

2016 Chevrolet Cruze Ecotec

Chevy Cruze First American Car to Use GM's New Ecotec

by Jim Stickford

The 2016 Chevy Cruze may be an all-American car, but it has international heritage.

The new Cruze was unveiled in Detroit late last month, built on GM's Delta II platform and is the first American car to contain GM's new Ecotec engine.

GM spokesman Tom Read said the Ecotec was developed in the United States as well as at GM's facility in Ruesselsheim, Germany.

"The Cruze is the first compact

here to use the Ecotec," Read said, "but it's already in use in China and it has seen some Euro applications as well."

While the engine may have been partly developed in Germany, it's being made in Flint," said Read. "The transmission is being made in Toledo.

"I think the customers will be really excited with the improved power and torque. They will also be really impressed with the quietness of the engine and

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NHTSA to Penalize Chrysler for Recall Issues Affecting 11 Million-Plus Vehicles

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) – Fiat Chrysler will be punished soon for failing to follow the law in 23 recalls involving more than 11 million vehicles, the nation's top auto safety regulator said last week.

But Mark Rosekind, administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wouldn't say what action the

agency will take until after a public comment period closes July 17.

Rosekind spoke after a two-hour public hearing in Washington on Fiat Chrysler's recall performance that featured agency officials detailing an alarming litany of failures to notify customers of recalls, delays in making and distributing repair parts

and in some cases failing to come up with repairs that fix the problems.

Some of the recalls date to 2013, and Rosekind said more allegations against the company could be added.

"The evidence seems very straightforward," Rosekind said.

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2016 Camaro Goes Topless and to Europe

It was Camaro time for GM during the last week of June.

Europe recently received a taste of good, old-fashioned American muscle in the form of the 2016 Chevrolet Camaro, which saw its European debut at the Goodwood Festival of Speed in West Sussex, England, on June 26. The company also unveiled its convertible version of the 2016 Camaro in Detroit on June 24.

GM spokesman Monte Doran said the 2016 Chevrolet Camaro was tested and tuned on more than eight tracks around the world as well as on the Autobahn, and offers higher levels of performance, technology and refinement.

Camaro, which goes on sale in

the U.S. this year, will become available in Europe during the spring/summer of 2016 as LT and V8 models. Prices and final technical specifications will be an-

nounced closer to launch, Doran said.

The Camaro is based on GM's

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2016 Chevrolet Camaro



2016 Ford Explorer

Chrysler, Ford June Sales Up As GM Fleet Sales Drop

Americans like their trucks and SUVs. At least that's what June 2015 vehicle sales indicated.

Fiat Chrysler reported U.S. sales of 185,035 units, an 8 percent increase compared with sales in June 2014 (171,086 units), and the group's best June sales since 2006.

The Chrysler, Jeep and Ram Truck brands each posted year-over-year sales gains in June compared with the same month a year ago.

The Chrysler brand's 28 percent increase was the largest sales gain of any Fiat Chrysler brand during the month. The group extended its streak of year-over-year sales gains to 63 consecutive months.

Jeep brand sales increased 25 percent, the brand's best June sales ever and its 21st consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains. The Jeep brand has set a sales record in every month dating back to November 2013. Three Jeep brand vehicles set records in June.

The Wrangler, Cherokee, and Patriot each posted their best June sales ever.

The Wrangler, with its 17 percent increase, recorded its second-best sales month this year. The Patriot's 41 percent year-over-year increase was the largest sales percentage gain of any Jeep brand model for the month. The new Jeep Renegade, the small sport-utility vehicle (SUV), had sales of 4,858 units in its third full month in the market, up 10 percent compared with sales in the previous month of May.

"June represented another strong month for our company with sales up 8 percent and our 63rd consecutive month of year-over-year sales increases," said Reid Bigland, head of U.S. Sales.

"Our all-new Jeep Renegade and Fiat 500X inventory started to arrive at dealerships in greater volume during June, positioning us well for the summer-selling season."

Fiat Chrysler finished the month of June with a 78-day sup-



2015 Cherokee Trailhawk



2015 Buick Encore

ply of inventory (577,522 units). U.S. industry sales figures for June are internally projected at an estimated 17.5 million units Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate (SAAR).

Strong consumer demand for its newest products pushed Ford Motor Company total U.S. June sales 2 percent higher, to 225,647 vehicles sold.

"Strong retail momentum continues building for our newest vehicles – including F-150, Mustang, Edge, and now Explorer," said Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service.

"The Ford brand's average

transaction prices have increased \$2,700 versus a year ago – more than triple the industry average – while our incentives are down, showing how much customers value our investment in new vehicles with the latest technologies."

F-Series average transaction prices reached an all-time record in June, moving above \$44,000 per truck – \$3,600 higher than last year. The new F-150 is turning twice as fast on dealer lots than the industry average for half-ton pickups, as Ford continues building dealer stocks.

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Chevy Joins in DAYTONA Rising Racing Project

International Speedway Corporation and Chevrolet, on July 1, entered into a multi-year partnership that will make Chevrolet a Founding Partner at Daytona International Speedway (DIS) as part of its DAYTONA Rising redevelopment project.

The \$400 million DAYTONA Rising project, encompassing the Speedway's nearly one-mile-long frontstretch, will be complete by January 2016, said GM spokeswoman Asaf Farah. DAYTONA Rising is being designed to transform DIS into the world's first motorsports stadium, with premium amenities and attractions.

Beginning in 2016, Farah said, the multi-year agreement will provide Chevrolet with naming rights for one of five fan injectors. The massive, new and redesigned entry includes more than 20,000 square feet of Chevrolet new vehicle displays and a fan engagement experience that vertically spans four concourse levels. Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

"Chevrolet has been an integral part of the ISC family for many years and we look forward to continuing our strong relationship," said ISC Chief Executive Officer Lesa France Kennedy. "As part of its activation at DAYTONA Rising and other ISC facilities, Chevrolet will represent its iconic automotive brand through interactive experiences with fans."

Chevrolet will also have branding rights for one of the "neighborhoods" located near its injector.

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Chrysler Faces NHTSA's Wrath For Problems With 23 Recalls

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There's a pattern that's been going on for some time."

Rosekind said a number of options for agency action are "on the table," including fines against the company and requiring it to buy back vehicles subject to recall.

NHTSA can fine automakers a maximum of \$35 million per infraction, so Chrysler could face millions in penalties.

It's unlikely, though, that the company would face the top fine in all 23 recalls.

Rosekind told reporters that Fiat Chrysler needs to follow the law, meeting deadlines to notify owners and distribute parts. When it doesn't, that puts people at risk, he said.

The agency said it likely will act by the end of July.

The company, in testimony last week, didn't dispute any of NHTSA's allegations. Scott Kunselman, Fiat Chrysler's recently appointed head of vehicle safety, said it is changing the way it manages safety to follow the industry's best practices.

The safety system, he said, has been reorganized with added personnel. He now reports directly to CEO Sergio Marchionne. The person in his position had been three rungs down the organization chart from the chief executive, he said.

"We have learned from our mistakes and missteps," he told the agency.

Much of the testimony in the hearing focused on a recall of 1.56 million older-model Jeeps with gas tanks mounted behind the rear axles.

The tanks are vulnerable to being punctured in a rear crash. At least 75 people have died in fires involving the Jeeps, according to NHTSA.

The company said they are as safe or safer than comparable vehicles built during the same time period.

The recall fix is installing a trailer hitch to protect the tanks in low-speed crashes.

Todd Anderson of Connecticut, who lost his 17-year-old son when the family's 1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee was rear-ended and exploded in flames, asked the agency to order Fiat Chrysler to buy back the recalled Jeeps to get them off the road.

Anderson said the crash that killed Skyler Justice Anderson-Coughlin happened in November 2013, five months after the Jeep recall was announced. He was unaware of the recall until getting a notice in the mail from Fiat Chrysler the following May or June and said the notice should have been sent sooner.

"If I had received the notification, my son would be alive today," he said.

Anderson said he has hired lawyers and is contemplating a lawsuit over the crash, which occurred in Longmeadow, Mass.

2016 Camaro Goes Topless and Heads to Europe

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Alpha platform, which made its debut with the Cadillac ATS in July of 2012.

Doran said that while the Alpha platform was originally designed for the ATS, the Camaro's performance is very different from that of the Cadillac.

"What's fascinating to me," Doran said, "is that GM is getting very good at sharing design platforms, but is still able to tailor those designs for individual markets.

About 70 percent of the parts used in the Camaro are unique to that car."

The Alpha platform was developed, said ATS chief engineer Dave Masch in an interview made during the release of the 2013 ATS, because GM learned that owners of competitive vehicles didn't want a bigger vehicle.

So GM began development of the Alpha to underpin a smaller car that would satisfy these target customers.

That car became the ATS. The platform was developed in North

America.

"Redesigning the Camaro is thrilling and challenging all at once, but the secret is to offer something more," said Alan Batey, Global Chevrolet brand chief.

"For Camaro enthusiasts, it retains iconic design cues and offers even more performance. For a new generation of buyers, the 2016 Camaro incorporates our most innovative engineering ideas with finely honed performance and leading design."

"The driving experience is significantly different," said Aaron Link, lead development engineer. "Immediately, you will notice how much lighter and more nimble the Camaro feels.

"That feeling increases when you drive the Camaro harder – it brakes more powerfully, dives into corners quicker, and accelerates faster than ever."

In Europe, both the Camaro LT and V8 feature standard 20-inch aluminum wheels.

Chevrolet spokesman Joe Jacuzzi said that the Camaro is already popular in several Euro-

pean markets – Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and France.

"With the new carbine, lightweight body and the newer and more efficient engines, the 2016 Camaro should prove to be very popular in Europe," Jacuzzi said. "I was at Goodwood and the public reaction was very positive.

"We had people drive across Europe to be there and see the new Camaro.

"Over there, it's a different kind of purchase and it really stands out on the road.

"The consumers we've talked to say it's absolutely lovely."

The thing to remember, Jacuzzi said, is that the new Camaro is a performance car, not a muscle car.

"It's a lighter vehicle with more technology," Jacuzzi said. "It's based on the same platform as the new Corvette, a vehicle that has proven that it can compete with other performance cars across the world.

As to the convertible 2016 Camaro, Doran said building such model wasn't that difficult.

"It becomes difficult to build a convertible if you have a car already designed and then lop off the top to make that car a convertible," Doran said.

"When we were designing the 2016 Camaro, we always knew that we were going to develop a convertible version of the car so they were able to easily navigate around the problems often associated with designing convertibles.

"The Camaro coupe goes on sale at the end of the year," Doran said.

"The convertible will come out a couple of months later in early 2016.

"I know that it's not ideal having a convertible make its debut in the dead of winter, but given the Camaro product cycle and the costs associated with it, it doesn't make sense to wait six months for the weather to get warmer to debut the convertible."

The 2016 Camaro will be produced at GM's Lansing Grand River assembly plant in Lansing.

Reenactors to Depict WWII

World War II ended 70 years ago and to commemorate that fact, the Warren Public Library is holding a special "Victory Over the Axis" presentation on Monday, July 20, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Miller branch of the library, located at 5460 Arden.

"Germany had surrendered in the spring of 1945, while in the Pacific, the Allied forces were closing in on the Japanese home islands leading to Japan's surrender in August," said Warren librarian Maren Kroening.

"To commemorate this period in history, we will have historical reenactors at the Miller Library to talk about what day-to-day life was like for the soldiers and marines during those final months of the Second World War."

Kroening said that those attending the presentation will

have the opportunity to see just what uniforms, weapons and equipment the average G.I. carried into combat in both the European and Pacific theaters of war during the last few months of the conflict.

Space is limited, Kroening said, so those interested in attending the presentation should call 586-751-5377 to reserve a spot.

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Chevrolet Cruze First American Car to Use GM's New Ecotec Engine

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the smoothness of the ride.”

In North America, the Cruze is offered with a new Ecotec 1.4L turbocharged engine that features direct injection to help offer a GM-estimated 40 mpg on the highway with an available six-speed automatic transmission, Read said.

Standard stop/start technology contributes to efficiency in stop-and-go driving, he said.

The new 1.4L turbo is SAE-certified at 153 hp and 177 lb.-ft. of torque, using regular unleaded fuel (RON 91). It will be offered in additional markets, along with a 1.5L naturally aspirated variant rated at an estimated at 113 hp and 108 lb.-ft. The 1.5L will be matched with a five-speed manual transmission.

“The new Ecotec family is a globally designed and manufactured engine designed to offer class-leading performance, efficiency and refinement in a wide variety of applications around the world,” said Dan Nicholson, vice president, GM Global Powertrain.

“Each variant is designed for a specific application or local market, but all share design, performance and refinement traits that make the new architecture one of the most adaptable in the industry.”

The new Ecotec 1.4L turbo is matched with a standard six-speed manual or available with GM's new Hydra-Matic 6T35 six-speed automatic transmission. It offers the strength of the larger 6T40 transmission in a smaller, lighter package that enhances efficiency in the compact Cruze.

Chevrolet will add a new clean diesel engine to the lineup in 2017, featuring a B20-capable 1.6L diesel already proven in Europe and other global markets.

“The current Cruze diesel has garnered a loyal following among customers seeking strong, clean and efficient diesel,” said Nicholson. “The next Cruze diesel will take those attributes to the next level with the very latest technology, offering what we expect will be the premier small-car diesel package in North America. It affirms GM's commitment to offer

diesel engines as an alternative propulsion choice for cars in North America and specifically targets the German dominance in the segment.”

Read's colleague, Annalisa Bluhm, said the 2016 Cruze is built around GM's Delta II platform, which was originally developed by GM's Opel brand in Germany. It is the successor to the GM Delta Platform and is known internally as the Global Compact Vehicle Architecture or GCV.

But, Bluhm said, the platform underwent some changes for the North American market.

“It is 27 percent stronger,” Bluhm said. “It's all steel. There is no aluminum. This has enabled us to provide a more stable ride. The platform is also longer, so we were able to give the 2016 Cruze two inches more leg room than the previous model.”

The Cruze, Bluhm said, will be rolled out globally, and she said she believes everyone appreciates a little more leg room in the back.

“Take the Asian market, for example,” Bluhm said. “A passenger sitting in the rear seat is a sign of prestige, sort of like being chauffeured. So that extra leg space really matters.”

Mike Wall, director of Automotive Analysis for IHS Automotive, said that from what he's seen of the 2016 Cruze, he's impressed.

“It is so much beyond the cars that it's replaced, like the Cobalt,” Wall said. “Just a much better car. And it's an improvement over the most recent Cruze model. And that's important because the compact segment is owned by cars like the Toyota Corolla and the Honda Civic.”

Wall said the compact market is traditionally not one in which American manufacturers have dominated. The strongest players have mostly been the Asian OEMs, and, to some degree, the Europeans.

But, Wall said, it's important that vehicles like the Cruze are state of the art.

“If a company is going to have a complete vehicle lineup, it has to have a compact car,” Wall said. “In GM's case, it's the Cruze. And if you want to attract young buyers and keep their loyalty as they

‘move’ up the lineup list, that compact has to be of real quality. And I think GM has achieved that with the Cruze.”

Wall said he also thinks that the Cruze has “some interesting design cues.”

“I've heard from a lot of people that it kind of looks like the Civic or the Chrysler 200,” Wall said. “I can see that, but I like its sleek aerodynamic look. And if you're going to achieve great gas mileage, one of the things that helps is an aerodynamic body.

And since the laws of aerodynamics are the same for everyone, it's no wonder that compacts share similar looks. I am impressed with the gas mileage. GM says the car will get 40 mpg. I remember when a car getting 30 mpg was a big deal. I guess what they say is true – 40 is the new 30.”

Right now, Wall said, the Cruze is facing strong competition from not only other compacts, but from crossovers.

“Externally, the Cruze is com-

peting against cars like the Civic and the other compacts out there, and internally, the Cruze faces GM's other CUVs,” Wall said. “But I really think GM did a good job with the Cruze.”

Wall said that he didn't expect GM to stumble with the new Cruze, and the company has really developed a good handle on the styling of the Cruze.

“I think they've really found a good niche from the design perspective, and they've really done well with technology,” he said.

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Car Thieves Beware! OnStar is On Duty

Things just got a little more difficult for car thieves. Chevrolet has created a new OnStar service called Theft Alarm Notification.

This is an enhancement to the existing Stolen Vehicle Assistance service allowing OnStar subscribers to receive a real-time alert when the vehicle's alarm sounds. The service will be available to eligible subscribers later this summer.

The Theft Alarm Notification feature is another enhancement to OnStar's existing security features, which include Remote Ignition Block and Stolen Vehicle Slowdown. With Theft Alarm Notification, OnStar subscribers can opt in to receive an alert through text, email or phone if a theft attempt triggers their vehi-

cle's alarm system and the alarm sounds.

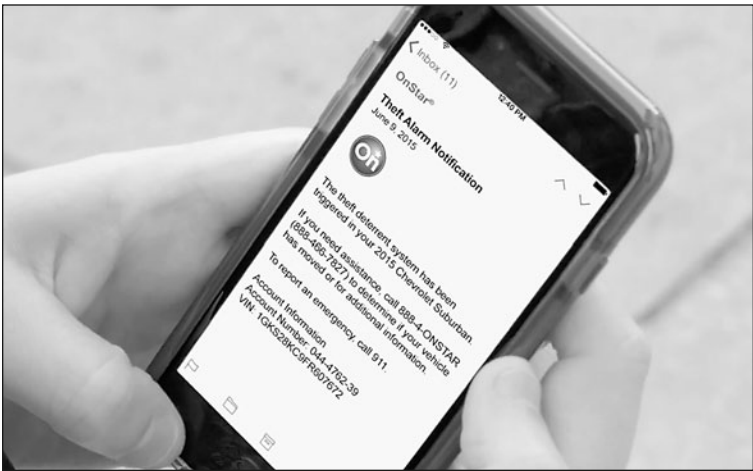
"Prompt response and quick awareness of theft situations give customers a greater chance to recover stolen property," said Sandor Pizar, director of Chevrolet Truck Marketing. "By leveraging the connection that OnStar provides, Chevrolet owners can remain in contact with their vehicle, even when it is out of sight."

If a properly equipped Chevrolet is stolen, OnStar advisors will work with local authorities and use GPS technology to pinpoint the vehicle's location. In certain models, if the conditions are safe, advisors can send a signal to slow down the vehicle, aiding police officers in its recovery and preventing a potential high-speed chase.

This new app is just part of the larger theft protection that OnStar provides its subscribers, said GM spokeswoman Deana Alicea.

Other features available on Chevrolet's full-size Tahoe and Suburban LT and LTZ SUVs include glass breakage sensors, interior motion sensors and an inclination/tilt sensor. Each sound an alarm if the vehicle is lifted off the ground, a break-in is attempted, or if motion is detected within the vehicle when the alarm is armed.

The Theft Alarm Notification feature is included within OnStar's Stolen Vehicle Assistance service and is available to subscribers with the Security or Guidance package and a compatible vehicle.



OnStar can now warn subscribers of vehicle thefts as they happen.

Most 2014 model year and newer Chevrolet vehicles are equipped to offer Theft Alarm Notification.

Subscribers can confirm if their vehicle is compatible here or by speaking with an OnStar advisor.

"OnStar offers a lot of services that basically take thieves out of the equation," Alicea said.

"For example, we have a program that can slow a car down by 10 mph increments, which really helps in police chases.

"If a car is stolen, there are ways OnStar can track the vehi-

cle so that police can recover it quickly.

"It's up to customers how they want to be notified," Alicea said. "Once they get a message, they can take the appropriate steps to contact the police.

"But we urge people not to run to their cars to try to confront a thief. That can be dangerous."

The Theft Alarm Vehicle Assistance service comes at no extra cost to OnStar subscribers who use either the Guidance or Security packages, Alicea said.

"That really helps a customer get their vehicles back quickly,"

OnStar Goes to Market in Europe with Opel, Vauxhall

GM's OnStar service is coming to Europe. Starting in the fall, buyers of Opels and Vauxhall vehicles in Europe will have the option of subscribing to OnStar services, said GM spokeswoman Deana Alicea.

While OnStar first made its debut in the United States 19 years ago, Alicea said, infrastructure issues prevented the service from being offered in Europe until now.

"We will be launching OnStar in 13 countries and it will be available in seven different languages," Alicea said. "When OnStar was first launched in the

U.S., GM worked with several different wireless service providers such as Verizon and that made OnStar very influential in helping launch nationwide networks."

The Europe of today is very similar to the U.S. in the 1990s, Alicea said. There are a lot of networks, but they don't go everywhere. GM has worked hard to help connect the networks so that a Vauxhall driver that purchases a car in Great Britain can drive that vehicle to Germany without losing service.

"What's great about OnStar in Europe," Alicea said, "is that the service travels with the car. So that British Vauxhall owner who goes to Germany doesn't have to worry about roaming charges."

Vauxhall previewed OnStar at the Geneva Motor Show in March, showcasing its comprehensive package, which includes a high-speed 4G LTE mobile network, emergency response notification and stolen-vehicle tracker, Alicea said.

Opel and Vauxhall OnStar will be offered on selected vehicles starting in the fall of 2015.

Globally, OnStar is the leading provider of connected safety and security solutions, value-added mobility services and advanced information technology in the automobile industry, Alicea said. It connects around seven million customers in the United States, Canada, China and Mexico with features including 4G LTE connection, emergency services and smartphone remote control.

Vauxhall/Opel OnStar will be available in the UK from launch, as well as 13 other markets across Europe, including Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. The European service center will be in Luton, Bedfordshire, England.

"With OnStar, Vauxhall is bringing the latest connectivity technology to a wider audience," said Tim Tozer, Vauxhall's chairman and managing director. "OnStar will make driving safer as well as offering new innovations in infotainment and telematics. And best of all, the system will be free to customers for the first year of ownership."

"OnStar is a staple of people's motoring lives in North America, China and Mexico and is now taken for granted by those who own GM products," said Jon Hyde, director, GM Global Expansion.

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2015 Concours d'Elegance Set for July 24-26

Bruce Meyer, the quintessential "car guy," was named Enthusiast of the Year by the Concours d'Elegance of America at St. John's in Michigan.

Meyer will be honored at the 37th Concours d'Elegance of America at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, July 24-26.

The event's board members are recognizing Meyer for his decades of automotive enthusiasm, which include being a "founding father" of the Petersen Automotive Museum, said Petersen Automotive Museum spokesman Tom Morr.

Meyer served as the Petersen's first board chairman and is currently vice chairman. Meyer also sits on the boards of the Mullin Automotive Museum and Nethercutt Collection and is on the steering committees at the LeMay Museum and Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

"If the dictionary had an entry for 'car guy,' Bruce Meyer's picture would be next to the definition," said Concours chairman Larry Moss.

"Bruce is one of the car hobby's premier goodwill ambassadors. Few have done more to raise the profile of car-collecting over the years than Bruce Meyer.

"The Concours d'Elegance of America has a long history of celebrating some of the most iconic automobiles ever produced. Bruce certainly represents that same storied history through his passion for all things automotive."

"This is truly a special honor for me to be recognized by those in the car capital of world," said Meyer "... and the Concours d'Elegance of America is run by people who understand the im-

portance of our country's automotive heritage. "I'm looking forward to celebrating with my friends in Michigan."

The Concours d'Elegance has its roots in 17th century France, when the aristocracy would parade their horse-drawn carriages through the parks of Paris as a way of showing off to their neighbors, said 2015 Concours d'Elegance executive director Diane Flis-Schneider.

With the advent of the automobile, Concours d'Elegance events evolved into competitions between automobile manufacturers, custom coachbuilders, and owners, whose vehicles were judged on the beauty of their design.

The Concours d'Elegance of America at St. John's continues this tradition of exhibiting prestigious collector cars and also offers an automotive art exhibition, a vintage car auction, Mode du Concours and many other social events, Flis-Schneider said.

For its first 32 years, the Concours d'Elegance of America was held at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall, the historic home of Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of automotive pioneer John Dodge.

"In 2011, this world-class event moved to the beautiful grounds of the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth," said Flis-Schneider.

"In keeping with our tradition of showcasing classic, rare and magnificent automobiles, the car selection committee will again invite a unique collection of vehicles to be displayed for the 2015 Concours d'Elegance."

For more information on daily events and prices, call 248-643-8645 or visit the Website concoursusa.org.

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ZF TRW Shows World Its New Video Camera

ZF TRW, a Livonia-based division of ZF Friedrichshafen AG, on July 1 introduced its third-generation video camera, the S-Cam 3, and is starting production for the first time across four major global vehicle platforms.

The camera is launching on a number of compact C and D segment sedan and crossover vehicles in Europe, North America and Asia through the end of 2015, said ZF TRW spokesman John Wilkerson. It has six times the processing power of older-generation cameras. The technology offers functions including traffic light detection, large animal and general object detection, and automatic night emergency braking for pedestrians.

Andy Whydell, director, product planning at ZF TRW, said the S-Cam 3 marks a milestone in making active safety technology accessible to the mass market. Cameras are widely recognized for their safety benefits, and the S-Cam3 is now ASIL-B rated for improved functional safety performance. Now in its third generation, it is a highly sophisticated, proven technology that can enable important safety decisions and provide a strong base platform for active safety systems when combined with other sensors and actuators.

Wilkerson said the fourth-generation S-Cam 4 family, which will feature Mobileye's EyeQ4 chip, is set to launch in 2018 and is designed to meet the requirements of automated driving functions. There is a single-lens, mono-camera version and a premium three-lens version that adds a telephoto lens for improved long-distance sensing, and a fish-eye lens for improved short-range sensing.



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Audis, BMWs, Subarus Burn More Than Just Midnight Oil

DETROIT (AP) – Newer cars aren't supposed to burn oil, but *Consumer Reports* magazine found that some engines – mainly from Audi, BMW and Subaru – force their owners to add a quart as often as once a month.

In the magazine's annual survey of car owners, significant numbers reported what the magazine considered to be excessive oil consumption.

Consumer Reports focused on 2010 to 2014 models and called on automakers to make repairs under the powertrain warranty or to extend warranties.

"The companies should be willing to step up and take responsibility for their products," said Mark Rechtin, the magazine's cars content team leader.

Owners of newer cars, he said, shouldn't have to carry oil around and worry about adding it. Most cars, he said, have dashboard lights warning drivers if their oil gets too low. But failing to pay attention to that light eventually can cause engine damage.

The magazine's survey didn't find any link between oil consumption and other engine problems, but it found that cars that burn oil early consume more as they age.

It's normal for cars to burn a little oil as they age toward 100,000 miles, the magazine said in its August issue. But for a late-model car to burn a quart or more between changes is not acceptable, Rechtin said.

The magazine focused on survey data from 498,000 owners of 2010 to 2014 models, finding that 98 percent did not have to add oil between changes. But even if the problem happens to only 2 percent of owners, that equals

1.5 million cars from the five model years, Rechtin said.

Several engines from the three manufacturers were the main offenders, according to the magazine, including Audi's 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder and 3.0-liter V6; BMW's 4.8-liter V8 and 4.4-liter twin-turbo V8; and Subaru's 3.6-liter six-cylinder and 2.0- and 2.5-liter four-cylinder engines. The Subarus burned less oil than the others.

Affected models include Audi's A3, A4, A5, A6 and Q5; BMW's 5, 6, and 7 Series and X5; and the Subaru Outback, Legacy, Forester and Impreza.

The magazine says that standards for certain Audi and BMW cars say that it's reasonable to burn a quart of oil every 600 to 700 miles. Subaru considers one quart burned for every 1,000 to 1,200 miles to be acceptable, *Consumer Reports* said.

Audi spokesman Bradley Stertz said a class action lawsuit against Audi over oil consumption by the 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engines is close to being settled without the company admitting liability or wrongdoing.

The settlement affects 2009 A4, 2010 A4 and A5, and 2011 A4, A5 and Q5 models. With the other models, Audi hasn't been able to identify an abnormal number of oil consumption complaints on the other models, he said.

Subaru spokesman Michael McHale said oil consumption can vary depending on how a vehicle is used.

The vast majority of Subarus, he said, performed within specifications, and the company's vehicles have improved from 2010 through the current models.

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2016 Malibu in Weight Reduction Program

Lose a pound here and a pound there, and soon it adds up to some real weight loss. Just look at the 2016 Chevy Malibu.

Engineers developing the 2016 Chevrolet Malibu put the new midsize sedan on a strength-training program, making it sweat out a pound here and a gram there, in a quest to make it more fuel-efficient, stronger and safer.

The result is a new Malibu that's nearly 300 pounds lighter than the current model – an achievement that not only gives it the segment's lightest base curb weight, but also contributes to an estimated 48 mpg in city driving for the hybrid model and 37 mpg highway for the 1.5L turbo base engine, said Malibu's Chief Engineer Jesse Ortega. A lighter curb weight will also improve ride and handling, he said.

"Imagine you've got a 300-pound lineman riding on the roof of your car and he decides to jump off – you're going to notice a change in performance immediately," said Ortega.

"That's what we've done with the 2016 Malibu, with the mass savings spread throughout the vehicle, providing greater overall balance, a more responsive and agile driving experience and lower fuel consumption.

"The Malibu team was challenged to look for weight savings in every area of the vehicle, no matter how small, because every gram adds up," said Ortega. "The aim was to make Malibu the most mass-efficient car in its class."

Here are five of the most noteworthy mass-saving achievements, according to Ortega:

- Leaner, stronger body structure. More than a third of the 2016 Malibu's mass savings – approximately 120 pounds – comes from its new body structure, which features greater use of



2016 Chevrolet Malibu

high-strength steels, enabling the use of thinner components in some areas, while delivering comparable or better crash performance.

The stronger-yet-lighter structure is also stiffer than the current model, which allowed suspension components to be tuned more precisely. Engineers had less body flex for which to account, contributing to the new Malibu's sharper ride-and-handling reflexes.

Development of the Malibu's structure is the result of extensive computational analysis, which employed sophisticated modeling programs to simulate dozens of design iterations that indicated the most strategic placement for high-strength steel elements such as the pillars and rockers – all while maintaining higher targets for strength, stiffness and crashworthiness.

"The analysis took the guesswork out of the Malibu's development, allowing the chassis to be developed with the just-right level of structural components," said Amir Sewani, structural engineer.

"After the structure was determined, we started looking at all the components that are attached to it, evaluating where they could be optimized for lower weight."

They came up with these areas:

- Greater use of aluminum. Light and strong, the incorporation of more aluminum in the 2016 Malibu contributes significantly to its lower weight.

Examples include an aluminum hood that is 5.6 pounds lighter than the current model's aluminum hood, and aluminum suspension knuckles and chassis components, as well as lighter mounts.

An additional benefit of the aluminum suspension compo-

nents is reduced unsprung mass, which contributes to the Malibu's responsiveness, said Sewani.

- Streamlined instrument panel assembly and lighter power accessories. New power window regulators collectively save 4.2 pounds – a 34 percent reduction over the current model, while another 2.2 pounds was saved by reducing the complexity of components within the instrument panel. That included simplified construction with more integrated parts – and fewer components in the assembly.

Even the center console has a streamlined, one-piece structural shell that is 1.75 pounds lighter than the current model.

- Lighter leather seats and other soft materials. The Malibu's available leather seats are collectively 40.6 pounds lighter than the current model.

Additionally, about 1.5 pounds was saved with new trunk liner material and another 1.1 pounds was shaved with new, proprietary interior carpet material that also is more durable than the current model's.

- A lighter engine. The 2016 Malibu's all-new, standard 1.5L turbo engine is 86 pounds lighter than the current model's standard 2.5L engine, while delivering comparable performance. Its lighter weight also enhances the Malibu's front-to-rear weight balance – another contributor of the car's more responsive driving experience, said Sewani.

The 2016 Malibu goes on sale in the fourth quarter of 2015. It will be offered in L, LS, LT and Premier trims, as well as a Hybrid model, which leverages Chevrolet Volt technology to offer segment-best estimated efficiency of 48 mpg city, 45 mpg highway and 47 mpg combined Sewani said.

Local Students Win Skills Award

Students from Sterling Heights did their school proud at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Industry leaders representing more than 600 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions recognized the students for demonstrating excellence in 100 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions, such as robotics, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking. All competitions are designed, run and judged by industry using industry standards, said event spokeswoman Karen Kitzel.

Team K – consisting of Zachary Thuemmel, Kyle Macciomei – from The Utica Center for Science & Industry in Sterling Heights, was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Digital Cinema Production, Kitzel said.

Top student winners received gold, silver and bronze medallions. Many also received prizes such as tools of their trade or scholarships to further their careers and education, Kitzel said. The SkillsUSA Championships is for high school and college-level students who are members of the 360,000-member SkillsUSA organization.

"More than 6,000 students from every state in the nation came to compete in the SkillsUSA

Championships this week," said SkillsUSA executive director Tim Lawrence. "This is the SkillsUSA partnership at its best.

"Students, instructors and industry representatives are working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce and every student excels. These students prove that career and technical education expands opportunities."

Lawrence said that according to the U.S. Department of Education, students who take three or more career and technical education (CTE) programs in high school are more likely to attend college and stay there to graduate.

In fact, Lawrence said, 79 percent of CTE concentrators enrolled in post-secondary education within two years of high school graduation. And, students in CTE programs have a higher-than-average high school graduation rate. Research has shown the average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 90 percent, compared with an average national freshman graduation rate of 80 percent.

Support of the Skills-USA Championships is valued at over \$36 million in donated time, equipment, cash and material, Kitzel said.

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Chrysler, Ford Sales Up As GM Fleet Drops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ford brand SUV sales were up 10 percent year over year, producing the best June sales results since 2002 – with 64,885 vehicles sold.

Sales of the new Explorer are off to a fast start, with a total of 20,377 sold, an increase of 30 percent versus a year ago. Sales of the new Edge increased 30 percent in June versus last year, with 12,587 vehicles sold. Edge continues to turn quickly on dealer lots – at just 15 days – while the new Explorer is turning in just seven days.

Ford van sales totaling 21,419 vehicles represent a 31 percent increase relative to last year, for the best June results since 1999. During the first half of the year, van sales totaled 109,783 vehicles – a 26 percent increase and the best first-half van sales performance since 1988. The new Transit, with sales of 12,134 vans last month, is driving Ford's segment growth, with its strongest-ever sales month.

Mustang sales were up 54 percent, with 11,719 cars sold, representing Mustang's best June performance since 2007. Mustang sales are particularly strong in America's largest sports car region, Southern California, where retail sales are up 157 percent in June.

Lincoln retail sales increased 20 percent versus a year ago, providing the premium brand with its best June results since 2007. Lincoln MKC continues to build momentum, along with Navigator, which posted a 39 percent sales increase for June. New Lincoln MKX sales started late last month.

GM enjoyed strong retail sales in June, especially with its trucks, but a reduction in fleet sales resulted in GM's overall sales declining by 3 percent.

GM increased its sales to commercial customers, and state and local government fleets, as well. Rental deliveries, which tend to be less profitable than retail sales, were down 45 percent as a result of GM's previously announced plan.

Total fleet sales in June were down 29 percent year over year, or 21,366 units.

But on the more profitable retail side of sales, Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac dealers in the United States delivered 259,353 vehicles in June 2015. Retail deliveries climbed 7 percent year over year, and they were up more than the industry for the third month in a row.

The drivers were stronger Cadillac sales, a 12 percent gain at GMC and a 9 percent increase at Chevrolet. Together, they helped make the month General Motors' best June for retail deliv-

eries since 2007 and its best June for retail market share since 2011.

The Acadia was up 24 percent for its best June ever. Sierra was up 13 percent and Buick Encore deliveries were up 22 percent.

"We just wrapped up the U.S. auto industry's best six months in a decade, driven by strong demand for pickups and crossovers," said Kurt McNeil, GM's U.S. vice president of Sales Operations.

"People feel good about their jobs and the direction the economy as a whole is taking, so the second half of the year should be strong, too, and that's especially good news for Chevrolet and GMC, brands that have very broad truck and crossover portfolios."

Industry sales continue to exceed expectations. GM estimates

that the seasonally adjusted annual selling rate (SAAR) for light vehicles in June was 17.3 million units.

During the first half of 2015, GM gained retail market share in both the crossover and truck segments, according to J.D. Power PIN estimates.

GM's crossover share is 12.6 percent, up 0.4 percentage points compared with a year ago. GM's truck, van and SUV share is 38.9 percent, up 2.1 percentage points.

Most of the truck market share gain comes from the ongoing success of the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra full-size pickups, which were redesigned for the 2014 model year.

Since calendar year 2013, GM's retail share of the segment has grown 0.9 percentage points to 38 percent, according to PIN.

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Bain Capital Has Finalized Purchase Of TI Automotive

Bain Capital completed its acquisition June 30 of Auburn Hills-based TI Automotive, a provider of automotive fluid storage, carrying and delivery systems for passenger cars and light trucks, said TI Automotive spokesman Frank Buscemi.

Bain Capital is a global private investment firm, Buscemi said. Financial terms of the private transaction, which was previously announced on Jan. 27, were not disclosed.

TI Automotive has facilities in 29 countries with diversified sales in every key automotive market, Buscemi said. The company's focus on vehicle fluid management include Fluid Carrying Systems, Tank Systems, Pump and Module Systems, HVAC Fluid Systems and Powertrain Components.

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