

## Chevy Technology Helps Keeps Kids Safer

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 neighborhood, 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 incidents are caused by the driver not being able to see their immediate surroundings,” says Rondell Burge, researcher of driver behavior, Chevrolet. “When you hear about backover or front-over 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 research. 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

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



Pasternak helps open the Busch branch of the Warren Public Library.

## Warren Celebrates Busch Branch’s Re-Opening

After years of planning and construction the city of Warren celebrated the grand re-opening of the Dorothy M. Busch branch of the Warren Library on June 22.

The branch is located on Ryan Road near Nine Mile. It had been closed down for two years.

“We started the project back in 2015,” said Oksana Urban, director of the Warren Library. “We razed the old building and tore down a house we had purchased to expand the parking lot. Once that was done, construction of the new library began in 2016.”

Urban said the new Busch branch will serve all of south Warren. The original branch opened up back in 1963.

“The decision to build an entirely new building, as opposed to upgrading the old library building was made for a couple of reasons,” Urban said. “First, there was no infrastructure for mobile devices such as tablet or smart phones. That’s so important today, but these things didn’t exist back in 1963. The old

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 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 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

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## Sterling Heights Changing its Waste Collector

Waste Management (WM) has informed the City of Sterling Heights it will be terminating its voluntary, fee-based curbside recycling program for city residents effective July 31, 2017.

Effective Aug. 1, 2017, Green For Life (GFL) Environmental Inc. will begin delivering Sterling Heights residents enhanced recycling services, including weekly curbside recycling pick-up at a cost of \$57 per year compared to the current \$90 charge for bi-weekly service from WM.

In advance of this commencement date, all city residents will be receiving information from GFL Environmental via mail regarding how to subscribe for the enhanced services and the annual cost to participate. All current subscribers will receive notice in mid-July the prorated reimbursement from WM and an explanation on how to sign up for new service under GFL. All existing WM carts will be collected and replaced with new 64 gallon carts from GFL.

# Takata's Facing Sale Over Financial Troubles

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facial 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,



Deployed Takata airbags have resulted in deaths, financial troubles.

according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 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.

## Busch Library Branch Open

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

building was also limited in the number of computers we were able to have."

By building an entirely new library, the Warren Library Commission now has a branch with the modern infrastructure that libraries use today.

During the opening ceremony Urban introduced members of Busch's family.

Warren Mayor James Fouts said that Busch did so much for the library between 1935 and 1961, the year of her death at age 48.

Frank Pasternak, chairman of the Warren Library Commission, was also at the grand opening. He praised Hilary Kutella, known to his friends as Larry, for his years of service to the Fitzgerald Public School Board,

and for his work on behalf of the library.

Pasternak said it was fitting that the 50-person community room at the Busch branch was named after Kutella.

The opening ceremony was well-attended by Warren residents. Among them was David Raper, who got his first library card at the original Busch branch back in 1989.

"That was back when I was 16," Raper said.

"I came here today to see what the new branch looks like. I still live in Warren, and when they were building this place I was using the Center Line Public Library. I'm glad this branch is open again because it's closer to where I live. And I am glad that it has the latest technology. It's nice to see some development in south Warren."

## County Hosting Senior Fun

Hosted by Macomb Community Action's Office of Senior Services, the annual Senior Fun Festival will return for its 28th year.

The free daylong event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 30 at the Gibraltar Trade Center, 237 N. River Road, Mount Clemens.

Both entry and parking are free for the public. Packed with numerous activities, over 100 vendors and live fitness demonstrations for attendees to participate in, other special presentations for the day include:

- Chair yoga;
- Zumba gold;
- Detroit Institute of Arts interactive trailer;
- Instructor-led art classes;
- Interactive demonstrations from the Association of Chinese-Americans Line Dancers and Arthur Murray Dance Studio.

The event will also offer access to free health screenings and wellness information provided by the Macomb County Health Department, bingo sessions, raffles, prizes and much more, said Macomb County spokesman John Cwikla.

"This event is so special to us," said Kristie King, division director of the Office of Senior Services. "It's a chance to offer our vibrant older adults and the dedicated caregivers of our communities a day full of free fun just for them."

The festival is open to the public, and no pre-registration is required, Cwikla said. Doors will open promptly at 9 a.m. There is still an opportunity for vendors to sign up and reserve space at the event. For more vendor information or general information call 586-469-5228.

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## Cadillac's Engine Roars to Big Success on Race Tracks

The Cadillac 6.2L V8 engine that powers the Cadillac DPi-V.R prototype race car is undefeated at mid-season in the 2017 IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship.

These race engines have secured 11 of the first 15 podium places – including all five victories – during Cadillac's first year of IMSA competition, while each traveling more miles than a trip from Cadillac House in New York City to Hollywood, Calif., said GM spokesman Steve Martin.

The 6.2L V8 engine has been consistent in delivering power and reliability to the three Cadillac prototype race cars: No. 10 Konica Minolta Cadillac DPi-V.R, No. 5 Mustang Sampling Cadillac DPi-V.R and No. 31 Whelen Engineering Cadillac DPi-V.R., Martin said.

Each team has only used two engines in competition, enabling the newest generation of Cadillac race cars to collectively cover more than 15,500 miles under IMSA sanction with near-flawless performance.

The race-prepped Cadillac 6.2L V8 engine, which shares inherent architecture with the Cadillac 6.2L V8 engines in the Cadillac CTS-V super sedan and the Cadillac Escalade prestige SUV, is naturally aspirated and outputs near 600 hp at a maximum allowable 7,600 rpm with the series-mandated air restrictors in place. The race car engines are modified, built and maintained by ECR Engines.

"As in the Cadillac CTS-V and Escalade, the Cadillac 6.2L V8 in the race car produces unrivaled, unfailing power and responsiveness," said Richard Brekus, Cadillac global director of Product Strategy. "This season we exchanged engines only once for each car, each receiving a fresh engine after the Rolex 24 At Daytona. We disassembled the first engines and found no issues, problems or anomalies after the Rolex 24. The three cars have each run the engine we installed after the 24-hour race, taking the green flag on the first practice at Sebring, running and winning at Sebring, Long Beach, the Circuit

of the Americas and Detroit with no major issues."

In addition to providing lasting power, the Cadillac 6.2L V8 is an integral part of the overall design of the Cadillac DPi-V.R prototype race car, and a key to the structural rigidity of the car, Martin said. As a semi-stressed member of the chassis, the engine takes some of the load delivered from the chassis, acting as the spine for the carbon fiber monocoque.

This design feature was on display during the 12-hour race at Sebring International Raceway, 3.74 miles of varied surface including cement that has survived since being used as a World War II runway. The pounding that a race car takes during the 12 Hours of Sebring is equivalent to what a race car endures during the 24 Hours of Le Mans, Martin said. In addition, the engine has to withstand the high-sweeping loads of Daytona's banked speedway, the high lateral g-forces at Circuit of the Americas and the bumpy rides of the Long Beach and Detroit street courses with their surface changes, crowns and curbs.

Race-prepped Cadillac 6.2L V8 engine facts:

- Each Cadillac V-Performance racing team in IMSA has only used two engines in competition, with the exchange taking place after the Rolex 24 At Daytona.

- All three Cadillac DPi-V.R engines that raced from Sebring through Belle Isle without issue have each traveled approximately 2,822 miles, or more than a trip from Cadillac House in New York City to Hollywood, California. This would also be more than the

total distance of driving from London to Rome and then back to London.

- 2,822 miles is almost equivalent to 15 F1 races (F1 races average 190 miles per event).

- From Sebring through Belle Isle, the race-prepped engines were operated at the same fluid temperatures (water and oil) as that of the production engines in the Cadillac CTS-V super sedan and the Cadillac Escalade.

- From Sebring through Belle Isle, not a single oil change was performed, nor was an oil filter replaced.

- From Sebring through Belle Isle, each engine experienced a total of approximately 36,000 upshift and downshift events.

- From Sebring through Belle Isle, each engine experienced a total of more than 13 hours of wide-open throttle.

- Across the IMSA circuits, the engines repeatedly experienced as high as 3.5 g's lateral, 2.0 g's vertical and 3.5 g's under braking. The SUPERMAN: Ride of Steel rollercoaster at Six Flags America pulls just under 4 g's.

The 2017 Cadillac CTS-V super sedan is powered by a supercharged 6.2L V8 high-performance engine SAE-certified at 640 horsepower and 630 lb-ft of torque. With more horsepower and torque than key competitors from Stuttgart and Munich, the CTS-V is capable of 0-60 performance in 3.7 seconds and a top speed of 200 mph.

The supercharged Cadillac



The Cadillac 6.2L V8 engine

6.2L V8 engine makes more power more efficiently than the previous Cadillac supercharged engine by employing a more efficient, more compact 1.7L supercharger and matching it with direct injection and Active Fuel Management (cylinder deactivation). The CTS-V has extra cooling content to handle the higher heat rejection and does not require any changes from the factory for consistent track capability. All Cadillac performance engines 24-hour endurance testing.

The 2017 Cadillac Escalade prestige SUV is powered by a naturally aspirated Cadillac 6.2L V8 rated at an SAE-certified 420 horsepower and 460 lb-ft of torque. The Cadillac 6.2L features direct injection, Active Fuel Management and continuously variable valve timing, delivering 22 mpg during freeway driving and an 8,300-pound towing capacity.

## Chevy Cameras Promote Help Child Safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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 children of their own, should walk all the way around their parked vehicles to check for children, or anything that could attract a child, such as a pet or toy.



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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 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.



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

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 FCA's Fiat Chrysler's Global Ar-

chitecture 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 first got its start roughly about a dozen years ago.

"We are always expanding," Cairns said. "We buy houses from foreclosure or from HUD. Volun-

teers 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."

## Ford Ponders the Transportation Paradox

Here's the reality: People keep moving to cities because they offer a wealth of cultural and entertainment options, places to eat, and a variety of ways to connect with others.

In an essay written by John Kwant, vice president, Ford City Solutions, he stated that it's no surprise people want to move to places that provide fun and exciting things to do.

"Half the world's population lives in cities, a number we believe will top 60 percent in the coming decades," Kwant wrote. "The increasing population means urban areas are struggling with transportation and infrastructure challenges to manage the sheer number of individuals needing to get around every day. Moreover, when people move to a city, they bring an ecosystem that supports and supplies their needs, including delivery services."

But people moving into cities is not the problem, Kwant wrote. Despite increasing populations, cities aren't becoming larger, nor are they necessarily adding roads.

Because the amount of space that a city has is finite, adding an influx of single-occupancy cars to an already congested landscape creates more gridlock and frustration, and thus a greater need for more and different transportation alternatives to be made available to the driving public.

Last September, Ford created a City Solutions team to help analyze and solve urban transportation problems. Since then, we have been listening and talking to cities to identify potential solutions that fit into an existing transit infrastructure to move people around more efficiently and comfortably. Our team is working to accommodate urban development by making cities healthier and improving productivity.

"We're working with cities around the world, listening to the specific issues they face," Kwant wrote. "We're committed to delivering solutions that make sense for everybody, and part of that includes Chariot – the shuttle service we're launching in Seattle."

Seattle marks the third market Ford is launching there with its enterprise commuter shuttle



Ford is expanding its Chariot shuttle service to Seattle.

service, which serves companies wanting to provide transportation solutions to their employees – from last-mile service, to and from Park & Rides and transit hubs, to providing direct service to and from underserved neighborhoods.

It's vital employers and city government work together to start the conversation on transportation options, and Ford's City Solutions team is engaging with companies to facilitate those conversations, Kwant wrote. Workers live and play in the city, and as companies increasingly commit to shrinking their commuter footprint, their input is key to making shared commutes more attractive. While some companies already provide a mobility benefit, Ford sees this as a perk to be widely encouraged.

In Seattle, residents have chosen to move away from the solo commute, with ridership on King County's Metro system growing. In 2016, the system ferried passengers on a record 122 million trips, Kwant wrote. Meanwhile, all transit agencies in the county serviced 163 million trips, marking a 17 percent increase since 2010.

Despite the transit gains, Seattle is home to the 10th-worst traffic in the country, with residents stuck on the metro region's road for nearly 55 hours a year, Kwant wrote.

Chariot will offer Seattle residents an additional option for commuting to work.

Its shuttles can hold significantly more commuters than a typical single-passenger vehicle,

with the same physical and carbon footprint, and it's a fast, reliable and affordable transportation alternative.

Going forward, Ford would like to see Chariot become available to a larger population of commuters.

Public transit continues to have an important role in the urban commuting environment. We see shuttles as a meaningful way of easing the burden on a transportation infrastructure that's challenged by increased ridership.

Up-to-date shuttle services based on the needs of city residents can help ensure smooth operation of the entire system, Kwant wrote.

The goal of transit is simple: to move people from point A to point B. Ford is looking to collaborate with local government, transit authorities and other experts to figure out the best way to do that – whether it means operating independently, coordinating directly with public transit or working with companies to offer alternatives.

From ride hailing and ride sharing to increased ridership on subways and buses, Kwant wrote that the company and its employees know that the people want a variety of mobility alternatives.

"At Ford, we see our job as helping to make that happen, while developing a transportation ecosystem that's as healthy and efficient as possible," Kwant wrote.

"It's important to help make our cities as vibrant and livable as possible as they grow."

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

## 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 Fireworks 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 riverfront 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](http://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. People can also follow the event on social media at #fordfireworks and through the Ford Fund’s social sites on Facebook, Instagram @fordfund and Twitter @fordfund. There will also be a special Snapchat filter.

Ford has been investing in Detroit since the company’s founding in 1903, Mitchell said. Over the past 10 years, Ford and Ford Fund have donated more than \$160 million to organizations throughout southeast Michigan, supporting education, safe driving and community life, including hunger relief and other services.

## Gov. Snyder Presented With Car Sale Tax Break Bills

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 in Michigan.

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, auto dealers, bankers and other business groups – 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, local governments and public-sector workers who worry about a further erosion of the tax base.

The nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency says the state would lose an extra \$2.1 million in the 2018-19 fiscal year, \$5.1 million in 2019-20 and \$7.5 million in 2020-21 – mostly in the \$14 billion-plus fund that pays for K-12 schools. The overall tax cut could total \$300 million over a number of years.

“The governor will review the final version of the bills when they are sent over and then make a decision,” spokesman Ari Adler said.

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# 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."

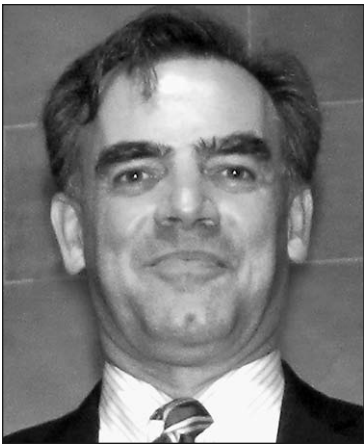
Ram Truck is the industry's most improved truck brand with more than a 24 percent improvement in the brand's initial quality score from last year's study. As a company, Sargent said FCA improved its initial quality at a faster rate than the industry average. This is the second consecutive year that FCA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

10,000 miles year

\$693 total due at signing (includes first month payment)



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

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24 months

10,000 miles year

\$507 total due at signing (includes first month payment)



GMC

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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 weekend ever, Hall said.

“Combined, strong employment, rising incomes and higher consumer confidence bode well for the travel industry, in particular this Independence Day weekend,” 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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## 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.

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- Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED!

Stock# H32512

Was \$32,745    Sale Price: **\$26,977\***

**24 MONTH LEASE**

**\$87\***

**0% APR UP TO 72 MONTHS!**

**The Best Price... PERIOD!**

**\$999 Down**

NQ Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra.

### 2017 MALIBU "LT"



- 1.5L Turbo DOHC Engine!
- 6 Speed Transmission!
- 8" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio!
- Bluetooth for Phone!
- Rear Vision Camera!
- OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in Wi-Fi Hotspot!
- Power Driver's Seat!
- Remote Keyless Entry!
- Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED!

Stock# H33304

Was \$26,000    Sale Price: **\$20,927\***

**24 MONTH LEASE**

**\$89\***

**SUMMER Sales Event!**

**The Best Price... PERIOD!**

**\$999 Down**

NQ Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra.

### 2017 SILVERADO "LT" 4X4 DOUBLE CAB



- ECOTEC 3.6L V6 Engine!
- Automatic Transmission!
- GM Bed Liner INCLUDED!
- 8" Color Screen MyLink Radio w/USB Ports!
- OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in Wi-Fi Hotspot!
- Steering Wheel Radio Controls!
- Remote Keyless Entry!
- Aluminum Wheels!
- Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED!

Stock# H32640

Was \$41,060    Sale Price: **\$33,917\***

**24 MONTH LEASE**

**\$117\***

**0% APR UP TO 60 MONTHS!**

**The Best Price... PERIOD!**


**\$999 Down**

NQ Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra.

## We'll Give You \$2500 MINIMUM for Your Trade-In... GUARANTEED!\*



**moranchevy.com**



**RICH MILNE**  
rmilne@moranautomotive.com



**DAVID BERCEL JR.**  
dberceljr@moranautomotive.com

### SHOWROOM HOURS:

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Monday    | 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM |
| Tuesday   | 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM |
| Wednesday | 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM |
| Thursday  | 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM |
| Friday    | 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM |

**(586) 791-1010**

35500 S. Gratiot Avenue... North of 15 Mile / Clinton Township / **FIND NEW ROADS**

\*Pictures may not represent actual sale vehicle. All applicable incentives including bonus cash, bonus tags, competitive lease, lease conquest and/or lease loyalty offers have been deducted from Sale Prices/Payments and are subject to change by the manufacturer without notice and are plus title, tax, plate and CVR fees and were valid at time of printing. GM Employee discount is required except where noted. 0% APR is in lieu of most incentives. Leases are 10,000 miles per year. Disposition fee may be required at lease turn in. \$2500 trade-in guarantee is on 2004 thru 2014 model year vehicles with under 200,000 miles. Certain restrictions apply, see dealer for complete details on all incentives/offers. Sale ends 6/30/2017 @ 6:00PM.

