

## GM's Global Propulsion Systems Division Celebrates Joy and Fun of Race Drifting

by Jim Stickford

Every now and then, the folks at GM's Global Propulsion Systems (GPS) department in Pontiac get treated to something called "Cars in the Commons."

This is where vehicles are put on display in the GPS's common area by the cafeteria in the main GPS building. People talk about the cars and what's interesting about them.

On Oct. 4, GPS employees got treated to a discussion on the sport known as drifting.

Drifting, made famous in the "Fast and the Furious" movies, is the art of performing a controlled skid around a corner. Wikipedia defines drifting as "when the rear slip angle is greater than the front slip angle, to such an extent that often the front wheels are pointing in the opposite direction to the turn (e.g., car is turning left, wheels are pointed right or vice versa, also known as opposite lock or counter-steering)."

Those attending the "Cars in the Common" talk on Oct. 4, got to see drifting vehicles owned by four GPS employees who practice the sport in their spare time. They all work as Lead Dyno Calibrators at GPS.

One of the presenters was Van Blanco. He is under 30 and got into drifting after his friend Matt Bush took him to a track in 2016.

Blanco said he had a blast and has loved the sport ever since. His drift vehicle is a 1992 Nissan 240SX fastback with a LS6 engine from a C5 ZL6 Corvette.

Blanco said the best drifting cars are light, but many light cars don't come with a lot of horsepower, so it's common for people like him to swap out engines to give their drift cars more power.

Drifting is best done on profes-

sional tracks and raceways, Blanco said. Those living in metro Detroit have a number of options as to where to go. These tracks have special events, and that makes drifting a social event as well as plain fun.

Tracks within a few hours' drive include Auto City Speedway in Clio, Flat Rock Speedway in Carleton, Gingerman Raceway in South Haven, Kil-Kare Speedway in Xenio, Ohio, Midvale Speedway in New Philadelphia,

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Blanco in front of his 1992 Nissan 240SX drift car with a Corvette engine.



IIHS crash tests showed the 2018 Giulia has earned top safety ratings.

## Giulia Gets Safety Points

Great beauty and safety are not mutually exclusive.

In its inaugural model year, the 2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia mid-size premium sedan earned a 2017 Top Safety Pick+ (TSP+) rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

"The Giulia represents the height of Alfa Romeo engineering and technology, so no effort was spared when it came to the vehicle's performance and safety features," said Reid Bigland, head of Alfa Romeo.

"We're honored to receive this award from IIHS as it shows our commitment to creating state-of-the-art vehicles."

The TSP+ designation is contingent upon achieving ratings of "good" in five IIHS crashworthiness evaluations, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Berj Alexanian. The 2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia achieves "good" – the highest possible rating – in each.

To achieve the 2017 TSP+ designation, vehicles must also perform well in IIHS' Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) system and Headlamp evaluations, Alexanian said.

The Giulia achieved a rating of "superior," the highest possible rating for AEB, as well as a

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## Nissan Forced to Recall 1.2 Million More Vehicles

TOKYO (AP) – Nissan is recalling 1.2 million vehicles in Japan that were produced between October 2014 and September of this year to re-inspect them because they had not gone through the proper final checks.

Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co. said Oct. 2 that a team, including an independent third party, was investigating the cause of the oversight and promised to prevent a recurrence. The problem does not affect Nissan vehicles sold outside Japan.

The failure is not believed to have affected vehicle safety as they were final-stage checks, according to the Yokohama-based maker of the March subcompact, Leaf electric car and Infiniti luxury models.

Nissan Chief Executive Hiroto Saikawa told reporters the oversight occurred at all six Nissan plants in Japan. He acknowledged not enough had been done to ensure inspection staff were aware of inspection requirements. He estimated the recalls and re-inspections would cost Nissan about 25 billion yen (\$222 million), but stressed final costs were still unclear.

The inspection oversight is an embarrassment for Nissan. Nissan temporarily stopped registering new vehicles in Japan last week, after the government notified the company it had noticed inspection irregularities.

The auto industry has been hit by a series of recent scandals. Volkswagen acknowledged in 2015 that it had equipped its diesel cars with illegal software that enabled cheating on U.S. emissions tests.



2018 Ram ProMaster



2018 Ford Transit Cargo Van



2017 Chevrolet City Express

## September Sales Figures Show Some Surprising Strength

General Motors showed a 12 percent year-over-year increase in total sales in September to 279,397 units, driven by a 17 percent increase at Chevrolet and a 9 percent increase at GMC, said GM spokesman Dan Flores.

- Crossover deliveries were up 43 percent, trucks were up 10 percent and passenger cars were down 11 percent.

- Retail deliveries, which accounted for about 80 percent of sales, were up 8 percent for GM's best September retail perform-

ance since 2007. GM's U.S. retail share is estimated to be up 0.6 percentage points.

- Commercial and government deliveries were up 25 percent and 38 percent, respectively. GM has gained U.S. Commercial market share for 14 consecutive months.

- Sales for the Chevrolet Express van were up 15 percent compared to September 2016. Sales went from 5,663 to 6,514.

"Our new crossovers from Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac

have been very well-received and Chevrolet had an outstanding month with the Silverado and Colorado," said Kurt McNeil, U.S. vice president of Sales Operations. "We are entering the fourth quarter with strong momentum, great products and a healthy economy."

GM Chief Economist Mustafa Mohatarem said all the key U.S. economic indicators point toward continued economic growth and stability. In addition, regions devastated by the recent

hurricanes will continue to recover, helping spur new and used vehicle sales.

"The overall strength of the U.S. economy is the main force driving the market," he said. "With the U.S. economy strengthening, retail sales should remain strong for the foreseeable future."

The September sales news from Ford was also good.

"Our September sales were

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Ford is raising breast cancer awareness with this NASCAR vehicle.

## Ford Uses Racing in Fight Against Breast Cancer

Promoting awareness about breast cancer is important, which is why Ford and race car driver Danica Patrick have teamed up.

Patrick drove the No. 10 Ford Warriors in Pink Fusion race car this weekend in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Apache Warrior 400 at Dover International Speedway on Oct. 1.

The debut of the special Warriors in Pink comes just in time for Breast Cancer Awareness

month, and marks Ford's decades-long commitment to raising awareness and funds in the fight against the disease, said Ford spokeswoman Ansleigh Scholtes. Patrick also took to the track again with the Warriors in Pink Fusion Oct. 8 for the Bank of America 500 at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Patrick's No. 10 race car displays the warrior symbol to honor

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Oakland County  
Charities Get  
Help, Money

Local philanthropist Rick Frazier, founder of Others First, awarded five charitable organizations a total of \$50,000 last week to help veterans and children.

Others First, a car donation charity, raised the funds. Frazier then asked Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson to identify the organizations to each receive \$10,000.

“Others First is a phenomenal program that helps members of our community who are in need, such as veterans and children,” Patterson said. “I was delighted to work with my staff to name the recipient organizations.”

Those organizations are Fisher House Michigan, Great Lakes National Cemetery Advisory Council, Oakland County Veterans’ Services, The Rainbow Connection, and Yellow Ribbon Fund.

“Others First is pleased to support these five charities and is grateful to the generous car donors who make donations like this possible,” Frazier said.

Barra Maps Out Future for General Motors’ EV Vehicles

by Jim Stickford

General Motors has revealed its plans to implement its vision of a world with zero crashes, zero emissions and zero congestion.

On Oct. 2, GM Chairman and CEO Mary Barra talked about GM’s future plans.

In the next 18 months, Barra said, GM will introduce two new all-electric vehicles based off learnings from the Chevrolet Bolt EV. They will be the first of at least 20 new all-electric vehicles that will launch by 2023.

Given customers’ various needs, getting to a zero emissions future will require more than just battery electric technology, Barra said. It will require a two-pronged approach to electrification – battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell electric depending on the unique requirements.

Barra also introduced SURUS – the Silent Utility Rover Universal Superstructure – a fuel-cell-powered, four-wheel steer concept vehicle on a heavy-duty truck frame that’s driven by two electric motors. With its capability and flexible architecture, SURUS could be used as a delivery vehicle, truck or even an ambulance – all emissions-free.

“General Motors believes in an all-electric future,” said Mark Reuss, General Motors executive vice president of Product Development, Purchasing and Supply Chain.

“Although that future won’t happen overnight, GM is committed to driving increased usage and acceptance of electric vehicles through no-compromise solutions that meet our customers’ needs.”

Stephanie Brinley, a senior analyst for IHS Markit, said that while the Oct. 2 presentation was



The Bolt EV is just the first of many EVs that GM is planning to unveil by the year 2023.

unexpected, it shouldn’t have been a surprise because it’s been apparent that GM has been working on developing new EVs for the past several years.

“Given the conversation about EV in the public, you had to know that something was coming,” Brinley said. “GM wants people to be aware of what they have coming. Electrification is big and companies like Tesla have changed the conversation.”

But, Brinley said, while Tesla has gotten a lot of press and publicity, the move to develop new EVs is being driven more by changes in regulations. OEMs have to produce vehicles that improve their mileage averages and reduce emissions.

Additionally, China is the world’s biggest car market and that country’s leadership has been making noise about getting rid of vehicles powered by the internal combustion engine. It’s adapt or die time, Brinley said.

“There will not be a time where there won’t be demands for im-

provement,” Brinley said. “Even if we totally get away from gasoline-powered vehicles, cars still run on energy. How will that energy be generated? We use energy to move ourselves and we will always be looking for better ways to do that.”

And right now, GM seems to be in a good position in the EV marketplace, Brinley said. The Bolt EV has just been put on sale nationally, and people are buying it.

“GM has been able to develop technology to move forward with EVs,” Brinley said. “They are developing drivetrains that are affordable, and reliable.”

Plus, Brinley said, GM has a dealer network that is extensive. People interested in their vehicles can just go down the street and see the vehicles in question. That’s convenient and puts the company in a strong position to sell their product.

Brinley also noted that in Barra’s speech, GM had several vehicles under wraps, literally. The shape of the vehicles indicates

that GM is making all sorts of different vehicles for all sorts of markets, and that’s smart.

What works in the U.S. might not work in China, and visa versa.

“If GM’s goal is to reach 20 fuel cell or battery vehicles by 2023, they will have to have multi-brand and multi-use vehicles,” Brinley said. “Maybe all 20 won’t be available in every market. This revelation is about where GM wants to go in the future. By showing the outline of the vehicles and keeping them under wraps, it shows that GM has product development going on a wide scale.”

Brinley said she’s driven the Bolt EV and that the vehicle is a great product with a great range. That’s been a problem with getting people to adopt a true EV. The Bolt EV’s performance and range answers that problem.

There is a shortage of EV infrastructure, Brinley said. But that just means there’s room for improvement. Overall, she expects GM’s upcoming EV vehicles to be strong.

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Oakland County  
Seeking 'Elite  
40 Under 40'

If you know a young entrepreneur, community leader, teacher or any person who has made significant contributions to their chosen field and the quality of life in the region and you want them recognized for their good work, don't keep it a secret, said Oakland County spokesman Steve Huber.

Nominations are being accepted for the Oakland County Executive's Elite 40 Under 40 Class of 2018. County Executive L. Brooks Patterson started the program in 2012 to honor young professionals and thought leaders who excel in their field and have demonstrated dynamic leadership.

“The first six classes of Elite 40 members are composed of incredibly talented men and women – some in their early 20s – who are passionate leaders who are making a difference in their communities, at their jobs and in people’s lives every day,” Patterson said. “The problem won’t be finding 40 exceptional people for the Class of 2018. The challenge will be limiting the class to only 40 people. I encourage you to submit a name for consideration or even enter yourself.”

Nominees must live or work in Oakland County to be eligible, Huber said. To submit a candidate, go to [www.AdvantageOakland.com/Elite40](http://www.AdvantageOakland.com/Elite40). Nominations must be in by Oct. 30.



## General Motors Employees Share Their Love of Drifting

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Ohio and Lake Erie Speedway in North East, Pa., Blanco said.

People interested in learning more about these tracks and their drifting events, can go online, Blanco said.

Riccardo Gonzalez also spoke about drifting, giving a brief history of the sport. His drift car is a 1995 Nissan 240SX.

Drifting got its start in Japan's underground racing. It proved so popular that it became a mainstream sport.

Drifting moved over to California, where it found a place in that state's underground racing world. And, like in Japan, it became popular and mainstream, Gonzalez said. By 2003, formal organizations were set up for drifting.

In the U.S., the first drifting cars were usually Asian, but as drifting evolved, Gonzalez said, drifters began using U.S. vehicles.

As to how people can get involved, Ray McDivitt, whose drift car is a 2003 Nissan 350Z, said it's actually pretty easy.

Drifting races don't rely on times. So people don't have to worry about going fast. Drifting is about having fun and looking good doing it.

"You can start with a regular car, if you want," McDivitt said. "You can soup up a car for drifting, too. You'll want something lightweight preferably. Something sturdy and with power and most people use a car with a clutch. There are some automatics, but they're rare."

Basically, McDivitt said, to drift, a person only needs three things – a fire extinguisher, a good helmet and a car with "a locking differential."

"You don't need to build a drift car right off the bat," McDivitt said. "You can go to a track where a drifting event is taking place and ask someone if it's OK to be a passenger in a drift event. There are a lot of drift drivers who carry a spare helmet in case someone asks. That way, you can see if the sport is for you."

"There are no times in drift



From left, Gonzalez, McDivitt, Mejia and Blanco talk about drifting as a hobby.

events. You go out and move. There aren't a lot of awards, but there are events where three judges determine who did it best. Drifting is basically just a lot of fun."

Harrison Mejia also spoke, saying that the nice thing about drifting is that drivers will help

people learn the ins and outs of drifting. His drift car is a 1990 Nissan 240SX.

One thing that really helps beginners is having consistent front tires. And having hydraulic hand brakes, while not required, is very useful.

Those wishing to make the

move from amateur to the pro level really should think about getting a vehicle with at least 300 horsepower, Mejia said.

"You don't need to be crazy experienced to be a drifter," Mejia said. "But you do need good rear tires. You actually need good grip to drift. It's a common misper-

ception that people have that drift cars need less grip."

Blanco said those interested in seeing a drifting event can go to Flat Rock Speedway on Sunday, Oct. 15. Another event is being held at Auto City Speedway on Oct. 28.

McDivitt said that he gets a lot of questions about tires.

"We actually don't go through that many tires if you get good ones up front – unless you smoke them up," McDivitt said.

"You also don't need that much power in your car."

"I mean people like drifting with powerful cars, but it's also true that it's more fun to drive a slow car fast than a fast car slow."

McDivitt said when learning to drift, people don't need a car with a hand brake. That can be a crutch that people rely on. Learning to drift without a hand brake forces people to learn the fundamental techniques of the sport. Then they can get a hand brake.

Another question from the audience was do drifters really need locked differentials in their specialized drifting vehicles. Gonzalez said the answer to that question was yes.

"Having an open differential will fight you when drifting," Gonzalez said. "So having a locked diff is something you want."

## Ford Uses Racing in Fight Against Breast Cancer

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the powerful, courageous women and men engaged in the fight against breast cancer, Scholtes said. Symbols are a key part of the inspirational message Ford Warriors in Pink represents – serving to uplift those who exhibit strength and courage in the face of their greatest battle.

"The Ford Warriors in Pink race car really looks great," said Patrick, one of the most successful women in the history of motorsports now driving for Stewart-Haas Racing.

"Cancer impacts all of us. I bet there are very few people out

there who don't know someone impacted by breast cancer. My friend had a double mastectomy as a preemptive strike because she actually tested positive for the breast cancer gene. She went through everything and hopefully avoided it, but it hit close to home.

"If we all work together, we can help make a difference. Whether it's starting a conversation or inspiring donations, every little bit helps. That's why I'm proud to drive the Warriors in Pink Fusion to help raise awareness for the cause."

As a preview to marking Breast Cancer Awareness month,

Patrick helped kick things off with Ford Warriors in Pink by surprising patients with racing lessons at Chicagoland Speedway Sept. 20, Scholtes said. These special events being held across the country are designed to help tap into a newfound fearlessness patients and survivors tend to experience by giving them free access to engage in new thrills and challenges.

To empower people to take action and support their loved ones, Ford Warriors in Pink launched its More Good Days initiative in 2015. Since then, the program has delivered more than 80,000 More Good Days experi-

ences across the country – ranging from rides to treatment centers to special patient surprises, including racing lessons and more.

"Each year, we ask ourselves what more we can do," said Tracy Magee, Ford Warriors in Pink brand manager. "Through strategic collaborations and engaging experiences, we hope to continue to raise awareness and encourage friends, families and loved ones to help in simple but meaningful ways."

Ford Warriors in Pink has been working for 23 years to help breast cancer patients and their families, Scholtes said.

## New Study Shows Dangers From Infotainment

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) – Infotainment systems in automobiles may help drivers stay plugged in, but they can also cause them to zone out.

That's the conclusion from new research on distracted driving released Oct. 5 by AAA's Center for Driving Safety and Technology.

In the study, University of Utah researchers found that drivers using in-vehicle technologies like voice-based and touchscreen features could be visually and mentally distracted for more than 40 seconds when completing tasks like programming navigation or sending a text message.

Researchers say removing eyes from the road for just two seconds doubles the risk of a crash.

AAA Mid-Atlantic says Delaware State Police reported almost 6,100 crashes last year in which driver inattention, distraction, or fatigue was a contributing factor. That's an increase of almost 11 percent over 2015.

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IIHS gave the new Giulia, after testing, top marks for safety.

## Giulia Earns Safety Ratings

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“good” rating for headlamps, which is also the highest rating.

The designation is the result of the new Alfa Romeo Giulia innovative safety and security features and leverages state-of-the-art driver-assist features, Bigland said. The latest Alfa Romeo premium mid-size sedan offers driver-assistance features that include:

- Full-speed Forward Collision Warning – Plus with Full Stop: provides autonomous braking and, under certain circumstances, slows or brings the vehicle to a full stop when a frontal collision is imminent.
  - Adaptive Cruise Control – Plus with Full Stop: helps to maintain distance from the vehicle ahead and, under certain traffic conditions, the system can bring the Giulia to a full stop without driver intervention and resume driving once the vehicle ahead has moved forward.
  - Lane Departure Warning: alerts the driver of an inadvertent lane departure.
- To assist the driver both on the road and in parking situations, Blind-spot Monitoring,

Rear Cross Path detection and front- and rear-park assist sensors are offered on Giulia.

In addition, the Alfa Romeo Giulia features advanced multi-stage driver and front-passenger air bags; driver and front-passenger seat-mounted side air bags (pelvic-thorax); front and rear side curtain air bags; and driver and front-passenger inflatable knee air bags.

## U.S. Government Orders VW Recall

DETROIT (AP) – VW is recalling nearly 74,000 SUVs in the U.S. because a fuel pump flange can develop cracks and leak gasoline. The recall covers Touareg SUVs with gasoline engines from 2004 to 2007.

It’s part of a larger recall announced in July by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration involving flanges made by parts supplier Continental that could affect millions of vehicles.

The agency is investigating which vehicles are affected.

Owners will be notified starting Nov. 19.

## BorgWarner Offering EV Parts Solutions

BorgWarner, a global provider in clean and efficient technology solutions for combustion, hybrid and electric vehicles, offers the growing hybrid and electric commercial vehicle market a broad product portfolio to help meet emissions regulations and fuel economy goals.

The hybrid and electric commercial vehicle market is expected to experience a 32.9 percent compound annual growth rate (CAGR), increasing from 49,000 units in 2017 to 115,000 units in 2020, said BorgWarner spokeswoman Katya Pruett.

“The growth drivers in commercial vehicle propulsion systems are changing. While environmental impact and fuel economy continue to be key concerns, truck and transit fleets are now confronted with new challenges from a growing list of urban areas where combustion engines are restricted due to zero-emissions zones and noise-sensitive areas,” said Christopher P. Thomas, Chief Technology Officer, BorgWarner.

“BorgWarner’s latest technologies will help bring new, cleaner hybrid and electric options to larger fleet vehicles.”

Featuring patented High Voltage Hairpin (HVH) stator winding technology, BorgWarner’s versatile HVH410 and HVH250 electric motors provide industry-leading power and torque densities with a power output of up to 402 horsepower and peak efficiencies of over 95 percent.

HVH410 electric motors deliver a maximum torque of 2,000 Nm for class 7 and 8 hybrid and electric applications, while HVH250 electric motors deliver a maximum torque of 425 Nm, Thomas said.

In addition, BorgWarner’s 48-volt, high-efficiency motor/generators provide higher system effi-



BorgWarner has a broad product portfolio in the emerging EV market.

ciency and improved energy recovery capability to meet increasing power demands.

BorgWarner’s eBooster electrically driven compressor has already been applied within the market and is useful for smaller commercial engines with less than 5 liters of displacement, Thomas said.

A larger unit is also in development for engines with up to 13 liters of displacement.

BorgWarner’s eTurbo technology takes electrified boosting one step further with the ability to generate power to recharge

vehicle batteries. The eTurbo is being developed in two sizes to serve both small and large commercial vehicle engines.

Further examples of electrified turbomachinery are also in development both internally and with customers, including an ORC (Organic Rankine Cycle) expander with electrical output, an eTurbocompounding turbine generator and a gas turbine range extender for use on commercial electric vehicles.

BorgWarner showed its tech at the North American Commercial Vehicle Show in Atlanta.

## Fiat Chrysler Earns Gold For Workplace Health

FCA was recognized by the National Business Group on Health (NBGH), earning a gold medal for its comprehensive programs that enable a healthy workplace and encourage healthy lifestyles for both employees and families.

It was the ninth consecutive year the company has earned this important benchmark and the seventh consecutive year FCA US was the only automaker to earn an award, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Mike Palese.

The mission of the Best Employers for Healthy Lifestyles award program is to recognize the best workforce well-being programs in the U.S., particularly those with a holistic approach encompassing financial, emotional, social and community well-being, Palese said.

“Sustaining a healthy workplace and promoting the health and well-being of our employees and their families plays a key role in the success of our business,” said Kathleen Neal, director of FCA’s Integrated Health Care & Disability.

“Supporting a culture of health at FCA US is a key part of our work culture in which each team member is committed to achieving best-in-class performance.”

Fiat Chrysler was among 48 major U.S. employers that received the 2017 Best Employers for Healthy Lifestyles award on Sept. 26 during the NBGH’s Workforce Strategy 2017: Engaging for Change conference in Austin, Texas, Palese said.

Since 1985, the company’s wellness program has evolved to meet the needs of employees and their families. Today, FCA provides a variety of integrated health plans with preventive services.

This comprehensive approach to supporting employee well-being includes access to health portals, UAW benefit representatives, a Health Advocate (RN) for salaried employees, an EAP representative for all employees, on-site medical departments, 25 dedicated wellness staff members, fitness centers, and an on-site retail medical clinic and pharmacy, Palese said.

FCA is committed to “4URHLTH,” a program designed to support overall well-being

that empowers employees and their families with access to comprehensive tools and resources for leading healthier lifestyles, Palese said.

“Supporting the health and well-being of our members is critical to maintaining a world-class working environment where our employees and the company can succeed,” said Norwood Jewell, UAW vice president and director of the UAW FCA US Department.

“On behalf of our members, we are proud to receive this gold medal as it demonstrates the importance and relevance of our health programs and the sustained success they have achieved.”

Brian Marcotte, president and CEO of the National Business Group on Health, said, “We are delighted to recognize these 48 companies for their innovative and unique approaches to employee, family and community health and well-being.”

“This is truly an elite group of organizations who are embracing well-being as an important part of their workforce strategy and working to construct a culture that promotes productivity, engagement and happiness for their employees and families. We congratulate all of them and their leaders.”

The National Business Group on Health is the nation’s only nonprofit organization devoted exclusively to representing large employers’ perspective on national health policy issues and helping companies optimize business performance through health improvement, innovation and health care management, Palese said.

The Business Group’s mission is to keep its membership on the leading edge of innovation, thinking and action to address health care cost and the delivery, financing, affordability and consumer experience with the health care system.

Business Group members, which include 73 Fortune 100 companies, provide health coverage for more than 50 million U.S. workers, retirees and their families.

For more information about the Business Group, visit [www.businessgrouphealth.org](http://www.businessgrouphealth.org).

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Mopar Funny Car Driver Capps Wins with Hemi

Mopar Funny Car driver Ron Capps marched to his second win in a row on Oct. 1 in his Hemi-powered Dodge Charger R/T at a packed Gateway Motorsports Park, giving him his eighth victory of the year and the 14th overall for Mopar in the Funny Car category in 2017.

The win in the sixth annual NHRA Midwest Nationals, held in the shadow of St. Louis' Gateway Arch, also extended Capps' points lead as the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series Countdown to the Championship play-offs reach the halfway mark.

Capps' victory was the 19th overall for Mopar HEMI power in the Nitro categories (Funny Car and Top Fuel) in 2017. It was also the 18th time in 21 events to date this year that at least one Mopar Dodge Funny Car from Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) appeared in the final round.

Capps bested Swedish driver Jonnie Lindberg in the final, turning in a 3.879-second pass at 331.53 mph from the right lane to better Lindberg's 3.904 at 326.87. The two left the starting line at nearly the same time, with Capps posting a .072-second reaction time and Lindberg leaving just .001 later.

Capps, the defending Funny Car champion, began the Sunday elimination rounds by powering past fellow Dodge competitor Jim Campbell when Campbell turned on the red light. Capps then defeated teammate Jack Beckman by .010 to set up a showdown with 16-time champion John Force. Force got a slight advantage off the line, but neared the wall down track, while Capps maintained a clean pass in the center of the groove to reach his 11th final round of the year.

The win was the 57th Funny Car win for Capps, which is second all-time in the category.

The rest of the DSR Mopar Funny Cars suffered early-round exits. Matt Hagan opened his day in the Mopar/Sandvik Coromant Dodge Charger R/T by besting DSR Mopar teammate Tommy Johnson Jr. and the Make-A-Wish team on a clean pass. Hagan next took on Robert Hight, but got sideways near half-track after losing a cylinder and could never recover.

Jack Beckman and the Infinite Hero Dodge Charger R/T team from DSR meanwhile bested Del Worsham in the first round on a solid run while Worsham was forced to give up on the pass. Beckman was then defeated by Capps.

Takata's Air Bag Troubles Force Mitsubishi Recall

DETROIT (AP) – Mitsubishi is recalling 66,000 cars for a second time to replace faulty Takata front passenger air bag inflators.

The recall covers Lancer and Lancer Evolution models from 2004 through 2006. The cars were recalled in 2015 and inflators were replaced with identical Takata parts. The recall starts Oct. 22.

Takata inflators use ammonium nitrate to cause a small explosion and inflate the bags in a crash. But the chemical can deteriorate over time when exposed to airborne moisture and high temperatures. It can burn too fast and explode with too much force, spewing shrapnel. Up to 19 people have died worldwide and more than 180 have been injured.

Mitsubishi said in documents posted Oct. 5 that it has permanent replacement parts that don't use ammonium nitrate.

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| Great Lakes BC Lease Cash           | \$6,000                       |
| Great Lakes Ram LD Lease Bonus Cash | \$1,000                       |
| 2017 Military Consumer Cash         | \$500                         |
| Great Lakes 2017 Bonus Cash         | \$1,000                       |
| 2017 Conquest Lease to Retail/Lease | \$1,000                       |
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|--|---------------------------------------|
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| Great Lakes BC Retail Consumer Cash          | \$2,750                               |
| Great Lakes Chrysler Capital 2017 Bonus Cash | \$500                                 |
| Great Lakes 2017 Bonus Cash                  | \$1,000                               |
| Great Lakes 2017 Retail Bonus Cash           | \$1,000                               |
| Great Lakes Detroit Retail Bonus             | \$1,500                               |
| Power Days Retail Bonus Cash                 | \$1,000                               |
| 2017 Returning Lessee                        | \$750                                 |
| Huvaere 1500 Crew Cab Cash                   | \$3,000                               |
| FCA Employee Discount                        | \$1,987                               |
| ★☆☆☆☆  | \$16,487 In Incentives and Discounts! |

2017 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 BIG HORN

|                   |   |                    |
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| LEASE FOR         | • 5.7 Hemi<br>• Big Horn<br>• Heated Seats and Wheel Group<br>• 26S Package<br>• Premium Interior<br>• And So Much More | 2 YEAR/1 PAY LEASE |
| \$154**           |   | \$3677**           |
| 24 Mos. \$700 due |   | D7-13706           |

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|-------------------|--|------------|
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| \$133**           |  |            |
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|-------------------|--|-----------------------|
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| \$139**           |  |                       |
| 24 Mos. \$100 due |  | D7-13431              |

CHRYSLER OCTOBER LEASE SPECIALS 2018 CHRYSLER 300 S AWD!

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| LEASE FOR          |  |
| \$159**            |  |
| 24 Mos. \$1195 due |  |

ALL NEW 2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L

|                     |        |             |
|---------------------|--------|-------------|
| Touring L LEASE FOR | HURRY! | GOING FAST! |
| \$179**             |        |             |
| 24 Mos. \$1995 due  |        | C7-41528    |

ALL NEW 2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L

|                          |        |             |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Touring L Plus LEASE FOR | HURRY! | GOING FAST! |
| \$199**                  |        |             |
| 24 Mos. \$1995 due       |        | C7-41523    |

ALL NEW 2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA LIMITED

|                    |        |             |
|--------------------|--------|-------------|
| LEASE FOR          | HURRY! | GOING FAST! |
| \$229**            |        |             |
| 24 Mos. \$1995 due |        | C7-41293    |

Jeep

2018 JEEP COMPASS 4X4 - YOUR CHOICE

|                   |                   |                    |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Latitude          | Limited           | Trailhawk          |
| J8-11040          | J8-11126          | J8-11069           |
| LEASE FOR         | LEASE FOR         | LEASE FOR          |
| \$111**           | \$115**           | \$111**            |
| 24 Mos. \$700 due | 24 Mos. \$500 due | 24 Mos. \$1200 due |

2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4

|  |  |                    |
|--|--|--------------------|
| • 8.4 Navigation<br>• Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection<br>• Leather | INCREDIBLE LEASE SPECIALS! DON'T WAIT! | LEASE FOR          |
|  |  | \$178**            |
|  |  | 36 Mos. \$1995 due |

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|                                 |                    |          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| 2017 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE 4X4 | LEASE FOR          |          |
|                                 | \$126*             |          |
|                                 | 36 Mos. \$1995 due | J7-80084 |

2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALTITUDE EDITION 4X4

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| LEASE FOR          |  |
| \$226**            |  |
| 24 Mos. \$1995 due |  |

2017 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4X4

|                    |  |                                  |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| LEASE FOR          |  | 2017 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4X4 |
| \$199**            |  | LEASE FOR                        |
| 36 Mos. \$1995 due |  | \$239**                          |
| J7-30089           |  | 36 Mos. \$1995 due               |

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|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
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|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
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|  |                            | \$258**            |
|  |                            | 24 Mos. \$1995 due |

2017 DODGE CHALLENGER GT AWD

|                    |                                       |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| LEASE FOR          | INCREDIBLE CHALLENGER LEASE SPECIALS! | 2017 DODGE CHALLENGER R/T |
| \$168**            |                                       | LEASE FOR                 |
| 24 Mos. \$1995 due |                                       | \$139**                   |
|                    |                                       | 24 Mos. \$1995 due        |

2017 GRAND CARAVAN SXT

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • Blacktop Package<br>• Driver Convenience Group | LEASE FOR          |
|  | \$149**            |
|  | 24 Mos. \$1400 due |

2017 DODGE DURANGO SXT AWD

|                    |  |                           |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
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| 36 Mos. \$1995 due |  | \$223**                   |
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36 MONTH LEASE FOR ONLY

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10K PER YEAR

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# September Sales Numbers Show Surprising Strength

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

strong across the board – including retail, commercial and government.

“We’re pleased to say recovery in Houston and Florida is moving quickly, with all of our dealers in the area now back up.

“We couldn’t be happier with the tireless effort from our dealers, employees and the countless first responders who are moving so quickly,” said Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service.

Ford September sales highlights, LaNeve said, included:

- Ford Motor Company’s U.S. sales increased 8.7 percent in September.
- Retail sales totaled 169,544 vehicles, up 4.4 percent compared to a year ago.
- Fleet sales totaled 52,704 vehicles, representing, as expected, a 25.1 percent in crease versus 2016 due to order timing this year.
- F-Series sales rose 21.4 percent, with a total of 82,302 trucks sold. Demand remains robust for Super Duty, with High Series Lariat, King Ranch and Platinum trucks making up 52 percent of retail sales.
- Transit sales totaled 13,546 vehicles last month, a 25.4 percent increase over a year ago for the van’s best September since its introduction in 2014.
- Ford brand SUVs gained 8.8 percent at retail last month – their best retail performance since 2003.
- Escape, Edge, Explorer and Expedition all posted retail gains.

- Explorer sales totaled 18,898 vehicles last month, a 13.4 percent increase overall.

Explorer performed even better at retail, posting a 14.9 percent gain, its best September retail sales performance in 13 years.

Fiat Chrysler reported sales of 174,266 units, a 10 percent decrease compared with sales in September 2016 (192,883 units), said FCA spokesman Ralph Kisiel.

In September, retail sales of 146,904 units were up 0.3 percent compared with the same month in 2016 and represented 84 percent of total sales, Kisiel said.

In line with FCA’s strategy to reduce sales to the daily rental segment, fleet sales of 27,362 units were down, as expected, 41 percent year over year.

The largest planned volume reduction in September fleet sales came from the Jeep brand, Kisiel said, which reduced its fleet sales number by 67 percent year over year.

Fleet sales represented 16 percent of total FCA US September sales.

Five FCA US vehicles posted record sales in September, including the Jeep Compass.

Compass sales were up 75 percent in September, the compact SUV’s best sales month ever. In addition, the Jeep Renegade, Chrysler Pacifica, Ram ProMaster and Ram ProMaster City each recorded their best September sales ever.

The Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Dodge Durango and Fiat 500L each posted at least double-digit percentage increases in September, compared with the same month a year ago.

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**\$206+ TAX WITH \$0 DOWN**

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# Cadillac Racing GT Team Finishes the Year Strong

Cadillac will place its championship-winning Pirelli World Challenge V-Performance Racing GT team into hibernation, following a sweep of the GT class at the season-finale doubleheader at Sonoma Raceway on Sept. 28.

Since the team first assembled in 2004 to take the first-ever Cadillac CTS-V Sedan sprint racing against the toughest GT competition around, it has amassed 33 wins, 121 podium finishes (including the wins), and 25 pole positions. As a team, Cadillac competed in 332 races across eleven years of competition.

Drivers having contributed to the program include Johnny O'Connell, Michael Cooper, Ricky Taylor, Jordan Taylor, Andy Pilgrim, Max "the Axe" Angelelli, Ron Fellows, John Heinricy, Oliver Berretta, and Lawson Aschenbach.

The team won World Challenge Manufacturer Championships in 2005, 2007, 2012, 2013 and 2014. Cadillac Racing drivers earned the World Challenge Driver's Championship in 2005 with Andy Pilgrim, and with Johnny O'Connell in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. This year, Michael Cooper and copilot Jordan Taylor earned the first-ever SprintX Driver Championship honors.

"Throughout 11 years of competition with Cadillac Racing in the Pirelli World Challenge Series, we have taken tremendous pride in our successes, including 33 wins, 121 podium finishes and multiple manufacturer and driver's championships," said Mark Kent, director of Motorsports Competition for Cadillac Racing.

"We also have taken tremendous pride in the level of technology transfer that has occurred between the Cadillacs

competing on track and their showroom counterparts. This technology transfer has helped make the Cadillac ATS-V and CTS-V production models very track-capable and athletic."

"Cadillac road cars are better than ever thanks to racing with World Challenge," said Rich Brekus, global director of Product Strategy for Cadillac. "Equally importantly, the Cadillac Racing GT Team has earned the enthusiasm of thousands of fans around the world."

"You will see Cadillac Racing T-shirts in the crowd at LeMans each year, thanks to the GT program. The team has provided excellent representation on and off the track, and perfectly reflects the core of passion in our brand."

"The drivers and crew have been true ambassadors as we introduced Cadillac V-Performance to the marketplace. In 2018, we will take a pause in Pirelli World Challenge as we focus completely on our effort in prototype sports car racing. However, we maintain a regular and open communication with Greg Gill, the World Challenge CEO, and hope to one day return to the Series in some form."

Finishing in style befitting Cadillac, Michael Cooper punctuated the success of the Cadillac Racing GT program by winning both of the season-ending races at Sonoma Raceway in the Vector Blue No. 8 Cadillac ATS-V.R Coupe on Sept. 16 and 17.

In the program's second and third chapters, rebuilding after the 2008-10 stand-down for the Great Recession, the team's most competitive streak occurred from 2012-15 when Johnny O'Connell earned four consecutive driver championships.



## Van Dyke Across From GM Tech Center



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ULTRA-LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR WELL-QUALIFIED LESSEES  
WITH A CURRENT ELIGIBLE CADILLAC LEASE  
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PURCHASE FOR **\$23,059\***

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LEASE FOR **\$129\*** PER MONTH OR **\$29,669\*** PURCHASE FOR

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STOCK #TRXR8Z



### 2017 CHEVY MALIBU LT

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STOCK #470625



### 2017 CHEVY CRUZE LT

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STOCK #471822



### 2018 CHEVY EQUINOX LT

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**24** MONTHS **\$999** DOWN

STOCK #S80057



### 2017 CHEVY VOLT LT

LEASE FOR **\$239\*** PER MONTH OR **\$28,679\*** PURCHASE FOR

**36** MONTHS **\$999** DOWN

STOCK #VCWZ63



### 2017 CHEVY TAHOE LS

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STOCK #577401



### 2017 CHEVY TRAX LS

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The 2018 Chevrolet Express cargo van

## Chevy Offers Fleet Packages

Chevrolet and GM Fleet are introducing new option packages for the 2018 model year Chevrolet Express 2500 cargo and passenger vans.

Including these new options, said GM spokeswoman Rita Kass-Shamoun, were driven by five customer and dealer priorities:

- Enhance productivity and driver satisfaction;
- Positively impact driver safety;
- Reduce downtime;
- Simplify ordering;
- Reduce operating costs.

“The input we got from our dealers and customers was clear: continue to build on the strengths of the vans with business solutions GM Fleet is known for,” said John Schwegman, director of Commercial Product and Medium Duty for GM Fleet.

“We put together packages that will make the Chevrolet Express an even more valuable tool and deliver savings worth up to \$1,000.”

The four new packages for 2018 group content – ordered individually in the past – at significant savings to the customer are:

- Communications Package – Sirius XM Satellite radio, Bluetooth, enhanced audio system with AM/FM stereo with CD and MP3 player, tilt-wheel and cruise control, and leather-wrapped steering wheel with controls.

- Safety Package – Rear Park Assist and Side Blind Zone Alert, heated mirrors, and tilt-wheel and cruise control.

- Enhanced Convenience Package – Remote keyless entry, remote vehicle start, tilt-wheel and cruise control, heated mirrors and trailering equipment, which includes trailering hitch platform and dual 4-pin/7-pin sealed connector.

- Cargo Package – Easy-to-clean spray-on cargo liner, which allows drivers to haul materials without a second thought to scratches and scrapes.

Each package includes Chevrolet’s 341-hp Vortec 6.0L V8 engine and the Commercial Link telematics system for a year. The Vortec engine is a flex-fuel design that gives a properly equipped van a 9,600-lb. GVWR and a maximum trailering capacity of 10,000 pounds.

## MEDC, WeWork Create Tech Environment

In an effort to attract and connect more mobility-focused startups and other emerging high-tech, automotive-focused companies, the Detroit Regional Chamber, Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC) and WeWork launched the PlanetM Landing Zone.

This first-of-its-kind space will serve as an environment where startups with connected and automated transportation technologies can connect with Detroit’s automotive and economic development network, said Detroit Regional Chamber spokeswoman Tiffany Jones.

Ford Motor Co. is the first automaker to join the partnership via its City Solutions team located on-site.

This new initiative will be housed at WeWork’s Merchant’s Row location in Detroit, Jones said.

Located at 1449 Woodward Ave., it is part of a global shared workspace company with more than 160 locations in 52 cities and 16 countries, Jones said.

The PlanetM Landing Zone will occupy 40 to 50 workspaces with room for about 20 companies in the first year of operation. Currently, :DriveSmart, Spatial, SPLT and Sherpa Capital are tenants.

Selected companies will have access to WeWork locations globally and a direct connection to the MEDC through its PlanetM and Pure Michigan Business Connect program, Jones said, which helps connect local and global purchasers to suppliers of Michigan goods and services, Jones said.

The Chamber will house staff members on-site who will provide services to these firms, that can help connect them to the marketplace and help them grow more quickly.

Additionally, Jones said, the

PlanetM Landing Zone will provide connections to key automotive industry and service providers.

“Our region must be overly competitive in next-generation mobility. To complete this ecosystem, we need to attract more tech pioneers and entrepreneurs to our region,” said Sandy Baruah, Chamber president and CEO.

The need for a soft landing zone became more obvious, Baruah said, after recent fact-finding missions to high-tech markets active in the automobility space like Silicon Valley, Israel and the Netherlands, Baruah said.

Early-stage firms in these markets are eager to access the North American automotive industry that is centered in Detroit, Baruah said, but they need assistance with not only identifying workspace but also connecting to partners, customers, advisors, economic development services and capital that are familiar with the North American automotive marketplace.

The PlanetM Landing Zone will be an important hub to cultivate and deliver these services, Jones said.

“The goal is to create a center of gravity for emerging automotive technology companies with the ultimate objective of drawing these firms into the community on a permanent basis,” said Jeff Mason, CEO for MEDC.

“MEDC’s PlanetM program is predicated on customer service, and this concept allows us to provide that in a meaningful way, right away.”

“We are excited to work with the MEDC and the Detroit Regional Chamber to launch this initiative and support mobility-focused startups in Detroit,” said Megan Dodds, Midwest

community director for WeWork.

“These companies are innovating in the industry that the Motor City has fostered from the beginning. In addition to continuing to work closely with the city’s startup, business and civic leaders to drive Detroit forward, WeWork is excited that this initiative will further establish Detroit as a thriving community for creators.”

“SPLT is thankful to the MEDC and Detroit Regional Chamber teams for making the space for mobility innovators to work, co-create and excel together. The PlanetM Landing Zone has given our team the room to grow,” said Anya Babbitt, CEO and founder of SPLT.

“We are certain that this place will be the cornerstone to the larger movement in new mobility technologies and the future of Detroit. First Techstars, now the PlanetM Landing Zone. We can’t wait to continue our journey in Michigan and beyond.”

“The Landing Zone,” said Aaron Turk, senior executive of strategy and business development for the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, “fills an unmet need in our ecosystem, supports business attraction efforts, and is a major step toward driving density of activity. We look forward to increased collaboration with the state and regional partners to position Detroit and Michigan as the premier destination for high-growth companies.”

The ideal company for the PlanetM Landing Zone, Jones said, is a startup, either domestic or international, interested in bringing connected or automated technology into the North American automotive ecosystem.

To learn more, visit <http://www.planetmlanding-zone.com/>.

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MSRP: \$25,360

expires: 10.31.2017

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per month

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INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, Buick GMC Lease Loyalty

24 months

10,000 miles year

\$451 total due at signing (includes first month payment)

BUICK

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2017 Buick Enclave

Leather FWD Lease Offer

MSRP: \$44,760

expires: 10.31.2017

\$219

per month

TRANSPARENT PRICING

INCLUDES: ALL TAXES & FEES, NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, Buick GMC Lease Loyalty

24 months

10,000 miles year

\$829 total due at signing (includes first month payment)

BUICK

WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

2018 GMC Terrain

SLE FWD Lease Offer

MSRP: \$29,380

expires: 10.31.2017

\$302

per month

TRANSPARENT PRICING

INCLUDES: ALL TAXES & FEES, NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, Buick GMC Lease Loyalty

39 months

10,000 miles year

\$470 total due at signing (includes first month payment)

GMC

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2017 GMC Acadia

SLE1 FWD Lease Offer

MSRP: \$33,770

expires: 10.31.2017

\$198

per month

TRANSPARENT PRICING

INCLUDES: ALL TAXES & FEES, NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, Buick GMC Lease Loyalty

24 months

10,000 miles year

\$487 total due at signing (includes first month payment)

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SP71497









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- Remote Entry!
- Rear Camera!
- Steering Wheel Audio Controls!
- Deep Tinted Glass!
- Bluetooth for Phone!

Stock# H40489

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Was \$21,895 Sale Price: **\$15,899\***

24 MONTH LEASE

**\$169\***

\$999 Down

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

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

### 2017 CRUZE "LT"



- Automatic Transmission!
- Color Touch Screen Radio!
- Power Driver's Seat!
- Rear Camera!
- Remote Start and Entry!
- Rear Vision Camera!
- Bluetooth for Phone!

Stock# H32439

**NO Employee Discount REQUIRED!**

Was \$23,870 Sale Price: **\$16,999\***

24 MONTH LEASE

**\$179\***

\$999 Down

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

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

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- Remote Start and Entry!
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- 20" Aluminum Wheels!

Stock# H37026

**NO Employee Discount REQUIRED!**

Was \$37,360 Sale Price: **\$27,999\***

24 MONTH LEASE

**\$179\***

\$999 Down

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

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

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Stock# J38028

**NO Employee Discount REQUIRED!**

Was \$29,590 Sale Price: **\$20,999\***

24 MONTH LEASE

**\$179\***

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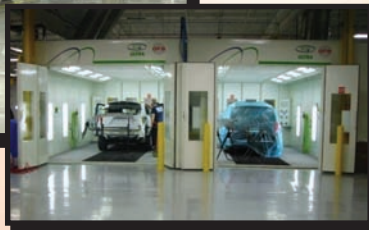
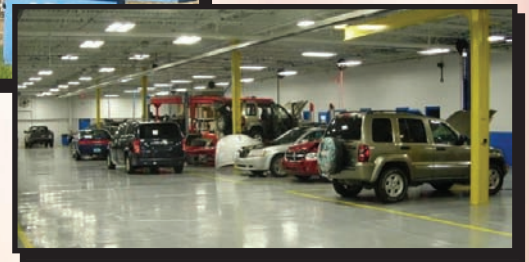
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