



Recipients of \$50,000 in GM Foundation grants for area around Orion Assembly.

## GM Foundation Aids Local Charities

Like a good neighbor, GM is there. Over the past couple of weeks the GM Foundation has presented \$100,000 in grant money to local charities that operated near the company's Orion Assembly, Pontiac Metal Center, Pontiac Powertrain Headquarters and Pontiac Customer Care and Aftersales facilities as well as the Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant.

On Aug. 14 during an open house event at General Motors' Pontiac Metal Center, GM Foundation vice president Lori Wingerter presented \$50,000 in grants on behalf of all of the local GM facilities in and around Pontiac.

"General Motors is committed to supporting the communities that our employees call home," said Wingerter. "This year, the

GM Foundation plans to provide \$2 million in funding to hundreds of organizations across the country that provide critical resources that families and neighborhoods rely on every day."

Money donated at this event will help:

- Blessings in a Backpack – Blessings in a Backpack provides

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## FCA Testing Runs Hot 'n Cold – Under One Climatic Roof

Where in North America can you go from testing the 4x4 capabilities of a 2015 Jeep Renegade Trailhawk at minus 40 degrees with snow whipping by at 100 mph, to baking a Renegade Limited just a few steps away at 130 degrees?

Answer: The Chrysler Technology Center (CTC) at the Fiat Chrysler headquarters in Auburn Hills.

Fiat Chrysler is using its new 4x4 dynamometer at Chrysler Technology Center to bring an-

other industry-leading capability in house.

The existing drive cell that houses the new dyno can be chilled to 40 below zero and create wind speeds up to 100 mph, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Berj Alexanian. Testing is done in blizzard-like conditions to evaluate, among other things, how a vehicle performs when dense snow clogs its air intakes.

The company has invested

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



A vehicle getting the cold treatment at Chrysler CTC facility.

## Sink Hole Drew 250,000 Visitors to Corvette Museum

by BRUCE SCHREINER  
Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) – The car-swallowing hole has been fixed but not forgotten at the National Corvette Museum in Kentucky. Yellow tape now marks the boundaries of the cavity that became a sensation and put the museum on the map. And instead of a gaping sinkhole driving tourism, now it's the vintage sports cars crunched by rocks and dirt.

Work ended recently to fill in the pit that consumed eight prized sports cars in early 2014. The repaired exhibit area has become a magnet for visitors, and the dirt-caked remains of the mangled cars are the stars.

Where the 60-foot-long, 45-foot-wide, 30-foot-deep sinkhole once drew gasps from visitors, now it's the remains of the worst-damaged cars that get astonished looks.

"It's just horrifying," said Corvette owner Doug Kidd, of Canton, Ohio. "Nature's a pretty big thing to deal with. They look like they went through a tornado."

Seven of the eight cars are back on display in about the same spot where they plunged to fame. Five were too beaten up for repairs. One is fixed, another will return Sept. 3 after being repaired in Michigan and another will be restored by the museum. The eight cars carried a total value believed to exceed \$1 million.

The museum's Facebook followers now exceed 200,000, compared to about 50,000 before the sinkhole opened. On social media, photos showcasing the damaged cars outpace those of the shiny, sleek models on display,



One of eight Corvettes damages when a sink hole opened up at the National Corvette Museum last year.

said museum spokeswoman Katie Frassinelli.

"People just really enjoy hearing the story and like seeing the damage," she said. "I guess it's the rubberneck effect. These cars definitely appeal to a wider audience."

In the gift shop, jars of sinkhole dirt and rocks fetch \$10 apiece. Nearly 2,400 jars had sold through July. Wanda Cohen of Roswell, Georgia, had just posted a photo of a wrecked car on her Facebook page.

"It's like looking at the worst wrecks you've ever seen," Cohen said.



Tourist at the Corvette Museum look down where the sink hole was.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## The 2015 F-150 Honored For Its Weight Losses

The new Ford F-150 earned recognition as the winner of the third annual Altair Enlighten Award from Altair and the Center for Automotive Research (CAR) for the truck's use of lightweight materials to minimize weight.

The 2015 F-150 – with best-in-class towing, payload and EPA-estimated gasoline fuel economy plus five-star top government crash test ratings for every cab configuration – is being recognized for its total weight reduction of up to 700 pounds, said Altair spokeswoman Jennifer Korail.

Ford's entry, one of 17 nominations that competed for the award, was selected as the winner for taking 700 pounds off of the Ford F-150 while improving its performance, safety, and efficiency, said Korail.

She said Ford engineers took a holistic approach to weight reduction by incorporating advanced materials into the entire design of the vehicle, including the frame, body, powertrain, battery and interior features such as the seats. The weight savings help the truck tow more, haul more, accelerate quicker and stop shorter, and it contributes to fuel efficiency.

"As America's truck leader, Ford is honored to be named the 2015 Altair Enlighten Award winner for the all-new Ford F-150," said Raj Nair, group vice president, Global Product Development and chief technical officer, Ford Motor Company. "This award is recognition of our outstanding team members, who set

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Detroit Auto Scene

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Contact us:  
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## FCA Sponsors Run to Help Out LGBTQ Youths

Runners and walkers from all over the Detroit area will be taking over the vehicle test track at Fiat Chrysler's Auburn Hills headquarters for the first ever "Taking Strides for Healthy Minds 5K Walk/Run" to benefit the Ruth Ellis Center (REC) on Saturday, Aug. 29, at 9 a.m.

The Ruth Ellis Center provides short and long-term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk lesbian, gay, bi-attractional, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Alexandria Shesterkin.

Proceeds from the run will benefit REC's mental health services, operations and Family Preservation and Acceptance program, Shesterkin said. Registration in \$40 per participant and free for children age 12 and under and includes a T-shirt and race time.

It is estimated that up to 40 percent of all runaway and homeless youth in the U.S. identify as LGBTQ, Shesterkin said. Disproportionately affected, most often due to family rejection, these youth are at much greater risk of suicide, depression, substance abuse and HIV infection. This alarming statistic is the impetus behind "Taking Strides for Healthy Minds 5K Walk/Run."

"We are incredibly proud to partner with FCA US on such an important cause," said Mark Erwin-McCormick, director of Development at the Ruth Ellis Center. "We know that family rejection due to a child's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression puts young people at far greater risk of suicide, depression and substance abuse. Taking Strides for Healthy Minds is an opportunity to not only raise awareness, but also critical funding to support programs and services tailored to help families struggling with their child's identity."

Fiat Chrysler has been a long-standing supporter of the LGBTQ community and issues, Shesterkin said. The company was a leader among U.S. employers in providing domestic partner benefits to its employees in 2000 and has achieved a perfect score of 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Corporate Equality Index nine times.

The company has also supported REC through its employee resource group, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA). It is one of six Employee Resource Groups at FCA that promote diversity and inclusion inside the company and in the community.

"FCA US is honored to host the Taking Strides for Healthy Minds 5K in our own backyard, to show our support for the Ruth Ellis Center and bring attention to the crucial work they do for the LGBT community," said Gregory Hawkins, an engineer at the company who serves as president of GALA.

# FCA Testing Runs Hot 'n Cold Under One Climatic Roof

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$2.5 million to upgrade the existing climatic test cell, Alexanian said.

The upgraded drive cell consists of a new front dyno that can handle loads of up to 350 horsepower with a rear dyno operating up to 650 horsepower.

The cell also received a significant upgrade in ductwork and exhaust capabilities to accommodate high-output engines such as the 2016 Ram 2500's 6.7-liter Cummins High-Output Turbo Diesel with 900 lb.-ft. of torque.

"Our world-class environmental test center provides dynamic

and static testing conditions to simulate the climatic environments that are experienced by our customers around the world," said John Nigro, vice president of Product Development, FCA-North America.

"With more 4x4 and all-wheel-drive (AWD) vehicles in our fleet than ever, this investment will go a long way to providing the durable cars and trucks our customers expect from us."

FCA's Climatic Test Facilities are used to simulate and control environmental conditions, Nigro said.

The climatic cells are capable

of simulating the most frigid conditions in mid-winter to the extreme heat of the Gulf Coast countries.

Development in climatic chambers allows Fiat Chrysler to design and develop products to survive the harshest environments, Nigro said.

The extreme climate test is one of thousands performed daily at CTC.

It is the auto industry's only headquarters building where a vehicle design can go from a napkin sketch to production prototype to advertising campaign – and everything in between – under one roof, said Nigro.

CTC's 5.4 million square feet of floor space makes it the largest headquarters of any kind in North America, except for the Pentagon.

Among its features:

- The aerodynamics testing facility generates the highest wind speeds (160+ mph) of any domestic OEM's wind tunnel.
- Its 129 dynamometer cells run 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The facility has been running 24/7 since it opened in 1991.
- CTC's current employment numbers (14,000+) represent its historic peak.

## Apple Showing Interest in Using a Vehicle Testing Site

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – Adding fuel to rumors that Apple is working on designs for a car, local officials say engineers for the giant tech company recently made inquiries about a former navy base that's been converted into a testing ground for self-driving cars.

Apple, which is best known for making iPhones and Mac computers, hasn't said what kind of testing it hoped to conduct at the GoMentum Station automotive testing facility, which used to be a naval station in the San Francisco Bay Area city of Concord.

"We don't know. They haven't said what they want to test. It could be an iPhone," joked Jack Hall, program manager for connected vehicles and autonomous vehicles at GoMentum Station, which is operated by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. The agency is promoting a portion of the former Concord Naval Weapons Station as an ideal testing facility for carmakers and tech companies working on automotive technology.

"It's got all the infrastructure

of a city," Hall said of the facility. "There are buildings, streets and intersections, but no people."

The 5,000-acre site has 20 miles of paved roads, including overpasses, tunnels and railroad crossings, according to the agency's website, which calls it "the largest secure test facility in the world." Another 7,600 acres

of the former navy base is now used as a shipping terminal by the U.S. Army.

GoMentum Station already has an agreement with Honda, which plans to test automated vehicle systems there. Hall said his agency hopes to partner with other companies for testing self-driving cars and "connected ve-

hicles" – cars that use the Internet and local networks to exchange a variety of information with other devices and vehicles.

Apple has "shown interest" in the facility but has not reached any agreement for testing there, Hall said. Company representatives have not actually visited yet, he said.

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## GM Foundation Aids Local Charities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

elementary schoolchildren who are on the federal Free and Reduced Price Meal Program with a backpack of food to take home for 38 weekends during the school year. Backpack food includes easy-to-prepare, ready-to-eat foods, like granola bars, juice boxes, mac and cheese, and oatmeal.

- Clinton River Watershed Council – The Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and celebrating the Clinton River, its watershed and Lake St. Clair.

- Oakland Living Human Service Agency – OLHSA is the largest private nonprofit agency delivering human services to Oakland and Livingston Counties.

- Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan – This group provides high quality youth development programs for children ages 6-18 in the community.

- Child Abuse & Neglect Council of Oakland County – Whether it's at CARE House, inside the home of a vulnerable family, in a courtroom, at a school or another of its many community partners, CARE House provides a continuum of quality care for children and families.

- Winning Futures – Each year, Winning Futures impacts 1,400 students through its programs. The goal is for students to create a positive relationship with an

adult mentor, and learn skills that will last a lifetime.

- Oakland Family Services – Oakland Family Services provides confidential services that help children and adults to set goals, explore alternatives and to resolve even the most difficult crises.

- Pontiac Center for Success : The Center for Success – Pontiac is focused on establishing relationships with children throughout Pontiac to empower them to become all they can be. They focus on homework help, tutoring and after school programs.

On Aug. 19, the GM Foundation presented, at the Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly and Brownstone Battery Plant facilities, eight grants totaling \$50,000 to local neighborhood organizations that are working to make Detroit a better place.

Through the GM Foundation's Plant City Grants program, said plant spokeswoman Courtney Zemke, funds will support the following organizations and community programs:

- Alkebulan Village – The organization was founded in 1978 with the original purpose of teaching the martial arts, Zemke said. But since then, it's expanded to include youth and adult sports, the visual and performing arts as well as homework assistance and tutoring, community service and youth entrepreneurship training.

- Blessings in a Backpack.

- Detroit Impact – Detroit Impact is a youth center established to work with youth in the Detroit community to teach, mentor, guide, motivate and encourage.

- Dream Chasers – This organization's purpose, Zemke said, is to improve lives by helping establish quality relationships between youth and adult volunteers for the purpose of promoting stability, support, friendship and community.

- Green Living Science – The mission of Green Living Science (GLS) is to transform Detroit by teaching recycling, Zemke said. It builds awareness of and passion for the environment through education and service.

- Neighborhood Service Organization – It is a nonprofit human services agency serving the city's most vulnerable neighbors, Zemke said. NSO has been supporting the community for 60 years with innovative services. Some of its services are location-based, serving neighbors who come to us for help.

- Southwest Solutions – It is nationally recognized as a model of community building, Zemke said.



Cheryl Allen (r), Southwest Solutions, gets check from Vivian Pickard.

- Winning Futures – It is a nonprofit organization that offers school-based mentoring pro-

grams and workshops for middle school and high school students in Southeast Michigan.

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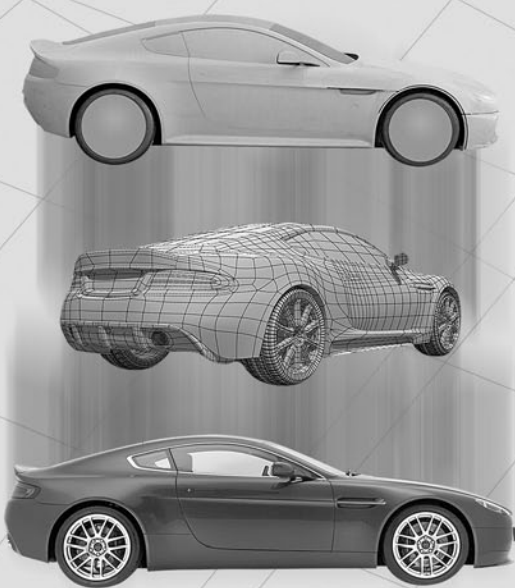
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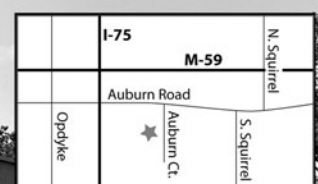
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Work began immediately to fill the sink hole and repair the damage it caused at the Corvette museum.

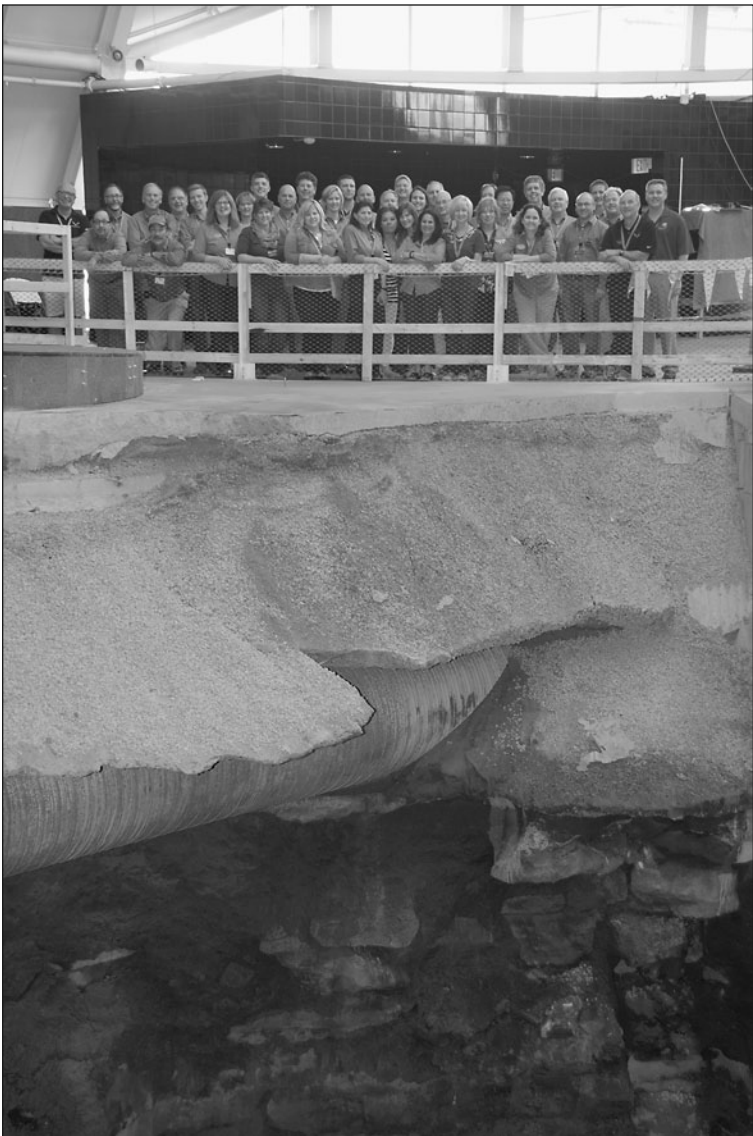
## Disaster Brings People to 'Vette Museum

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For museum officials, the trick is to keep the site's popularity from going in reverse now that visitors can't gawk at the sinkhole. The museum cashed in on the giant chasm with record attendance and revenue in 2014. Last year, the museum just off the interstate drew 251,258 visitors, easily topping the 150, 462 visitors in 2013. The museum's prior record attendance was 200,900 in 1999. Through last month, attendance for 2015 was off just 2.5 percent compared to the first seven months of 2014, the museum said. "We just want to try to do our best to make sure the decrease is as little as possible," Museum executive director Wendell Strode

said. Maintaining that momentum will be challenging, said Jason Swanson, a University of Kentucky assistant professor in hospitality management and tourism. Even if the sinkhole had been left open, the publicity that helped spark the attendance bump would have eventually waned, he said. "The museum is better off since more people now know of the museum because of the sinkhole's publicity," Swanson said. "However, 10 years down the road, 2014 and 2015 will likely be seen as an anomaly." The museum is doing its part to keep the sinkhole etched as a curiosity. A temporary exhibit shows the now-famous security camera

footage of the floor's collapse and cars toppling like toys into the pit. That footage has been viewed about 8.5 million times on YouTube, the museum said. The hole opened up when the museum was closed, and no one was injured. There's also video of the damaged Corvettes being pulled from the hole. Also featured are condolence cards to the museum. One card-sender wrote of being "devastated to hear of your loss." A new sinkhole-themed exhibit is scheduled to open this fall. Kidd said he wished at least part of the sinkhole had gone un-



Museum staff demonstrate just how deep the sink hole went.

plugged. It was an option discussed by museum leaders before they opted to fill it in. "It's human nature to come and see," Kidd said. Terry Jorgensen of Deland, Florida, said it would have been impractical to keep the hole

open. Getting to see the crunched cars was more than enough, he said. Repairs began last fall and cost about \$5 million, Frassinelli said. Insurance covered all but the museum's deductible. Donations picked up the deductible.

## The Romeo Peach Festival Promises Fun for Everyone

It should be a peach of Labor Day weekend thanks to the Romeo Lions Club of Romeo. The annual Romeo Peach Festival, sponsored by the club, begins the Thursday (Sept. 3) before Labor Day and runs through the holiday weekend, ending with the Floral Parade on Monday, Sept. 7, at 1:30 p.m. in downtown Romeo. The festival kicks off on Sept. 3 with a 5K and 10K run beginning at 6:45 p.m. There will also be carnival rides, starting at 4 p.m.. The Bears Around the World booth is open from 6 p.m. to midnight and the there will be DJ music. On Friday, Sept. 4, the Croswell Official Craft Show and Business Expo runs from 3 - 8 p.m. The rides are open from 4 - 11 p.m. and the Beers Around the World booth is open from 6 p.m. - 1 a.m. On Saturday, Sept. 5, the Croswell Official Craft Show and

Business Expo opens at 10 a.m. and runs through to 5 p.m. There will be a two-hour red wine class (\$35) and the rides start at noon and run to 11 p.m. The Beers Around the World booth opens at noon and goes to 1 a.m. The band Planet of Fun performs from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. On Sunday, Sept. 6, the annual Night Parade & Bed Race starts at 7 p.m. Participants are asked to check in by 6:30 p.m. This is followed by the Mummer's Parade, which is held on Main Street beginning at 9 p.m. Other activities include the Children's Parade, which starts at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7. This is followed by the Floral parade. The Beers Around the World booth opens at noon and closes at midnight. Rides begin at noon and close at 10 p.m. To learn more about the event, go to michiganpeachfest.com.

As Labor Day Weekend approaches, that means one thing – getting ready for the Ford Arts, Beats & Eats festival. The event is celebrating its 18th year, said spokesman Jeff Corey. It is returning to the streets of Royal Oak from Sept. 4-7. Officially called the Ford Arts, Beats & Eats presented by Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Corey said that it will entertain thousands of visitors from across the region with its outstanding music line-up, arts programming, varied selection of food. And, Corey said, this year there are a number of new attractions. Ford Arts, Beats & Eats has also assembled some of the country's best musical acts and a lineup of local acts to the area that will perform on nine music stages, with more than 200 national and local bands on the festival bill. Among the national recording artists to perform on the Michigan Lottery National Stage includes country star Kip Moore, emerging alternative rock bands Neon Trees and Young the Giant, as well as renowned rock groups Cheap Trick and The Guess Who, and legendary hip-hop act Salt-N-Pepa.

Other restaurants scheduled to participate offer something for every taste, include bozii, Gaucho Brazilian Steakhouse, Peking House, and cool ice cream treats from Eskimo Jack's and newcomer Treat Dreams of Ferndale. Corey said the Juried Fine Art Show again will be a highlight of the festival, with top artists from across the continent vying for cash awards totaling \$7,500. It will showcase original art in a variety of media, including ceramics, digital art, drawing, fabric/fiber/leather, glass, graphics/printmaking, jewelry, metal, mixed media 2D, mixed media 3D, painting, photography, sculpture, and wood. Artists will come from all over North America, including Canada and Mexico, to display, share and sell their work. Festival patrons have the opportunity to explore the works of more than 135 artists. The Children's Hospital of Michigan, part of the Detroit Medical Center (DMC), is proud to return as presenting sponsor of the Kids Zone. Guaranteed to attract youngsters with fun, interactive programming throughout the four days of the festival, activities in the Kids Zone begin at 11 a.m. each day. Youngsters will have an opportunity to get "physical" with two new programs taking place on the on the Oakland County Kids Stage. Children's Hospital of Michigan Kids' Rock Out Street Team will get things moving on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Noon - 3 p.m. with free interactive entertainment that will include hit music, games, and prizes for the entire family, Corey said. Total Health Care Fun Fit Kids by Life Time Fitness features a combination of fun and fitness with top instructors from Life Time Fitness who have modified their unique cross training program, C9, with an array of activities for kids. Activities include push-ups, squats, plank holds,

jumping jacks, windmills, reverse lunges, crunches and cross ski jumps. The modified version will challenge kids as they work their upper and lower bodies followed by a cardio burst and a cool down/stretch period. All participants will receive complimentary water from Aquafina. On Saturday morning, Sept. 5, Corey said the streets of Royal Oak will be filled with hundreds of runners for the Priority Health Move to the Beats 5K/10K Walk/Run Presented by Life Time Fitness. The run will again benefit non-profits Rock CF and the Life Time Foundation. Registration information is available at [www.artsbeatseats.com/priority-health-5k-10k/](http://www.artsbeatseats.com/priority-health-5k-10k/). In addition to getting a little exercise and helping a good cause, registrants receive freebies including a Tech Shirt and two free admissions to the festival. Also returning this year is the Priority Health Zumbathon Celebration which will transform the Michigan State Lottery Stage into a red-hot, exhilarating dance fitness explosion on Saturday, September 5 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Advance registration is \$7 and day-of registration is \$10. For more information, please visit [www.artsbeatseats.com/priority-health-zumbathon](http://www.artsbeatseats.com/priority-health-zumbathon). Priority Health will also bring back its Healthy Options for the 2015 festival. Just look for the Healthy Options logo on each food vendor sign for healthy items that are on the menus of local restaurants and eateries participating in Ford Arts, Beats & Eats. Confirmed restaurant participants include Mr. B's, Café Muse and Monty's Beef.

Corey said attendees will want to stop by the many interactive Ford display areas throughout the festival see the latest Ford vehicles in all categories and sizes, while learning about the about new technology, and even having an opportunity to test drive an all-new Ford vehicle.

## Detroit Jazz Festival's Here

The 2015 Detroit Jazz Festival's lineup includes a diverse array of headlining acts for the 36th annual Labor Day Weekend festival, taking place Sept. 4-7. "Detroit is a place filled with soul, culture and creativity, and we have a great legacy of jazz here. Our Festival – the world's largest free jazz festival – truly showcases what makes our city special," said Gretchen Valade, chair of the Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation board of directors. "Being part of the Festival since its inception, it has been rewarding to watch it grow and become an event that is woven into the fabric of the Detroit and Jazz communities."

This year's 2015 Artist-in-Residence Pat Metheny, presented by Absopure, who will grace all four stages throughout the weekend with sets including:

- Pat Metheny Trio with Antonio Sanchez, Scott Colley & special guest Kenny Garrett.
- Monty Alexander: Harlem-Kingston Express.
- Brian Blade & The Fellowship Band.
- Richard Bona: Mandekan Cubano.
- Joanne Brackeen Quartet.
- Will Calhoun Quartet w/Greg Osby.
- Anat Cohen Celebrando Brasil: From Rio to Minas.
- Ron Carter Trio.

## Lost Papa John's Chevrolet Found After Cruise

DETROIT (AP) — A Chevrolet Camaro used in promotions for pizza chain Papa John's was found Monday after being among three vehicles stolen from around a Detroit-area event showcasing classic cars, police said.

The car turned up on Detroit's west side after a truck that was hauling the car and a trailer for it were recovered Sunday, Detroit police Officer Shanelle Williams said. The car was spotted in the driveway of a vacant home.

Ernest Webster, 48, arrived to mow a nearby area on Monday morning when he recognized the vehicle from a TV report and called 911. Police arrived and found paperwork in the car, the Detroit Free Press reported.

"I said, 'Man, that looks like that Papa John's car,'" Webster told the newspaper. "I looked inside and it was really clean. I called my brother-in-law, who is a cop, and he told me to call 911."

"We believe the pressure of the media forced them to dump the vehicle," Sgt. Jonathan Parnell of the Detroit Police Department's commercial auto theft unit told The Detroit News.

The car is a replica of the 1971 Camaro Z28 owned by the Louisville, Kentucky-based company. It was reported missing Sunday morning from Detroit. The car was displayed for the Woodward Dream Cruise on Saturday in suburban Detroit, Papa John's spokesman Bob Kraut said.

Papa John's founder John Schnatter sold the original gold-and-black car decades ago to help his father's tavern in Indiana, leading to the start of what would become Papa John's.

Schnatter received \$2,800 for the original Camaro. He used the money to save the family business and launch Papa John's.

Meanwhile, two other vehicles were reported stolen, including a red 1966 Chevrolet Corvette that was taken from Birmingham. A 1966 Chevy Chevelle also was reported stolen and a pickup used to haul it was found in Detroit, authorities said.

## Women Get New Automotive Tech Better Than Men

Women tend to believe in the technology and safety potential of connected vehicles and autonomous driving much more so than men, according to the annual Jabin Automotive Industry Survey.

A blind survey of 1,045 North American drivers identifies preferences for vehicle technology and automotive services. It also sheds some light on the future of automotive services and car buying, said Jabin spokesman Robert Amberg. Complete findings from the Jabin Automotive Industry Survey, which was fielded in July and August 2015, are available for free download at [www.jabin.com/automotive](http://www.jabin.com/automotive)

Men and women tend to have similar decision criteria when it comes to selecting an automotive service provider. More than half of respondents said they consult with a friend or family member for referrals. Yet when it comes to the automotive service itself, most women (44 percent) take their vehicles in to a dealership, followed by a private mechanic (37 percent) or a nationally branded repair shop (17 percent). However, when asked about who they trust, 50 percent of women said a private mechanic, with dealerships at 40 percent.

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### CHRYSLER

<b>2015 Chrysler 300</b> #C5-30165 LEASE FOR <b>\$109</b> 24 Mos. \$995 due	<b>2015 Chrysler 300 Limited AWD</b> #C5-30184 LEASE FOR <b>\$139</b> 27 Mos. \$500 due	<b>2015 Chrysler 300 S</b> #C5-30220 LEASE FOR <b>\$139</b> 27 Mos. \$595 due
<b>2015 Chrysler 300 S AWD</b> #C5-30072 LEASE FOR <b>\$157</b> 24 Mos. \$500 due	<b>AUGUST LEASE SPECIALS!</b>	
	<b>2015 Chrysler 300 C Platinum AWD</b> #C5-30186 LEASE FOR <b>\$218</b> 24 Mos. \$1995 due	

<b>2015 CHRYSLER 200 S</b> #C5-10478 LEASE FOR <b>\$109</b> 36 Mos. \$1995 due	<b>2015 CHRYSLER 200 S AWD</b> #C5-10419 LEASE FOR <b>\$129</b> 36 Mos. \$1995 due
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**2015 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY L**

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### Jeep

**2015 Patriot Lease Specials! 139 Available!**

<b>Patriot High Altitude</b> #J5-00261 LEASE FOR <b>\$106</b> 24 Mos. \$1095 due 24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE <b>\$3659</b>	<b>Billet Silver True Blue Black White Max Steel</b>	<b>Patriot High Altitude 4x4</b> #J5-00612 LEASE FOR <b>\$109</b> 24 Mos. \$1595 due 24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE <b>\$4150</b>
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**AUGUST Cherokee Lease Specials! 148 Available!**

<b>2015 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE</b> #J5-70425 LEASE FOR <b>\$109</b> 24 Mos. \$1705 due SALE PRICE <b>\$18,223</b>	<b>2015 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE 4x4</b> #J5-70407 LEASE FOR <b>\$131</b> 24 Mos. \$1995 due SALE PRICE <b>\$20,590</b>	<b>2015 CHEROKEE LIMITED 4x4</b> #J5-70236 LEASE FOR <b>\$175</b> 24 Mos. \$1995 due SALE PRICE <b>\$26,523</b>
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<b>2015 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE</b> #J5-10544 LEASE FOR <b>\$109</b> 24 Mos. \$1195 due SALE PRICE <b>\$16,999</b>	<b>2015 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE 4x4</b> #J5-80006 LEASE FOR <b>\$113</b> 24 Mos. \$1595 due SALE PRICE <b>\$18,223</b>	<b>2015 JEEP RENEGADE TRAILHAWK 4x4</b> #J5-80051 LEASE FOR <b>\$159</b> 24 Mos. \$1995 due SALE PRICE <b>\$20,590</b>
--	--	---

**2015 Grand Cherokee Lease Specials!**

<b>LAREDO 4x4</b> #J5-10544 LEASE FOR <b>\$169</b> 24 Mos. \$1995 due	<b>LIMITED 4x4</b> #J5-10343 LEASE FOR <b>\$209</b> 24 Mos. \$1995 due
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**2015 JEEP COMPASS HIGH ALTITUDE 4x4**

Leather, Power Sunroof, U Connect, Auto Start

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**\$1500**

In stock new 2015 RAMs. CAN BE COMBINED with Bonus Bucks and Conquest Cash. Prior sales excluded. One coupon per purchase or lease. See dealer for details. Expires 8/24/15. Subject to availability. PRESENT THIS COUPON

**2015 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4x4 OUTDOORSMAN**

LEASE FOR **\$119** 24 Mos. \$1195 due

24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE **\$3709**

**3.6L Pentastar**

#D5-11084

**2015 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4x4 BIG HORN**

LEASE FOR **\$107** 24 Mos. \$1395 due

24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE **\$3979**

**3.6L Pentastar**

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**2015 RAM CREW CAB 4x4 OUTDOORSMAN**

LEASE FOR **\$122** 24 Mos. \$1400 due

24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE **\$3983**

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**2015 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4x4 BIG HORN**

LEASE FOR **\$106** 24 Mos. \$1595 due

24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE **\$4156**

**5.7L Hemi**

#D5-10809

**2015 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4x4 BIG HORN**

LEASE FOR **\$128** 24 Mos. \$1995 due

24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE **\$5091**

**3.0L Ecodiesel**

#D5-10787

**2015 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4x4 LARAMIE**

LEASE FOR **\$193** 24 Mos. \$1995 due

24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE **\$6685**

**Lowest Lease Payments**

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### DODGE

**AUGUST LEASE SPECIALS!**

<b>2015 Dodge Journey R/T</b> #D5-00377 LEASE FOR <b>\$108</b> 24 Mos. \$700 due 24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE <b>\$3236</b>	<b>BEST LEASE DEALS ARE AT DICK HUVAERE'S!</b>	<b>2015 Dodge Journey R/T AWD</b> #D5-00473 LEASE FOR <b>\$108</b> 24 Mos. \$1300 due 24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE <b>\$3844</b>
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<b>2015 DODGE DART GT</b> #D5-20032 SALE PRICE <b>\$15,999</b>	<b>2015 DODGE DART SXT</b> #D5-20048 SALE PRICE <b>\$13,972</b>
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<b>2015 JOURNEY SXT AWD</b> #D5-00141 SALE PRICE <b>\$19,264</b>	<b>2015 JOURNEY SXT</b> #D5-00172 SALE PRICE <b>\$17,642</b>	<b>2015 JOURNEY SE AWD</b> #D5-00168 SALE PRICE <b>\$20,363</b>
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**2015 DODGE CHARGER SXT AWD**

LEASE FOR **\$134** 24 Mos. \$1995 due

24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE **\$4922**

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#D5-70032

<b>2015 GRAND CARAVAN SE</b> #D5-40013 SALE PRICE <b>\$14,771</b>	<b>2015 GRAND CARAVAN SE</b> #D5-40035 SALE PRICE <b>\$17,108</b>	<b>HUGE INVENTORY! BEST SALE PRICES ARE HERE!</b>
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<b>2015 DURANGO SXT AWD</b> #D5-30016 LEASE FOR <b>\$189</b> 24 Mos. \$1995 due	<b>2015 DURANGO LIMITED AWD</b> #D5-30010 LEASE FOR <b>\$255</b> 24 Mos. \$1995 due
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2015 Ford F-150

## F-150 Looses 700 lbs, Takes Home Altair Enlighten Award

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out to build the best truck ever for our customers.”

High-strength, military-grade, aluminum alloys were used throughout the F-150 for the first time, saving approximately 400 pounds from the vehicle’s body, Nair said. Ford’s engineering, research and manufacturing teams overcame the challenge of shifting from the traditional steel body to the advanced aluminum production. This is a noteworthy example of taking aluminum to a high volume application.

Starting with the signature fully boxed frame, Ford engineers increased the use of high-strength 70,000-psi steel – from 23 percent to 77 percent of the frame – to improve stiffness and durability while reducing weight, Nair said. The new frame is up to 60 pounds lighter than the current frame. High-strength, aluminum alloys, already used in aerospace, commercial transportation, energy and many other rugged industries, are used throughout the F-150 body for the first time, improving dent and ding resistance, and also saving weight.

“We are excited to present Ford with the 2015 Altair Enlighten Award,” said Dave Mason, Vice President of Global Automotive at Altair. “The judges recognized Ford’s best-in-class innovation with the company’s approach to weight reduction by incorporating advanced materials and design technologies for the F-150.”

The Altair Enlighten Awards highlight industry examples fo-

cused on minimizing the weight of products through innovative design techniques, materials technology and manufacturing processes, Korail said. It also looks at products that improve industry best practices to respond to the challenges of mass management and meeting fuel economy targets, and addressing increasing vehicle safety requirements.

This year’s first runner-up, Korail said, is General Motors, who developed and used innovative computer-aided engineering (CAE) methods to achieve a 163 pounds weight reduction on the Alpha architecture of the 2012 Cadillac ATS/CTS. Immersive lattice topology optimization, strategic structural bulkhead placement, and multi-disciplinary loadcase optimization, were used, along with expert interpretation of the results, to lead the design of the architecture structure.

The Alpha architecture’s delivers mass efficiency, stiffness, safety, structural feel, and has improved fuel economy without degrading on-road performance characteristics.

Second runner-up was awarded to Faurecia together with Automotive Performance Materials (APM). The NAFIlean (Natural Fibers for Lean Injection Design) solution brought sustainable design to instrument panels, center consoles and door panels of the 2013 Peugeot 308 by integrating a natural, hemp-based fiber with polypropylene, which allows for complex shapes and architectures along with a weight savings of 20-25 percent.

## BLM Group Names President

BLM Group USA of Wixom, a global manufacturer of tube processing equipment, has appointed of Jeff Ahlstrom as president and chief operating officer.

The announcement was made by Jim Rutt, retiring president and chief operating officer on Aug. 6, said BLM spokesman Ed Szykula.

“The appointment of a new president and COO was part of our overall corporate organizational plan established in July 2014,” Rutt said. “The announcement of Jeff fulfills one area of that plan. Jeff will be a valuable asset to our organization and more particularly a valuable asset to our customers.”

“BLM GROUP USA is a leader in its field and I welcome the opportunity to take the company forward and continue the growth realized under Jim’s tutelage,” Ahlstrom said.

Ahlstrom comes to BLM Group USA with over 30 years experience in positions of within the machine tool industry, Szykula said. He was most recently Managing Director, Central Region with Ellison Technologies. Prior to that he held a variety of positions with Fives Machining

Jeff Ahlstrom

Systems. Ahlstrom has a BS in Business Administration, an MBA and shortly will achieve a Doctorate in Business Administration.

Szykula said that BLM Group is a global leader in tube processing solutions. Its product line includes laser tube cutting, cold sawing, tube bending, end-forming and wire bending machines. With more than 50 years of tube experience and thousands of applications, the company is a leader in the manufacture of tube fabrication equipment.

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# A Port Explosion in China Hits Auto Importers Hard

SHANGHAI (AP) – Foreign companies have suspended operations around the Tianjin port as officials scramble to contain the toxic fallout of the recent deadly chemical explosions.

Toyota, which has operations near the evacuation zone around the blast, said it had suspended three production lines, which account for over half of its China capacity, through Aug. 19. Impacted models include the Crown, Reiz, Corolla, Vios and the Corolla EX, largely for the domestic market.

Panasonic, which has a product development center 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the blast site, kept its offices closed Aug. 17, out of concern for employee safety.

Hong Kong-listed logistics company Singamas Container Holdings, which has two depots close to the blast, told the stock exchange Monday that it had suspended operations at the site and lost contact with one em-

ployee. The filing said the company was still evaluating losses, but did not anticipate a material impact on business.

U.S. farm equipment maker Deere & Co. also reportedly suspended its Tianjin operations. Employees from the company's Beijing office refused to comment Aug. 17.

Automakers have been hit hard because Tianjin is one of China's major ports for car imports. Thousands of Volkswagen, Toyota, Hyundai and Renault cars, most of them pricey imports, parked on lots near the blast were decimated.

Volkswagen said it had lost around 2,700 vehicles, including New Beetle, Golf and Tiguan models. Renault said 1,500 Koleos SUVs were damaged. Hyundai said it had around 4,000 vehicles, mostly high-end cars like Equus and Genesis, parked at the site. The companies said they were still assessing the economic value of those losses.

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<p><b>2015 GMC TERRAIN FWD SLE-1</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">24 MONTH LEASE FOR ONLY <b>\$139*</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">10K PER YEAR</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Stock #8233-15 • Deal #52862 \$690 total due at signing. GM pricing plus tax, title &amp; lic. Must have Non GM in household set to expire 365 days from delivery. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED!</p>	<p><b>2015 GMC ACADIA FWD SLE-1</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">24 MONTH LEASE FOR ONLY <b>\$149*</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">10K PER YEAR</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Stock #7647-15 • Deal #51286 \$1835 total due at signing. GM pricing plus tax, title &amp; lic. Must have Non GM in household set to expire 365 days from delivery. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED!</p>	<p><b>2015 GMC YUKON 4WD SLE</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">27 MONTH LEASE FOR ONLY <b>\$419*</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">10K PER YEAR</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">22" Chrome Wheels, Rear Camera, Power Liftgate, Max Trailering &amp; More!</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">\$1995.00 DOWN</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">4x4 • V8</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Stock #8330-15 • Deal #51669 \$2980 total due at signing. GM price lease figured with Buick/GMC Loyalty Rebate. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED!</p>	<p><b>2015 GMC SIERRA 1500 4WD DOUBLE CAB</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">24 MONTH LEASE FOR ONLY <b>\$199*</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">10K PER YEAR</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">ATTENTION CURRENT BUICK/GMC LESSEE'S</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">LIMITED EDITION ELEVATION SERIES</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Stock #8588-15 • Deal #52863 \$10k miles per year. \$1612 total due at signing. GM pricing plus tax, title &amp; lic. GM price lease figured with Buick/GMC Loyalty Rebate. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED!</p>
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\*GM Employee Pricing Plus Tax, Title, Lic. and Doc. No Security Deposit Required. Lease Conquest Rebate Must Have Non GM Lease In Household To Expire Within 90 Days Of Delivery Of New Purchase Or Lease. Lease Loyalty Rebate Must Have 1999 or Newer GM Vehicle In Household. Programs subject to change. Photos may not represent actual vehicle. Price is subject to change without notice. Lacrosse stk 6898-15 lease figured with DBC cert. \$1000.00 DBC credit is while supply last. Payment may be higher if dealer DBC cert expire. See dealer for details. Expires 8/31/15.

## Vari-Form of Troy Joins Cleveland's Crowne Group

As of Aug. 3, Cleveland-based Crowne Group, LLC, has acquired Troy-based Vari-Form, a manufacturer of lightweight, hydroformed structural parts for pickup trucks, SUVs and light vehicles.

Vari-Form has three manufacturing locations in North America with a state-of-the-art technical center in Strathroy, Ontario, Canada and a non-union workforce of approximately 400 employees, said Vari-Form spokesman Terry Nardone.

Vari-Form is also expanding its global footprint with new plants under joint venture relationships in Mexico and Italy scheduled to begin operations this year. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed, Nardone said.

Jim Maraz, Vari-Form chief financial officer, said, "We are excited to begin working with Crowne, a known leading manufacturer and distributor of component parts in the automotive industry, who has strong long-term relationships with many of its top customers including OEM's and Tier I suppliers. Combining our industry knowledge and building on our customer relationships will enable Vari-Form to maintain and further develop its product offerings for our OEM and supplier partners."

"Vari-Form represents an excellent strategic fit for Crowne with its industry-leading hydroforming technology and strong and expanding base of blue-chip customers, comprised of leading OEM's, Tier 1 suppliers and a growing number of European and Asian car makers," said Stephen Graham, chief financial officer of Crowne. "We are excited to continue to expand our automotive product offerings and technolo-

gies and look forward to working with Vari-Form to successfully execute our growth strategy."

Nardone said that Vari-Form currently has production facilities in Strathroy, Ont., Canada; Reynosa, Mexico; Kunshan (Shanghai), China; and Canton, Miss. Vari-Form originated the patented Pressure Sequence Hydroforming ("PSH") process for high volume tubular body structural components and assemblies. The PSH process uses relatively low water pressure (as compared with traditional hydroforming) to form a tube to the shape of a die cavity. This unrivaled technological expertise and proprietary PSH process provides substantial weight and cost savings.

There has been significant capital investment in 20 hydroforming presses which produce over 7 million parts annually, Nardone said. Crowne, headquarter in Cleveland, is a leading manufacturer and distributor of both Aftermarket and OEM component parts for the automotive and other industrial equipment markets. Crowne serves numerous leading customers in both the Aftermarket and Original Equipment markets including mass retail, distributors, OEM and Tier I manufacturers.

Nardone said Crowne has a strong reputation in the industry and offers a diverse portfolio of products, including windshield wiper blades and components; OEM wiper systems; fuel pumps, systems and accessories.

Since 2004, Crowne has completed and integrated ten acquisitions. Crowne currently employs approximately 4,000 people and operates ten manufacturing facilities in North America.

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- 2 Yr/24,000 Scheduled Maintenance INCLUDED!
- 2.4L DOHC Engine! • 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio!
- Remote Vehicle Entry! • Rear Vision Camera!
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- Tilt and Telescopic Steering Column!
- 17" Aluminum Wheels!
- 32 MPG on the Highway!

Stock #F24729

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. TAX, TITLE AND PLATE FEES EXTRA!

Was \$27,180 Sale Price \$20,479\*

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**2016 MALIBU "LT"**

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- OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in Wi-Fi hotspot!
- Tilt and Telescopic Steering Column!
- 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio!
- 36 MPG on the Highway!

Stock # G26329

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. TAX, TITLE AND PLATE FEES EXTRA!

Was \$23,545 Sale Price \$17,699\*

39 MONTH LEASE: **\$205\*** OR **\$205\***

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**2016 CRUZE "LS"**

- 2 Yr/24,000 Scheduled Maintenance INCLUDED!
- ECOTEC 1.8L DOHC VTEC Engine! • Automatic Transmission!
- OnStar with 4G LTE with Built-in WiFi hotspot!
- AM/FM/XM Radio w/CD!
- Rear Window Defogger!
- Remote Keyless Entry!
- Bluetooth for Phone!
- 35 MPG on the Highway!

Stock #G24740

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. TAX, TITLE AND PLATE FEES EXTRA!

Was \$19,795 Sale Price \$15,889\*

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- OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in WiFi hotspot!
- GM Bed Liner INCLUDED!
- Remote Keyless Entry!
- Aluminum Wheels!

Stock #F23871

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. TAX, TITLE AND PLATE FEES EXTRA!

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\*Lease payment examples for Impala and Trax at GM Employee Discount Price plus tax, title, plate, first month payment and doc fees due at signing. Zero security deposit. All rebates including GM Competitive Lease Conquest private offer assigned to dealer. Lease payment for the Volt at GM Employee Discount Price plus tax, title, plate, zero security deposit, first month payment and doc. fees due at signing with all rebates including Volt Loyalty Private Offer assigned to dealer. Lessee responsible for excess wear and tear as well as exceeded contracted mileage. Prices subject to change due to advertising deadlines. See dealer for details.

# Johnson Controls Employees Help Train Student Leaders

Johnson Controls employees rolled up their sleeves last week to help Detroit students who are working with the Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) to help create a greener city. In partnership with Detroit's Student Conservation Association, Johnson Controls is sponsoring the summer jobs program for the eighth year.

Volunteers from the company's Automotive Seating headquarters in Plymouth, said Johnson Controls spokeswoman Mary Kay Dodero, worked with students on environmental "greening" projects at Detroit-area community parks. Activities included planting, developing and maintaining trails, and removing invasive plant species.

The CLC, Dodero said, provides 54 Detroit high school students with professional development, leadership skills and environmental conservation experience, while completing fundamental projects at the city's Rouge Park and Eliza Howell Park.

"Johnson Controls is proud to sponsor this valuable program," said Byron Foster, vice president and general manager, Complete Seat and Strategy for Johnson Controls' Automotive Seating division. "Students benefit greatly in two ways: by gaining hands-on work experience and in further developing their leadership skills, which is a main goal of the program."

"Our employees truly enjoy having the opportunity to meet these enthusiastic students and work with them to make a positive impact on the city," said Camille Chism, manager, Johnson Controls Automotive Seating, who is leading this year's CLC employee participation.

In addition to the cleanup work, on August 13, the students

participated in a professional development day hosted by Johnson Controls at the company's office in Plymouth, Dodero said. They attended sessions about corporate culture, teamwork and career development including ethics, diversity and engineering.

The CLC is a six-week program where students work with crew leaders on a variety of projects throughout Detroit, including outdoor classroom construction, new trail development, green space acreage expansion, planting of native trees, grasses and flowers, invasive plant species removal and general operations management. Students also cultivate vital professional development skills, including help with resume writing and interview skills.

# 2016 Chevy Volt Increases Range Nearly 40 percent

Range anxiety – the fear that your EV will run out of power away from a charging station – is a major issue with potential buyers.

So the 2016 Volt is engineered to offer customers more of what they want: range, range and more range, said GM spokeswoman Michelle Malcho.

The General Motors Volt's all-new second-generation Voltec extended-range electric propulsion system delivers 53 miles of pure EV range, based on EPA testing. That is nearly a 40-percent improvement over the first-generation Volt.

Chevrolet expects many next-generation Volt owners will use power solely from their batteries for more than 90 percent of trips, Malcho said. Currently, Volt owners use battery power on 80 percent of their trips.

This means the average Volt owner could expect to travel well over 1,000 miles between gas fill ups, if they charge regularly.

For the first 53 miles, the Volt can drive gas and tailpipe-emissions free using a full charge of electricity stored in its new 18.4-kWh lithium-ion battery, rated at a combined 106 MPGe, or Miles Per Gasoline equivalent, Malcho said.

When the Volt's battery runs low, a gas-powered generator seamlessly operates to extend the driving range for a total of 420 miles on a full tank.

"We listened to our customers," said Andrew Farah, vehicle chief engineer. "They were very clear when they told us that they wanted more range, and a fun driving experience behind the wheel. We are confident that the 2016 Volt delivers both."

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# Study Shows Public Needs to Know More About Safety Tech

A new, one-of-its kind study from the University of Iowa found that a majority of drivers expressed uncertainty about how many potentially life-saving vehicle safety technologies work.

The survey also showed that 40 percent of drivers report that their vehicles have acted or behaved in unexpected ways, said University of Iowa spokeswoman Hayley Bruce.

The study, conducted by the University of Iowa Transportation and Vehicle Safety Research Division, examined drivers’ knowledge of vehicle safety systems, as well as their understanding and use of defensive driving techniques, Bruce said. The study combined a literature review, the input of industry and academic experts in human factors research with an in-depth survey of more than 2,000 adult drivers across the United States.

The study found that a majority of respondents had heard of, been exposed to, or interacted with at least one of the nine vehicle safety features studied, but expressed uncertainty about all of the technologies.

“As technologies like rear-view cameras and lane departure warning systems advance and become more prevalent in the cars we’re driving there is a tremendous need to improve consumer understanding of these critical safety features,” said Daniel McGehee, director of the Transportation and Vehicle Safety Research Division at the UI Public Policy Center.

Consumers reported they least understood adaptive cruise control (65 percent) and lane departure warning systems (36 percent), McGehee said. They were

uncertain about features that have been standard in American cars for years – such as anti-lock braking systems and tire pressure-monitoring systems, according to the survey.

“The level of confusion about features that have been standard in American cars for quite awhile was really surprising,” McGehee says, noting that tire pressure monitoring and anti-lock braking systems have been in vehicles for some time. “The little details about how some of these systems work are really important when we’re talking about safety. We need to do a better job of making sure consumers are comfortable with them.”

To address that need, the University of Iowa recently partnered up with the National Safety Council to launch MyCarDoesWhat, a national campaign aimed at educating automotive consumers about new safety technologies and how they work, Bruce said.

The campaign website, MyCar-

DoesWhat.org includes educational videos and other information about safety features that help drivers avoid or reduce the severity of a crash.

The website is part of a larger national education campaign set to launch this fall.

The data-driven campaign includes academic and consumer research, videos, graphics, animation, social media, a game, an app and advertising to educate drivers.

The safety technologies included in the study were:

- Back-up Camera: provides a view of the area directly behind the car when the vehicle is in reverse.
- Blind Spot Monitor: alerts drivers when there may be something located in their blind spot.
- Forward Collision Warning: warns drivers when they are closing in on the vehicle ahead too quickly.
- Anti-lock Braking Systems: prevents wheels from locking up, helps avoid uncontrolled skid-

ding and provides some steering control in slippery conditions like snow.

- Rear Cross Traffic Alert: provides an alert to the driver that traffic is approaching from the left or right when the vehicle is in reverse.

- Adaptive Cruise Control: maintains the speed set by the driver and a pre-set following distance.

- Automatic Emergency Braking Systems: automatically applies moderate to hard braking when the system detects that a collision is imminent.

- Lane Departure Warning: alerts drivers when they drift into another lane when the turn signal is not activated.

- Traction Control: Works in the background to help accelerate and prevent wheel slippage (or "over-spinning") when driving on slippery surfaces.

The full technical report of the National Survey can be found here: [ppc.uiowa.edu/tvs/nationalsurvey](http://ppc.uiowa.edu/tvs/nationalsurvey).

# Ford Making Customizing Cars Easier

Focus ST customers can get more performance out of their vehicle thanks to a new kit from Ford, said Ford spokesman Chris Terry.

And on that front, the new Focus ST mountune upgrade kit delivers in spades.

The idea of a street-legal, reliable, largely stock 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine making nearly 300 lb.-ft. of torque might have seemed ludicrous 10 years ago, but the components of the MP275 Focus ST performance upgrade not only combine to produce up to 296 lb.-ft. of torque with 93-octane fuel, they are designed for maximum reliability as well.

“The 2015 Focus ST MP275 upgrade is the latest addition to Ford Performance’s vast Focus and Fiesta performance catalog that gives enthusiasts the components they need to take their car to the next level,” said Adam Gair, product manager, Ford Performance.

When the parts installation and tuning is performed by an authorized Ford Performance technician, Focus ST retains its factory warranty – a huge benefit for any customer looking to get the most out of the ownership experience.

The heart of the system is a performance ECU calibrated to deliver a more aggressive engine mapping program, including a quicker throttle response, without compromising durability. Power spikes from 252 horsepower to 275 horsepower.

Unlike many aftermarket kits that compromise reliability and driveability on the street while also hampering emissions, the mountune system keeps Focus ST street-legal in all 50 states.

# Cops, Feds Push For Safe and Sober Labor Day

Law enforcement agencies in six surrounding Midwest states will participate in a nationwide Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign that focuses on preventing impaired and drunken driving during the Labor Day holiday weekend.

“Our goal is to curb illegal behavior and save lives,” said National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) regional administrator Darin Jones. “We are joining with law enforcement partners to increase state and national messaging about the dangers of driving drunk. Coupled with increased enforcement and additional officers on the road, we aim to drastically reduce the toll of alcohol-impaired driving offenses.”

The 20-day, high-visibility campaign is a partnership that teams public safety and transportation officials in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin with NHTSA. The crackdown effort is part of a national push from Aug. 21–Sept. 7 (Labor Day) that will show zero tolerance for drunken driving.

The stepped-up Labor Day effort comes as NHTSA seeks to keep motor vehicle fatalities as low as possible through what can be a very dangerous holiday on the roads. Throughout the country in 2013, there were 10,076 people killed in drunken-driving crashes, almost a third of all traffic fatalities.

Thirty-eight percent of crash fatalities on Labor Day weekend that year involved drunk drivers (with blood alcohol concentrations [BACs] of .08 or higher), amounting to 161 lives lost. About 27 percent of the crash fatalities that occurred on Labor Day weekend involved drivers with BACs of .15 or higher – almost twice the illegal limit. In every state, it’s illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher.

# Poor Sales Kill Mitsubishi U.S. Production

NORMAL, Ill. (AP) – Mitsubishi Motors confirmed July 24 that it plans to stop production at its only U.S. factory and sell the plant in central Illinois that has more than 1,200 workers.

The Japanese automaker reviewed its global supply chain and decided it was necessary to end production at the plant and find a buyer, said Dan Irvin, the company’s North American spokesman. The announcement came after Japanese media reported the automaker had decided to end production in the U.S. to focus on Asian markets.

Irvin said Mitsubishi’s board will soon make a formal decision on what will happen to the plant in Normal, Ill., about 100 miles southwest of Chicago. Company officials hope to find a buyer that will maintain the factory’s employment. The president of UAW Local 2488, Rod DeVary, said workers were told Friday that the plant will cease production on Nov. 30.

Annual production at the plant, which makes the Outlander SUV, has fallen to 64,000 vehicles from more than 200,000 in 2002. The company sold only 82,000 vehicles in the U.S. last year – less than 1 percent of the total market.

Japan’s leading business newspaper, the Nikkei, reported that Mitsubishi would be the first major Japanese automaker to end production in both the U.S. and Europe. The company has built a plant in Thailand, bought one from Ford in the Philippines, and is building one in Indonesia.

Illinois state Sen. Bill Brady, whose district includes Normal, said he and other state officials were already working on a plan to find another manufacturer to buy the factory.

“We are going to do everything we can to make sure people know that Mitsubishi no longer needs the facility, but that this is a facility that has a very efficient, world-class workforce and a supplier network that’s second to none,” he said.

Brady also said he has talked to Mitsubishi officials have assured him that “Mitsubishi’s effort to sell the plant will not be about getting top dollar for the sale but about doing the right thing.”

The plant is the only Japanese-owned auto factory with UAW representation. The union contract at the plant expires this month, said DeVary.

Both Brady and Normal Mayor Chris Koos stressed that Mitsubishi’s decision was not about labor issues but because of dramatically falling sales. Brady said the hope now is that the closure

of the plant, which had been not been used to capacity as sales fell, “may bring the opportunity to more fully use the capacity of the plant and bring more jobs.”

State and local officials would not identify specific companies they plan to recruit, but said they would not limit their outreach efforts to automakers.

“We’re confident that we will be able to attract a replacement company in relatively short order,” Koos said.

One industry analyst said factors such as the location of the plant and its proximity to a network of suppliers for the Detroit automobile industry could make it attractive to another automak-

er. But Karl Brauer, a senior analyst for *Kelley Blue Book*, also said that given Mitsubishi’s the financial straits over the past decade, he doubts the company has invested much in technology to bring the plant up to date.

Still, “it is a foundation, a footprint, and there is already a process in place to ship cars from (the plant) and components to it,” he said, adding that another company might do as electronic car maker Tesla Motors did a few years ago when it retooled a shuttered plant in Fremont, Calif.

“They had to basically start from scratch and now it is a very vibrant plant,” he said.

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