



Clark shows off a house before and after it was refurbished.

GM's Mary Barra Lauds Local Foundation's Efforts to Make Our State Roads Safer

by Jim Stickford

Making Michigan roads safe to drive is everybody's business.

That's why GM CEO Mary Barra was on hand at the Detroit Athletic Club on Aug. 28 when the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Keifer Foundation revealed their first-of-a-kind public/private partnership to improve safety on Michigan highways using protective cables to create median barriers.

The partnership between MDOT and the Keifer Foundation will involve investing \$300,000 to add 17 miles of protective cable median barrier on I-96 from Doan Creek to east of Dietz Road in Ingham County.

The Keifer Foundation was created by Steve Kiefer to honor his son Mitchell, who was killed a year ago on Sept. 19 when he was heading back to Michigan State.

His vehicle was struck from behind and pushed across the median into oncoming traffic. His car was hit by a truck and Mitchell Kiefer was killed.

The driver of the other vehicle was distracted at the time of the accident and didn't slow down as traffic in front of her slowed down.

Steve Kiefer said that if there had been a cable median barrier on I-96 in that part of Ingham County, his son would be alive today.

"Mitchell was an amazing per-

son," Kiefer said. "He was going to change the world. He still will through the foundation that was created to honor his memory."

Kiefer said that when he learned of his son's death, he and his family were devastated. But they had a choice. They could let this tragedy destroy them, or they could use the pain as motivation to do something that would honor Mitchell and help make the world a better place.

The family decided to do something positive, Kiefer said. So they created the Keifer Foundation to help with traffic safety and to raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

"Nine people are killed every day on American roads because of distracted driving," Kiefer said. "That's horrific. Distracted driving is a behavior issue, and we will work to change behavior. Just look back 20 years ago. The notion of drinking and driving has changed so much since then. The idea that people won't wear seat belts has changed."

"The idea that people will light up a cigarette in someone's car or in a restaurant has become almost a crime, yet we will tolerate someone grabbing a cell phone and using it while driving a multi-ton vehicle on public roads. We can fix this. We can end distracted driving and end deaths that result from it within five years if we try."

Barra said that GM is focused on road safety and making



Barra

cars safer. But 94 percent of crashes are caused by driver error.

"Vehicle safety is literally in our hands," Barra said. "That's why we're so excited about autonomous driving technology. It will make our roads so much safer. But it will be a long time before that technology becomes widespread. In the meantime, we can work with drivers to help make roads safer. That's why we are partnering with organizations

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Dealership Sales Swept Away by Hurricane Harvey

Though more than 1,000 miles from the Motor City, Hurricane Harvey will have a big impact on the auto industry.

The storm hit the city of Houston on Aug. 25 and according to the U.S. Weather Bureau dumped record amounts of rain on the city and its surrounding suburbs.

As a result, according to the *Associated Press*, billionaire Warren Buffett says the storm damage in Texas is staggering, but he isn't sure yet how much insurance companies will have to pay in claims.

Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate owns Geico and several other insurers, so his company will be helping people rebuild. Buffett appeared on CNBC Aug. 30 before dining with the person who paid nearly \$2.7 million in a charity auction for lunch with Buffett.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Chrysler Volunteers Witness Fruits of Rebuilding Labors

by Jim Stickford

Fiat Chrysler workers were on hand at a special Grace Centers for Hope event on Aug. 30.

A home rebuilt, in part, with the labor of volunteers from FCA's Supply Chain Management department was unveiled to the public.

The FCA workers were joined by volunteers from the Grace Centers for Hope at the ceremony. The home was refurbished as part of a larger effort by Grace Centers to provide housing for people who have gone through the Grace Centers' drug addiction program.

Pastor Kent Clark, president of Grace Centers, said they have been refurbishing homes in Pon-

tiac as part of a larger effort to build a community for recovering addicts.

Grace Centers has a 90-day rehab program, Clark said, but they found that all too often people who went through the program would relapse. So they started an aftercare program where graduates of the rehab program can learn how to live normal lives.

"Relapse is common," Clark said. "If a person comes to Grace and makes it through 90 days, there is a good chance they will finish the year-long aftercare program. We found that people will often relapse without a community to support them, so we went

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2017 Ford F-Series Super Duty



2017 Dodge Challenger



2018 Chevrolet Traverse

GM Sees a Strong August; Weather Affects Overall Sales

DETROIT (AP) – August was a strong month for U.S. auto sales but Hurricane Harvey is putting pressure on some of those gains.

General Motors said its sales rose 7.5 percent over last August, while Toyota's were up 7 percent and Volkswagen's rose 9 percent. GM said sales of its small SUVs, including the new GMC Acadia and Chevrolet Equinox, jumped 47 percent. Toyota and Volkswagen also had strong SUV sales.

But not everyone got a boost. Nissan's sales dropped 13 percent and Fiat Chrysler's sales were down 11 percent. Ford's sales fell 2 percent.

U.S. auto sales were initially expected to increase slightly in August compared with a year ago, but analysts say lower sales in the Houston area could erase at least some of those gains. Harvey likely cut U.S. sales of new cars and trucks by 1.3 percent, or 20,000 vehicles, in August, forecasting firm LMC Automotive said.

The Houston metro area is the

ninth-largest vehicle market in the nation.

Until the last Saturday of the month, August was shaping up to be a strong month at the eight Bayway Auto Group dealerships that Darryl Wischnewsky owns in the Houston metro area. Then came Harvey. None of Wischnewsky's dealerships suffered flooding or other damage in the storm, but he says other dealers up and down the freeways he has driven have lost all of their inventory and their buildings have been damaged.

His group, which includes Lincoln, Chevrolet, Fiat Chrysler,

Volkswagen and Volvo dealers, shut down on Saturday, Aug. 26, as the storm approached and just started reopening on Aug. 31. Losing the one Saturday alone probably cost 60 to 70 sales, Wischnewski said.

As part of the testing, re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Ford and Domino's are working on autonomous delivery cars.

Pizza Delivery Enters the Future Through Ford

It was an inevitable match made in automotive-mozzarella heaven – Ann Arbor-based Domino's and a Detroit automaker joining forces.

In this case, Domino's Pizza, the recognized world leader in pizza delivery, and Ford Motor Co. are launching an industry-first collaboration to understand the role that self-driving vehicles can play in pizza delivery, said Ford spokesman Alan Hall.

As part of the testing, re-

searchers from both companies will investigate customer reactions to interacting with a self-driving vehicle as a part of their delivery experience, Hall said. This research is important as both companies begin to examine and understand customers' perspectives around the future of food delivery with self-driving vehicles.

"As delivery experts, we've

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Former UAW Official Enters Guilty Plea

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) – A former United Auto Workers associate director has pleaded guilty to misusing money from Fiat Chrysler that was intended to train blue-collar workers.

Sixty-five-year-old Virdell King pleaded guilty Aug. 29 to one felony count of conspiracy to violate the Labor Management Relations Act. Under a plea agreement, she faces up to 16 months in prison and restitution payments of up to \$15,000. A judge set her sentencing for Jan. 3.

King is the second person (Jerome Durden) to plead guilty in the case. The government says former Fiat Chrysler labor executive Al Iacobelli provided UAW officials with credit cards linked to the company-sponsored training center. Iacobelli has pleaded not guilty.

The Detroit News reported that King and her attorney declined to comment after her appearance in U.S. District Court in Ann Arbor at the time of her sentencing.

Chrysler Volunteers Witness Fruits of Rebuilding Labors

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out and created a community for people in the aftercare program. It's so important to have a community to back you up and people you can rely on when you're fighting addiction."

Part of the aftercare program is coming up with housing for the men and women, and their children, who are in the aftercare program.

That's where FCA volunteers come in.

Grace Centers has been able to purchase – at auction – houses that have gone into foreclosure or have been abandoned. Clark said it should be no surprise to anyone that these homes aren't in good condition.

So, Grace, with the help of volunteers, refurbishes these homes.

Nestor Cerame, who works in Core Configuration at FCA's Supply Chain Management department, helped organize his fellow FCA employees to come in on Wednesdays during the summer to fix up a house. The home that was unveiled on Aug. 30 was the third house that FCA volunteers have fixed up for Grace Centers in the last three years.

"We came here on Wednesdays in groups of 10 or 15 for 14 weeks," Cerame said. "FCA encourages employees to volunteer their time and this job was listed on the company's Motorcitizens Web page. We decided to volunteer for this particular project because it gave us the chance to help people where we live so they can have a place to live."

Karl Mortensen heads up FCA's international supply chain. He said they've been proud to partner with Grace Centers for the past several years because it gives people a second chance.

"This program changes lives,"



The house (right) Chrysler volunteers refurbished for Grace Centers originally looked like the house on left.

Mortensen said. "And it pull our team together. We have people from different groups get together and work on a common goal that really helps people. Why wouldn't we want to be involved with this?"

Alessandra Cuzzocrea is a Process Integration Specialist in FCA's Supply Chain Management. She helped coordinate workers' schedules and assign jobs that needed to be done in the house to get it up to code.

Cuzzocrea said that the house needed a lot of work. Jobs included sanding, painting, scraping, landscaping and electrical work. But arranging the punch list for such a project was a pleasure, she said, because the cause was a good one and the people who volunteered their time and expertise made for a great team.

"I always want to say Chrysler when I talk about the people who have lent their time," Clark said. "But I know the company is FCA. Our annual budget is \$8 million and I am proud to call us faith-based. We have 107 moms and their children being helped along with 50 men."

It took more than 1,600 man-hours to get this house ready and thanks to FCA volunteers, the work was done. When companies and volunteers come together, they can change neighborhoods and help change the lives of people who really need our help."

Supplier Bulks Up for General Motors

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) – An auto parts supplier says it will expand its Indiana operations to provide components for the General Motors truck assembly plant in Fort Wayne.

Android Industries plans to spend nearly \$15 million on expanding its current Fort Wayne factory and opening a new plant nearby for sister company

Avancez. The suburban Detroit-based companies said last week they expect to start expanded production next summer and add about 300 jobs by the end of 2018.

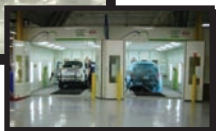
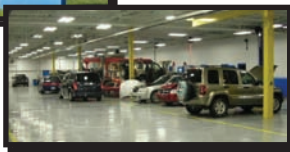
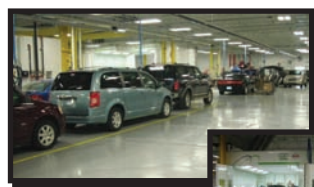
Android says it will produce headliners, radiator modules and other parts under new contracts with GM. Android now has about 70 workers in Fort Wayne.



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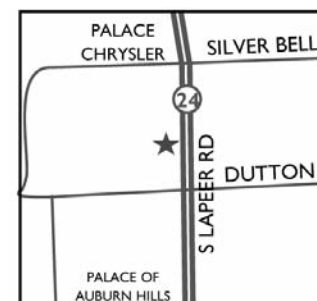
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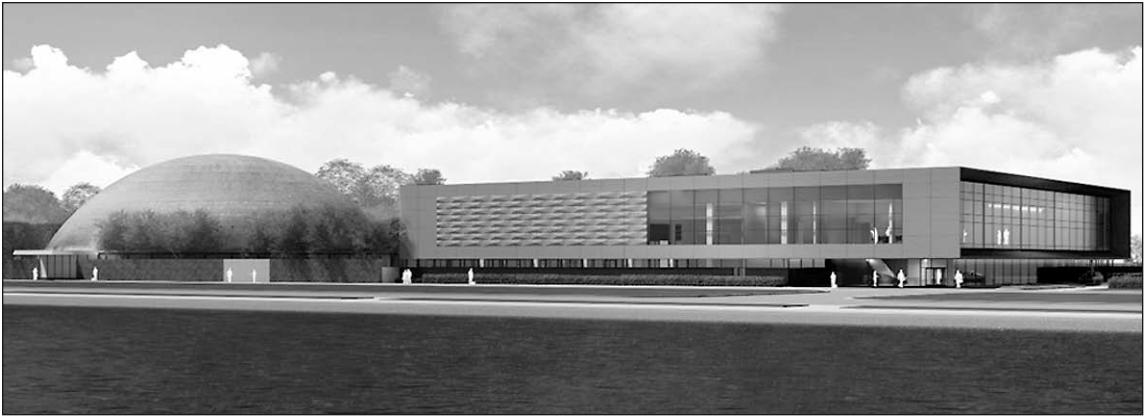
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Design Center Work Enters Its Final Phase



A rendering of the GM Design Center once construction, set to begin in 2018, is completed.

The end is nearer. Renovations to the GM Tech Center in Warren are now entering their final stage.

Since GM first announced that the company was making changes and improvements to the Tech Center in May of 2015, new parking structures have been built and the interiors of building such as the Vehicle Engineering Center (VEC) have been rearranged and updated with the latest technology.

On Aug. 30, GM unveiled the plans to a 360,000-square-foot expansion of the GM Design studios. This is the final stage of a multi-year \$1 billion investment in GM's Global Technical Center, a National Historic Landmark site, said GM spokeswoman Robyn Henderson.

GM will break ground in mid-2018 on the new studio building, which will surround the iconic Design Dome Auditorium and viewing patio and connect to the existing Design Center, Henderson said. A substantial two-to-three-year project, the new building's footprint first requires the completion of a new parking structure currently under way at the southwest corner of the campus.

"We can only begin to predict how mobility will change in future generations," said Michael Simcoe, vice president of Global Design. "Investing in our creative and skilled team and providing them with inspiring, modern spaces, new technologies and more ways to work together will foster innovation that leads to real solutions for customers."

GM's multiyear Technical Center campus investment has included new construction, significant renovations of some existing facilities and the expansion of some operations, Henderson said. Construction began in May 2015.

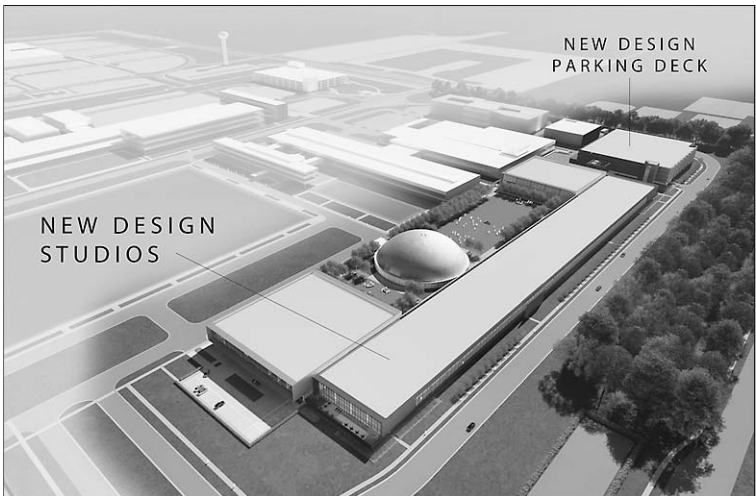
Significant building renovations include:

- Vehicle Engineering Center;
- Alternative Energy Center, including a new Structural Development Lab;
- Pre-Production Operations;
- Engineering West and South.

Design and construction for GM's new Design studios is managed by Walbridge, in partnership with SmithGroup JJR, which received an honor award from the American Institute of Architects for its work on the interior renovation of the GM Design Dome and Auditorium in 2014.

Simcoe, the seventh Design leader in GM history, has been instrumental in the development and expansion of other GM global design studios. Now past its 90th year, GM Design was established in 1927 as The Art and Colour Section by the legendary Harley Earl.

The Tech Center campus, designed by world-renowned architect Eero Saarinen and landscape architect Thomas Church, opened in 1956 and was the pinnacle of engineering, design and advanced technology at the time, Henderson



Rendering of how Design Center will look once construction is finished.

said. It was named a National Historic Landmark in 2014 by the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

In 2000, the campus was listed

on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1986, the American Institute of Architects honored the Tech Center as the most outstanding architectural project of its era.



Cable barriers can stop crashing cars from crossing medians.

GM Promotes Road Safety

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like the Kiefer Foundation. We want to help make sure that families don't get that phone call that will change lives forever."

State Transportaion Director Kirk Steudle, was also present at the announcement. He shared some facts about cable guard rails in Michigan.

Cable median barriers have been proved to reduce cross-median crash rates by 87 percent, Steudle said. They form a part of the state's Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) safety campaign. Since their introduction in 2008, more than 380 miles of cable barrier have been installed.

Brad Wieferich, director of MDOT's Bureau of Development,

was on hand and spoke to the media after the presentation.

He said the Kiefer Foundation's co-funding of the I-96 barrier is important because these barriers save lives, and anything that can be done to install more is a good thing. When asked why the state just doesn't put up more itself, Wieferich said that it's a matter of funding.

"Cable barriers are just one of the many safety programs MDOT has to consider when determining how to balance our resources," Wieferich said. "Determining this costs money. Surveys have to be done, and studies have to be made so that we know where we can spend money in a way that does the most good. This is just one safety program among many that need funding."



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GM Sees Stronger Sales Despite Weather

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“Just that one day in Houston, that’s thousands of cars,” he said. “I think it will probably affect the national numbers as well.”

Now service is busy, but buyers are few as people try to recover from the massive rainfall, so the Labor Day weekend is likely to be slow.

Sales are expected to pick up in September and October as people replace cars destroyed by floods. Black Book, a service that determines used car prices for dealerships, estimates total losses of 500,000 to 1 million cars in the Houston area due to Harvey’s rainfall. Vehicles also were damaged at around 500 dealers, the service said.

For August, automakers sent out these reports:

- General Motors Co. said its sales jumped 7.5 percent to 275,552. SUV sales were strong, as new SUVs like the GMC Terrain arrive in dealerships and dealers offer good deals on old

ones. GM also said its sales to rental car fleets rose 29 percent to 7,600 vehicles. But August was an anomaly; GM said it’s still on track to cut low-profit rental car sales by 50,000 vehicles this year.

- Ford Motor Co. said its sales fell 2 percent to 209,897. Ford sold more than 77,000 F-Series pickups in August, a 15 percent gain over last August. But its SUV and car sales were down.

“We continue to see customers choosing high trim-level F-Series trucks for Super Duty and with new 2018 F-150 orders. We are seeing high demand overall for our F-Series lineup this year, outpacing full-size truck segment growth 2 to 1 with a 15 percent increase for August,” said Mark LaNeve, vice president for U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service for Ford.

- Fiat Chrysler’s sales fell 11 percent to 176,033. Sales of some individual models, like the Jeep Grand Cherokee and Dodge Caravan, saw strong growth, but sales of the company’s best-seller, the Ram pickup, dropped 7 percent.

While FCA sales were down overall, FCA spokesman Ralph Kisiel said six FCA vehicles recorded their best August sales ever, including the Dodge Challenger and Chrysler Pacifica. The Jeep Compass, Jeep Renegade, Ram ProMaster and Ram ProMaster City also posted their best-ever August sales. The Jeep Grand Cherokee and Jeep Wrangler turned in double-digit percentage increases in August, compared with the same month a year ago.

The Dodge Grand Caravan posted a 62 percent year-over-year sales increase for its best August sales since 2004.

“We had a very strong month, and grew our retail and commercial fleet business on the strength of robust crossover sales at all four of our brands,” said Kurt McNeil, U.S. vice president of Sales Operations. “But our focus is on the unfolding crisis in Texas and what we can do to help our customers, employees, dealers and everyone else impacted by the flooding.”



No driver means customers walk to the car to get their pizzas.

Ford and Domino’s Bring Pizza Delivery into Future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been watching the development of self-driving vehicles with great interest as we believe transportation is undergoing fundamental, dramatic change,” said Patrick Doyle, Domino’s president and CEO. “We pride ourselves on being technology leaders and are excited to help lead research into how self-driving vehicles may play a role in the future of pizza delivery. This is the first step in an ongoing process of testing that we plan to undertake with Ford.”

As Ford builds out its business enabled by self-driving vehicles, Hall said conducting research with companies, like Domino’s, will be crucial to ensuring that the technology is applied in ways that enhance the customer experience. With a plan to begin production of self-driving vehicles in 2021, Ford is

taking steps to design a business to meet the needs of both partner companies and their customers.

“As we increase our understanding of the business opportunity for self-driving vehicles to support the movement of people and goods, we’re pleased to have Domino’s join us in this important part of the development process,” said Sherif Marakby, Ford vice president, Autonomous and Electric Vehicles. “As a company focused on the customer experience, Domino’s shares our vision for a future enabled by smart vehicles in a smart environment that enhance people’s lives.”

Over the next several weeks, randomly-selected Domino’s customers in Ann Arbor will have the opportunity to receive their delivery order from a Ford Fusion Hybrid Autonomous Research Vehicle, which will be manually-driven by a Ford safety engineer and staffed with researchers, Hall said.

Customers who agree to participate will be able to track the delivery vehicle through GPS using an upgraded version of Domino’s Tracker. They will also receive text messages as the self-driving vehicle approaches that will guide them on how to retrieve their pizza using a unique code to unlock the Domino’s Heatwave Compartment inside the vehicle.

“We’re interested to learn what people think about this type of delivery,” said Russell Weiner, president of Domino’s USA. “The majority of our questions are about the last 50 feet of the delivery experience. For instance, how will customers react to coming outside to get their food? We need to make sure the interface is clear and simple. We need to understand if a customer’s experience is different if the car is parked in the driveway versus next to the curb. All of our testing research is focused on our goal to someday make deliveries with self-driving vehicles as seamless and customer-friendly as possible.”

Local partner Roush Enterprises fabricated the prototype vehicle’s pizza container, Domino’s Heatwave Compartment, based on its experience working with Domino’s on the DXP delivery vehicle in 2015. Ford and Domino’s completed preliminary testing of the delivery process using the vehicle in self-driving mode at Mcity, the simulated urban environment on the University of Michigan’s campus, Hall said. The city of Ann Arbor also has been supportive of the testing process.

“I’m delighted that Ann Arbor continues to be at the forefront of autonomous-vehicle research,” said Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor. “While it’s pizza delivery today, my hope is that collaborations such as this will enable even more innovations tomorrow.”

Tesla Plant Starts Work on Solar Panels

DETROIT (AP) – Tesla Inc. is starting production of the cells for its solar roof tiles at its factory in Buffalo, N.Y.

The company has already begun installing its solar roofs, which look like regular roofs but are made of glass tiles. But until now, it has been making them on a small scale near its vehicle factory in Fremont, Calif.

Tesla’s Chief Technical Officer, JB Straubel, says the company now has several hundred workers and machinery installed in its 1.2-million-square-foot factory.

“By the end of this year, we will have the ramp-up of solar roof modules started in a substantial way,” Straubel told *The Associated Press* Aug. 31. “This is an interesting milestone that we’re pretty proud of.”

The Buffalo plant was originally begun by Silevo, a solar panel startup, on the site of an old steel mill. Solar panel maker SolarCity Corp. bought Silevo in 2014.

Then Tesla acquired SolarCity for around \$2 billion late last year. SolarCity was run by

cousins of Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who sat on SolarCity’s board.

“This factory, and the opportunity to build solar modules and cells in the U.S., was part of why this project made sense,” Straubel said.

Tesla’s partner, Panasonic Corp., will make the photovoltaic cells, which look similar to computer chips. Tesla workers will combine the cells into modules that fit into the roof tiles.

The tiles will eventually be made in Buffalo as well, along with more traditional solar panels.

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A New IIHS Study Proves Value Of Safety Tech

Lane-departure warning systems are having a tangible, positive impact on U.S. roadways, says a study released last week by the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS).

The study examined U.S. accident data from 2015 and found the technology reduced injury-causing crashes by 21 percent.

Which is why, said FCA spokesman Eric Mayne, technology available in Fiat Chrysler vehicles such as LaneSense Lane Departure Warning system, available on select FCA US vehicles, is helping keep roads safer.

“Our system gives subtle steering-wheel input to alert drivers to inadvertent lane departure and helps with corrective action,” Mayne said.

“This technology uses a camera-based vision sensor to establish the vehicle’s position on the road.”

If the system detects a lane shift without the turn signal being used, it triggers a visual or torque warning (felt as a slight nudge of the steering wheel) to the driver. If the driver drifts too far, the system provides a secondary visual warning.

To make the lane-departure warning technology more user-friendly, FCA engineers devised a way for drivers to fine-tune key features.

LaneSense Lane Departure Warning-Plus enables drivers to determine how close to a lane marker is too close for comfort.

With a simple tap of a touchscreen, drivers can (literally) check the box to select “early,” “medium” or “late” intervention in the form of brief input into the steering wheel, Mayne said.

Selecting “early” tailors the system to react with small movement toward the lane marker; the “late” setting lets the vehicle get closer to the marker before a warning is triggered. Similarly, the driver can control the intensity of the torque warning, choosing between “low,” “medium,” and “high.”

LaneSense Lane Departure Warning-Plus is available on these 2017 FCA US vehicles:

- Chrysler Pacifica minivan;
- Chrysler 300 and Dodge Charger sedans;
- Fiat 500X crossover;
- Jeep Renegade and Compass SUVs;
- Jeep Cherokee and Grand Cherokee SUVs;
- Dodge Durango SUV.

Michigan to Issue New Type of Driver’s License

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – Michigan on Aug. 27 started issuing driver’s licenses that residents eventually need to board domestic flights if they don’t have passports or other accepted documents.

New ID standards were created after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Starting in October 2020, compliant driver’s licenses or state IDs will be needed to fly or to visit federal buildings, nuclear plants and military bases unless other acceptable documents are provided.

There’s no extra fee for the card. Residents must bring birth certificates or other approved documents to secretary of state branches.

Residents should check their renewal notices see whether they’ve already complied with the new requirements.

The state of Michigan’s Secretary of State office already issues REAL ID-compliant licenses allowing travel from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and Caribbean nations.

INCREDIBLE NEWS! PROGRAM EXTENSION! August’s Huge Incentives Have Been Extended Thru Tuesday Sept. 5th!

With Incredible August Incentives Ending and Huge Customer Demand, Dick Huvaere’s Has Extended Tuesday Showroom Hours
1 DAY ONLY!
8:30 AM - 9:00 PM

Extended Sale Hours Final Day!

TUESDAY
8:30 AM TO 9:00 PM

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• Sound Group
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2017 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE 4X4
LEASE FOR \$118**
24 Mos. \$1095 due
Hottest Renegade Lease Deals
67 AVAILABLE
J7-80046

2017 HUVAERE AUGUST SPECIAL!
2017 JEEP PATRIOT HIGH ALTITUDE
J7-60179 J7-60074
4x2 LEASE FOR \$95** **4x4 LEASE FOR \$105****
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2017 DODGE JOURNEY GT AWD LEASE SPECIAL
D7-00307
Lease For \$159**
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Navigation and Backup Camera Group

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• Driver Convenience Group
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Lease For \$149**
24 Mo \$1395 Due

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J7-60179 J7-60074
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2017 Chrysler 300 S AWD **2017 Chrysler 300 S AWD With Navigation**
LEASE FOR \$155** **LEASE FOR \$155****
24 Mos. \$100 due 24 Mos. \$400 due
C7-31163 C7-31201

ALL NEW 2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L
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LEASE FOR \$209** **\$2000 HUVAERE CASH!**
24 Mos. \$1995 due Ask for Details.
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Jeep SPECIAL JEEP BUY SPECIALS
2016 Jeep Cherokee Latitude **2017 Jeep Patriot High Altitude 4x2** **2017 Jeep Patriot High Altitude 4x4** **2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 4x4**
SALE PRICE \$21,600 **SALE PRICE \$14,898** **SALE PRICE \$16,517** **SALE PRICE \$25,918**
J6-70458 J7-60179 J7-60074 J7-20202

2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4 **2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALTITUDE 4X4** **2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4**
LEASE FOR \$118** **LEASE FOR \$135**** **LEASE FOR \$169****
24 Mos. \$995 due 24 Mos. \$1995 due 24 Mos. \$1995 due
J7-20202 J7-20203 J7-20204

JUST ANNOUNCED! LEASE SPECIAL
2017 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE 4X4
LEASE FOR \$93*
36 Mos. \$1395 due
J7-80046

2017 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE 4X4
LEASE FOR \$213**
36 Mos. \$1995 due
J7-70113

2017 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4X4 **2017 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4X4**
LEASE FOR \$172** **LEASE FOR \$179****
36 Mos. \$1995 due 36 Mos. \$1995 due
J7-30089 J7-30162

FINAL DAY! Tuesday Sept. 5th is it for August’s Huge Incentives!

EXTENDED HOURS
8:30 AM - 9:00 PM
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2017 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4
2 YEAR/1 PAY LEASE \$2792** **LEASE FOR \$120****
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\$3000 HUVAERE CASH
D7-12678

2017 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 HEMI
2 YEAR/1 PAY LEASE \$3212** **LEASE FOR \$121****
24 Mos. \$675 due
\$3000 HUVAERE CASH
D7-13375

AUGUST RAM LEASE SPECIAL
2017 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 BIG HORN
LEASE FOR \$123** **2 YEAR/1 PAY LEASE \$4264****
24 Mos. \$1745 due
• 5.7 Hemi
• Big Horn
• Heated Seats and Wheel Group
• 26S Package
• Premium Interior
• And So Much More
D7-13228

#1 RAM Dealer in Michigan 2013/2014/2015/2016/2017
2017 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 NIGHT SPECIAL EDITION
LEASE FOR \$115**
24 Mos. \$800 due
• Night Edition
• Spray-in Bedliner
• Hitch
• Black Tubular Steps
D7-13514

2017 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 NIGHT EDITION
LEASE FOR \$125** **#1 RAM DEALER IN MICHIGAN**
24 Mos. \$1995 due
\$3000 HUVAERE CASH
D7-13489

2017 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 LARAMIE
#1 RAM STORE 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 **LEASE FOR \$198****
24 Mos. \$1995 due
\$3000 HUVAERE CASH
D7-13695

2017 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 REBEL
LEASE FOR \$218**
24 Mos. \$1995 due
• 8.4 Navigation
• Spray-in Bedliner
• 26W Package
\$3000 HUVAERE CASH
D7-13381

DODGE AUGUST LEASE SPECIAL!
2017 Dodge Journey GT AWD
D7-00307
Navigation and Backup Camera Group **LEASE FOR \$159****
24 Mos. \$95 due
Leather Interior All Wheel Drive
D7-00307

INCREDIBLE CHARGER LEASE SPECIALS
2017 DODGE CHARGER R/T 392
LEASE FOR \$226**
36 Mos. \$1995 due
• Beats Audio
• Power Sunroof
• Navigation
D7-71062

2017 DODGE CHALLENGER GT AWD **2017 DODGE CHALLENGER R/T**
LEASE FOR \$124** **LEASE FOR \$115****
24 Mos. \$1995 due 24 Mos. \$500 due
INCREDIBLE CHALLENGER LEASE SPECIALS!
D7-50087 D7-50165

2017 GRAND CARAVAN SE
SALE PRICE \$20,218 **LEASE FOR \$139****
24 Mos. \$1405 due
D7-40513

2017 DODGE DURANGO SXT AWD **2017 DODGE DURANGO GT AWD**
LEASE FOR \$167** **LEASE FOR \$245****
24 Mos. \$1995 due 36 Mos. \$1995 due
D7-30089 D7-30178

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GM Tracks How Millenials Spend Free Time

The younger generation travels differently than previous generations, and that's made a difference in GM's long-term plans. Millennials love to travel and socialize during the summer and they don't mind spending money to do it, said GM spokeswoman Annalisa Bluhm.

This information came from Maven, which surveyed more than 2,000 millennials ages 18-35 and profiled their social calendars, spending habits and summer adventures.

During summer 2017 (June 21-Sept. 23), the Maven survey showed that millennials on average will attend 37 events and spend an incredible \$1,300 on socializing, Bluhm said.

They also said they are much more likely to attend social events in the summer compared with the winter.

This generation also has unmet travel needs. More than one in three wish they had access to an SUV/crossover, and nearly two-thirds of those surveyed would travel 100 miles or more for an event, Bluhm said. In fact, 30 percent of millennials' social events take place outside of the town or city where they live.

Enter Maven, the personal mobility app offering hourly and daily vehicle rentals in 14 North American cities. Maven is helping with all that summer socializing by providing free gas and including 180 free miles per day in every reservation.

Maven is a personal mobility app that provides hassle-free, on-demand vehicle access for travel, work and everyday life. Consumers and businesses can choose from tech-savvy vehicles that fit every need: hourly rentals for errands, weekly rentals for freelance work, or monthlong reservations. Maven members enjoy all the benefits of car ownership without the hassle, upkeep and cost. All reservations include insurance (minus a deductible). Maven leverages GM's portfolio of Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles.

Members can use Maven four different ways:

- Maven Gig allows members to earn money on their own terms by providing a vehicle that can be used delivering goods or transporting people.
- Maven City offers vehicles with dedicated parking spots for easy city driving, and gas is included.
- Maven Reserve lets members in Maven city markets use a vehicle from seven to 28 days and comes with a \$100 gas card.
- Maven Home provides on-site car sharing for residential communities.

With Maven, millennials will always arrive in style to the pool party or barbecue, Bluhm said. Maven members – 80 percent of whom are millennials – can hit the road in a sporty crossover or SUV such as the Chevrolet Equinox and Tahoe, or the GMC Acadia, Buick Encore and Cadillac Escalade.

"Maven has a car for every occasion and experience," said Megan Stooke, Maven chief marketing officer. "From SUVs to

eco-friendly sedans, matching the best vehicle to the experience is part of what makes Maven a unique offering."

More than half noted that nice weather makes them more likely to attend or travel to a social event, followed closely by low gas prices, someone else driving, light traffic and access to a vehicle.

Additionally:

- 37 percent wish they had access to a vehicle with better gas mileage.
- \$851 spent per summer per person on travel costs alone (not including work-related travel).
- They spend 4 hours and 47 minutes per week traveling for non-work reasons and 62 hours traveling for social events each summer.
- 62 percent are more spontaneous during the summer.
- 63 percent are more likely to cancel social plans in colder months.

"This research reinforces that experiences for millennials are critically important," Stooke said. "Maven provides seamless connectivity through an on-demand app, available for use by the hour or by the day, allowing our members to be there for moments that matter. We are a key enabler."

Federal Judge Sentences VW Exec to Three Years

DETROIT (AP) – A Volkswagen engineer who had a key role in the company's diesel emissions scandal was sentenced Aug. 25 to more than three years in prison and a \$200,000 fine, a steeper punishment than prosecutors requested.

James Robert Liang, 63, knew the German automaker was cheating and worked to cover it up, U.S. District Court Judge Sean Cox said during the sentencing hearing in Detroit. The judge imposed a 40-month prison sentence.

"The conspiracy perpetrated a massive . . . and stunning fraud on the American consumer that attacked and destroyed the very foundation of our economic system," Cox said.

Liang, who faces deportation to Germany upon his release from prison, declined to speak on his own behalf. Prosecutors had requested a 36-month prison term and a \$20,000 fine.

Prosecutors said Liang was aware that VW used software to cheat U.S. emissions rules on nearly 600,000 diesel vehicles. His lawyer said he's not "greedy or immoral" but followed orders to keep his job and support his family.

"What occurred here was wrong," defense attorney Daniel Nixon said. "But he wasn't the mastermind. He was not motivated by greed."

Liang pleaded guilty last year to one count of conspiracy to defraud the government and agreed to cooperate with investigators. Liang had asked the judge to consider a sentence of probation and 1,500 hours of community service.

He is one of two VW employees to plead guilty. Earlier this month, Oliver Schmidt, 48, a former manager of a VW engineering office in suburban Detroit, pleaded guilty to conspiracy and fraud charges related to the scandal. He is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 6.

VW itself pleaded guilty in March to defrauding the U.S. government and agreed to pay \$4.3 billion in penalties, on top of billions more to buy back cars.

Others charged in the case are in Germany and out of reach. Volkswagen and U.S. environmental regulators announced agreement last month on a plan for the automaker to fix most of the diesel cars involved in the emissions cheating scandal.

Volkswagen has admitted that the cars were sold with illegal software programmed to turn on emissions controls during government lab tests and turn them off while on the road. Investigators determined that the cars emitted more than 40 times the legal limit of nitrogen oxide, which can cause respiratory problems in humans.

The company got away with the scheme for seven years until independent researchers reported it to government regulators.

Local Car Show To End 2017 Cruise Season

The Lakeshore chapter of the The Vintage Motor Car Club of America is holding its 21st annual car show on Sunday, Sept. 17, at Blossom Heath Park, 24800 Jefferson Avenue in St. Clair Shores.

The event begins at 10 a.m. and will last five hours, said club spokesman John Ambrogio.

"This is a popular event we hold every year," Ambrogio said. "There is absolutely no cost to spectators and we think this is a pretty good way for car buffs to end the summer car show and car cruising season."

Ambrogio said that show car registration will take place the day of the show and that all show cars must be parked on the field by 11 a.m. The cost of entering a show car is \$20.

A sale corral will also be held, Ambrogio said, as well as swap spaces. The fee for setting aside a space in either the corral or the swap space is \$15.

"Local car clubs affiliated with the VMCCA and our regions offer a great way to meet friends," Ambrogio said. "You don't have to own a car to belong to the VMCCA. If you enjoy old cars, you can join our club."

Those wishing to learn more about the show should call 586-293-1284. For swap show info, call 586-776-5373.

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\$178+ TAX WITH \$0 DOWN
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10,000 MILES
WITH LEASE CONQUEST • NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED
Equipped with 18" Alum Wheels, 2nd row bucket seats, Remote start, 7 passenger seating 6.5 touch screen radio, Bluetooth, Back up camera, Keyless Entry and More...



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\$197+ TAX WITH \$0 DOWN
24 MTH LEASE
10,000 MILES
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Equipped with 1.5L Turbo Engine, 7" touch screen radio, Onstar, Bluetooth, Keyless Entry Back Up Camera, Alum. Wheels, Deep Tinted Glass and More...

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Was \$39,990
Sale Price \$30,999*

The Best Price...
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24 MONTH LEASE
\$119* PER MONTH
\$999 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

2017 BUICK ENVISION "PREFERRED"



- COLOR TOUCH SCREEN RADIO!
 - REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY AND START!
 - REAR VISION CAMERA!
 - 18" ALUMINUM WHEELS!
 - PUSH BUTTON START!
 - BLUETOOTH FOR PHONE!
- STK# BG1220

Was \$36,795
Sale Price \$28,999*

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\$137* PER MONTH
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 - REAR VISION CAMERA!
 - ALUMINUM WHEELS!
 - HEATED MIRRORS!
 - BLUETOOTH FOR PHONE!
- STK# BG2169

Was \$28,360
Sale Price \$21,499*

The Best Price...
PERIOD!

24 MONTH LEASE
\$79* PER MONTH
\$999 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

2017 GMC ACADIA "SLE 1"



- COLOR TOUCH SCREEN RADIO!
 - KEYLESS OPEN AND START!
 - REAR VISION CAMERA!
 - 7 PASSENGER SEATING!
 - ALUMINUM WHEELS!
 - BLUETOOTH FOR PHONE!
- STK# BG1419

Was \$33,375
Sale Price \$25,599*

The Best Price...
PERIOD!

24 MONTH LEASE
\$129* PER MONTH
\$999 DOWN
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 - LED CARGO BOX LIGHTING!
 - REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY!
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- STK# BG1846

Was \$40,155
Sale Price \$31,499*

The Best Price...
PERIOD!

24 MONTH LEASE
\$189* PER MONTH
\$999 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

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- COLOR TOUCH SCREEN RADIO WITH NAVIGATION!
 - ENHANCED DRIVER ALERT PACKAGE!
 - REMOTE START AND ENTRY!
 - LEATHER-APPOINTED HEATED AND COOLED BUCKET SEATS!
 - 6" RECTANGULAR CHROMED ASSIST STEPS!
 - 20" CHROME WHEELS!
- STK# BG1250

Was \$58,120
Sale Price \$48,999*

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PERIOD!

36 MONTH LEASE
\$379* PER MONTH
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*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 doc fees and were valid at time of printing. GM Employee discount is required except where noted. Leases are 10,000 miles per year. Disposition fee may be required at lease turn in. \$1000 trade-in guarantee is on 2004 thru 2014 model year vehicles in drivable condition less reconditioning costs. No branded titles. Certain restrictions apply, see dealer for complete details on all incentives/offers. Sale ends 9/8/2017 @ 6:00PM.

Hurricane Harvey Effects Will Be Felt by Detroit OEMs



Flooded roads resulted in flooded vehicles in Houston.



Cars and homes were destroyed by Hurricane Harvey.



The Texas National Guard was called out to help maintain order.



Flooded roadways have made cleaning up after Hurricane Harvey difficult.



Hurricane Harvey turned Houston's roadways into waterways, hindering rescue of stranded citizens.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Buffett says the effects of Hurricane Harvey will linger for some time. He expects that 50,000 of the roughly 500,000 vehicles Geico insures in the area will be total losses.

Buffett says Berkshire hasn't written much catastrophe insurance in recent years because prices were too low, so that will limit the Omaha, Nebraska-based company's exposure.

The *Detroit News* reported Texas is the auto industry's second-largest market in the U.S. after California, and major portions of the state's southeast region are under water with little or no relief in sight.

Auto production in the state – led by General Motors Co. in Arlington and Toyota Motor Corp. in San Antonio – appears to have avoided major interruptions. The most immediate impact is being felt by dealers, many of whom have shut down operations and may have to wait weeks to know the full extent of damage to their properties and inventory.

With a large portion of southeast Texas effectively paralyzed by flood waters and continuing rainfall, near-term sales are likely to take a hit. As many as 20,000 to 40,000 new-vehicle sales could be delayed as a result of the storm, according to Cox Automotive estimates.

But a rebound is expected in the final months of the year as motorists replace damaged or totaled cars and trucks.

The cable financial channel CNBC reported that with hundreds of auto dealerships

closed and vehicle imports slowing down, or in some cases stopping completely, Hurricane Harvey is slamming the brakes on the auto industry in southeastern Texas.

By extension, the entire industry will feel the impact of the storm that continues to inundate the Houston area.

The channel's reporters spoke with AutoNation executive vice president Marc Cannon, who said that the company, which owns 18 dealerships in the Houston area, is making sure that employees are safe. Cannon said that AutoNation is also working to get its dealerships open, but that will take time.

Christopher Hopson, a senior analyst for IHS Markit, said that, from what they've heard, production of vehicles in and around Houston shouldn't be affected that much. GM has a truck plant in Arlington, Texas, near Dallas, and Toyota has a truck plant in San Antonio.

"While we haven't heard anything about the plants being shut down, that doesn't mean that a local single-source supplier down the supply chain hasn't been affected by the Harvey flooding," Hopson said. "In the past we've seen plants in places like Japan shut down after a natural disaster because the plants weren't affected, their suppliers were."

So, Hopson said, it's possible that some lesser-known area suppliers affected by the storm could cause problems later on.

As to the effect on sales, Hopson said that in the short term, those affected by Harvey will

probably be too busy doing other things to go out and buy cars.

But, if the numbers reported are correct and 500,000 vehicles have been flooded, then in the longer term OEMs could see a rise in sales.

"Detroit automakers account for about 60 percent of sales in the Houston market," Hopson said. "When those insurance checks start coming in, we will probably see a rise in sales as people replace vehicles they lost in the Harvey floods."

Detroit automakers are still in the process of determining what to do as a result of Hurricane Harvey. A Ford statement to the media, said, "We know that many dealers in the area have sustained significant damage.

"We are gathering information from local authorities and dealers so we can offer our assistance in the most effective way possible.

"The Ford Motor Company Fund is contributing \$100,000 to disaster relief efforts in Texas, following historic flooding in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. In addition, Ford Fund is matching up to \$50,000 in contributions to the American Red Cross, raising po-



Destroyed businesses could affect how fast Houston recovers.

tential assistance from Ford to \$200,000."

Fiat Chrysler spokesman Kevin Frazier said the company is encouraging employees to donate cleaning supplies.

"There are two organizations that we are encouraging people to donate to," Frazier said. "One is Disaster Relief At Work (DRAW). We have bins employees can drop off cleaning supplies at. We will take what is col-

lected to the DRAW facility in Waterford. The items will then be taken, along with whatever else DRAW collected, to Houston."

FCA is also encouraging employees to donate other essential supplies to bins that will be put out in plants and offices. The group "Stuff A Semi" is behind this effort, Frazier said. Employees will take what is donated to Stuff A Semi's facility in Troy for transportation to Houston.

2018 Equinox Turbo Hits Showrooms This Fall

Get ready to ignore your gas station.

The 2018 Chevrolet Equinox offers an EPA-certified 39 mpg on the highway (FWD model) with the available 1.6L turbo-diesel engine, said GM spokeswoman Tara Kuhn.

That number is expected to top the segment in highway fuel economy, with greater highway mileage than the 2017 Toyota RAV4 hybrid and Nissan Rogue hybrid.

A 577-mile cruising range (FWD) also means the Equinox diesel can drive farther between fill-ups, such as Chicago to Memphis, Tenn., or Boston to Richmond, Va., Kuhn said.

"Chevrolet continues to lead with technologies that offer customers more choice," said Steve Majoros, marketing director for Cars and Crossovers. "Our three-engine turbocharged Equinox lineup means we can provide drivers more options for the performance and efficiency they desire."

The new turbo-diesel engine is part of Equinox's trio of all-turbocharged propulsion systems. It is SAE-certified at 240 lb.-ft. of torque and incorporates a variable-geometry turbocharger that helps generate strong torque at low rpm and more horsepower at higher rpm, Majoros said. The engine also features stop/start technology to optimize efficiency in stop-and-go driving and it is compatible with B20 bio-diesel fuel.

"It is very fun to drive, with torque on demand at all speeds," said Dan Nicholson, vice president of Global Propulsion Systems. "In fact, the engine delivers 90 percent of peak torque between 1,500 and 3,250 rpm. The strong torque provides the feeling of a larger engine, with excep-

tional smoothness and quietness."

The 1.6L is a clean-sheet redesign developed entirely within General Motors, including the engine control system. Development was driven from GM's diesel product center in Torino, Italy, and involved more than 24,000 hours of computational analysis, while simulated and real-world testing totaled more than 4.35 million miles of driving.

The new 2018 Equinox is a fresh and modern compact SUV featuring an expressive design, increased cargo space, the latest connectivity, expanded roster of available safety features and new range of turbocharged engines, Kuhn said.

Purposeful technologies are designed to help keep passengers safe, comfortable and connected, Majoros said.

Teen Driver is offered along with safety features such as Safe-

ty Alert Seat, Surround Vision, Forward Collision Alert with Following Distance Indicator and more.

It is on sale now, starting at \$24,475, including destination

charges. The turbo-diesel engine starts at \$31,435, including destination, when it goes on sale this fall.

Tax, title, license and dealer fees are extra.



The 2018 Equinox will have a turbo-diesel option for customers.

Volkswagen Has Recall Over Bad Pumps

DETROIT (AP) – Volkswagen is recalling almost 281,000 CC and Passat sedans and wagons in the U.S. because the fuel pumps can fail and cause the cars to suddenly stall.

The recall covers the CC from the 2009 through 2016 model years, as well as the Passat sedan and wagon from 2006 through 2010.

All have four-cylinder gasoline engines.

Volkswagen says in government documents that the fuel pump control computer can lose electrical power.

That can stop gas from flowing and cause the engine to stop running.

That problem also can make the fuel pump continue running after the car is shut off.

Volkswagen will notify owners about the problem in October and send a second letter when replacement computers are available.

Dealers will swap out the computers and move them so they are less susceptible to mechanical stress and heat.

Volkswagen says it has no reports of crashes or injuries in the United States caused by the problem.

An investigation by Chinese authorities started last year brought a recall in that country, and that touched off the recall in the United States, according to documents filed by Volkswagen with the United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

A Volkswagen spokesman in the United States did not know how many cars were recalled in China or if the recall had been done elsewhere around the world.

Nissan Enters Into Chinese Electric Deal

BEIJING (AP) – Automakers Renault and Nissan say they will develop electric cars with a Chinese state-owned partner, adding to a series of tie-ups between global auto brands and local partners in the biggest electric vehicle market.

The venture Dongfeng Motor Corp. aims to develop a vehicle based on an SUV platform shared by Renault and Nissan, the companies announced Aug. 29. Production is due to begin in 2019.

Global automakers are investing heavily to develop electric vehicles for China, responding to rising demand and government pressure on the industry to speed up technology development.

Chinese planners see electric

as a promising industry and a way to clean up smog-choked cities.

They have supported sales with subsidies to buyers, while a proposed quota system will require automakers to meet targets for electric vehicle production or buy credits from competitors that do.

Sales of pure-electric and gasoline-electric hybrids in China rose 50 percent last year over 2015 to 336,000 vehicles, accounting for 40 percent of global demand. U.S. sales totaled 159,620.

Renault SA and Nissan Motor Corp. have a wide-ranging alliance to share technology and production that also includes Mitsubishi Motors Corp. and has

more limited ties with other auto brands.

Dongfeng assembles vehicles for Nissan, Kia and other foreign brands and owns a share of France's PSA Peugeot Citroen.

"The establishment of the new joint venture with Dongfeng confirms our common commitment to develop competitive electric vehicles for the Chinese market," said Carlos Ghosn, chairman and CEO of the Renault-Nissan alliance, in a statement.

Ford Motor Co. announced last week it was looking at setting up a possible electric car venture with a Chinese partner. General Motors Co., Volkswagen AG and other brands also have announced plans to manufacture electric vehicles in China.

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NAIAS Creates New Platform for Auto Show

The North American International Auto Show (NAIAS), in partnership with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), unveiled on Aug. 24 a business-to-business and business-to-industry connection platform that will be a first-ever at an auto show.

“Last year was a great inaugural event of the AutoMobili-D platform at the North American International Auto Show,” Governor Rick Snyder said. “Next year will be even better because in Michigan, we’re always seeking ways to improve. More people will be able to see how connected and autonomous vehicles are being developed and how they can change our lives for the better.”

“By adding matchmaking meetings, we also can use this platform to explore more business development opportunities in our growing mobility sector. I’m looking forward to the 2018 show and the potential it has for all of Michigan.”

Through the expanded partnership, MEDC, PlanetM and NAIAS, along with Techstars Mobility, will curate a series of vetted, prescheduled meetings that provide AutoMobili-D exhibitors with new business and industry connections, said NAIAS spokesman Max Muncey. The matchmaking will occur on Monday and Tuesday (Jan. 15-16) of Press Days, as well as Wednesday (Jan. 17), the first Industry Preview day.

Through this platform, participating AutoMobili-D companies will now be able to connect and meet with four key audience groups:

- Automakers;
- Startups;
- Suppliers;
- Venture Capitalists.

“AutoMobili-D provides the ideal platform to launch these auto show-first initiatives in front of tens of thousands of mobility-focused individuals,” said Ryan LaFontaine, 2018 NAIAS chairman.

“Companies and individuals participating in AutoMobili-D will be able to forge new connections and collaborations through these platforms the State of Michigan is launching.”

The inaugural launch of AutoMobili-D in 2017 featured more than 180 brands, ranging from automakers to suppliers to tech startups, as well as universities and government organizations, said Muncey.

From John Krafcik debuting the fully autonomous Chrysler Pacifica, to Carlos Ghosn providing insights into Nissan’s plans for a connected future, to Julia Steyn on Maven’s outlook on urban mobility as a “service,” these industry leaders and many others took the stage and delivered more than 40 hours of mobility-focused announcements and discussions.

“To continue to be perceived as a true global leader, our show needs to bring dynamic, industry-leading opportunities to our partners and attendees,” said Rod Alberts, NAIAS executive director.

“No other event in North America provides an international platform for this vast array of companies, organizations and thought leaders under one roof.”

The MEDC will play a significant role in supporting AutoMobili-D in 2018, Muncey said.

PlanetM, the state’s partnership branding initiative to foster, retain and grow the mobility sector and position Michigan, as the global epicenter for future transportation, will spearhead many new initiatives during the 2018 show, including the previously announced Future Automotive Career Exposition (FACE).

At FACE, participating AutoMobili-D companies will have the opportunity to interact face-to-face with qualified candidates and fill needed positions across a wide array of disciplines at the first weekend of Public Show (Jan. 20-21).

The 2018 AutoMobili-D will be expanding by 30,000 square feet and now will encompass 150,000 square feet to accommodate the increased interest from new companies and returning ones alike.

Limited exhibit and sponsorship opportunities are still available for AutoMobili-D.

Michigan Firm Donates Boats To Harvey Vics

MUSKEGON, Mich. (AP) – A western Michigan company is sending about 2,000 kayaks to parts of Texas and Louisiana to help with flooding relief and rescue efforts following Harvey.

Retailer Walmart is buying the kayaks from Muskegon-based KL Outdoor, according to WOOD-TV. KL Outdoor is covering the shipping costs, said Chuck Smith, its chief executive.

Walmart will sell or donate them in areas hit hard by the storm, said Smith, who added that the retailer contacted his company.

“They said, ‘Look, we’re interested in shipping a couple thousand boats down into Louisiana and Texas. Can you guys help us out?’” Smith told the television station.

Harvey made landfall Aug. 25 along the Texas Gulf Coast as a Category 4 hurricane. Officials have since received thousands of calls and pleas for rescue.

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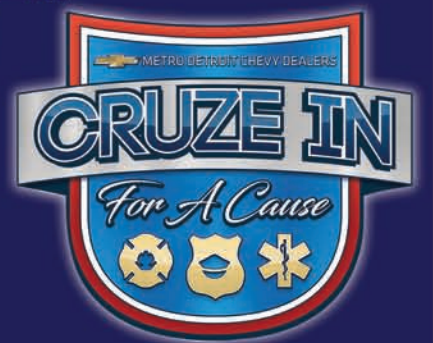
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