

GM Design's Ed Welburn to Retire July 1

Ed Welburn, vice president of General Motors Global Design, told employees April 7 he will retire effective July 1, following a 44-year career with the company.

Michael Simcoe, a 33-year veteran of GM Design and vice president of GM International Design, based in Australia and Korea, has been selected to succeed Welburn. He will be the automaker's

seventh design leader and begins transitioning into his new role on May 1. His replacement has not been named, said GM spokeswoman Robyn Henderson.

Former GM Chairman Ed Whitacre, who ran GM as its CEO in 2009 and 2010, said after hearing of Welburn's retirement that he respected Welburn's abilities. "Ed was a favorite of mine,"

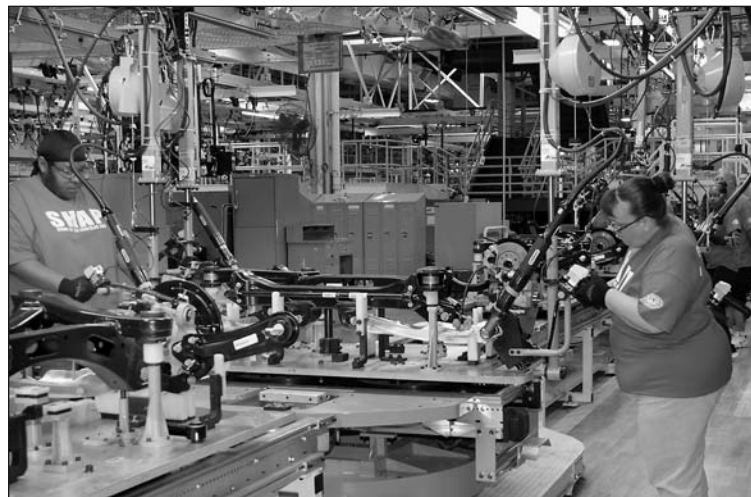
Whitacre said. "He is a very capable guy, and didn't knuckle under. He had his own thoughts and kept his own mind. I also want to say that I know Mike Simcoe. He is a sharp guy who also knows his own mind."

Whitacre said that design is very important these days for

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Ed Welburn introduces the 2013 Cadillac XTS at the 2011 LA Auto Show.



Sales have been slow for the Chrysler 200, built in Sterling Heights.

1,300 Face Summer Layoffs

DETROIT (AP) – Tumbling sales of Fiat Chrysler's main midsize car have driven the company to indefinitely lay off 1,300 employees at a Detroit-area factory.

Workers on the second shift at Fiat Chrysler's assembly plant in Sterling Heights, Michigan, will be furloughed starting July 5 as the slow-selling Chrysler 200 has started to stack up on dealer lots.

Sales of the cars were down 61 percent through March, and inventory grew to a 150-day supply, according to Ward's Automotive. Automakers consider 60 days to be optimal to give deal-

ers enough of a selection for customers. Fiat Chrysler sold only 7,500 of the cars last month, less than half the number it sold a year ago.

It's the company's first indefinite layoff since 2009, when demand for cars and trucks dropped coming out of the Great Recession, and it's caused in part by U.S. buyers shifting from cars to SUVs of all sizes. Midsize cars, which have been particularly hard hit by the shift, saw sales fall 3.5 percent for the first three months of the year.

But the 200 had other prob-

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A Detroit streetcar on Woodward Avenue in 1910

New Plan for Streetcars Goes Back to the Past

Everything old is new again.

The last Detroit streetcar shut down on April 8, 1956 – 60 years ago.

But construction is now underway for the QLINE, a streetcar line that will run on Woodward in Detroit between Grand Boulevard and Congress.

According to Dan Lijana, spokesman for M-1 RAIL, the group is a nonprofit organization formed in 2007 to lead the design, construction, and future operation of a 3.3-mile circulating streetcar.

M-1 RAIL is the first major transit project being led and funded by both private businesses, philanthropic organizations, in partnership with local government, the State of Michigan, and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Construction will be completed this year, at which time testing and safety certification will begin. Passenger operations are expected to commence in

the spring of 2017, Lijana said.

The M-1 RAIL Woodward Avenue Streetcar project is envisioned to be one element of a future modern, world-class regional transit system where all forms of transportation, including rail, bus, vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian, are considered and utilized to build a vibrant, walkable region. It's expected to generate up to \$3 billion in economic development over the next 10 years.

That's the future of streetcars in Detroit. The history of the streetcar in Detroit predates the development of the automobile industry. According to the Web site Detroit Transit History (detroittransithistory.org), the first streetcars made their appearance in the city back in the 1860s. They were horse-drawn.

Ownership of that line and other lines remained in private hands until 1901, when all the

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'Traveller' Stapleton Finds His Way Home

The Ram Truck brand has released a new 60-second television ad and long-form video as part of an expanded relationship with two-time Grammy Award-winning country music artist Chris Stapleton.

The announcement came days after Stapleton, one of the hottest artists in country music today, picked up six additional honors on April 3, after the 51st annual Academy of Country Music Awards (ACM) telecast.

The "Built Here" television spot, which debuted on the ACM Awards program, and video document Stapleton's return last

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Chris Stapleton recently returned to his roots in Paintsville, Ky.

Ford Dealers Honored for Their Charity

For the second year in a row, Ford and Lincoln dealers gave nearly \$100 million to local causes and nonprofits in communities across the United States in 2015.

Ford's annual Survey on Dealer Giving reported the donations.

The survey was administered by Ford to coincide with the 16th annual Salute to Dealers awards at the 2016 National Automobile Dealers Association Convention in Las Vegas, said Ford spokeswoman Elizabeth Weigandt.

Ford and Lincoln dealers participating in the survey donated approximately \$96 million.

Ford's Salute to Dealers awards recognize dealers who go above and beyond when it comes to giving back to the communities in which they live and work. Six dealers were selected from among more than 10,000 Ford Motor Company dealers worldwide, Weigandt said. They

are being recognized for exhibiting unparalleled giving, dedication and leadership to their communities.

In the survey, 91 percent of dealers said they give money to

local causes, 81 percent volunteer time to local causes, 87 percent are looking to make a difference in their communities and

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Edsel Ford II congratulates O.C. Clifton Welch III from Hardeeville, S.C.

Detroit Auto Scene

31201 Chicago Road South
Warren, Michigan 48093

586-939-6800

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Info@DetroitAutoScene.com

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SHAP Will Lay Off 1,300 Employees

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lems, including poor reviews due to unresponsive handling, a rough-shifting transmission and a four-cylinder base engine that didn't have enough power. "Every other sedan in this category is better," *Consumer Reports* magazine said two years ago.

Even Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne criticized the car at this year's Detroit auto show, saying it had a bad rear-door design that was copied from Hyundai's Sonata. Marchionne said later in January that FCA wants to find a partner to build small cars like the Dodge Dart and Chrysler 200 so it can make more hot-selling Jeeps at its U.S. plants. He wouldn't say which factories would get more Jeeps, but last year's UAW contract promised new vehicles for the Sterling Heights and Belvidere, Ill., factories.

The union said April 6 that the layoffs weren't a surprise and that FCA wasn't the only company having trouble selling cars. It said FCA plans to build more trucks and SUVs, which will be positive for union members in the long-term.

Fiat Chrysler says the second shift in Sterling Heights, which has been on temporary layoff since Feb. 1, will return to work Monday and be on the job through July 5. But after that, workers will be laid off indefinitely.

The company last week notified employees represented by the United Auto Workers union – as well as state and city officials – of the decision, FCA said in a statement. Fiat Chrysler said it will place the laid-off workers in open full-time positions as they become available in the Detroit area.

Takata Air Bag Explosion Causes Another Death

DETROIT (AP) – An exploding Takata air bag has claimed another life, this time a 17-year-old girl whose car crashed near Houston.

The girl is the latest victim of malfunctioning air bag inflators that have killed 10 people in the U.S. and another in Malaysia, touching off the largest automotive recall in U.S. history. More than 100 people have been hurt by the inflators, which can explode with too much force, blowing apart a metal canister and sending shards into drivers and passengers.

The girl was driving a 2002 Honda Civic in Fort Bend County, Texas, when the car crashed and the air bag activated on March 31, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

So far, 14 automakers have recalled 24 million U.S. vehicles to replace the inflators, which are powered by the chemical ammonium nitrate.

Ford Dealers Support Local Communities and Charities

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66 percent support local causes as a dealership tradition.

Ford and Lincoln dealer employees volunteer 728,201 hours annually, the survey shows. Weigandt said the donation of time and support is a boon for local charities, with many reporting budget and staff shortages.

"I am continually amazed by the selfless efforts of our honorees and nominees, who provide countless hours and resources to improve lives in their communities and beyond," said Edsel B. Ford II, who chairs the Salute to Dealers awards program and is a member of the Ford board of directors.

"Time and time again, they find a way to reach out with their gen-

erosity and kindness to support those in need.

"In the end, the impact on their communities is truly inspiring, and in every case – in every city and every country – these dealers are setting the highest standards for caring."

Dealers give to causes that address a broad range of community needs – from children's charities to the environment, from education and healthcare to parks, municipal services and disaster relief, Weigandt said.

Children's causes top the list, with 91 percent of dealers donating, followed by education and scholarships, with 71 percent of dealers contributing to each, Weigandt said.

Religious-driven charities attract 58 percent of Ford and Lin-

coln dealer contributions, veterans' causes account for 54 percent and hunger relief makes up 45 percent.

The Salute to Dealers awards were launched in 2001 to demonstrate Ford's commitment to its thousands of dealer owners who step beyond their showroom doors to make a difference, Weigandt said.

This year, Edsel B. Ford II and three other judges selected winners from a total global field of 80 nominees from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Europe, Asia Pacific, the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America, Africa and the Middle East regions.

As part of the award, Ford Motor Company Fund is donating \$10,000 to a charity of each dealer's choice.

A painted portrait of each honoree features a montage of philanthropic and volunteer activities that led to the award.

Duplicates of the portraits will join a Salute to Dealers display in the lobby of Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn, Weigandt said.

Ford's 2016 awards recognize the following dealers for their unparalleled generosity and commitment to their communities:

- Rhett Ricart, Ricart Ford; Columbus, Ohio;
- Bill Currie III; Bill Currie Ford; Tampa, Fla.;
- Renato Costa, Forauto Veículos; Criciúma, Brazil;
- Phanee Piticharoenkit, Ford Pattani; Thailand.
- O.C. Welch, O.C. Welch Ford; Hardeeville, S.C.



A Detroit streetcar in operation during the 1950s



A Q-1 Station rendering of what the new streetcars will look like

Detroit's New Plan for Streetcars Goes Back to the Past

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systems were placed under the control of one privately-owned company called Detroit United Railway (DUR).

But in May of 1922, all city streetcar operations were taken over by the City of Detroit under its newly formed Department of Street Railways – better known as the DSR. Shortly thereafter, the City of Detroit also entered into the transit bus business when the DSR's Motorbus Division began operations in January of 1925.

After January, 1932, all public transportation within the city limits would be operated solely by the DSR.

During the DSR era, the City of Detroit operated one of the largest municipally owned and operated transportation systems in the world. During its heyday, the city-owned system operated a fleet of well over 2,800 vehicles, including streetcars, electric-trackless trolley-coaches, and motorbuses, according to the Detroittransistory.info.

Starting in 1937, the rail cars underwent a transformation. It was under the leadership of general manager Fred A. Nolan when the DSR first began its "steel wheels to rubber tires" campaign to convert its mostly street railway operation over to an "all bus" operation by 1953.

In 1936, the DSR began purchasing hundreds of small-size Ford Transit coaches, many of which would be used to help carry out this rail abandonment program. The first abandonment of the rail lines by the DSR began in 1937, only to be interrupted briefly by World War II. However, the conversion of streetcars over to buses would begin to accelerate after the war.

Although the "Roaring Twenties" are often viewed as a period of economic boom for most Americans, things weren't so upbeat at the time for the nation's streetcar industry, which was already in the process of losing passengers to buses. Not only were buses replacing streetcars in many cities across the country, but the increasing popularity of the automobile was also beginning to take a toll on ridership

numbers. Many now considered streetcars to be old, noisy and, most of all, slow.

In an attempt to reverse this decline in ridership, a group of executives representing a number of electric and street railway companies, along with representatives from the various streetcar manufacturers, founded a committee in 1929 to design a new, modern, standard-designed streetcar that could successfully fight off the increasing competition arising from the rubber-tired transportation industry.

Mopar's Street Racers Fly to Customers

Many performance cars get measured on the run from 0 to 60 mph, and the Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak has notched a sales performance metric – 60 to 0, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Dale Jewett.

All 60 planned copies of Mopar's factory-built drag race car for NHRA competition have been ordered by dealers – 35 Drag Paks equipped with the 354-cubic-inch supercharged V8 and 25 Drag Paks with the naturally aspirated 426 Hemi V8.

The new Drag Paks are showing up in public, Jewett said.

The new Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak was designed for passionate Sportsman racers who compete in nationally-sanctioned drag racing series, such as the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), Jewett said.

This new type of streetcar would later prove that it could effectively hold its own against buses and automobiles, and would turn out to become one of the most reliable and better designed streetcars ever built.

This new streetcar was much quieter, larger and roomier than buses, more comfortable riding, and offered a smooth and rapid acceleration, compared with the jerky motion of the older streetcars that actually accelerated faster than the automobiles of that day.

These newly designed streetcars would also successfully eliminate three major streetcar complaints from riders – excessive noise, vibration, and poor ventilation.

But, in 1950, GM Truck & Coach introduced king-sized buses, which would prove to be the nail in the coffin for streetcars.

By April 8, 1956, it was over for the streetcars. They were eventually sold to Mexico and a tradition that went back almost 100 years ended – until 2017.



The Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak in action at Bandimere Speedway in Morrison, Colo.

GM Design's Ed Welburn to Retire in July

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automakers because "it is step one in getting people to look at your car."

If people won't give a car a first look, then they won't buy it, Whitacre said.

"If a design won't attract the public, then forget it," Whitacre said. "Design is incredibly important."

"My first thought, when I heard the news was that they are going to need someone who is very good to replace Ed, who has done such a wonderful job. When I heard that it was Mike Simcoe, I thought that was a smart move. He was someone I relied on during my time at GM."

Welburn, 65, has been celebrated inside and outside the industry for his extraordinary achievements. He has led GM Design since 2003, and globally since 2005, the first African American from any automaker to do so.

"GM Design is among the most respected and sought-after organizations in the industry because of Ed's leadership. He nurtured a creative, inclusive and customer-focused culture among our designers that has strengthened our global brands," said Mary Barra, GM chairman and CEO.

Under Welburn's leadership, GM built a network of 10 GM design centers in seven countries. His team of more than 2,500 creative men and women – based in the U.S., Germany, South Korea, China, Australia, Brazil and India – collaborate on the design development of every GM concept and production car, truck and crossover globally.

Mark Reuss, executive vice president, Global Product Development and Global Purchasing and Supply Chain, announced Simcoe's promotion and commended Welburn.

"Given his deep global experience and passion for breakthrough design, Michael is the right person to lead GM Global Design," said Reuss.

"He is known for his ability to take diverse ideas and mold them into great products that surprise and delight our customers."

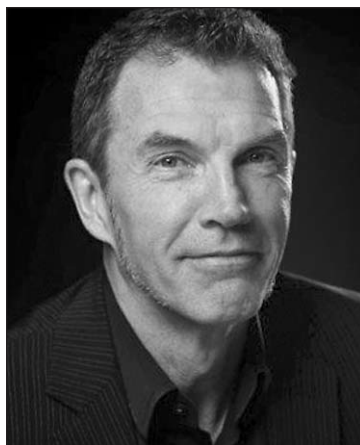
Reuss recognized Welburn for his creative imprint on four decades of iconic vehicles and his leadership in identifying and developing world-class talent.

"Ed's team turns out one award-winning product after another . . . and his strong bench will keep GM Design on top for years to come," Reuss said.

Simcoe has been in his current role since 2014, overseeing GM's production and advanced studios in Korea, Australia and India. He is known for applying global design excellence and creativity to the company's distinct brands.

He joined GM in 1983 as a designer at Holden in Australia, and is Holden's brand champion. In 1995, he became director of Design for GM Asia Pacific and in 2003, was named executive director of Asia Pacific Design and led the development of the new GM Korea design operations under Welburn's leadership.

The following year, he became executive director of North American Exterior Design, responsible for critical and com-



Michael Simcoe



Ed Welburn

mercial successes like the GMC Terrain, Buick LaCrosse, Chevrolet Camaro and Equinox, and Cadillac CTS.

More recently, he led the team responsible for the award-win-

ning Buick Avenir Concept. Last month, he introduced the Chevrolet Colorado Xtreme and Trailblazer Premier show cars at the Bangkok International Motor Show.

Ram and Country Star Chris Stapleton Travel Together

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month to his former Paintsville, Ky., high school, said Ram spokeswoman Eileen Wunderlich.

The trip was highlighted by the surprise delivery of \$57,000 worth of new band instruments, two free performances and the unveiling of an outdoor stage constructed by nearly a dozen Ram Nation volunteers, members of a grassroots team of Ram truck owners who help out in their communities.

The instruments were donated by ACM Lifting Lives (the charitable arm of ACM) via its partnership with the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation.

The Ram Truck brand sponsored the Paintsville activities as part of an ongoing relationship with Stapleton that began in 2015 with a series of episodic videos in conjunction with the debut of his "Traveller" album.

The videos documenting the two-day return to Johnson Central High School and Traveller webisodes can be seen at www.ramtrucks.com/ramlife.

The Traveller video series tells the stories of Stapleton, who is a Ram truck owner, and other owners' experiences traveling with their trucks. Ram and its partner agency, G7 Entertainment Marketing, created all of the elements and activities that were part of Stapleton's journey.

"While the story of Chris Stapleton may not be widely known, it's one of pride, dedication and perseverance, all values important to our Ram truck owners," said Marissa Hunter, director of Brand Advertising, FCA US.

"It was a great opportunity and honor for us to go back to Paintsville with Chris to document his return to the place that built his character and work ethic. In addition to the spot that aired during Sunday's ACM Awards show, the videos Ram created from this experience will

show millions of people the very special town and moments that made Chris the man he is today."

Tapping into the natural instinct of truck owners to lend a helping hand to family, friends and neighbors when a need arises – just as Ram Nation volunteers and Stapleton did in Paintsville – Ram is asking its owners to share their own stories of what they do in their communities on Instagram and Twitter, using the hashtag #HaulttForward, Wunderlich said.

Set to the music of his hit "Traveller" song, both the "Built Here" TV spot and video follow Stapleton as he drives around his hometown in his personal Ram 2500 truck. Stapleton talks about Paintsville, Ky., as being a place that builds character, a place where strength lives.

"This is home. This is where I come from," Stapleton said.

The videos were created in partnership with the Dallas-based agency, The Richards Group, and were directed by Danny Clinch, one of the premier photographers and documentarians of the American music scene, Wunderlich said. Clinch's style is meant to demonstrate a heartfelt approach to the videos.

Ram Truck launched "Ram Nation" in 2015 as a means of bringing together its owners and dealers for disaster relief and community service initiatives.

Since its formation, the grassroots volunteer corps of like-minded people have come together in different cities for initiatives ranging from helping with flood and tornado relief efforts to delivering food and supplies, to building structures like the Johnson Central High School outdoor theater.

Truck owners interested in answering future calls to help, whether its mobilizing volunteers to assist in disaster relief efforts or proactive community outreach initiatives, can sign up at ramtrucks.com/ramnation.

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2016 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 REBEL	#1 RAM Dealer in Michigan 2013/2014/2015	LEASE FOR \$187** 24 Mos. \$1995 due	
2016 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 LARAMIE	24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE \$5998**	LEASE FOR \$176** 24 Mos. \$1995 due	
2016 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 SPORT	662 1500 CREW CAB 4X4's AVAILABLE!	LEASE FOR \$196** 24 Mos. \$1995 due	
2016 RAM 2500 REG CAB 4X4	SALE PRICE MSRP \$41,125	\$26,399*	
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Mopar's Enders Reaches Semifinal In NHRA Nationals

A semifinal appearance on April 3 by Elite Motorsports driver Erica Enders and her Mopar Performance Dodge Dart GT at the 17th annual National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Nationals might not be nearly as good as a visit to the winner's circle, but it does feel like a small victory for the two-time defending Pro Stock world champion after a rough start to the 2016 NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series season.

After posting her best qualifying performance thus far this season to position herself fifth on the eliminations ladder, Enders finally brought an end to her unusual streak of first-round losses to start the season by posting a stellar .009-second reaction time and running a solid 6.767-second lap at 204.42 miles per hour against Aaron Strong to turn the win lights on for the first time this year.

Enders had another strong .006-second start in the quarter-finals to give her a holeshot win over Drew Skillman with a 6.845 sec/204.70 mph lap to her opponent's quicker 6.807/204.01 pass, propelling her into the semifinals against Pro Stock points leader, Jason Line. While the two-time defending winner at Las Vegas was disappointed to see her day end with a loss to Line who went on to win the national title, Enders was bolstered by seeing the continued efforts of her team finally reap some benefits.

"It was really nice to just be able to go rounds," Enders said. "Winning doesn't define us. I think you find out what real champions are made of when you have to go through a little bit of adversity and it makes you dig deeper and want it more."

"We've certainly made strides in the right direction with our engine development program. We proved that on the race track during qualifying."

Numbers Looking Good for New, Used Car Sellers

Wholesale used vehicle prices declined in March for the third consecutive month, illustrating the long anticipated dip in pricing.

The drop brought the Manheim Used Vehicle Value Index – a measure of wholesale prices adjusted for mix, mileage and season – to a reading of 122.5 in March and represents a decrease of 1.6 percent from a year ago, said Cox Automotive spokesman Yancey Casey.

"Wholesale prices have fallen each month in 2016, experts have long predicted pricing would ease this year and it's no cause for alarm," said Tom Webb, chief economist for Manheim.

"Evolving industry practices may be muting what used to be a strong spring pricing bounce. It is important to keep in mind that wholesale prices increased somewhat this year before the history-based seasonal adjustment, which may be less relevant in today's market."

Preliminary numbers suggest that dealers had another strong used-vehicle sales month in March. According to NADA, both new and used dealers had double-digit gains in used-vehicle sales for early 2016.

Additionally, with an increase of 215,000 jobs in March, total U.S. employment has risen by 13.9 million jobs over the past six years, Webb said, which provides the foundation for low risk-adjusted delinquency rates and, thus, good credit availability.

2016 Chrysler 200 S	LEASE FOR \$139** 24 Mos. \$1595 due	
2016 Chrysler 300 S AWD	LEASE FOR \$111** 24 Mos. \$1595 due	
2016 Chrysler 300 LIMITED	LEASE FOR \$115** 24 Mos. \$1695 due	
2016 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LIMITED	24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE \$4247**	
2016 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY K	24 Mo 1 PAY LEASE \$3645**	
2016 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY L	LEASE FOR \$110** 24 Mos. \$1495 due	

2016 Jeep Patriot High Altitude 4x2	LEASE FOR \$114** 24 Mos. \$195 due	
2016 Jeep Patriot High Altitude 4x4	LEASE FOR \$111** 24 Mos. \$995 due	
APRIL Cherokee Lease Specials!	205 Available!	
2016 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE 4X4	LEASE FOR \$117** 24 Mos. \$1995 due	
2016 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE	LEASE FOR \$109** 24 Mos. \$1995 due	
2016 CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4	LEASE FOR \$110** 24 Mos. \$1995 due	
2015 JEEP RENEGADE SPORT	LEASE FOR \$116** 24 Mos. \$1395 due	
2015 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE	LEASE FOR \$117** 24 Mos. \$1395 due	
2015 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE 4X4	LEASE FOR \$108** 24 Mos. \$1395 due	
2016 LAREDO 4X4	LEASE FOR \$205** 24 Mos. \$1995 due	
2015 LIMITED 4X4	LEASE FOR \$266** 24 Mos. \$1995 due	
2016 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 2 DR.	SALE PRICE \$28,459*	
2016 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA 4X4	SALE PRICE \$35,737*	
2016 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA 4X4	SALE PRICE \$35,891*	

2016 Dodge Journey R/T	LEASE FOR \$117** 24 Mos. \$1995 due	
2016 Dodge Journey R/T AWD	LEASE FOR \$115** 24 Mos. \$1595 due	
2016 DODGE CHALLENGER HELLCAT SRT	SALE PRICE \$65,785*	
2015 DODGE CHALLENGER RT PLUS SHAKER	SALE PRICE \$33,862*	
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2016 DODGE CHARGER SXT AWD	LEASE FOR \$206** 36 Mos. \$1995 due	
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A film on robots will be seen on the new Henry Ford giant screen theater.

Henry Ford Museum Builds New Giant Screen for Films

Starting April 4, guests will get a reinvented cinematic experience complete with new 4K digital state-of-the-art projection system, sound, screen and seating when The Henry Ford Giant Screen Experience opens.

The Henry Ford Giant Screen Experience will feature unique programs, including a venue for the Cinetopia International Film Festival in June, a Thursday Night Flix series and feature films that further explore the people, places, themes and ideas that bring the American experience to life, said Henry Ford Museum spokeswoman Wendy Metros.

"This new digital platform with a state-of-the-art projection system provides our guests with the most stunning and lifelike cinematic experiences out there," said Patricia Mooradian, president of The Henry Ford.

"It also provides a more versatile venue where we can expand on the type of innovative programming and mission-fit films we can offer."

To kick off the opening of the Giant Screen Experience, The Henry Ford will be showing MacGillivray Freeman Films' National Parks Adventure 3D, an immersive film that takes audiences soaring up exposed rock faces, hurtling down steep mountain cliffs and exploring otherworldly realms found within America's most legendary outdoor places, Metros said.

Narrated by Academy Award winner Robert Redford, the film is an action-packed celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service.

The upgrades to the Giant Screen Experience were designed by D3D Cinema, who installed the new dual Christie 4K digital projection with MasterIm-

age 3-D technology, the QSC audio system and new MDI premium silver screen for exceptional resolution and brightness, Metros said. The system features the first museum-based ultra-high resolution 4K projection system in the greater Detroit area.

When the Giant Screen Experience opens, members of The Henry Ford will now have the added benefit of seeing traditional documentary films for free, including new films - National Parks Adventure and James Cameron's Deep Sea Challenge 3D. Members will also receive discounts to any special pop-up programming, classic feature-length films and more moving forward.

Tickets for the Giant Screen Experience have been available for purchase since March 25. For upcoming programming information, visit <https://www.thehenryford.org/visit/giant-screen-experience/>.

Going Green Earns GM Big Energy Savings

General Motors earned its fifth U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year award for leadership in protecting the environment through superior energy efficiency.

The company received the award, said GM spokeswoman Colleen Oberc, because it continues to find ways to cut energy each year and reduced energy by 5.6 percent per vehicle in 2015 at its U.S. manufacturing plants.

Energy savings mean financial savings as well, Oberc said. GM avoided \$237 million in energy costs and reduced 1.8 million metric tons of carbon emissions by engaging 73 of its facilities in an EPA ENERGY STAR energy-reduction challenge since 2010. The company has also earned ENERGY STAR certification at 11 facilities, meaning those sites perform more efficiently than similar buildings.

The resulting bottom-line savings ultimately benefit customers through new product innovations and offerings.

"GM reinvested \$7.4 billion to develop safer and more fuel-efficient vehicles with reduced emissions last year," said Jim DeLuca, GM executive vice president of Global Manufacturing. "We're continually in pursuit of innovative technologies to reduce the environmental impact of driving, as well as practices that lessen the carbon footprint of manufacturing those vehicles."

GM has a robust energy management system integrated into its business plan, engages its suppliers in ENERGY STAR practices and honors dealerships committed to reducing environmental impact, DeLuca said. In total, these activities helped the company win the highest distinction

of the award: Partner of the Year - Sustained Excellence, for the fourth consecutive year.

Collaboration drives continued progress at GM, DeLuca said. The company joined EPA ENERGY STAR as a partner over 20 years ago and uses several of its programs.

GM recently became an EPA Green Power Partner, working together to advance clean energy use, Oberc said. The company's Fort Wayne Assembly plant is a top 30 generator of onsite green power, powered 30 percent by methane captured from decomposing trash at a nearby landfill.

GM also uses EPA SmartWay to redesign shipping routes. Through mode changes, optimizing drop-off locations and altering delivery frequency, GM and its logistics suppliers avoided 116,000 tons of carbon emissions in 2015. This is equivalent to the carbon emissions from over 13 million gallons of gasoline burned.

"By continued collaboration with ENERGY STAR, GM is helping Americans save money, save energy and do their part to reduce our nation's greenhouse gas emissions that exacerbate climate change," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

GM, Oberc said, spreads the word year-round on the benefits of energy conservation, from enabling young visitors at the company's headquarters to make an environmental pledge during "Take Your Child to Work Day" to arranging lunchtime energy information events for employees.

Last year, the company hosted

three #CleanEnergyU Twitter chats to encourage millennials to take action on climate change. GM also became one of the first 13 companies to sign the White House American Business Act on Climate Pledge.

GM's customers and other stakeholders can learn more about its ongoing energy efficiency initiatives on its new website, generalmotors.green. With ENERGY STAR's help, DeLuca said, the company is making progress in its commitment to reduce energy and carbon intensity by 20 percent by 2020.

AAA Reporting Small Gas Price Increase

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) - AAA Michigan says gas prices statewide have risen by about 11 cents a gallon in the last couple of weeks.

The Dearborn-based auto club said early April 4 that the average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was about \$2.07 per gallon.

That's about 33 cents less than it was at the same point last year.

The lowest average price was about \$2.02 per gallon in the greater metro Detroit area, while the highest average was about \$2.14 per gallon in the Jackson area.

AAA Michigan surveys daily fuel prices at 2,800 gas stations spread out across the state of Michigan.

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Toyota Opening Research Site in Ann Arbor

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) - Toyota says it will open a research site in Ann Arbor where 50 people will work on artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomous cars.

Two engineering professors from the University of Michigan will join the Toyota Research Institute, which should open in June.

Gill Pratt, chief executive of the institute, says Toyota has "deep roots" in the Ann Arbor area, a reference to a company technical center that Toyota operates in the city.

Pratt made the announcement April 7.

It will be Toyota's third research site, following others in Palo Alto, Calif., and Cambridge, Mass.

David Munson, the University of Michigan's dean of engineering, says research on autonomous vehicles "will fundamentally transform the transportation landscape."

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Consumer Group Questions Google Move

A little-publicized proposal by Google to allow its driverless cars to detour U.S. auto safety laws threatens public safety and security, Consumer Watchdog said in a letter sent April 7 to Secretary of Transportation Foxx and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), said Consumer Watchdog spokesman Harvey Rosenfield.

Noting Google's consistent refusal to disclose information about its driverless cars' crashes, how its software algorithms will make life and death decisions, its vulnerability to hackers and collection of personal data, Rosenfield said that the nonprofit advocacy group urged the Department of Transportation and NHTSA to require Google to answer 10 questions about the safety of its robot car program within 30 days.

Though the agency has appeared to be promoting driverless cars in recent months, NHTSA was scheduled to hold its very first public hearing on the subject April 8, in Washington, D.C. Consumer Watchdog's Privacy Director John Simpson was slated to testify at the hearing, as was former NHTSA head Joan Claybrook and Clarence Ditlow, executive director of the Center for Auto Safety.

"At the same time that Google wants to blow past federal safety requirements, the company has refused to provide detailed information that would enable the public, the press and policymakers to assess the safety and security of its autonomous cars," said Rosenfield.

"NHTSA's job is to make sure the nation's streets and highways are safe for motorists and pedestrians, not to promote robot cars or help Google's lobbyists circumvent the law. Before jumping on board the Google express, NHTSA should initiate a

serious and careful public investigation into autonomous vehicles that begins with requiring Google to publicly answer questions about what its autonomous car technology can and cannot do."

"NHTSA's job is not to promote robot cars..."

- Harvey Rosenfield, Consumer Watchdog

Federal law requires that automobile manufacturers demonstrate the safety of their vehicles to NHTSA through a formal regulatory process that enables American taxpayers and consumers to monitor and participate in the agency's decision-making process, Rosenfield said. A series of recent proclamations by NHTSA suggest that the agency is considering abandoning its statutory responsibility to set federal safety standards, Consumer Watchdog's letter explains. In a move to pressure the agency, Google sent a letter to Foxx and Rosekind on March 11, 2016, requesting their support for congressional legislation that would allow the company to avoid compliance with the law.

Rosenfield said that Consumer Watchdog urged NHTSA to oppose Google's efforts to skirt U.S. safety protections, and require Google to provide public answers to ten critical questions:

1. We understand the self-driving car cannot currently handle many common occurrences on the road, including heavy rain or snow, hand signals from a traffic cop, or gestures to communicate from other drivers. Will Google

publish a complete list of real-life situations the cars cannot yet understand, and how you intend to deal with them?

2. What does Google envision happening if the computer "driver" suddenly goes offline with a passenger in the car, if the car has no steering wheel or pedals and the passenger cannot steer or stop the vehicle?

3. Your programmers will literally make life and death decisions as they write the vehicles' algorithms. Will Google agree to publish its software algorithms, including how the company's "artificial car intelligence" will be programmed to decide what happens in the event of a potential collision? For instance, will your robot car prioritize the safety of the occupants of the vehicle or pedestrians it encounters?

4. Will Google publish all video from the car and technical data such as radar and lidar reports associated with accidents or other anomalous situations? If not, why not?

5. Will Google publish all data in its possession that discusses, or make projections concerning, the safety of driverless vehicles?

6. Do you expect one of your robot cars to be involved in a fatal crash? If your robot car causes the crash, how would you be held accountable?

7. How will Google prove that self-driving cars are safer than today's vehicles?

8. Will Google agree not to store, market, sell, or transfer the data gathered by the self-driving car, or utilize it for any purpose other than navigating the vehicle?

9. NHTSA's performance standards are actually designed to promote new life-saving technology. Why is Google trying to circumvent them? Will Google provide all data in its possession concerning the length of time required to comply with the current NHTSA safety process?

GM Honors Nation's Veterans

From April 6 through May 31, 2016, Chevrolet, Buick and GMC will expand their military discount programs for all 21 million U.S. military veterans and their spouses, in honor of National Military Appreciation Month.

"These brave men and women have done so much for our country," said Steve Hill, GM vice president of U.S. sales and service. "Making sure all veterans can take advantage of our military discount to celebrate Military Appreciation Month is one small way we can express our gratitude."

GM offers the industry's most comprehensive automotive military discount program, said GM spokesman Tom Rippinger. The program is typically available to U.S. military veterans within one year of separation, active-duty personnel, reservists, retirees and their spouses. In honor of May's National Military Appreciation Month, the program expands to include all veterans - regardless of their separation date - and their spouses.

The discount is available for popular models, including the all-new Chevrolet Malibu, GMC Sierra and Buick Encore. Because the discount can be combined with most current incentives, veterans could save thousands of dollars on some vehicles. For details, visit gmmilitarydiscount.com.

"The Military Discount is one of many GM efforts to say thank you to U.S. military families," said Ken Barrett, GM chief diversity officer and a former U.S. Navy captain. "Through our strong partnerships with Building for America's Bravest, Hiring Our Heroes and the Achilles Freedom Team, we are commit-

ted to hiring and helping veterans."

GM has supported the U.S. military since 1917, when 90 percent of GM's truck production was directed towards WWI manufacturing, Rippinger said. During WWII, GM converted all its plant facilities in support of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's call for an "Arsenal of Democracy," and has produced more U.S. military vehicles than any manufacturer in history.

GM is hiring and helping the latest generation of veterans as they return home, Rippinger said. As a national partner of Hiring Our Heroes, GM joined other military-friendly employers to help the campaign find jobs for more than 500,000 veterans since 2012.

In 2016, GM was the only automaker named a "Best for Vets" employer by Military Times and a "Military Spouse Friendly" employer by *Military Spouse* magazine.

Riverfront Project Talks Coming

DETROIT (AP) - A Chicago-based firm has been selected to develop a plan to further redevelop an eastern portion of the Detroit riverfront.

The Detroit RiverFront Conservancy and Detroit's planning department say Skidmore, Owings & Merrill is taking on the work with help from six local firms.

The first public meeting for the East Riverfront District plan is scheduled for April 12 in Detroit.

Those interested in attending may register online at <http://www.detroitriverfront.org>.

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EPA Gives GM Green Award

GM just earned its fifth U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year award for leadership in protecting the environment through superior energy efficiency.

This commitment to being green doesn't just end at the corporate level. GM also has a program in place for its dealers. Just ask Lee Davis, said GM spokeswoman Colleen Oberc.

When he became the fourth-generation owner of Davis Chevrolet in Lexington, N.C., he used his expertise as an environmental scientist to upgrade the dealership, Oberc said. From heating the service department and body shop with used vehicle oil to buying lunch for employees with money from recycling soft drink cans, he is integrating sustainable practices into daily operations.

Davis is among 420 Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac dealers in the U.S. - 10 percent of GM's dealer network - who are participating in environmental stewardship activities through the General Motors Green Dealer program.

General Motors has awarded 38 Green Dealer certifications since its launch in 2015, Oberc said.

These dealerships implemented energy reduction, renewable energy, water conservation, waste-to-landfill reduction and community outreach practices - efforts that not only deliver cost savings, but differentiate dealers from their competition and improve employee work environments, Oberc said.

"I didn't upgrade our dealership just to be green, I did it because it makes business sense," Davis said.

"Although there are clear environmental benefits, there's an equal boost to our bottom



GM Green Dealer certificate

line and our workplace culture."

Michael Payne, owner of Mountain Chevrolet in Glenwood Springs, Colo., powers his dealership with 40 kilowatts of solar energy from a rooftop array and solar canopy over an EV charging station. Another planned 50-kilowatt array will allow his store to achieve net-zero energy use during some months of the year.

General Motors provides resources to help dealers earn Green Dealer certification:

- A General Motors Green Dealer website that enables dealerships to share how they achieved environmental and operational gains;

- A General Motors Dealer Equipment digital catalog highlighting products that save energy, conserve resources and reduce waste, such as high-efficiency paint booths and high-speed garage doors that also help drive operational efficiencies;

- Opportunities to connect with schools on environmental education activities.

"General Motors has long been committed to being a leader in environmental stewardship, and we're proud that our dealers share this commitment to serve and improve the communities where we live and work," said Kurt McNeil, General Motors vice president of United States Sales Operations.

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<p>ALL NEW 2016 CRUZE "LT"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED! • 1.4L Turbo DOHC Engine! • Automatic Transmission! • OnStar with 4G LTE with built-in Wi-Fi hotspot! • 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio! • Remote Keyless Entry! • Bluetooth for Phone! • Rear Vision Camera <p>Stock#G29006</p> <p>Was \$21,995 Sale Price \$19,999</p> <p>24 MONTH LEASE: \$137 \$999 DOWN</p> <p><small>NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. TAX, TITLE AND PLATE FEES EXTRA!</small></p>	<p>2016 SILVERADO "LT"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED! • Ecotec3 4.3L V6! • Automatic Transmission! • GM Bedliner Included! • Color Screen MyLink Radio with USB Ports! • Aluminum Wheels! • OnStar w/4G LTE w/Built in Wi-Fi Hotspot! • Steering Wheel Radio Controls! • Remote Keyless Entry! <p>Stock#G27077</p> <p>Was \$39,975 Sale Price \$33,754</p> <p>24 MONTH LEASE: \$199 \$999 DOWN</p> <p><small>NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. TAX, TITLE AND PLATE FEES EXTRA!</small></p>

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<p>MALIBU 2016</p> <p>Stk. #460977</p> <p>LEASE A LT \$149* 24 MONTHS \$999 DOWN</p> <p>PURCHASE A LS \$20,879*</p>	<p>CAMARO 2016</p> <p>1LT</p> <p>Stk. #460564</p> <p>LEASE FOR \$279* 24 MONTHS \$999 DOWN</p> <p>PURCHASE FOR \$25,489*</p>	<p>TRAX 2016</p> <p>LS</p> <p>Stk. #TFXB6P</p> <p>LEASE FOR \$59* 24 MONTHS \$999 DOWN</p> <p>PURCHASE FOR \$15,533*</p>	<p>TRAVERSE 2016</p> <p>AWD LS</p> <p>Stk. #560534</p> <p>LEASE FOR \$189* 24 MONTHS \$999 DOWN</p> <p>PURCHASE FOR \$26,689*</p>

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Detroit-Made Impalas Still Sold in Korea

Chalk this one up as a win for Detroit. GM recently made the decision to keep exporting to Korea the Chevrolet Impala assembled at the company's Detroit-Hamtramck plant.

GM announced in July of 2015 that it had begun taking pre-orders for the American-made Impalas for export to Korea.

"We are thrilled to have the iconic flagship sedan complete Chevrolet's passenger car portfolio in Korea," said Sergio Rocha, president and CEO of GM Korea in 2015. "We are confident that its bold styling, comfort, safety, powerful performance and technology will make it a leader in the highly competitive upper-medium sedan segment."

To meet an array of customer needs, Rocha said that the Impala will be offered in Korea with two engine choices: a 2.5L SIDI I4 engine and a 3.6L SIDI V6 engine. Korea-only convenience features include power folding side mirrors, an electronic toll collecting system, fuel-fill cap locking, rain-sensing wipers, a unique cluster, standard navigation, a unique antenna, a 220V power outlet, rear audio controls and rear heated seats.

GM spokesman Randal Fox said that the American-made Impala "has been well-received by the Korean customers for its market-leading product values and price competitiveness."

There was talk, Fox said, of eventually making the Impala at one of GM's facilities in Korea, effectively ending its export from the United States.

Currently, GM employs about 17,000 people in Korea and maintains four plants that manufacture products for Cadillac and Chevrolet, as well as vehicles for GM's Damas and Labo minivan operations.

The company also maintains a design center, which was opened in 2014, in Korea.

In total, GM manufactured about 600,000 vehicles in Korea in 2015.

But, Fox said, following a thorough and comprehensive research on the feasibility of localizing production of the Impala, the company has decided that it is more appropriate to continue to import the sedan to satisfy consumer demand.

Overall, Fox said, the Impala has sold about 10,000 vehicles in Korea since its official debut in the market six months ago.

Secretary of State Creates Online Registration

LANSING, Mich. (AP) - Michigan is offering a temporary system for handling online motor vehicle and watercraft registrations.

A link to the Online Renewal Service is posted on the Michigan Secretary of State's website.

Officials say anyone having difficulty renewing vehicle tabs or watercraft registration on ExpressSOS.com is encouraged to try the Online Renewal Service. The *Detroit Free Press* reports the old website had been locking out some who tried to access services.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson says in a statement her office is "committed to finding a permanent solution that meets our customers' needs."

The temporary system comes after Michigan last year terminated a multimillion-dollar contract with Hewlett-Packard.

HP has worked since 2005 to replace the computer system used at offices where vehicles are registered. The deadline was 2010.