# Detroit Auto Scene®

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**AUGUST 1, 2016** 



Orion Assembly is powered by locally-generated methane gas.

# Methane Gas Fuels GM's Orion Assembly

If you're going to build a green car, it just makes sense to manufacture the vehicle in a green fac-

The General Motors Orion Assembly plant that builds the Chevrolet Bolt EV ranks as the eighth largest user of green power generated onsite in the United States among the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership Partners, said GM spokeswoman Colleen Oberc. More than half of the plant is powered by methane captured from decomposing trash in a nearby landfill.

"Building the Bolt EV in a facili- newable energy by 2020, and it ty that is 54 percent powered by clean energy further adds to the car's environmental credentials,' said Alicia Boler-Davis, GM vice president of global manufacturing. "It's an example of how we live our global sustainable manufacturing commitment while improving our bottom line."

Orion Assembly saves \$1 million a year by using renewable energy, Oberc said. The plant is also home to a 350-kilowatt solar array that sends energy back to the grid. GM's goal is to promote the use of 125 megawatts of rewill exceed that goal later this "EPA applauds Orion Assembly

for its innovation in generating green power from an onsite landfill gas energy system and for taking a leadership position on the environment," said James Critchfield, manager of the Green Power Partnership.

Letha Tawney, director of Utility Innovation at World Resources Institute, said General Motors, which was a founding member of

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3** 

# SHAP Retools with \$1.48B for Ram 1500

On July 26 Fiat Chrysler announced that it will invest \$1.48 billion in its Sterling Heights Assembly Plant to retool it to build the next generation Ram 1500 and support the future growth of the Ram brand, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tinson in a statement to the media.

The company also confirmed that production of the Chrysler 200 will end in December 2016 in order to begin the transformation of the plant.

This announcement comes after Fiat Chrysler invested millions to convert SHAP into the maker of the Chrysler 200.

In 2014 Chrysler Group LLC Chairman and CEO Sergio Marchionne announced that 800 jobs have been added to the rolls at the Sterling Heights Assembly

When Marchionne made the announcement, he noted that the facility that was slated to close in 2010, and instead it will be used to support production of the new 2015 Chrysler 200.

"The revitalization of SHAP is an apt symbol of how far Chrysler has come because of the courage and resilience of our people," said Marchionne in 2014. "This plant was scheduled to close by the end of 2010. But the workers and the leaders of this community refused to accept this verdict as final.

Tinson said back in 2014 that SHAP's story as one of rags to

In June 2009, as a new company emerged, it was announced that the plant would close in December 2010, Tinson said. Community leaders and employees rallied together to rewrite the plant's fate. Those efforts were rewarded with a decision in March 2010 to repurchase the plant, thereby extending production through 2012.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



SHAP is switching from the Chrysler 200 to the Ram 1500.

Ford is using the agave plant to develop new bioplastics.

# Ford Thinking Outside Box With Tequila Partnership

Ford and tequila maker Jose Debbie Mielewski, Ford senior Cuervo sound like unlikely part- technical leader, sustainability ners, after all drinking and driv- research department. "As a ing don't mix. But that's not the leader in the sustainability whole story

Ford Motor Company is teaming up with Jose Cuervo to explore the use of the tequila producer's agave plant byproduct to develop more sustainable bioplastics to employ in Ford vehicles, said Ford spokesman John Cangany.

Ford and Jose Cuervo are testing the bioplastic for use in vehicle interior and exterior components such as wiring harnesses, HVAC units and storage bins, Cangany said. Initial assessments suggest the material holds great promise due to its durability and aesthetic qualities. Success in developing a sustainable composite could reduce vehicle weight and lower energy consumption, while paring the use of petrochemicals and the impact of vehicle production on the environment.

"At Ford, we aim to reduce our impact on the environment," said

space, we are developing new technologies to efficiently employ discarded materials and fibers, while potentially reducing the use of petrochemicals and light-weighting our vehicles for desired fuel economy."

The growth cycle of the agave plant is a minimum seven-year process. Once harvested, the heart of the plant is roasted, before grinding and extracting its juices for distillation. Jose Cuervo uses a portion of the remaining agave fibers as compost for its farms, and local artisans make crafts and agave paper from the remnants.

Now, as part of Jose Cuervo's broader sustainability plan, the tequila maker is joining forces with the automaker to develop a new way to use its remnant

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

# **GM Comes Out as the Clear Winner in the** J. D. Power's Consumer APEAL Survey

by Jim Stickford

The J.D. Power U.S. Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout (APEAL) study was released on July 27, and the news was good for Detroit in general, and GM specifically.

Through customer surveys, the APEAL Study examines how gratifying a new vehicle is to own and drive, said Renee Stephens, vice president of U.S. Auto Quality at J.D. Power. Owners evaluate their vehicle across 77 attributes that make up an overall brand score measured on a 1,000-point scale.

GM spokesman Nick Richards said these scores demonstrate GM's commitment to designing quality vehicles that meet consumer needs. Richards pointed out that GM received six segment-level awards – the most of any automaker.

This follows GM's leadership in the J.D. Power 2016 Vehicle Dependability Study and the J.D. Power 2016 Initial Quality Study, where it had the most models ranked highest in segment, said Richards.

"This is a pretty significant accomplishment," Richards said. 'We've done well in all the J.D. Power studies this year. The initial quality study look at owners and their vehicles after 90 days, the APEAL study a longer period of time and the VDS study, which looks at vehicles after three years."

"These awards are a great recognition of the progress we are making in the design and development of our vehicles," said Tony Francavilla, General Motors



The 2016 Buick Cascada scored very well on the APEAL survey.



Consumers like the 2016 Jeep Grand Cherokee according to J.D. Power.

vice president of quality. "We realize that every touch point, whether it is the vehicle's appeal, initial quality or long-term durability, impacts our ability to earn customers for life.'

In addition to earning the most segment-level awards, GM also earned the most top-three places.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5** 

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#### **Second Quarter Profit Numbers** Trouble Ford

DEARBORN, Mich. - Ford Motor Co.'s net income fell 9 percent to \$2.0 billion in the second quarter as the company struggled with flattening U.S. sales and a tougher market in China.

Ford said that its full-year guidance - which calls for a pretax profit of \$10 billion to \$11 billion - remains intact but is at

The company's shares fell almost 7 percent to \$12.88 in premarket trading.

The bad news came from North America and Asia. Ford's Chief Financial Officer Bob Shanks said after an unprecedented growth streak, the U.S. market is starting to plateau. North American sales were flat versus a year ago, and Ford's market share in the region didn't budge despite higher incentive spending. Pretax results in the region fell 5 percent to \$2.7 bil-

"We're starting to see a maturation of the economic cycle," Shanks said. Ford lowered its estimates for full-year industry sales in the U.S.

In Asia, Ford recorded its first pretax loss - of \$ 8 million - in more than three years. Shanks said Ford sold fewer commercial vehicles in China and spent heavily to upgrade its factories. The weaker yuan also impacted sales of its luxury Lincoln brand.

Europe – long a drag on profits – was a bright spot, with sales up 11 percent. Pretax profits in Europe almost tripled to \$467 million despite a hit from Britain's vote to exit the European Union. Stronger sales in Russia were one contributing factor.

The profit, of 52 cents per share, compared to a profit of 54 cents per share in the April-June period year ago. That missed Wall Street's expectation of a 60cent profit, according to analysts polled by FactSet.

Revenue was up 6 percent to \$39.5 billion, beating analysts' expectations. Ford sold 1.7 million vehicles during the quarter, which was flat from a year ago.

### Wayne State's **Business School New Program**

DETROIT (AP) - The Mike Ilitch School of Business at Wayne State University is starting an institute to integrate a focus on organizational diversity and inclusive leadership.

The Institute for Leadership and Diversity will consolidate and expand the Detroit school's leadership service and research programs. It also will seek to offer innovative student, community and executive leadership education and development opportunities.

Associate Dean and Professor Toni Somers and management faculty member Sheri Perelli are the institute's faculty co-directors. A new home for the business school is scheduled to open in 2018.

# **Chrysler Sales Counting Procedure Changing**

DETROIT (AP) - Fiat Chrysler has revised more than five years of U.S. sales figures and says a much-touted streak of 75 months of gains should have ended in

The company, in a lengthy statement issued July 26, said it would change the way it reports monthly sales retroactively to the start of 2011. The move comes as the Justice Department and Securities and Exchange Commission investigate whether the company inflated sales by pressing dealers to buy more vehicles.

Neither Justice nor the SEC would comment July 26. Higher monthly sales could influence the company's stock price, although Fiat Chrysler said in the statement that its quarterly revenue figures would not change.

A chart issued by the company shows that it overstated sales for 30 months since January of 2011, while understating the numbers for 36 months. Using the new reporting method, the company's string of 75 monthly year-overyear increases actually ended in September of 2013 at 40 months.

The net effect of the revisions is that the company actually understated its sales by nearly 19,000 vehicles during the past 5 1/2 years, Fiat Chrysler said. The company blamed the discrepancy on two sales-counting practices that it says will be stopped:

· Previously the company had a "reserve" stock of cars that had been shipped to big fleet buyers such as rental car companies but not recorded as sales. Managers had the ability to move those sales from one month to the next to make sure the company reported positive sales numbers. `Fleet sales will now be recorded as sales upon shipment by FCA US of the vehicle to the customer," the company statement said.

• Dealers sign paperwork to sell a vehicle and then report it as a sale to Fiat Chrysler. But the sale might fall through because the customer backs out or can't get financing. Previously FCA still counted these as sales, but made sure it didn't count the same vehicle when it was sold later. Now the company will subtract sales "unwinds" when it finds out the deal has fallen through. When the vehicle is sold again, it will be counted as a sale.

There are no clear reporting standards for monthly sales, and criteria for a sale vary by automaker. But industry insiders say the numbers are often manipulated by both dealers and the companies.

For instance, companies will offer dealers hundreds or even thousands of dollars per vehicle if they sell a certain number above their sales from the same month a year ago. Dealers will try to make those numbers because doing so often can mean a difference of hundreds of thousands in revenue. Often dealers will buy the cars themselves, reporting them as sales and putting them in their fleet of loaner cars. Later they are sold as used cars.

"Typically the dealers could be under a lot of pressure from the companies to report sales to reach certain benchmarks to get their back-end money," said Sheldon Sandler, CEO of a Princeton, New Jersey, company that advises dealers on when to buy and sell their businesses. "There's nothing new about this," said Sandler, adding that all automakers do it.

The federal probe into Fiat

Chrysler's sales began after a Chicago-area dealership group sued the company in January alleging that competing dealers got incentives to report false sales.

The Napleton dealership group contends that an FCA executive offered Napleton \$20,000 to falsely report sales of 40 new vehicles. The lawsuit also alleges that the false sales give the appearance that FCA's performance is better than it actually is.

The lawsuit alleges that a competing dealership reported 85 false new vehicle sales and got tens of thousands of dollars in return. It also says FCA offered to pay the \$20,000 to Napleton disguised as co-operative advertising support.

FCA has said the lawsuit is without merit and pledged to defend it-



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The new 2017 LaCrosse is Buick's design and technology flagship.

# Chrysler Profits Increase **During Second Quarter**

MILAN (AP) – Fiat Chrysler Au- billion euros. Volumes overall tomobiles on July 27 raised its earnings forecasts after reporting a 25 percent increase in second-quarter profits as SUV and truck sales offset the impact of slumping demand for passenger cars in North America.

The world's seventh-largest carmaker, Fiat Chrysler said that net profit was 321 million euros (\$352 million), compared with 257 million euros a year earlier. Last year's second-quarter profits were restated to reflect the spin-off of Ferrari.

The carmaker said it was raising its revenue forecast to above 112 billion euros from 110 billion euros, while increasing its earnings before taxes and interest forecast to "above 5.5 billion euros" from "above 5 billion euros' previously.

CEO Sergio Marchionne indicated that those figures were conservative, saying "there is a big plus sign" on them.

North American sales volumes were lower than last year due to fewer sales of compact and midsize sedans, but improved truck and SUV sales helped boost revenues by 2 percent to nearly 17 slipped 2 percent to 666,000 units.

Fiat Chrysler's North America bottom line also was hit by 414 million euros in charges related to the Takata airbag inflator re-

North America is the carmaker's main earnings driver and Marchionne said he expected to fully transition the United States manufacturing footprint out of passenger cars and toward higher-earning SUVs/CUVs and trucks and Jeeps by sometime early next year.

That would happen "by probably the end of Q1 of 2017," he said, adding that he anticipated downtime in some plants during the transition.

Marchionne said that transition should help improve North American margins toward double-digits.

European sales volumes were up 13 percent as the European market continued its recovery, helped by the Fiat 500 and Tipo families of passenger cars.

Shipments of cars and light commercial vehicles were up 14 percent to 367,000.

# **Buick Brand Growing Around the World**

Among the top automotive Duncan Aldred, vice president of Buick's range of premium SUVs brands – those selling more than 200,000 units internationally so far this year – Buick is growing at unmatched pace. With 675,964 sales through June, Buick ended 2016's first half up 20.1 percent over the same peri-

In this year of rapid growth, Buick has risen to the fifthlargest passenger vehicle brand in China and is outselling key competitors including Acura, Infiniti and Lincoln in North America, said Buick spokesman Stuart

The growth has been fueled by core international products including the Encore small SUV, which this year surpassed a halfmillion sales since it was introduced 3.5 years ago, Fowle said. Encore has been a success story in every market, though North America has led the way thus far in 2016 with 36,365 sales through

Buick's award-winning Envision compact crossover concluded its first full month of U.S. sales with 1,436 customer deliveries amid limited availability, Fowle said. A full model range starting at \$34,990 launches for the 2017 model year this fall. The Envision has quickly become Buick's bestselling model sold internationally, followed by Encore and LaCrosse.

Buick's new LaCrosse flagship sedan is launching now. It is a beautifully crafted and thoughtinnovative vehicle, said Buick Sales, Service and Market-

The 2017 LaCrosse launches globally in the second half of the year as a showcase of design and technology for the brand, Aldred said. More than 950,000 customers worldwide have chosen the LaCrosse since the current model was introduced in 2009.

"2016 has been a year of optimism and excitement for Buick as we've outpaced our top competitors," said Aldred. "As new products continue to arrive to our stores, there's never been a better time to take a fresh look at

and cars.'

Buick's momentous 2016 has also included the launch of the Cascada convertible in the U.S. market and continued growth for the Excelle GT, Buick's best-seller in China, Fowle said. Cascada, which offers a lower base price than an Audi A3 convertible but space and power similar to an Audi A5 convertible, has outsold both of those vehicles combined through the first half of the year.

In the U.S., Buick was named KBB's "Best Value Luxury Brand" for the fourth year in a row,

### **GM Goes Green at Orion**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

the Corporate Renewable Energy Buyers' Principles, has been a vocal advocate for renewable energy sourcing.

"The GM team is constantly seeking out innovative approaches to increasing their use of renewable energy around the country," said Tawney.

GM is one of 60 multinational companies in the Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance, which works to identify barriers to buying clean energy and develop solutions to meet growing demand, Oberc said. Groups like these, along with policy support, help to drive and scale renewable energy at an effort to reduce costs.

Orion Assembly is committed

to energy efficiency. GM's painting process at the plant gives the Bolt EV its glossy sheen while at the same time contributing to a reduced environmental foot-print, Oberc said. The "threewet" process allows three layers of paint to be applied to the car followed by a single trip through the oven, saving energy and space previously used by additional equipment.

The facility met EPA's ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry in 2013 by reducing the energy intensity of its operations by 67 percent within two years. In addition, Oberc said, GM's Fort Wayne Assembly plant appears on the EPA list for the second year in a row for its onsite generation of energy from landfill gas.

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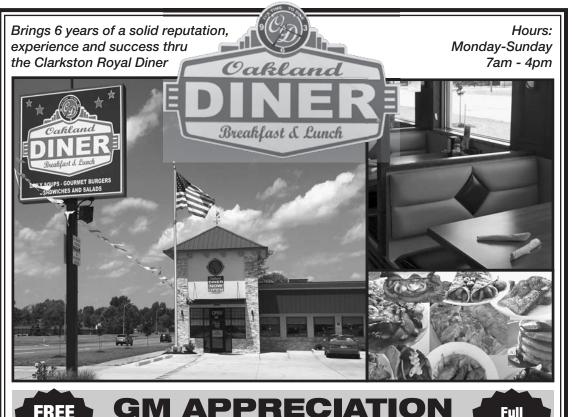
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#### **SHAP Retools** With \$1.48B **For Ram 1500**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

An announcement in July 2010 stated that SHAP would remain open in definitely and add a second shift of production (about 900 jobs) in the first quarter of 2011 gave new life to the facility and its employees, Tinson said. Later that year, Chrysler Group confirmed that with continued growing demand and new product on the horizon, it would invest nearly \$850 million to construct an all-new, state-of-the-art paint shop, as well as install new machinery, tooling and materialhandling equipment.

A second investment of \$165 million for a new body shop was announced in October 2011.

While the 200 earned praise the 2015 Chrysler 200 Named Midwest Automotive Media Association's "Family Vehicle of the Year" in February of 2015 - the vehicle was fighting against a major consumer trend.

IHS analyst Tom Libby said that since the turn of the century, consumers have shown an ever-increasing preference for SUVs/CUVs as well as pickup trucks and minivans.

Libby said that while there will always be a demand for sedans, the market niche is not likely to grow, and many expect that demand will continue to decline. So it only makes sense that automakers shift their mix of sedans, SUVs, CUVs, pickups and minivans to better reflect consumer preferences.

The Fiat Chrysler announcment comes on the heels of an announcement by Buick in which the executves said that the brand is discontinuing the Verano based on the success of the Encore.

Libby noted that the Verano was only in production for a few years and was generally considered a well-designed and made sedan.

#### Ford, Jose Cuervo Partner on **Bio Materials**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Jose Cuervo is proud to be working with Ford to further develop our agave sustainability plan," said Sonia Espinola, director of heritage for Cuervo Foundation and master tequilera. "As the world's No. 1-selling tequila, we could never have imagined the hundreds of agave plants we were cultivating as a small family business would eventually multiply to millions. This collaboration brings two great companies together to develop innovative, earth-conscious materials.'

Like Ford Motor Company Jose Cuervo is family-owned and operated. Founded in 1795, it has been making tequila for more than 220 years with the same experience, Cangany said.

The collaboration with Jose Cuervo is the latest example of Ford's innovative approach to product and environmental stewardship through the use of biomaterials. Ford began researching the use of sustainable materials in its vehicles in 2000. Today, the automaker uses eight sustainable-based materials in its vehicles including soy foam, castor oil and wheat straw.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, 5 billion metric tons of agricultural biomass waste is produced annually. A byproduct of agriculture, the supply of materials is often underutilized that can be relatively low cost, and can help OEMs offset the use of glass fibers and talc for more sustainable, lightweight products.

## **GM Has Consumer APEAL**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Model Highlights by Brand -Chevrolet:

- Sonic Segment Award, Small Car (2nd Year in a Row);
- Camaro Segment Award, Midsize Sporty Car;
- Colorado Midsize Pickup (2nd Year in a Row);
  - Tahoe Large SUV;
- Silverado Ranks Third, Large Light Duty Pickup;
- Silverado HD Ranks Second, Large Heavy Duty Pickup. Buick:
- Cascada Compact Sport
- Enclave Ranked Third (tie), Midsize SUV. GMC:
- Sierra HD Segment Award, Large Heavy Duty Pickup (2nd Year in a Row);
- Sierra Ranks Second, Large Light Duty Pickup;
- Canyon Ranks Second, Midsize Pickup.
- Cadillac:
- Escalade Ranks Second, Large Premium SUV.

Stephens said that this study demonstrates that GM has continued to do well with its rebuilding efforts.

'GM has placed the most models on ANY car company in our top three APEAL list," Stephens said. "They had 33 models eligiable to be placed and a full 12 made it. The Cascada did particularly well with consumers as did the Camaro.'

Stephens said that generally speaking, one expects to luxury car makers to place high on the APEAL list, but GM did well with a mix of vehicles.

And while Ford didn't have a vehicle take the top spot in any particular category, the brand as a whole, had several vehicles that placed in the top three.

The Ford Fiesta placed in the

top three vehicles in the small category, Stephens said, while the Escape placed second in the compact SUV segment. The Edge was second in the midsize SUV category.

"Ford, as a brand, has moved up to the point where it's now rated 'above average,'" Stephens said. "When brands like Ford move up with a good mix of regular and premium vehicles, that's a real sign of progress.'

Overall, Stephens said, Ford as a brand rated 803 out of thousand. The industry average is 801 and the top scorer was Porsche with a score of 877. Lincoln earned a score of 843.

Fiat Chrysler, Stephens said, also had some vehicles place in the top three of different categories, and that's good news.

The Ram brand earned a score of 803 out of a thousand. The Dodge Challenger was second in the midsize sporty car category and the Dodge Charger was in top three of the large car category. The Jeep Grand Cherokee tied with the Buick Enclave for third inthe midsize SUV category.

But the thing to remember, Stephens said, is that vehicles that tend to do better on the APEAL list are newer ones that have been refreshed or redesigned.

Chrysler models are a little older, but the company will have a number of refreshed and redesigned vehicles hit the market in the next two years.

'The Pacifica is brand new, and we didn't get consumer data in time to have it make the APEAL lists this year," Stephens

Finally, Stephens said, the public is becoming more used to new technologies like infotainment systems and communication systems that allow drivers to text and talk on the telephone.

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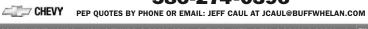
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"See dealer for details. All Rebates/Incentives have been deducted from sale price/payment and are subject to change by manufacturer without notice. GM Employee discount required unless otherwise noted. The Silverado lease includes Equinox loyalty. The Malibu and Equinox leases assume that you qualify for lease conquest. To qualify for Lease Conquest you must have a NON-GM Lease household that terminates within 365 days. All lease payments are based on 10,000 miles per year. 1st payment, tax, title and plate fee due at signing on all I unless otherwise noted. All deals expire 08/01/16.

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\*All applicable rebates including lease loyalty, equinox loyalty or lease conquest offers have been deducted from sale price/payment. Cruze, Equinox, Traverse, Malibu, Trax are 24 month leases. Volt, Impala, Silverado are 36 month leases. Pricing is subject to select model vehicles, while supplies last. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Prices subject to change per GM incentives. Prices and payments are inclusive of active GM Employee Discount (Unless otherwise stated). Pricing is subject to select model vehicles while supplies last. All leases are 10k miles per year w/ approved S Tier credit w/ \$999 due at signing. Prices & payments are plus tax, title, and plate fees with acquisition fee up front. Deposition Fee may be required at vehicle turn in. Refundable security deposit required on certain vehicles—to be determined by lender. \*\*\$3500 trade-in is valid on 2003 or newer vehicles with under 115k miles in drivable condition, no branded titles, less reconditioning determined by appraiser. Certain restrictions may apply, see dealer for complete details.\*\* Expiration Date — 8/01/16.

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. & THURS. 8:30AM-9PM / TUES., WED. & FRI. 8:30AM-6PM /

**Chevy Camaro Sponsored Concours** The Concours d'Elegance of America announced today that Chevrolet has been named the

years' 38th annual event. 2016 represents a milestone year for the brand as it celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Camaro. Guests visiting the Chevrolet exhibition will have the opportunity to see the historic Camaros that firmly established the brand's reputation as a legitimate performance car on both the street and track.

Official Field Sponsor at this

On display was an array of Camaro's that represent the brand's rich heritage. Those vehicles include:

- 2017 Camaro 50th Anniversary Edition;
- 2017 Camaro ZL1;
- 2017 Camaro 1LE;
- 1992 Camaro 25th Anniversary Edition;
- 1974 Camaro Z/28;
- 1967 Camaro Convertible Indy Pace Car.

The Chevrolet Camaro 50th Anniversary Edition honors the distinctive looks and performance that have always set the Camaro apart, said Diane Flis-Schneider, Executive Director, Concours d'Elegance of America. The car is available now in both Coupe and Convertible 2LT and 2SS models and includes a Nightfall Gray Metallic exterior.

### Michigan State's **Business Majors** Help Detroit

DETROIT (AP) - A group of Michigan State University students are spending three months studying in Detroit and working to help fix some of the city's challenges.

The DETxMSU internship encourages students to live, learn, work and play in Detroit, The Detroit News reported.

Sixty students from various disciplines are enrolled in the pilot program and housed at Wayne State University. The program includes a three-credit class and pairing with Detroit and Wayne County officials on issues like foreclosure reductions, boosting income tax compliance, arts promotion and mapping available retail spaces.

"Our goal here was to build early partnerships," said Joshua Sapotichne, an assistant professor in political science at Michigan State. "As opposed to saying, 'We're from MSU and here to help.' we asked. 'What do you need? How we can help?' These are the kind of conversations we had for months prior to when we started ... so the work the students are doing has a lasting impact."

The school and the Detroitbased Quicken Loans family of companies are paying the program's \$500,000 cost.

"One of the big accomplishments of the program is that we are getting a bunch of kids who didn't know Detroit and frankly from their backgrounds were in some ways scared of the city of Detroit," Detroit Deputy Mayor Carol O'Cleireacain said.

"They came in and they saw what it was and ... actually became enthusiastic about what it was like to be here. That was really good for them," O'Cleireacain said. "But it was terrific for the city, too. Detroit really gets a really bad rap. This is not a scary place to be."

Senior Domenika Tarazhi is spending her internship in the city's historic preservation department and says a "whole spirit of revival is in the air" in Detroit.

Tarazhi is from Sterling Heights, north of Detroit.



A recent AutoPacific study rated the 2016 GMC Denali highly.

# GMC Brand Earns a Top AutoPacific Designation

GMC was named last month tures, power and acceleration Most Ideal Popular Brand in AutoPacific's 2016 Ideal Vehicle Awards for the third consecutive year. Three GMC models led their respective segments, one of only two automakers to do so, said GMC spokeswoman Kelly Wysocki.

The Acadia topped the Large Crossover SUV segment and the Yukon/Yukon XL ranked highest in the Large SUV segment, Wysocki said.

The brand's top-selling vehicle, the GMC Sierra, led the Light Duty Pickup category for the second straight year.

The 2016 Ideal Vehicle Awards are based on responses from over 65,000 owners of new 2015 and 2016 model year vehicles across all major manufacturers, Wysocki said.

Surveyed after 90 days of ownership, customers were asked which changes they would make to their car or truck in 15 key categories, including ride and handling, interior storage, safety feaand technology.

"By asking vehicle owners if they would change various aspects of their vehicle if given the opportunity, we not only identify problem areas and opportunities for improvement, but we also find out which manufacturers are truly hitting the mark with owners," said George Peterson, president of AutoPacific.

"The results demonstrate we are succeeding in our mission to provide our customers with a premium ownership experience," said Duncan Aldred, vice president of GMC.

"We are blending precision design, technology and capability throughout our lineup. When you add our luxury-focused Denali portfolio, which makes up nearly 25 percent of GMC sales, we are setting ourselves apart from our competitors."

For more information about AutoPacific's 2016 Ideal Vehicle Awards, visit autopacific.com, Wysocki said.







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Amount due includes 1st payment. Must take retail delivery by 8/1/16. See dealer for details.

# **Attention GM Employees**

# Ray Laethem Announces TOTAL TRANSPARENCY LEASES

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GM Employee Factory Lease: \$400'/MO

RAY LAETHEM'S **GM Employee Total** Transparency Lease including taxes

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2016 Buick Verano Sport Touring

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GM Employee Factory Lease: \$298'/MO

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including tax, \* These prices can only be offered to GM employees (not contract employees). GM employee i.d. badge must be presented at the time of lease inception. Leases include 10,000 miles per year. Amount due at lease signing includes: 1st payment, title, license, taxes, CVR and doc fee. ALL PAYMENTS INCLUDE LOYALTY REBATE, DESTINATION, AND ACQUISITION. Pricing for Michigan residents only. Must currently lease a GM vehicle. Picture may not represent actual vehicle. Payments based on Tier 1credit approval. Subject to prior sale or changes in manufacturer programs. Prices good through 08/01/20.

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