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Ulbrich checking out his CT6 Super Cruise.

#### **Car Enthusiast Chooses Cadillac Over Mercedes**

Baseball enthusiasts relish the chance to visit the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. But where do car enthusiasts go? The answer is easy, just ask Michael Ulbrich.

Detroit Hamtramck Assembly recently welcomed Ulbrich to the factory. He is one of the very first Cadillac CT6 Super Cruise customers.

A tech enthusiast, Ulbrich is from Indiana, and has spent more than a year researching vehicles with the latest state-of-theart technology, said Cadillac spokeswoman De'Andra Roberts.

She said he wanted a system that would ease the drive during his extensive work and vacation travels.

Ulbrich test-drove his top choice, a 2017-2018 Mercedes E Class, on the Autobahn, Roberts said. But he was underwhelmed by the experience, and when he came back to the U.S., he visited Lockhart Cadillac to find out more about the Cadillac CT6 with Super Cruise.

Roberts said Ulbrich was "in-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

#### Pacifica Earns Awards for Being Green

The Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid is able as a plug-in hybrid electric the 2018 Best Car to Buy, says Green Car Reports, a web site for green cars, electric cars, fuel-efficient cars and hybrid cars.

Editors, said FCA spokeswoman Angela Bianchi, chose the most significant new green car made available to shoppers during the 2018 model year, taking into account new technologies, their practicality and their impact on the environment.

The Chrysler Pacifica wins because it's a one-of-a-kind vehicle: the sole seven-seat minivan with a plug-in hybrid powertrain sold in the U.S. this year," said John Voelcker, senior editor at Green Car Reports.

"Not only does it offer all the virtues of the well-received Chrysler Pacifica, it offers substantial real-world electric range - 30 miles or more in most cases - and much better fuel economy when operating as a hybrid."

As the original creator of the minivan 35 years ago, FCA, Bianchi said, continues to transform the segment with firsts with 78 innovations through the first five minivan generations.

With the introduction of the Chrysler Pacifica and Pacifica Hybrid, FCA adds 37 minivan firsts to its portfolio for an unprecedented total of 115 innovations in the segment, including the industry's first minivan availvehicle, said Bianchi.

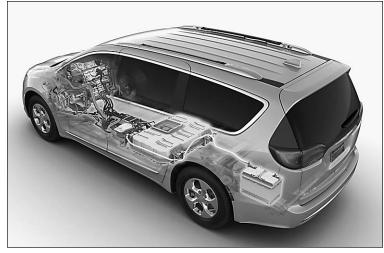
"The virtues of the basic Chrysler Pacifica are well-documented: it's stylish, with an interior design far more elegant than you'd expect, plus excellent controls and interactive displays and more family-friendly features than we have space to cover," Voelcker said.

"Adding a plug-in hybrid powertrain to that package, at a price that's essentially offset by the full federal income-tax credit, makes a very good vehicle exceptional."

The Chrysler Pacifica and Pacifica Hybrid also received category honors from The Car Connection, a sister site of Green Car Reports. The Pacifica was named the 2018 Best Minivan to Buy, while the Pacifica Hybrid is the 2018 Best Hybrid Vehicle to Buy.

The Car Connection uses a unique 10-point "TCC Rating" system that rolls up scores given to each vehicle across categories such as safety, comfort, utility, mileage and performance.

The Chrysler Pacifica, Bianchi said, is the first electrified vehicle in the minivan segment and achieves 84 miles per gallon equivalent (MPGe) in electric-only mode and 33 miles of all-electric range.



The Pacifica Hybrid's electric powertrain has proven effective.

Butler worked with doctors to improve patient care via auto tech.

#### A Cancer Diagnosis Drives Patient Care Improvemnts

The manufacturing of automo- Centre for Integrated Oncology biles and treating cancer, at first glance, don't seem to have a lot in common.

But after being diagnosed with cancer, Mike Butler was fascinated by the process through which patients were treated - but saw an opportunity to introduce practices from the car manufacturing facility, where he works, so that it might run more smoothly, said Ford spokesman John Gardiner.

Working together with his colleagues at the Ford assembly plant in Cologne, Germany, Quality Director Butler and the team researched and proposed changes that are now being implemented as part of what is expected to become Germany's biggest dedicated cancer outpatient unit.

And this has since developed into a two-way flow of ideas, as hospital staff at the renowned

(CIO) at the University Hospital of Cologne, one of the leading cancer centres in Germany, are bringing their experience of working with big data to bear on Ford research into future vehicles, Gardiner said.

"I spent five years in treatment rooms and thought about how I could make life easier for patients," said Butler, who is now in remission from colon cancer.

"There was a real lightbulb moment when I realized that many of the systems that ensure car plants run smoothly could be applied to the hospital. Now there is an ideas exchange that is benefitting patients today, and could also help the way we move tomorrow.

"The more we work together, the more synergies we find between our work at Ford and the

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#### **Detroit's Thanksgiving Day Parade Boasts Storied Nearly-Century-Old History**

Thanksgiving has a storied history in America, and Detroit's annual parade is part of that histo-

According to the Detroit Historical Society, the Thanksgiving parade has been a holiday tradition in Detroit for more than 90 years. Founded by J.L. Hudson's, downtown Detroit's legendary department store, the parade first rolled down Woodward Avenue in 1924, the same year that Macy's began its parade in New

For generations of Michigan families, the official holiday season did not start until "the real Santa Claus" stepped from the

parade's final float onto the bundled-up fans along its two-Woodward marquee of Hudson's to accept the key to both the city "and the hearts of good children everywhere."

The next day, elevators whisked throngs of parents and children up to the store's magnificently-decorated toyland for a personal visit with the man in red velvet.

Detroit's first Thanksgiving parade featured horses pulling a float decorated with Mother Goose, four papier-mâché heads and seven marching bands. Over the years, the parade's size and scope has grown significantly, as it has entertained millions of

mile route down Woodward with giant balloons, floats, marching characters, cartoon bands. celebrities and more.

At that time, Detroit's festivities were comparable to the Macy's Parade in New York City. The event, which marked the arrival of Santa Claus, would become one of Detroiters' favorite local traditions.

The J.L. Hudson store, generally known as Hudson's, was a large retail department store chain that originated in Detroit. Joseph Lowthian Hudson, 35 years old at

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6** 



A photograph from history: Detroit's 50th Thanksgiving Day Parade.

#### Detroit Auto Scene®

31201 Chicago Road South Warren, Michigan 48093

586-939-6800

Contact us: Info@DetroitAutoScene.com

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#### **Luxury Car Fan Picks Cadillac** Over Mercedes

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

credibly impressed" with the Cadillac brand's direction and fascinated by the vehicle's technical capabilities - so impressed that he ordered the vehicle six months ahead of the Ship to Commerce (STC) date.

Roberts said that after hearing his story, the D-HAM staff invited Ulbrich to visit the plant so they could express their gratitude. He finally got to drive his vehicle and had lunch with members of the launch team, which included Barry Walkup, chief engineer of Autonomous and Electric Vehicles, and Lyndon Lie, chief engineer of Cadillac Product Programs. To top off the experience, D-HAM provided Ulbrich with a video showing his car being built from start to finish, with the employees thanking him.

"I want to thank everybody so much for putting my car together and for being so available to talk to during the tour," said Ulbrich.

#### Ford Testing Exo-Skeleton Technology to Aid Employees

Having a real-life Iron Man is one step closer to reality. Ford has developed new exoskeletal tools to help line employees do their jobs.

Putting dishes on a high shelf or changing an overhead lightbulb occasionally might not be difficult, said Ford spokeswoman Kelli Felker, but could you imagine performing either of these tasks 4,600 times per day? How about 1 million times a year?

These are the approximate number of times some Ford assembly line workers lift their arms during overhead work tasks, Felker said.

At this rate, the possibility of fatigue or injury on the body increases significantly. But a new upper body exoskeletal tool - the result of a partnership between Ford and California-based Ekso Bionics - helps lessen the chance of injury.

"My job entails working over my head, so when I get home my back, neck and shoulders usually hurt," said Paul Collins, an assembly line worker at Ford's Michigan Assembly Plant. "Since I started using the vest, I'm not as sore, and I have more energy to play with my grandsons when I get home."

Called EksoVest, the wearable technology elevates and supports a worker's arms while performing overhead tasks. It can be fitted to support workers ranging from 5 feet tall to 6 feet 4 inches tall, and provides adjustable lift assistance of five pounds to 15 pounds per arm.

"It's comfortable to wear because it's lightweight, it isn't bulky, and it allows workers to move their arms freely," Felker

Designed and built for dynamic, real-world environments like factories, construction sites and distribution centers, the nonpowered vest offers protection and support against fatigue and injury by reducing the stress and strain of high-frequency, long-duration activities that can take a toll on the body over time.

"Collaboratively working with Ford enabled us to test and refine early prototypes of the EksoVest based on insights directly from their production line workers," said Russ Angold, co-founder and chief technology officer of Ekso Bionics.

"The end result is a wearable tool that reduces the strain on a worker's body, reducing the likelihood of injury, and helping them feel better at the end of the day - increasing both productivity and morale.'

With support from the United Automobile Workers and Ford, EksoVest is being piloted in two U.S. plants, with plans to test in other regions, including Europe and South America, Felker said.

"The health and safety of our membership has always been our highest priority," said UAW-Ford Vice President Jimmy Settles. "With the proven success at the piloted locations, we look forward to expanding this technology to our other UAW-Ford manufacturing facilities."

EksoVest is the latest example of advanced technology Ford is using to reduce the physical toll on employees during the vehicle assembly process. Between 2005 and 2016, the most recent full year of data, the company saw an 83 percent decrease in the number of incidents that resulted in days away, work restrictions or job transfers – to an all-time low of 1.55 incidents per 100 full-time North American employees.

"Our goal has always been to keep the work environment safe and productive for the hardworking men and women we rely on across the globe," said Bruce



Ford has developed wearable tech to help production line employees.

Hettle, Ford group vice president, Manufacturing and Labor Affairs. "Investing in the latest ergonomics research, assembly improvements and lift-assist technologies has helped us design efficient and safe assembly lines, while maintaining high vehicle quality for our customers."

To date, Ford ergonomists have worked on more than 100 new vehicle launches globally using ergonomic technology tools, including most recently the 2018 Ford Mustang, 2018 Ford F-150, and the all-new 2018 Ford Expedition and 2018 Lincoln Navigator, Felker said. Through significant investments in the program, not only has Ford achieved a reduction in employee incident rates, it has seen a 90 percent decrease in such ergonomic issues as overextended movements, difficult hand clearance and tasks involving hard-to-install parts.

#### **Goodwill Helps Environment**

business under Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, has expanded its used oil filter recycling program to now include a collection service in partnership with Green Arbor Environmental.

Green Works' used oil filters recycling service now offers a "milk run"-style pickup service of both used oil filters and used motor oil from metro Detroit quick change/oil change shops and automotive dealerships, said Jay Wilber, president of Goodwill's Green Works.

The operation of two Oberg SB-600 oil filter crushers allows Goodwill's Green Works to process up to 400 tons of filters per month.

In keeping with Goodwill Detroit's mission to support and employ people with employment challenges, Wilber said Green Works, along with the organization's Flip the Script program, has trained several of the region's returning citizens to operate the Oberg SB-600, which will result in multiple shifts of uninterrupted operation and the creation of additional new jobs.

"Our catalog of services at Green Works is designed to provide support to businesses that prioritize cost-effective, environmentally sustainable practices," said Wilber. "The oil filter recycling program began nearly four

Green Works, a subsidiary years ago servicing customers from Michigan's neighboring states of Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. The addition of the pickup convenience will allow more local auto care providers, along with those throughout the region, to keep their steel and oil waste from being disposed in landfills, which is one of our pri-

#### GM Recalls Trucks For Fuel Tank Fix

DETROIT (AP) - General Motors is recalling nearly 49,000 trucks worldwide to fix a fuel tank problem that increases the risk of a fire.

The recall covers Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra 3500 trucks from 2011 through 2015 with two fuel tanks.

Documents posted Nov. 16 by the U.S. government say that the low-fuel-level sensor in the front tank can stick, causing the rear tank to over-fill the front tank. That can make the front tank expand and touch the drive shaft, possibly causing a hole and a fu-

GM says it has no reports of fires or injuries. Dealers will replace the rear tank fuel pump, update software and inspect the front tank. Owners will be notified starting Dec. 18.

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#### Ford Helping Fight Cancer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

challenges faced in cancer research."

medical staff were first shown the advanced technologies and efficient processes that have enabled the Ford Fiesta Cologne plant to become one of the world's most efficient vehicle production plants, Gardiner said.

A team of 10 to 15 Ford engineers met with hospital administrators as well as patients, nurses, doctors, and the collaboration blossomed from there.

Designed to ensure treatment is less stressful and faster. Gardiner said, colored lines on walls and floors make it easier for staff, patients and visitors to find their way around; and large screens will help make communication between key medical employees

The team also proposed flexible rooms with removable dividers rather than rigid wards and fixed nursing stations. At the

existing facility, all of this has already contributed to an improvement in patient flow.

Meanwhile, Gardiner said the It was back in 2008 that the medical teams at the hospital are advising Ford on the processes they use to conceive and develop completely different approaches to tackling cancer.

The company is now applying this "outside the box" thinking in relation to future vehicles and new technologies, said Gardiner.

"Medicine is an ever-changing science where small changes have a huge impact on the lives of patients," said Prof. Dr. Michael Hallek, the director of the CIO (which has been repeatedly honored by German Cancer Aid as one of the top oncological centres in Germany).

"With Ford's help, we are making huge improvements that will benefit the lives and treatment of future patients for years to come. And, hopefully, some of our methods of doing things will help Ford to develop what mobility might look like in the future."

**NOVEMBER 20, 2017** "FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933"

#### Chevrolet Unveils First Photos of Its Latest Corvette ZR1

for car fans to be on Santa's nice list because, just in time for Christmas, Chevrolet unveiled the 2019 Corvette ZR1 in Dubai Nov. 12

The 2019 Corvette ZR1 is a supercar that pushes Corvette's performance legacy with the highest power, greatest track performance and most advanced technology in its production history, said Mark Reuss, executive vice president, Global Product Development, Purchasing and Supply Chain.

"I've never driven a Corvette like this before, and nobody else has either, because there's never been one like this before," said Reuss. "Its unprecedented performance puts all other global supercars on notice that the ZR1 is back.'

The Corvette ZR1's exclusive LT5 supercharged engine, which is rated at an SAE-certified 755 horsepower and 715 lb.-ft. of torque, is establishing a new benchmark in performance, Reuss said. Further, the ZR1 elevates Corvette's track capability with two wind tunnel-honed aerodynamics packages, including an available High Wing that provides an estimated 950 pounds of downforce.

The ZR1's LT5 6.2L V8 engine advances Corvette's supercharging legacy, which began with the 2009 sixth-generation ZR1 and continued with the 2015 seventhgeneration Z06, Reuss said. The



The fastest production Corvette ever – the 755-horsepower 2019 ZR1.

LT5 delivers the highest output ever for a Chevrolet production vehicle, thanks in part to a new, more efficient intercooled supercharger system, said Reuss, that offers 52 percent more displacement than the Z06's LT4 supercharger.

GM's first dual-fuel-injection system, which employs primary direct injection and supplemental port injection, helps the LT5 achieve its record output.

Seven-speed manual and eightspeed paddle-shift automatic transmissions are available with the LT5. It's the first time an automatic transmission has been offered in a ZR1.

The 2019 Corvette ZR1's aggressive appearance is driven by function, contributing to its distinction as the fastest production Corvette to date, Reuss said. A new front fascia is designed to channel air for propulsion-system and drivetrain cooling, with four new radiators bringing the heat-exchanger total to 13.

A special carbon-fiber "halo" hood is open in the middle to clear the LT5 engine's supercharger/intercooler assembly. Additional features, including aero packages with stanchionmounted wings, help push the ZR1 harder onto the track for more confident handling and faster lap times. Top speed of the ZR1 is over 210 mph.

"As the highest-performing Corvette ever, the ZR1's design supports its capability in every way," said Kirk Bennion, Exterior Design manager. "The new wings, for example, help generate more downforce without adding drag, enhancing road holding and top speed."

The ZR1 will offer two aero packages, said GM spokesman Ron Kiino. One is a standard rear Low Wing, which delivers the highest top speed and helps gen-



Interior of the new 2019 Corvette ZR1

erate up to 70 percent more downforce than the Z06's base aero package.

The other is an available twoway-adjustable High Wing that offers maximum downforce on the track for the quickest lap times about 60 percent more downforce than the Z06 with the available Z07 Performance Package. All models also feature a Chevrolet-first. downforce-enhancing front underwing, said Kiino.

The adjustable High Wing is part of the new ZTK Performance Package, which also includes a front splitter with carbon-fiber end caps, Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 summer-only tires, and specific chassis and Magnetic Ride Control tuning for greater cornering grip.

Both of the ZR1's wings are tied into the chassis, like the Corvette Racing C7.R racecar, for strength and stability.

The Corvette ZR1 introduced on Nov. 12 also debuted a dynamic, available Sebring Orange Design Package.

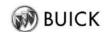
Centered on its Sebring Orange Tintcoat exterior color, the package also includes orange brake calipers, orange rocker and splitter accent stripes, orange seat belts, orange interior stitching and unique, bronze aluminum interior trim.

The new design package, Reuss said, complements the Corvette ZR1's tradition of offering maximum performance with refinement and design distinc-

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#### GM Continues Celebrating Truck History

It's no joke to say that pickup trucks have played a part in country and western music songs in the past, and for the last 100 years, Chevrolet trucks have found their way into the hearts and souls of fans around the world, said GM spokesman Kyle Suba.

In honor of the Chevy Truck Centennial, the brand has curated a Pandora station called Chevy Truck 100 to celebrate its connection with country music, Suba said. The station includes country songs referencing pickups, such as rocking dance tunes about a Silverado with horns on the grille, love songs about a boy in a Chevy truck that had a tendency to get stuck and nostalgic tracks about ridin' around with windows down on a summer night.

To access the station, visit pandora.com/ChevyTruck100, Suba said.

Chevy trucks and Chevrolet are so common in country music because they play an outsized role in the lives of singers, songwriters and their fans, said Frank Rogers, a record producer and songwriter with five Academy of Country Music awards and more than 70 Top 20 hits to his name.

"At its most basic level, every song tells a story, while the very best songs also make an emotional connection with the audience," said Rogers.

"For artists, many of us grew up riding in a Chevy truck, making it a natural way to tell the story of our experiences. For our fans, a reference to a Chevy truck is something they can instantly relate to, helping make the story relevant to their life as well."

For Sandor Piszar, marketing director for Chevrolet Trucks, the catalog of songs that reference Chevrolet trucks is a testament to the brand's im-



A 2018 Centennial, left, is posed next to a 1972 Chevy C10 pickup truck.

measurable impact on owners'

"We have built 85 million Chevy trucks over the past 100 years," said Piszar. "In turn, our customers have created millions of memories associated with our trucks, be it working in the field or job site, cruising with friends or camping with families.

"That connection with generations of people is a defining characteristic of Chevy trucks, and something few other brands can match."

This list would not be complete without input from our fans, who are invited to join the conversation at facebook.com/chevytrucks.

There, Chevrolet enthusiasts can share their favorite Chevy songs and help complete the list of the top 100 country songs about Chevrolet Trucks, Suba said

## FCA Salutes State's Vets With Donation to DSO

The FCA Foundation, the charitable arm of FCA US, is giving \$180,000 in support of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for the 2017-2018 concert season.

The funding will support a number of DSO initiatives for veterans in southeast Michigan, including underwriting special \$10 tickets for veterans to attend "Heroes Night" concerts performed in Orchestra Hall, said FCA spokesman Kevin Frazier.

Concerts (all in 2018) include Beethoven's Seventh at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 23-24; and, the PNC Pops Series presentation of The Doo Wop Project at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 18-19, and at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 20.

Tickets are available at DSO.org, by calling 313-576-5111, or in-person at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center Box Office (3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit). Use promo code: HEROESNIGHT.

"Our partnership with the DSO provides an opportunity to demonstrate our support and gratitude for the members of the U.S. armed forces, their families and the community," said Shane Karr, head of External Affairs, FCA – North America and President, FCA Foundation.

The FCA Foundation and FCA US not only share a long history with the DSO, the Foundation and the company also have an extensive history of supporting veterans and their families, Frazier said.

FCA US received Silver Status as a Michigan Friendly Employer by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency in recognition of recruitment strategies aimed at veterans. Currently, FCA US has 23 employees on active military leave, with 434 currently serving as active or inactive reservists and guardsmen. And, more than 5,100 employees are military veterans.

The partnership with the DSO will also enable the orchestra to collaborate with the John D. Dingell Veterans Affairs Medical Hospital, sending musicians to perform at the hospital and providing for DSO webcasts in patient rooms, Frazier said. The first of these collaborations will occur Nov. 9 at the hospital's Medical Center Atrium.

"The DSO is incredibly grateful to FCA US and the FCA Foundation for their support in helping us reach veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families across southeastern Michigan," said Jill Elder, vice president and chief development officer, Detroit Symphony Orchestra. "The DSO is committed to providing opportunities for all people to experience their world through music, and we look forward to welcoming these heroes to Orchestra Hall later this season."

"The FCA Foundation is committed to rebalancing inequalities to promote the full realization of every human being," Frazier said. "We seek to support outcomes in our communities that ensure people can enjoy equality and dignity."

The FCA Foundation directs its resources toward the following areas of focus:

- Youth Development helping young people develop the leadership qualities and resiliency necessary to succeed in school, at work and in life.
- Education building the skills and competencies that lead to achievement and support educational access and success.
- Military/Veterans ensuring veterans successfully transition to civilian life and that the needs of military service members and their families are supported.
- Service leveraging the talents and contributions of all members of the community.

#### JPMorgan Chase Pledges Funds to Help Detroit

DETROIT (AP) – JPMorgan Chase is making a \$900,000 investment to support sustainable infrastructure projects in Detroit.

The bank's plans announced Nov. 16 include retrofitting more than 70 percent of Chase branches in the city with LED lights and new building systems to improve energy efficiency. It's part of its previously announced \$150 million commitment to Detroit.

The updates to bank branches also seek to cut water consumption from irrigation systems by 20 percent. JPMorgan Chase is supporting the Eastside Community Network in the acquisition and rehabilitation of vacant commercial properties along the Mack Avenue commercial corridor. It's working with the Jefferson East group to increase the use of green building practices.



#### Hemi Engines Power Johnson's Race Victories

A drama-filled Nov. 12 at Auto Club Raceway at Pomona closed out the 2017 NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series calendar, as Mopar Funny Car driver Tommy Johnson Jr. gave the brand its 16th victory of the season in the category during the NHRA Finals, and teammate Ron Capps finished as runner-up in the year-end standings.

Austin Williams also claimed the win for Mopar in Stock Eliminator behind the wheel of his 1972 Plymouth Duster.

Mopar Hemi power from Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) claimed 21 wins in the Pro classes over the course of 2017 - the brand's 80th anniversary year. DSR Mopar Funny Cars reached the winner's circle 16 times, taking victories in exactly twothirds of the events this season and winning twice as many races as the rest of the manufacturers combined. In addition, at least one Mopar Dodge Funny Car reached the final round in 21 of 24 events on the schedule. Mopar-backed Top Fuel dragsters from DSR meanwhile took five victories and appeared in a total of 10 final rounds.

On Nov. 12 at Pomona. Johnson drove his Make-A-Wish Dodge Charger R/T from DSR past newly crowned 2017 Funny Car champion Robert Hight in the final with a 3.920-second pass at 329.10 mph from the left lane after a .037-second reaction

Hight struggled to find traction, making a lap of 6.827 at 103.71 after leaving the line with a reaction time of .055.

The victory was Johnson's second of the season and the 15th of his Funny Car career. He also has two in the Top Fuel cat-

#### **State Creates** Alt Routes to Ease Traffic

LANSING, Mich. (AP) - Michigan is opening special lanes on a highway near Ann Arbor for the first time to ease traffic congestion caused by rush hour or crashes.

The "flex route" - scheduled to launch as early as this week is a new system along 11 miles of U.S. 23 between Ann Arbor and Brighton. The state Department of Transportation will open and close inside median shoulders to northbound and southbound traffic using overhead electronic

Cheaper to build, they are not considered true third lanes because there is no full shoulder attached.

That stretch of U.S. 23 carries 66,000 vehicles a day and is Michigan's most congested corridor outside of metropolitan Detroit. What should be a 20minute drive in normal conditions can take up to an hour in peak periods.

Gov. Rick Snyder, who helped unveil the system last week at a rest stop north of Ann Arbor, called it "a winning combination for traffic management, convenience and safety.'

Transportation officials have said U.S. 23 is a perfect place to try flex routing because a third permanent lane in both directions is not needed at all times but instead mostly for peak commuter traffic in and out of Ann Arbor.

The next natural place to install flex routes is Interstate 96 between Brighton and Novi, state transportation director Kirk Steudle said in September. He also mentioned U.S. 131 north and south of Grand Rapids.











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#### Thanksgiving Day Parade **Has Storied Detroit History**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the time, founded the company in 1881. Then merely a clothing store for men and boys, it was first located in the old Detroit Opera House Building. The store directly competed with C.R. Mabley, where Hudson had previously worked.

In 1911, Hudson opened a larger location on Woodward Avenue, with confidence that the area would become the center of downtown Detroit. The store was housed in a 25-story structure that was the world's tallest department store until 1961.

At one point, Hudson's claimed it was also the secondlargest store in the country in terms of square feet (2 million), with the largest being Macy's Herald Square location in New York City.

The Hudson family also had a hand in the city's early auto industry. They created Hudson Motor Car Company, which later became part of the American Motors Corporation. At its most successful sales year in 1929, the company was ranked behind only Ford and Chevrolet.

Hudson's will always be remembered for owning the world's largest flag, which was draped across the building's Woodward façade on Armistice Day and other patriotic holidays.

The flag was first hung in 1923 and was later shown off at the World's Fair in 1939.

The original flag was last displayed in 1949, to be replaced a year later with a new seven-story flag that required 55 men to hang it. After being hung for the final time in 1976, the flag was donated to the Smithsonian Institu-

Local business and community leaders also volunteer as the parade's Distinguished Clown Corps, doling out candy and good cheer to all parade atten-

First televised locally in 1948, the parade is now broadcast nationally to more than 100 million viewers.

Hudson's stopped sponsoring the parade in 1979. But if the Hudson's name is gone (along with its flagship downtown store), the event lives on as America's Thanksgiving Parade, supported by area corporations and the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation whose nonprofit Parade Company organizes the event with the help of hundreds of volunteers.

Even for residents from farther suburbs, a visit to Hudson's warranted a trip to Downtown Detroit. Older Detroiters fondly remember the magical children's toy floor.

For children throughout the Detroit area, holidays were marked by a visit to Hudson's 12th floor, where the "real" Santa awaited them.

Yet as the City of Detroit began to suffer from the economic downturns of the 1970s and 1980s, so did Hudson's. In 1969, the Dayton Co. purchased Hudson's and renamed the store the Dayton-Hudson Corporation.

Gradually, the comfort of suburban locations lured shoppers and the downtown Hudson's began to slowly downsize. In 1983, the downtown Hudson's store closed.

The building was sold in December of 1989 and, nearly one decade later, on October 24, 1998, the structure was implod-





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