



From left, Pat Curtis, Jason Beeman, Santa Claus, Corp. Ryan Storie, John Giannetti at Warren Transmission

Warren Transmission Folks 'Pay It Forward' in Tots' Toys

by Jim Stickford

The hourly and salaried workers – as well as the vendors and contractors – at GM's Warren Transmission plant were able to share their good fortune by donating toys to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign.

"Every year, we at Warren Transmission like to hold a toy drive for Toys for Tots," said Jason Beeman, UAW Local 909 shop chairman.

"And we just received a signing bonus, so a lot of people really wanted to share their good fortune with the less fortunate this year. You know, sort of paying it forward.

"Even in the worst of times, we have always liked to help.

"This is such a valuable program that really helps people in the community have a nice Christmas. It's an honor to be able to help."

Beeman estimated that, between workers at Warren Transmission and the vendors and contractors who do business there, close to \$15,000 worth of toys were donated in this year's Toys for Tots drive.

Warren Transmission Plant Manager Pat Curtis said this was the first year he has been in-

involved with the drive, and what he saw impressed him.

"Last year at this time, I was working at GM's facility in Lockport, N.Y.," Curtis said. "We do some stuff for local charities, but nothing on this scale. I'm really in awe of what the Warren Transmission Operational Team has done this year. Being able to support Toys for Tots and make Christmas special for area children is something to be proud of."

John Giannetti, a UAW organizer, was on hand to help load the donated gifts onto the Toys for Tots truck. He said the list of people to thank for their donations was long.

"This makes all of us – the workers at Warren Transmission, the vendors and contractors – feel good," Giannetti said. "If getting involved with a charity like this doesn't make you feel good, then I guess there's really nothing that can."

On hand to accept the gifts on behalf of Toys For Tots was Corp. Ryan Storie of the First Battalion, 24th Marines.

"Toys for Tots is a great organization," Storie said. "Just seeing the face of a child light up after you've given him or her a toy makes all the work worthwhile."

Santa's Out There – OnStar Knows Where

Ask any 4-year-old what's the most important thing to know on Christmas Eve and he or she will tell you – where's Santa Claus?

And thanks to modern technology, parents will be able to answer that all-important question.

OnStar subscribers can get in the Christmas spirit during holiday travel across the U.S., Canada and Mexico by pushing their blue button to learn Santa Claus' whereabouts between Christmas Eve and Christmas morning, said full-time GM spokesman and part-time Santa's helper Stefan Cross.

With support from the North

American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and its 60 years of Santa-tracking experience, OnStar for the seventh consecutive year will reveal Santa's location to the curious between 6 a.m. EST Dec. 24 and 5 a.m. EST on Dec. 25.

Additionally, OnStar and its AtYourService partner AudioBooks will offer subscribers complimentary copies of the Christmas classic, "The Night before Christmas," downloadable via an email link sent by an OnStar advisor, Cross said.

Everyone in the vehicle can listen to the book on the Audio-

books mobile app together using Apple CarPlay, Android Auto or a Bluetooth connection, or individually on any of the up to seven mobile devices that can be connected separately to the OnStar 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot.

Getting into the Christmas spirit of giving, Cross said OnStar

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Autonomous Fusions to Hit California Roads

It's said that California is America's largest car market, so it only makes sense that the latest car technology is tested there.

To that end, fully autonomous Ford Fusion Hybrid sedans are taking to California streets next year, as Ford Research and Innovation Center Palo Alto continues growing, said Ford spokesman Alan Hall.

The company is officially enrolled in the California Autonomous Vehicle Tester Program to test autonomous vehicles on public roads.

The testing is further advancement of Ford's 10-year autonomous vehicle development program and a key element of Ford Smart Mobility, the plan to take the company to the next level in connectivity, mobility, autonomous vehicles, the customer experience, and data and analytics, Hall said.

Ford Research and Innovation Center Palo Alto is one of the largest automotive manufacturer research centers in the region, with a team of more than 100 researchers, engineers and scientists. The new research lab opened in January, expanding Ford's presence in Silicon Valley, which dates back to 2012, Hall said.

Eighty percent of the Palo Alto team joined Ford from the technology sector. The remaining 20 percent, Hall said, are Ford employees from the United States, China, Germany and Australia who bring automotive engineering and design expertise.

"Our Palo Alto team has grown significantly this year, using research and innovation to explore and develop future mobility solutions," said Mark Fields, Ford president and CEO.

"We're attracting top talent from around the world to join our team in Silicon Valley, including employees from local technology companies and universities who want to make people's lives better by changing the way the world moves."

Ford has expanded its Silicon Valley facility from a 15-person office to a 100-plus-person research and development center.

Research the lab has conducted this past year includes:

- Autonomous vehicle virtual test drive: This study allows virtual interaction between an autonomous car and pedestrians, replicating real-world situations to better understand and develop responses to some of the unexpected things that can happen on the road.

- Sensor fusion: Sensors on

autonomous vehicles detect and track objects in the vehicle's view, fusing information together to provide a 360-degree view of the car's surroundings – including street signs, other vehicles, even pedestrians.

- Camera-based pedestrian detection: Camera sensors serve as the eyes of a vehicle, allowing the car to "see" and sense pedestrians.

- Data-driven health care: Through data collection from Ranger pickups and motorcycles outfitted with OpenXC technology, Ford is working with Riders for Health to collect GPS data and mapping coordinates to make health care, vaccines and medication delivery to people throughout rural Africa more

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GM CEO Mary Barra serves food at Forgotten Harvest Christmas Dinner.

GM, Forgotten Harvest Serve Christmas Dinner to 800

by Jim Stickford

Everybody deserves a nice Christmas dinner.

That was the philosophy behind the seventh annual Forgotten Harvest dinner at the Detroit Marriott Hotel Dec. 14. The event was sponsored by the GM Foundation.

Those attending got to enjoy a Christmas dinner served up by GM executives, including GM CEO Mary Barra.

Kirk Mayes, CEO of Forgotten Harvest, said that 2015 marked the seventh dinner put on by the GM Foundation with the help of the Detroit Marriott Hotel.

"It's so nice that our corporate sponsors have made this possible," Mayes said. "Everybody deserves a nice Christmas dinner and the GM Foundation and the Detroit Marriott really made that possible."

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Mark Fields celebrates new testing facility in Palo Alto, Calif.

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VW's European Sales Tumble in Light of Scandal

MILAN (AP) – Volkswagen sales growth in Europe screeched to a near-halt in November compared with both its mass-market and premium competitors as the German carmaker was penalized for its involvement in a diesel emissions-cheating scandal.

Sales of the core Volkswagen brand grew in November by just 2.8 percent, compared with nearly 14 percent for the industry as a whole, according to statistics released Dec. 15 by Europe's car-makers association ACEA.

The Volkswagen group, which includes a range of brands from Lamborghini to Skoda, saw its market share slide from 26.6 percent in November 2014 to 24.3 percent this year.

Volkswagen has been tainted by a scandal that it tinkered with software to achieve better emissions results in U.S. tests. Last week, it reported global sales were 2.2 percent lower than in November the previous year.

European peers fared much better. Mass-market manufacturers PSA Peugeot, Renault, Ford, Opel and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles all posted double-digit growth. Premium carmaker Daimler saw sales rise 22 percent, while BMW posted a 10 percent increase.



VW Diesel Fraud Got Its Start As Far Back as 2005

WOLFSBURG, Germany (AP) – A small group of Volkswagen engineers began working as early as 2005 on emissions cheating software after they were unable to find a technical solution to U.S. emissions controls as the automaker pushed into the North American market, executives said Dec. 10.

The company in September admitted to have cheated on U.S. diesel emissions tests with the help of software installed in engines. The software was built into 11 million cars globally, about 500,000 of which in the U.S., from 2009 to 2015.

It has so far confirmed to have cheated only on the U.S. tests, which are more rigorous than European ones for the polluting emission nitrogen oxide.

In an update on the company's investigation in the case, Chairman Hans Dieter Poetsch said engineers in 2005 were unable to find a technical solution to U.S. nitrogen oxide emissions within their "timeframe and budget" and came up with the software that manipulated results when lab testing was done.

Later, when a technical solution became available, it was not employed, Poetsch said.

"We are not talking about a one-off mistake, but a whole chain of mistakes that was not interrupted at any point along the time line," he told reporters.

Santa's Out There – OnStar Knows Where

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will also donate a dollar to the United Way for Southeast Michigan and the United Way Mexico for each Santa location call received.

Last year, the calls led to a donation of more than \$2,600 to the two organizations.

"The holiday season is all about spreading cheer, giving back to the community and connecting with others," said Terry Inch, OnStar chief operating officer.

"OnStar has become a key enabler for that. Our advisors really enjoy playing the role of Santa's helper and sharing the joy of Christmas with our subscribers."

OnStar is dedicated to the safety and security of subscribers throughout the year. To support incoming Santa Update requests, advisor staffing is adjusted to accommodate the extra traffic, Cross said.



Parents can locate Santa by pressing the OnStar button in their GM car.

On average during the Christmas Eve/Day period, OnStar receives more than two calls per minute and more than 185,000 calls each day.

Individuals without an OnStar

subscription can follow Santa's journey via the NORAD Tracks Santa website, Facebook page, Twitter hashtag #NORADSanta or by calling the hotline at 1-877-HI-NORAD 1-877-446-6723.

Ford, UAW Team Up in Holiday Food Drive

UAW-Ford has donated more than 25,000 holiday meals this year during its third annual "Boxes of Love."

"The donation is one of the largest holiday food giveaways nationwide, said Ford spokesman Glenn Oswald.

The "Boxes of Love" program is part of UAW-Ford's national community giving initiative spanning across 18 states.

On Dec. 19, metro Detroit area residents were able to pick up a free holiday food box at two locations in Detroit and one in Highland Park.

Each box included a 12 to 14-

pound turkey, boxes of stuffing, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce, corn bread mix, a jumbo size can of vegetables, along with the makings of a dessert – cake mix and frosting.

The retail value of each box amounts to nearly \$50, Oswald said.

Through the joint effort of UAW and Ford Motor Company this donation totaled to more than \$500,000 of community giving.

"Our UAW-Ford brothers and sisters have come together for the third year in a row to give back to the community and pro-

vide a delicious holiday meal to people less fortunate," said UAW-Ford Vice President Jimmy Settles.

"We are proud to provide assistance to many people during the holiday season and throughout the year."

Participating states in the holiday-giving effort included California, Colorado, Ohio, Oregon, Missouri, Florida, Texas, Georgia, Indiana, New York, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Connecticut and Wisconsin.

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Crowd turns out for the GM/Forgotten Harvest dinner at the Marriott.

GM, Forgotten Harvest Serve Christmas Dinner to 800

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Mayes said that the dinner served about 800 individuals and families who are helped by the organization all year long.

"In a year, Forgotten Harvest delivers food to 283 different charitable organizations in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties," Mayes said. "These wonderful organizations help thousands and thousands of people throughout the year."

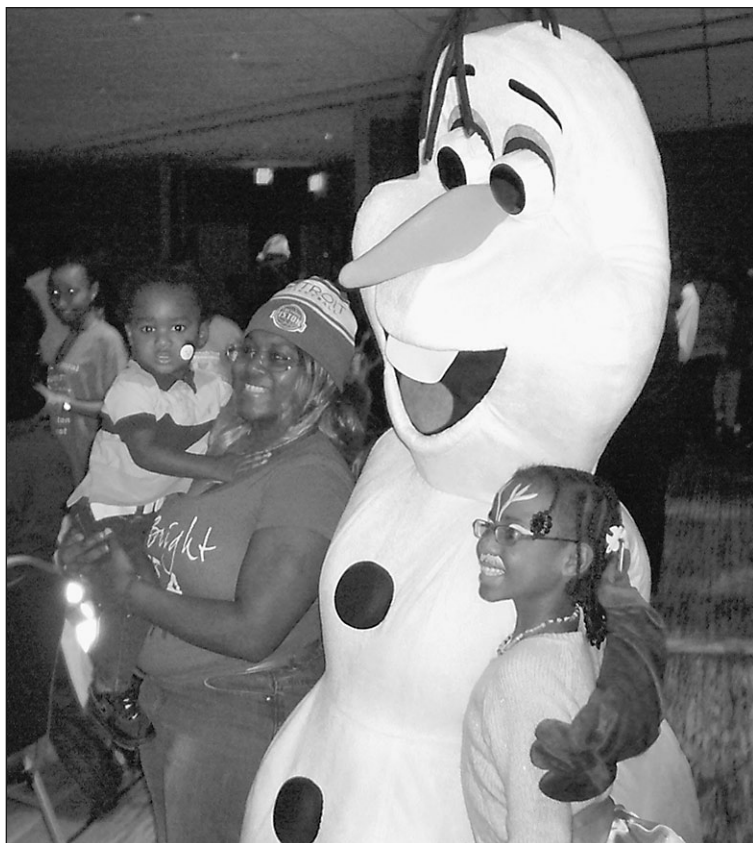
Mayes said Forgotten Harvest's mission is to relieve hunger in metro Detroit and prevent nutritious food waste. It was formed in 1990. The organizations it serves includes emer-

gency food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless and domestic shelters, children's homes, senior centers and group homes.

The organization operates under the direction of a volunteer board of directors, along with a small and dedicated professional staff, Mayes said.

Shonda Johnson, area general manager for Marriott, said the hotel is honored to work with GM and Forgotten Harvest to put on the annual Christmas dinner.

"We started work on this year's dinner about six months ago," Johnson said. "Every year, we look at what we did the previous year and then try to do things a little differently, a little better,



People enjoyed the chance to get pictures with celebrity snowmen.

basically improve on what we did before."

This year, Johnson said, they allowed people to get their dinners as soon as they got to the Marriott ballroom. Last year, people were seated first and then lined up to get their dinners, table by table. By allowing people to get food directly, the lines were cut down and things were generally sped up.

Johnson worked alongside

Mary Barra, serving food to the Forgotten Harvest guests.

"It's very important to show that we at GM are a part of the larger Detroit community," Barra said.

"It's just great to be able to give back to the community and its people. And to be able to do it at a nice venue like the Marriott is great – and the fact that they make this possible is something that we should all appreciate."

Art Van Supports Focus:HOPE Via Donation Program

"Join Art Van Furniture in supporting Focus:HOPE between Dec. 19 and Dec. 31 through their Double Your Donation Campaign."

That's the message the Warren-based furniture store chain wants to get out to the public.

"We will be giving a matching grant up to \$180,000," said Art Van spokeswoman Diane Charles.

Focus:HOPE, Charles said, got its start in 1968 and is dedicated to intelligent and practical solutions to the problems of hunger and economic disparity.

Among the programs that will be supported by Art Van and matching donations are Focus:HOPE's Commodity Supplemental Food Program. It was established in 1971, assists mothers, children up to age 6, and low-income senior citizens age 60 and older. In 40 years, Focus:HOPE has been instrumental in providing canned and packaged food for 21 million people who struggle to survive on meager incomes, said Charles.

Through Focus:HOPE's career training programs, Charles said, nearly 12,000 men and women have established careers that pay sustainable wages. Graduates broke race and gender barriers in the machinist trades and diversify the workforce in the information technology and engineering areas.

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FCA, Habitat for Humanity Open New Detroit Home

Habitat for Humanity Detroit and the FCA Foundation, the charitable arm of Fiat Chrysler, dedicated a new home in the Morningside Commons community on Detroit's east side on Dec. 10.

The build, which kicked off in the month of April, was part of a collaborative partnership between Habitat for Humanity Detroit and the FCA Foundation to build a safe, affordable home for a working family in need, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Kevin Frazier.

The single-family ranch home is approximately 1,200 square feet and includes four bedrooms, a two-car attached garage and Energy Star appliances.

Since 2007, Habitat Detroit has built or rehabbed 120 homes in the Morningside Commons neighborhood.

Approximately 260 Fiat Chrysler Motor Citizen volunteers contributed nearly 2,000 hours of service over the past seven months to complete the latest home.

"Coming together to build a house along with Habitat for Humanity Detroit was a wonderful undertaking for FCA US and its employees," said Lesley Slavitt,

head of Civic Engagement, Fiat Chrysler, and CEO of the FCA Foundation. "Being together with the Richards family today as this house becomes their home is a truly special opportunity, and we wish them many years of happy memories as they settle into their new home."

Carol Richards, Habitat Detroit's newest homeowner, shared her gratitude for all those who helped her achieve the dream of home ownership. "I feel very thankful for the support of Habitat for Humanity Detroit and the FCA Foundation."

I thank the volunteers and my sponsor from the bottom of my heart and I appreciate their effort in helping build the community into a safe, nice neighborhood."

Tara Franey, Habitat Detroit Director of Development, added, "We are thrilled for Carol and for all of our Family Partners who work so hard to become homeowners. Of course, we could not carry out our mission without dedicated corporate partners like the FCA Foundation. They are truly helping us to build homes, communities and hope in Detroit."



Dan Akerson, right, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, with retired U.S. Navy SEAL Rick Kaiser

Chevy Salutes Military at Army-Navy Clash

Since 1890, Army and Navy have battled in epic proportions on the football field.

And since 2010, Chevrolet has been the official vehicle sponsor.

During this year's game, held Dec. 12 in Philadelphia, Chevrolet honored military service men and women – particularly its special forces.

Former General Motors Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, joined retired U.S. Navy SEAL Master Chief Rick Kaiser, executive director of the National Navy SEAL Museum, to salute the special forces during the presentation of a Chevy Silverado Special Ops Concept vehicle at the game.

The limited production version is expected to go on sale next spring. Chevrolet will donate a portion of the proceeds from each Special Operations Silverado sold to benefit the Navy SEAL Museum, according to GM spokesman Tom Rippinger.

"The partnership will also help

us aid the families of fallen, injured and active duty Navy SEALs through the efforts of our Trident House and scholarship programs," said Kaiser.

Founded in 1985, the museum honors the service and legacy of the U.S. Navy SEALs, Rippinger said. Located in Ft. Pierce, Fla., the museum and memorial are recognized as the birthplace of the Navy SEALs.

During World War II, thousands of volunteers traveled there to train in covert warfare and underwater demolitions, creating the Navy's first special operations units.

Chevrolet will also host the U.S. Expeditions and Explorations (USX) Mt. Everest Expedition Team and its members before the game. USX, founded by two active-duty U.S. Army graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., helps veterans struggling with combat injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Rippinger said.

In April 2016, Chevrolet will sponsor the USX team as it seeks to put the first active-duty soldiers – and first combat-wounded U.S. veteran – atop the world's tallest peak at Mt. Everest.

"We sincerely appreciate the support of Chevrolet as we take on this bold challenge," said U.S. Army Capt. Matt Hickey, USX co-founder and team member.

"Although our goal is big, so are the needs of today's veterans, and our mission and Chevrolet's support inspires others to get involved."

In addition to supporting these programs, Rippinger said, Chevrolet has expanded its military discount program – normally reserved for active-duty, reserves, retired personnel and veterans within a year of discharge – to include all 23 million United States veterans and their spouses.

The discount is available through Jan. 4, 2016. To learn more, visit ChevySalutes.com.

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'Competitive Advantage' is Goal of Award

"Customer First" is the theme Fiat Chrysler has developed to "elevate customer satisfaction with their dealerships," said FCA spokesman Ralph Kisiel.

A new honor, the "Customer First Award for Excellence," was announced Dec. 14 for Fiat Chrysler's 2,600 dealerships nationwide.

The award's specific focus is on the sales and service experience, employee training and facility condition, Kisiel said.

"At its core," said Al Gardner, head of Network Development, FCA – North America, "this initiative will enable each of our dealers to earn certification as Customer First Award for Excellence dealers and market themselves to customers as elite stores."

"We believe it will give us a serious competitive advantage in the marketplace that, along with our great products and strong brands, will significantly improve customer satisfaction, loyalty

and retention in our dealerships."

Dealers must achieve goals in five core "pillars" to earn the Customer First Award for Excellence designation, Kisiel said.

They include:

- Facility – Customers consistently find dealerships to be clean, convenient and comfortable. Facilities are certified every six months.

- Customer Processes – Develop and consistently execute processes for key customer interaction points, such as sales negotiation, delivery and follow-up.

- Performance – Achieve required high level of satisfaction in customer sales and service satisfaction surveys.

- Employee Survey – Survey employees annually, share findings with employees, and act on the feedback and results.

- Training Certification – Meet minimum training requirements

for sales, service, parts and technical staff.

The Customer First Award for Excellence was rolled out to dealers in October, Kisiel said. Dealers are currently participating in 60 workshops across the country focused on award requirements and industry best practices. Certified dealers will be able to advertise their new designation beginning in July 2016.

"Over the past several years, we've taken bold strides to improve our business plan, our products and our market share," said Reid Bigland, senior vice president of Sales, FCA – North America.

"Those efforts have translated to FCA delivering a streak of 68 consecutive months of year-over-year sales growth.

Ford Goes Green In California Testing Efforts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

efficient and accessible.

Ford has cultivated relationships with top universities this year, including University of California-Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon University, Santa Clara and San Jose State, Fields said. The company is further expanding its strategic research collaboration with Stanford in 2016, planning 13 projects covering all five areas of Ford Smart Mobility.

"Having a strong presence in Silicon Valley allows us to further accelerate our research on a range of technologies, and apply our insights to create real-world mobility solutions," said Ken Washington, Ford v. p., Research & Advanced Engineering.

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261-Foot-Tall Turbines Will Generate Energy for Plant

Sometimes powering an automotive plant is as easy as taking advantage of a free natural resource – air.

General Motors' Arlington (Texas) Assembly plant will soon be able to build up to 125,000 trucks a year using wind power from turbines whose blades span the length of a football field in diameter, said General Motors spokeswoman Sharon Basel.

Arlington Assembly produces more than 1,200 vehicles daily, including the Chevrolet Suburban and Tahoe; GMC Yukon and Yukon XL; and Cadillac Escalade and Escalade ESV.

The 115 million kilowatt hours of renewable energy gained from the wind farms will be enough to manufacture more than half of the plant's annual vehicle output, Basel said.

General Motors signed a power purchase agreement with EDP Renewables North America, a fully-owned subsidiary of EDP Renovaveis, for its first U.S. wind power – 30 MW of energy from the planned 250 MW Hidalgo Wind Farm in Edinburg, Texas, Basel said.

Fifteen of the wind farm's 261-foot-tall turbines will generate the energy General Motors will use.

Arlington Assembly expects to start using the clean power during the fourth quarter of 2016, avoiding about \$2.8 million in energy costs annually.

Over the course of the 14-year deal, General Motors will avoid more than 1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions – equivalent to the emissions of 112 million gallons of gasoline consumed, Basel said.

"Our investment is helping ac-

celerate the proliferation of clean energy in Texas and the use of wind as a reliable, renewable source of energy," said Jim DeLuca, General Motors executive vice president of Global Manufacturing.

"Our sustainable manufacturing mindset benefits the communities in which we operate across the globe."

"We are pleased to enter into this agreement with General Motors," said EDP Renewables North America CEO Gabriel Alonso, "and look forward to providing clean and more economical energy for GM's Arlington Assembly plant in the coming years."

Renewable energy complements a robust energy efficiency program at the plant, Basel said. Arlington Assembly recently met with officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry by reducing the energy intensity of its operations by 10 percent in five years.

This is the second time it met the challenge, Basel said.

The Arlington Assembly plant also is investing in a new paint shop that will use half the energy of the system it will replace, Basel said.

Beginning in the first quarter of 2016, wind energy will help power three General Motors Mexico facilities as well, Basel said.

Once on line, she said, the company will exceed its commitment to use 125 MW of renewable energy by 2020.

General Motors' investments in renewable energy to date have yielded nearly \$80 million in savings.

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DMAX to Invest \$82 Million, Add 150 Jobs in Ohio Plant

General Motors is betting big that despite the bad rap that certain automobile manufacturers have given diesel-powered motor vehicles, there is a real future with the buying public for that type of engine.

DMAX, Ltd. will invest \$82 million at the DMAX plant in Morain, Ohio, for future Duramax diesel engine-related productivity improvements, dependent on state and local incentive approvals, said General Motors spokeswoman Mary Ann Brown.

The investment would create approximately 150 jobs over the next three years at the joint venture between General Motors and Isuzu.

Less than a year ago, a \$60 million investment was made at the plant facility to make design changes that would enable the engines to meet future emissions requirements, Brown said.

Established in 1998, DMAX has produced almost 1.7 million engines since opening in 2000, Brown said.

GM owns 60 percent and Isuzu owns 40 percent of the venture that makes the Duramax diesel for heavy-duty trucks. DMAX, Ltd. has invested \$856 million in the DMAX facility since 2000.

"This investment and job creation is a result of the hard work from our DMAX team and IUE-CWA Local 755, who have consistently demonstrated their commitment and dedication to building the best diesel engine possible for our customers," said General Motors North America Manufacturing manager Scott Whybrew.

"The Duramax diesel's performance is renowned in the industry, and these productivity



Scott Whybrew

improvements will allow us to become even more efficient in producing these world-class engines."

DMAX is home to the Duramax 6.6L Turbo Diesel engine used in the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra.

The current Duramax powertrain is SAE-certified at 397 horsepower at 3,000 rpm and 765 lb.-ft. of torque at 1,600 rpm, Brown said.

All of the Duramax engines include a high-pressure (30,000 psi/2,000 bar) Piezo-actuated fuel system for greater fuel efficiency, as well as improved performance and reduced emissions, Brown said.

The Duramax is also available in the Chevrolet Express and GMC Savana full-size vans, Brown said.

"It has been the successful partnership among GM, Isuzu and IUE-CWA Local 755 that continues to bring new investment dollars to our plant," said Shinichi Suzuki, president, CEO and chief operating officer for DMAX.

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<p>CAMARO 2016</p> <p>1LT</p> <p>Stk. #460564</p> <p>PURCHASE FOR \$26,992*</p>	<p>TRAX 2016</p> <p>LS</p> <p>Stk. #560706 Stk. #560706</p> <p>LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$79* 0 DOWN W/ LEASE CONQUEST OR \$999 DOWN W/ LEASE LOYALTY</p> <p>PURCHASE FOR \$15,869* WAS \$21,195</p>	<p>TRAVERSE 2016</p> <p>LS</p> <p>Stk. #560275 Stk. #560275</p> <p>LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$199* 0 DOWN W/ LEASE CONQUEST OR \$999 DOWN W/ LEASE LOYALTY</p> <p>PURCHASE FOR \$26,269* WAS \$32,650</p>	

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GM Will Invest \$356 Million in Michigan Plants

General Motors plans to deepen its roots in Michigan by investing hundreds of millions of dollars in state facilities over the next several years.

GM, said company spokesman Tom Wickham on Dec. 15, will invest more than \$356 million in a new engine line in Flint and driveline and powertrain components in Saginaw and Grand Rapids.

The moves will create more than 50 jobs and help to retain nearly 500 positions, he said.

The Michigan investment announcements come on the same day as an amended agreement between GM and the Michigan Strategic Fund under the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) tax credit program, Wickham said.

As part of the amended agreement, which was approved by the Michigan Strategic Fund last week, GM will invest \$1 billion in Michigan by 2030.

The Dec. 15 announced investment of \$356.35 million represents more than one-third of that amount.

Since 2009, GM has made investment commitments in Michigan of more than \$9 billion. During that time period, GM has far exceeded its original investment commitment under the MEGA Agreement, Wickham said.

GM's substantial investment in Michigan and the corresponding job growth and retention has contributed to Michigan's economic success since 2009, he said.

"These investments," said Bill Shaw, GM North America Manufacturing manager, "will better position GM and its workforce to produce high-quality engines and components for customers who demand greater fuel efficiency and performance from our vehicles."

Details pertaining to the engine programs and associated vehicles will be released at a later date, Shaw said.

"The membership and leadership of Region 1-D are excited about this investment in our area and our workforce," said UAW Region 1-D Director Gerald Kariem.

"These investments were earned with the quality and skill our membership brings to their jobs every day, and we appreciate GM giving us the opportunity to continue to prove the UAW workforce is world-class."

These announcements, Wickham said, raise GM's announced U.S.-facility investment in 2015 to \$7.1 billion.

Gasoline Mileage Makes No Gain In 2015 Vehicles

WASHINGTON (AP) – The government says new cars and trucks averaged 24.3 miles per gallon last year, marking no improvement.

The EPA says fuel economy stayed flat as technological advancements in automotive engines and transmissions were offset by a resurgent demand for larger vehicles.

EPA originally reported the 2013 average at 24.1 miles per gallon, but later revised that figure upward by two-tenths of a mile per gallon. Falling gas prices and consumers' rekindled love of SUVs could endanger future fuel economy gains.

The EPA's calculations are based on cars and trucks produced for sale in the U.S. each model year.

Officials predict slow growth for 2015. Automakers still expect to meet federal standards requiring a fleet-wide average of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025.