

Dodge Viper Ends Production After 25 Years with 2017 Model

The Dodge brand is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Viper with five limited-edition models that commemorate the final year of Viper production and highlight several of the most

iconic special edition Vipers of the past.

"The Dodge Viper has had a great run, and 25 years after it was first introduced, it leaves the supercar world reaching for the

records it continues to set," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Cars, Dodge, SRT, Chrysler, and Fiat - FCA, North America. "With more track records than any production car in the world, the

Dodge Viper ACR will live on as the fastest street-legal Viper track car ever, the car that has set the benchmark for all that follows in its tracks."

Tom Libby, manager Loyalty

Solutions and Industry Analysis for IHS Automotive, said that he was surprised when he heard that Fiat Chrysler is discontinu-

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GM, U.S. Navy Join Forces on Hydrogen Fuel Cell Project

GM, the Office of Naval Research and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory are working to put automotive hydrogen fuel cell systems into the next generation of the Navy's unmanned undersea vehicles (UUVs).

Hydrogen fuel cells, said GM spokesman Alan Adler, convert hydrogen efficiently into electricity, resulting in vehicles with greater range and endurance than those powered with batteries. Under the ONR's Innovative Naval Prototype program for Large Displacement UUVs, energy is a core technology in the Navy's goals for vehicles with more than 60 days endurance.

The Naval Research Laboratory recently concluded an evaluation of a prototype UUV equipped with a GM fuel cell at the heart of the vehicle powertrain, Adler said.

"Our in-water experiments with an integrated prototype show that fuel cells can be game

changers for autonomous underwater systems," said Frank Herr, ONR's department head for Ocean Battlespace Sensing. "Reliability, high energy, and cost effectiveness - all brought to us via GM's partnering - are particularly important as Navy looks to use UUVs as force multipliers."

Hydrogen fuel cell propulsion technology helps address two major automotive environmental challenges: petroleum use and carbon dioxide emissions, Herr said.

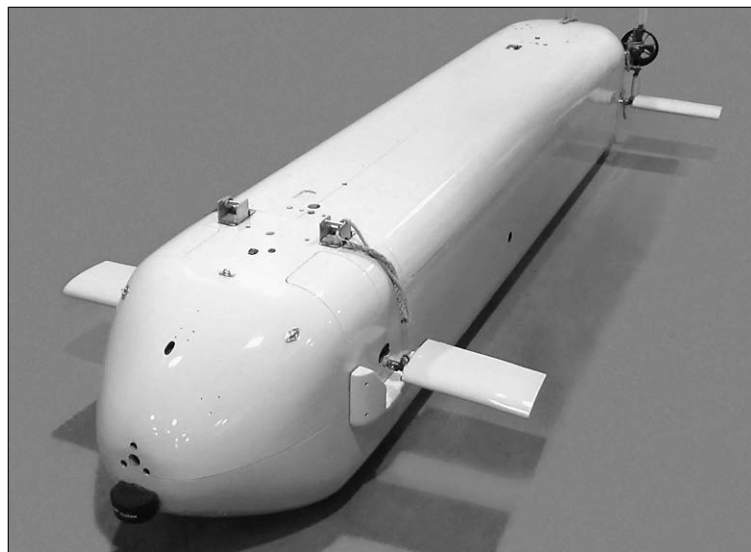
Fuel cell vehicles can operate on renewable hydrogen from sources like wind and biomass stored for later use. Once converted to electricity, water vapor is the only emission. Recharging takes only minutes.

GM's fuel cells are compact and lightweight, and have high reliability and performance. Lower cost is achievable through volume production, Adler said. These attributes match the goals

of the Navy to develop reliable, affordable systems.

"The collaboration with the Navy leveraged what we learned in amassing more than 3 million

miles of real-world experience with our Project Driveway fuel cell program," said Charlie Freese, executive director of GM Global Fuel Cell Activities.



GM and the U.S. Navy are working together on hydrogen-powered UUVs.

Chrysler Brings Street Racing Back to Woodward

"Flashlight" drag racing is back, but this time it's on Woodward Avenue - and it's legal.

Registration is now open for the return to Michigan of the "Roadkill Nights Powered by Dodge," said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Eileen Wunderlich. The event, which debuted last year, drew more than 10,000 performance enthusiasts.

This year's event, taking place on Aug. 19, is bigger and better, with a new, larger location at the M1 Concourse in Pontiac, a cash purse totaling \$19,000 and legal street drag racing on Woodward Avenue, Wunderlich said.

"Woodward is one of (if not the) most famous 'Muscle Car Corridors' in the country and, as far as we know, this is the first time ever that street racing on it

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2016 Buick Cascada has earned top marks because of its quality.

GM Tops Quality Survey with 7 Awards

DETROIT (AP) - Despite adding sophisticated electronic safety features and touch screens that once were prone to glitches, most automakers improved their reliability scores this year in an annual survey of new-car buyers.

The latest survey by the J.D. Power firm determined that quality improved for 21 of 33 auto brands in the survey.

This year's scores, which were released on June 22, improved 6 percent over 2015, double last year's increase and the biggest jump in seven years.

And for the first time in 27 years, a brand for the masses led the pack: Kia edged out Porsche

as the automaker with the fewest problems.

"It has become clear that automakers are listening to the customer, identifying pain points, and are focused on continuous improvement," said Renee Stephens, vice president of U.S. auto quality at J.D. Power.

Touch screens, voice recognition and Bluetooth technology have long been bugaboos for automakers. For years these have brought down scores in the surveys. But last year automakers turned a corner, and this year they improved more, Stephens said.

The improvement is partly due to people getting used to new

technology, but automakers also are simplifying the devices, taking out screens that seemed cool but were hard for users to grasp, she said.

The study also found that U.S. nameplates collectively scored better than foreign-based competitors for just the second time in the survey's 30-year history.

And for the first time since 2006, mainstream brands had fewer problems than more expensive premium brands.

The 2016 survey of more than 80,000 car buyers, conducted from February through May, found that Korea's Kia had the

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Downtown Detroit to Enjoy June Fireworks Celebration

Ford Motor Company will celebrate American freedom with new activities and unique experiences for the people of Detroit and southeast Michigan during the annual Ford Fireworks on Monday, June 27, along the downtown riverfront, said Ford spokesman Todd Nissen.

More than 10,000 pyrotechnic effects will light up the night sky beginning at 9:48 p.m. While hundreds of thousands gather for the show, Ford is working with The Parade Company, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and Yankee Air Museum on enhanced festivities on the ground and in the air.

Among the new events scheduled for this year are:

- Michigan State Park Passes for Belle Isle - Ford is offering free admission to Belle Isle by provid-

ing Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passports for the first 1,000 cars. This pass can be used at all participating state parks for the remainder of 2016.

- Student VIP Viewing Zone - Ford has joined the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy for a special viewing of the Ford Fireworks for 3,000 Detroit area students and their families at West Riverfront Park. Students were selected based on criteria such as grades and community service.

- Vintage Planes Flyover - Ford is working with the Yankee Air Museum in Belleville to present a special salute to the nation's military with an expanded Detroit River flyover of six or more World War II-era airplanes.

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Fireworks are going to go off downtown as part of the Freedom Festival celebration thanks to Ford.

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Dodge is discontinuing the Viper after 25 years, but the last models made will be homages to the great Vipers of the past.

Actor's Death Speeds Up Jeep Recall

DETROIT (AP) – Fiat Chrysler is speeding up a recall of 1.1 million vehicles with confusing gear shifters like one in the SUV that crushed and killed Star Trek actor Anton Yelchin.

Yelchin, 27, known for playing Chekov in the rebooted series, died June 19 after his 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee pinned him against a mailbox pillar and security fence at his home in Los Angeles.

His Jeep was among the vehicles recalled in April due to complaints from drivers who had trouble telling if they put the transmission in "park" after stopping.

Many drivers have reported the vehicles rolled off after the driver got out of the vehicle when it was supposed to be parked.

Los Angeles police are still investigating the cause of the crash, but the U.S. government's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Yelchin's death "is the first fatality we're aware of that may be related to this safety defect and vehicle recall." Fiat Chrysler said it was premature to say what caused the crash.

On June 22, FCA said in a statement that it started providing its 2,427 dealers with a software update last week, days before Yelchin died. Previously the company had said the update would be ready in July or August.

Yelchin would not have known about the software fix because car owners hadn't yet been notified. Fiat Chrysler said June 22 that it would start sending letters to owners on June 24 telling them to make a service appointment.

Safety advocates have questioned why the fix was taking so long.

The recalled vehicles have an electronic shift lever that toggles forward or backward to let the driver select the gear instead of moving along a track with notches for each gear like a conventional shifter.

The way this shifter works is that a light shows which gear is selected, but to get from drive to park, drivers must push the lever forward three times.

If a vehicle is in drive and the lever is pressed just once, it goes into neutral and could roll if the vehicle is parked or resting on a slope.

Dealers will be able to load the software into the vehicles, and it will automatically shift the cars into park if the driver's door opens while the engine is running.

The software will repair vehicles with 3.6-liter and 5.7-liter engines, which account for the bulk of those being recalled. FCA said software availability for the rest of the vehicles is "imminent."

The recall also covers the 2014 Grand Cherokee as well as the 2012 through 2014 Dodge Charger and Chrysler 300.

Viper Ends Production After 25 years with 2017 Model

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ing the Viper, but that it's not surprising that the company is taking that action.

"The volume of Vipers sold has always been very low," Libby said. "But it's always been a 'halo' car, that is a vehicle meant to be an image builder for an automaker. It was never meant to be a high-volume seller. Its job was to spread the image of the Dodge brand."

But, Libby said, that is a costly way to improve image and Fiat Chrysler, as well as the rest of the auto industry, is in the midst of major transformation. Developing autonomous vehicle technology while at the same time having to engineer whole new powertrains to meet upcoming strict federal mileage standards is immensely expensive.

"Given all that Fiat Chrysler

has to do in the next few years, they have a lot of projects on their plates and they require a lot of money," Libby said. "They must of added up the numbers and realized the Viper no longer fit in their plans. They've done what they've had to do. It's always sad to see a model go away, especially one as fun to drive as the Viper, but I totally understand the decision."

One of the most unusual and exotic high-performance machines on the road today, Fiat Chrysler spokesman Dan Reid said Dodge is honoring the Viper's rich, colorful and exceptional performance heritage on and off the track by paying tribute to some of the most iconic Vipers in its history. Beginning on June 24 and new for 2017 model year, customers can order their special snake in the following exclusive special edition configurations:

- Viper 1:28 Edition ACR – Pays tribute to the current production car single lap record of 1:28.65 set by champion driver Randy Pobst in a 2016 Dodge Viper ACR at historic Laguna Seca Raceway in Monterey, Calif., in October 2015.

As many as 28 units of this new special edition configuration will be built for the 2017 model year, Reid said.

- Viper GTS-R Commemorative Edition ACR – Reid said it's been designed to pay tribute to one of the most distinguishable and iconic Viper paint schemes of all time – the white and blue combination of the 1998 Viper GTS-R GT2 Championship Edition.

As many as 100 units of this new special edition configuration will be built for 2017, Reid said.

- Viper VooDoo II Edition ACR – this is modeled after the

original 2010 Viper VooDoo edition, Reid said. As many as 31 units of this new special edition configuration will be produced for 2017. Originally, 31 units of the original VooDoo Viper ACR were built in 2010.

- Viper Snakeskin Edition GTC – Color was inspired by the original 2010 Snakeskin ACR, Reid said. As many as 25 units of this new special edition configuration will be produced for 2017. And 31 units of the original Snakeskin Viper ACR were built in 2010.

- Dodge Dealer Edition ACR – Available exclusively through Dodge's highest sales volume Viper dealers, Tomball Dodge of Tomball, Texas, and Roanoke Dodge of Roanoke, Ill. It will come with a serialized instrument panel ACR badge, and as many as 33 units of this new special edition configuration will be produced for 2017.



Roadkill Nights at the Silverdome last year attracted great crowds.



A civilian racer burns rubber at "Roadkill Nights" at the Silverdome.

Chrysler Bringing Back Street Racing to Woodward Ave.

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will be legal," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Cars, Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and FIAT – FCA, North America. "Drag racers will be able to show their muscle when Woodward is closed from South Boulevard to Rapid Street in Pontiac to create what is sure to be an epic kick off to the weekend's cruise events."

Leading the races will be David Freiburger and Mike Finnegan, co-hosts of ROADKILL, the most-viewed YouTube automotive original series in the world, Wunderlich said.

"This event is uniquely Roadkill. We are racing in a spot no one else would dare to run all in the name of fun. Show up and you'll see Roadkill cars, come and spend time with us and have the time of your life," said Mike Finnegan.

Additional celebrity guest appearances include Richard Rawlings of Dallas' Gas Monkey Garage and the Discovery Channel's "Fast N' Loud" TV show.

Open from noon to 10 p.m., the Aug. 19 "Roadkill Nights Powered by Dodge" event includes thrill rides in Dodge Viper, Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat and Charger SRT Hellcat vehicles, a Show 'n' Shine area, Roadkill stunts and exhibitions, as well as live music, food trucks and much more.

"We're excited about hosting 'Roadkill Nights' as one of the main events during our newly branded 'Pontiac Power Week' festival," said Mayor of the City of Pontiac Deirdre Waterman.

Following the huge success of the inaugural event held in Michigan last year, TEN: The Enthusiast Network's "Roadkill Nights Powered by Dodge" was expanded

to two cities in 2016. The first stop, June 18 at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas, drew nearly 12,000 spectators.

With first-time legal street racing on Woodward Avenue, this year's Pontiac Roadkill Nights event is expected to be even bigger. Early registration at www.roadkill.com/PR is encouraged.

Fans can follow the action for both Roadkill Nights events at hashtags #Roadkillnights and #poweredbydodge.

Roadkill Nights registration is open at Roadkill.com/PR. General admission to the event is FREE for spectators. Participants may register a vehicle for drag racing and the Show 'n' Shine at the site.

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GM Leads Domestics in 'Made in America' List

For the fourth consecutive year, Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles are the leaders of the Made in America Automotive Index produced by American University's Kogod School of Business.

The Buick Enclave, Chevrolet Traverse and GMC Acadia together tied for No. 1, while 17 other General Motors vehicles ranked in the Top 10.

The index is authored by Frank DuBois, a global supply chain management expert and professor at American University in Washington, D.C., said GM spokeswoman Laura Toole.

More comprehensive than other studies of its kind, the Kogod index ranks models based on seven weighted data points including several factors unaddressed by the American Automotive Labeling Act (AALA), the basis for "made in America" automotive studies.

DuBois is an associate professor at American University's Kogod School of Business. He said the index seeks to answer the question of what percentage "of your vehicle's value contributes to the overall well-being of the U.S. economy. How does your car impact the U.S. automobile industry's economic vitality? And most importantly, why does the information matter to you?"

DuBois said Kogod's method improves on AALA data by incorporating a more comprehensive

research methodology, providing consumers with a more accurate view of their vehicle's composition.

DuBuis said this is important because as such an important part of the U.S. economy, understanding the factors that influence the automobile industry is not just helpful, it is essential. A vehicle's domestic manufacturing composition plays a key role in determining its overall impact on the American economy. This knowledge empowers consumers and automakers alike to make better economic decisions about where a car is made, and which offer the greatest commercial benefits to the country.

The Kogod study considers:

- Profit Margin – location of the automaker's global headquarters;
- Labor – where the vehicle is assembled;
- Research and Development – location of R&D activities;
- Inventory, Capital, and Other Expenses – location of assembly;
- Engine – location of production;
- Transmission – location of production;
- Body, Chassis and Electrical Components.

According to the AALA, if 75 percent or more of a car's parts by value come from the U.S. or Canada, it's considered a domestic product.

The top 10 "most American"



The 2017 Buick Enclave is tops in terms of being American made.

vehicles according to the Kogod Index are:

- The Buick Enclave, with a total domestic content rating of 90;
- The Chevrolet Traverse, with a total domestic content rating of 90;
- The GMC Acadia, with a total domestic content rating of 90;
- The Ford F-150, with a total domestic content rating of 85;
- The Chevrolet Corvette, with a total domestic content rating of 83;
- Chevrolet Equinox, with a total domestic content rating of 82.50;
- The Chevrolet Impala, with a total domestic content rating of 82.50;
- The Chevrolet Malibu E2 Gen, with a total content rating of 82.50;
- GMC Yukon/Yukon EXT, with a total domestic content rating of 82.50;
- The Malibu LTD, with a total

domestic content rating of 82.50;

- The Cadillac Escalade, with a total domestic content rating of 82.50;
 - The Buick LaCrosse, with a total domestic content rating of 82.50;
- Fiat Chrysler top vehicle, total domestic content-wise, is the Jeep Wrangler Unlimited with a rating of 80.50.

Continental, DOT Helping Create 'Smart City'

Continental, with its U.S. headquarters in Auburn Hills, is partnering with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge. Continental has initially pledged at least \$1 million to Columbus, Ohio, to provide improved safety and connectivity technology to its transportation network.

Continental will provide advanced sensing, vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2X) communication technology to increase traffic safety at intersections and provide a platform for intelligent transportation systems of the future.

The Smart City Challenge is a competition which will create a fully integrated, first-of-its-kind city that uses data, technology and creativity to shape how people and goods move in the future.

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Cadillac CT6 Connects with Passengers

As the saying goes beauty can be more than what's on the outside. Take the 2016 Cadillac CT6, for example, said GM spokesman Donny Nordlicht.

The 2016 Cadillac CT6, Nordlicht said, "features an indulgent interior and industry-leading technology, including the available rear seat infotainment system that further elevates the back seat experience."

Headlining the advanced capability of the CT6's rear seat infotainment system, Nordlicht said, are the HDMI and USB ports located on the front of the rear center seat or in the rear seat center armrest.

By utilizing these ports in combination with the vehicle's built-in 4G LTE Wi-Fi network, owners can use devices such as Google Chromecast, Amazon Fire TV Stick or Apple TV to stream internet content directly (such as Netflix, Hulu or YouTube) to the rear seat screens.

The ports can also be used to mirror device displays via the HDMI port or to play media stored locally on a drive.

The rear seat infotainment system includes two independent, articulating 10-inch-diagonal HD screens. The screens have been designed to seamlessly integrate into the CT6's cabin and retract into the front seat backs when not in use.

The screens tilt to make viewing easier and will remember that position until set to a new one. Passengers can play Blu-ray DVDs, view media information, see what is on the front CUE screen and adjust the rear massage function. (Rear seat massage on Platinum models only.)

The rear seat infotainment system is standard on the 2016 Cadillac CT6 Platinum trim; it is available as part of the Rear Seat

Package on CT6 Luxury and Premium Luxury models.

All Cadillac models come standard with OnStar 4G LTE connectivity with Wi-Fi hotspot that can connect to up to seven devices. OnStar 4G LTE provides a mobile hub for drivers and passengers to stay connected.

The hotspot is on whenever the vehicle is on and comes with a three-month/three-gigabyte data trial. 4G LTE is the most current and fastest mobile data network – 10 times faster than 3G. And OnStar 4G LTE offers stronger, broader coverage than

smartphones on the same network, Nordlicht said.

For front seat passengers, the 10.2-inch CUE screen can be used to play media from USBs or Blu-ray DVDs when the vehicle is in Park. Cadillac CUE also provides owners a smart and simple way to access both Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. A "Projection" icon will appear on the CUE screen to enable simpler, easier access to key smartphone functions, including navigation, contacts, hands-free text messaging and select applications supported by Apple or Google.

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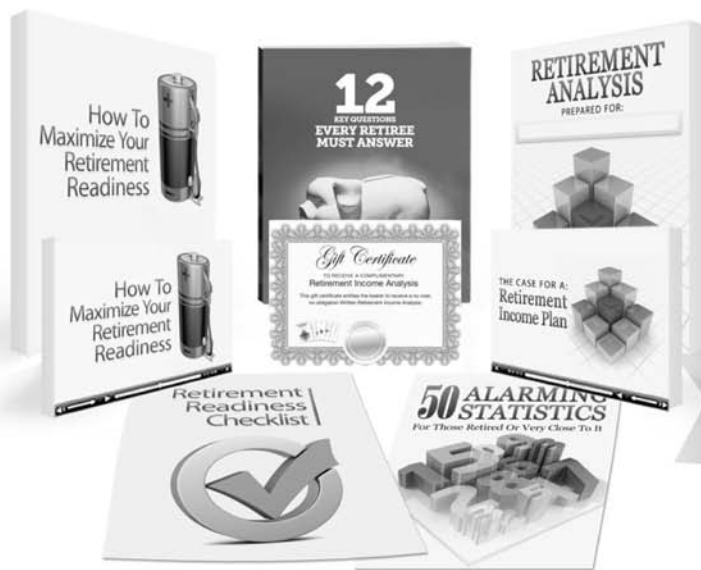
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GM's Take 2 Program Seeking 'New' Interns for the Fall

by Jim Stickford

Following a successful pilot within the engineering organization, General Motors expanding its popular 12-week career re-entry internship called Take 2 this fall.

Paid internships will begin in mid-September and will be available in GM's information technology, manufacturing and engineering functions, said GM Rebecca White.

Take 2 is an opportunity for professionals with technical backgrounds who took a career break of two or more years and are interested in returning to the workforce, White said. This 12-week "audition" will prepare experienced interns for a full-time career in one of several fields at GM through training, professional development and networking opportunities.

"The pilot of 10 interns this spring was so successful, we jumped at the chance to utilize this program to add experienced IT team members to our organization," said Sue Brann, chief administration officer at GM's Austin Innovation Center.

For Take 2, White said that GM hopes to fill between 45 and 50 internship positions, White said. "We were very excited to

launch the program and expected it to be a wonderful learning experience for everyone involved, the interns as well as the managers and groups with whom they were working," White said. "We were surprised at the level of interest; we had to stop taking applications after the first 400."

The fall program will offer positions at GM's southeast Michigan campuses, including Warren, Milford and Pontiac, as well as the company's IT innovation center in Austin, Texas.

GM is offering several challenging positions across a wide variety of IT functions, including:

- System Engineers;
- Software Developers.

GM, White said, is offering internships in many challenging manufacturing careers, including:

- Manufacturing Engineer;
- Electrical Engineer;
- Industrial Engineer;
- Product/Program Management.
- Cyber-Security;
- Electrical Components & Subsystems;
- Global Engineering Operations and System Development;
- Validation;
- Vehicle Performance.

"As the executive sponsor of the Take 2 program, I am so

pleased with how our organization has embraced the idea of welcoming experienced professionals into our company," said Kristen Siemen, executive director, Global Thermal Engineering. "They bring an incredible breadth of experience, both professional and personal, to these positions. I look forward to expanding the program to other parts of our business in this next chapter."

The program, White said, has proven popular with those seeking to get back into the auto industry. One who took advantage of the opportunity is Susan Gray. She was in the process of applying to other companies when she first heard about Take 2. Her intern title, Design Release Engineer, Brake Electronics.

"My children are all grown, therefore, I was looking to return to a challenge and profession similar to what I left," Gray said. "I invested heavily in my education and knew I was still capable of advanced math and sciences. This made me well suited to return to engineering where I felt I had much left to contribute."

She admitted that things have changed a lot since she last worked in the industry.

"My role has changed significantly following my 20 year gap," Gray said. "I was originally a chassis controls modeling engineer back in the early 90's working on research and development projects for Traction Control Systems. Now I am directly responsible for brake and safety systems which are in current production vehicles and in new models preparing for launch. The brake electronics have advanced immensely and the brakes are more integrated into a wider array of vehicle safety systems."

And she said that the vast amount of information available on the GM network and the number of systems that an engineer must interface with is another change. She said it's good in the long run but can be overwhelming for the new hire.

Gray said her family is solidly behind her and are proud of her. The favorite thing about the program is the "mentoring, job shadowing, and peer network of Take 2 interns have all been invaluable and critical to my success."



Susan Gray and Wendy Kwiecinski have interned GM thanks to Take 2.

And Gray said that she could not imagine hiring directly back into a major engineering position without a re-entry plan like Take 2 and that anyone thinking of getting back into the workforce should refresh their skills by learning modern work tools like OneNote, SharePoint and Excel.

Wendy Kwiecinski, had the intern title of Design Release Engineer, Overhead Systems at GM, said she first heard about Take 2 from her husband Larry, who also works at GM.

"Since I was considering going back to work in the field, I was intrigued, Kwiecinski said. "About a week later, I received a personalized letter from GM's HR asking me to apply for the Take 2 program. A former colleague that I had worked with years ago had submitted my name as potential fit for program. I was flattered to be considered for the program especially after being out of industry for twenty years. At that point my decision was made, I applied for the Take 2 program and submitted my resume."

She said she wanted to start working for GM again because she "invested a great deal of time and effort into my education and cultivated the possibility of being able to use those skills again in the industry, especially back at GM. While earning my bachelors and masters in engineering, I worked for GM from 1985 to 1996. The Take 2 program provided an exciting opportunity for me to re-join the company.

"In addition, I was raised in a GM loyal family. My dad worked

for GM his whole career. My husband, brother, sister-in-law, cousin and many close friends currently work for GM. I have always felt a connection to GM and their mission/vision. I guess it is just in my blood."

She said she enjoyed her time at GM and never imagined that after 20 years a program like Take 2 would be available. And during that time a lot about the company had changed.

"First of all the culture is very different; the new GM is much more open to process and product improvements, with safety being a top priority," Kwiecinski said. "GM is driving for transparency and collaboration between groups. This was not necessarily the case when I left in the 90s. Having three young drivers on the road myself, GM's increased focus on building safe vehicle resonates with me."

GM has become very work/life balance friendly, she said.

"If feel like I have the freedom to attend to balance in my personal life while meeting the expectations of the job," Kwiecinski said. "HR is currently working with me to find a position that would allow me to possibly work 32 hours a week in an area that interests me. My husband and I feel this would be a perfect work life balance for our family."

Available positions for the fall Take 2 program are currently posted. Interested applicants can visit the GM Careers Web site at careers.gm.com/working-with-us/experienced-internships.html for more information.

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Chrysler Ending Use of Certain Takata Air Bags

Fiat Chrysler will cease NAF-TA-market production of vehicles equipped with non-desiccated ammonium-nitrate Takata air-bag inflators, by the end of June, said Chrysler spokesman Eric Mayne. Global production is expected to end by mid-September.

Most inflators used in Fiat Chrysler vehicles employ alternate propellants, Mayne said. Others use desiccant-enhanced ammonium nitrate.

Neither is associated with any inflator ruptures of the kind attributed to certain non-desiccated ammonium-nitrate inflators, Mayne said.

The 2016 Jeep Wrangler's passenger-side inflator is the final Fiat Chrysler air-bag component to migrate from a non-desiccated ammonium-nitrate design, Mayne said.

The company is unaware of any failures involving this inflator.

In addition, tests were performed on nearly 6,300 older versions of this component, many of which were subject to potentially problematic environmental conditions, Mayne said. All performed as intended.

Unsold vehicles that are so-equipped will be identified for customers. These customers will also be advised that the vehicles will be recalled in the future. They are not currently subject to recall.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has specified a recall schedule for vehicles equipped with these inflators.

The schedule, known as the Coordinated Remedy Program, adheres to the findings of an exhaustive investigation by industry, government and third-party experts.

The investigation determined non-desiccated ammonium nitrate may degrade after several years of exposure to high absolute humidity. Such degradation may cause inflators to deploy with excessive force.

The Coordinated Remedy Program, to which Fiat Chrysler is committed, "ensures the inflators will be recalled and replaced before they become dangerous, giving vehicle owners sufficient time to have them replaced before they pose a danger to vehicle occupants."

Customers with questions or concerns may call 1-800-853-1403.

Mott Foundation Pledges Aid for Flint Children

FLINT, Mich. (AP) - The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is giving \$5 million as part of efforts to help Flint amid the city's crisis with lead-tainted water.

The grant announced on June 20 and is for the Flint Child Health and Development Fund and is part of an earlier-announced \$100 million, 5-year commitment.

This grant will provide a dollar-for-dollar match on up to \$5 million in donations made to the fund through the end of the year 2016.

The grant comes as the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, a longtime Flint-based organization founded by an automotive pioneer, announced that it has surpassed \$3 billion in total grants since its start in 1926. Its 90th anniversary was on June 19.

The Flint Child Health and Development Fund aims to provide support over the next 20 years to help area children overcome the effects of lead exposure.

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Viper Has Short, but Storied History

Apparently, it's true. All good things must come to an end. Fiat Chrysler, on June 21, let it be known that the Dodge Viper would cease production after 25 years.

This wasn't the first time that announcement was made, but the Viper got a reprieve. Chrysler announced July 10, 2009 that production will continue for the legendary Dodge Viper SRT10.

Originally slated to cease production in December 2009, the Chrysler Group Conner Avenue Assembly Plant – the exclusive home of Dodge Viper production since 1995 – will continue to build the V10 powered sports car. Chrysler Group is no longer pursuing a sale of the Viper business assets.

"The Dodge Viper has successfully captured the hearts and imagination of performance enthusiasts around the globe," said Mike Accavitti, president and CEO, Dodge Brand at the time of the reprieve. "We're extremely proud that the ultimate American-built sports car with its world-class performance will live on as the iconic image leader for the Dodge brand."

Introduced as a concept car in 1989 at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, the Dodge Viper was designed and engineered to test public reaction to the concept of a back-to-basics, high-performance, limited production sports car.

The reaction was so overwhelming that customer orders began to flow in even before the auto show was over. Chrysler Corporation immediately decided to determine the production feasibility on transforming the crowd-pleasing Dodge Viper show car into a limited-production sports car in no more than three years.

In May 1990, after months of intensive study and testing, Chrysler Corporation announced that the Dodge Viper, powered by an aluminum V10 was a "go."

Dodge Viper production began in May 1992 at the New Mack Assembly Plant and was moved to Conner Avenue in October 1995. Viper V10 engine production transferred from Mound Road



The 1989 Dodge Viper concept car started it all.

Engine to Conner Avenue Assembly in May 2001.

In 2008, Dodge introduced the all-new, fourth generation Dodge Viper SRT10.

With more horsepower, more torque and more than 30 exterior and interior color combinations, the latest Viper gives enthusiasts the performance they expect on the track and off, with more factory customization options than before.

By 2009, more than 25,000 Dodge Vipers have been built.

And the Viper was always meant to be an affordable vehicle.

When Viper was first introduced, the U.S. MSRP was \$50,700. Adjusted for inflation – that equates to \$86,130 in today's dollars.

"The Gen 1 Viper had 400 horsepower. It didn't have air conditioning, anti-lock brakes, traction control or stability control. It didn't even have real windows. It was the purest, rawest and most visceral American performance car of its time," said Tim Kuniskis, president and CEO – Dodge and SRT Brands in 2014. "The Gen 5 Viper maintains the purity of the original car, with its seductive design, perfect weight balance and all-aluminum V10 with an additional 245 horsepower.

"But the rawness has been tamed with state-of-the-art five-mode ESC, two-mode suspension, ABS, traction control, launch control and a lightweight structure comprised of carbon fiber, magnesium and aluminum. Despite the Gen 5's massive leap

forward in technology and performance, we're pulling its starting price back to the equivalent of the original Gen 1 car.

"We have a saying at Dodge: 'If you know... you know,' and if you know Viper, you know this is big news," Kuniskis added, "and if you don't know Viper, it's time to check it out and see what makes owning and driving the iconic Viper so much more unique, exclusive and interesting than any other American performance vehicle."

And for a while, the Viper even had its own television show.

According to Wikipedia, the show ran on NBC in 1993 for a season, and switched to syndication beginning in 1996 and running through to 1999 for a total of 78 episodes spread over four television seasons.

Wikipedia described the show as follows:

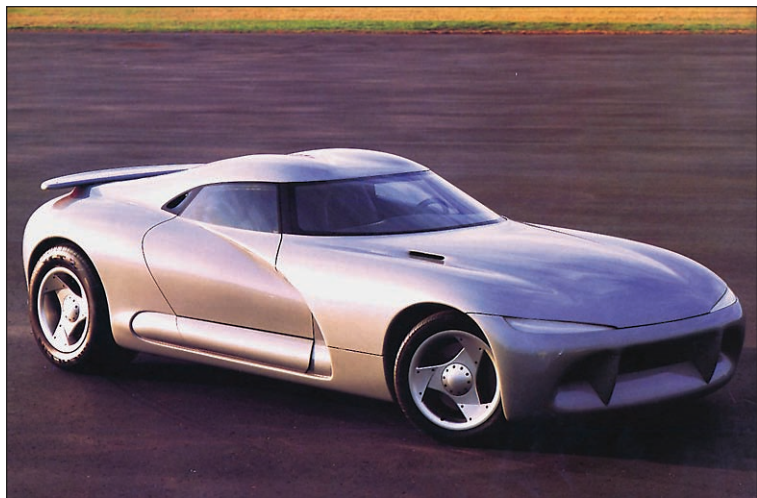
"Viper is an American action-adventure TV series about a special task force set up by the federal government to fight crime in the fictional city of Metro City, California that is perpetually under siege from one crime wave after another. The weapon used by this task force is an assault vehicle that masquerades as a Dodge Viper RT/10 roadster and coupe (later, the Viper GTS).

"The series takes place in 'the near future.' The primary brand of vehicles driven in the show were Chrysler or subsidiary companies.

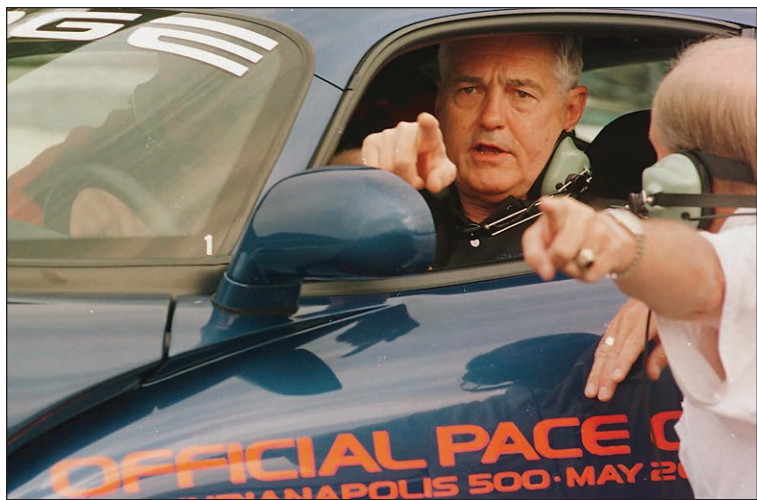
"The series ran on NBC for one season in 1994 before being revived two years later for three more seasons of first-run syndi-



The 1992 Dodge Viper was the first to be available to the public.



This Viper Defender was the star of a TV show in the 1990s.



Bob Lutz drove a Viper as the pace car in the 2000 Indianapolis 500.

cation. Reruns of the series have appeared on Sci-Fi Channel and USA Network.

"The Viper Defender 'star car' was designed by Chrysler Corporation engineers unlike most Hollywood Film/TV cars that are usually customized by film picture designers. The exterior de-

sign of the car was produced by Chrysler stylist Steve Ferrerio."

The show starred James McCaffrey and Detroit's Jeff Kaake during its run.

General Motors Leads Domestics in 'Made in America List'

For the fourth consecutive year, Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles are the leaders of the Made in America Automotive Index produced by American University's Kogod School of Business.

The Buick Enclave, Chevrolet Traverse and GMC Acadia together tied for No. 1, while 17 other General Motors vehicles ranked in the Top 10.

The index is authored by Frank DuBois, a global supply chain management expert and professor at American University in Washington, D.C., said GM spokeswoman Laura Toole.

More comprehensive than other studies of its kind, the Kogod index ranks models based on seven weighted data points including several factors unaddressed by the American Automotive Labeling Act (AALA), the basis for "made in America" automotive studies.

DuBois is an associate professor at American University's Kogod School of Business. He said the index seeks to answer the question of what percentage "of your vehicle's value contributes to the overall well-being of the U.S. economy. How does your car impact the U.S. automobile industry's economic vitality? And most importantly, why does the information matter to you?"

DuBois said Kogod's method improves on AALA data by incor-

porating a more comprehensive research methodology, providing consumers with a more accurate view of their vehicle's composition.

DuBuis said this is important because as such an important part of the U.S. economy, understanding the factors that influence the automobile industry is not just helpful, it is essential. A vehicle's domestic manufacturing composition plays a key role in determining its overall impact on the American economy. This knowledge empowers consumers and automakers alike to make better economic decisions about where a car is made, and which offer the greatest commercial benefits to the country.

The Kogod study considers:

- Profit Margin – location of the automaker's global headquarters;
- Labor – where the vehicle is assembled;
- Research and Development – location of R&D activities;
- Inventory, Capital, and Other Expenses – location of assembly;
- Engine – location of production;
- Transmission – location of production;
- Body, Chassis and Electrical Components.

According to the AALA, if 75 percent or more of a car's parts by value come from the U.S. or Canada, it is to be considered as



The 2017 Buick Enclave is tops in terms of being American made.

a domestic product.

The top 10 "most American" vehicles according to the Kogod Index are:

- The Buick Enclave, with a total domestic content rating of 90.
- The Chevrolet Traverse, with a total domestic content rating of 90;
- The GMC Acadia, with a total domestic content rating of 90;
- The Ford F-150, with a total domestic content rating of 85;
- The Chevrolet Corvette, with a total domestic content rating of 83;
- Chevrolet Equinox, with a total domestic content rating of 82.50;
- The Chevrolet Impala, with a

total domestic content rating of 82.50;

- The Chevrolet Malibu E2 Gen, with a total content rating of 82.50;
 - The Malibu LTD, with a total domestic content rating of 82.50;
 - GMC Yukon/Yukon EXT, with a total domestic content rating of 82.50;
 - The Cadillac Escalade, with a total domestic content rating of 82.50;
 - The Buick LaCrosse, with a total domestic content rating of 82.50;
- Fiat Chrysler top vehicle, total domestic content-wise, is the Jeep Wrangler Unlimited with a rating of 80.50.

German Officials Investigating Ex-VW CEO

BERLIN (AP) – German prosecutors are investigating former Volkswagen CEO Martin Winterkorn and another unnamed executive over allegations they didn't inform investors soon enough about the company's scandal over cars rigged to cheat on U.S. diesel emissions tests.

The Braunschweig prosecutor's spokesman, Matthias Diekmann, said in a statement June 20 that the probe was opened at the behest of Germany's Federal Financial Supervisory Authority, the country's financial watchdog.

German stock market law requires publicly traded companies to alert investors as soon as they have unforeseen developments that could affect a decision to buy or sell the stock. Prosecutors said that Volkswagen only made that notification on Sept. 22, and that there was evidence that the disclosure obligation should have been fulfilled earlier.

The news release said that the second employee is not the current board of directors' chairman, Hans Dieter Poetsch. Poetsch was chief financial officer under Winterkorn but has since left that post. Volkswagen did not immediately respond to calls seeking comment. The company has already said in response to an investor lawsuit that it met its disclosure obligation.

Downtown Detroit to Enjoy June Fireworks Celebration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

• **Ford Pop-Up Parties** – Prior to the Ford Fireworks, Ford Pop-Up Parties will engage people on Belle Isle and Hart Plaza with games, promotional goodies and music from the Ford Fusion Marching Band.

• **Social Media Contest** – Snap a photo while you are at the Ford Fireworks from 3 - 11 p.m. Share it on Instagram using #FordFireworks2016 + @FordInCommunity for a chance to win a Waco Bi-plane ride from Yankee Air Museum. Winner will be randomly selected on June 28, 2016, by 5 p.m. Must be following @FordInCommunity on Instagram to enter.

Ford Motor Company Fund, the company's philanthropic arm, is once again collaborating with Yankee Air Museum to host Focus on Freedom, Nissen said. This special event honors 250 current and former members of the military and their families with a reception at the Detroit/Wayne Port Authority building, and an up-close view of the fireworks.

"Ford has never wavered in its support for the people and communities of southeast Michigan," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Company Fund. "The Ford Fireworks is a celebration of our common heritage as Americans, while also embracing the diversity that makes us stronger as a community and showcases the pride we share of being Detroiters."

In addition to serving as title sponsor of the Ford Fireworks, Ford is also presenting sponsor of The Parade Company's Rooftop Party, Vella said, which occurs during the fireworks. Guests attending the event will experience live music, food by Andiamo, games, giveaways and more for adults and kids alike. To learn more, visit www.theparade.org or call 313-923-7400.

As producers of the Ford Fire-

works, The Parade Company selects the musical arrangement that Zambelli Fireworks Internationale will stage along with the pyrotechnic effects that are visible for miles along the Detroit River. This year's show is themed "Go Forward Detroit," and will be choreographed again by the Patrick Brault, whose previous pyrotechnic displays include the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

Ford has been investing in Detroit since the company's founding in 1903, Vella said. Over the past 10 years, Ford and Ford Fund have donated more than \$150 million to organizations throughout southeast Michigan, supporting education, driver safety and community life, including hunger relief and other essential services.

The Ford Volunteer Corps has participated in more than 8,000 local community service projects. In addition to Ford Fireworks, Ford adds its support to America's Thanksgiving Parade, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, DIA, Michigan Opera Theater, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and Michigan Science Center.

Cranbrook Going Batty in Summer

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Mich. (AP) – An animal sanctuary focusing on bats is reopening at the Cranbrook Institute of Science after repairs and upgrades.

The Organization for Bat Conservation at Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills is reopened "Bat Zone" on June 25. The building is home to nearly 200 nocturnal animals. Wildlife habitats have been expanded and building infrastructure improvements have been made. Visitors can see Kamilah, a member of the world's largest species of bat, along with other bats.



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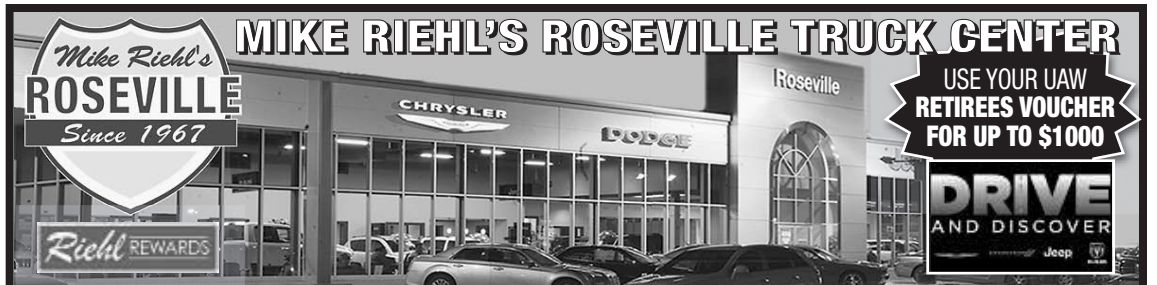


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J.D. Powers Gives GM 7 Awards in Quality Study

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fewest problems per 100 vehicles at 83. It was closely followed by Porsche at 84, Hyundai at 92, Toyota with 93 and BMW with 94. The survey asked owners about problems in the first 90 days of ownership.

The worst-performing brands were smart, Fiat, Volvo, Land Rover and Mini, according to the survey.

The average score for all brands was 105, seven problems fewer than last year.

The survey is the first big quality check for 2016 vehicles, closely watched by car shoppers. *Consumer Reports* magazine's influential quality study comes out in October and includes other years.

J.D. Power 2016 new vehicle rankings had the Chevrolet Spark take first place in the City Car category. The Buick Cascada tied for first in the Compact Sporty Car category with the Scion tC.

The winner in the Compact Premium Car category was the Lincoln MKZ, while the Dodge Challenger won in the Midsize Sporty Car category and the Chrysler Town & Country was the top minivan.

It was a tie between the Chevy Equinox and the GMC Terrain in the Small Premium SUV category.

Chevy enjoyed further success by taking first in the Large SUV category with the Tahoe, first in the Large Light-duty Pickup category with the Silverado LD and first in the Large Heavy-duty Pickup category with the Silverado HD.

The winner in the Large Premium category was the Lincoln Navigator.

Little Caesars Detroit HQ Growing

DETROIT (AP) - A new nine-story building with a unique exterior made up of 14-foot-tall, pizza slice-shaped glass sections will highlight an expanded Little Caesars headquarters in Detroit, the company said June 22.

The pizza chain and Olympia Development of Michigan released updated plans and renderings for the planned Little Caesars Global Resource Center. The expanded headquarters campus will allow 700 jobs to be brought to Detroit, Little Caesars said.

"We're proud to build an exceptional workplace right in the heart of the city that helped make Little Caesars one of the world's largest pizza chains," David Scrivano, president of Little Caesars, said in a statement.

Plans for the Global Resource Center include a 425-seat training room, a test kitchen and a glass-covered, open air terrace. The companies said the building represents Detroit's first newly constructed corporate headquarters building in more than a decade.

A groundbreaking is planned this summer on the building, which will be located across Woodward Avenue from Comerica Park, the home of the Detroit Tigers, and near Little Caesars Arena, the new home of the Detroit Red Wings that's under construction.

Mike and Marian Ilitch co-founded Little Caesars in 1959 and bought the Red Wings in 1982. Mike Ilitch bought the Tigers in 1992. Renderings show a skywalk connecting the Global Resource Center with the building housing the Fox Theatre, which the Ilitches restored.

Vehicle Quality Study Shows What Detroit Can Produce

As the saying goes, it ain't bragging if you can back it up. And Detroit automakers, according to J.D. Power's Initial Quality Study (IQS) results, which were released on June 22, can back up their boasts of quality.

IQS is based on responses from more than 80,000 purchasers and lessees of new 2016 model-year vehicles surveyed after 90 days of ownership. The study asks customers to identify issues with their vehicles' design, as well as defects.

"These results play two critical roles in our strategy to bring new retail buyers to the brand," said Alan Batey, Global Chevrolet president. "First, the study results will help attract new buyers to Chevrolet, as J.D. Power data shows 'expected reliability' is customers' top purchase consideration for a new vehicle. Second, the improved ownership experience of our new vehicles will help convert first-time Chevrolet buyers into repeat customers, as J.D. Power indicates customers who have a positive experience in the first 90 days of ownership are more likely to become repeat buyers for the brand."

Fiat Chrysler minivans also performed well in the study. Chrysler Town & Country ranks highest among Minivans in initial quality with Dodge Grand Caravan taking second place in the segment, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Berj Alexanian, and that's something to celebrate.

"Our commitment to quality is starting to show results as Chrysler and Jeep make strong improvements in initial quality, but there is still much work to do," said Scott Garberding, Head of Quality, FCA - Global.

"Dodge Challenger continues to

impress new owners year after year with the muscle car now leading the Midsize Sporty Car segment in initial quality for the third straight year and the fourth time in six years," Garberding added. "Chrysler and Dodge minivans continue their leadership position in the segment by taking the top two spots in initial quality."

Sam Locricchio, Lincoln Communications - Product manager, said the J.D. Power ratings affirm what the Lincoln brand has been doing for the past five years.

"We couldn't be happier," Locricchio said. "We have a new MKZ hitting the showrooms for the model year 2017. And this news bodes well for consumers, who really liked the previous model when they were looking for luxury. They can feel comfortable with the MKZ, which was the first model Lincoln introduced when Ford relaunched the Lincoln brand."

What the J.D. Power study shows, Locricchio said, is that Lincoln's commitment to not just a quality vehicle, but a quality buying experience is paying off.

"When you are in the market for a luxury vehicle, you expect any vehicle you're looking at to be of the highest quality," Locricchio said. "That's just to be expected. What makes Lincoln great are the people who take care of our customers during and after the buying process. What we at Lincoln have discovered is that our customers' greatest luxury is time and that credibility comes from delivering on promises. This study has shown that Lincoln as a brand is serious about keeping promises and that Ford as a company is serious about the Lincoln brand."

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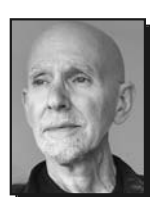


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Ford New Project is Truly Fun and Games

Selling cars to the Millennial demographic is not all fun and games – usually.

Ford Motor Company and the makers of the popular experiential game *Escape the Room* are teaming up to create the largest game experience yet – the first-ever driveable game that will challenge participants to use the latest technology and features of the 2017 Ford Escape to figure out clues and solve puzzles in a way that's never been done before, said Ford spokesman William Mattiace.

"Escape the Room" is a cultural phenomenon," Mattiace said. "It was invented by Victor Blake as a kind of living puzzle. There are 'Escape the Room' sites in many big cities including Detroit. That site is by the Detroit Opera House and has a waiting list.

Mattiace said an "escape room" is a physical adventure game in which players are locked in a room and have to use elements of the room to solve a series of puzzles and escape within a set time limit. The games are physical versions of "escape the room" video games. Games are set in a variety of fictional locations, such as prison cells, dungeons and space stations, and are popular as team building exercises.

"We contacted Victor Blake a few months ago and asked him if he wanted to design an 'Escape the Room' for Ford incorporating Ford technology in the game. He said he'd be delighted.

As a result Blake crafted a consumer experience like no other, Mattiace said. Players will attempt to escape multiple rooms in an iconic New York building – Moynihan Station. *Escape NYC: An Escape the Room Driving Experience* takes place June 23-26.

The site uses 35,000 square feet, Mattiace said. That's rough-

ly half a football field.

At Moynihan Station, players will find themselves immersed in the hidden treasures of summertime in New York as they navigate the quintessential path of going from humble beginnings to making it big in the film industry. An expansive, five-room play space prompts participants to find clues that will guide their journey using various technological tools available in the new Ford Escape, and their own wits.

This kind of game is popular among the Millennial demographic, Mattiace said. This is a demographic that loves SUVs, and if Ford wants to sell to them, the company has to go where they are.

"Younger, urban consumers today want to live through experiences and engage with brands that represent their lifestyle," said Ginger Kasanic, Ford experiential marketing manager. "They are voracious consumers of life – they're not spectators, they're participants. 'Escape the Room' NYC can be summed up as the experience economy trend putting a unique spin on the traditional test drive.

The event is true to the gaming phenomenon Blake created, Mattiace said, which has become one of the trendiest entertainment experiences with millennials, except for the fact it will occupy 35,000 square feet – making *Escape NYC* 50 times larger than the typical game experience, according to Blake.

"Ford asked if I'd be up for integrating the new Escape into an *Escape the Room* game, and the end result is unlike anything I've created before," says Blake. "The SUV is packed with tons of advanced technology, and it was an entertaining exercise to integrate things like ultrasonic parking sensors into the puzzles and

clues that are iconic to the game."

Some of the in-vehicle technologies integrated into the game:

- Digital music and streaming radio from iHeartRadio via SYNC AppLink;
- Voice-to-text capabilities of SYNC 3 driver connect system;
- Remote start and remote lock capabilities of SYNC Connect, via FordPass;
- Premium audio system from Sony with Clear Phase and Live Acoustics;
- Enhanced active park assist;
- Adaptive cruise control and collision warning with brake support;
- Rearview camera;
- Seven-color ambient lighting;
- Hands-free, foot-activated liftgate.

Players are sworn to secrecy to ensure the game is fresh for everyone and nobody has an advantage.

Through out the game, players will discover a whole new side of New York State, as well as themselves, Mattiace said.

The game, open to the public for four days, saw just more than 1,000 consumers sign up in less than 24 hours, Mattiace said. Although pre-registration is sold out, walk-in spots will be available each day.

"We're constantly looking for new ways to connect with consumers and teaming up with *Escape the Room* allowed us to create a unique and unexpected experience to introduce our new Ford Escape and our technologies," said Kasanic.

To further raise the profile of hidden gems and key destinations across New York State, Ford and I LOVE NEW YORK are releasing *Summer Escape Travel Guides* featuring weekend and



A rendering of Ford's "Escape the Room" game site in New York City.

extended getaways that can be best enjoyed in the 2017 Ford Escape. All participants will receive a custom *Escape New York* sum-

mer guide highlighting the state's diverse vacation regions to help plan the perfect weekend getaway.



Chevy's new ambassador Luke Bryan in concert.

Chevrolet Goes Country

Chevrolet on June 10 teamed up with reigning CMA Entertainer of the Year Luke Bryan. The announcement was made at the 2016 Country Music Association Festival (CMA Fest).

GM spokesman Craig Daitch, said Chevrolet is expanding its country music ties and that Bryan will work with Chevy as a brand ambassador on a variety of projects over the next three years, including his participation during this year's CMA Music Festival.

"Chevy has been a part of our family and a part of our work life on the farm for as long as I can remember," said Bryan. "If you were a Bryan, you drove a Chevy. I am so excited about this partnership and I'm honored to be representing such a wonderful brand."

Chevrolet will also be a sponsor of Bryan's Farm Tour, Daitch said. The 8th Annual Farm Tour is a multi-city tour in which Bryan stops in rural areas of the U.S., sets up stages on farmland and performs for thousands of fans.

A portion of ticket proceeds

are granted for local college scholarships (the Luke Bryan Farm Tour Scholarship) awarded to students from farming families within the communities the tour plays.

"Partnering with Luke Bryan is a natural fit for Chevrolet," said Paul Edwards, Chevrolet U.S. vice president of marketing.

"Our customers love country music, and Chevy has always held a special place within the genre."

Earlier this year, using his broad reach on social media, Daitch said Bryan helped Chevrolet use the extra 24 hours of Leap Day to #DayItForward by recognizing the daily hard work and sacrifice of the firefighters who work out of Fire Station #2 in Franklin, Tenn.

"We're proud to build a relationship with an artist as authentic and talented as Luke," said Edwards.

Since the debut of his first album in 2007, Luke has placed 15 singles at No. 1 and sold nearly eight million albums with 30 million digital tracks from his five studio albums, Daitch said.

Ford Keeps SUV Plants Open

Ford-brand SUVs are off to their best sales start in company history in the first five months of the year, prompting the company to build nearly 22,000 extra SUVs this summer, said Ford spokeswoman Kelli Felker.

"Strong customer demand for our SUVs means we will operate some of our North American plants during the traditional two-week summer shutdown," said Gary Johnson, Ford vice president, North American Manufacturing.

"Our SUV assembly plants will continue to build vehicles to make sure we have enough of our popular SUVs to meet customer demand."

Ford SUVs sales total 325,475 through May of this year, a 9 percent increase versus the same time period last year, Felker said. Ford has delivered sales gains across its entire SUV product portfolio including *Escape*, *Edge*, *Explorer*, *Flex* and *Expedition*.

Louisville Assembly Plant, Chicago Assembly Plant and Oakville Assembly Plant and their supporting stamping facilities will shut down only the week of July 4 for building maintenance and machine retooling, instead of the traditional two-week summer vacation shutdown, Felker said.

In addition to the SUV plants, Kentucky Truck will have a shortened summer shutdown as workers there prepare for the upcoming launch of the all-new Super Duty truck later this year.

The remainder of Ford's North American manufacturing facilities shut down for two weeks for regularly scheduled building maintenance and machine retooling.

This is the fourth consecutive year Ford has shortened its summer shutdown at one or more manufacturing facilities due to high customer demand for its products, Felker said.

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VW Tentatively Agrees to \$10.2 Billion Fine

DETROIT (AP) – Volkswagen has agreed to take a series of steps costing about \$10.2 billion to settle claims from its unprecedented diesel emissions cheating scandal in the U.S., two people briefed on the matter said June 23.

Most of the money would go to compensate 482,000 owners of cars with 2-liter diesel engines that were programmed to turn on emissions controls during lab tests and turn them off while on the road, said the people, who asked not to be identified because a judge has issued a gag order in the case.

One of the people said the agreement was tentative and could change by the time the terms are officially announced by the judge on June 28. The bulk of the cash would be used to fix the cars, buy them back and compensate owners. Some funds would go to government agencies as penalties and for a program to remediate the environmental damage caused by pollution, the person said.

Owners would have a choice between selling their vehicles back to VW at the value before the scandal broke on Sept. 18, 2015, or keeping the cars and letting the company repair them for free. Either way, they would also get \$1,000 to \$7,000 depending on their cars' age, with an average payment of about \$5,000, one of the people said.

Attorneys representing owners, VW and government agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency have not yet agreed on the steps VW will take to repair the cars, the person said. Any fix likely would require a bigger catalytic converter or injection of the chemical urea into the exhaust to help neutralize the pollution.

The \$10.2 billion cost eclipses

costs of all recent automotive scandals. General Motors, for instance, paid roughly \$6.9 billion for its giant recall of defective ignition switches two years ago. But unlike other scandals, VW has admitted to deliberately deceiving government regulators.

The EPA has said the cars, which include many of VW's most popular models, can give off more than 40 times the legal limit of nitrogen oxide, which can cause respiratory problems in humans. Around 11 million cars worldwide also had the cheating software, but nitrogen oxide emissions standards aren't as stringent outside the U.S.

Neither VW nor the EPA would comment on the settlement.

VW may have to pay additional penalties to government agencies, one of the people said. The Justice Department has sued VW

on the EPA's behalf, and the automaker could also be penalized by the California Air Resources Board and the Federal Trade Commission, which has sued over false advertising claims.

Volkswagen owners filed dozens of lawsuits against VW after it acknowledged in September that it intentionally defeated emissions tests and put dirty vehicles on the road.

The company faces as much as \$20 billion in fines for Clean Air Act violations alone, on top of paying to fix the cars or compensate their owners. The settlement does not include 3-liter Volkswagen diesels, which had different cheating software.

Full details of the settlement are scheduled to be released June 28 by Senior U.S. District Court Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco.

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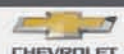


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