# Detroit Auto Scene®

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Fiat Chrysler employees clean up a yard in Detroit.

## GM, Chrysler Employees Chip in to Support Nonprofit in Neighborhood Cleanup Work

by Jim Stickford

A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. And fixing up Detroit begins with one neighborhood at a time.

At least that's the belief of Chris Lambert, founder of Life Remodeled, a nonprofit organiza-

tion that goes into Detroit neighborhoods and helps beautify the area, said group spokesman Tom Beaman, a retired GM public relations executive.

Beaman said the work is done by people in the neighborhood who are helped by volunteers from different organizations and businesses. This year, the neighborhood being beautified is Osborn, which is centered around Osborn High School, located at Hoover and Seven Mile in Detroit

The work done around Osborn

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Luxury Cars and SUVs Lead The Way to July Sales Jump

by DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – American drivers want to get noticed again.

SUVs and luxury vehicles are selling fast, defying recession-era predictions that Americans would downsize and stop flaunting their wealth.

Luxury sales were up 10 percent in the first six months of this year. In the same time period, mass-market vehicle sales rose just 3 percent, according to car shopping site TrueCar.com.

That demand drove July's strong U.S. vehicle sales. Sales of new cars and trucks were expected to rise 3 percent to nearly 1.5 million.

General Motors and Fiat Chrysler both saw 6 percent sales gains over last July, while Honda and Nissan saw 8 percent gains

Ford's U.S. sales rose 5 percent. Volkswagen sales rose 2 percent. Toyota's sales were flat, hurt by a big dip in car sales.

Automakers benefited from relatively low gas prices and surging sales of SUVs. Sales of Nissan's new Rogue jumped 51 percent, while sales of GM's Buick

Encore jumped 68 percent.

Summer discounts to clear out 2015 models also lured buyers. Sales of midsize sedans have been struggling as Americans pass them over for small SUVs, so automakers enticed buyers with zero percent financing deals on the Toyota Camry, Ford Fusion, Nissan Altima and other sedans. It worked. Altima sales rose 27 percent and set a new July record.

Another big motivator: status. Luxury brands made up 11.5 percent of vehicles purchased so far this year, up from 10.2 percent three years ago, according to TrueCar.

Audi saw its best July ever in the U.S., with sales up 21 percent to more than 17,500 cars and SUVe

Lincoln's sales jumped 21 percent. The brand sold 785 Lincoln Navigator SUVs, or 25 per day, at more than \$62,000 apiece. Acura and Infiniti sales both climbed 20 percent

Luxury brand sales have been growing faster than mass-market ones since 2013, but the pace is accelerating for several reasons, says Larry Dominique, TrueCar's executive vice president.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

#### Ford Donates Vehicles for Veteran's Groups

Ford Motor Company is donating seven Ford Flex utility vehicles to Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

The vehicles will become part of the DAV Transportation Network that enlists volunteer drivers to take sick and disabled veterans to VA medical centers across the country, said Ford spokesman Todd Nissen.

They will be deployed to DAV locations in Little Rock, Ark., Iowa City, Iowa, Iron Mountain, Mich., Omaha, Neb., Portland, Ore., Salt Lake City, Utah and Seattle. Since 1996, Ford has donated 199 vehicles to the DAV fleet.

"Transportation and community service are two important areas where Ford excels," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services. "We are proud to be able to help these heroes of freedom get the critical services they need to make their lives better."

In addition to the new Ford Flex vehicles, Ford Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, is sponsoring DAV 5K walks this fall in cities of Atlanta, Cincinnati and San Diego.

Ford Fund also is continuing support for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships to deserving young men and women who have generously volunteered their time to help disabled veterans in their community.

"We are extremely proud of our long partnership with Ford Motor Company," said DAV National Commander Ron Hope.

## **GM Powertrain Employees Volunteer to Help Students**

by Jim Stickford

The community of Pontiac got a little better thanks to the hard work of 10 GM Student Corps participants from Pontiac High School with the help of their mentors and volunteers from the nearby GM Powertrain Headquarters.

This year Pontiac High School was one of 13 schools in southeast Michigan participating in GM's Student Corp program. Each school has 10 students who work with three retired GM employees who act as mentors to the students. The mentors are assisted by one business student from U-D Mercy.

This team during the summer then performs acts of civic improvement around their school. The 10 students are considered paid summer interns of GM. They learn independence, project management and leadership skills by selecting, planning, budgeting and completing the projects themselves, said GM spokesman Tom Read.

What makes the Pontiac High School crew different is that in addition to the three mentors, they received help from volunteers from Pontiac Powertrain.

"My wife Rosana Hull, who works at Pontiac Powertrain and is the sites community liasion, suggested that we get involved more in the community," said Richard Hull, Engineering Group manager at Pontiac Powertrain. "I met with Lew Elbert, who is the head mentor for GM at Pontiac High School. We agreed to work with the students to help them complete more civic improvement projects."

Elbert retired from GM in 2002. He worked in marketing and his

last job was brand manager for the Chevy Malibu.

"This is my second year as a mentor in the GM Student Corps program," Elbert said. "Last year I was involved with a school in Detroit. This year I was asked to work on projects in Pontiac. This is great because not only are the students great, but we are able to work with people from Pontiac Powertrain who know their way around work projects. We all go together to work and show the kids how to use power tools and just help them get more work done."

The Pontiac High School students helped clean up the school, Elbert said. The work included painting the school entrance, which was covered with graffiti and peeling paint, repaint-

ing the school parking lot and doing landscaping work around the school grounds, including the track.

"There was one area that was so overgrown that when we cut away the brush we found a boulder with plaque," Elbert said. "Apparently some of the students knew the boulder was there, but it was a surprise to a lot of us, finding that rock underneath all the brush. Overall, this was a big job."

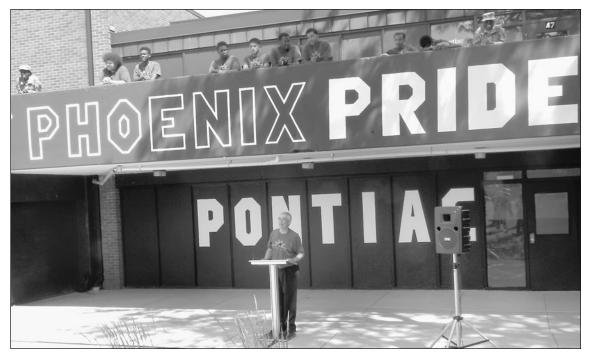
One of the students – Denzel Lawson – said he's going into his senior year at Pontiac High School and appreciates the opportunities the program has afforded him.

"So far this has been an extraordinary experience," Lawson said. "I heard about the program

from my counselor and once I heard that GM was a part of it, I said I was in. It's paid off in various ways. I will have a recommendation that will help me get into college. I want to go into game design. I really have to say that having all those GM employees has helped us get the job done faster. Work that would have taken us students three days to complete was done in one day. And that's thanks to GM Powertrain. That seems extraordinary to me."

Chris Meagher, executive director of Transmission and Electrification Hardware Engineering, said that it was an honor and a pleasure to work with the students.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



 $Lew\ Elbert\ and\ the\ 10\ student\ interns\ show\ off\ the\ repainted\ entrance\ to\ Pontiac\ High\ School.$ 

#### Detroit Auto Scene

31201 Chicago Road South Warren, Michigan 48093

586-939-6800 Contact us:

Info@DetroitAutoScene.com

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#### **Ignition Switch** Death Toll at 124

DETROIT (AP) - General Motors' faulty ignition switches were responsible for at least 124 deaths and 274 injuries, according to the special fund set up to compensate families of the victims.

The fund, administered by attorney Kenneth Feinberg, updated the totals Aug. 3.

Victims' families are being offered compensation of at least \$1 million each.

The fund has finished processing the 4,342 claims it received by the Jan. 31 deadline.

Of those, 91 percent - or 3,938 - were deemed ineligible.

Feinberg is waiting for additional documentation for six claims.

Fund spokeswoman Camille Biros says 385 compensation offers have been made so far and 275 have been accepted. Five have been rejected.

## Automotive Radio Security Hacking Called 'Unique'

by TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) - The company that makes car radios that friendly hackers exploited to take control of a Jeep Cherokee says its other infotainment systems don't have the same security flaw.

Harman International CEO Dinesh Paliwal said last week that the hackers used a cellular connection to get to the radio, which they used to control critical functions such as brakes and steer-

The hack by twitter security expert Charlie Miller and Chris Valasek, who heads auto security for a consulting firm, touched off the recall of 1.4 million vehicles from Fiat Chrysler to patch software holes. On Aug. 2, the government announced it would investigate the Harman Kardon radios to see which other manufacturers use them and if they had the same vulnerabilities.

The hackers, who informed Fiat Chrysler of their findings, were able to control the Jeep remotely with a laptop computer, sending the auto industry scrambling to make sure its systems are secure.

But Paliwal said the radio system that was hacked, with an 8.4inch touch screen, was developed about five years ago and doesn't have as many security safeguards as current models. "We believe, based on our assessment with all other customers, we supply our system so that the Chrysler system is the only one exposed to this particular experimental hack," Paliwal said on the company's fiscal fourth-quarter earnings conference call. "So it's a unique situation.'

The hackers, he said, were able to get from cellular connection into the radio and then to a network that handles commands for critical functions. Miller and Valasek released some of their findings last month, but Paliwal said Harman was told about the

hack late last year and worked with Fiat Chrysler on a software fix. He also said Harman engineers are cooperating with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration investigation.

NHTSA said it is investigating about 2.8 million Harman radios. sufficient similarities exist, the investigation will examine if there is cause for concern that security issues exist in other Harman Kardon products," the agency wrote.

The vulnerability was exposed last week in a Wired magazine story. FCA said it sealed off a loophole in its internal cell phone network with vehicles to prevent similar attacks. Owners will be sent a USB drive that they use to fix the software issue.



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## Capuchin Benefit to Offer Classic 1953 Ford Drawing

The 22nd annual Benefit on Customline. The four-door sedan the Bay will take place Friday, Aug. 21 at 5:30 p.m., at MacRay Harbor, located on Lake St. Clair in Harrison Township.

This is our 22nd year of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen fundraiser," organizer Mike Schodowski said. "In 2013, we cleared the million-dollar mark. All the money goes to the soup kitchen, which relies nearly entirely on donations and events like ours.

"Although the economy has improved, there is a large population who is struggling. There are still far too many who have to depend heavily on the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. I don't know what they would do if it weren't for the Soup Kitchen. It's a blessing to the community.

"I invite everyone to come and enjoy one of our area's best parties, all while helping others. We ask people to please purchase tickets to the event, but we also need sponsors, silent auction items and additional donations. We welcome everyone's support. We want to help the Capuchin Soup Kitchen serve our commu-

Jay Towers, Fox 2 News and Fresh 100.3, will again serve as the event's Master of Ceremonies. Two bands will play simultaneously. John Dickson & the "C-Notes" will feature jazz and easy listening music in the first floor lounge. Musical group "The Key Suspects" will also be on hand. Special musical guests will be the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Choir, a joyous group that travels the area, sharing their Gospel music.

The event includes appetizers, dinner, dancing, beer, wine, and desserts. Live auction items will be featured, plus a Silent Auction will feature over 100 items. Popular speed artist, Dave Santia, will be creating portraits as a live auction item.

New this year will be the drawing for a classic car - a 1953 Ford

has been restored to mint condition, said Capuchin Province spokeswoman Colleen Crane. Restoration included the engine being disassembled and rebuilt, all chrome being removed piece by piece and re-plated to its original condition and luster, sanding and painting, and original seat and door fabric and floor carpet installed.

Tickets for the classic car raffle are available by calling the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 313-579-2100, ext. 153. Ticket holders need not be present to win, Crane said. Tickets will also be available the night of the Benefit on the Bay event, up until the time of the drawing.

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"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933" **AUGUST 10, 2015** PAGE 3



GM engineers Trevor Hall, Cas Mulka and Javad Katibai at work in Detroit.

## **GM Powertrain Employees Volunteer to Help Students**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Now that Pontiac Powertrain has become the global headquarters for powrtrain development GM has gone back to being the largest employer in the city of said. "We Pontiac," Meagher wanted to be involved in improving the city of Pontiac, and to that end some executives have set up STEM programs for local students. But when we heard about this we absolutely wanted to get involved. It's been a true pleasure to work with these students and make a difference in the community.'

"GM Student Corps shows the

tremendous impact companies can make by harnessing the power of their retirees and employees to mentor young people,' said Heidi Magyar, director of GM's new community outreach group. "The program helps build communities with a 'lead where you are' mindset that instills pride in their communities."

Besides Lawson, the other nine GM Student Corps interns were Austin Deanes, Cameron Dequandre Massey, Dorothy Williams-Freeman, Jamie Johnson, Javier Cartagena-Rodriguez, Jorge Blas-Rangel, Justin Hardin and Nakita Bow-

## GM and Chrysler Employees Help Rebuild Communities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

took place between Aug. 3 and Aug. 9.

"GM is one of our largest contributors, not only in terms of money, but also in terms of people," Beaman said. "This week they are providing about 3,700 people to work in beautification of the Osborn neighborhood."

The work done by the volunteers, Beaman said, included mowing lawns of abandoned homes, pulling weeds, boarding up houses, remodeling homes and clearing brush that can be used to hide people.

Part of making a neighborhood better, Beaman said, is doing things like that. Sometimes children are afraid to go to school because they fear people are lurking in the bushes. Taking away places for miscreants to hide can do a lot to improve a neighborhood.

And Life Remodeled also help remodel Osborn High School itself. Among the work done was building a new library/computer room, which was filled with donated computers.

"We select neighborhoods based on need," Beaman said. "This is a blighted neighborhood, but there's also hope. Osborn has, in the past few years, adopted new programs and seen its graduation rate go from 40 percent to 80 percent."

Lambert said Life Remodeled started as a group in April of 2011 and it was based on an idea he had a vear earlier.

neighborhood and make a longterm commitment to that neighborhood. What we do in Detroit tribute.'

is a combination of need and hope. I don't believe there is such a thing as a hopeless neighborhood in Detroit. Rather, some neighborhoods haven't yet discovered the hope that they

Noel Moore is a project manager for Global Standardization for Fiat Chrysler. He and several of his colleagues volunteered their time to help with the beautification efforts.

"We clear trash out of yards, ripping out bushes and removing debris," Moore said. "We're doing this a few blocks from the school, trying to clean up the

Jennifer DuCharme, a data analyst for Fiat Chrysler, said the company encourages its employees to donate at least 18 hours of their time every year to worthy causes. She and her colleagues became involved in Life Remodeled two years ago.

"This is something that's worth doing," DuCharme said. "It takes a lot of work, but Fiat Chrysler has a lot of people available to get the job done.

For some engineers at GM, donating their time to Life Remodeled gives them a chance to get their hands dirty, literally.

Engineers Trevor Hall, Cas Mulka and Javad Katibai were among the GM employees who helped board up and remodel homes in the area around Osborn High School.

"This is something worth doing," Katibai said. "It's us making this neighborhood nicer and real-"We work on one project a ly helping make the community year," Lambert said. "And every better. I think it shows that GM year we work to help a different does care about the communities in which it operates. We're all very proud to be able to con-

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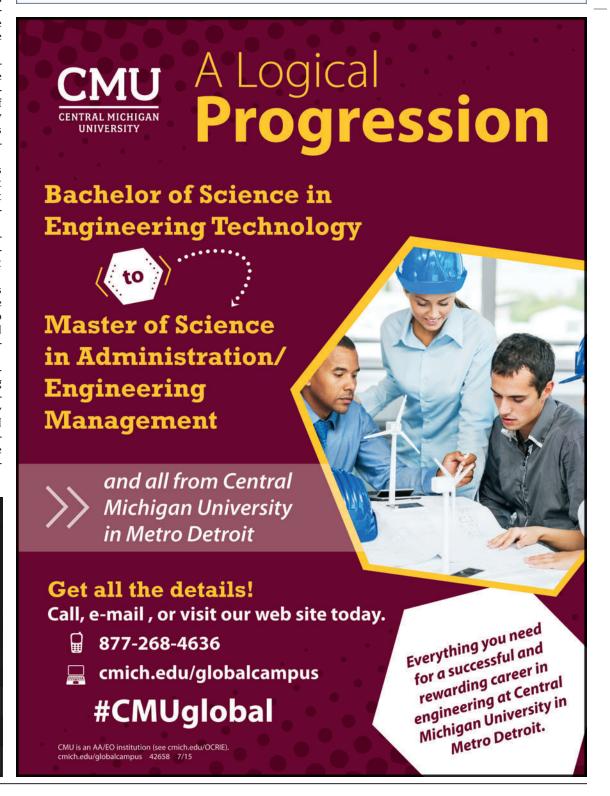
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#### **Dodge to Double Production on SRT Hellcats**

Dodge soon will be opening the dealer order banks for 2016 model year Dodge Challenger and Charger SRT Hellcats, streamlining the process and significantly increasing production to ensure that these muscle cars continue to move off dealer lots.

'We could not have asked for a more enthusiastic response to the Charger and Challenger SRT Hellcats - it was absolutely unprecedented, but then again, these 707-horsepower muscle cars are unprecedented," said Tim Kuniskis, president and CEO, Dodge and SRT brands.

"To meet this demand, we are more than doubling our SRT Hellcat production for 2016 and simplifying the process to make it easier for our enthusiasts to get their hands on the hottest muscle cars in history.

"In addition, customers with verified sold orders that weren't built in the 2015 model year will receive special discounted pricing if they re-order in 2016.

The plan for 2016 model year includes:

- Remaining 2015 SRT Hellcat scheduled orders will be built at Brampton (Ont.) Assembly.
- All unscheduled 2015 model year SRT Hellcat orders will be canceled; these customers will receive discounted 2016 model year pricing.
- Dealers will get a 2016 model year potential allocation total for the entire model year this month.
- 2016 model year SRT Hellcat allocation eligibility will continue to be based on past Dodge sales performance.
- Allocation will be adjusted based on dealers' average historical Dodge SRT Challenger and Charger Hellcat "days on lot" performance.
- They will receive half of the 2016 model year allocation (net of adjustments) beginning this month. They will receive the second half of the 2016 model year allocation (net of adjustments) in February 2016.
- Dealers will be able to order only their given allocation.

The ordering system will open this week. Production of the 2016 Dodge Charger and Challenger is scheduled to start at the Brampton (Ont.) Assembly plant in September.

### Dodge Hot Racer Has Success at Sonoma Raceway

It was as near perfect a weekend as a National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) drag racer could hope to have.

Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) driver Jack Beckman piloted his 2015 Dodge Charger R/T to five three-second runs, was quickest in three of four qualifying sessions, set a Funny Car national record for elapsed time with a 3.921-second lap, earned the No.1 qualifier position, and then continued his impressive performance through eliminations to earn his place in the winner's circle at the 28th annual NHRA Sonoma Nationals at Sonoma Raceway on Aug. 2.

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"This is far and above my most dominating Funny Car win ever," said Beckman of his 20th career Funny Car victory. "Qualifying No.1 is a statistic, but getting that trophy at the end of the day is satisfaction that your team did everything better than anybody else that day.

"I'll take qualifying 16th if I can get that trophy. Since we got the trophy and qualified first and set the national record, it's icing on top of icing on top of the cake. It couldn't have been any better."

## Continental Plastics Develop Lighter Panels for Corvette

new product developed by Auburn Hills-based Continental Structural Plastics (CSP), a manufacturer of lightweight composite solutions.

The product, called TCA Ultra Lite, is now in production at one of the company's facilities in Ohio.

'CSP has been associated with the Corvette in one form or another for the past 40 years," said CSP spokeswoman Kim Zitny. "We are replacing out old middensity material with a light-density material. The old material was called TCA Lite. TCA stands for Tough Class A. The new material is called TCA Ultra Lite.'

Zitny said the use of TCA Ultra Lite, a Class A body panel material, results in a 20 lb weight savings on the Stingray Coupe model. This is the first production use of CSP's Ultra Lite advanced composite

"TCA Ultra lite has been in development for a couple of years," Zitny said. "We knew we had a good lightweight material, but we thought we could come up with a new material that could go head-to-head with aluminum in terms of weight and strength. The final result is TCA Ultra lite."

Through a joint continuous improvement effort, Zitny said that Chevrolet and CSP have significantly reduced the density of the Corvette body panels - from 1.9 specific gravity for the 2013 model year, to 1.6 specific gravity for the 2014 model year to 1.2 for the 2016 model year, said Christopher Basela, lead engineer for Corvette Body Composites.

The mass savings afforded by TCA Ultra Lite, Zitny said, is accomplished through the use of a CSP-patented technology that uses treated glass bubbles to re-

The 2016 Corvette will use a place some of the Calcium Carbonate filler, resulting in a lighter density material. On the C7, a total of 21 body panel assemblies, including doors, decklids, quarter panels and fenders, are molded from TCA Ultra Lite.

materials engineering, shaving a single pound per car is a significant accomplishment, so saving 20 pounds per car is monumental," said Tadge Juechter, Corvette chief engineer. "This is a great example of how Chevrolet is continually looking for innovations that improve performance on Corvette, and could benefit possible future applications."

When combined with CSP's patented vacuum and bonding manufacturing processes, Juechter said TCA Ultra Lite offers a premium Class A finish with paint and gloss qualities comparable to metals, including aluminum. The material is able to withstand the Ecoat process, and passes all OEM paint tests. It also offers reduced costs at all volumes - and for production volumes under 150,000, tooling costs for composites can be as much as 50 to 70 percent less than those for stamping steel or aluminum.

"We have been working closely with GM to launch this patented, weight-saving technology on the iconic Corvette, achieving this conversion with no changes in material thickness or tooling while maintaining the superior surface finish required for this premium vehicle," said CSP chairman and CEO Frank Macher. "With this successful launch, we can say TCA Ultra Lite is proven to offer several advantages over aluminum, and is truly the next generation of lightweighting technology for the automotive industry.'







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## **Luxury Cars and SUVs Lead** The Way to July Sales Jump

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Luxury automakers are adding more models at lower prices, which is attracting new buyers. Mercedes' CLA sedan, introduced in 2013, starts at \$31,500, while Lexus has a new small SUV. the NX, that starts at \$34,480. That's within reach of younger buvers.

Dominique said Millennials are now leasing luxury cars at a higher rate than other generations.

Before the recession, Dominique said, when housing values were high, the industry believed luxury sales were inflated because people were borrowing against their home values. But that wasn't the case.

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sales took off even before home values had recovered.

"People who buy luxury want luxury. It's a cultural phenome-

non," Dominique said. Increases in the stock market have fueled luxury sales. Low interest rates have also helped some luxury buyers lower their

monthly lease or loan payments. Here are more details, by auto-

- GM's sales rose 6 percent to 272,512. Buick sales jumped 18 percent, but Cadillac sales were down. GMC and Chevrolet sales were up thanks to demand for trucks. Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck sales were up 34 percent in July.
- Ford's sales were up 5 percent to 222,731. F-Series pickup sales, which had been down due to lack of inventory as a new truck went into production, were up 5 percent. But Ford's car sales fell 4 percent.
- Fiat Chrysler's sales rose 6 percent to 178,027. Jeep sales increased 23 percent and Ram sales rose 1 percent, but Dodge and Fiat sales were down.
- Toyota's sales were up less than 1 percent to 217,181. Sales of the Tacoma small pickup jumped 29 percent, while Lexus SUV sales were up 28 percent thanks to the new NX small SUV. But car sales were down. Prius hybrid sales dropped 13 percent.
- Honda's sales rose 8 percent to 146,324. Honda's SUV and truck sales jumped 13 percent, led by the CR-V SUV and the Odyssey minivan. Honda's car sales were up 3 percent.
- Nissan's sales rose nearly 8 percent to 130,872. Nissan said sales of its trucks and SUVs set a new July record, but low gas prices took a toll on the electric Nissan Leaf, which saw sales drop 61 percent.
- Volkswagen's sales rose 2.4 percent to 31,300 vehicles. Sales of the new Golf and Jetta sedans more than doubled over last July.

Fiat Chrysler Has

**Mixed News for** 

Second Quarter

DETROIT (AP) - Net income at Fiat Chrysler's U.S. operations

fell 3 percent last quarter due

largely to a \$90 million charge to

pay government penalties for

The company says it made \$598 million from April to June, compared with \$619 million a

year ago. The decline included a

\$71 million loss from paying off \$2.9 billion in secured notes. The drop came even though

worldwide sales rose 5 percent to 762,000 for the quarter, includ-

ing a 6 percent increase in U.S. retail sales to individual buyers

global sales and prices.

cles in the past year.

Revenue for the quarter role nearly 11 percent to \$22.6 billion, mainly because of higher

CFO Richard Palmer said the

Jeep brand had its best quarter

ever with global sales up 47 per-

cent from a year ago to 316,000.

Jeep, which sells only SUVs, is

benefiting from the global popu-

larity of the higher-sitting vehi-

The quarter's pretax profit

margin for the unit, known as FCA US LLC, were 6 percent, up

from 4.8 percent a year ago.In

late July the parent company, Fi-

at Chrysler Automobiles NV, reported that its North American pretax margin had hit 7.7 per-

cent. Palmer said margins were

lower because they included

lower-profit international sales

and because of differences be-

tween U.S. and international accounting standards. Profit margins are the percentage of rev-

enue that a company keeps.

mishandling recalls.

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## **GM to Invest \$877 Million** In Flint Assembly Body Shop

Everything old is new again. General Motors' oldest assempopular destination for pickup truck customers who want to watch their vehicles being built, will undergo transformation in the coming years.

GM officials on Aug. 4 laid out plans to invest \$877 million to build a new body shop for the Flint Assembly plant, locating it closer to the Flint Metal Center, which supplies sheet metal and other parts used in the Chevrolet and GMC full-size pickups produced in the assembly plant.

The investment will also cover improvements to the general assembly area inside Flint Assembly, as well as retooling and the installation of new equipment at the plant, said GM spokesman Bill Grotz.

This investment will allow us to use a more innovative approach to deliver material between two critical facilities, reducing handling and the time it takes to ship parts," said Cathy Clegg, GM North America Manufacturing and Labor Relations vice president.

Since 2011, GM has announced investments topping \$1.8 billion for Flint Assembly, Grotz said. This includes \$600 million for plant upgrades and a new standalone paint shop that is under construction and slated to open in 2016. Work on the 883,000square-foot body shop is expected to begin in the first half of 2016, with completion slated for

"In the last several years, GM's investments in the city of Flint have topped \$2.5 billion, creating hundreds of construction jobs and an economic boost for the community," said Flint Mayor Dayne Walling.

"This investment not only bly plant in North America, a strengthens the ties between GM and the city, it demonstrates that Flint continues to play an important role in the resurgence of manufacturing in Michigan and the rest of the United States."

> Opened in 1947 as part of a post-World War II building boom, GM's Flint Assembly has produced more than 13 million vehicles. The plant's "View Builds," as they are called, allow customers to see their heavy-duty Silverados or heavy-duty Sierra trucks being assembled and roll off the line after a series of quality checks by members of UAW Local 598.

> "While the plant has received numerous awards for initial quality and long-term durability and reliability, our latest investments in the plant will raise the bar in vehicle quality and customer satisfaction," Clegg said.

> For starters, when the new paint shop opens in 2016, trucks will be painted using a wet-coat process that results in a smoother, more durable finish, Clegg said. The new body shop will be constructed north of the Flint Metal Center, reducing transportation time and handling between facilities.

> 'This announcement is due to the hard work and dedication of our UAW members in Flint," said UAW Vice President Cindy Estrada, who leads the UAW GM De-

> 'This proves once again that when we work together in a collaborative approach, UAW members continue to come up with innovative ways to grow the business, which provides jobs and improves the quality of the products we produce.





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