# **Tech Center News**

#### WARREN, MICHIGAN

VOL. 41 NO. 9

**Covers the Tech Center and the Immediate Area** 

**NOVEMBER 7, 2016** 

## **OnStar Go to Give Drivers Better Vehicle Connectivity**

entered into a partnership to bring the power of OnStar and IBM Watson together to create OnStar Go, the auto industry's first cognitive mobility platform.

Starting in early 2017, OnStar is expected to give millions of GM drivers the ability to connect and interact with their favorite brands, said GM spokesman Viiav Iver.

The platform will deliver personalized content through the dashboard and other digital channels supported by the On-

General Motors and IBM have Star Go ecosystem to make the most of time spent in the car.

Combining OnStar's vehicle connectivity and data capabilities with IBM Watson APIs will allow drivers and passengers to achieve greater levels of efficiency and safety, Iyer said. (IBM defines APIs as digital glue joining services, applications and systems to create customer experiences.)

These experiences could include avoiding traffic when

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3** 



A GM dashboard displays various aps to improve efficiency, safety.



Chicago Cubs' outfielder earns Camaro as World Series MVP, hitting .357 and driving in Game 7's go-ahead run.

# Zobrist Named 'Most Valuable,' Wins Camaro

2016 World Series MVP Ben Zobrist celebrated the Chicago Cubs' first championship in 108 years by accepting a 50th anniversary edition of the Chevy Camaro SS.

A media panel and first-ever online fan vote on MLB.com. the club sites and the MLB.com At Bat app helped determine Brand two years in a row," said the MVP Award winner.

"In this historic matchup, Zobrist's performance on the field truly embodies the same 'Never Give Up' spirit that drives the Chevrolet team to innovate every day and that has made us the Most Awarded Automotive

Paul Edwards, U.S. vice president of Chevrolet Marketing.

"We are proud to recognize the tremendous efforts of Zobrist with the MVP award and the 2017 Chevrolet Camaro 50th

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

#### Slimmer Cars **Boost Average Fuel Efficiency**

DETROIT (AP) - U.S. vehicles are losing weight, and it's helping them use less fuel.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Nov. 2 that the average fuel economy of 2015 model-year vehicles increased 0.5 mile per gallon to a record high of 24.8 miles per gallon

Mazda had the highest average fuel economy of 29.6 mpg, the EPA said. Fiat Chrysler had the lowest, at 20.8 mpg. Most manufacturers improved over 2014, but General Motors Co. and Toyota Motor Corp. both had lower fuel economy in 2015 because they produced more trucks.

Weight loss is one reason that fuel economy is increasing. Vehi-

## **Fiat Chrysler's October Sales Drop 10 Percent**

Fiat Chrysler's U.S. sales for the month of October were 176,609 units, a 10 percent decrease compared with sales in October 2015 (196,898 units), said Fiat Chrysler spokesman

Ralph Kisiel. The company's retail sales were 135,808 units in October, while fleet sales were 40,801 units. Retail sales represented 77

percent of total sales, while fleet sales were 23 percent, Kisiel said.

up 12 percent in October as the Ram pickup truck posted a 7 percent gain and sales of the Ram ProMaster van increased 92 percent. Two Jeep brand models the Jeep Grand Cherokee and



2017 Grand Cherokee

## **Chevy, Buick Lead GM's Jump in October Share**

General Motors sold 208,290 year, said Flores. In addition, vehicles in October to individual GM's daily rental sales were or "retail" customers in the U.S., down approximately 8,000 vehiup 3 percent from last year, de- cles or about 19 percent in Octospite two fewer selling days. Based on initial estimates, GM outperformed the entire U.S. retail industry by a wide margin, said GM spokesman Dan Flores. GM's total U.S. sales in October were 258,626 vehicles, down less than 2 percent from last

ber compared with last year, as planned.

Ram Truck brand sales were

#### **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



cles were an average of 25 pounds lighter in the 2015 model year than they were the year before, because automakers are increasingly using lighter materials like aluminum and highstrength steel. Vehicle weight is expected to drop another 50 pounds in 2016, the agency said.

Trucks saw the biggest weight declines in 2015, losing an average of 110 pounds, the EPA said. Ford Motor Co. released its aluminum-bodied F-150 pickup truck in the 2015 model year; it gets up to 22 mpg in city and highway driving. Car weights remained flat from the prior year.

Christopher Grundler, the director of the Office of Transportation and Air Quality, said new engine and transmission technology also is making vehicles more efficient. Engines with

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7** 

2017 Chevrolet Malibu

Led by Chevrolet and Buick, GM's U.S. retail market share rose to its highest October level since 2009, said Flores. Based on

#### **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



# Transit, F-Series, Lincoln Shine in Ford Sales Figures

Ford's sales numbers for Octo- October since 2004, said Ford ber were a mixed bag. Overall U.S. sales for Ford were down 12 percent in October versus a year ago, with 188,813 vehicles sold.

But U.S. sales of Ford Transit were up 9 percent, with 10,202 vans sold. F-Series pickup sales increased 0.1 percent, with 65,542 trucks sold - the best

spokesman Erich Merkle. October retail sales totaled 143,145 vehicles, down 7 per-

cent, Merkle said. Fleet sales of 45,668 vehicles, including daily rental, commercial and government segments, were down 24 percent, driven primarily by

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2017 F-Series Super Duty

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#### Macomb County, **MCC Improve** Environment

A crowd of volunteers gathered Oct. 25 on the north and south sides of 12 Mile Road adjacent to Macomb Community College and Wayne State University's Advanced Technology Education Center in Warren to install new landscaping as part of Macomb County's Green Macomb Initiative and the newly created Urban Forest Partnership, said Macomb County spokesman Gerard Santoro.

Welcomed by Macomb Community College President Jim Jacobs, County Executive Mark A. Hackel and SMART Community Ombudsperson Fred Barbret, Santaro said the group installed 246 plants, shrubs and trees adjacent to bus stops near both campuses.

This is the beginning of an effort to increase trees in communities along and south of the Clinton River," said Hackel. "These plants are not only aesthetically pleasing, but they also help make these bus stops more user friendly."

Employee volunteers throughout Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' Motor Citizens program were joined by others from Six Rivers Land Conservancy and ReLeaf Michigan to install the plants and trees. Each tree was selected for its ability to tolerate road salt as well as to offer protection from wind and snow effects for those waiting for a bus on the busy corridor. They include a variety of native grasses and wild flowers, fragrant sumac, Eastern redbud and littleleaf lindens.

The project, Santaro said, was funded by a grant through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Program, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, State and Private Forestry Program. Matching funds to purchase materials were provided by ITC Holdings.

In-kind donations will provide ongoing care for foliage. The initiative was created by

**GM Retail Market Share Hits Highest October Level** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

initial estimates, GM's retail market share jumped 1.6 percentage points in October to 18.1 percent, the largest retail market share gain of any manufacturer. GM has gained retail market share in 16 of the past 19 months.

Average Transaction Prices (ATP)/Incentives, which reflect retail transaction prices after sales incentives, were \$36,155 in October, more than \$4,650 above the industry average in October and more than \$1,000 above last October

GM's October incentive spending as a percentage of ATP was 11.7 percent, below the industry average of 11.8 percent, but down 1.4 percentage points from last month and well below many other competitors, Flores said.

The Chevrolet brand's October U.S. retail sales were up 6 percent compared to last year, the brand's best October since 2004. Buick's October U.S. retail sales were up 7 percent, the brand's best October since 2003, Flores said

Chevrolet gained 1.4 percentage points of U.S. retail market share in October to 12.3 percent. Chevrolet has gained U.S. retail market share in 9 out of 10 months this year, and remains the industry's fastest-growing full-line brand. Buick gained 0.2 percentage points of retail market share in October.

In addition, GMC set an all-time October record for the brand's ATP or Average Transaction Price of \$43,988, up more than \$1,800 over last October's performance.

General Motor's total United States sales in October were 258,626 vehicles, down less than 2 percent from last year. In addition, GM's daily rental sales were down approximately 8,000 vehicles or about 19 percent in October compared to last year, as planned.

"GM's October performance reflects the strength of our retail business and our operating discipline. We gained profitable retail share in October while spending less than the industry average on incentives and commanding the industry's best average transaction prices for any full-line automaker," said Kurt McNeil, General Motors's vice president of United States Sales Operations.

'We will continue our disciplined approach and focus on retail in a strong industry."

Through the first ten months of the year, GM retail sales are up 1 percent, compared with last year. GM has gained 0.6 percentage points of retail share during that timeframe, the largest retail share gain of any full-line automaker, Flores said.

Year to date, Chevrolet retail sales are up more than 2 percent and the brand's retail share has grown 0.5 percentage points to 11.2 percent.

Year to date, the Buick brand's retail deliveries have grown nearly 4 percent and Buick has gained 0.1 percentage points of retail share. And General Motors also continues to benefit from a strong U.S. economy.

"Key fundamentals like job security, rising personal incomes, low fuel prices and low interest rates continue to provide the environment for a very healthy U.S. auto industry," said Mustafa Mohatarem, GM's chief economist. "The U.S. auto industry is well positioned for sales to continue at or near record levels for the foreseeable future.'

October Retail Sales and Business Highlights vs. 2015:

• Chevrolet - Car sales are continuing to grow faster than the passenger car industry. Sales for the Malibu, Camaro, Corvette, Spark and Volt were up 39 percent, 14 percent, 8 percent, 5 percent and 6 percent, respectively

• GMC – Acadia, Canyon, Yukon XL and Yukon were up 17 percent, 15 percent, 3 percent and 26 percent, respectively and more than 25 percent Denali penetration for the brand

• Buick - LaCrosse sales were up 13 percent with new model off to a strong start and the Envision had best month since its launch.

• Cadillac – The Escalade's retail sales are up year to date more than 6 percent. The brand's October ATP was a record \$55,058, up more than \$2,300 from last October.





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the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development to support green infrastructure that strengthen the economic vitality, quality of life and environmental well-being of the region.

#### Warren Readies **For Upcoming** Election

Tuesday, Nov. 8, is election day and the Warren city polls are open between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.

The Warren City Clerk's office said that anyone interested in finding the location of his or her local polling location should visit the Michigan Secretary of State's Web site at mi.gov/vote.

The site not only has voting locations, it also has information for all the state and local elections, as well as sample ballots voters may review.



# **Tech Center News**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2016** 

COVERS THE TECH CENTER AND THE IMMEDIATE AREA

#### PAGE 3

# **OnStar Go to Give Drivers Better Vehicle Connectivity**

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you're low on fuel, then activating a fuel pump and paying from the dash; ordering a cup of coffee on the go; or getting news and in-vehicle entertainment tailored to your personality and location in real time.

"On average, people in the U.S. spend more than 46 minutes per day in their car and are looking for ways to optimize their time,' said Phil Abram, executive director, GM Connected Products and Strategy.

"By leveraging OnStar's connectivity and combining it with the power of Watson, we're looking to provide safer, simpler and better solutions to make our customers' mobility experience more valuable and productive."

The GM/IBM partnership, Iver said, will expand the existing On-Star AtYourService offers and deals platform by launching new capabilities supported by OnStar Go with IBM Watson. These capabilities will be available in more than two million 4G LTE connected vehicles and millions of GM vehicle brand app-enabled mobile devices in the U.S. by the end of 2017.

With the customer's consent, Watson will learn the driver's preferences, apply machine learning and sift through data to recognize patterns in their decisions and habits, lyer said.

This information will allow brand and marketing professionals working with IBM and OnStar to deliver individualized location-based interactions that directly impact their target audiences.

Companies in retail, fuel, hospitality, media and entertainment, restaurants and travel and transportation and more can use OnStar Go to build individualized mobile, in-vehicle experiences for a growing population of connected drivers that opt-in.

The new cognitive mobility platform enables brands to design Watson-enabled consumer experiences.

Examples of potential uses include:

• OnStar Go taps Watson Personality Insights and Watson Conversation APIs to remind a working father to pick up diapers and formula at the pharmacy a few miles before his exit, so he won't have to leave the house again once he gets home.

 The platform employs Wat- tailed parking spot information – son Tradeoff Analytics to give a including opening hours and uptraveling foodie dining recommendations from celebrity chefs when driving in a new city. • Watson Retrieve and Rank, used by OnStar Go, lets the driv- ton.

er know that his/her order is ready for pickup at a nearby retail store and one of the store's employees will load their purchases into the car.

"IBM and GM are changing the whole notion of where valuable. daily rituals occur. The combination of IBM Watson and industryleading OnStar connectivity will enable vehicles with intelligent branded skills and services to empower drivers and passengers," said Paul Papas, Global Leader, IBM iX. "Simply put, On-Star Go with IBM Watson transforms time wasted in the car into time well spent."

ExxonMobil, Glympse, iHeartRadio, Mastercard and Parkopedia are the first brands to join the platform, lyer said.

ExxonMobil will use the cognitive mobility platform to help drivers quickly locate Exxon and Mobil retail fuel stations, recommend the best fuel and lubricant product for their vehicle, and authorize fuel payment from inside the vehicle.

Consumers can even pay for a car wash or, when away from their car, get notified when they are low on fuel

As a location technology partner in the cognitive mobility platform, Glympse enables consumers and businesses to manage customized real-time location sharing with anyone on any device.

iHeartRadio will use Watson insights from OnStar Go to curate personalized experiences that leverage on-air personalities and local content from radio stations across the U.S. Drivers will be invited to share information from their calendars, social graph, location, music preferences and more, to create dynamic and locally relevant entertainment experiences only available through the radio.

Mastercard will enable drivers and passengers to safely make simple, secure and seamless payments for goods and services from the comfort of their cars. By integrating the security of Mastercard tokenization platform - Mastercard Digital Enablement Service (MDES) - and Masterpass digital payment service within OnStar Go, Mastercard will enable consumers to complete transactions using credit or debit cards stored in their Masterpass wallets.

Parkopedia will provide de-

### Famous Columnist to Speak at MCC Nov. 10

Time Magazine political columnist and bestselling author Joe Klein will present Full Metal Leadership with Comments on the Election at Macomb Community College's Lorenzo Cultural Center in Clinton Township.

His presentation is the second in the cultural center's Speakers Series, which brings thought-provoking nationally prominent commentators on current issues to the community and is presented by First State Bank, said MCC spokeswoman Tish Wirth.

Klein, who writes the weekly column, "In the Arena," and blog posts for Time, covers U.S. politics, elections and foreign policy.

"He insists on collecting the facts himself, traveling to combat zones and on campaign buses,' Wirth said.

"He will provide his take on this year's election, as well as discuss his latest book, 'Charlie Mike: A True Story of Heroes Who Brought Their Mission Home.' The story follows the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan as

they fight through guilt, injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.'

The presentation begins at 7 p.m., preceded by a 5:30 p.m. meet-and-greet with Klein.

Tickets for the presentation only are \$20; \$15 for seniors and students. Tickets that include the meet-and-greet, along with the presentation, are \$30.

To purchase tickets, Wirth said, people can call 586-286-2222 or go online to www.macombcenter.com.





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## **Ram Sales Prove Strong** For Chrysler During October

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Jeep Patriot - turned in yearover-year gains for the month with sales of the Grand Cherokee increasing 9 percent.

Sales of the Dodge Journey full-size cross-over and the Fiat 500 were up year-over-year in October as well, with the Journey recording a 17 percent sales gain.

Ram Truck brand sales are up 11 percent calendar year to date through October compared with the same 10-month period in 2015. Jeep brand sales are up 10 percent calendar year to date as well.

Ram Truck brand sales, which include the Ram pickup, Ram ProMaster and Ram ProMaster City, were up 12 percent in October compared with the same month a year ago, Kisiel said.

Ram pickup truck sales were up 7 percent while the Ram Pro-Master van posted a strong 92 percent sales gain for the month. In addition, the Ram ProMaster City van turned in a 14 percent sales gain for the month.

Ram Truck brand sales are up 11 percent calendar year to date compared with the same 10 months in 2015.

Jeep brand sales were down 7 percent in October compared with the same month a year ago, Kisiel said.

Not all the news was bad. Sales of the Jeep Grand Cherokee were up 9 percent in October, versus the same month in 2015. In addition, Jeep Patriot sales increased 2 percent year over year in October.

Overall, Kisiel said, Jeep brand sales are up 10 percent calendar year to date compared with the first 10 months of last year.

Dodge brand sales were down 16 percent in October compared with the same month a year ago, Kisiel said. Even so, the Dodge Journey full-size crossover posted a strong 17 percent year-overyear sales gain for the month. Dodge Viper sales edged up 2 percent.

Chevrolet Youth Baseball pro-

gram has helped raise more than

\$28 million to aid hometown

teams over the last 10 years.

Nearly 5.2 million young people

in communities across the coun-

try have benefitted from the pro-

gram, and more than 1,500

The 50th Anniversary Edition

honors the distinctive looks and

performance that have always

set the Camaro apart. It is offered

on 2LT and 2SS coupe and con-

vertible models, all in Nightfall

Chevrolet dealers are involved.

Maven, General Motors' personal mobility brand, has continued its expansion into western markets with the creation of Maven City car sharing in Los Angeles, said GM spokeswoman Annalisa Bluhm.

In nine months, Maven has grown to nine markets: Ann Arbor, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. - with more on the way, Bluhm said.

Maven members have now driven more than 23 million miles through more than 12,000 reservations, allowing them to be there for the moments that matter most.

Los Angeles is transitioning from what was once considered a car-centric city, Bluhm said.

The continued revitalization of downtown and the city's investment in transit and bike infrastructure now makes living carfree in Los Angeles a viable option.

Maven City is registered and customers (to register, visit www.mavendrive.com) use the Maven app to reserve one of 60 initial vehicles at more than 24 sites throughout the city, Bluhm said.

Residents who want to live carfree or car-lite have an affordable option to rent vehicles by the hour or by the day. Pricing options start at \$8 an hour, and fuel and insurance costs are included. There is no monthly or application fee for Maven City members

The fleet will offer many options for Los Angeles' diverse residents, including Chevrolet Cruze, Malibu, Tahoe and Volt, GMC Acadia and Yukon, and luxury Cadillacs such as the ATS, CTS, CT6, XT5 and Escalade.

Mayen City stations in the Los Angeles area initially will be located in downtown Los Angeles, Little Tokyo and South Park.

Locations also will be found near the University of Southern California, including four cars at University Gateway Apartments, Bluhm said.

Maven Goes Hollywood with L.A. Service

Maven is using GM campus car sharing locations as beta labs for testing future shared mobility services.

A peer-to-peer car sharing pilot was launched in Warren, Mich., along with a campus car sharing service at GM do Brasil headquarters in Sao Cataeno do Sul, Bluhm said.

There are now nearly 90 global Maven team members as the brand continues to attract top talent from the car sharing, ridesharing and connected car industries, as well as some of the best minds from within GM. The team already has filed seven patent applications.

More than 11,000 Maven members and Lyft drivers using Express Drive have logged more than 23 million miles through more than 12,000 reservations.

Maven City members alone have traveled more than 370,000 miles from more than 4,500 reservations, Bluhm said.

Maven City members' average trip and time: 100 miles and more than 12 hours.

Maven City users' most popular vehicles: Chevrolet Malibu,

Spark and Volt. "Los Angeles is a natural fit for Maven because of the city's incredible appetite for cars," said Julia Steyn, vice president of Urban Mobility and Maven.

"We are excited to offer an elevated car sharing experience with seamless connectivity in a fleet of luxury sedans, electric vehicles, and SUVs.'

Maven is car sharing – refined, Stevn said. A fully connected fleet of General Motors vehicles featuring the newest cars with the latest technology allows users to personalize the entire experience.

Customers bring their digital lives into the vehicles through Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, including contacts, favorites and maps.

OnStar Turn-by-Turn Navigation, AtYourService and Automatic Crash Response provide convenience and peace of mind for the journey. SiriusXM radio and 4G LTE wireless connectivity with unlimited streaming data allow for a more engaged experience.

Pricing is simple and transparent, and includes insurance and fuel, Bluhm said.

A gas card is provided, and users are asked to return the vehicle with at least one-quartertank of fuel to avoid an additional charge.



GM's Maven car service has hit the roads in Los Angeles.

Having cancer is hard. Finding help shouldn't be.

### Jeep Pays Above-Lip Service to Charity

The Jeep brand is joining forces with the Movember Foundation to generate awareness and to raise funds in support of men's health

The Movember Foundation encourages men to Grow a Mo for 30 days, to take the Move Challenge or to host an event throughout the month of November to benefit the cause.

Through its alliance with the organization, the Jeep brand will launch a month-long comprehensive campaign across its digital, social and experiential platforms focused on galvanizing the brand's global audience to support the Movember Foundation.

cused solely on men's health, the Jeep brand's alliance with the Movember Foundation gives us the opportunity to shine a spotlight on a very important issue," said Mike Manley, head of FCA's Jeep Brand and Ram Brand. We're encouraging our fans, followers and owners across the globe to 'Grow a Mo, Show a Mo' by purchasing one of our Jeep Stache by Carstache accessories to affix to their vehicle and by taking the Move Challenge to support the Movember Foundation. "We're also giving consumers the opportunity to help raise funds and awareness by posting photos with their 'stache on Twitter and Instagram, in addition to a social contest that will give one lucky fan the chance to win a new 2016 Jeep vehicle." For every #JeepStache posted on Instagram and Twitter throughout this month, the Jeep brand will donate \$1 (up to \$15,000). As part of its year-long



"As the only global charity fo- FCA's Manley sports his home-grown mustache. The Jeep borrowed one.

## **Camaro a Hit for Series MVP** since 2005 and through its

Gray Metallic.

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Anniversary Edition convertible.

Zobrist earned the MVP label after being the most consistent Cub at the plate during the seven-game series. He went 10-for-28 (.357) with two doubles and a triple, and in Game 7 knocked in the go-ahead run in the Cubs' 8-7 extra-innings victory over the Cleveland Indians with an RBI double that scored Albert Almora in the top of the 10th.

Chevrolet has been the Official Vehicle of Major League Baseball

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75th anniversary digital and social initiative, "My Jeep Story," the Jeep brand's November "story" will also spotlight the Movember Foundation.

Also, fans can enter the Jeep Movember contest to win a 2016 Jeep vehicle.

To enter, fans must post a photo on Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #Jeep-StacheContest during November. Submissions will be evaluated on creativity, originality and quality of submission, as well as how the photos fit the Movember theme.

The brand is also galvanizing its broad network of dealers, owners, fans and followers in support of this cause by encouraging them to stand with the brand to fight the many health challenges men face today. The Jeep brand's exclusive Jeep 'Stache by Carstache accessory moustache for fans to "Show their Mo" is now available for purchase at Jeep dealerships throughout the country, as well as online

at www.jeep.com/movember.

All proceeds will be donated to the Movember Foundation.

One in seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime. (Symbolically, the prominent seven-slotted Jeep Wrangler grille design is used to represent the statistic, with one of the seven painted white).

All around the world, fathers, brothers and friends face a health crisis that isn't being talked about. Men are dying too young, before their time and for no biological reason.

To address this issue, since 2003 the Movember Foundation has empowered millions to join the global men's health movement, raising more than \$710 million and funding more than 1,200 men's health programs in 21 countries for prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention.

More information can be found at Jeep.com/Movember.

# **GM Investing Funds to Make Sites Green**

General Motors is supporting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal to halt biodiversity loss by developing wildlife habitats at its sites around the world.

From helping protect honeybees with pollinator gardens or designating no-mow zones to grow grassland habitats, GM is demonstrating the role business can play in advancing sustainecosystems, said GM able spokeswoman Laura Toole.

The company now has 62 sites that have achieved Conservation Certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council, Toole said. GM is more than halfway to its commitment to achieve such certification at all its manufacturing sites worldwide by 2020.

GM's newest habitats can be found at 16 sites from North and South America to Asia. Fifteen more sites earned recertification this year, showing continuous growth of their programs, Toole said. These habitats provide a place for native flora and fauna to thrive, and serve as outdoor classrooms to engage communities on conservation.

We have a responsibility to make our communities better wherever we do business," said Greg Martin, GM executive director for sustainability. "Good sustainable development is seeking more ways to use GM property to strengthen biodiversity. We also are teaching employees and community members about how they can impact their local ecosystems.'

GM designed its new habitats to restore, protect and promote biodiversity, Martin said. In total, the company now manages nearly 5,000 acres of habitat in 13 countries.

Restore:

• Edmonton Parts Distribution Centre in Canada - Created brush piles from scrap branches and twigs to serve as dens for coyotes and small mammals.

 Toluca Complex in Mexico – Planted 13,290 trees in the Sierra Morelos National Park with the help of 1,250 employees and their families.

 Rayong Engine in Thailand – Planted 300 mangrove trees and taught students about the critical role of mangroves in protecting coastlines.

Protect:

• Flint Tool & Die in Michigan - Created a tall nesting platform as a safe place for osprey and swallows to rest and roost.

• Boryeong Complex in South Korea - Developed pollinator

#### **VW Owners Jump** At Buyback or Fix Settlement

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - An attorney for Volkswagen says car



GM is building an osprey-nesting platform at the Flint Tool & Die plant.

gardens containing more than 4,000 plants and 29 species.

 San Luis Potosi in Mexico – Built 30 birdhouses from recycled material and studied how resident and migratory birds use the habitat throughout the site. Promote:

 Talegaon Complex in India – Used habitat to educate 669 community members on ozone protection and importance of river and land conservation.

• Edmonton Parts Distribution Centre in Canada - Took students on inflatable rafts doubling as floating laboratories to discover information about the North Saskatchewan River's health.

The Wildlife Habitat Council promotes and certifies habitat conservation and management on corporate lands through partnerships and education, Toole said. WHC Conservation Certification programs take corporate sustainability goals and objectives and translate them into tangible and measurable on-theground actions.

## Transit, F-Series, Lincoln Shine in Ford Sales Figures

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

front-loading daily rental deliveries this year, prioritizing Super Duty retail customers and pausing Transit Connect sales to address the previously announced door latch recall.

Lincoln sales totaled 9,069, a 7 percent increase, Merkle said. Retail sales were up 10 percent. Growth came from Lincoln's new products, with total MKX up 4 percent, MKZ up 3 percent and Continental sales of 1,222 vehicles.

Truck sales remained positive for Ford, Merkle said, with F-Series retail sales up 2 percent on strong Super Duty demand.

High-end series Lariat, King Ranch and Platinum pickups represented 75 percent of retail sales.

2017 Super Duty was 36 percent of overall Super Duty retail sales in October.

"High customer demand for our new Super Duty, including toptrim-level pickups, continues to boost transaction prices," said Mark LaNeve, vice president for U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service.

"New Super Duty is turning on dealer lots in just 18 days, and Ford's average transaction prices are up \$1,600 versus a year ago far outpacing the industry average of \$600.'

Ford's overall average transaction prices were up \$800 versus September, while industry transaction prices were up \$460 compared with September of this year.

Overall incentive spending at Ford was up approximately \$180 compared with a year ago, versus an industry increase of \$390. Compared with September, Ford's overall incentive spend was down \$570.

The company's days' supply for October was 90 days, Merkle said.

Ford has been taking actions to match production with demand, as outlined during the company's third quarter financial results and is well-positioned for Black Friday and year-end sales events.

The company's fourth-quarter North American production guidance of 700,000 vehicles remains unchanged.



owners eligible for a buyback or fix under a \$15 billion settlement deal over the company's emissions cheating scandal are signing up and submitting claims at a high rate.

Sharon Nelles told a federal judge in San Francisco Nov. 3 that more than 370,000 people have registered on the settlement website and nearly 200,000 people have submitted claims. Nelles said the participation rate was exceptional.



# Ford Displays Modified Mustang at SEMA

jackpot at the 2016 SEMA show in Las Vegas Nov. 1-4.

The Ford Mustang, Ford Focus and Ford F-Series are officially Hottest Coupe, Hottest Hatch and Hottest Truck of this year's Specialty Equipment Market Association show," said Ford spokesman Matt Leaver.

"As if that isn't impressive enough, all three are back-toback award winners this year, the 50th anniversary of the SEMA show.

More than 2,400 exhibitors from the 2016 SEMA Show voted to determine what vehicle model is the hottest new and emerging vehicle, said Chris Kersting, SEMA president and CEO.

Winning vehicles help guide consumers toward the hottesttrending and most accessoryfriendly vehicles on the market.

"The SEMA Show is the place where the newest and most innovative aftermarket products debut," said Kersting. "And the SEMA Show exhibitors are the innovators and visionaries who help guide future trends in the industry.

The exhibitors who select the award winners are manufacturers of products designed to improve performance, safety and convenience, as well as those that enhance appearance and comfort, Kersting said. The SEMA Award heightens awareness for aftermarket products, and it is an example of the industry's partnership between automakers and aftermarket manufacturers.

The awards recognize the most popular vehicles the organization's members feature in their displays at the weeklong event. 2015 marked the first time any OEM won three of the coveted awards; this year marks the

It looks like Ford has hit the first time an OEM has repeated the feat.

"We are honored to take home three SEMA hottest vehicle awards for the second straight year," says Dave Pericak, global director, Ford Performance.

"Embracing the aftermarket industry is something we relish, and - with Mustang, Focus and F-Series being back-to-back winners - it appears the aftermarket appreciates our products as well."

"The hottest vehicle awards are not assigned to one specific vehicle but instead to a particular model based on what their members are bringing to their displays," said Ford spokesman Matt Leaver.

These awards show that there are more current generation Mustangs at the show this year than any other coupe, more current F-Series trucks than any other, and more current Focus than any other hatchbacks.'

The Ford Mustang, Pericak said, has been a SEMA favorite for years; winning its fifth consecutive SEMA award is powerful proof of the car's enduring popularity with the vehicle customization market, he said.

"From street rods to super offroaders, Ford F-Series has long been one of the best canvases for customization," Pericak said. 'Having won Hottest Truck six times out of the seven the award has been given demonstrates the versatility of America's best-selling vehicle."

Ford Focus has gained recognition amongst the aftermarket crowd in recent years, particularly with the addition of the ST performance model. Last year, Focus captured its first SEMA hottest award in the Sport-Compact category. Now, with the hot RS model coming to North America, Focus is being honored as Hottest Hatch of the show.

"Ford is a great partner with the specialty equipment market, and the Mustang, Focus and F-Series trucks are terrific platforms for customization," said Kersting. Through collaboration with Ford, the aftermarket industry has been able to provide consumers with countless products and options on ways to personalize their vehicles."



"Hottest Coupe" Ford Mustang is featured at SEMA Show.







2016 SEMA version of a 1969 Chevy Chevelle Slammer

## **Chevrolet Creates a Black Chevelle for SEMA Display**

Chevy went "Black" to basics with its modified Chevelle put on display at the recent SEMA show in Las Vegas.

"Chevrolet's Chevelle Slammer concept combines hot-rod style with modern performance and technology, with the all-new LT376/535 crate engine, controllers and SuperMatic 4L75-E automatic transmission," said GM spokesman Randy Fox.

"The direct-injected LT376/535 is the newest and one of the most technologically advanced crate engines ever from Chevrolet Performance," said Jim Campbell, GM U.S. vice president of Performance Vehicles and Motorsports. "It is based on the LT1 engine found in the Corvette Stingray and Camaro SS, but with a unique camshaft-and-heads package to help it produce 535 horsepower - 75 horsepower more than the LT1 in the Stingray.'

The LT376/535 crate engine and SuperMatic 4L75-E transmission are offered as a Connect & Cruise package from Chevrolet Performance that includes the controllers and harnesses, Campbell said.

The 2017 Chevrolet Performance catalog features the new LT376/535 along with the industrv's widest range of crate engines, including Chevrolet Small-Block, Big-Block, LS- and LT-Series engines. The catalog also includes COPO Camaro and circletrack racing engines.

"From every angle, the Chevelle Slammer design is all about pearance of being dipped in red."

one thing: stance," Campbell said. "It's low, raked and dripping with hot-rod attitude. The chassis was modified to accommodate large 18-inch front and 20inch rear polished wheels, while almost every inch of the vintage body was subtly revised to give it a smooth, custom appearance, but not at the expense of its classic lines.

"The '69 Chevelle is one of the best-looking cars of the muscle car era and we didn't want to mess with its classic cues or period-perfect proportions," said Humberto Ortiz, Chevrolet designer.

"We've simply enhanced it where we could, knocking down the chrome in certain areas and tightening other exterior details such as the bumpers, grille and more. It's still a 1969 Chevelle at a glance, but as you continue to examine it, the details really stand out."

An air suspension system alters the stance at the push of a button, including dropping it all the way to the ground for maximum profiling when on display. The car also features a Gen Six Camaro-based performance brake system, including six-piston front calipers.

And while the exterior exudes attitude in all black, the interior makes a searing statement in Adrenaline Red.

"The contrast between the exterior and interior is stunning and dramatic," said Ortiz. "The idea was to give the cabin the ap-

## Mopar Issues New Hemi Kit

cialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) Show in Las Vegas last week unveiled a new Mopar Crate Hemi Engine Kit that provide enthusiasts a factorybacked, efficient option for plugging Gen III Hemi engines into iconic Mopar vehicles from the 1970s and earlier.

The new Mopar 345 Crate Hemi Engine Kit for the 5.7-liter engine and Mopar 392 Crate Hemi Engine Kit for the 6.4-liter Hemi can be paired with model vear 1975 and earlier vehicles. enabling owners to inject modern Hemi power into muscle-carera machines such as the Dodge Charger, Dodge Challenger, Plymouth 'Cuda and many other makes and models, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Darren Jacobs. "Our new Mopar Crate Hemi Engine Kits answer enthusiast demand for a relatively simple solution for plugging modern-day Hemi engine power into their classic Mopar rides," said Pietro Gorlier, head of Parts and Service (Mopar), FCA - Global. 'The engine kits include the hardware to plant a 5.7-liter or 6.4-liter Hemi engine under the hood with the factory-backed confidence that comes when using Mopar parts. They also offer optional front-end accessory kits

The Mopar brand at the Spe- like power steering or even exhaust manifolds to make installation easier. Starting today, our fans can order the kit online and start working on their favorite project with the peace of mind that comes when using a Mopar product."

The Mopar 345 Crate Hemi and 392 Crate Hemi Engine Kits, both available for purchase now through Fiat Chrysler dealers either in-store or online at www.Mopar.com/CrateHemi, include a power distribution center, a powertrain control module (PCM), engine and chassis wiring harnesses, an accelerator pedal, O2 sensors, ground jumper, charge air temperature sensor and in-depth information sheets on installation. Jacobs said. The kits, compatible with respective 5.7-liter or 6.4-liter engines built in 2014 or newer, are shipped in distinctive packaging featuring either the 345 or 392 logo. A factory calibration is featured on the unlocked PCM. The Mopar 345 Crate Hemi Engine Kit bumps horsepower to 383 and torque to 425 lb.ft. for the 5.7liter Hemi engine, while the 392 Crate Hemi Engine Kit keeps the 6.4-liter Hemi steady at 485 horses and 472 lb.-ft. of torque. Mopar Crate Hemi Engine Kits are designed and optimized for use with manual transmissions.

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## **Slimmed-Down Cars Boost Average Fuel Efficiency**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

gasoline direct injection - which waste less fuel than traditional engines - are expected to be used in half of new vehicles in the 2016 model year, up from just 3 percent in 2008. Mazda has it on nearly all of its cars.

More efficient transmissions with seven or more gears are also getting more common; they'll be on 20 percent of 2016 model-year vehicles.

"The main conclusion of looking at this data is that the entire American fleet is getting cleaner every year," Grundler told The Associated Press. "Every part of that fleet, from pickup trucks to small sedans, is getting better."

But Daniel Becker of the Safe Climate Campaign, an environmental advocacy group, said the industry isn't improving as quickly as it should, in part because it keeps selling large SUVs.

Becker said companies are allowed credits for things like fications.

ethanol-capable vehicles even

though few drivers use ethanol. "Most of these gas guzzlers are built to carry cargo but often haul nothing more cumbersome than a latte from Starbucks," Becker said.

But Grundler says automakers are still on track to meet ambitious government standards requiring a fleet-wide average of 54.5 mpg by 2025.

The EPA included Volkswagen AG in the report issued last week despite ongoing investigations of cheating on diesel vehicle mileage. Volkswagen has admitted that diesel vehicles from the 2009-2015 model years were programmed to operate more efficiently during fuel economy tests.

Volkswagen vehicles averaged 26.8 mpg in the 2015 model year, the agency said, but that could be revised if Volkswagen modifies the affected diesels. Volkswagen submitted plans in August to repair about 67,000 diesels from the 2015 model year, but the EPA hasn't yet approved those modi-

#### **BMW Recalls Vehicles for Engine Issue**

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{DETROIT}}\xspace(\ensuremath{\mathsf{AP}}\xspace)$  – BMW is recall- tor, which, in turn, can cause ing more than 154,000 cars and SUVs in the U.S. and Canada to fix a wiring problem that can cause engines to stall.

The recall covers certain 5-Series and X5 models and some 6-Series and X6 vehicles from the 2007 to 2012 model years.

The company says in documents filed with United States in China, Japan and South Korea safety regulators that wiring to fuel pumps inside the gas tank may not have been properly crimped.

That can cause the wires to come loose and melt a connecgasoline to leak.

That can stop the fuel pump from working and as a result make engines stall.

BMW says it doesn't know of any crashes or injuries resulting from this particular engine problem.

The company recalled vehicles previously for the same wiring issue.

Dealers will replace the fuel pump module at no cost to owners. The recall is expected to begin Dec. 5.



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## Altair Seeks 'Enlighten 2017' Auto Industry Nominations

The 2017 Enlighten Award, presented jointly by Altair and the Center for Automotive Research (CAR), is now open for nominations.

The award recognizes achievements in weight reduction across the automotive industry and is set to be presented July 31, 2017, at the 52nd annual CAR Management Briefing Seminars (MBS) held in Traverse City, said Altair spokeswoman Biba A. Bedi.

Acknowledgements of the Enlighten Award will be made in two categories, Bedi said – full vehicle and module.

The full vehicle award is given for exceptional achievement in the lightweighting of an entire vehicle, with previous winners including General Motors, Ford Motor Company and Jaguar Land Rover.

The module award is given for innovation in the lightweighting of a subsystem or component, or for the development of technology that enables innovation, such as a lightweight material or a new joining technology, Bedi said. This category is ideal for suppliers and has previously been awarded to BASF and ContiTech.

"The Enlighten Award has been enormously successful since its conception four years ago," said Richard Yen, vice president, Global Automotive at Altair. "The pool of nominees has always been impressive, and in 2017 we expect the technology and designs to be as innovative as ever. We are really looking forward to learning more about what the automotive industry has been working on this year."

Bedi said interested manufacturers and suppliers can submit a nomination, learn about the award criteria or access additional information about the process at altairenlighten.com/ award.

Designs submitted must be implemented on a production vehicle produced between August 2014 and August 2017 to allow for sharing with the public, while respecting business and technical confidentiality of all applications. The nominations deadline for the Enlighten Award is May 26, 2017, with the final judging taking place in June.

"Leaders in the automotive industry are making exciting advancements in new approaches to automotive engineering and design contributing to further reductions in weight, fuel consumption, and emissions for light-duty vehicles, and over the last four years we've received many nominations demonstrating these innovations," said Dr. Jay Baron, president & CEO at Center for Automotive Research.

"We look forward to accepting this year's terrific nominations demonstrating the determination of automakers and suppliers alike to meet the challenges of continued mass reduction."

Last year's full vehicle category winner, Cadillac, was an enthusiastic winner of the award, taking the title for the development of its flagship CT6, Bedi said. The mixed material vehicle made use of multi-disciplinary optimization techniques to achieve weight savings of approximately 218 pounds compared with a vehicle using predominantly high-strength steels.

The Enlighten Award is key for the auto industry as it fosters innovation and encourages OEMs and suppliers to strive for improvement, Bedi said.









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smartphones.

The Smart Key Box system eliminates the need for a physical key. Toyota will test the system in San Francisco with the Getaround car-sharing service starting in January. A Toyota investment fund put money into Getaround this month.

Toyota says a user's phone will get codes to access the smart key box inside car-sharing vehicles. When the phone gets close to the vehicle, the codes are verified through the Bluetooth system. If the experiment is successful, Toyota may use the system in Japan for an unmanned car rental business.

Keyless car-sharing is not totally new. General Motors' Maven car-sharing system uses a mobile app to unlock cars and allow them to be started with the push-button ignition. Maven is in nine U.S. cities at present. The more pervasive ZipCar sharing service lets users access cars with a card, then use keys that are inside.

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## **Tesla CEO Elon Musk Says** Solar Business Can Aid Firm

by DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) - Tesla is making its case to shareholders that a combination with solar panel maker SolarCity Corp. would be financially as well as environmentally beneficial.

In documents released Oct. 1, Tesla said SolarCity - the largest home solar panel installer in the U.S. - could add \$1 billion in revenue to the combined company next year. That would be more than double the \$400 million revenue SolarCity reported in 2015.

SolarCity also could add \$500 million in cash to Tesla's coffers over three years. In the last 120 days, the company has raised around \$1 billion to fund solar projects, Tesla said. Tesla currently has around \$3 billion in cash.

Elon Musk, who is chairman of both companies and CEO of Tesla, announced in June a plan to combine them in an all-stock deal worth around \$2.45 billion. Shareholders of both companies are expected to vote on the deal on Nov. 17.

"I'm pretty optimistic about where the vote's going," Musk told Wall Street analysts during a webcast Nov. 1.

But the merger is controversial. Neither company has achieved sustained profitability. Tesla reported a \$22 million profit in the third quarter, but it was the company's first profitable quarter since 2013. SolarCity reports third-quarter earnings next week, but it lost \$250 million in the second quarter.

Analysts also have questioned whether the deal could delay Tesla's first mass-market vehicle, the \$35,000 Model 3, which is due out at the end of next year. Some shareholders have even sued, claiming that the merger is an attempt by Musk to use one company to bail out another. Musk owns 26.5 percent of Tesla and 22 percent of SolarCity, which is run by his cousins.

Tesla Motors Inc. shares fell 3.5 percent to close at \$190.79 Nov. 1 before the financial details were released. They fell 1.4 percent in after-hours trading. SolarCity shares fell 2.7 percent to \$19.07. They declined 3.5 percent after hours.

Tesla says the two Silicon Valley-based companies could cut \$150 million in costs in the first year of a merger by jointly marketing Tesla's electric vehicles and power storage batteries with SolarCity's solar panels. The combined company would also have a wider reach, since Tesla has stores in the U.S., Europe and Asia but SolarCity mainly sells solar panels in the U.S.

Solar systems would be sold

would also be used to power Tesla cars.

Musk said it will be "frustrating" if shareholders don't approve the deal. If the companies don't merge and Tesla is forced to keep SolarCity at arm's length, Musk said, it's hard to envision how Tesla stores could sell solar panels.

"Would you go to an Apple store and see six different cellphones getting sold?" he said.

Still, demand for the combined product is uncertain, and Tesla and SolarCity said Tuesday they have no data to back up claims that electric vehicle customers will inherently want solar panels. Plug-in electric vehicles make up less than 1 percent of U.S. sales, and less than 1 percent of U.S. electricity generation comes from solar power, according to government data.

Musk said one reason solar panels haven't become more mainstream is because they look bad. Tesla and SolarCity aim to change that. Last week, the companies unveiled what would be their first product: Solar roof tiles that are customizable and meant to look like a traditional roof.

"Unless you're going to beat a normal roof on aesthetics, why even bother?" he said. He said the roofs will be priced competitively, but didn't give exact figures.

#### **Fire Delays Ford Sales Reporting** For One Day

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) - Ford Motor Co.'s world headquarters in Dearborn was evacuated Oct. 31 after a fire broke out in the building's basement.

Dearborn Fire Chief Joseph Murray said no one was injured in the fire, which started in an electrical substation near Ford's headquarters.

Ford spokesman Mike Moran said employees were instructed to leave the 12-story building when the smell of smoke was reported.

The evacuation began at 9 a.m. and the fire was contained by 10:40 a.m., Moran said.

The blaze interrupted power to one of Ford's data centers used by dealers to report sales to the company.

As a result, the company said it didn't report October sales with other automakers on the first day of November.

Battery backups saved the data, but the lack of power shut down the data center for much of the day.

Ford's October sales were reported a day late - on Nov. 2.



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