Detroit Auto Scene®

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JULY 27, 2015

FCA's SHAP Earns Environmental Award

manufacturing facilities stand among an elite group of automotive facilities as recipients of the prestigious LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Green Building System certification.

For meeting the highest environmental standards, LEED designations were given to the Fiat Chrysler Sterling Heights Assembly Plant (SHAP) body shop and the ZF Axle Drives Marysville plant, operated in partnership with ZF Friedrichshafen AG.

The SHAP body shop and Marysville Axle Plant were designed and constructed to be leaders in sustainability and in the preservation of the environment," said Brian Harlow, vice president - Manufacturing, FCA North America.

"From the start, this was the primary objective of both designs. Our goal was to achieve the highest LEED rating possible based on the challenges of each project and building site."

Fiat Chrysler invested \$165 million in the newly-constructed SHAP body shop, Tinson said. When it was finished, it had one million square feet of space on the site of the existing assembly plant to produce the 2015 Chrysler 200.

It includes 960,000 square feet of manufacturing space, a 33,000

office space, and mechanical and electrical equipment rooms.

The materials used in the construction of the body shop contained about 41 percent recycled content, which reduced the environmental impact from extracting and processing virgin materi-

Additionally, 57 percent of the materials was sourced and manufactured within a 500-mile radius of the project site, which not only promotes the use of local resources, but also reduces the environmental impact from transportation.

To help promote sustainable

Two Michigan Fiat Chrysler square-foot Metrology Lab, plus forestry, 95 percent of the wood materials on site was certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Nearly 99 percent of the waste generated during construction about 43,920 tons - was recycled and diverted from landfills. This included reusing the asphalt pavement from existing roadways and parking areas as building base materials by crushing and pulverizing them on site.

Collection areas were subsequently established for recycling items such as paper, corrugated boxes, glass, plastics, light bulbs,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



SHAP's body shop



2016 Encore **Sport Touring**

Buick Encore to Receive New Pep with 1.4L Engine in Fall

Sometimes a drive just wants a balance performance and effilittle more oomph in the engine without sacrificing economy.

That's where the 2016 Buick Encore Sport Touring comes in. Buick says this vehicle is a more spirited take on the brand's popular crossover, said GM spokeswoman Lauren Indiveri. It is distinguished by unique exterior cues and driven by an exclusive, all-new 1.4L turbocharged engine featuring direct injection and stop/start technology.

The exterior features include a winged rear spoiler, 18-inch aluminum premium-finish wheels and body-color door handles. while the technologically advanced 1.4L turbo is part of a new, global family of small, power-dense engines developed to

ciency with exceptional refinement, said Lauren Indiveri.

"A lot of our customers were looking for a little more pep from the engine without having to sacrifice mileage," Indiveri said. "The EPA's numbers haven't officially come out yet, but they should be very close to the standard Buick Encore. People can order the vehicle by the end of summer and pick one up by the end of the fall."

The Encore is based on GM's Gamma II platform, which was developed about a decade ago in Pontiac and Ruesselsheim Germany, Indiveri said. Among the vehicles that use this worldwide

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



2015 Dodge Charger



2015 Chevrolet Sonic



2015 Ford Expedition

Safety Technology is the Key in J.D. Power APEAL Study

Detroit automakers scored well in the latest J.D. Power APEAL study.

According to the J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout (APEAL) Study released on July 22, the safety-related technologies that manufacturers are increasingly equipping their new vehicles with are making those vehicles more appealing to their owners.

The APEAL Study, now in its 20th year, is an industry benchmark for new-vehicle appeal, examining how gratifying a new vehicle is to own and drive, said them.

J.D. Power spokesman Tews. Owners evaluate their vehicle across 77 attributes, which combine into an overall APEAL Index score that is measured on a 1,000-point scale. The overall APEAL score has increased by 4 points year over year to 798 in

The study finds that some safety features can contribute to a significant boost in APEAL scores. For example, the overall score among owners of vehicles with blind-spot monitoring and warning systems is 38 points higher than among those without

"Unlike other technologies, such as voice recognition, that can be challenging to operate, most safety features provide information in a more intuitive way, giving owners a greater sense of security," said Renee Stephens, vice president of U.S. automotive quality at J.D. Power. "Not only are models increasingly offering systems that improve safety and visibility, but owners are also using them on a regular basis. This can go a long way toward generating positive feelings about their vehicle overall."

He said that the GM won with

- Colorado mid-size pickup;
- Corvette mid-size premium sporty car;
- GMC Sierra large heavy duty pickup;
- Sonic small car.
- Ford won with the:
- C-Max compact MPV; Expedition - large SUV;
- F-150 large light duty pick-
- Fiat Chrysler won with:
- Fiat 500 city car;
- Challenger mid-size sporty
- Charger large car.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Ford Creates New Lighting System with Advanced Tech

to light a candle than curse the darkness. To that end, Ford is building a better vehicle lighting system because driving at night, particularly on unlit roads, can be a nerve-wracking experience.

Ford's new lighting technologies will enable drivers to more easily identify potential hazards, including pedestrians, cyclists and animals, said Ford spokes-

As the saying goes, it's better woman Monika Wagener.

Ford's Camera-Based vanced Front Lighting System can widen the beam at junctions and roundabouts to better illuminate hazards that are not in the direction of travel. New Spot Lighting technology helps draw the driver's attention to pedestrians, cyclists and even large ani-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Ford has developed a Camera-Based Advanced Front Lighting System.

MCC Innovation Fund Names Local Recipients

Five early-stage businesses from Macomb, Oakland and Washtenaw counties will receive a total of \$275,000 in funding in the inaugural round of awards from the Innovation Fund Macomb Community College, Powered by JPMorgan Chase & Co.

The Innovation Fund is a \$2.7 million effort to stimulate economic development and job growth among promising Detroit-area entrepreneurs and next-stage businesses with highgrowth potential.

Funding is provided by Macomb Community College's (MCC) Strategic Fund and JP-Morgan Chase, as part of their \$100 million commitment to Detroit's economic recovery.

It was first announced in September of 2014. At the time of the announcement, MCC president James Jacob said that the school's success is "integrally tied to metro Detroit's success' and that the Innovation Fund represents an important, growyour-own element in the local economic development strategy that also cultivates the interests and skills of MCC students and community residents.

Fund operators began accepting applications for funding in February. Awards of \$25,000 will be distributed to start-up businesses to assist with market introduction and awards up to \$100,000 will be given to advance the progress of emerging companies toward larger-scale equity funding.

The larger awards, which must be matched dollar for dollar by

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Mike Manley

Fiat Chrysler's APAC Region Gets New Leadership

Fiat Chrysler stated on July 22 that John Kett, General Manager of the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles APAC (Asian Pacific) region, is leaving the organization to pursue other interests. On an interim basis, Mike Manley, chief operating officer, APAC Region and president and CEO Jeep Brand, will assume Kett's responsibilities with the assistance of his other executives in the region, to support the China growth strategy.

"China is an important area of growth for our brand and our business and has grown into the number one Jeep market outside of the United States. We appreciate the contributions made by John in that regard and we will continue to deepen our relationship with our joint venture partner, GAC, to support that strategy," said Manley.

The changes are effective immediately, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Gualberto Ranieri.

Auburn Hills Firm Adds New Service

Commercial Contracting Corporation (CCC), a building general contractor and industrial equipment installation company, has added day rigging and machinery moving services operating out of the Auburn Hills office.

CCC is this by adding two new Peterbilt trucks, offering competitive rates, and adding experienced personnel to offer a full, turnkey solution for new and existing clients, said company vice president Michael Hayes.

FCA's TorqueFlite 8-Speed Transmission Hits Milestone

They just keep on rolling at the Chrysler Kokomo Transmission Plant in Indiana.

The one millionth TorqueFlite 845RE eight-speed automatic transmission produced at the plant rolled off the assembly line July 17.

The occasion was marked with a celebratory town hall to recognize the nearly 3,000 hourly employees whose commitment made the milestone possible, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tinson.

"This is a significant accomplishment and one that every Kokomo Transmission Plant employee should be proud of," said Brian Harlow, vice president – Manufacturing, FCA North America. "They have dedicated themselves to producing a high quality, technologically advanced transmission that is, in part, responsible for the success of some of our most popular vehicles.

"And while working to keep up with demand, the team was simultaneously able to reach the first award level of World Class Manufacturing. As the plant marks 60 years of transmission production, I congratulate them on this achievement and am confident that we can count them to build another million."

Powering six vehicles – the Jeep Grand Cherokee, Chrysler 300, Dodge Charger, Dodge Challenger, Dodge Durango, and Ram 1500 – Harlow said the advanced technology transmission is projected to save vehicle owners more than 700 million gallons of

SHAP's Body Shop Earns Top LEED Green Award

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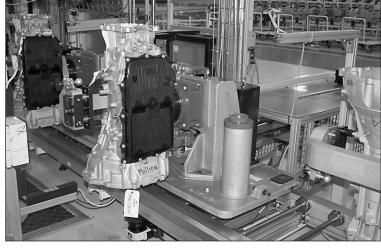
batteries and electronic equipment.

The heat-island effect, the higher-temperature "dome" created over an industrial area by hot air layers forming at building tops, was minimized by utilizing a highly reflective "white roof" and light-colored pavement hardscapes.

The automaker also carefully selected exterior lighting fixtures to reduce power density and nighttime light pollution, said Harlow.

Potable water use for the new building was reduced 27 percent by incorporating water-saving plumbing fixtures, resulting in a savings of more than 114,150 gallons per year – or about what 285 families of four would use in one day.

Through the use of green design and construction techniques, ZF Axle Drives Marysville was able to achieve a 33 percent reduction in its energy use. This number was attained through several methods, including decreasing interior lighting use by 60 percent and increasing overall building insulation in the roofing, walls and windows.



The millionth TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic transmission

fuel, and reduce combined CO2 emissions by more than six million metric tonnes.

In total, Harlow said that Fiat Chrysler, formerly Chrysler Group, has invested nearly \$860 million to launch and expand production of the eight-speed transmission at Kokomo Transmission since 2010:

June 2010: announced \$300 million investment to produce a new, fuel-efficient eight-speed automatic transmission.

- December 2010: confirmed an additional investment of \$85 million.
 - February 2013: invested

Auburn Hills

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\$212 million in its transmissions operations to produce eight- and nine-speeds.

• December 2014: announced a \$216 million investment to increase capacity of the Torque-Flite 845RE eight-speed.

"The TorqueFlite program has had a profound impact on our vehicle lineup and has benefitted our customers," said Jeffrey Lux, Vice President - Transmission Powertrain, FCA North America. "The transmissions deliver superior performance and allow the powertrain to operate at peak efficiency in a broader range of driving conditions."

Depending on the application, a TorqueFlite transmission can account for fuel economy improvements of up to nine percent, compared with a more conventional automatic.

Fully electronic, the Torque-Flite family's software adapts the transmission's shift patterns to match up with driver behavior and driving conditions such as longitudinal and lateral acceleration; grade steepness; temperature; and electronic stability control activation.

An established facility producing nearly 60 years-worth of transmissions, the Kokomo Transmission Plant also assembles four- and six-speed transmissions.

The plant's workforce was formally recognized in December 2014 for its dedication and hard work with a Bronze award in World Class Manufacturing (WCM).

Kokomo Transmission employees demonstrated clear knowhow and competence in the manufacturing methodology, focusing on eliminating waste, increasing productivity, and improving quality and safety in a systematic and organized way. WCM engages the workforce to provide and implement suggestions on how to improve their jobs and facilities.



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"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933" **JULY 27, 2015** PAGE 3

GM's Student Corps Work Beautifying their Schools

Ten GM Student Corps interns who attend Osborn High School are spending their summer cleaning up and remodeling the school, part of an overall makeover in the east side community expected to attract 12,000 volunteers early next

GM spokeswoman Maria Raynal said the GM Student Corps, a paid internship program, is in its third year of providing scores of southeast Michigan high school students with mentoring by General Motors' retirees integrated beautification projects planned and executed by the students in their schools and communities.

As part of the courtyard makeover, Raynal said the Osborn team is building benches, installing solar panels and repairing an existing pond as well as repairing, cleaning, organizing and painting an unmaintained greenhouse. The students are also learning how to grow vegetables, lessons they can apply at home and in their communities.

"The students are very interested in leaving a legacy," said Osborn GM Student Corps team

retiree Deborah Easternhall. "They want to look back on their work and say 'We did that."

From Aug. 3-7, the Osborn team will unite with other GM Student Corps teams for Life Remodeled 2015, a program that each summer focuses on remodeling one Detroit high school and the surrounding community. This year's \$5 million effort by the Detroit-based non-profit is focused on Osborn High, nearby Pulaski Elementary School and 4.5 square miles of the Osborn community. More than 3,000 GM employees have signed up to partic-

Raynal said that in 2014, Life Remodeled oversaw major renovations at Cody High School in northwest Detroit. Volunteers cleaned the school room by room while businesses donated materials and labor for roof repairs, a state-of-the-art medical simulation laboratory, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math lab featuring a \$300,000 industrial robot and a new football field valued at \$1.2 million, allowing the first home games for the Cody Comets in seven seasons.

"I hope Life Remodeled will be



GM Student Corps interns at work at Osborn High School as part of a GM mentoring program.

able to do the same type of transformative things that they did at Cody over at Osborn," said Cody Student Corps lead retiree Dawin Wright.

When the community comes out like that it shows the students and staff that people still

In addition to Osborn and Cody, GM Student Corps schools volunteering in Life Remodeled 2015 include Pontiac High School, Central Collegiate Academy, East Detroit High School, Flint Southwestern Academy, Hamtramck High School, Harper Woods High School, Henry Ford

High School, Madison High School, Melvindale High School, River Rouge High School and Van Dyke Lincoln High School - a total of 130 students, 55 GM retirees and 14 college interns from the University of Detroit Mercy and the University of Michigan-

Buick Encore to Receive New Pep with 1.4L Engine in Fall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

platform is the Chevy Sonic and the Opel Mokka. The Encore is a true world car.

Both the engine and the car itself are built in GM facilities in South Korea.

Direct injection helps it generate an estimated 153 hp and 177 lb-ft of torque, for about 11 percent more horsepower and nearly 20 percent more torque than the Encore's standard engine and a greater feeling of power on demand, particularly at low- and mid-range engine speeds. It's matched with a six-speed automatic transmission.

Stop/start technology contributes to reduced fuel consumption in stop-and-go driving.

It automatically shuts down the engine when the vehicle comes to a stop under certain driving conditions, such as a stoplight.

engine automatically restarts when the driver takes his or her foot off the brake.

"Encore is a driving force behind Buick's expansion and a catalyst for introducing a new generation of customers to the brand," said Duncan Aldred, U.S. vice president of Buick. "The allnew Encore Sport Touring broadens that base, giving customers more choices - along with more performance, more technology and more efficiency."

The 2016 Encore Sport Touring goes on sale this fall. All Encore models offer room for five and up to 48.4 cubic feet of storage space.

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Mayor Mike Duggan Visited Japan

visited Japan on his first international trip as Detroit mayor.

Detroit's Sister Cities relationsays it presented an opportunity businesses to consider further gan and Southwestern Ontario.

DETROIT (AP) - Mike Duggan investment in Detroit. Duggan also spoke of Detroit's recovery following its municipal bankrupt-Duggan made stops in Toyota cy. He was joined by city Group his July 24-28 visit. The trip Executive for Jobs & Economy marks the 55th anniversary of Tom Lewand; and State Department senior advisor Julie Egan. ship with Toyota City. His office Delta Airlines provided airfare. Other expenses were met by the to lay groundwork for Japanese Japan America Society of Michi-





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MCC Innovation Fund Names Winners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the company, may be required to be paid back.

"Entrepreneurs are helping to drive Detroit's economic revival," said Chauncy Lennon, head of Workforce Initiatives, JP-Morgan Chase. "JPMorgan Chase is proud to support these innovative businesses that will support job growth, skills development and innovation in the region for years to come."

The companies funded by the Innovation Fund are required to provide internships or learning experiences for MCC students.

"This first cycle of the Innovation Fund awards attracted a dynamic group of entrepreneurs with a wide range of promising concepts in an engaging and competitive process," said Jacobs.

The five companies awarded funding were selected from a field of 30 qualified applicants. They went through a two-stage process, pitching first to a screening committee, the a selection comittee.

Receiving awards of \$25,000, which are designed to support early-stage companies, are AQUASIGHT (Rochester Hills/ Oakland County); AP Quality Systems (Southfield/ Oakland County); KTISIS (Sterling Heights/ Macomb County).

Receiving awards of \$100,000, designed to advance the progress of emerging companies toward larger-scale funding, are:

• MyFab5 (Ann Arbor/ Washtenaw County); TurtleCell (Ann Arbor/ Washtenaw County).

The second application cycle for the Innovation Fund will close on July 31. Information about the application process and the upcoming information session at Bizdom on July 29 is available at www.macomb.edu/cie.

Ford Creates New Lighting System With Advanced Tech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mals in the vehicle's path or even just off the road, Wagener said.

"Many people who drive at night have had to quickly react to someone or something suddenly appearing in the road – as if from nowhere. Ford's Camera-Based Advanced Front Lighting System and Spot Lighting help ensure the driver is quickly alerted to people or animals that could present a danger," said Ken Washington, vice president, Ford Research and Advanced Engineering.

Camera-Based Advanced Front Lighting System builds upon Ford's Adaptive Front Lighting System and Traffic Sign Recognition, which are already available in Ford vehicles, to provide drivers with improved visibility at roundabouts, stop, and give way or yield signs.

The system also uses GPS information to better illuminate bends and dips on a chosen route. Where GPS information is not available the technology uses a forward-facing video camera mounted in the rear-view mirror base to detect lane markings and predict the road's curvature, using the information to illuminate the area more effectively.

In a further evolutionary step, in those instances, the camera stores the information in the navigation system. When next the driver uses the same road again, the headlights adapt to the course of the road automatically to better light the way, Washington said.

Camera-Based Advanced Front Lighting System was developed at Ford's European Research and Innovation Centre in Aachen, Germany, and Ford expects the technology to be available for customers in the near term, Washington said.

Spot Lighting - currently in the pre-development phase with Ford engineers in Aachen - uses an infra-red camera in the front grille to simultaneously locate and track up to eight people and bigger animals, including larger dogs, at a range of up to 120 me-

The system can spotlight two hazards for the driver with a spot and a stripe on the road surface, illuminated by two special LED lamps next to the fog lights.

The highlighted objects are displayed on the screen inside the automobile, marked in a red or yellow frame, according to the proximity of the object as well as

the level of danger presented.

"Camera-Based Front Lighting can help make it easier for the driver to travel at night in unfamiliar surroundings, and to more easily see unexpected hazards. At roundabouts, for example, our system helps the driver to clearly see the exits and check if cyclists and pedestrians are crossing the road," said Michael Koherr, research engineer, Lighting Systems, Ford of Europe. "Spot Lighting makes potential hazards in the road ahead more easily visible to the driver whether that is a pedestrian, a cyclist, or even a large animal.'

Road safety reports, Koherr said, show that on unlit roads there is a significantly increased likelihood of accidents, and that such accidents could involve personal injuries, or fatalities.* Ford is a leading innovator in lighting technology. Systems currently available on Ford vehicles include:

• Dynamic LED Headlights which combines full-LED headlamps offering daylight-mimicking light clarity with Ford's Adaptive Front Lighting System.

The system then adjusts the headlight beam angle and intensity to match the driving environment.

It can choose one of seven settings according to vehicle speed, ambient light conditions, steering angle, distance to the vehicle in front and windscreen wiper activation.

- Glare-Free Highbeam technology for the adaptive LED headlamps. The system detects vehicles ahead and fades out light that could dazzle oncoming drivers, while retaining maximum illumination for other ar-
- Auto High Beam Control detects oncoming vehicles and automatically switches to dipped beam, before switching back to high beam once it detects the vehicle has passed.

Ford's European Sales Witnessing Strong Recovery

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) – Ford's European business is seeing stronger demand for its cars and SUVs as the continent's auto market continues to recover.

Ford of Europe said July 14 sales rose 16 percent in June compared to a year ago, to 126,800.

Sales rose 55 percent for the new version of the Mondeo, sold as the Fusion in the U.S. The company also saw stronger demand for its Kuga and EcoSport SUVs, a segment that has seen good growth.

Sales for the first six months of the year rose 10.5 percent to 668,800 vehicles in Ford's 20 traditional European markets.

Europe marketing chief Roelant de Waard credited the strength of the company's model line as well as a rebound in economies that suffered most during Europe's financial crisis, such as Italy, Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

"They're now coming back," he said, "not exactly to previous level, but very healthy increases in the range of 20 percent, and our share went up, which is very much a product story.'

De Waard told The Associated Press that the company was seeing more customers choosing higher-priced versions of a given model, ranging from 50 percent taking the most expensive trim package on the compact Focus to 80 percent for the Kuga: "You can see customers spending more money, and, in this case in particular, buying richer vehi-





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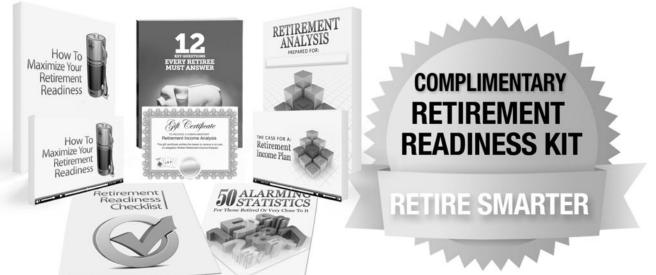
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GM Tech Center Holds Annual Employee Car Show and Welcomed All

by Jim Stickford

If nothing else, the $2015\ GM$ Tech Center UAW Local 160 Employee Car Show gave some new GM employees the chance to get a close-up view of some old and classic GM cars.

The car show was held at the Tech Center in Warren on July 22, and, said event co-chair Bill Duncan, they couldn't have asked for better weather.

The show is put on thanks to the efforts of volunteer salary employees out of the Tech Center and hourly employees belonging to UAW Local 160.

"I've got to say that the show went great," Duncan said. "I also saw an old friend, Jim Spaulding, who works at GM Powertrain here today. I haven't seen him in a few years and it's been great having the chance to catch up with him.'

Mike Queen, the UAW co-chair of the show, said there was some concern that holding the event in a new location off of Mound instead of the old location off of Van Dyke might have hurt attendance. But that wasn't the case.

We had 760 vehicles pre-registered," Queen said. "But on the morning of the show we had so many people sign up with cars that a total of about 1,100 vehicles were entered into the show."

Duncan recently retired from GM and after this year will be handing off the reins of the show to others.

Jim Suzak, superintendent of the GM Design Center, was cochair of the show along with Duncan, and will chair the event next

"Not only am I co-chair," Suzak said, "but this is my first year being involved with the show at all. I've worked at GM for 29 years, but I was asked to get involved this year and jumped at the chance.'

Both Suzak and Queen said that this year's show location has proven to be popular with the crowd.

"A number of people have come up to me and said they love this location," Queen said. "We are looking at the next couple of years and we might consider keeping the show here.'

Duncan said that one of the things he loves about the show is that it gives newer GM employees the opportunity to view some classic GM product and get to know their company's her-

And that's certainly the case with Lance Pannebecker, a seat designer at GM. He's worked at the company for three years. He and a fellow seat designer - Jake Doran, an employee at GM for three months - said they particularly enjoyed looking at the 1986 black Buick Grand National owned by Bill Kimberly.

was GM's muscle car of the 1980s," Pannebecker said.

"It was sort of a comeback for turned away from muscle cars in the 1970s. My grandfather Earl



A new location for the GM Tech Center employee car show didn't stop current and former employees from bringing their classics to the event.

Pannebecker has always said that if he had the cash to get a muscle car, he'd get a Grand National.'

For Matt Scrase, Performance Variant manager, David Leone, executive chief engineer for Performance Vehicles and Cory Taulbert, assistant Performance Variant manager, the chance to look at Carolyn Eicker's 1969 Camaro gave them the opportunity to see the lineage of the modern Camaro, a vehicle all three have worked on.

"I love the lines of this classic 1969 Camaro," Leone said. "This car has character and we've tried to keep this character with the new Camaros."

"What I love particularly about the 1969 Camaro was that it was built to be a performance vehicle, unlike a lot of muscle cars that I won't name that were 'ordinary' cars and turned into muscle cars later in the design process," said Taulbert.

Not all cars of the past have to be muscle cars to attract the eye of current GM employees. Charles Fan and Mark Smith are staff researchers at the Tech Cen-

They were looking at a 1963 Chevrolet station wagon.

"I like this car because it reminds me of my first car, which was a 1967 Caprice station wag-on," Fan said. "Of course I had that car in 1987, but even though it was old, it was still my first car "I admire this car because it and I have a lot of fond memo-

For Smith, the 1963 Chevy station wagon reminds him of travmuscle cars in the 1980s after GM eling with him family on long journeys as a child.

"When I was a boy, we had a gi-

ant station wagon," Smith said. "We took it on family trips and seeing a vehicle like this 1963 Chevy really brings it back. But I am also looking at the proportions of these old vehicles. This station wagon has huge roof panels, large doors and a unique mirror set up.

"They are very interesting to look at, especially when you

For Taryn Dial, a GM interior designer, it was the exterior of the 1963 convertible Corvette that caught her eye.

"This vehicle's interior doesn't really do much for me," Dial said. "I like the later Corvettes' interiors better. But as someone who loves interiors, sometimes I see

compare them to the cars of to- an exterior that just sweeps you off your feet. And this 1963 Corvette has such an exterior. What I like about it is that is represents such a bold departure from previous Corvette designs. It shows such a willingness to take a risk.

"And it's that attitude that has kept the Corvette revelant for all





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EPA Says Local Site Safe

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declared that the Burrows Sanitation Superfund site in Hartford Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, has been officially removed from the Agency's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned haz-

ardous waste sites in the nation. "After years of cleanup and monitoring by EPA and the State of Michigan, the Burrows site no longer poses a danger to the Hartford community and can now be safely redeveloped and returned to productive use," said Region 5 Administrator Susan Hedman. "For 35 years, EPA's Superfund program has been protecting public health by investigating and cleaning up contaminated land, groundwater and sediment at sites across the country.

The 10-acre Burrows site was used to dispose of plating sludge, waste coolant and oil. The site was added to the National Priorities List in 1984. In 1989, EPA and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources completed the removal of over 300 cubic yards of contaminated surface soil and sediment from the site. A groundwater cleanup system was then installed. Ongoing monitoring since then shows that the cleanup was effective.

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"The week of the Mopar Mile-High NHRA Nationals is the perfect occasion to begin taking orders for the new Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak," said Pietro Gorlier, President and CEO -Mopar Brand Service, Parts and Customer Care, FCA. 'Sportsman racers who com-

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gine or a naturally aspirated 426cubic-inch Gen III Hemi engine.

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priate, with a manufacturer's

suggested retail price (MSRP) of

\$99,426 for the naturally aspirat-

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The ordering kickoff was an-

nounced at the Mopar Block Par-

ty in Golden, Colorado, a free fan event held on the eve of the Mopar Mile-High National Hot Rod Association (NHRA Nation-

als) drag race weekend. The three-day event features Sports-

man racers who compete in NHRA sanctioned competition

and for which the newest version of the Mopar brand's mod-

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pete in the NHRA have been winning with our factory-prepped package cars for years. Now, we're supercharging their ranks by opening orders for the new Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak."

Ordering will be available through authorized Dodge dealerships. Additional information on the new Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak is available at www.mopar.com/mopar-drag-

Fiat Chrysler Offers Protection From Hackers

DETROIT (AP) - Fiat Chrysler said July 22 that it has a software fix that will prevent future hacking into the Jeep Cherokee and other vehicles.

The fix is a response to a recent article in Wired magazine about two well-known hackers, Charlie Miller and Chris Valasek, who remotely took control of a Jeep Cherokee through its UConnect system. They were able to change the vehicle's speed and control the brakes, radio, windshield wipers and other features.

The Jeep incident was the latest warning to the auto industry, which is rapidly adding Internetconnected features like WiFi and navigation that are convenient for drivers but make the car more vulnerable to outside attacks. Earlier this year, BMW had to offer a software patch after hackers remotely unlocked the doors of its cars.

FCA says vehicles from the 2013 and 2014 model years with 8.4-inch touchscreen are affected. That includes Ram pickup trucks, the Dodge Durango, the Jeep Grand Cherokee and the Viper. Some 2015 Chrysler 200 sedans are also affected. Owners can download the software from FCA's UConnect Web site and install it on their vehicles. Dealers will install it free. Affected owners will be contacted by mail.

Miller told The Associated Press in an e-mail that he has downloaded the software patch and it appears to fix the issue. But he said other issues remain, including automakers' inability to detect attacks that are in progress. Miller said he and Valasek first told FCA about their research in October and have been in touch with the company several times since then.



Jeff Kober - actor, meditation expert and Buick test driver teacher.

Buick Creates 'Stressless' Day to Test Drive Vehicles

Buying a new car can be stressful. And Buick did something about that, at least for a

dealers on July 22 introduced the 24 Hours of Happiness Test Drive, a daylong test drive experience complemented by sounds, smells and even yoga techniques to help encourage well-being and happiness on the road.

Driving can be stressful, especially during rush hour or for those who get lost, said GM spokeswoman Lauren Indiveri. A recent survey of drivers conducted online by Harris Pollcommissioned by Buick - shows 57 percent are interested in learning how to reduce their stress while driving.

Separately, Indiveri said, a recent AutoTrader.com "Car Buyer of the Future" study found that 88 percent of consumers said they would not buy a car without test driving it first. And a majority of those surveyed said they wanted more convenience and less pressure while test driving.

"From the refined and sculptural design of our vehicles, to the environment of our showrooms, to our award-winning customer service, happiness and a sense of well-being are inherent in everything we do," said Duncan Aldred, U.S. vice president, Buick.

The 24 Hours of Happiness Test Drive content included exclusive videos, podcasts, compressed digital images, and even a recipe for an in-car fragrance designed to make any car journey a happier experience, Indiveri said. The online content is expected to help to engage new customers and complement the dealer-offered 24-hour test drive.

To create the 24 Hours of Happiness Test Drive, Indiveri said Buick brought together some of America's leading experts on happiness and well-being. They used the beauty, calm and refined comfort of Buick vehicles to inspire their specialized content.

The experts include:

- Shawn Achor, author, happiness researcher and CEO of GoodThink Inc.
- Chad Dennis, yoga instructor to the stars.
- Bar Refaeli, Israeli supermodel and yogi.
- Amanda Chantal Bacon, wellness guru and Moon Juice founder.
- · Jeff Kober, actor and meditation coach.
- Irene Neuwirth, jewelry designer and Council of Fashion Designers of America award winner.
- Dr. Dot, masseuse to the

The content includes:

• "The Buick Road to Happiness," a motivational podcast and short film created by Achor with Buick. Intended to be listened to on the road, it is designed to help increase a driver's sense of happiness and well-be-

- "The Buick Body Shop," is a custom yoga video by Dennis, starring supermodel Bar Refaeli.
- "The Buick Atmosphere" is Buick and its participating an in-car aroma created by Bacon and Neuwirth.
 - Jewelry designer, Neuwirth created a unique diffuser for the fragrance featuring wood, crysand Choccachino Buick tals leather.
 - "The Buick Meditation Map" is a podcast and short film by actor and meditation coach, Kober-he calls "the drive zone."
 - "The Buick Pressure Check" is a series of compressed digital images, or GIFs, by Dr. Dot. The techniques are designed to ease tension in the head, ears, jaw, neck and shoulders.

"We believe this innovative content and dealership experience will connect Buick with a heightened sense of well-being and create additional excitement about the brand," Aldred

For more information please visit at buick.com/happiness.

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Safety Technology is the Key In J.D. Power's APEAL Study

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Among the the things learned in the study, Stephens said, was that 36 percent of owners have blind-spot monitoring and warning systems in their vehicle (up 7 percentage points from 2014). And 21 percent have lane-departure warning systems (up 5 percentage points); 46 percent have park assist/backup warning (up 4 percentage points); and 25 percent have collision avoidance/alert systems (up 4 percentage points).

Furthermore, Stephens said, 69 percent of owners who have blind-spot warning systems and 62 percent with park assist systems indicate they use them every time they drive. Only 15 percent of owners say they have had previous experience with blind-spot warning systems, and only 39 percent say their dealer explained the feature to them upon vehicle delivery.

Stephens said according to the J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Tech Choice Study, consumers are willing to spend substantially more on vehicles that include certain safety features. For example, respondents in that study indicate a willingness to pay a market price of \$750, on average, for blindspot detection and prevention systems.

While premium brands historically perform significantly higher than non-premium brands in the APEAL Index, Stephens said study findings show that the gap between the two in 2015 is the smallest it's been in the past 10 years, narrowing by 16 percent since 2006. The average APEAL Index score in the non-premium segment (790) has improved by 5 points from 2014, while the average score in the premium segment (841) has improved by only 1 point.

"We're proud to receive three APEAL awards in back-to-back vears as customers continue to recognize that we're delivering exciting and appealing vehicles which meet their needs," said Matt Liddane, vice president -Quality, FCA - North America. "An owner's positive experience with our vehicles, whether that's with a Dodge Challenger or a Fiat 500, is a true testament to our steadfast commitment to the highest level of quality across our vehicle lineup.'

GM spokesman Monte Doran said that after reviewing the J.D. Power list, two things struck

"First, the goal of any car maker is to develop products that people fall in love with," Doran said. "We're seeing that with GM's portfolio. In the case of the Corvette, it's a car that people buy out of passion and not for rational reasons. To see it displace Porsche in its segment is a sign that the Corvette is doing its job - bring people to GM and to the Chevy brand and have them fall in love with the car and the carmaker'

In a statement to the media, Ford officials noted that the allnew 2015 Ford F-150 won the large light duty pickup award for the second consecutive year. In addition, Ford Expedition ranked highest in the large SUV segment and the C-MAX received the Compact Multi-Purpose Vehicle Award.

With three segment awards and an overall brand score of 798, Ford improved by 9 points over last year in the annual study and now equals the industry av-





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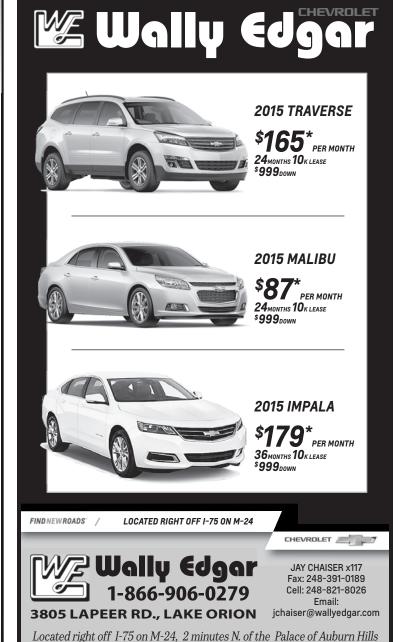
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GM's \$2.8B Pretax Profit Sets 2Q Record

DETROIT (AP) - Big profits from trucks and SUVs helped General Motors overcome a sales slowdown in China, economic problems in Venezuela and payments to ignition switch crash victims as the automaker's second-quarter net income rose sixfold to nearly \$1.12 billion.

The Detroit company made 67 cents per share from April through June compared with 11 cents a year ago. The year-earlier quarter included \$1.5 billion in expenses for a string of safety recalls. GM's \$2.8 billion pretax profit in North America was a second-quarter record.

The strong profits helped GM distance itself from the recalls. Still, the company raised its estimate for what it will spend to compensate victims of crashes caused by defective ignition switches from \$600 million to \$625 million. Chief Financial Officer Chuck Stevens called it a final estimate, although GM still faces multiple lawsuits and a potentially large penalty from a Justice Department criminal investiga-

GM also said July 23 that it expects pretax profits to be better in the second half than the first, when it made \$5 billion. Shares jumped more than 7 percent as the market opened.

Excluding \$1.1 billion in special items, GM made \$1.29 per share, handily beating the \$1.08 average of seven analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research. Among the special items were \$720 million for currency devaluation and asset writedowns in Venezuela and \$75 million to compensate ignition

Local Group Aids Fight Against Cancer in August

A metropolitan Detroit-based open track high performance driving group sponsored by the business Lakes Area Auto Experts in Walled Lake, will hold its fourth annual charity fundraiser to benefit The Karmanos Cancer Institute Sat., Aug. 8 and Sun., Aug. 9 at Waterford Hills Road Racing, 4770 Waterford Road in Clarkston.

The fundraising event, which features a high performance driving event, a silent auction, lunch and exotic car rides, was created by the group in support of its founder, Ken Grulich, who developed skin cancer and was treated at Karmanos.

"He was treated well there and we decided to do a charity event for the hospital," says Kenny Walters, event committee member and owner and technician of Kenny's Lakes Area Auto Ex-

Karmanos Cancer Institute is one of 41 National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the United States and the only Michigan hospital dedicated exclusively to fighting cancer. The Detroitbased nonprofit provides research, patient care and education.

"This will be our fourth year putting on this event," says Walters. "Every year our target goal is to beat last year's total by at least one dollar. Last year we raised \$28,500."

Gates open both days at 7 a.m., rain or shine, followed by a mandatory drivers' meeting at 9 a.m. Groups will have the opportunity to race on the track in groups from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with a break for lunch.

The cost to participate as a driver is \$200 for a single day or \$375 for the entire weekend. The proceeds from the event will be donated to Karmanos. Registration is limited and closes Thursday, Aug. 6. To register, visit www.3ballsracing.com/events.

switch crash victims.

Faulty ignition switches that can unexpectedly shut off engines in older GM small cars are responsible for at least 124 deaths and 269 injuries, according to a fund set up by the company to compensate victims.

GM's sales in China fell 1 percent during the quarter as the market slowed, and its sales increase of 1.9 percent in the U.S. trailed the industry's overall gain. But the company said its sales were highly profitable, with SUVs and pickup trucks bringing in more dollars per vehicle. Kelley Blue Book estimated GM's average U.S. selling price at \$37,025 for the quarter, up 3.3 percent from a year ago.

In China, GM introduced two new SUVs during the quarter, helping to boost sales, Stevens said. "Our SUV sales across the

business are up more than 80 percent," he said. The company also cut costs and became more efficient in China, where it will continue to invest in new products despite slowing growth, he

So far this year, GM has spent \$2.1 billion buying back shares and has spent \$1.1 billion on dividends. Under pressure from activist investors, GM agreed to repurchase \$5 billion of shares by the end of 2016.

Overall, the company reported a 7.5 percent profit margin, the percentage of revenue it gets to keep. It expects to reach a 9- to 10-percent profit margin by early next decade.

The automaker posted revenue of \$38.18 billion in the quarter, missing Street forecasts. Four analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$40.11 billion.



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U-M Unveils \$10M Testing Ground for Self-driving Cars

by DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Auto Writer

ANN ARBOR, Michigan (AP) -Automakers and researchers say a new simulated city at the University of Michigan could help speed the development of driverless and connected cars.

The 32-acre site on the university's campus officially opened July 20. The \$10 million testing ground will be run by the Mobility Transformation Center, a partnership between the university, state and federal governments and auto and technology compa-

The site has many familiar features of urban driving, including intersections, a railroad crossing, two roundabouts, brick and gravel roads and parking spaces. Moveable building facades and fake pedestrians can be altered for different kinds of tests.

There's a simulated highway entrance ramp. Two features - a metal bridge and a tunnel - will be a special challenge for wireless signals and radar sensorst o work

Peter Sweatman, the director of the Mobility Transformation Center, says other test sites in Sweden and Japan have some of the same features, but the Michigan site is one of the most advanced autonomous vehicle testing grounds in the world.

Automakers, high-tech companies and university researchers will test car-to-car communication systems, which could one day predict accidents and stop cars before a mishap.

They'll also be testing semi-autonomous and driverless vehicles at the site.

Ryan Eustice, an associated professor of engineering at the

University of Michigan, has been testing driverless cars at the site with Ford Motor Co. since November of 2014, when the roads were paved but other features weren't yet installed at the testing site.

Eustice says the site allows researchers to be "maximally evil" toward the car, putting it into all sorts of situations that can be quickly and easily repeated, like a model of a pedestrian obscured by a bus that walks out into traffic.

Every kilometer of testing at the site is worth hundreds of kilometers of real-world driving, he said, since it can take hours of real driving to come upon a scenario that's difficult for the car to handle.

"In terms of the weird stuff, we can pack it all in a very dense way," he said.

Hideki Hada, the general manager of integrated systems at Toyota Motor Corp.'s engineering campus in Ann Arbor, says Toyota also has a test city in Japan, but this is a neutral site that will allow it to make sure its cars can communicate with cars from other automakers.

Hada said that Toyota and other automobile and technology companies had input into what would be included at the Michigan site.

One of his requests: the inclusion of dirty, mud-splashed road signs, so that automakers can make sure their cameras can still read them.

Sweatman said the site will also leave a lot of snow on the ground in the winter, so that automakers can make sure that the cameras and radar used in driverless systems will still work in the snow.



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Selena Acezedo works the assembly line at GM's Arlington (Texas) plant.

Demand for Full Size SUVs Calls for \$1.4B Investment

In its largest single plant investment in the U.S. this year, General Motors is earmarking \$1.4 billion for a range of improvements to its Arlington (Texas) Assembly Plant "to more competitively produce high-quality full-size SUVs," said GM spokesman Bill Grotz.

The investment allows the plant to be reconfigured with a new paint shop, body shop and general assembly area upgrades, Grotz said. Construction is expected to begin this summer and take approximately three years to complete. Production schedules for Chevrolet Tahoes and Suburbans, GMC Yukons and Yukon XLs and Cadillac Escalades will be unaffected by the construction.

This super-sized investment reflects GM's commitment to our full-size SUV customers who expect nothing but the absolute best from us and their vehicles," said Cathy Clegg, GM North America Manufacturing and Labor Relations vice president.

"Today's investment will contribute to Arlington Assembly's winning tradition marked by strong customer focus, innovative thinking and teamwork."

Since 2011, GM has invested nearly \$2 billion in manufacturing improvements at Arlington Assembly, including today's announcement, the launch of the current full-size SUVs and a new stamping plant.

"I have seen firsthand the success that is possible for a city when GM supports the communities where they work and live," said Arlington Mayor Williams.

'The city of Arlington has benefited tremendously from the strong business and foundational support from GM. This new investment in Arlington solidifies its continued stewardship and commitment to our community."

This has been a monumental

year for the more than 60-yearold assembly plant, Grotz said. Arlington Assembly celebrated its 10 millionth vehicle build, hosted GM's Board of Directors and provided \$100,000 in GM Foundation grants to local community organizations.

Meanwhile, the UAW-GM team continues to work regular overtime in the only GM plant to make award-winning full-size SUVs for Chevrolet, GMC and Cadillac customers globally.

"By working together, the UAW and GM are making a difference in communities across the United States," said UAW vice president Cindy Estrada, who leads the union's GM Department. "These investments represent the power of our collaboration to create jobs and improve competitiveness, quality and our manufacturing base in this country."

"We're pleased with the customer demand for our large SUVs," Grotz said. "This is the only plant that produces them. The investment is really about upgrading the site. \$1.4 billion buys you some big-time upgrades. But technology is always evolving and we care about providing our customers with the highest-quality cars and the best quality paint jobs."

This announcement is a part of the \$5.4 billion GM announced it would invest in U.S. manufacturing over the next three years, Grotz said.

Approximately \$4.5 billion of the \$5.4 billion has been identified, leaving about \$900 million to be announced by year-end.

Since June 2009, GM has announced U.S. facility investment of approximately \$17.8 billion. 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 and secured the positions of approximately 20,700 others. Grotz said.

New Life at Old General Motors Site

COMSTOCK TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) - The former site of the mammoth General Motors plant, whose future was very uncertain when it closed in 1999, is doing so well now that its owners are thinking of adding more space.

"It's doing very, very well," Jill Bland, vice president of Southwest Michigan First, said of Midlink Business Park, the 340acre business center in Comstock Township. "When I last talked to the owners, the facility was about 85 to 90 percent full the two buildings.'

"Our tenants are asking, 'Hey, do you have more space?'" said Rob Britigan, vice president of property management Midlink. "They're saying, 'We need more space. We may need more space. Do you have that space for us?""

Britigan said he and the owners, Los Angeles-based Hackman Capital Partners, anticipate growth in the industrial economy and are trying to get ahead of it,

the Kalamazoo Gazette reported. "We're sensing it from our existing tenants as well as the brokerage community and calls that were getting from the market just talking with brokers, networking," Britigan said.

Hackman Capital Partners is poised to build one or more buildings of up to 100,000 square feet to provide smaller, flexible and ready-to-use space for light industrial and other users.

In this case, smaller is better. Space in either of the company's 800,000-square-foot-plus main buildings cannot easily be sectioned down for uses of less than 25,000 square feet, Britigan said.

Through this year, the company's local staff is gathering information and putting together a case for what it wants to see built for industrial uses, and to determine its feasibility.

"We'll be making the evaluation of that over the next year,"

Britigan said.

Buy a Car Without Visiting Dealership?

by Jim Stickford

It seems like a good idea, but there are hidden dangers that most people don't consider.

At least that's what Detroit Association Dealers spokesman Max Muncey said when he heard about a survey stating that a majority of people are in favor of the Tesla manufacturer-direct model of selling cars.

Swapalease.com, an Ohiobased car lease marketplace, a survey they just released asked how interested consumers are to Tesla's manufacturer-direct model when car shopping.

According to the survey results, said Swapalease spokesman John Sternal, 67.4 percent of women and 75.0 percent of men are "all in favor of it."

Sternal said the online survey was presented to more than 2,500 consumers across the U.S. from May 10 to May 30, and the purpose was to find out if car shoppers are interested in buving or leasing a car directly from the manufacturer.

"Look, Tesla makes a great car," said Muncey, "but state auto dealer franchise laws were set up to protect the consumer. Take for example, if there is a recall. Dealerships have regular hours, the facilities to make the required adjustments and the people on hand to help customers get through the process so that it's most convenient for the driver."

Manufacturers don't have those kinds of resources set up to serve the consumer. Muncey said that if Tesla wants to sell cars in Michigan, they can do so tomorrow because there are plenty of smart dealers who would be glad to handle the company's product.

"It's easy for people to work with dealers to take care of prob-

lems," Muncey said.

"Your local franchise dealer is invested in his or her community and invested in building a relationship with customers over

"Michigan already has tens of thousands of people employed specifically to take care of newcar customers."

And, Muncey said, dealers give buyers choices and the competition helps keep prices down.

"Look, if someone wants to buy, say, a Chevy Malibu in metro Detroit, that person can check out four different dealerships to see which one will give the customer the deal that works best for that customer," Muncey

"With Tesla, you get one 'store' and no price shopping."

Tesla has quickly grown in popularity for its feature-rich electric vehicles, Sternal said, yet its manufacturer-direct model has been a topic of much debate throughout the automotive industry. As a benchmark to the survey, 54.4 percent of women polled said they were familiar with Tesla's model compared with 77.3 percent of men, Sternal

Among the other key findings:

- · When asked what would prompt consumers to go direct to the manufacturer for their next car purchase or lease, 50 percent of women said they wouldn't mind avoiding the dealer negotiation process, compared with 46.5 percent of men. 33 percent of women and 31 percent of men feel they could get a better deal directly from the manufacturer.
- 50 percent of women also feel the direct model would work for all car and truck brands, both domestic and foreign, compared with 57 percent of men.
 - 14 percent of women say

they would still want to pick up their car at the dealer, compared with 26 percent of men. Also, 50 percent of women said they can do service and financing without the dealer, compared with only 38 percent of men.

"This survey clearly indicates that there is a lot of room for improvement with the experience women currently have at the dealership," said Anne Fleming, president of Women-Drivers.com.

"While our surveys also indicate that this is improving, it not be occurring fast may enough.'

Interestingly enough, Sternal said, only 12 percent of women said they would also shop for jewelry online, compared with 69 percent of men.

Also, 41 percent of women said they would buy or sell a home without a real estate agent, compared with 40 percent of men. Lastly, 46 percent of both men and women would purchase tickets to a sporting event online.

Trico Earns **Quality Award**

Trico Products Corporation of Rochester Hills recently received a Silver rating in the Subaru of America Supplier Program for Trico's wiper blades.

Subaru of America implements an annual supplier rating program to monitor and improve the supplier base in order to maintain the highest quality of products and service.

Trico supplies Subaru of America with a range of wiper blades for retail sale in dealership showrooms. Trico was rated in a series of categories including marketing, engineering, quality, sourcing and supply, receiving an average 4.80 rating

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