Tech Center News...

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2016 Chevrolet Cruze

2016 Global Chevrolet Cruze **Debuts in Theater Spotlight**

The acting was non-existent, woman Annalisa Bluhm. but the "star" was outstanding, according to GM CEO Mary Barra, who took the stage at the Fillmore Theater in Detroit to give the new 2016 Chevrolet Cruze its public debut.

Barra called the global car "larger and lighter, more efficient and more sophisticated."

The Cruze offers new technologies such as available Android Auto, Apple CarPlay and new active safety features, as well as a more spacious interior, said Barra

It will be offered in more than 40 global markets and goes on sale first in North America in early 2016, said GM spokes-

A new, standard 1.4L turbocharged engine with direct injection and an SAE-certified 153 horsepower helps enable a General Motors-estimated 40 mpg on the highway with the available six-speed automatic transmission. Stop/start technology is intended to enhance the Cruze's efficiency in stop-and-go driving.

The new turbo engine and a leaner architecture that reduces up to 250 pounds also contribute to the new Cruze's stronger performance, with expected 0-60mph acceleration of eight seconds, Barra said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

GM Student Corps Kicks Off Summer Work

General Motors has added teers will mentor the 130 stu-Pontiac High School to the list of schools that will participate in the 2015 GM Student Corps this

That brings the number of schools in metro Detroit and Flint involved to 13, said GM spokeswoman Maria Raynal. The number of students participating is now 130.

Student Corps provides high school students with paid internships and the opportunity to give back to their neighborhoods through community improvement projects they plan and complete, Raynal said. The program unites people of all ages and backgrounds toward a common goal - improving underserved and deeply distressed communities - while helping students develop valuable skills.

"One by one, Student Corps is changing the equation that defines these young lives," said Mark Reuss, executive vice president of GM Global Product Development, Purchasing and Supply Chain. "For many students, this internship is their first job, addressing an immediate financial need while putting them on a path to success."

In 2015, Reuss said that 55 GM retirees, 14 college interns from the University of Detroit Mercy and the University of Michigan-Flint, and countless GM volun-

dents, providing job training and college preparation, professional and career development and leadership and life lessons.

"GM Student Corps shows the tremendous impact companies can make by harnessing the pow-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



GM Student Corps' Sierra Stewart (left) and Alyssa Davis load mulch.

GM to Invest \$245 Million in Orion Plant, Add 300 Jobs and Unnamed New Product

General Motors will invest munities win." \$245 million and add 300 new jobs at its Orion Assembly plant to support launching an all-new vehicle program "unlike any in the plant's 32-year history," said Cathy Clegg, GM North America vice president of Manufacturing and Labor Relations.

'Orion Assembly is a breeding ground for manufacturing innovation," Clegg said.

"It serves as a model for how to engage the entire workforce at all levels to achieve success. The plant is up to the challenge of building this brand-new product, something it's never seen be-

Investment in Orion totals annually. \$962 million since the UAW and GM worked together to reopen Bonelli.

This latest investment comes just seven months after the announcement of a \$160-million investment to launch "Chevrolet's game-changing Bolt EV," Bonelli said, "which is expected to achieve more than 200 miles of range on a single electric charge.

"Orion is an example of what we can achieve when we work together," said UAW vice president Cindy Estrada, who leads the union's GM Department. "Only through innovative problem solving were we going to see this plant succeed, and this new investment is proof of that.

"UAW-GM continue to show the world that when you involve both workers and management in the process, workers win, management wins and our com-

The Orion facility has a unique culture that encourages employees to offer solutions to problems that positively impact the business, said Bonelli.

For example, a team of hourly, salaried and skilled trades workers from the paint shop recently developed a process monitoring tool for robotic paint applicators that alerts operators to potential failures before they they ave a chance to happen.

The innovative approach to preventive maintenance is now being applied to other General Motos manufacturing sites and will help avoid millions in costs

Last week's announcement is a part of the \$5.4 billion General 2010, said GM spokesman Chris investing in United States manu- others, said Bonelli.

facturing over the next three

Approximately \$3.1 billion of the \$5.4 billion that General Motors said it was going to spend in the next three years has been identified.

That leaves only approximatley \$2.3 billion in spending and investments to be announced by year-end.

Since June 2009, General Motors has announced United States facility investment of approximately \$17.8 billion, Bonelli

About \$12.4 billion of that has come since the 2011 UAW-GM National Agreement.

In total, these investments have created 6,250 new jobs for the company and secured the pothe previously idled plant in Motors has announced it will be sitions of approximately 20,700



Orion Assembly's Christal Finklea-Vancourt dresses a Sonic engine.

Senators Slam Takata for 'Lack of Concern'

U.S. senators says automotive air bag maker Takata Corp. may have placed profit over safety by halting safety audits of factories.

Democratic members of the Senate Commerce Committee made the allegation in a report on the Takata air bag crisis, citing internal company emails showing that the global audits were stopped for financial reasons from 2009 to 2011.

Inflators in Takata air bags can explode with too much force, sending metal shrapnel into drivers and passengers. The problem has caused at least eight deaths and 105 injuries.

"The more evidence we see, the more it paints a troubling picture of a manufacturer that lacked concern," Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida, the committee's ranking Democrat, said in a statement.

The report, released a day ahead of a June 23 committee hearing on Takata air bag problems, says that once a senior vice president called for the audits to be resumed, a safety director faulted a factory in Mexico for failing to properly close bags of ammonium nitrate, the air bag propellant, and for storing contaminated propellant near good materials.

Takata has said that the propellant can deteriorate when exposed to airborne moisture, causing it to burn faster than designed. That can blow apart a metal canister designed to contain an explosion that's supposed to inflate the air bag.

Takata said it never discontinued factory safety audits and

DETROIT (AP) - A group of said the Democratic report took the emails out of context. The company said it never halted what it called safety audits of product quality and manufacturing processes at its plants. The audits that were halted dealt with employee handling of pyrotechnic materials, a Takata statement said.

The company said it now has

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GM is Recalling Hatchbacks with Takata Air Bags

DETROIT (AP) - General Motors is adding more than 243,000compact hatchbacks in the U.S. and Canada to the growing recall for air bags that can explode with too much force.

The company said June 19 that the expanded recall for passenger air bags covers the Pontiac Vibe from 2003 through 2007. The cars were designed by Toyota and made at a jointly owned factory in California. They're twins of the Toyota Matrix. which was recalled earlier.

The Vibe recall comes after Takata Corp. of Japan agreed in May to double the size of its air bag inflator recall to 33.8 million, making it the largest automotive recall in U.S. history.

The propellant in some Takata inflators can burn too quickly, blowing apart a metal canister and sending shrapnel into the passenger compartment. The

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GM's Summer School Program Starts Up Again

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

er of their retirees and employees to mentor young people," said Heidi Magyar, director of GM's new community outreach group. "The program helps build communities with a 'lead where you are' mindset that instills teamwork, determination and pride in themselves and their communities."

Students learn independence, project management and leadership skills by selecting, planning, budgeting and completing the projects themselves, Magyar said. Students work three days a week for nine weeks, and will present their results to Reuss and his staff in mid-August.

In mid-June, the teams kicked off projects to make their communities safer, more welcoming, and better places to live and learn, including park and athletic field cleanup and restoration, painting, landscaping, school building repairs and more, Raynal said. This summer, teams also will develop plans to donate several hundred One World Futbols - ultra-durable soccer balls that never need a pump or go flat, even when punctured. Chevrolet is the founding sponsor of One World Play Project, creator of the One World Futbol.

Last year's teams renovated 15 schools and 17 parks, Raynal said. They removed 1,844 bags of trash, spread 208 yards of mulch, used 157 gallons of paint, refurbished 232 fire hydrants, and constructed over 300 benches and picnic tables. The program created a lasting ripple effect: Neighborhood residents volunteered their time on project sites, mayors and city councils supported projects to ensure the renovations were maintained.

Additionally, retiree and college mentors have remained connected to the students with regular check-ins, report card reviews, even joining them on college visits, Raynal said. They've helped students find employment, assisted with college applications and attended graduation ceremonies.

Student Corps also includes weekly life skills sessions to prepare and equip students for adulthood, Magyar said. Topics include personal finance, banking and budgeting, decision making, effective communication and conflict resolution, health and safety, applying to college, and job interviewing. Teams also tour GM facilities and spend a day at U-D Mercy.

The 2015 schools include Central Collegiate Academy, Detroit Public Schools Cody Campus, East Detroit High School, Flint Southwestern Academy, Hamtramck High School, Harper Woods High School, Henry Ford High School, Madison High School, Melvindale High School, Detroit Public Schools Osborn Campus, Pontiac High School, River Rouge High School and Van Dyke Lincoln High School.

Chevrolet Tries Something New with Emoji Statement

Chevrolet Cruze to the public was big news, not the least because of the way GM first announced when and where it was going to unveil the vehicle.

In a press release issued on June 22, GM made the announcement using emojis - small computer pictographs such as smiley faces often used in emails to help emphasize text points.

We were inspired by a couple of different campaigns," said GM spokeswoman Annalisa Bluhm. "Domino's did a press release using Twitter and there are people doing emoji translations of 'Moby Dick' and Jane Eyre.' So we thought it was time for us to do something."

GM issued a "translation" of the Cruze announcement the next day, Bluhm said. One of the goals of the emoji press release was to get people talking, and Bluhm said it was successful.

"We've been tracking the chatter about the emoji press release in traditional and social media," Bluhm said. "And, according to our figures, 91 percent of reactions have been positive or neu-

"The level of conversation is huge, so it got the job done. We have people - who don't normally follow vehicle launches - looking at the Cruze and following its launch. Hopefully, that will translate into visits to the dealerships and, ultimately, into sales.'

Michael Bernacchi, a marketing professor at U-D Mercy College in Detroit, said he understands the reasoning behind the Chevy emoji press release. But having a good reason for a message and successfully carrying off the message are two different things.

"The press release was a way for GM to try and connect with youth," Bernacchi said. question is, does GM understand that Millennials want cars that match their personalities and that they shop for cars very differently than previous genera-

Just having an emoji press release isn't enough, Bernacchi said. If Chevy wants to connect with younger buyers, the brand has to understand that Millennials are connected to the Internet and that the press release must be followed up with online marketing that answers questions and continues the conversation with connected buyers.

"I do appreciate Chevy's desire

Past Music Comes Alive at Warren Library

The Warren Public Library is sponsoring a special musical event on Monday, July 20, at the Civic Center branch starting at 6 p.m. The event lasts two hours and is titled "A Reasonable Facsimile" and features muscians Rob and Anne Burns playing replica instruments of Renaissance Europe and Colonial

"With fun and humor, Rob and Anne will present the music of Renaissance Europe, which is roughly from 1500 to 1650," said Warren librarian Jennifer Lund. "They will also perform the music of Colonial America, which is considered to be 1600 to 1800. They will be playing replica instruments and wearing period costumes. The two make music and history come alive through their stories and theatrics."

This program will be held in the conference room next to the Civic Center Library. Registration is required for this event. Please call 586-574-4564 to register and reserve a seat.

The introduction of the 2016 to crack this market," Bernacchi said. "But Millennials are unlike other generations and cracking that market can be a real uphill battle.

> "I alway say 'show me the data,' because selling to Millennials means going beyond building a good car. Selling to this generation won't be easy.'

> A lot of people, Bernacchi said, think they know how to sell to Millennials, but that often turns out to be not the case.

> "This is risky and risk can be great if it pays off," Bernacchi

> "But you only get a couple atbats with this generation and if you miss, you lose them. You have to know what you're doing at every stage of the game.'



Chevy issued a press release that used only emoji graphics on June 22.



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2016 Cruze Makes World Debut in Detroit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The 2016 Cruze builds on a very successful program that introduced Chevrolet to new customers the world over," said Alan Batey, president, General Motors North America.

'We retained all the attributes that made the original Cruze a hit around the globe and built on them to make this car more sophisticated, more fun and more Chevrolet,'

Vehicle highlights include:

- Next-generation Chevrolet MyLink with smartphone integration capability, including a standard seven-inch-diagonal screen and available eight-inch-diagonal screen (at launch, eight-inch screen only with Apple CarPlay, Android Auto coming later).
- · Maximum highway range of 530 miles per tank.
- All-new, stronger and lighter body structure that enhances agility, efficiency and safety - with an approximately 250-pound lower curb weight.
- Class-leading 106.3-inch wheelbase that offers roominess. contributing to greater rear-seat legroom and more rear knee room.
- Projector headlamps with light-emitting diode (LED) signature lighting - and LED daytime running lamps on up-level models.
- More standard features, such as 10 air bags, four-wheel disc brakes, rearview camera and available OnStar 4G LTE with Wi-Fi hotspot.
- New, available features including wireless phone charging, heated rear leather seats and heated, leather-wrapped steering wheel.
- Available advanced safety features include Side Blind Zone Alert, Rear Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keep Assist and Forward Collision Alert.

Bluhm also said that the Cruze, through smartphone integration with the new Chevrolet MyLink infotainment system, provides simple and intuitive use of smartphones in the vehicle.

It integrates certain phone functions onto the Cruze's seveninch-diagonal color touchscreen, allowing them to call up music. navigation apps and more. An uplevel MyLink radio with an eight-

available and also incorporates Apple CarPlay.

'The new Cruze is truly one of Chevrolet's most global vehicles," said Batey. "With content variations dictated mostly by local market demands, customers in every corner of the globe will enjoy the same fundamental dynamics that are making Chevrolet one of the fastest-growing brands around the world."

In 2017, Chevrolet will introduce a new diesel model for U.S. customers that builds on the success of the current Cruze diesel model.

"With styling influenced by the acclaimed 2014 Impala and all new Malibu, the 2016 Cruze brings Chevrolet's new, expressive global design language to the small car segment," said John Cafaro, executive director, Chevrolet

"The Cruze's approach to proportion and premium details adds to Chevrolet's elevation of craftsmanship, content, quality and a fresh interpretation of an identity that is unmistakably Chevrolet in every market around the world."

Aluminum is used strategically in the suspension systems to optimize weight and handling characteristics.

"The Cruze's chassis system is perhaps the most mass-efficient in the segment," said Ron nesen, Cruze's executive chief engineer. "It is at the core of the car's dynamic driving character, which is designed to deliver fun with an enhanced feeling of connectivity?

Additionally, the new, more rigid architecture is the primary enabler for exceptional chassis tuning, affording more nimble and direct steering and handling attributes. The longer wheelbase and wide front and rear tracks further contribute to a lower, wide 'footprint'

In North America, the 2016 Cruze is driven by an all-new, standard 1.4L turbocharged engine derived from GM's new family of small gas engines. It features direct injection, stop/start technology and is matched with a standard six-speed manual or a six-speed automatic transmis-

For the United States, the 2016

inch display and navigation is Chevrolet Cruze will be built at GM's Lordstown, Ohio assembly plant, with locally and globally sourced components. The plant received a \$50 million investment in tooling and other enhancements to support the new Cruze's

production. Bluhm said the Cruze is Chevrolet's best-selling around the world, with 3.5 million sold since it went on sale in 2008.

Cruze sales in the U.S. in 2014 were 273,060 - a 10 percent increase over 2013. Fifty-three percent of U.S. Cruze customers are new to Chevrolet.

Club GM Planning Sept. Golf Outing

Club GM is holding its Southeast Michigan Charity Golf Outing on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Fieldstone Golf Club in Auburn

The cost is \$85 for individuals. The bunch-only tickets cost \$10. The check-in starts at 9:30 a.m. for an 11 a.m. "shot gun" start. Men's, Women's and mixed teams are welcome.

To learn more about the event and order tickets, call Lorenzo Jones at 313-720-4438.

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Macomb Program for Seniors

Macomb County Community Services Agency's Office of Senior Services (MCCSA OSS) is distributing coupon books for discounts on fresh fruits and vegetables from select local farmers markets in a series of outreaches this summer, said program manager Nicole Urban.

The Senior Project FRESH program provides income-eligible Macomb County residents over the age of 60 coupons for use on locally-grown produce and products. The OSS will be setting up at the Warren, Mount Clemens, Sterling Heights and Eastpointe farmers markets during July to

distribute the books. Each book contains 10 \$2-coupons for use on fresh produce and locally-grown products.

The outreaches are planned for:

- 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 9 at Sterling Heights Farmers Market, 40620 Utica Road.
- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 11 at Eastpointe Farmers Market, 24820 Flower St.
- 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 18 at Mount Clemens Farmers Market, 141 N. River Road.
- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 19 at Warren Farmers Market, 1 City Square.

GKN's North American Headquarters in Auburn Hills Officially Open for Business

GKN Automotive officially christened its new regional head-quarters for the Americas on June 25 with a grand opening event for customers, employees and state, county and local government officials.

The new facility is home to the company's GKN Driveline and GKN Sinter Metals divisions, said Lori Petrelecan, manager of Marketing Communications, Americas.

In addition to serving as regional headquarters for GKN

Driveline and GKN Sinter Metals, the new site houses employees from GKN's Land Systems and North American Services groups.

The 168,000-square-foot facility is located on an 11.2-acre site at N. Opdyke Road, previously occupied by Showcase Cinema.

GKN Driveline is a producer of automotive driveline components and systems, including constant-velocity-joint, all-wheeldrive, trans-axle and electric-drive systems. GKN Sinter Metals is the world's largest producer of precision powder-metal products, Petrelecan said.

"This new facility is located in the heart of the global auto industry and is well-situated to serve our customers and continue to attract top talent," said Robert Willig, president, GKN Driveline Americas.

"We have been headquartered in Auburn Hills since 1986 and have seen Oakland County and the state of Michigan continue to grow in automotive industry prominence. This is an incredible location for operating in today's global auto industry."

Steve Lachance, vice president of engineering, GKN Driveline Americas, said, "This state-of-the-art facility has significantly increased our engineering capacity. As the industry continues to evolve into a more technology-driven business, engineering excellence will be the prime differentiator for successful automotive suppliers."

The facility supports GKN in corporate park feel.

meeting the growth in demand for all-wheel-drive and hybrid electric vehicles, Petrelecan said.

GKN's new headquarters, which houses 350 employees with capacity for more, provides state-of-the-art testing and validation equipment, along with additional engineering design areas for both driveline and sinter metal products. The new facility provides the company with an additional 20 percent more space for engineering and testing activities

GKN officials at the ceremony acknowledged support for the project by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder's office, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Oakland County and the City of Auburn Hills.

"Government support for this project, at the state, county and local level has been incredible," Willig said. "It is easy to see why this region continues to be a global leader in the automotive industry."

Petrelecan pointed to these facts about GKN's new facility:

- All metals from the previous structure were sorted and recycled;
- There are 21 conference rooms in the new building.
- All rooms are named after lakes in Michigan.
- The site has been reforested with new trees including more than 25 evergreen trees that are 20 feet or taller along its north property line to give the site a corporate park feel.





Senators Slam Takata

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an independent quality assurance panel that reviews manufacturing processes.

The Democratic report also found that an unknown number of Takata air bag inflators made to replace recalled parts might also be defective. And it accused

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the federal government's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of failing to promptly investigate early reports of defective air bags.

In May, Takata bowed to U.S. government pressure and agreed to double the number of air bag inflators it's recalling to 33.8 million, making it the largest automotive recall in U.S. history. The problem, which has persisted for more than a decade, has brought congressional hearings and investigations from NHTSA and the Justice Department.

Vehicles from 11 automakers are affected including BMW, Daimler Trucks, Daimler Vans, Fiat Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Subaru and Toyota.

GM is Recalling Hatchbacks with Takata Air Bags

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

problem has been blamed for at least eight deaths and more than 100 injuries.

Last month, Takata bowed to pressure from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and declared many of its products defective, agreeing to double the number of air bag inflators being recalled.

The giant recall covers driver and passenger air bags in cars and trucks made by 11 automakers. Takata, the automakers and NHTSA are still trying to determine what exactly causes the inflators to malfunction.

Owners can see if their car is part of the recall by going to https://vinrcl.safercar.gov/vin/and keying in their vehicle identification number.

The number is located on many state registration cards and is stamped on the dashboard near the bottom of the driver's-side windshield.

NHTSA says the numbers of all the recalled cars have been entered into its database.





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OnStar Says Be Prepared for Severe Storms

While people look forward to the good summer weather, that doesn't mean people shouldn't be prepared for the worst, said GM spokesman Stefan Cross.

As the country braces for the Atlantic hurricane season and the Midwest tornado season. On-Star-equipped Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles offer Crisis Assist services to customers, regardless of the plan to which they subscribe, in the event of an extreme weather emergency, Cross said.

The 2015 Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30 and includes the coastal regions of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean More than 1.1 million OnStar customers reside in these areas.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts a 70 percent likelihood of six to 11 named storms during the 2015 season, three to six of which could become hurricanes.

According to the National Weather Service, peak tornado weather is April through June, but they are common in July and August.

'Staying informed and developing an emergency plan can make the biggest difference during a severe weather season," said Mary Ann Adams, OnStar crisis incident manager.

Safety and security are at the foundation of our services and we are available to subscribers at any time with weather updates, traffic conditions, evacuation routes and to direct emergency services.'

OnStar has relationships with more than 6,000 9-1-1 emergency call centers nationwide, allowing subscribers to receive fast, localized assistance in any type of emergency, Adams said.

In a hurricane or other disaster, a push of OnStar's red emergency or blue button will put drivers in contact with an advisor for assistance.

Anyone living near or traveling to a hurricane-prone area should be prepared. OnStar has developed a Hurricane Preparation Checklist and includes such tips

- · Create a disaster kit with essentials. Always include enough food and water for each person. Also make sure that you have copies of personal documents and have extra cash and traveler's checks.
- Take steps to protect your property. Minimize the likelihood for damage by installing hurricane shutters, securing loose siding and removing diseased tree limbs near your home.
- Set your evacuation plan beforehand. Knowing what to do in

NHTSA Checking On Dodge Dart Brake Complaints

DETROIT (AP) - U.S. safety regulators are investigating complaints of braking problems with Dodge Dart compact cars.

The probe by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration covers about 121,000 Darts made by Fiat Chrysler from the 2013 model year.

The agency says it has 18 complaints that brake pedals can be hard to depress and braking distance unexpectedly creased.

Some said they had to use the parking brake to stop the cars, while others reported that the brake master cylinder had to be

replaced. The agency has no reports of

An investigation could lead to

crashes or injuries.

Chrysler says it's cooperating with the investigation and that owners with concerns should contact dealers.



OnStar helps during storms.

case something happens can save time and lives.

Adams said determine if you live in a flood zone, stay alert for extended rainfall and flooding and be prepared to evacuate if advised by authorities.

Before a crisis, OnStar is available with weather updates, including severe weather warnings, and can help subscribers find shelter, Adams said.

During a crisis, subscribers can request emergency assistance for themselves as well as for others, or get the latest information on evacuation routes and areas impacted by the natural disaster. After a crisis, OnStar continues to assist with emergency and navigation response services, and can also connect subscribers to loved ones.

OnStar often provides assistance in situations when cell phone service may be compromised, Adams said.

Recently, OnStar provided more than 65,000 complimentary Hands-Free Calling minutes between May 24-29 to help customers impacted by flooding in Texas and Oklahoma. These minutes were used to connect subscribers with loved ones and relay information, often where cell phone function was limited.





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GM Continues Green Effort With Recycled Volt Batteries

What happens to the batteries that power Chevrolet Volt extended-range electric cars when their useful life is done? Five of them are helping keep the lights on at the new General Motors Enterprise Data Center at its Milford Proving Ground.

Repurposed scrap Volt battery covers already star in a variety of applications, from bat houses to nesting boxes for endangered species, duck said spokesman Kevin Kelly. Now, as Chevrolet closes on the secondgeneration Volt for 2016, it's time to begin tapping the energy left in batteries from first-generation

Because the Volt typically draws its power from a band of energy in the battery pack, there is a lot of leftover juice for stationary use, Kelly said. A new solar array and two wind turbines feed the administration building's circuit breaker panel, where the five Volt batteries work in parallel to supply power to the building, delivering net-zero energy use on an annual basis.

"Even after the battery has reached the end of its useful life in a Chevrolet Volt, up to 80 percent of its storage capacity remains," said Pablo Valencia, senior manager, Battery Life Cycle Management. "This secondary use application extends its life, while delivering waste reduction and economic benefits on an industrial scale.

The batteries also can provide back-up power to the building for four hours in the event of an outage and stores it when it's unneeded. Valencia said. Excess energy is sent back to the grid that supplies the Milford campus.

The 74-kilowatt ground-mount solar array coupled with the two

2kW wind turbines generate enough power to provide all of the energy needs for the office building and lighting for the adjacent parking lot. Together, these renewable sources generate approximately 100 Mwh of energy annually, roughly equivalent to the energy used by 12 average households.

JUNE 29, 2015

The secondary application is being used as a living lab to understand how the battery redistributes energy at this scale, Valencia said. And the company is working with partners to validate and test systems for other commercial and non-commercial us-

"This system is ideal for commercial use because a business can derive full functionality from an existing battery while reducing upfront costs through this reuse," Valencia said.

The reuse of Volt batteries also helped the data center administration building attain LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

SAE Detroit Sets July Golf Outing

The Detroit chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) is holding a golf outing on Friday, July 31, at the Fox Hills golf course in Plymouth.

The day will begin with a networking breakfast, followed by a shotgun start (scramble format) at 8 a.m., and end with a sitdown dinner, said event chair Renee Bovair. The cost is \$700 for a foursome or \$175 for individuals.

To learn more about the event and to order tickets, call Bovair at 248-324-4445.







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Supplier Celebrates Award with Barbeque

Color them pleased at Axalta Coating Systems.

The maker of paints and coatings for the automotive industry was so pleased with being named a GM Supplier of the Year that the company threw a party for its employees at the company's manufacturing facility in Mount Clemens on June 19.

Axalta spokesman John Wray said that in March, GM recognized 78 of its best global suppliers during its 23rd annual Supplier of the Year awards ceremony in Detroit.

Winning suppliers from around the world received the award for going above and beyond GM's re-

The party was actually a barbeque," said Wray. "And if I do say so, it was a great barbeque. We had hamburgers, hot dogs, fresh corn for all the 600 employees who work at the Mount Clemens site.'

Wray said that Axalta was formerly part of DuPont. The company was spun off in 2013 and became an independent operation.

This is exciting for us because this is the first time we were named as a GM Supplier of the Year since we spun off from DuPont," Wray said.

"Going back to DuPont, we've had a long relationship with GM. The first time we worked with them was back in 1923 with the Oakland, which was a brand GM had at the the time. So it was quite an honor to receive this award from GM.'

Wray said they threw the barbeque because it was only proper to show, in a concrete way, gratitude to the people at the Mount Clemens site.

They're the ones who made getting the award possible," Wray said. "I recently heard automotive legend Bob Lutz say that today's cars are so well built by everyone that the best way to stand out is by design. And paints and colors are a great way to make a design stand out.

"So, GM saying that our coatings are quality really means something.

Wray said Axalta invited some representatives from GM, including Randall Pappal, GM executive director of Global Product Purchasing. He got to celebrate the occasion with David Powell, Axalta's GM Global Business direc-

"This event gives us a chance to recognize our team for a great accomplishment," said Joe Campbell, Axalta Mount Clemens plant manager.

"When a customer gives you this kind of recognition, it validates the hard work you do to deliver products and services. It recognizes us as the best of the best, and it is a huge honor for

Axalta Senior Vice President Steve Markevich said that winning the GM award doesn't hap-

Old Flint Factory Site Being Fixed

FLINT, Mich. (AP) - An effort to transform a former General Motors manufacturing complex in Flint known as "Chevy in the Hole" into a park is entering its second phase.

The Flint Journal reports City Council approved an agreement with the Genesee County Land Flint and the Land Bank entered a similar agreement for the agency to administer a \$1.6 million federal grant for the first Chevy Commons phase. That included installing the first section of a soil cap as well as improvements to storm sewer lines. Manufacturing began at the site in 1904 and, at its peak, factories employed thousands.



From left, David Powell, Randall Pappal, Steve Markevich and Joe Campbell.

pen without the "remarkable effort of our employees. Every day, we produce automotive coatings to the highest standards. And every day, they require high quality and integrity of the formulation."

Other guests included Ma-

comb County executive Mark Hackel, state representative Marilyn Lane and Mount Clemens mayor Barb Dempsey, as well as other dignitaries.

'This was good news," Wray said. "We wanted to celebrate it with everyone."

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Penske Auto **Group Gets New Executive V.P.**

Penske Automotive Group, Inc, an international transportation services company, on June 16 named J.D. Carlson, the company's senior vice president and corporate controller, to the position of executive vice president and chief financial officer, effective immediately.

Carlson replaces David K. Jones, who has resigned from his role as executive vice president and chief financial officer to accept a similar position with another company. Jones will remain with the company through June 30, in an advisory capacity.

Carlson joined Penske Automotive in 2006 as vice president and corporate controller. In May 2011, he was promoted to senior vice president and corporate Controller and was named as principal accounting officer.

Carlson has a strong operational and technical background in finance and accounting and will be responsible for all aspects of the company's financial operations, said Penske spokesman Anthony Pordon. His experience and tenure with the Penske Automotive organization will maintain the integrity and discipline of our worldwide financial operations and provide a solid foundation for success in this new role

The company also promoted Shelley Hulgrave from corporate accounting manager, a position she has held since October 2006, to corporate controller, Pordon said. Since joining the company in 2006, Hulgrave has taken on increasing roles and responsibilities, including coordination with the company's accounting teams in the United States, Europe and Australia, which positions her well for success in her new role. Previously, Ms. Hulgrave's work experience included five years with the accounting firm of Ernst & Young where she served as an Audit Manager.

Google Starts Testing its Autonomous Car

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The latest models of Google's selfdriving cars are now cruising the streets near the Internet company's Silicon Valley headquarters as an ambitious project to transform the way people get around shifts into its next phase.

This marks the first time that the pod-like, two seat vehicles have been allowed on public roads since Google unveiled the next generation of its self-driving fleet more than a year ago. The cars had previously been confined to a private track located on a former Air Force base located about 120 miles southeast of San Francisco.

Google announced last month that it would begin testing the curious-looking cars last month, but hadn't specified the timing until June 23 when it disclosed the vehicles are driving up to 25 miles per hour on the roads around its Mountain View, California, office.

Google had installed its robotic driving technology in Lexus sports utility vehicles during the first few years of testing before developing the smaller prototype. The new models are designed to work without a steering wheel or brake pedal, although the vehicles will be equipped with those features during the initial runs on public roads.

A human will also ride in the cars to take control in emergencies, just as has been the case with the self-driving Lexus vehicles during the past six years.

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