Detroit Auto Scene®

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OCTOBER 5, 2015

Digital System Drives Steering In Chevy, GMC HD Trucks

developed a new digital steering system for drivers of heavy duty trucks.

Chevrolet Silverado HD trucks, beginning in model year 2016, will have New Digital Steering Assist power steering on some double cab and crew cab models.

This, said GM spokesman Brian Goebel, helps make hauling and trailering easier and more confident, with electronic con-

Talk about reinventing the trols that enhance road holding (steering) wheel. Chevrolet has and stability on the highway – particularly on crowned roads regardless of whether the truck is loaded. It also offers greater responsiveness and an improved steering feel. Digital Steering Assist is not available on Work Truck models or regular cab.

In the old days, Goebel said, all power steering systems were based on hydraulic technology. But over time, electronic power steering was developed and became the predominate technology. But there was a major exception.

It was heavy-duty trucks, Goebel said. The vehicles' weight meant that electronic power steering wouldn't work well, so they kep using hydraulic power steering tech – until now. The new Digital Steering Assist technology joins hydraulic power steering to improve steering for drivers.

"This digital technology provides variable steering assist," Goebel said. "That allows the system to adjust itself based on the speed of the truck. That makes it easier to turn the steering wheel when the truck is traveling at slower speeds. If you've ever had to turn the steering wheel of a heavy-duty truck while trying to park it, you'll understand just how great this technology is."

The digital technology also helps steer heavy-duty trucks on crowned roads, Goebel said. A crowned road is higher in the

center so water easily runs off to the side of the roads. That means that the left wheel is slightly higher than the right wheel.

This causes a bias that pulls the vehicle to the right, so drivers have to fight this bias by constantly steering slightly to the left. It can get very tiring, Goebel said. So having electronic help fight the bias for the driver is only to the good.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Added to USPS Fleet

9,000 ProMasters Headed To Nation's Post Masters

Herodotus said, neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds. Which says something about the 2016 Ram ProMaster when the U.S. Postal Service agreed to purchase 9,113 of the vehicles.

The announcement was made on Sept. 29. The 2016 Ram Pro-Master 2500 cargo van selected by USPS features a gasoline-fueled 3.6-liter Pentastar V6 engine use, lower acquisition and operrated at 280-horsepower output

the Greek historian with peak torque of 260 lb.-ft, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Nick Cappa. The engine is paired with a six-speed automatic transmission, upgraded to accommodate the ProMaster's greater cargo-hauling capability.

"The Ram ProMaster is suited to meet the challenging demands of a USPS delivery vehicle," said Bob Hegbloom, president and CEO, Ram Truck Brand – Fiat

"Reliability, durability, ease of ating costs are hallmarks of the



Ram ProMaster van quality has led to orders from the Post Office.

Ram ProMaster."

The Postal Service operates one of the largest vehicle fleets in the nation, Cappa said. USPS uses an estimated 190,000 vehicles

to collect and deliver mail, including about 142,000 long-life vehicles (LLVs).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Chevy, PUSH Hold **Money Savings Seminar at WSU**

The managing of money is more complicated than ever. Which is why Chevrolet has decided to help the public understand how they can care of themselves by taking care of their

Rainbow PUSH Coalition and Chevrolet have teamed up to host a series of workshops to educate African American consumers on financial astuteness.

The object of the workshops is to assist participants in developing concrete steps toward financial security.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BIG THREE AUTOMAKERS SEE DOUBLE-DIGIT SALES GROWTH

It was a strong month for Detroit's automakers in September, with many brands enjoying the best sales numbers in years.

Some even posted the best numbers ever for that month. Overall, huge gains were made.

Ford led the way with a reported overall sales improvement of 23 percent compared to the same time last year.

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2015 Ford Fiesta



2015 Buick Regal



2015 Jeep Compass

Lear to Open Innovation and Design Center in City of Detroit Next Year

Automotive supplier Lear Cor- ways to make these products," poration is returning to Detroit. The company was founded in the city in 1917 under the name dustries.

In the century since the company's founding, it moved its headquarters to Southfield. But on Sept. 28, Lear announced the company has purchased the historic 119 State Street building in Detroit's Capitol Park from Bedrock Real Estate Services.

Lear is going to create an innovation and design center unlike anything the downtown area has ever seen, said Lear spokesman Mel Stephens.

The company plans to turn the six-story, 35,000 square foot building at the corner of State and Shelby Streets into a hub for art, creativity, automotive advanced concept development and hands-on learning for Detroit college students.

"We will use the new development center to develop new products and to develop new

Stephens said. The building, which dates back

to 1887 and originally housed American Metal Product and was Brown Brothers Cigar Manufaca manufacturer of tubular, weld- turers, will soon be home to proed and stamped assemblies for grams and facilities for automonew business incubator, a think tank, creative design studio, an art gallery, Lear executive satellite offices, conference and meeting space and a rooftop garden. Construction is expected to begin soon; the project is slated for completion sometime next year.

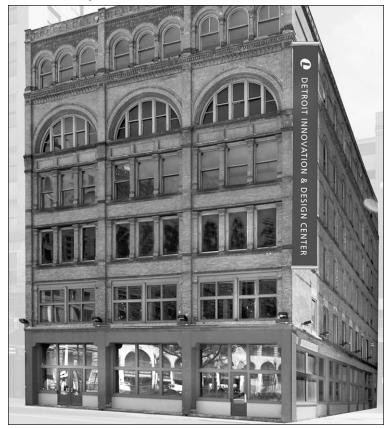
"We are very excited to be opening a new Innovation and Design Center in downtown Detroit," said Matt Simoncini, president and CEO of Lear Corporation. "We plan to leverage the rapidly developing infrastructure in the Central Business District as well as the concentration of arts, science, and technology assets in the Capitol Park area to take our Seating and Electrical businesses to the next level. We will be collaborating with students and faculty from two nearby world-class, creative learning organizations - the College for

Creative Studies (CCS) and Wayne State University College of Engineering (WSU).

'We will be working with CCS to capitalize on our unique fabric, leather and sewing expertise to produce the next generation of car seating and vehicle interiors as well as select non-automotive applications. We will also be working with WSU to expand our industryleading electrical distribution systems and capabilities including connected car and alternative energy vehicle applications."

The deal marks Bedrock's first building sale, said company spokeswoman Robin Schwartz. Since 2011, the real estate firm and its affiliates have invested more than \$1.8 billion in acquiring, renovating and developing 80+ properties in downtown Detroit. Bedrock owns seven buildings and a surface lot in Capitol Park, a block-long triangular neighborhood bounded by Shelby, Griswold and State Streets.

Stephens said the deal with Bedrock has been in the works for about a year.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 Lear Corp. has purchased this building in Detroit and will refurbish it.

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Fiat Chrysler Holds Student Diverse MBA Event

Talented MBA candidates from 34 of the nation's leading business schools competed for \$50,000 in scholarships in the 2015 National Black MBA Association (NBM-BAA) Student Case Competition, sponsored by Fiat Chrysler.

The NBMBAA/FCA US National Student Case Competition is an annual event designed to give talented student teams an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and problem-solving skills in a formal competition, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Mike Palese. Teams are given a hypothetical

business case from which they develop business solutions. Each student team then prepares and presents its case before a panel of experienced business executives. Teams are judged on their analysis of the case, the feasibility of their recommendations and the quality of presentations.

The competition is held each year as part of the NBMBAA's Annual Conference and Exposition, which was held this year in Orlando on Sept. 20-26. Fiat Chrysler has been an active supporter of NBMBAA for more than 30 years

and the exclusive sponsor of the Student Case Competition since 1995. Over that time, more than 2,000 MBA students have participated in the competition.

The NBMBAA Annual Confer-

ence and Exposition has a pretty big recruiting effort, Palese said.

So it makes sense for Fiat Chrysler to have its Student Case Competition at the same time, tapping into the available talent.

Computer System Drives Steering In New Chevy and GMC HD Trucks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There's also a new Gooseneck/5th Wheel Trailering Prep Package, with a spray-in bedliner, that makes Silverado HD models ready to tow larger trailers right from the factory. It will be available in the first quarter of 2016 for gas and diesel models, and features a frame-mounted hitch platform and tray that accommodates a gooseneck ball hitch or fifth wheel hitch mounting brackets, as well as a cargo bedmounted trailer harness. A new Gooseneck Completion Kit will also be available from Chevrolet dealers, featuring a 2-5/16-inch ball hitch and two chain tie-

Also, the 2016 Silverado HDs' trailering ratings are aligned with SAE J2807 standards, with maximum available capacities including:

• Maximum 2500HD conventional trailering rating of 14,500 pounds;

• Maximum 2500HD fifthwheel or gooseneck trailering rating of 18,000 pounds;

• Maximum 3500HD singlerear-wheel conventional trailering rating of 15,000 pounds;

• Maximum 3500HD singlerear-wheel fifth-wheel or gooseneck trailering rating of 17,500 pounds;

• Maximum 3500HD dual-rearwheel conventional trailering rating of 20,000 pounds;

• Maximum 3500HD dual-rearwheel fifth-wheel or gooseneck trailering rating of 23,200 pounds.

Those maximum ratings are achieved with the available Duramax 6.6L turbo-diesel and Allison 1000 six-speed transmission, a proven powertrain combination with more than 1.5 million sold.

Ford is Introducing Adaptive Steering

When the 2016 Ford Edge reaches showrooms later this year, Ford Motor Company will introduce an innovative new technology that will redefine the idea of "power steering," said Raj Nair, Ford group vice president, Global Product Development.

Ford's adaptive steering makes it easier for drivers to maneuver a vehicle at low speeds while making the vehicle more "fun" to drive and agile at high speeds, said Ford spokesman William Mattiace. Adaptive steering will be standard on Edge Sport and available on Edge Titanium.

Chevy, PUSH Hold

Savings Seminar

PUSH Money Matters sponsored

by Chevrolet, are scheduled in

Detroit, Atlanta and Chicago, with the goal of helping demysti-

fy the complexities of college financing, credit, and the benefits of long-term money manage-

The first session will be in Detroit on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015 at Wayne State University and is

held in conjunction with the annual PUSH Automotive Summit.

"For over forty years, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition has been committed to leveling the social and economic playing field in this country and around the world," said the Rev. Jesse L.

Jackson, Sr., founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coali-

Rainbow

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The workshops,

Adaptive steering changes the ratio between the driver's actions at the steering wheel – the number of turns – and how much the front wheels turn, Nair said. In vehicles without the technology, this is a fixed steering ratio. With adaptive steering, the ratio continually changes with vehicle speed, optimizing the steering response in all conditions.

At lower speeds, such as when pulling into a parking space or maneuvering in tight areas, fewer turns of the steering wheel are required, Nair said.

At highway speeds, the system

optimizes steering response, letting the vehicle react more smoothly to each steering input.

The actuator – an electric motor and gearing system – can essentially add to or subtract from a driver's steering inputs, Nair said. The result is a better driving experience at all speeds, regardless of vehicle size or class.

After rolling out on the 2016 Edge, adaptive steering will be available for other Ford and Lincoln vehicles in the future. It is also being introduced in Europe, initially on Ford S-MAX and Galaxy, Mattiace said.

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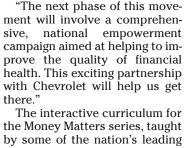
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The interactive curriculum for the Money Matters series, taught by some of the nation's leading public and private sector financial experts, is geared toward helping a cross-section of participants at various levels of financial literacy. Participants can expect to walk away from the sessions with tools and resources to develop best practices that will help support stronger financial health.

"Chevrolet has a long-standing relationship with the African American community," said Paul Edwards, U.S. vice president, Chevrolet Marketing. "We work hard every day to build strong relationships through our community programs.



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OCTOBER 5, 2015 "FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933" PAGE 3

Barra Touts Evolution of GM to a Mobility Company

GM CEO Mary Barra and Mark Reuss, GM executive vice president of Global Product Development, Global Purchasing and Supply Chain talked about how the company is transitioning from being a car company to being a mobility company at its annual Global Business Conference on Oct. 1.

GM spokesman Dan Flores said that the Global Business Conference informs bankers and financial analysts what the company has going for the future.

"The convergence of rapidly improving technology and changing consumer preferences is creating an inflection point for the transportation industry not seen in decades," said Barra. "Some might find this massive change to be daunting, but we look at it and see the opportunity to be a disruptor."

Barra also said that GM also plans to strengthen its core business through global growth initiatives and an aggressive product launch cadence, while continuing to focus on driving cost efficiencies. As a result, the company expects to increase its earnings per share and generate significant shareholder value.

Flores said among the topics talked about was an autonomous Volt program that will be used at the Tech Center to gain data on that developing technology.

Besides the autonomous vehicle deployment revelation, GM also announced:

- Car Sharing GM also announced two new car- and ridesharing projects, one in New York City operating today and one to come in first quarter next year in another U.S. city. Each project will further expand the company's participation in alternate transportation models, which the company anticipates will generate additional revenue and profits.
- eBike Concept GM unveiled an electric bike, or eBike, concept during the conference, demonstrating the company's evolving view of "mobility" in an ever-changing, increasingly urban world. Designed and engineered at GM's engineering and development center in Oshawa, Ontario, the eBike concept was designed to help people stay mobile in an increasingly difficult-tonavigate urban landscape.

pace in achieving zero emissions is fuel cell propulsion. GM confirmed its plans to jointly develop a commercially viable fuel cell vehicle with Honda in the 2020 timeframe. GM indicated it is pursuing non-automotive fuel cell applications for the aerospace and military industries.

• Mixed Materials – GM is intensely focused on reducing weight in every vehicle it develops, since lighter vehicles are better able to meet increasingly stringent global CO2 standards and offer consumer benefits including efficiency and enhanced performance. The 2016 Chevrolet Malibu, for example, incorporates 11 different materials and, as a result, is nearly 300 pounds

lighter than its predecessor.

• Exclusive Mixed-Metal Manufacturing Techniques – GM's R&D team has invented another patented, industry-first welding technology to allow the use of more lightweight metal on future vehicles. This resistance spotwelding process enables the welding of aluminum to steel, which helps make vehicles lighter and more structurally robust. The process will be adopted at the Detroit-Hamtramck plant on the Cadillac CT6 in the first half of 2016.

Barra and Reuss also stated that GM expects to grow its business over the next five years through key initiatives including a \$5 billion investment in an all-

new Chevrolet growth market vehicle family.

In the same timeframe, they said GM plans to introduce a large number of all-new or refreshed vehicles globally. In 2015, about 26 percent of GM's global sales volume has come from vehicles new or refreshed within the previous 18 months. GM is also accelerating its efforts to drive further cost efficiencies across the value chain. The company said it expects to generate benefits of approximately \$5.5 billion in purchasing, manufacturing and administration expense between 2015 and 2018, more than offsetting increased investments in brand development and technology.





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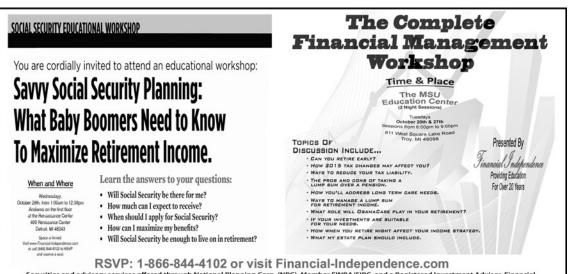
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9,000 ProMaster Vans Are Added to U.S. Postal Fleet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Ram ProMaster's ord is independent of the USPS' acquisition program to supply the next generation of delivery vehicles.

"While each and every one of our fleet customers is important to us, none command our attention like USPS," said Tim Kuniskis, vice president – Fleet Operations, FCA – North America. "I can't think of another more mission-critical service than literally delivering the goods of our nation on a daily basis, and we are honored that USPS chose the Ram ProMaster to help them meet their challenging duty."

The unibody system under the cab is an enabler for the ProMaster's segment exclusive front-wheel-drive system, Cappa said.

Interior design and function are of primary importance for a light commercial vehicle in which the driver normally spends long hours at the wheel, often under demanding conditions. The cabin of the ProMaster was designed with comfortable driving ergonomics, important because the ProMaster is a place of work, Cappa said.

Because goods always need to be transported with total security, the Ram ProMaster van is fitted with accommodations to hold cargo down on the floor. Up to 12 tie-down rings with 1,000-lb. rating fold away to maintain a flat floor, along with five sidewall tie-down rings with 550-lb. rating, for easy loading and unloading operations. The cargo area also features the most vertical walls in the segment to enable shelving upfits while taking full advantage of extra space.

Ram's full-size van offers more than 35 active and passive safety and security features, including electronic stability control, Cappa said. Ram ProMaster also features ParkView rear backup camera and ParkSense rear park assist with audible warning, all of which are useful when maneuvering a large van.

The Ram ProMaster is Ram Commercial's full-size van entry within the brand's commercial vehicle lineup. With over 14 configurations, ProMaster takes its place in the expanding, purposebuilt segment, Cappa said.

Dodge Mopar Car Battled for Title At Gatetway Park

For a 19th time in 20 National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) national events this season, the new 2015 Mopar Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car battled for a title in final elimination round as Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) pilot Matt Hagan raced to a runner-up finish at the AAA Insurance NHRA Midwest Nationals near the St. Louis Gateway Arch. While his record setting performance in qualifying garnered him the No.1 qualifier position, Sept. 27's final round appearance helped Hagan gain some ground in his quest to defend his 2014 NHRA Funny Car World Championship by moving him up from fourth to second in the "Countdown to the Championship."

Before eliminations, the reigning Funny Car world title holder drove the Mopar Express Lane Dodge Charger R/T to his fourth No.1 qualifier position of the season, posting the second quickest time ever recorded by a Funny Car at 3.883 seconds and fastest speed ever at an unprecedented 330.47 mph. Hagan began his drive through eliminations by disposing of Brian Stewart and John Force to face DSR teammate Ron Capps, who has three wins at Gateway Motorsports.

BIG THREE AUTOMAKERS SEE DOUBLE-DIGIT SALES GROWTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to Ford spokesman Erich Merkle this was the best September enjoyed by the company since 2004.

The company sold a total of 221,599 vehicles, Merkle said. Retail sales increases were broadbased with passenger car sales up 15 percent, SUVs up 23 percent and trucks up 29 percent.

"Our Ford and Lincoln dealers had an outstanding month, delivering strong sales, with gains in cars, SUVs and trucks in September," said Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service. "Sales of EcoBoostequipped vehicles also were strong, driving us to an annual record for EcoBoost sales with three months left in the year."

F-Series sales of 69,651 trucks posted a 16 percent increase overall, with retail sales increasing 28 percent. This represents the best September sales for F-Series since 2006, with EcoBoost representing 64 percent of F-150 retail sales last month.

Ford brand SUVs achieved the best September results in 12 year, with record September sales for Escape – 28,473, up 31 percent. Sales of the all-new Edge and new Explorer increased 10,262 or 33 and 19,005 or 38 percent, respectively.

Ford retail car sales grew 15 percent, with total Mustang sales of 9,456 cars representing a 199 percent increase - and the best September since 2007. Lincoln sales totaled 8,680 vehicles, a 20 percent increase.

Fiat Chrysler also boasted strong September sales. The company reported its 66th straight month of year-over-year sales gains and an overall sales improvement of 14 percent over the same time last year. The com-

pany sold a total of 193,019 vehi- in September and they are up 30 said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Berj Alexanian.

The Dodge, Jeep, Ram Truck and Fiat brands each posted year-over-year sales gains in September. The Jeep brand's 40 percent increase was the largest sales gain of any Fiat Chrysler brand during the month. The company extended its streak of year-over-year sales gains to 66consecutive months.

"On the back of a strong sales industry we were able to achieve our best September sales in 15 years and our 66th-consecutive month of year-over-year sales growth," said Reid Bigland, head of U.S. Sales. "Last month's sales strength was broad based with five FCA vehicles setting September sales records and two others posting their best monthly sales ever.

Of the seven Fiat Chrysler vehicles setting records in September, the Dodge Journey and Jeep Cherokee each logged an all-time sales record last month. Sales of the Journey and Cherokee were up 45 and 38 percent respectively. In addition, the Chrysler 200, Dodge Challenger, Jeep Compass, Jeep Wrangler and Ram ProMaster each recorded their best September sales ever.

GM's reported sales in September, showed retail deliveries up 17 percent and total sales up 12 percent compared to a year ago.

"Staying focused on core values like initial quality, sales and service satisfaction, cost of ownership, dependability and advanced technology is paying off in higher sales and share, stronger transaction prices and lower incentives," said Kurt Mc-Neil, GM's U.S. vice president of Sales Operations.

On a retail basis, Chevrolet and GMC pickups were up 24 percent percent calendar year to date, said GM spokesman Jim Cain. GM's share of the entire retail pickup market is estimated to be 39 percent.

'The U.S. is adding jobs, disposable income is rising, energy prices and interest rates remain low and business continues to invest, but the fact remains this has been a slow recovery," said Mustafa Mohatarem, GM's chief economist. "The economy still has room to grow and so do auto sales, particularly now that the Millennials are entering the workforce and starting households."

Chevrolet's retail sales were up 19 percent and the brand has had six consecutive months of year-over-year retail sales and share gains. Malibu deliveries were up 38 percent, the car's best September performance in 10 years, Cain said. Equinox deliveries were up 42 percent and Traverse was up 15 percent. It was the best September ever for Equinox. Buick Encore sales were up 46 percent and Cadillac SRX sales were up 56 percent, Cain



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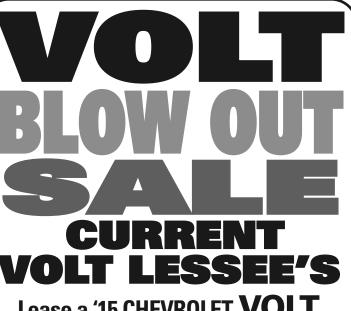
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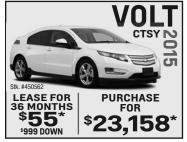


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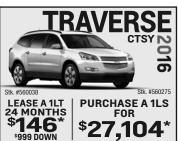














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Lear to Open New **Innovation Center** Downtown Detroit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The sale of 119 State Street provides Lear with a prime location to launch this cool, unique initiative where brilliant ideas will be developed, nurtured and brought to life," said Dan Gilbert, founding partner of Bedrock Real Estate Services. "We are thrilled to play a role in making this groundbreaking project a reality, whether we are developing properties ourselves or holding buildings in inventory until we deliver them to a great owner with an effective and unique vision. Lear's new Innovation and Design Center fits perfectly in the up-and-coming Capitol Park district and with our overall vision for downtown Detroit."

"Detroit is returning to its roots as a leader in manufacturing innovation," said Mayor Mike Duggan. "Lear's decision to locate this new hub in Capitol Park is another in a series of recent similar investments in our city and yet another example of Lear's strong commitment to Detroit."

Capitol Park is rapidly becoming a center for art, restaurants, shops, galleries and residential lofts within walking distance of the future M-1 RAIL connecting downtown, Midtown and Stephens said.

Lear has just taken possession of the building, so they haven't determined just what work has to be done to bring it up to company standards.

Stephens did say that traditional development centers are spread out more horizontally than vertically, but that the building will be fitted to meet the needs of its staff.

"We will be have the building ready sometime next year,' Stephens said. "Once work is completed we will move some people from places like Southfield, but we'll also hire some new people as well. Hopefully efforts like this and the recent announcement that Amazon is opening office in Detroit will help keep young people here. Or bring back people who grew up in metro Detroit and moved away. It's time to bring them

GM Foundation Helps Flint Clean Up Water System

The General Motors Foundation is donating \$50,000 to the United Way of Genesee County to purchase water filters for residents in the city of Flint.

The donation is part of an initiative by the United Way to fund the distribution of filters that are capable of removing contaminants from water Flint residents use for drinking and cooking, said GM spokesman Tom Wick-

"Giving back to our communities is more than investing in our facilities; it involves helping to improve the quality of life for those who live in our plant cities," said Cathy Clegg, GM North American Manufacturing and Labor Relations vice president. "The United Way is a longtime GM partner and is well positioned in the Flint area to help the residents most in need."

The donation comes as individuals, community groups and government agencies are banding together to provide Flint residents access to clean water.

Cindy Estrada, UAW v.p. and director of the union's GM Department, worked with Clegg to get the \$50,000 grant from the GM Foundation.

The UAW was also involved in efforts to get bottled water into the community.

*All prices and payments include GM rebates. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Prices subject to change per GM incentives. Prices and payments are inclusive of active GM employee discount (unless otherwise stated). All leases are 10,000 miles per year with approved S Tier credit. Vehicles shown are \$999 down. Must have lease loyally and/or conquest. Must currently own or lease a Chevrotel Volt.. Must have closing competitive lease. Prices and payments are plus tax, title, plate fee war acquisition fee up front, refundable security deposit required on certain vehicles – to be determined by lender. Must be remetly leasing or own a Volt. \$3,500 trade in is valid on 2003 or newer vehicles w/ under 115k miles in drivable condition, no branded titles, reconditioning determined by appraiser. Certain restrictions may apply, see dealer for complete details. Exp date: 10/31/2015.

Federal Gov't Slams BMW for Failing To Fix Mini Side Impact Problems

DETROIT (AP) - BMW may be the next automaker in the sights of U.S. safety regulators.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it's investigating the company's Mini brand because it may have been slow to fix cars that didn't pass federal crash tests.

At issue are just over 30,000 Mini Cooper and Cooper S models from model years 2014 and 2015, plus the John Cooper Works from 2015.

The agency said in paperwork posted on its website Sept. 28 that government crash tests found that a 2014 Mini Two-Door Hardtop Cooper didn't adequately protect a female dummy in side-impact crash tests done in October of last year.

Two months later, BMW agreed to a recall and later said it would do a "service campaign" to add padding to the rear side BMW spokesmen.

panels of 2015 Two-Door Hardtop Cooper models.

But the campaign was never done, and BMW never told NHT-SA that it wasn't, according to the documents.

Then, in July 2015, NHTSA tested a 2015 Cooper S, which also failed the side impact crash tests. and BMW agreed to recall the 2014 and 2015 Cooper S and Two-Door Hardtop and 2015 John Cooper Works models.

The agency said it's concerned that BMW knew or should have known about side crash problems and should have taken action sooner. "It appears from a review of NHTSA's databases that BMW may have failed to submit recall communications to NHTSA in a timely manner," the documents said.

Messages were left Sept. 28 seeking comment from Mini and

VW Diesel Scandal Leads to Cutback At Its Salzgitter Engine Plant

engine factory said Sept. 30 it has dropped one shift a week and the company's financial services division imposed a temporary hiring freeze as the world's largest automaker grapples with an emissions-rigging scandal.

The extent of the fallout from the scandal, which erupted Sept. 18 when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said VW had cheated on tests of its diesel cars, remains unclear as do the costs to Volkswagen. Longtime CEO Martin Winterkorn quit last week, but said he was aware of no wrongdoing on his part.

In Germany, Stella Pechmann, a spokeswoman for the engine plant in the city of Salzgitter, con-

BERLIN (AP) - A Volkswagen firmed a report Sept. 30 in the Wolfsburger Allgemeine Zeitung daily that a "special shift" is being cut as a precaution because of the current situation. The shift had previously been added to deal with high demand.

Separately, the Volkswagen Financial Services division is freezing new hiring until the end of the year, though spokesman Stefan Voges told news agency dpa that existing hiring agreements are unaffected.

The scandal has raised concerns that the reputation of German automakers and engineering as a whole could be tarnished, though Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said he doesn't see the affair damaging Germany as a business location.



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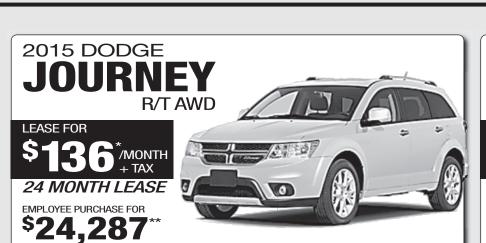
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