

Chrysler Museum Re-opening for Public

by Jim Stickford

They say that history repeats itself, and in the case of the Walter P. Chrysler Automotive Museum, that's literally true.

The museum is, as of June 4, open to the public, said Brandt Rosenbusch, manager of Histori-

cal Services for Fiat Chrysler.

"We officially closed the museum to the public on Dec. 31, 2012," Rosenbusch said. "It was very expensive to keep a full museum staff as well as keeping the place up and running six days a week. And there were also the marketing costs. The museum

just wasn't financially viable."

And, Rosenbusch said, the museum is not a charity. It has to pay for itself. So what happened between the beginning of 2013 and now?

"We have, since 2012, been

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Museum visitors view how the Jeep has played a huge role in both Chrysler's and America's histories.



This 2017 Camaro will be powered by a 10-speed transmission.

New 10-Speed Transmission Key to a Faster Camaro

The new 2017 Camaro looks fast. But it's the vehicle's new transmission, not its exterior design, that really makes the Camaro go fast.

With faster upshifts than a dual-clutch transmission and a wider overall gear ratio spread to optimize performance and efficiency, the new available Hydra-Matic 10-speed automatic transmission sets a new performance standard in the 2017 Camaro ZL1 – and raises the bar for the seg-

ment, said GM spokesman Tom Read.

The ZL1 is expected to be the first volume production car to offer a 10-speed automatic, Read said. It builds on the established legacy of the Hydra-Matic eight-speed transmission family offered on other Gen Six Camaro models, to deliver higher thresholds of capability, refinement and efficiency.

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Ford is testing foam and plastic components using CO2 as feedstock.

Ford Researchers Working To Solve Climate Change

Cutting down on pollution means more than reducing exhaust generated from gasoline-powered engines. This goal can be built into the very fabric of a vehicle.

Ford Motor Company is the first automaker to formulate and test new foam and plastic components using carbon dioxide as feedstock.

Researchers expect to see the new biomaterials in Ford production vehicles within five years, said Ford spokesman John Cangany.

Formulated with up to 50 percent CO2-based polyols, the foam is showing promise as it meets rigorous automotive test standards, Cangany said. It could be employed in seating and underhood applications, potentially reducing petroleum use by more than 600 million pounds annually – enough to fill nearly 35,000 American homes. CO2-de-

rived foam will further reduce the use of fossil fuels in Ford vehicles and increase the presence of sustainable foam in the automaker's global lineup.

"Ford is working aggressively to lower its environmental impact by reducing its use of petroleum-based plastic and foam," said Debbie Mielewski, Ford senior technical leader of sustainability. "This technology is exciting because it is contributing to solving a seemingly insurmountable problem – climate change. We are thrilled to be leading the charge toward reducing carbon emissions and the effects of climate change."

Carbon emissions and climate change are of growing concern to world leaders as a staggering 2.4 million pounds of CO2 are released into the atmosphere globally per second, Mielewski said.

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GM, Ford Winners of Vincentric Awards

Detroit automakers can offer value to fleet owners. At least that's what Vincentric has said.

Five General Motors and seven Ford vehicles have earned Vincentric 2016 Best Fleet Value in America awards.

Ford won in the following:

- The 2016 Lincoln MKS FWD in the Premium Luxury category;
- The 2016 Lincoln MKC Premiere FWD in the Luxury SUV/Crossover category;
- The 2016 Ford Transit Connect XLT SWB w/Rear Door in the Small Commercial Passenger Van category;
- The 2016 Ford Transit 150 XL Wagon LR RH Fixed 130 in the Full-Size ½-Ton Passenger Van category;
- The 2016 Ford Flex SE FWD in the Large SUV/Crossover category;
- The 2016 Ford Transit 250 LR RH Fixed 130 in the Full-Size ¾-Ton Cargo Van category;
- The 2016 Ford Transit 350 LR RH Fixed 148 in the Full-Size 1-Ton Cargo Van category.

GM Best Fleet Value winners:

- Chevrolet Impala Limited LS – Large Sedan category;
- Chevrolet Express G2500 – Full-Size ¾-Ton Passenger Van;
- GMC Sierra 1500 – Base Reg Cab 2WD SWB – Full-Size ½-ton Pickup category;
- Chevrolet Silverado 2500 – W/T DBL Cab 2WD SWB – Full-Size ¾-ton Pickup category;
- Chevrolet Silverado 3500 – W/T DBL Cab 4WD LWB SRW – Full-Size 1-ton Pickup category.

GM spokesman Robert Wheeler said that in the 11 years since the program began, more GM vehicles have won Vincentric awards than any other manufacturer. These awards are used by fleet operators to understand ve-



2016 Chevrolet Silverado 3500



2016 Ford Flex

hicle life cycle costs, which is a key part of the purchase decision process.

"General Motors received awards in a wide range of segments," said David Wurster, president of Vincentric. "It's clear that GM's strong product portfolio provides measurable value to fleet customers."

Wheeler said that each of the

award-winning vehicles has the Lowest Lifecycle Cost in its class and GM also earned the Vincentric honor for Best Value Full-Size Pickups.

"These awards show that our fleet offerings run the gamut and we can offer vehicles to meet the needs of any fleet in

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Rosenbusch proudly oversees what's now a self-sustaining museum.

Walter P. Chrysler Museum Again Open to the Public

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

able to turn the museum site into a successful event and business center," Rosenbusch said. "So the site has become self-sustaining. We hold a lot of corporate meetings that we couldn't do before. After all, you can't show Powerpoints that contain proprietary information when you have members of the public walking around."

Once the museum site became self-sustaining, Rosenbusch and others realized that there was a lot of pent-up demand to use the site as it was originally intended, as a museum.

So on the weekend of June 4 and 5, the Walter P. Chrysler Museum will again be open to the public, Rosenbusch said.

"The decision to reopen the museum to the public was made earlier this year," Rosenbusch said. "A small staff will be dedicated to the museum. But the main reason we are able to do this is because of the volunteers who are being generous with their time. We can rely on these excellent and dedicated people who make up our volunteer force."

"Many of them are former Chrysler employees who, as tour guides, are happy to dispense their knowledge. And we now even have a dedicated crew that is able to help us with the maintenance of our car collection."

Rosenbusch said the museum's car collection is relatively small as these things go, with about 300 vehicles in the inventory.

"We keep about 60 to 65 vehicles on display at any one time," Rosenbusch said. "We try to rotate the vehicles in our basement to keep the display fresh."

Rosenbusch said there is a basement display where they are able to mix and match vehicles for different themes. One display might be about the history of Mopar. Another might be about Chrysler's muscle car tradition.

These displays are easily changed. The vehicles on display at the museum's main two above-ground floors are harder to change because the displays are dedicated to the chronological history of Chrysler.

One interesting basement display, Rosenbusch said, is dedicated to Chrysler's efforts to sell to female drivers in the early 1950s.

"It's a funny story involving pink cars," Rosenbusch said. "In 1954, Chrysler built a pink La Comtesse concept car for the auto show circuit. It was based on the then current New Yorker platform. It was pink. It had special

interior cloth meant to please women. It was so successful that Dodge came out with the La Femme model. It was pink, and came with matching make-up cases, umbrellas and a rose-colored floral pattern in the interior. The vehicle was based on Dodge's Royal platform and sold for two years - 1955 and 1956."

The La Femme was not successful, Rosenbusch said. Speculation at the time was that in this time period many families were still one-car households and that men didn't want to drive a pink car with a rose-colored floral interior. And if a family were a two-car household, the second car would be more practical - something like a station wagon.

A woman at the museum who heard Rosenbusch tell the story said that perhaps the La Femme failed because even in the 1950s women knew when they were being condescended to and they also didn't want to be seen driving a car that was designed by men around very stereotyped ideas of what women wanted.

The Walter P. Chrysler Museum will be open two weekends a month June 4-Dec. 17 of this year. A preview weekend on May 14-15 was open to Fiat Chrysler employees and their families.

Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for retired Fiat Chrysler employees and senior citizens, \$6 for kids 6-17. Children five and under are free.

Fiat Chrysler's Sales Increase in European Market

MILAN (AP) - European carmakers recorded the highest sales volumes last month since just before the economic crisis bottomed out the market.

The European automakers association ACEA said May 13 that car sales rose 9 percent in April compared with the previous year, for 1.27 million units. ACEA says that was the highest volume since April 2008.

Volkswagen brand sales continued to lag in the wake of the diesel scandal, up just 2.7 percent. Sales for the VW group, which includes also Audi, Porsche and Skoda, rose 5.4 percent.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, boosted by Jeep, and Toyota posted double-digit growth, along with premium carmakers BMW and Daimler.

IHS automotive says the Western European market is bolstered by "reasonably strong consumer confidence, robust replacement demand and competitive financing."

New York Dealers Pick Up Ram Delivery Vans

by Jim Stickford

As the song goes - if you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere.

Ram Truck dealers from around the New York City metropolitan area made their way to Pearl River, N.Y., May 17 to load-up on new Ram ProMaster City vans.

The Ram Commercial Truck brand hosted a one-day dealer drive-away event for the popular new ProMaster City van, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman David Elshoff. From there, dealers will head back to their stores with dozens of small vans destined for all sorts of small businesses - from caterers to locksmiths.

Elshoff said that this kind of event is something that Fiat Chrysler has done in the past across the country for different models.

The reason Ram held this event in New York, Elshoff said, is simple. New York is the largest delivery van market in the United States.

"So it's natural for us to reiterate our products in the market and celebrate what they can do," Elshoff said. "Right now, the van segment is doing very well."

Following Ram Commercial Truck brand's best February, March and April on record for small-van sales volumes, Ram dealers have been clamoring for more shipments in order to meet the unprecedented demand.

"What we've discovered is that



Delivery vans in New York getting ready to be picked up by dealers.

the average age of a van owned by a small business is about 12 years," Elshoff said.

"Our sales have grown and the quality of van available to small businesses now is so much better than what was in the marketplace 12 years ago.

"It makes sense that we promote our new vans and what they can do."

The ProMaster City's class-leading features and third-party accolades, including *Green Car Journal's* 2016 Commercial Green Car of the Year, have helped boost the van's success, Elshoff said.

Ram ProMaster City offers best-in-class standard features where they count, he said:

- 178 horsepower and 174 lb.-ft. of torque;

- Payload - 1,883 pounds;
- Cargo volume - 131.7 cubic feet;
- Unsurpassed 24 combined mpg (21 mpg city/29 mpg highway);
- Unsurpassed towing capacity - 2,000 lbs.;
- Exclusive 9-speed automatic transmission;
- Powertrain warranty - five years/60,000 miles.

The 2016 Ram ProMaster City is Ram's newest addition to its commercial vehicle lineup and contributes to the expanding, purpose-built van segment with functional elements tied directly to commercial customer demand.

ProMaster City opens a door for more growth of Ram's brand sales volumes, Elshoff said.

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Carbon Fiber Wheel Lets Ford's GT Perform

Sometimes it's the little things that really add up to great performance. Take a sport car's wheels, for instance.

The carbon-fiber-bodied Ford GT will also offer a new carbon-fiber wheel, further improving the drive and handling characteristics of Ford's new supercar, said Ford spokesman Matt Leaver.

Ford GT is the second Ford Performance vehicle to offer carbon fiber wheels – following the world's first mass-produced carbon fiber wheel application that debuted as standard equipment on the 2015 Shelby GT350R Mustang, Leaver said.

"Ford was the innovator as the first to offer mass-produced carbon fiber wheels as a standard offering on Shelby GT350R Mustang," said Dave Pericak, Ford Performance global director.

"Now, Ford GT will offer the next generation in carbon fiber wheels, with an advanced resin and fiber technology that gives our designers more freedom, while also showcasing the structure of the material's weave."

Unlike the Shelby GT350R's black-painted carbon fiber wheels, Pericak said Ford GT wheels will be offered in two finishes – either a matte or a glossy clearcoat, permitting the stunning nature of the carbon fiber weave to show through.

The finishes perfectly match the two exposed carbon finishes available on the sills, fascia and extractor of the new supercar, Pericak said.

Working with supplier partner Carbon Revolution, Pericak said the new wheels are constructed with the latest generation of fiber and resin technology that permits greater design flexibility – resulting in flowing, more intricate spokes.

Carbon fiber wheels bring a

wealth of advantages over traditional aluminum wheels, Pericak said, including weight savings, improved vehicle dynamics and ride quality – making the innovative material the perfect complement for the new Ford GT.

Beyond simply reducing overall vehicle weight for improved acceleration, braking and dynamic performance, carbon fiber's incredibly strong, light nature means a reduction in unsprung weight and rotational inertia, which benefits suspension action, ride quality and dynamic performance, Pericak said.

The Ford GT arrives standard with light, supercar-spec, 10-spoke forged aluminum wheels, sized 8.5 x 20 in./front, and 11.5 x 20 in./rear, Pericak said.

The optional carbon fiber wheels on the Ford GT are the same size, but are structurally stiffer, and save more than two pounds of unsprung weight per wheel.

Compared to the already featherweight standard wheels, this weight savings reduces inertia by a notable 25 percent, Pericak said.

A lighter wheel requires the suspension to do less work to control the hardware attached to it, and improves consistent contact with the road surface, improving traction and driver control, Pericak said.

Each spinning wheel also acts like a gyroscope, so a lighter wheel can improve steering feel and dynamics as it requires less energy to accelerate or turn the wheels, improving vehicle response.

Vehicle efficiency is improved as less energy is required to get the wheel spinning.

While metal wheels can act like a bell, Pericak said the dense, inert nature of carbon fiber provides for overall improved per-



Carbon fiber wheel

formance in terms of noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) and a quieter ride – leading to greater comfort and refinement for the vehicle.

"With optional carbon fiber wheels providing benefits in key areas – weight savings, vehicle dynamics, NVH and ride quality – they are the perfect, innovative complement for the all-new Ford GT," Pericak said.

For more information visit www.FordGT.com

State's Gas Prices Move Up in May

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) – AAA Michigan says gas prices statewide have risen by about 5 cents a gallon in the past week.

The Dearborn-based auto club said as of May 15 the average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was about \$2.26 per gallon. That's about 36 cents less than it was at the same point last year.

The lowest average price was about \$2.24 per gallon in the Flint area, while the highest average was about \$2.28 per gallon in the Ann Arbor area.

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

Renault's Mitsubishi Move Makes Sense for Company

by YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) – Nissan Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn is confident a 237 billion yen (\$2.2 billion) investment in a controlling stake in scandal-embroiled Mitsubishi Motors will prove a bargain when sheer size is critical in the auto industry.

Japanese transport ministry officials raided Mitsubishi Motors Corp.'s Tokyo headquarters May 13, as part of an investigation into inflated fuel-economy data for several models.

Ghosn was careful to stress the acquisition won't become final until he sees the outcome of the Japanese regulators' investigation, such as the scale of the fraud, whether overseas markets are affected and what the penalties might be.

But scale is critical for developing expensive technology such as low-emissions vehicles and autonomous driving. So is the advantage of being in various markets to balance ups and downs in regional growth, he said.

"If you are small, you are going to be vulnerable," Ghosn told reporters at Nissan Motor Co.'s Yokohama headquarters May 13, a day after he announced the agreement.

Ghosn acknowledged he grabbed at an opportunity as Mitsubishi shares nose-dived after the latest scandal surfaced.

Mitsubishi's shares fell 43 percent between April 19 – the day before it announced the fuel economy scandal – and May 11. The stock cost 565 yen (\$5.20) May 13, down 1.7 percent follow-

ing a surge on the deal's news.

Gaining Mitsubishi adds about 900,000 in annual vehicle sales to the Nissan-Renault alliance, which already is the fourth-largest automaker in the world with about 8.5 million in sales.

The deal vaults the alliance into competition for the top spot with the world's three biggest automakers, Toyota Motor Corp., Volkswagen AG and General Motors Co.

The plus for Nissan is the added economies of scale, such as sharing auto parts, working together on sport-utility vehicles, and gaining markets in Southeast Asia, where the Mitsubishi brand is still strong, said Paul Newton, an analyst with IHS.

"The purchase will give them an effective controlling stake and is somewhat opportunistic, as \$2.2 billion is not a huge sum for such a significant chunk of the company and could be seen as something of a bargain," he said in an email.

The 34 percent stake is below the threshold for which Nissan would be liable for Mitsubishi's debts under Japanese law, Newton said.

Mitsubishi could face massive expenses to compensate car owners for the overstated mileage and pay government fines. But Mitsubishi has already promised to compensate Nissan for lost sales as well as any penalties and costs from the scandal, Ghosn said.

Nissan found the faked mileage tests because of a discrepancy with its own tests on Mitsubishi-manufactured minicar models with tiny engines that had been sold under the Nissan brand.

Cooper-Standard Names New Board Member

Cooper-Standard Holdings Inc. of Novi elected Sonya F. Sepahban to the company's Board of Directors at its annual Meeting of Stockholders last week.

Sepahban brings extensive experience in engineering, production, technology and innovation, profit and loss management, and global operations within the aerospace and defense industry to her new role at Cooper Standard, said Cooper-Standard spokeswoman Sharon S. Wenzl.

Her skills and background provide the board with expertise based on her oversight responsibilities in engineering, development and production operations of high-profile global groups, Wenzl said.

Sepahban currently serves on the board of directors at Genomeron, Inc., an Ann Arbor-based provider of genomic analysis software for clinics and research, the Cranbrook Institute of Science and the Inforum Center for Leadership.

"Sonya brings a unique combination of technology and innovation expertise with strong financial acumen, extensive operational experience and demonstrated leadership skills, making her an extraordinary asset to our board of directors," said Jeffrey S. Edwards, chairman and CEO, Cooper Standard.

"We are honored to have her join the Board and look forward to integrating her perspective to further enhance Cooper Standard's growth strategy."

Sepahban most recently served as the senior vice president of engineering, development and technology at General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS), a business unit of General Dynamics Combat Systems Group.

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GM and Ford Top Winners In Vincentric Value List

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the country," said Ed Peper, U.S. vice president, General Motors Fleet. "Not only are these vehicles great for the road, but they show our customers they are also great for their bottom line."

To determine the Vincentric Best Fleet Value in America awards, Wheeler said eight costs for each of the 2,700 qualifying vehicles were measured in the 50 states and Washington, D.C., with data used to create U.S. totals. The areas where cost was measured were depreciation, fees and taxes, financing, fuel, insurance, maintenance, opportunity costs and repairs.

Wheeler said General Motors Fleet is committed to providing customers with a broad range of products that have outstanding safety, quality, reliability and value, along with innovative business solutions that allow fleets

to save money and give drivers the features and functions they need to get their work done. Offerings range from small cars to medium duty trucks, along with a number of propulsion options to help "green" customers' fleets.

Wheeler said Vincentric provides data, knowledge, and insight to the automotive industry by identifying and applying the many aspects of automotive value. Vincentric data is used by organizations such as *Business Fleet Magazine*, Ford Motor Company, Cars.com, General Motors, Toyota, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, *NADA Guides*, Hyundai, Union Leasing and Fleet-Central.com as a means of providing automotive insight to their clientele. Vincentric is a privately held automotive data compilation and analysis firm headquartered in Bingham Farms, Michigan.

GM Adjusts Mileage Stickers

DETROIT (AP) - A change in pollution control hardware between model years cut the gas mileage on some General Motors SUVs and forced it to correct the figures on window stickers, the company said May 18.

GM announced the previous week that the fuel economy was overstated by one-to-two miles per gallon on the 2016 GMC Acadia, Chevrolet Traverse and Buick Enclave.

But *Consumer Reports* magazine questioned why the 2016 mileage would be worse than the 2015 models when little was changed between model years and the SUVs from each year had

the same engines and transmissions.

GM spokesman Nick Richards said May 18 he doesn't know why the pollution hardware was changed. But he said the SUVs from all model years comply with clean air laws. The mileage was recalculated for 2016 but never made it onto the window stickers, he said.

The mistake was discovered recently by engineers who were working on the 2017 model stickers. The company said the mistake was inadvertent and that it informed the U.S. EPA.

GM now is in the process of tracking down 170,000 owners of 2016 models to give them new stickers, Richards said.

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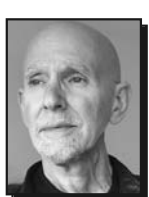
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GM's Maven Mobility Adds Three Cities to Offerings

In less than four months, Maven, General Motors' personal mobility brand, has grown to five markets: New York City, Ann Arbor, Mich., and last week announced Boston, Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Maven members have driven more than one million miles, said GM spokeswoman Annalisa Bluhm.

In Chicago, the Maven City car sharing program is now in operation, with pricing starting at \$8 an hour including insurance and fuel.

Registered customers use the Maven app to reserve one of 30 vehicles at more than 15 sites throughout the city, said Bluhm.

When Maven City members reserve their choice of available Chevrolet, Cadillac and Buick vehicles, they have the convenient and unique option of having the vehicle hand-delivered to them. Maven has partnered with ZIRX to power the experience, Bluhm said.

In addition to Maven City, Maven+ residential on-demand car sharing is available to residents of the Aqua luxury high-rise apartment community in the city's Lakeshore East neighborhood.

Launched in March with Lyft, the Chicago Express Drive short-term rental program leverages the Maven platform.

Express Drive allows Lyft ride share service drivers in the Chicago area to rent Chevrolet Equinox crossovers for \$99 a week.

Chicago Express Drive has grown to more than 200 cars in eight weeks.

As previously announced, Express Drive will expand to additional markets including Boston,

Baltimore and D.C. by the end of the year.

In Washington, D.C., Maven+ car sharing will be available to residents of the Hepburn, a 195-unit luxury apartment community opening next month on the grounds of the Washington Hilton, located in the city's exclusive Kalorama neighborhood, Bluhm said.

The Hepburn was developed by Lowe Enterprises and will be managed by Bozzuto Management, which will partner with Maven to provide car sharing services to residents.

Bluhm said Maven City – open to all qualifying D.C. residents – will launch by the end of June. Maven+ and Maven City are coming to Boston this summer.

Maven is using GM campus car sharing locations as beta labs for testing future shared mobility services, Bluhm said. It recently launched a peer-to-peer car sharing pilot in Warren, Mich., and a campus car sharing service at GM do Brasil headquarters in Sao Cataeno do Sul.

"There are now more than 50 Maven team members working globally as the brand continues to attract top talent from the car sharing, ride sharing and connected car industries, as well as some of the best minds from within GM," Bluhm said.

Maven members and Lyft drivers using Express Drive have logged more than one million miles on the road, Bluhm said. Maven+ is serving more than 5,000 residents in New York and Chicago.

Maven City has doubled in the past 90 days to more than 1,500 users in Ann Arbor and Chicago, Bluhm said. And the most popular vehicle is the Chevrolet Volt.

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Chevy and Famed Racer Show New Funny Car

Chevrolet and 16-time NHRA champion John Force on May 17 introduced the new 2016 Camaro SS Funny Car that he was to race at the NHRA Kansas Nationals, in Topeka, Kan., May 20-22.

The new Funny Car body is the first based on the sixth-generation Camaro SS. Force's teammates Courtney Force and Robert Hight will introduce new Camaro SS Funny Cars later this season.

"I started my career in a Chevrolet and I couldn't be more excited to put this new Camaro SS Funny Car on the track," said Force. "With all the assistance from Chevrolet, it not only looks great, it's designed to perform better than anything we've had before, with a shape that should help us get down the track quicker and with greater stability."

The team conducted computational analysis and scale-model wind tunnel testing to help give the new body the airflow management qualities necessary to deliver the downforce required by the 10,000-horsepower supercharged race car, as it accelerates from 0 to 330 mph in less than 4 seconds - in 1,000 feet.

Among the unique aerodynamic elements is a new, integrated front splitter that helps direct more air over the body to increase downforce. The design also incorporates new, dual blow-out - or "burst" - panels, safety devices that relieve underbody pressure to help keep the body on the chassis in the event of an engine failure.

Additionally, the new body, which is lighter than John Force Racing's previous Camaro Funny Car bodies, carries the distinctive styling signatures of the 2016 Camaro SS's front- and rear-end designs.

"The 2016 Camaro has been a great success in the showroom and Chevrolet is proud to contribute to its debut in NHRA's Funny Car class," said Jim Campbell, Chevrolet U.S. vice president of performance vehicles and motorsports.

MGA Charity Golf Outing Set for June 24

The 23rd annual Myasthenia Gravis Association Golf Outing is being held at The Orchards Golf Club in Washington, Mich., on Friday June 24.

The Myasthenia Gravis Association (MGA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of people with MG, a neuromuscular disease, said event chairman Mark Hosking.

The Myasthenia Gravis Association assists patients and their families in coping with this disease through education, diagnosis, treatment and support, Hosking said.

Myasthenia Gravis affects all races, genders and at any age. Most cases of MG are diagnosed in young women under 30 and older men over 55. MG is not contagious.

The major symptoms of Myasthenia Gravis are: blurred and/or double vision, involuntary drooping of the eyelids, slurred speech, weakness in facial muscles, difficulty in chewing and swallowing and sometimes breathing, difficulty in walking and talking, and unusual tiredness in the arms and legs.

Hosking Myasthenia Gravis is not a well-known condition, but there are 36,000 Americans that have this disease right now.

Registration is at the MGA website at www.mgadetroit.com, Hosking said. Those interested in attending the event may also call 586-556-3234.