

Chevy's Camera Technology Makes for a Safer Summer

June 21 marked the official start of summer and Chevrolet wants to help parents avoid situations where summer moments become tragic incidents. With school out and the

weather warming up, more children are spending time outside drawing chalk pictures on the driveway, blowing bubbles into the wind or riding bicycles around the neighbor-

hood, said GM spokeswoman Maureen Bender. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, on average there are 210 fatalities and 15,000 injuries a year caused by

backover crashes. Of those crashes, NHTSA estimates that 40 percent occurred in residential areas, with 24 percent happening in driveways, Bender said. "The majority of backover inci-

dents are caused by the driver not being able to see their immediate surroundings," says Rondell Burge, researcher of driver

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Chrysler Volunteers Help Make Grace Houses True Homes

Volunteers from Fiat Chrysler lent a helping hand building a privacy fence and porch for mothers living in the Grace Centers of Hope's Little Village in Pontiac. Grace spokeswoman Ashley Veenstra said Grace Centers of Hope's village is one of southeast Michigan's largest homeless and rehabilitation centers, providing care for those who are facing dire situations. On June 13, 60 volunteers from Fiat Chrysler's Global Architecture and Standardization - NAFTA Concept and Innovation department spent the day building fences and porches at Grace's After Care Program, Veenstra said. Once residents graduate from Grace Centers of Hope's one year Life Skills program they can move into Grace's Little Village which gives the residents the freedom to have their own home



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 60 volunteers from Fiat Chrysler's Global Architecture and Standardization - NAFTA Concept and Innovation helped Grace Centers improve lives.

Domestics Top J.D. Power Initial Quality Study

by Jim Stickford

What a difference three decades make. Dave Sargent, vice president of Global Automotive at J.D. Power, presented the company's 2017 U.S. Initial Quality Study report the Automotive Press Association on June 21. The event was held at the Detroit Athletic Association, and Sargent said that it was the 30th anniversary of the study. When the report first came out in 1987, the top brands, in order, were Mercedes-Benz, Acura, Nissan, Toyota, Honda, Porsche, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Subaru and BMW. The bottom brands were Plymouth, Dodge, VW, Pontiac, Jaguar, AMC/Renault, SAAB, Hyundai, Yugo and Alfa Romeo. But in 2017, that list has changed considerably, Sargent said. The top brands, in order, are Kia, Genesis, Porsche, Ford, Ram, BMW, Chevrolet, Hyundai, Lincoln and Nissan.

The bottom brands, in order, are Fiat, Jaguar, Volvo, Mitsubishi, Land Rover, Mazda, Audi, Subaru, Jeep and Infiniti. During that 30 year period, several brands - Mitsubishi, Mazda, Subaru - moved from the best to the worst list. Additionally, there were no domestic brands in the top 10 list in 1987. In 2017, domestic brands accounted for 40 percent of the top 10 brands. Sargent pointed out that several brands from 1987's bottom 10 list no longer exist - Plymouth, Pontiac, AMC/Renault and Yugo. The J.D. Power Initial Quality Survey (IQS) measures consumer-reported problems on new vehicles after 90 days of ownership, Sargent said. It breaks down problems into two categories. The first is defects and malfunctions. That's when consumers report something isn't working the way it was designed to. The second category is design

problems. That's when consumers report that something wasn't designed right in the first place, Sargent said. One thing that's changed over the past 30 years is that consumers are reporting more of the second kind of problem - things

weren't designed right in the first place. "We say something is a problem if a customer says it's a problem," Sargent said. "Remember, engineers aren't normal people."

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Consumers picked 2017 Sonic as best small car in J.D. Power study.



The 2017 Pacifica took top honors in the Minivan category.



The 2017 Mustang earned high marks from consumers for initial quality.

Takata Financial Problems Could Cost Victims

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) - A bankruptcy filing by Japanese air bag maker Takata will leave little money for dozens of people who sued the company over deaths and injuries caused by its exploding air bag inflators, according to outside legal experts and lawyers suing the company. Takata Corp. and its U.S. operations are likely to seek bankruptcy protection by the end of June in a deal that would sell its assets to competitor Key Safety Systems Inc., a person briefed on the talks said. The person didn't want to be identified because discussions are in progress. The price Key will pay is unknown, but much of it likely will go toward paying a \$1 billion U.S. criminal settlement. Most of the settlement money will go to automakers as restitution for recall costs. Key is expected to buy Takata's assets "free and clear" of past liabilities, and lawyers say there won't be enough money to give victims what they would have received if they were suing a healthy company. So far the faulty inflators have killed 11 people in the U.S. and 16 worldwide. Over 180 people have been injured. The problem touched off the biggest recall in U.S. automotive history, involving 19 automakers, 42 million vehicles and up to 69 million inflators. About 100 million inflators have been recalled worldwide. Some victims have serious fa-

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Campus Safety Award Given To OCC

Oakland Community College (OCC) was one of three finalists out of 1,400 community colleges nationwide to be honored at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) conference in New Orleans. OCC was recognized for its visionary work in the category of College Safety and Planning, said OCC spokeswoman Bridget Kavanaugh. OCC was honored for fulfilling a number of safety and response criteria and its formation of a Clery Act/Title IX Compliance Committee two years ago in response to the addition of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The committee worked to ensure compliance with both the Clery Act and Title IX. As a result, OCC enhanced communication, training, community outreach and understanding of what responsible behavior looks like. “We are gratified to see the work we are doing to ensure a safe learning environment is being recognized,” said Peter Provenzano, Interim Chancellor.

Takata’s Facing Sale Over Financial Troubles

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cial injuries from metal shrapnel and would win large verdicts if Takata were financially strong, lawyers say. Kevin Dean, a South Carolina lawyer who has 25 cases pending against Takata, said one of his clients, a 26-year-old man, will never be able to smile due to nerve damage. “It destroys people’s faces. It’s just a horrible injury,” said Kent Emison, a Missouri, lawyer whose firm is considering a lawsuit against Takata and others on behalf of a woman whose trachea was punctured by shrapnel. Takata’s troubles stem from use of the explosive chemical ammonium nitrate in the inflators to deploy air bags in a crash. The chemical can deteriorate when exposed to hot and humid air and burn too fast, blowing apart a metal canister and spewing out metal fragments. In February, Takata pleaded guilty to fraud and agreed to the \$1 billion settlement. Lawyers acknowledged in court that the company would have to be sold to fund the settlement. Automakers would get \$850 million in restitution for recall costs and a \$25 million fine would be paid to the government. Takata already has paid \$125 million into a fund for victims. “Takata intends to try to use our bankruptcy laws to escape responsibility for the injured and the families of the dead,” said Bradford Child, a Los Angeles lawyer who represents the family of a woman killed by a ruptured inflator. In a recent statement, Takata maintained the possibility of keeping the company in operation. A committee set up to explore restructuring has made a recommendation with Key as a

suitor, but Takata’s board hasn’t decided on it. Douglas Baird, a bankruptcy law professor at the University of Chicago, said he expects Key will get Takata’s assets without liability for past claims. Without this provision, no suitor would buy the company. “It’s in the interests of all these victims that you have this free and clear sale,” he said. “The alternative is to liquidate the assets and sell them for kindling wood.” Lawyers are unhappy that automakers will get \$850 million while relatively little goes to victims. Emison and others say \$125 million will go quickly, estimating that victims will get 5 to 10 cents on the dollar of what they would have received from a financially strong company. A court-appointed special master will come up with an allocation formula. If Key pays more than \$1 billion for the company, victims could get more. A similar pool set up by General Motors paid out nearly \$600 million to settle 399 death and injury claims due to ignition switches that could shut off cars without warning. Law firms also are suing automakers, but some lawyers say it will be hard to get money there because Takata has admitted that it concealed the problem. Dean says there’s evidence that automakers knew Takata inflators were defective yet continued to use them, but automakers say they were deceived by Takata and shouldn’t be liable. At the end of April, only 22 percent of the 69 million recalled inflators in the U.S. had been replaced under the recalls, leaving almost 54 million on the roads, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



Deployed Takata airbags have resulted in deaths, financial troubles.

website. This means more inflators will likely explode and more people will be hurt in the future, Emison said. Key could be liable for future claims depending a lot on state laws that govern liability for successor companies, Baird said. But Dean said he thinks Key

will structure the deal so it doesn’t face any liability. Key, with U.S. operations headquartered in suburban Detroit, is now owned by Ningbo Joyson Electronic Corp. of China. The maker of inflators, seat belts and crash sensors would not comment on Takata’s bankruptcy.

BorgWarner Fans Have Fans

BorgWarner has achieved exclusive status as a supplier of fans and fan drives for Freightliner’s new Cascadia model, its most popular over-the-road truck. BorgWarner technology is now the only available option on 2017 Detroit DD13, DD15 and DD16 engines as well as the 2017 Cummins ISX15. Whether on or off, BorgWarner’s fan and fan drive optimize airflow for greater efficiency and fuel economy, said BorgWarner spokeswoman Michelle Collins. “BorgWarner engineers thoroughly understand the operating conditions for on-highway vehicles. The combination of our 6-blade fan and proven on/off fan drive delivers benchmark efficiency and noise reduction. Trucking fleets will appreciate improved fuel economy as well as its modular, low-maintenance president, BorgWarner Emissions & Thermal Systems. “We are very excited to reach this elite level of partnership with Freightliner. This is a testament to BorgWarner’s unmatched on-

highway product performance and reliability.” Class 8 commercial trucks typically use a fan with up to 11 blades. However, when driving on a flat highway with the fan drive disengaged, the high number of blades actually blocks air flowing through the radiator. Using proprietary design tools, BorgWarner engineers designed a 6-blade fan with optimized blade geometry. Even with fewer blades, the fan delivers effective cooling when the fan drive is engaged and allows greater airflow when it is disengaged. BorgWarner’s on/off fan drives provide superior torque capacity for efficient cooling when needed and switch off when it is not. That means more power to the wheels, better fuel economy, lower emissions and longer fan drive life. Featuring a modular design for easy maintenance, the removable friction liner can be replaced while the fan drive is still mounted to the truck, and the clutch unit can be replaced without removing the hub assembly.



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Chevrolet Camera Technology Makes for a Safer Summer

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behavior, Chevrolet. "When you hear about backover or frontover incidents involving parents or grandparents and their little ones, your heart sinks. It's personal and at Chevy we want to help drivers see as much of their environment as possible to help them avoid the unthinkable. That's where Surround Vision can help."

Surround Vision technology, available on the new 2018 Equinox, provides a 360-degree bird's-eye view around the vehicle by acting like multiple sets of eyes that help drivers quickly view their vehicle's perimeter during low-speed maneuvers such as backing up or parking, Bender said.

The technology uses four cameras: the standard Rear Vision Camera, a forward-looking camera in the front grille and two side-looking cameras under each side mirror.

When drivers shift into reverse, the bird's-eye view is displayed on the center stack instrument panel, alongside an image from the forward- or rear-looking camera, providing the driver with multiple views of the immediate area.

Burge, who is responsible for analyzing how drivers interact with viewing systems like the Equinox's available Surround Vision, takes his role seriously.

"I have a family and think of them often when doing my re-

search. My wife is a driver and my three young children are passengers in our vehicles. They're also the little ones playing in our front yard, running around having fun," says Burge.

"Technology offered on the Equinox, like Surround Vision, is designed to give drivers more tools to help them see around their vehicle before they put it in gear."

In addition to Surround Vision and standard Rear Vision Camera, the new 2018 Equinox offers other purposeful technology to help the driver and their passengers stay safe, including a suite of available active safety features plus Rear Seat Reminder and Teen Driver, Bender said.

Chevrolet offers Surround Vision on the 2018 Chevrolet Bolt EV, Equinox, and Traverse. Rear Vision Camera is available on the 2018 Chevrolet Bolt EV, Camaro, City Express, Colorado, Corvette, Cruze, Equinox, Express, Impala, Malibu, Silverado, Silverado HD, Sonic, Spark, Suburban, Tahoe, Traverse, Trax and Volt.

It's important to remember that safety features are no substitute for the driver's responsibility to operate the vehicle in a safe manner, Bender said. The driver should remain attentive to traffic, surroundings and road conditions at all times. Read the vehicle's owner's manual for important feature limitations and information.

Before getting in a vehicle, all drivers, even those without chil-



Chevy's Surround Vision provides a 360-degree bird's-eye view.

dren of their own, should walk all the way around their parked vehicles to check for children, or

anything that could attract the attention of a child, such as a pet or a toy.

Snyder Ponders Car Tax Bill

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – Bills sent to Gov. Rick Snyder on June 22 would accelerate a tax cut for people who trade in their vehicle when buying a new one.

A law enacted in 2013 lets those who purchase a car or recreational vehicle subtract the value of their trade-in from the sales price of a new one for tax purposes. The legislation finalized by the Republican-led Senate would more quickly phase in how much of the trade-in value can be deducted.

The credit now is \$3,500 – saving people up to \$210 in taxes – and rises \$500 annually until 2039, at which point there will be

no limit on the trade-in value excluded from taxation. The bills would speed the phase-in of the tax break for car purchases to 2029, 10 years sooner. The trade-in credit would jump to \$5,000 in 2019 and increase by \$1,000 each year after.

Michigan has a 6 percent sales tax. The bills' supporters – which include General Motors and auto dealers – say the "sales tax on the difference" law helped boost auto sales and buyers deserve a fully phased-in tax reduction earlier. Opponents include school districts and local governments who worry about a further erosion of the tax base.

Oakland County Names New Director of IT

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has recruited Certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Michael R. Timm to be the county's next director of information technology. A Certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt is a systems professional who focuses on process improvement through better team dynamics and lean operations.

"Oakland County is one of the most digitally-advanced counties in America," Patterson said. "Mike's impressive resume indicates he is well qualified to keep Oakland County on the leading edge of developments in information technology."

An information technology leader more than 30 years of experience in the private sector, Timm was the director of business planning and the project management office at Meridian Health Plan. While there, he established the office, built the team, implemented the business plan, and put in place key process metrics for its entire IT organization.

"Oakland County has a reputation for excellence in government, including in IT, which I am very excited to become a part of," Timm said. "I'm delighted that County Executive Patterson has determined that my years of experience in the private sector will add value to his administration."

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FCA Volunteers Help Out at Grace Centers

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and get used to daily responsibilities of living on their own, Veenstra said.

Mothers in the program are in need of updated porches and privacy fences for them and their children in the bustling area of downtown Pontiac. Fiat Chrysler stepped up to assist in making this possible for the residents, with the volunteers. The team assisted in giving the women safe comfortable outdoor spaces as they transition back into society.

Brad Cairns, volunteer coordinator for Grace Centers, said the help given by the Fiat Chrysler volunteers was most gratefully accepted.

"The street where the volunteers worked is where we own 12 homes," Cairns said. "They are our After Care houses. Recovery is really an ongoing process. These homes allow families to adjust to society and maintain a program that really helps them. After Care is a two-year program."

Cairns said the volunteers worked on a pair of duplex homes, providing a needed privacy fence for one and a backyard porch for the other was put in that allows parents to watch children play and have a place to watch the sun set.

"The village is near the Woodward Loop in Pontiac," Cairns said. "We want to protect children and keep them away from traffic, so a privacy fence is for more than privacy. Having a porch is just nice."

Cairns said one of the homes currently houses a married couple with three daughters. Also living in the homes are two single moms and their children.

Rosena Bonanni, senior administrative assistant to Joe Grace of



David Dasadei, David Zecchin and Ken Potts help put up a fence.

FCA's Fiat Chrysler's Global Architecture and Standardization – NAFTA Concept and Innovation department coordinated with Grace staff to put the volunteer day together.

"This is the third year we've done this," Bonanni said. "This is one of our special volunteer efforts. It's really satisfying to be a part of something like and work to build the fence and the porch."

Cairns said that Grace Centers is looking to expand its After

Care program, which got its start about a dozen years ago.

"We are always expanding," Cairns said. "We buy houses from foreclosure or from HUD. Volunteers from organizations like Fiat Chrysler are so generous with their time and help make these homes suitable places for families to live. The FCA people were amazing volunteers and the fact that they were willing to come out and give of their time was wonderful. Their help is so appreciated."

Tesla and China in Talks

DETROIT (AP) – Tesla is talking to the city of Shanghai about opening a factory there to serve the Chinese market.

Tesla's revenue from China tripled to more than \$1 billion last year, or 15 percent of total revenue.

The electric car maker says it expects to define its plans more clearly by the end of the year.

Tesla Inc. currently has one vehicle assembly plant in California, but CEO Elon Musk said ear-

lier this month that plant is "bursting at the seams." He said Tesla is actively considering three other plant sites.

In a news release put out by Tesla on June 22, the company said it expects most production to remain in the U.S., but wants to establish local factories to ensure that its vehicles are affordable overseas.

Chinese Tesla buyers currently have to pay import duties on Tesla vehicles.

Chrysler Defies Trend on Minivan Sales Numbers

Minivans from Fiat Chrysler are bucking a trend in the industry.

U.S. minivan unit sales are down 14 percent this year, marked by double-digit decreases by Fiat Chrysler's competitors in the segment, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Edward Cardenas.

During the same period, minivan sales were up 1 percent for FCA US, according to an article by *Seeking Alpha*, Cardenas said.

"When the whole market is down 3 percent, and your chief minivan competitors are down 18 percent, 30 percent, and 29 percent, being up 1 percent is outright heroic," the article stated.

Between the Chrysler Pacifica, Dodge Grand Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country, Fiat Chrysler sold 111,316 minivans in the U.S., Cardenas said.

The company's minivan market share has also increased compared to the same period last year. During the first five months of 2016, FCA held 45 percent of the U.S. minivan market share, the article stated. One year later, the market share increased to 52 percent.

"In the automotive industry, that's one giant leap for mankind," declared the article.

May sales of the new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica – the most awarded minivan of 2016 and 2017 – were up 325 percent in May, compared with the same month a year ago.

It also was the minivan's best sales month since it was launched last year.

In addition to strong sales in 2017, the Pacifica continues to receive awards, including Best

Three-row Family Car honors at the Family Car Challenge hosted by the Greater Atlanta Automotive Media Association in May.

And the Pacifica is the first minivan to have, as part of its offerings to the public, an innovative and advanced powertrain that delivers a seamless, efficient driving experience – plus an estimated 30 miles of all-electric range, 530 miles of total range and 80 miles per gallon equivalent (MPGe) in city driving.

Not only does the Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid offer the segment's only hybrid powertrain, it also offers many of the same features offered by the gasoline-powered Pacifica, including tri-pane panoramic sunroof, 10-inch seatback touchscreens, ParkSense Parallel/Perpendicular Park Assist, 360-degree Surround View camera, ventilated seats, rotary e-shifter, capless fuel filler, handsfree sliding doors and liftgate and KeySense programmable key fob.

"The all-new Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid offers an estimated 80 MPGe in the city, 30 miles of all-electric range, 530 miles of total range, plus many of the well-loved features that make the gasoline-powered Pacifica the most awarded minivan of the year," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Car Brands, Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and Fiat, FCA - North America. "With a starting price under \$35,000 after the available \$7,500 federal tax credit, the Pacifica Hybrid provides efficiency, versatility, technology, an advanced hybrid powertrain and is priced in the heart of the segment – a combination that no other seven-passenger vehicle delivers."



2017 Dodge Grand Caravan

BorgWarner Supplies Ford

BorgWarner's exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) technologies—including an EGR cooler, EGR valve and pneumatic bypass valve – reduce emissions for the Ford Power Stroke 6.7-liter V8 diesel engine.

The second-generation engine powers Ford's new 2017 F-250, F-350 and F-450 Super Duty trucks.

Engineered for durability and reliability, BorgWarner has optimized each EGR component for dependable performance, said BorgWarner spokeswoman Michelle Collins.

"BorgWarner delivers the best EGR technologies from a single source and is the only supplier to offer Ford a complete EGR solution for this application," said Joe Fadool, president and general manager, BorgWarner Emissions & Thermal Systems.

"We are proud to provide our leading EGR technologies, already proven in vehicles around the world, to Ford's customers in North America."

One of the most effective methods of reducing diesel engine emissions, EGR recirculates exhaust gas to reduce the high temperatures in the combustion

chamber, where emissions start, Collins said.

BorgWarner's EGR cooler features specially designed tubes to dissipate heat quickly and resist soot and hydrocarbon buildup, Collins said, while the floating core allows for expansion and contraction within the thermal cycle for increased engine durability.

BorgWarner's latest EGR valve provides high flow with low leakage, and the integrated bypass valve allows some exhaust gases to bypass the EGR cooler during engine warm up to reduce cold-start emissions.

BorgWarner Inc., based in Auburn Hills, is a global product leader in clean and efficient technology solutions for combustion, hybrid and electric vehicles, Collins said.

The BorgWarner EGR, Collins said, will be used in Ford's best-selling lineup of pickup F-Series trucks.

With manufacturing and technical facilities in 62 locations in 17 countries, the company currently employs approximately 27,000 people around the world, Collins.

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Hemi Engine Powers Capp To Victory

Ron Capps is making a habit of visiting the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series winner's circle this season. On the afternoon of June 18, Capps drove his Mopar Hemi-powered Dodge Charger R/T from Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) to his fifth win of 2017 and his 54th Funny Car win overall during the Thunder Valley Nationals at Bristol Dragway. He defeated his teammate Jack Beckman in an all-Mopar final round.

Leah Pritchett meanwhile put her Mopar-powered dragster from DSR in the Top Fuel final, meaning a Hemi machine has advanced to the final round in that category on eight occasions this year.

Capps' win was the 10th for Mopar in the Funny Car category out of 11 events contested thus far in 2017. It also extended to a dozen the number of consecutive races won by a HEMI Nitro car, dating back to the end of last season. All four Mopar-powered DSR Funny Cars advanced to the semifinals at Bristol.

In the Funny Car final, Capps defeated Beckman on a holeshot from the left lane. Capps turned in a lap of 4.054 seconds at 317.05 mph to reach the finish line before his opponent, despite Beckman making a 4.040-second pass at 319.29 mph. Capps' reaction time was .026 compared to Beckman's .044.

The win broke an all-time tie between the two drivers, with Capps now leading Beckman 5-4 in final rounds. The final was a re-match of last week in English-town, where Beckman got his first win of the season.

Capps first powered past Alex- is DeJoria in round one to set up a showdown with the stout Robert Hight. Capps got by Hight in a side-by-side race and then squared off with Mopar and DSR teammate Matt Hagan. Hagan hazed the tires early and Capps, the 2016 Funny Car champion, advanced to his seventh final round of the season and won for the fifth time. It was also his fourth Bristol win, tying John Force.

With the win, Capps extended his already large points lead even further, despite the team deciding to change cars before the Saturday qualifying sessions. Beckman began his run to the final by racing his Infinite Hero Dodge Charger R/T past Cruz Pedregon in round one as both cars had cylinders out. Beckman next matched up against Courtney Force in a re-match of last week's English-town semifinal, with Beckman again coming out on top after Force lost cylinders and she fell into Beckman's clutches at the finish line. Beckman next defeated his DSR stablemate Tommy Johnson Jr. on a side-by-side run in the semis to reach the final for the second week in a row.

AAA Michigan Reports Gas Prices Lower

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — AAA Michigan says gas prices statewide have fallen by about 8 cents per gallon as of June 19.

The Dearborn-based auto club said the average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was about \$2.32 per gallon. That's about 29 cents less than at the same point last year. It's the second consecutive week of statewide declines. AAA says the lowest average price was about \$2.20 per gallon in the Benton Harbor area.

The highest gas price found was about \$2.36 in the Ann Arbor area.

3 HUVAERE EXCLUSIVE BONUS COUPONS!

EXCLUSIVE HUVAERE JUNE 2017
1500 CREW CAB RAM BONUS CASH
\$3000

In stock new 2017 vehicles only. Most present coupon. Price subject to change. The coupon per purchase of 1 new, not used, vehicle. Not valid with other coupons. See dealer for details. Valid thru 6/30/17.

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EXCLUSIVE HUVAERE JUNE 2017
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In stock new 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 vehicles only. Most present coupon. Price subject to change. The coupon per purchase of 1 new, not used, vehicle. Not valid with other coupons. See dealer for details. Valid thru 6/30/17.

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• Premium Interior
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#1 RAM STORE 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
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LEASE FOR \$211** 24 Mos. \$1995 due
• 8.4 Navigation
• Spray-In Bedliner
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C7-31104 C7-31103

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C7-41260

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HUGE INVENTORY FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY!
62 2017 COMPASS AVAILABLE!

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Tues., Wed. and Fri. 8:30-6:00

Saturday 9:00-4:00

Picture may not reflect actual vehicle. * The FCA US LLC (formerly Chrysler Group) Employee Advantage Purchase program sale prices and lease payments quoted. Just add tax, title, doc fee and destination charge. ** 24, 27, 30, 36 month FCA US LLC employee leases. The amount due on all leases require amount due plus monthly tax, cap cost reduction tax, first payment, title, plate, doc fee and destination charge. Security deposit is waived on all lease payments. Lease payments are 10,000 miles per year. 20 cents per mile thru Ally or 25 cents thru Chrysler Capital for excess mileage. Customer must qualify for 1 or 5 tier credit approval. Payments subject to change due to lower approved credit tier. Banks may require to prove income and residency for credit approval. Customer is responsible for excess wear and tear. Total deferred price is the sum of the purchase price, plus doc fee, plate fee, sales tax, and accrued finance charges over the term of the lease. All rebates and program monies assigned back to dealer. All prices and lease payments are based off FCA US LLC incentives thru the Great Lakes Business Center. Rebates as retail consumer cash, lease cash, lease loyalty, military, trade assist cash, finance bonus cash and all other Great Lakes offers will be applied. The dealer invoice amount is not a net factory price to dealer. Customers may not qualify for all offers, incentives, discounts or financing offers. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. Exclusive Huvaere new car cash coupon has been applied to all sale and lease payments in this ad. Vehicle sale prices include Chrysler Capital bonus cash-must finance thru Chrysler Capital. Ram leases include Great Lakes Truck Conquest Bonus cash. *Sale prices include lessee loyalty retail bonus cash, customer must qualify. 1.94 month buy, 2.99% APR with approved credit.

Detroit OEMs On Top of a J.D. Power Survey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They design for other engineers, and sometimes don't take the consumer's likes into account when designing something. They forget that they shouldn't make something too complicated for consumers."

Advancements in technology have had a real impact on quality ratings, Sargent said. In 1987 the Toyota Cressida was the top car and its technology included such sophisticated items as a CD player and a graphic equalizer.

With much more sophisticated technology in today's vehicles, Sargent said, there are more chances for things to go wrong.

But even with that taken into account, Sargent said, vehicles are enjoying better quality than ever.

In 1987, there were 166 problems per 100 vehicles. In 2017, that number dropped to 97 per 100 vehicles.

Reliability is of huge importance to car buyers. When asked why they bought one model over another, Sargent said 51 percent of consumers told J.D. Power that reliability was the number one reason. Exterior styling was second and previous brand experience was third.

Overall, Sargent said, the 2017 J.D. Power Initial Quality Survey was good news for domestics. They finished ahead of imports. On average they reported 93 problems per 100 vehicles, compared to the import score of 99 problems per 100 vehicles. This was the second year in a row domestics topped imports.

"Last year you could say that domestics finishing first was a blip," Sargent said. "Two years in a row is a trend."

Overall, GM improved 5 percent over 2016, FCA 12 percent

and Ford 16 percent, Sargent said.

"These numbers are pretty amazing because it's pretty easy to improve when you put out only one or two models," Sargent said. "But when you're an OEM and you put out 10 or 15 models, it's very hard to see improvement across the board."

The automotive marketplace was broken down into 23 different categories. The Chrysler Pacifica was considered best in the Minivan segment. The Ford Expedition finished first in the Large SUV category, the Ford Mustang took the Midsize Sporty Car segment.

GM also enjoyed great success this year, Sargent said. The company had vehicles take top honors in four categories – the Chevy Silverado in Large Light Duty Pickup, the Chevy Silverado HD in Large Heavy Duty Pickup, the Chevy Sonic in Small Car, and the GMC Terrain in Compact SUV.

The J.D. Power study also rated OEM factories. General Motors Fort Wayne Truck Assembly plant earned the J.D. Power Gold Plant Quality Award and was recognized as delivering the highest-ranked automotive manufacturing quality in the Americas in 2017.

The Chevrolet Silverado, Silverado HD and GMC Sierra and Sierra HD are produced at the Fort Wayne Assembly facility located in the state of Indiana.

"Our team builds the most exceptional full-size trucks in the business, assembling each vehicle as if it were our very own," said Michael Thomas, Fort Wayne Assembly plant manager. "The men and women at Fort Wayne Assembly put the customer at the center of everything they do. Our customers can be assured that they have invested

in a truck that will both delight and safely transport them and their loved ones for years."

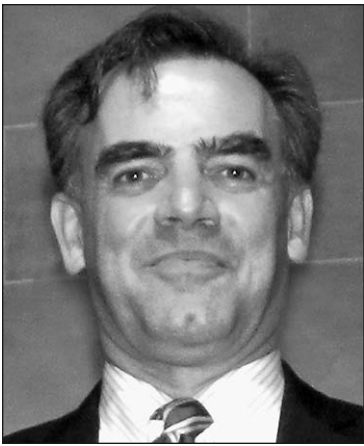
Ram Truck is the industry's most improved truck brand with more than a 24 percent improvement in the brand's initial quality score from last year's study. As a company, Sargent said FCA improved its initial quality at a faster rate than the industry average. This is the second consecutive year that FCA US has improved in initial quality at a faster rate than the industry average.

"We're pleased to see that all FCA US brands have made improvements in initial quality, especially Ram Truck with its big step up this year," said Scott Garberding, head of Quality, FCA – Global. "My colleagues and I are focused on continuing to deliver quality new vehicles, like the all-new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica, as we continue to bring important new technologies into the market with an increasing number of exciting new vehicle launches in the coming years."

Sargent also praised Ford for its improvements, saying that it's infotainment systems have led the industry.

"As Ford accelerates the pace of innovation, we believe this best-ever quality ranking demonstrates our new technologies are reliable and easy to use," said Bennie Fowler, group vice president, Quality. "The rapid improvements rated by third-party quality experts such as J.D. Power motivate us to improve our fitness even more as quality is a race that's never finished."

Overall, Sargent said, the nature of problems have changed. The Audio, Communications, Entertainment, Navigation (ACEN) category earns the most complaints at 22.8 per 100 vehicles.



David Sargent

On the other hand, the engine/transmission category has only 9.6 per 100. That is a radical change from the past and shows just how well these nuts-and-bolts systems are being designed and built.

Sargent said, in response to a question from the media about how initial quality relates to more long-term quality, that J.D. Power also has a survey that studies vehicle quality after three years.

Sargent said that J.D. Power's survey results show that there is a strong correlation between quality after three months and three years.

Basically, Sargeant said, the vehicles that do well in quality surveys early also perform very well in surveys performed later. All of this is good information for both OEMs and the public to have when learning about vehicles and how they perform in the real world.

"The Initial Quality Study helps consumers make smart choices," Sargent said. "It helps OEMs know the strengths and weaknesses of the industry. We will keep doing it."

VW Unveils New Polo Model, Strike At Bratislava

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) – Volkswagen is unveiling a new version of its Polo subcompact, the sixth edition of a car that has sold 14 million units since it was introduced in 1975.

Those include blind spot detection, which gives a warning in the exterior mirror if vehicles are in the car's blind spot while overtaking. Rear traffic alert can detect cross traffic behind the car while backing out of a parking space.

The car will be available with six different gasoline engines and one that runs on compressed natural gas. The two available diesels will come with an emissions control system known as selective catalytic reduction, or SCR.

That's a different emissions control system than the one involved in Volkswagen's diesel scandal over cars from earlier model years rigged to cheat on emissions tests. Vehicles with SCR inject a solution from a refillable tank into the exhaust stream to remove harmful nitrogen oxides.

The car is to go on sale later this year at a base price of 12,975 euros (\$14,500) in Germany. The vehicle isn't coming to U.S.

The announcement at a time when workers at Volkswagen plant in Bratislava are on a strike over wages.

Labor unions called it, starting June 20, after a number of negotiation rounds about their demand – a 16 percent increase – failed.

The German company calls their demand "unacceptable." It has offered about half of what the unions want. It's the first strike in the plant since 1991, when Volkswagen opened it.

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INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, Buick GMC Lease Loyalty + Select Model

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BUICK

2017 GMC Terrain

SLE1 FWD Lease Offer MSRP: \$28,295

\$149

per month

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INCLUDES: ALL TAXES & FEES, NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, GM Lease Loyalty + Select Model

24 months

10,000 miles year

\$542 total due at signing (includes first month payment)

GMC

2017 GMC Acadia

SLE1 FWD Lease Offer MSRP: \$33,770

\$249

per month

TRANSPARENT PRICING

INCLUDES: ALL TAXES & FEES, NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, Buick GMC Lease Loyalty + Select Model

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10,000 miles year

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PER MONTH³ MONTHS DUE AT SIGNING
AFTER ALL OFFERS

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2017 CT6 AWD
LUXURY COLLECTION
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AFTER ALL OFFERS

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LUXURY COLLECTION
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AFTER ALL OFFERS

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1.Excludes XTS Livery and CTS-V series. Must be a current GM lessee through GM Financial, Ally or US Bank. Not available with some other offers. Take delivery by 6/30/17. See dealer for details. 2. \$4,871.20 Must be a current owner/lessee of a 2003 model year or newer Cadillac vehicle. Not available with some other offers. Take delivery by 6/30/17. Residency restrictions apply. See dealer for details. 3. Must be a current GM lessee through GM Financial, Ally or US Bank. Payments are for a 2017 ATS AWD Sedan Standard with an MSRP of \$37,590. 24 monthly payments total \$6,696. Payments are for a 2017 CTS AWD Sedan Standard with an MSRP of \$48,990. 39 monthly payments total \$15,561. Payments are for a 2017 XTS Sedan Standard with an MSRP of \$46,590. 39 monthly payments total \$15,561. Payments are for a 2017 CT6 AWD Luxury with an MSRP of \$61,690. 39 monthly payments total \$20,631. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. GM Financial must approve lease. Take delivery by 6/30/17. Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 20,000 miles for ATS. Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 32,500 miles for CTS, and XTS. Lessee pays for maintenance, excess wear and a disposition fee of \$595 or less at end of lease. Not available with some other offers. Residency restrictions apply. 4. Payments are for a 2017 Escalade Premium Luxury Collection with an MSRP of \$87,090. 36 monthly payments total \$30,564. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. GM Financial must approve lease. Take delivery by 6/30/17. Mileage charge of \$.25/mile over 30,000 miles. Lessee pays for maintenance, excess wear and a disposition fee of \$595 or less at end of lease. Not available with some other offers. Residency restrictions apply ©2017 General Motors. Cadillac® ATS® CTS® XTS® CT6® Escalade®



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AAA Predicting Heavy Travel
This Fourth of July Holiday

This Independence Day, a record-breaking 44.2 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more away from home, taking to the nation’s roads, skies, rails and waterways to honor the red, white and blue, said AAA spokeswoman Julie Hall.

With 1.25 million more travelers than last year, 2017 will be marked as the most traveled Independence Day holiday week-end ever, Hall said.

“Combined, strong employment, rising incomes and higher consumer confidence bode well for the travel industry, in particular this Independence Day week-end,” said Bill Sutherland, AAA senior vice president, Travel and Publishing. “A historic 44.2 million Americans will travel to celebrate our nation’s freedom this year, adding to an already bustling summer travel season.”

The Independence Day holiday

travel period is defined as Friday, June 30 to Tuesday, July 4.

By the Numbers – Independence Day Travel Forecast:

- Overall, 44.2 million travelers are expected to travel this Independence Day, a 2.9 percent increase over 2016.
- 37.5 million Americans will drive to their destinations, an increase of 2.9 percent over last year.
- 3.44 million people are taking to the skies this Independence Day, increasing air travel by 4.6 percent over last year.
- 3.27 million travelers, an increase of 1.4 percent from 2016, will look to other modes of transportation, including cruises, trains and buses.

AAA’s projections are based on economic forecasting and research by IHS Markit, Hall said. AAA has reported on holiday travel trends for over 20 years.



A rendering of the upcoming supplier park at GM's Arlington plant.

General Motors Announces
Supplier Site Being Built

General Motors on June 16 unveiled plans to open a new supplier park to support future vehicle production at its Arlington Assembly. The new park is expected to house up to 1,250 employees, including bringing more than 850 new jobs to Arlington, Texas.

These new jobs are in addition to the 7,000 GM jobs and \$1 billion in U.S. investments GM announced earlier this year. The park is expected to be operational in 2018, said GM spokesman Nick Richards.

The new supplier park will consist of two industrial manufacturing and warehouse buildings comprising more than 1.2 million square feet. GM estimates nearly 600 of the new manufacturing and professional jobs created in these facilities will replace work previously done outside of the U.S.

“Through strong supplier and community relations, we’re able create new supplier parks to generate significant benefits to our manufacturing operations and the communities in which we operate,” said Steve Kiefer, GM senior vice president of Global Purchasing and Supply Chain. “This new supplier park will create improved logistics efficiency and coordination, while also bringing significant employment opportunities to Arlington.”

GM currently employs approximately 4,225 people to build the class-leading Chevrolet Tahoe and Suburban, GMC Yukon and Yukon XL and Cadillac Escalade. GM began operations in Arlington in 1954.

“General Motors has been a part of the American Dream in Arlington from the beginning. In fact, the opening of the assembly plant in Arlington in 1954 was one of the key ignitors of our city’s incredible population and economic growth. And now,

more than 60 years later, GM continues to be a critical foundation of Arlington’s economy,” said Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams. “I am pleased the City Council has once again successfully worked with General Motors, this time to revitalize and redevelop an area that was a deteriorating shopping center and turn it into a vibrant manufacturing site.

“This action will have an impact on our community for generations to come and further solidify the partnership between Arlington and General Motors.”

Multi-year Supplier of the Year winner International Automotive Components (IAC) Group is one of the GM suppliers that will be introducing operations to the Arlington automotive logistics center.

“We are excited to establish this new Arlington location as one of our flagship manufacturing operations among IAC’s 22 other U.S. plants,” said Steve Miller, president and CEO of IAC. “IAC’s role as a supplier of vehicle interiors to GM extends back almost a century and this impressive new center marks a great beginning to our next century in partnership with this customer.”

Martin said GM has been executing a strategy to create supplier parks adjacent to its U.S. manufacturing sites (already accomplished with Northpoint at GM’s Fairfax Assembly Plant in Kansas, Wentzville Assembly Plant in Missouri, Bowling Green Assembly in Kentucky and Fort Wayne Assembly Plant in Indiana), and will continue to expand this effort.

Supplier parks locating near assembly plants result in significant savings from reduced transportation costs, higher quality communications and continuous improvement activities.

Federal Government Unveils Info on Tesla's Fatal Crash

As part of its ongoing investigation into the fatal 2016 highway crash involving a Tesla Model S and a tractor-semitrailer truck near Williston, Florida, the National Transportation Safety Board on June 19 opened the accident docket, releasing more than 500 pages of information.

According to information released by the NTSB, system performance data downloaded from the Tesla revealed that the driver was operating the car using automated vehicle control systems: Traffic-Aware Cruise Control and Autosteer lane keeping systems.

The NTSB summary stated that at 4:40 p.m. eastern daylight time on Saturday, May 7, 2016, a 2015 Tesla Model S, traveling eastbound on US Highway 27A (US-27A), west of Williston, Florida, struck and passed beneath a 2014 Freightliner Cascadia truck-tractor in combination with a 53-foot semitrailer. At the time of the collision, the combination vehicle was making a left turn from westbound US-27A across the two eastbound travel lanes onto NE 140th Court, a local paved road.

“As a result of the initial impact, the battery disengaged from the electric motors powering the car. After exiting from underneath the semitrailer, the car coasted at a shallow angle off the right side of the roadway, traveled approximately 297 feet, and then collided with a utility pole. The car broke the pole and traveled an additional 50 feet, during which it rotated counterclockwise and came to rest perpendicular to the highway in the front yard of a private residence. The 40-year-old male driver and sole occupant of the Tesla

died as a result of the crash.”

The report further stated that the “Tesla system performance data downloaded from the car indicated that vehicle speed just prior to impact was 74 mph. System performance data also revealed that the driver was operating the car using the advanced driver assistance features Traffic-Aware Cruise Control and Autosteer lane keeping assistance. The car was also equipped with automatic emergency braking that is designed to automatically apply the brakes to reduce the severity of or assist in avoiding frontal collisions. As a result of the crash, the rear hatch frame separated and folded back over the crushed rear window.”

The NTSB also reported that about 510 MB of data was recovered from the crashed Tesla's SD card. The data included eight image files representing data from the forward-facing camera.

According to NTSB recovered data, Joshua Brown, driver of the Tesla, had his hands off the wheel of the car for about 90 percent of his final drive.

The report also stated that the vehicle warned Brown seven times to keep his hands on the steering wheel during the final drive. After each warning, the vehicles sensors detected hands on the wheel for a period of one to three seconds.

The last warning took place about six minutes before the crash, according to the NTSB report. Brown's car was going 74 miles an hour on a highway when it hit the big rig.

The Autopilot apparently failed to distinguish between the white truck and the bright sky behind it.

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CHEVROLET

Ford Focus to be Built in China, Sold in the USA

DETROIT (AP) – Ford Motor Co. will export vehicles from China to the U.S. for the first time starting in 2019.

Ford said June 20 it plans to move production of its Ford Focus small car from the U.S. to China, where it already makes the Focus for Chinese buyers. Ford will continue to make the Focus in Europe, and will also export some variants of the Focus from Europe to the U.S.

Sales of small cars have dropped sharply in the U.S. and companies are seeking to cut costs making them. Ford's president of global operations Joe Hinrichs said the move to China will save the company \$1 billion, including \$500 million for canceling plans to build the Focus in Mexico.

Wary of the response from President Donald Trump, who has criticized Ford for making vehicles outside the U.S., Ford said the move won't cost U.S. jobs. The suburban Detroit plant that currently makes the Focus will be converted late next year to produce the Ford Ranger pickup and Ford Bronco SUV.

Ford also said June 20 that it plans to invest \$900 million in its Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville to make the new, aluminum-sided Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator SUVs. Those vehicles will go on sale this fall and will be exported to more than 55 markets globally, the company said. The investment will secure 1,000 jobs at the Kentucky plant.

But the White House response was muted. Asked June 20 whether Trump plans to get tougher on China or on automakers who leave the U.S., White House Press Secretary Sean

Spicer said the president wants to lower business taxes and reform the tax code so businesses will want to "come back to the United States, grow in the United States, manufacture more in the United States."

Hinrichs said Ford's research shows that customers – who are used to phones and other gadgets from China – care more about product quality than where their vehicles are made.

Plans for production of the 2019 Focus – which will be larger and have some significant updates – have bounced around over the last few months as Ford tries to squeeze some profits from the ailing small car segment. U.S. Focus sales were down 20 percent through May, hurt by low gas prices and consumer preference for SUVs.

In January, the company announced it would cancel a new plant in Mexico and instead use capacity at another plant in Mexico to build the Focus. But over the last few months, Hinrichs said, Ford decided it could save another \$500 million in tooling and other manufacturing costs if it moved production to China.

Hinrichs said last month's departure of former CEO Mark Fields had no bearing on the decision, which was in the works for some time.

Hinrichs said Chinese wages are lower than wages in Mexico, although the cost to ship the vehicles erases some of that advantage. It's still cheaper to make cars for the U.S. in Mexico, he said, but Ford has extra capacity in China and the move frees up capital for the company immediately. Ford isn't the first car company to export vehicles to the U.S. from China.

Ford Bringing Fireworks Back to Detroit

Ford Motor Company and southeast Michigan will celebrate American independence with the Ford Fireworks as well as an expanded community outreach for students and veterans along the downtown Detroit riverfront on Monday, June 26, said Ford spokesman Eric Mitchell.

Ford Motor Company Fund is supporting a special event celebrating the accomplishments of Detroit area students. Called L.I.T.E. Fest – which stands for Lead, Innovate, Thrive and Elevate – the event at West Riverfront Park will honor a select group of 2,000 students and family members with entertainment, activities and food, Mitchell said. Detroit native and singer/songwriter Big Sean will make a special appearance to recognize the students.

"The Ford Fireworks is a special community celebration that allows people of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate the renewed energy coming from our great city," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Company Fund. "Ford is proud to show our ongoing commitment to Detroit and southeast Michigan by supporting this iconic tradition that has been going on for nearly 60 years."

Produced by The Parade Company, the Ford Fireworks will feature greater pop and a longer show when more than 10,000 pyrotechnic effects light up the night sky beginning at 9:55 p.m., Mitchell said. The theme of this year's Ford Fireworks is "Detroit! Right Now!" in recognition of the growth and progress being seen around the city. The Parade Company selects the music and works exclusively with Zambelli Fireworks Internationale to stage the pyrotechnics.

Ford activities at the Ford Fire-



The Ford Fireworks Show is returning to the city of Detroit this year.

works include:

- L.I.T.E. Fest: A special event and exclusive fireworks viewing location for 2,000 Detroit-area students and their families at West Riverfront Park, hosted by The Detroit RiverFront Conservancy.

- American Flag Remix: More than 40 local middle school students gathered on Flag Day, June 14, and designed their own versions of what the American flag means to them. Four student artists whose flags were selected as winners will be honored at L.I.T.E. Fest. The students, who are sharing \$5,000 in scholarships, will also have their art projects featured on event displays and t-shirts.

- Ford Focus on Freedom: Ford Fund will salute 200 current and former military members and their families during a special event at the Port Authority Building with a close-up view of the fireworks.

- Vintage planes flyover: Ford is again working with the Yankee Air Museum to bring in World War II bombers and other historic aircraft to fly over the river-

front before the fireworks. The flyover is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

- Ford Fireworks Rooftop Party: One of The Parade Company's most popular fundraisers of the year, the event offers the best seats to view the fireworks. Guests attending the event will experience live music with Your Generation in concert on the main stage, food by Andiamo, plus games, giveaways and more for adults and kids. To learn more, visit www.theparade.org or call 313-923-7400. All proceeds benefit the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation.

- Belle Isle passes: Ford is offering free admission to Belle Isle by providing Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passports for the first 250 cars. The \$11 pass can be used at all participating state parks for the remainder of 2017.

The Ford Fireworks can also be viewed on WDIV-Local 4's live broadcast beginning at 8 p.m. News/Talk 760 WJR will do a special radio simulcast throughout the event and provide up-to-the-minute traffic and weather information throughout the day.

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