$3M to Support Higher-Education Programs

The General Motors Foundation has named the groups supporting academia that are receiving grants totaling nearly \$3 million.

The money will be used to support 29 leading universities and organizations across the country in 2014 through GM's University/Organization Partner Program, said GM spokesperson Amy Grundman.

The initiative provides funding to advance secondary education curricula in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, also known as STEM, information technology and other fields important to the automotive industry, Grundman said.

"The STEM workforce is and will continue to be a vital component in building communities and transforming our nation's future," said GM Foundation President Vivian Pickard.

"By strengthening higher-education programs and encouraging students to pursue STEM careers, we're ensuring that the next generations of leaders and innovators will have the skills and education they'll need to succeed and compete globally."

The GM Foundation has awarded more than \$13.7 million in grants through the Universi-

ty/Organization Partner Program since 2011, Pickard said. This year's total award amounts to \$2.875 million.

Through this annual program, the GM Foundation provides resources that help more students to graduate with STEM-related degrees, she said. The funds also support design and manufacturing degree programs, diversity initiatives, student organizations and career development resources.

Here is this year's list of GM Foundation grant recipients: Art Center College of Design, Brigham Young University, University of California-Berkeley, Cleveland Institute of Arts, University of Cincinnati, College for Creative Studies, Duke University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Kettering University, Lawrence Technological University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, University of Michigan, Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, National Black MBA Association, National Society of Black Engineers, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Puerto Rico, Purdue University, Ringling College

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Journalists Name Car, Truck of Year Finalists

by Jim Stickford

It was a pretty good day for Ford when NACTOY named the finalists for its Car and Truck of the Year.

The organization, which stands for North American Car and Truck of the Year, is comprised of automotive journalists in the U.S. and Canada.

Detroit Free Press auto critic and columnist Mark Phelan, speaking on behalf of his fellow 56 NACTOY jurors, released the names of the six finalists during a special Automotive Press Association luncheon at the Detroit Athletic Club on Dec. 9.

The three car finalists were the Ford Mustang, the Hyundai Genesis and the Volkswagen Golf GTI. The three truck finalists were the Chevy Colorado, the Ford F-150 and the Lincoln MKC.

"This is the 22nd year of the NACTOY awards," Phelan said. "It's unique because the jury is made of 57 automotive journalists. We've recently added 10 more jurors to reflect the growing number of media outlets that cover the car industry.

"The selection process is paid for from the dues of members. We don't have any advertisements or sponsors, which makes us unique."

Phelan said the jurors look at all new cars in a year and by the fall, NACTOY winnows the number of vehicles to vote on to about 20.

The six finalists are then announced in December, with the two winners being named at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January. The voting process is handled by the accounting firm Deloitte and Touche.

After the announcement, representatives from the named automakers spoke to the press.

"Surprised?" said Lincoln spokesperson Stephane Cesaro. "We're very proud of the MKC and it was always our wish to be on the finalists' list.

"Lincoln has gone through a significant piece of recognition for all the work we've done since the relaunch of the brand. To have the MKC named as a finalist is quite an honor.

"But, surprised? Well, Lincoln has been in the crossover segment for a while and the Navigator has been a very successful SUV over the years."

Cesaro added that he doesn't see the MKC and the F-150 as rivals, but as two different types of vehicles with different customers that happened to have been lumped into one category.

Chevrolet Communications Manager Tom Wilkinson said that the Colorado being named a finalist by NACTOY has its own particular reward.

"The judges are working journalists who know the business," Wilkinson said.

"What's really important is that we're rebuilding the mid-size truck market, and journalists have acknowledged that we've built a great truck.

"The mid-size truck market isn't dissimilar to the performance car market a decade ago. That market was a bit moribund, then the Mustang came out. And that market revived with the Camaro and then Dodge. Now we're seeing that same thing happening with the mid-size truck market."

Ford Car Communications Manager Monique Brentley said NACTOY's naming the Mustang a

finalist in the car category is really a payoff of all the hard work engineers and designers put in remaking the classic Ford car.

Mike Levine, Ford's truck spokesperson, said it was exciting to have the F-150 be honored to have been made a finalist in the truck category.

"I think this is a great endorsement by automotive journalists for the truck," Levine said. "I know it's been a hit with the public and with our dealers."

Phelan said the finalists that were selected by the jury show the variety of vehicles that are out there.



2015 Mustang



Tom Wilkinson with 2015 Chevy Colorado

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## Honda to Replace Air Bag Inflators On 2.6M Vehicles

DETROIT (AP) – Honda plans to replace the driver's air bag inflators on 2.6 million more vehicles as it expands repairs to the entire U.S.

The Japanese automaker is the only company to comply with demand from the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to do repairs nationwide. Honda says it's doing so to address customer concerns.

Air bags made by Japanese supplier Takata Corp. can inflate with too much force, blowing apart a metal canister and spewing shrapnel. At least five people have died due to the problem.

Honda and other automakers have limited recalls to high-humidity states mainly along the Gulf Coast. Investigators have said that the air bag inflator propellant, ammonium nitrate, can burn faster than designed if exposed to prolonged high humidity. That can cause it to inflate air bags too fast.

A top Honda executive recently told a U.S. House subcommittee during a hearing that his company would expand the driver's side repairs nationwide. Honda isn't calling it a recall, though, and is maintaining that the driver's air bag inflators are not defective. Instead, Honda calls the expansion a "safety improvement campaign."

Takata and Chrysler have refused the government's demand to expand the driver's side repairs nationwide. Ford, Mazda and BMW haven't decided on whether to expand repairs nationwide.

Affected vehicles include the 2001-07 four-cylinder Honda Accord, 2001-02 V6 Accord, 2001-05 Honda Civic, 2002-06 Honda CR-V, 2003-11 Honda Element, 2002-04 Honda Odyssey, 2003-07 Honda Pilot, 2006 Honda Ridgeline, 2003-06 Acura MDX, 2002 and 2003 Acura TL, and the 2002 Acura CL.

## Hyundai Recalling 43,000 Vehicles

DETROIT (AP) – Hyundai is recalling nearly 43,000 luxury cars in the U.S. because the brake lights can fail to illuminate.

The recall covers certain Genesis cars from the 2009 to 2011 model years and some Equus vehicles from 2011.

Hyundai documents posted last week by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration say the agency contacted Hyundai about the problem in October after noticing consumer complaints. There are no reports of crashes or injuries.

Dealers will repair the stop lamp switch circuit for free. Hyundai expects to begin notifying owners early next year.

The affected Genesis cars were made from April 30, 2008, to Nov. 21, 2010. Equus models being recalled were made from July 31, 2010, to Nov. 21, 2010.

## AAA to Drivers: Be Aware of Warning Systems' Pitfalls

New advanced driver assistance technologies like blind-spot monitoring and lane-departure warning systems have great potential to keep drivers safer, according to AAA's Automotive Engineering experts.

That is, as long as motorists are aware of system limitations.

As part of AAA's auto technology series, these two systems were recently evaluated to see how well they worked and how they compared to each other, said AAA spokesperson Erin Stepp in a statement to the media.

While the systems performed effectively in multiple situations, the experts said, this evaluation uncovered scenarios where the systems failed to perform as expected.

The failures included delayed warnings by the blind-spot monitoring technologies and lane-departure warning systems failing to track the lane under certain road conditions.

Stepp said AAA's research, conducted with the Automobile Club of Southern California's Automotive Research Center, found that:

- Blind-spot monitoring systems had difficulty detecting fast-moving vehicles – such as when merging onto a busy highway. Alerts were often provided too late for evasive action.

- Motorcycles were detected by blind-spot monitoring systems 26 percent later than passenger vehicles.

- Road conditions were often a problem for lane-departure warning systems. Worn pavement markers, construction zones and intersections can cause the lane-departure warning system to lose

track of lane location.

- The litany of alerts and warnings could be confusing. Auditory, visual or haptic responses – or a combination – could be similar to other advanced driver assistance features that delivered the same warnings.

"With nearly three-quarters of 2014 vehicles offering blind-spot detection and 50 percent offering lane-departure warning as options, it's key that consumers are educated on how to get the best benefit from these systems," said John Nielsen, AAA's national managing director of Automotive Engineering.

"AAA's tests found that these systems are a great asset to drivers, but there is a learning curve."

Test-track and on-road evaluations also highlighted system performance differences between the different test vehicles, Stepp said.

"Some blind-spot monitoring systems we tested had a short detection range, which meant that a vehicle was already in the blind spot before the alert came on," says Megan McKernan, manager of Automotive Engineering at the Automobile Club of Southern California.

"The lane-departure warning system on several vehicles experienced false-positive and miss-detections, which resulted in an inconsistent driver warning. This can be annoying and could result in the driver disabling the system due to the false alerts."

Pros and cons aside, motorists will encounter advanced driver assistance technology as automakers cascade these devices

across vehicle lines, Nielsen said.

Being aware of these different systems and understanding how they operate is an important and necessary step before driving the vehicle.

"As travelers head out for holiday visits, they may be renting a

vehicle equipped with blind-spot monitoring or lane-departure warning systems," says Nielsen. "It's important to take the time to review these systems so that you're prepared for alerts and warnings and understand the limits of the technology."

## Aluminum Company Sees Its Future in Auto Industry

DALLAS (AP) – Alcoa Inc. is touting a breakthrough in aluminum manufacturing that it says will give the lightweight metal a better chance to replace steel in car doors and fenders.

Alcoa says the process, still in the testing phase, will create metal sheets that are stronger and more easily shaped into auto body parts than current aluminum and are lighter than high-strength steel.

Company executives say the aluminum-alloy material could show up in cars by 2018.

Alcoa said Dec. 4 that it has conducted successful tests with automakers and has lined up one as a "strategic-development customer" for aluminum being produced at a pilot mill in San Antonio, Texas. Alcoa declined to name the other companies.

New York-based Alcoa has been shifting from mining and smelting aluminum to making products that can be shaped into parts for autos and airplanes.

It has made inroads in auto-making, where the use of alu-

minum has been growing for years to produce cars that are lighter and get better mileage.

Now Alcoa is taking aim at steel used in doors and fenders. It got a boost when one of its customers – Ford – decided to make the 2015 F-150 with a body that is 97 percent aluminum. That shaved up to 700 pounds from the 5,000-pound truck.

Steelmakers are also investing in technology to produce lighter steel. Aluminum has been used extensively on some sporty but relatively low-sales cars such as the Tesla Model S.

Some analysts believe that Ford's decision to clad the popular F-150 in aluminum threatens steel because it shows that lighter materials – and not just smaller vehicles, which some consumers don't like – can be used to meet tougher fuel-economy standards.

Alcoa CEO Klaus Kleinfeld said in an interview that automakers tell him they want lighter materials without sacrificing safety or steel's ability to be shaped into car designs.

## Nissan Recalls 470K Vehicles

DETROIT (AP) – Nissan is recalling about 470,000 cars and SUVs worldwide to fix a problem that can cause fuel leaks.

In the U.S., the recall covers about 134,000 vehicles with direct fuel injection engines. That includes Nissan's Juke SUV from the 2012 through 2014 model years, and the Infiniti M56 and QX56 from 2012 and 2013. Also affected are Infiniti QX70 and QX80 SUVs from 2014 and 2015.

Documents posted by U.S. safety regulators say a fuel pressure sensor may not have been tightened properly in production. That can cause a gas leak and fire, but Nissan says no fires or injuries have been reported to the company.

Other Nissan and Infiniti models are affected in Japan, North America, Europe, the Middle East, China, Latin America, Africa and other markets. They include the Nissan Juke and Patrol, and the Serena, X-Trail, Tilda, and Pulsar.

Also covered globally are the Infiniti M56 and Q70 and the QX56 and QX80. Generally the cars were produced from November of 2011 to November of 2014.

In the U.S., owners will be notified by mail in January, and dealers will tighten the sensors to fix the problem.

Some of the same vehicles were recalled in the U.S. in 2012 for the same problem. Nissan says if they were repaired, they are not covered by the latest recall.

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## Halla Visteon FCA's Electrical Export Supplier of the Year

Halla Visteon Climate Control Corp., (HVCC) a full-line supplier of automotive thermal management solutions, has been honored by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) Group in Asia Pacific with the 2013 Supplier of the Year award in the electrical export category.

"I've heard from a lot of people about this award," said Halla Visteon spokesperson Tracy Stallings.

"HVCC is a subsidiary of Halla Visteon and we have our North American headquarters in Van Buren Township. A lot of people were asking if this award was a 2014 one and we got the date wrong.

"But the award ceremony held by FCA was held in November, and that's when they gave out the 2013 awards."

The award recognizes the supplier that demonstrates excellent export performance to FCA facilities outside of Asia, Stallings said. It was presented during the annual FCA Group APAC Supplier Town Hall Meeting in Shanghai.

"We are honored to be one of the select suppliers receiving this important recognition from FCA," said Jay Cheng, president of Halla Visteon Climate Control in China.

"This recognition validates our focus on providing the highest level of quality and customer service to our global customers.

"We proudly accept this award and look forward to continuing to provide thermal management solutions that help FCA distinguish its brand with consumers in the global marketplace."

HVCC currently supplies thermal management components to FCA on various vehicles.

"We were very excited to learn that we won this award," Stallings said.

"It's always good to be recognized by your customer for the

work you've done for them.

"I was told that this is the first time that FCA had an export performance category. We make the parts in Asia and export them to other FCA facilities around the world."

FCA is a big customer of Halla Visteon, Stallings said. They account for about a quarter of HVCC's sales.

"We also do a lot of business with Ford and Hyundai in Asia," Stallings said. "But we're also starting to diversify our customer base. It's always good not to have to depend on one or two anchor customers."

Halla Visteon Climate Control is a full-line supplier of automotive thermal management solutions. Products include heating ventilation and air conditioning; compressors; powertrain cooling; fluid transport; and electric, hybrid and fuel cell vehicle thermal systems.

With 36 manufacturing sites supported by four global technical centers in 19 countries, HVCC employs nearly 15,500 people.

## OU Honored for Energy Savings

For its commitment to sustainability, Oakland University was named a recipient of the 2014 Leaders in Efficiency Award from the Energy Service Coalition-Michigan Chapter. The award recognizes investment into energy efficiency systems and demonstrable energy cost savings at public buildings throughout the state, said Siraj Khan, director of engineering.

OU was recognized for several energy projects that helped boost energy efficiency in buildings across campus. These projects were completed within the last two years and will result in an annual savings of \$146,087.

## 'Vette, Hellcat, Fiesta Among Top 10 Engines

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

expertise and technology at Chrysler.

"For their considerable might, they also are both highly efficient and refined – key hallmarks of Chrysler Group powertrains. Such attributes have helped power our vehicles to the top of the sales charts."

He also said recognition doesn't often follow powertrain engineering the way it does other auto-industry disciplines, so those at Chrysler join their industry counterparts in thanking the organizers and sponsors of "Ward's 10 Best Engines" for shining a spotlight on the company's work on powertrains.

Rounding out Detroit's success was the Fiesta. Editors wrote, "Ford's 1.0L EcoBoost 3-cylinder powering the Fiesta B-car once again earns a slot among Ward's 10 Best Engines."

"This mighty mite produces 123 horsepower and 125 lb.-ft. of torque, providing brisk acceleration and plenty of power at highway speed.

"Ford mitigated the NVH challenges posed by 3-cylinder engines with some ingenious engineering that eliminates the need

for balancing shafts. Perhaps the 1.0L's best attribute is its stellar fuel economy. Even during aggressive driving, one WardsAuto judge achieved 38.9 mpg an impressive feat for any non-hybrid."

"We're thrilled to have won, of course," said Ford spokesperson Paul Seredynski. "This is the second time the 1.0L EcoBoost is on Ward's list. In fact the engine was named, three years in a row, best engine by Engine Tech International.



2015 Stingray 6.2L LT1 V8

## GM Donates \$3M to Support Higher-Education Programs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of Art and Design, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, Stanford University, University of Texas-Austin, United Negro College Fund (Howard University), and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Additional financial support for college students comes from the Buick Achievers Scholarship Program, which is funded by the GM Foundation and is one of the

largest scholarship programs in the country, Pickard said.

Since its inception in 2011, Buick Achievers has awarded \$28 million to 3,400 students entering or attending college to study STEM and fields related to the auto industry.

Special consideration is given to students who are female, minorities, first-generation college students, military veterans and dependents, as well as students who excel in the classroom and give back to their communities.

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# F-150 to be Official Vehicle of 2015 CES

The 2015 Ford F-150 pickup will be the Official Vehicle of the 2015 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES).

The event will take place Jan. 6-9 in Las Vegas, and is produced by the Consumer Electronics Association. CEA says it's the world's largest hands-on showcase of emerging innovation.

The 2015 F-150 demonstrates Ford's product excellence and innovation, said Ford spokesperson Alan Hall.

"The truck is completely redesigned, with a high-strength, military-grade, aluminum-alloy body coupled with a high-strength steel frame, making it nearly 700 pounds lighter and more efficient," Hall said.

"Also available are more smart features than the previous model, including class-exclusive driver-assist technologies such as adaptive cruise control, smart towing module, multicontour seats, active park assist, 360-degree camera and Blind Spot Information System with cross-traffic alert."

"We are honored the 2015 F-150 is the Official Vehicle of CES," said Doug Scott, Ford Truck Group marketing manager, "proving that the new standard in full-size pickups is not only Built Ford Tough but also smart, with innovative design and technologies that help truck customers do more with their truck."

As official vehicle of 2015 CES, F-150 will be featured in Ford's main display area in the North

Hall of Las Vegas Convention Center, as well as prominently throughout the show floor, Hall said.

"We are excited to have the new F-150 as the official vehicle of the 2015 CES," said Gary Shapiro, CEA's president and CEO.

"With state-of-the-art technologies, driver-assist features and dramatic improvements in weight savings, the F-150 delivers the type of connectivity, efficiency and performance that tech-savvy consumers demand in their vehicles.

"We look forward to seeing Ford once again at our show."

Scott said the F-150 features several class exclusive innovative and smart technologies, including:

- Active park assist;
- Adaptive cruise control and collision warning with brake support;
- Smart trailer tow module with Dynamic Hitch Assist;
- A 360-degree camera with split-view display. The available 360-degree camera with split-view display uses four exterior cameras to give the driver a bird's-eye view of up to seven feet surrounding the F-150 to assist in parking, maneuvering in tight spots and navigating narrow roads and trails at low speeds.

The truck also features such technology as high-wattage outlets, which allow drivers to easily charge corded tools, battery chargers or mobile devices on-

site or while in transit, Scott said.

Other features include LED spotlights, Blind Spot Information System with cross-traffic alert and a lane-keeping system.

"We're always looking to deliver more for our customers, and this truck offers a whole new level of productivity by being the toughest, smartest and most capable F-150 ever," said Scott.



2015 F-150

## Ford Earns Spot in 'Top 50 Places to Work'

Ford Motor Company has been honored with a Glassdoor Employees' Choice Award, recognizing the 50 Best Places to Work for 2015.

The Glassdoor award program aims to recognize the best places to work in the United States based entirely on employee feedback, providing a transparent look at companies, said Ford spokesperson Becky Sanch.

Ford ranks 35th out of 50 Best Places to Work in the United States among employers with 1,000 employees or more, and is the highest-rated automotive company, according to Glassdoor.

Work/life balance, competitive pay and benefits, and the opportunity for internal movement were cited among the favorite reasons to work for Ford.

"Our employees are our best ambassadors, and Ford being honored as a Glassdoor Best Places to Work is truly a pride

point," said Felicia Fields, Ford group vice president, Human Resources and Corporate Services.

"At Ford, we focus on creating the right environment for people to learn and grow, and this award confirms we are doing the right things to attract, develop and engage employees. Ford truly has exciting products, incredible technologies and a fantastic team."

The Glassdoor Employees' Choice Award program relies solely on the input of employees who elect to provide feedback on their jobs, work environments and companies via Glassdoor's anonymous online company reviews survey, Sanch said.

Glassdoor's description of Ford states that the pros of working for the company include the fact that it "values work-life balance" and has true leadership as well as supportive management and flexible hours.

It was also stated that due to the company's size, there are many opportunities for workers to advance.

The company was also praised for its salaries.

The survey includes both

quantitative and qualitative questions designed to capture a genuine inside look at what it is like to work at particular jobs and companies.

The survey asks employees to rate their satisfaction with the company overall, and key workplace factors like career opportunities, compensation, benefits, work/life balance, senior management, culture and values.

In addition, employees are asked to describe the best reasons to work at their companies, as well as any downsides.

This is not Ford's first appearance on the list; in 2011, the company was named No. 42 on the 50 Best Places to Work in the United States list. For 2015, Ford moved up seven places.

"I am proud to celebrate the Glassdoor Employees' Choice Award winners in earning this tremendous achievement," said Glassdoor cofounder and CEO Robert Hohman.

The Best Places to Work are determined using company reviews shared by U.S.-based employees who participated in the survey between Nov. 13, 2013, and Nov. 2, 2014, Sanch said.

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### Charger Hellcat Boasts EPA-Rated 22 MPG Highway

The 2015 Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat, Chrysler's quickest, fastest, most powerful sedan ever, said company spokesperson Eric Mayne, now boasts a fuel-economy rating "as remarkable as its performance numbers."

Equipped with Chrysler's 707-horsepower 6.2-liter Hemi Hellcat V8, the 2015 Charger SRT Hellcat has earned an EPA highway fuel economy rating of 22 mpg, Mayne said.

"The new 2015 Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat is a multidimensional phenomenon," said Dodge and SRT Brands CEO Tim Kuniskis.

"It is the quickest, fastest, most powerful sedan ever produced - the world's only four-door muscle car.

"Factor in its affordable price and 22 mpg highway fuel-economy rating and it's clear that the Charger SRT Hellcat competes in a class all by itself."

The new 2015 Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat has recorded an 11-second quarter-mile on street tires - a clocking certified by the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), Kuniskis said. It also goes from 0-100-0 mph in less than 13 seconds and boasts a top speed of 204 mph, he added.

Its starting U.S. MSRP is \$63,995, including a \$1,700 gas-guzzler tax.

The Charger SRT Hellcat also earns EPA ratings of 16 mpg in combined-cycle driving, and 13 mpg in the city.

The supercharged 6.2-liter Hemi Hellcat - the same engine that powers the new 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat - benefits from content that is 91 percent new, compared with its 6.4-liter SRT cousin, better known as the 392 Hemi, Mayne said.

Engineered in-house, the Hellcat engine is designed for optimum durability in the face of the enormous loads that accompany its prodigious power, said Mayne.

Its forged-steel crankshaft has induction-hardened bearing surfaces that contribute to its capacity to withstand firing pressures of 1,595 psi (110 bar) - the equivalent of five sedans standing on each piston, every two revolutions, Mayne said.

### Chrysler to Spend \$266 Million for Kokomo Plants

KOKOMO, Ind. (AP) - Chrysler is expected to spend \$266 million on new equipment for two transmission factories in central Indiana.

The company's plans include expanding production of the eight-speed automatic transmissions built at the Kokomo factories, the Kokomo Tribune reported.

The Kokomo City Council voted unanimously Dec. 8 to give initial approval for a 10-year property tax abatement on the new equipment. The latest investment will boost Chrysler's spending on its five Kokomo-area factories to nearly \$1.9 billion since its 2009 bankruptcy.

Chrysler didn't announce any additional hiring, but said it would help keep more than 200 jobs.

"This will allow for retention of jobs," City Councilman Bob Hayes said. "It will allow Chrysler to be more profit-centered. When companies are profitable, that means more job security and possibly more jobs."

The automaker has more than 7,000 workers at its facilities in Kokomo and nearby Tipton - some 2,600 of which have been hired since 2009.

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## Ford, UAW Help Needy During Holidays

UAW-Ford is donating more than \$750,000 in food baskets just in time for its second annual Holiday Box of Love Food Giveaway, said Ford spokesperson Talitha Johnson.

During the period of Dec. 13-20, more than 200 volunteers, including UAW-Ford staff and their families, community leaders, students from the Detroit and Highland Park school systems, Woodbridge Community Center and Eagle Sports Teams will be on hand to assemble and distribute

nearly 25,000 food baskets for families needing assistance during the holiday season.

In 2013, the organization gave away nearly 20,000 food baskets in the community and this year, due to the demand, the gift has grown.

To reach out to even more families, UAW-Ford decided to increase that number by 5,000 to 25,000 in 2014.

"There is a social obligation and drastic need for giving, especially this time of the year," said

UAW-Ford vice president Jimmy Settles.

"Particularly for the holidays, we want to make sure that people are afforded a chance to eat with pride and dignity."

The initial packaging took place during three shifts on Dec. 13 at the UAW-Ford Brownstown Packaging Depot in Romulus. Boxes will be distributed during the Dec. 18-20 time period among dozens of pre-selected churches, senior-assisted living homes and community groups.

## 18th-Century Sunken Cannon on Display

DETROIT (AP) – An 18th-century British cannon found in the Detroit River in 2011 is going on display this weekend following a three-year restoration.

The cannon was shown to media last week at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle.

Detroit police divers found the cannon during a training exercise in July 2011. It was pulled out of the water a few months later.

The cannon was located 20 feet underwater behind downtown's Cobo Center. The Detroit Historical Society says that based markings on the cannon indicate it was made in East Sussex, England, in the mid-1740s. It was embossed with the crest of King George II.

The society says the cannon likely was used in various conflicts before being moved to Fort Lernoult in Detroit. When the British abandoned Detroit in 1796, the cannon probably ended up in the river, the society says, after soldiers were ordered to destroy some weapons.

Several other cannons have been found in the same area of the river.

Society Senior Curator Joel Stone and a team at the society's Collections Resource Center were key in the restoration project. Work on the cannon started in 2013 at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in suburban Detroit, where it was displayed for special exhibit.

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free.

## Little Ceasars Grows Downtown Offices

DETROIT (AP) – Little Ceasars pizza is expanding its headquarters in downtown Detroit with an eight-story resource center, it announced Dec. 10.

The 205,000-square-foot Little Ceasars Global Resource Center will be next to the Fox Theatre and part of a larger sports and entertainment district just north of downtown. Construction is scheduled to start in the spring with completion scheduled by the end of 2016.

## UAW Makes Critical Inroads At VW Plant in Tennessee

By ERIK SCHELZIG  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) – The United Auto Workers last week qualified for the top tier of a new labor policy at the Volkswagen plant in Tennessee.

The move gives the union its first formal role within a foreign-owned auto plant in the South.

Volkswagen said that an independent auditor had verified that the UAW's Local 42 had signed up at least 45 percent of workers at the Chattanooga plant.

That progress will entitle the union to biweekly discussions with managers and to frequent access to the plant for meetings, notices and other organizing activity.

While the policy doesn't address collective bargaining, UAW Secretary-Treasurer Gary Casteel called it a "starting point" for achieving that goal at the plant where he said the union already represents more than half the workers.

The UAW narrowly lost a union vote at the plant in February after a campaign that included warnings from Republican lawmakers that state incentives needed to expand the plant could be threatened if the union won.

Casteel said that negotiations with Volkswagen management later resulted in the union dropping a National Labor Relations Board challenge in exchange for later being recognized as the representative of its members at the plant without another vote.

"We believe Volkswagen made this commitment in good faith and we believe the company will

honor this commitment," Casteel said.

Volkswagen's policy of giving labor groups access to its plant stands in contrast to other foreign automakers in the South, which have largely tried to tamp down union activity.

The company has said the policy is aimed at developing a "constructive dialogue" between workers and management beginning with labor groups that sign up at least 15 percent of workers.

**"We believe  
Volkswagen made  
this commitment  
in good faith."**

**– Gary Casteel,  
UAW Official**

Workers who spearheaded the 712-626 defeat of the UAW in the February union vote have created their own organization called the American Council of Employees, but have so far failed to qualify under the plant's new labor policy.

VW management has been under heavy pressure from powerful worker representatives who control half of the automaker's board in Germany because the U.S. plant is alone among the company's worldwide plants without labor representation.

The company wants to create a German-style works council at the Tennessee plant to represent salaried and hourly workers.

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## How to Ensure Your Child's 'Santa Letter' is for Real

The Better Business Bureau has issued a warning about fraudulent websites that promise a personalized letter from Santa but don't deliver.

In this scenario, said Lisa Dilg, director of Community Relations for the Better Business Bureau of Eastern Michigan, consumers have been receiving an email promoting a "Handwritten Letter from Santa to Your Child."

"When you click on the link," Dilg said, "it takes you to a website promising a package with an 'official' nice-list certification and customized letter from Santa."

"There's even a 'free shipping special that ends (not coincidentally) in just a few hours' warning."

"If you decide to purchase and enter your credit card information, you could be not only out the money you paid but your personal information could be stolen, leading to potential identity theft."

"Fortunately, there are legitimate sites available that can give you that letter from Santa and more."

Some signs to look for in authentic sites are real contact information, a published privacy policy, a secure payment page and third-party trust validations, such as the BBB Accredited Business seal, Dilg said.

In addition, Better Business Bureau of Eastern Michigan and PackageFromSanta.com offer these tips to help you determine the good from the bad:

- Ignore calls for immediate action. Many scams try to get the public to act before you think by creating a sense of urgency (like a free shipping special). Don't fall for it – take your time to do research if you are not familiar with the site.
- Hover over links in emails to

check their source. Scammers will make links look like something else. Place the mouse icon over hyper-linked text and the true destination will appear.

- Try to verify website contact information. Search the website on GoDaddy.com or Whois.net to see if the contact information matches the information on the site.

Call or email the company using the contact information provided on their website. If the number is not in service, or there is no answer during regular business hours, the website may not be legitimate.

- Do your research. Check out the business on BBB.org and do a web search to see if there are any complaints or concerns written about the company.

- Make sure to pay through a secure connection. When entering credit card information online, be sure that the URL starts with "HTTPS" and has a lock icon in the browser bar.

- Watch for poor grammar and spelling. Scam emails and websites often are riddled with typos. This is often a giveaway that you aren't dealing with a trustworthy business.

"It's a shame to see so many dishonest Santa Letter sites out there, taking advantage of people's desire to make Christmas special for their loved ones," said Dale Gruber, owner of PackageFromSanta.com.

"We always encourage consumers to look carefully at the companies out there, and look for the tell-tale signs of a scam before ordering anything online."

"At PackageFromSanta.com, we take pride in the fact that we stand out as the trustworthy source for bringing the magic of Santa to children and families around the world."



# Back to the Bricks Statues Going Back to Foundry

by SCOTT ATKINSON  
The Flint Journal

FLINT, Mich. (AP) – Back to the Bricks committee member Joe Rundell is busy with some restoration projects, but they don't have much to do with cars.

The Back to the Bricks group is a Flint-based organization that focuses on car cruises, bringing back the "old days" when teens cruised and "hung out" at local drive-in restaurants.

Rundell is the official statue sculptor for the Back to the Bricks group. So far, he has made seven statues for Back to the Bricks commemorating the city's automotive pioneers.

He sculpts them in clay, and then sends them off to be cast in bronze. He gets the originals back, but they don't look the way they did when he sent them off, *The Flint Journal* reported.

"I haven't seen this guy in about two years, and boy has he suffered," Rundell said recently when he saw what was left of his sculpture of William 'Billy' Durant.

He was sending his latest statue, a likeness of Albert Champion, founder of AC Spark Plugs, off for metal casting, and the foundry had sent Durant back to him.

Well, most of him. Durant's head wasn't there, for one, though Rundell said it was around somewhere. The toes of one boot were detached and his hands, among other parts, were down by his feet.

To cast a statue, foundry workers sometimes have to cut clay sculptures into pieces, making casts of them piece by piece. Over time, it takes a toll on the original.

In addition to being cut up, Durant the Statue looked like he'd taken a beating. His clay coat and pants were torn, revealing the foam base underneath.

"It's going to be as hard to restore him as it is to start from scratch," Rundell said.

But he plans on doing it. One statue, of one-time GM President Charles Nash, has already been restored. He's standing next to David Buick, whose detached head rests on his shoulders, looking like a beheaded Halloween ornament.

Rundell's not sure what he wants to do with them, but he wants them on display somewhere. He said he might submit them to the annual Grand Rapids art show and contest, Art Prize.

"Even if we don't win, it still puts Back to the Bricks in another place," Rundell said.

# Opel to Run Parts Distribution Sites

BERLIN (AP) – General Motors Co.'s Opel unit says it will take full control of two auto parts distribution centers in Germany that are currently being operated by a joint-venture company in which Opel holds a 20 percent stake.

Opel board member Peter Christian Kuespert said in a statement last week the company has "made a decision to consider replacement parts logistics a core competence" and will operate by itself warehouses in Ruesselsheim and in Bochum.

Opel says the two distribution centers will be reintegrated into the company in February 2016.

Its joint venture with Neovia Logistics Supply Chain Services GmbH dates back to 2006 and also operates warehouses in Rome and Budapest.

Opel says it will decide next year whether to continue outsourcing those two centers.

# Jim Causley

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- Pwr Windows/Locks
- Air • Cruise • Tilt
- AM/FM/CD/XMRadio
- Power Lumbar
- Alum Wheels
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- Power Windows/Locks
- Cruise • Tilt
- Power Seat
- Power Rear Hatch
- Rear Backup Camera
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	w/Competitive Lease		<b>\$219*</b>
			ONLY \$999 DOWN
w/Lease Loyalty			
EVERYONE LEASE			
24mo. 10K	<b>\$229*</b>	ONLY \$999 DOWN	24mo. 10K
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	w/Competitive Lease		
EVERYONE LEASE		EVERYONE PRICE	
24mo. 10K	<b>\$122*</b>	ONLY \$999 DOWN	<b>\$23,398*</b>
	w/Competitive Lease		
24mo. 10K	<b>\$164*</b>	ONLY \$999 DOWN	<b>\$24,398*</b>
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Stk. #T1164

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24mo. 10K	<b>\$215*</b>	ONLY \$999 DOWN	<b>\$29,667*</b>
	w/Competitive Lease		
EVERYONE LEASE		EVERYONE PRICE	
24mo. 10K	<b>\$225*</b>	ONLY \$999 DOWN	<b>\$29,967*</b>
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## Ferrari Looks to Forge Its Own Future, Keep Cachet

MILAN (AP) – Ferrari's sleek sports cars and souped-up Formula 1 racing machines have made the prancing horse logo among the world's most powerful brands. Now, as the company prepares for a public listing, it wants to cash in on the cachet.

The aim: position Ferrari not just as a carmaker, but as a luxury goods company. Think Armani, Hermes . . . Ferrari.

Analysts say that could mean refining its line of merchandise or creating a chain of exclusive clubs and hotels catering to Ferrari owners and the wealthy.

Chairman Sergio Marchionne will present his vision to investors in the coming weeks, but the potential already has the two worlds spinning in anticipation.

The Made-in-Italy luxury goods sector is abuzz over whether Marchionne's ambition could facilitate the creation of an alliance of high-end producers, one that might stand up to the French conglomerates like LVMH, while financial analysts are crunching numbers on the brand's potential value.

"I actually think cars are almost incidental to Ferrari," Marchionne said in November when announcing plans to spin off Ferrari from its mass-market parent Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV. "It sounds sacrilegious. But it is truly a luxury brand."

Persuading the investing community of that distinction could significantly multiply Ferrari's market value by putting it among a category of companies that squeeze value not just out of the quality of the materials and products, but also out of the product's allure.

Marchionne has room to leverage. Although Ferrari's brand has

been named the world's most recognizable for two straight years in a survey by London-based consultants Brand Finance, it is only 350th in value, around \$4 billion.

Lifting that figure is Marchionne's goal between now and the IPO, due in the second or third quarter next year.

A surge in Fiat's share price by as much as 30 percent since the Ferrari spinoff was announced indicates the potential of the deal, although most analysts aren't buying Marchionne's estimate that Ferrari is worth 10 billion euros (\$12.5 billion).

## Millionth 'Vette To Be Repaired

WARREN, Mich. (AP) – General Motors Co. says it's been restoring some prized Chevrolet Corvettes extracted from a sinkhole at a Kentucky museum.

GM has received two classic vehicles that were among eight gobbled up by a 40-foot-wide-by-60-foot-deep hole in February at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green. Among them is the 1 millionth Corvette, a 1992 model, which had significant damage.

The Detroit-based automaker invited the media last week to see the vehicle before restoration begins next month at its Design Center Fabrication Operations in suburban Warren. The work is expected to take six months.

A 2009 ZR 1 was restored and returned to the museum. A 1962 model is expected to be worked on at a specialty shop.

The museum is near the factory where Corvettes are made.

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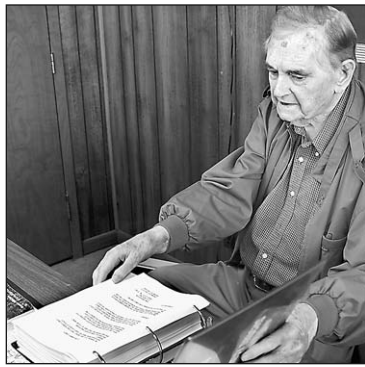




Tom Creighton in his office in Tracy City, Tenn., 2011.



He served in the 88th Airborne, where Creighton helped train soldiers from the 101st as well as others.



Creighton has penned 537 country and gospel songs, the lyrics to which are in a 2004 Chevrolet sales binder.



Creighton, left, in 1971 with then-Tennessee Governor Winfield Dunn, who came to inspect local land and roads at Creighton's request.

# Former Chevy Dealer Met Dillinger in the Tennessee Woods

*Editor's note: This grass roots story was produced by us in Tennessee back in 2011. Tom Creighton, the former Chevrolet dealer in Tracy City, passed away shortly thereafter. We are reprinting this unusual story for our readers in Michigan.*

Many people have heard of the infamous 1930s-era gangster John Dillinger, but few can say they had a chance to actually meet him.

That's not the case, however, for 95-year-old Tom Creighton, owner of Creighton Auto Sales, formerly the Chevrolet dealership in Tracy City, Tenn.

Creighton ran the Creighton Chevrolet dealership for 40 years, from 1969 to 2009 and remains a popular figure in the community today, having put the right person with the right car for many years.

He still works every day at the dealership, too. (His dealership once sold 25 new Chevy pickup trucks in a single day – from before sun-up until 10 p.m., he recalls.)

Creighton was born in 1916 in the Pan Handle at Beersheba Springs, and then later his family moved to Tarlton at the foot of Beersheba Mountain and the gulf. There he worked on the Creighton family farm growing produce.

Creighton and his friend, J.B. Nunley, would walk up Beersheba Mountain and sell the produce door to door. Beersheba Springs was a vacation spot, and is known for the Beersheba Methodist Assembly.

One day, Tom noticed three new cars parked in a driveway, a 1934 Ford, a 1934 Dodge and a 1934 Buick. This all occurred the week of the 4th of July, as he recalls, and he was perhaps 17 years old when he ran across Dillinger.

He then said to Nunley, "These people have money, let's sell to them." So, they approached the house with the new cars in the driveway in question.

Creighton recalls six people staying there, supposedly on vacation. A well-dressed man in a pin-striped suit was among the residents.

Creighton had never met these "vacationers" before, but recognized the man as John Dillinger, right away – after all, Tom had seen his picture in the *Chattanooga Times* more than once so young Creighton knew that it was the famous gangster.

"There is no question that he really was John Dillinger," Creighton adds.

In 1933-34, seen in retrospect as the heyday of the Depression-era outlaw, Dillinger was the most notorious of all, standing out even among more violent criminals such as Baby Face Nelson, Pretty Boy Floyd, and Bonnie and Clyde.

Media reports were spiced with exaggerated accounts of Dillinger's bravado and daring and his colorful personality.

After evading police in four states for almost a year, Dillinger was wounded and returned to his father's home to recover.

He went back to Chicago in July 1934 and met his end at the hands of police and federal agents who were waiting for him as part of a well-designed trap at

Chicago's Biograph Theater. Meanwhile, the stranger never told Creighton who he was, just came to the door and purchased \$2 worth of fruit from the youngsters, giving the lads a \$5 tip and

asking, "When can you come back?" Young Tom Creighton quickly answered, "Tomorrow." Creighton and Nunley sold the residents fresh produce more

often and received the five-dollar tip each time, thus becoming more and more acquainted with the so-called "vacationers." Creighton further recalls one day Dillinger came to the door

wearing a smirky grin and asking J.B., "Do you know who I am?" Nunley said he did not. Then he turned and asked Creighton the same question and Tom answered, "Yeah."

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**\$99\***

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24 Month Lease

**\$139\***

With \$999 Down!

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- 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio!
- OnStar with 4G LTE with built-in Wi-Fi hotspot!
- Tilt and Telescopic Steering Column!
- Cruise Control!
- Remote Vehicle Entry!
- Aluminum Wheels!
- 36 MPG on the Highway!
- 2 Yr/24,000 Scheduled Maintenance INCLUDED!
- Stock# F187852 Was \$24,435



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- Stock# F20404 Was \$19,695

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- Stock# F18882 Was \$35,240



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- Stock# F20468 Was \$40,575

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**Cruze Named Fleet Car of Year, Tops at Mary Kay**

The 2015 Chevrolet Cruze was named the 2014 Fleet Car of the Year by *Automotive Fleet* and *Business Fleet* magazines.

Fleet managers from both large and small fleets and covering every fleet segment selected the Cruze as the winner, besting 48 other cars.

"Mary Kay selected the Chevrolet Cruze for its independent sales force members because it's affordable, stylish, and offers impressive fuel economy, safety and technology," said Laura Beitler, vice president, recognition and events, Mary Kay Inc. "Cruze serves as a symbol for the hard work and success many of our sales force members earn from their Mary Kay business."

Total fleet sales of Cruze are up 41 percent in 2014 through October. Overall, Cruze is Chevrolet's best-selling car around the world, with more than 3 million sold globally since its launch in 2009, said GM spokesperson Robert Wheeler.

"With the most standard safety features in its class, low cost of ownership, and the space and connectivity the market demands, sales show that the Chevrolet Cruze is being purchased for a mix of fleet applications," said Ed Peper, U.S. vice president, GM Fleet and Commercial Sales.

"It means a great deal to us to have fleet managers put us at the top of their list."

The 2015 Chevrolet Cruze in North America has received revised exterior styling, Wheeler said. In addition, the vehicle will have greater connectivity, including OnStar 4G LTE with a standard built-in Wi-Fi hotspot, a key feature for fleet customers on the road.

**Kresge Foundation Pledges \$20M for Early Learning**

DETROIT (AP) - The Kresge Foundation is pledging \$20 million in new commitments over five years to help expand high-quality early childhood development offerings in Detroit.

In collaboration with local, state and federal partners, the White House announced last week a \$1 billion public-private investment in early learning programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

The *Detroit Free Press* reports the Kresge Foundation has awarded \$1 million to Starfish Family Services, \$500,000 to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, and \$150,000 to the Detroit Parent Network to help improve the quality of Head Start programs in Detroit.

The funding continues work begun with \$1.5 million from the Kresge Foundation that was awarded last year.

Kresge Foundation President Rip Rapson says they've been "trying to pull together a more concerted strategy for early childhood development that would take sharper shape."

He says it's a perfect time to "bridge the national support of the president's office and the local efforts."

The Detroit Parent Network's program, for example, sends parent coaches to visit other parents at homes.

Eighteen states are being awarded a total of \$250 million in Education Department grants to create or expand high-quality preschool programs.

Michigan is not among the list of states getting that funding.

In all, 36 states had applied for the grant money.



# Chevy Urges Twitter Users to Tweet So It Can Help Charity

Chevrolet has released a holiday message that Facebook and Twitter users can share to brighten their friends' days.

At the same time, those sharing will be giving back to their communities through United Way.

How? Chevrolet will contribute \$1 to United Way for each share and retweet of Chevrolet's Facebook post and tweet of the video - up to \$500,000.

"The holiday season is a time for thankfulness and a time to help those less fortunate," said Paul Edwards, U.S. vice president of Chevrolet Marketing when announcing the contribution Dec. 8.

promotion will last until we reach the \$500,000 fundraising goal."

Vazquez said that GM has long been a strong supporter of the United Way for all its efforts in helping people within the local community.

GM Executive Vice President and President North America Alan Batey is the person in charge of internally encouraging GM employees to participate in United Way fundraising efforts.

And this year's honorary chairman of the United Way for Southeast Michigan fundraising campaign is GM president Dan Ammann.

"United Way really helps local communities," Vazquez said. "We have a lot of facilities in Southeast Michigan and we here at the Ren Cen feel that it's important to encourage people to give when they can."

"This Facebook and Twitter promotion is just one more way we can get our employees involved with this worthy organization."

This extends Chevrolet's, General Motors' and the GM Foundation's ongoing support of United Way and its mission to improve communities and individual lives by focusing on education, financial stability and basic needs, such as food and shelter, said Vazquez.

Chevrolet also led an effort around the NFL championship game, where the brand contributed \$1 million to the American Cancer Society on behalf of the more than 1 million social media users who changed their profiles to purple, the color of cancer survival, in time for World Cancer Day on Feb. 4, Vazquez said.

**"The holiday season is a time to help those less fortunate."**

**- Paul Edwards, Chevy Marketing VP**


"We hope social media users will take a moment to share the spirit of giving with their friends and family while helping United Way."

"We approached the United Way for Southeast Michigan about this," said GM spokesperson Cristi Vazquez. "Dec. 8 is 'United Way' day for GM people where we encourage employees to donate to the organization through processes like payroll deduction."


"This particular United Way

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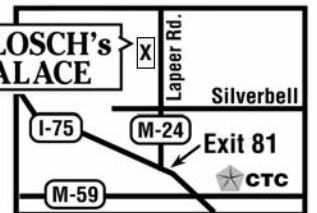
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