

2019 Silverado Gets Sneak Preview in Texas

The past and future met last week in Dallas with the introduction of the next-generation Chevrolet Silverado at an event celebrating the first 100 years of Chevy Trucks. Many in attendance were Chevy Truck Legends members, some of the brand's most passionate owners.

"Our owners' passion for Chevrolet trucks is truly humbling," said Alan Batey, president of GM North America, and global head of Chevrolet. "Many of our owners depend on their trucks for work and play, personalize their trucks in astonishing ways and pass their loyalty for Chevy Trucks down from generation to generation."

"For the Chevy Truck Centennial, we wanted to recognize the customers who have made Chevrolet part of their lives, and have them help kick off the next 100 years of Chevy Trucks."

The 2019 Silverado 1500 is all new from the ground up, Batey said, and leverages Chevrolet's experience building more than 85 million dependable, long-lasting pickups. It also reflects feedback from more than 7,000 people on what they wanted in their next

truck – the most customer research in the company's history.

"The 2019 Silverado's strong, modern design advances Chevrolet's history of industry-leading pickup design," Batey said.

"It's a legacy built on decades of experience with models such as the Advance Design trucks of the 1950s and the C/K series of the 1960s. Those trucks set the standard for pickup design in their eras, and currently are some of the most coveted vintage trucks on the market."

"The next-generation Silverado is poised to change the face of trucks again, with a breakthrough design that is unmistakably Chevrolet."

The new Silverado also delivers improved capability and performance, said GM spokesman Monte Doran. For example, a higher-grade alloy is used in the roll-formed, high-strength-steel bed floor, contributing to a bed that is more functional and lighter weight.

This use of mixed materials and advanced manufacturing is evident throughout the Silverado, resulting in a significant reduction in total vehicle weight



Chevrolet last week released this first picture of the 2019 Silverado.

and improved performance in many measures, Doran said.

As no two truck customers are alike, the next-gen Silverado will offer an expanded range of models, more engine/transmission combinations and more technology and convenience features to help customers find their ideal truck.

The new Silverado LT Trailboss is one of eight 2019 Silverado models, Doran said. It integrates

the off-road equipment of the Z71 package as well as a two-inch suspension lift. Unlike aftermarket lift kits, the Trailboss suspension is fully tested, validated and warrantied by Chevrolet.

The 2019 Silverado will make its public debut in January at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, exactly 100 years after the first Chevrolet trucks were delivered to customers, Doran said.

Macomb County, MSU Offer New Health Classes

In partnership with The Lake House, MSU Extension is offering "Eat Healthy, Be Active" for adults.

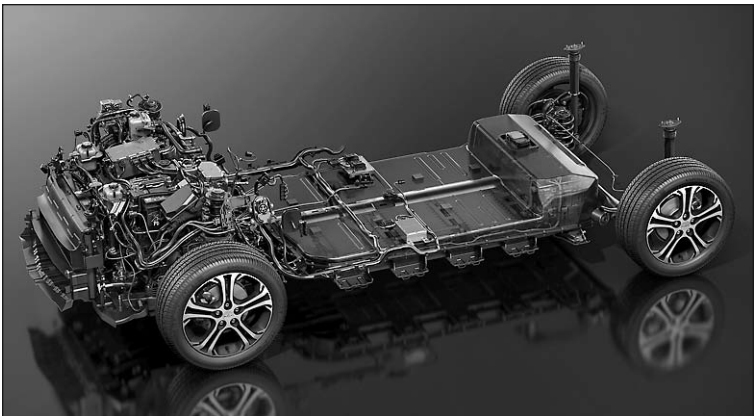
This is a no-cost, six-week nutrition and physical activity program that helps participants increase their nutrition and exercise knowledge and promotes a healthy lifestyle, said county spokeswoman Natalie Brumfield.

Participants will learn how to plan, prepare and budget for healthy, affordable and delicious meals as well as learn many exercises that can be done right at home, Brumfield said. The program will be held from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. every Tuesday for six consecutive weeks starting Jan. 9 through Feb. 13 at The Lake House, 23500 Pare Street, St. Clair Shores.

Advance registration is required; space is limited. To register, or for more information, call Brumfield at 586-469-6104 or brumfie8@anr.msu.edu.

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) brings educational programs to residents, empowering them to improve their lives and community, Brumfield said. County-based MSUE staff, with on-campus faculty members, serve residents with focused programming.

Detroit's OEMs Recognized for Best Engines



The 2018 Bolt EV was named to WardsAuto 10 Best Engines list.

Bolt EV Earns High Praise

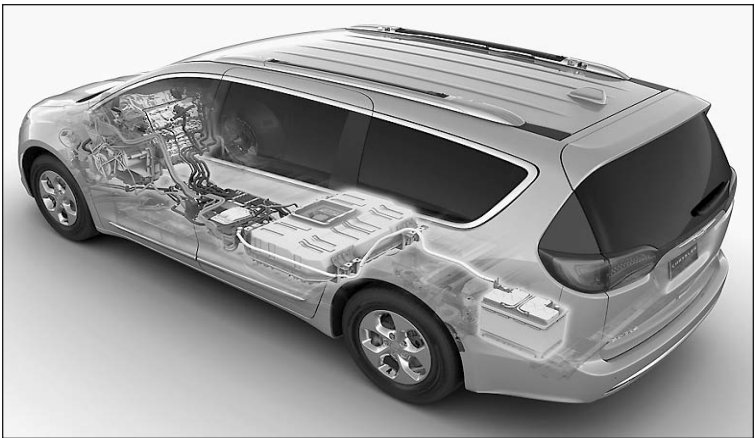
Sometimes the engine of growth for a particular make is its engine. Which is why Chevrolet is so proud of the 2018 Bolt EV, said GM spokesman Tom Read.

Chevrolet earned another industry recognition as the all-electric 2018 Chevrolet Bolt EV wins a 2018 Wards 10 Best Engines Award. The Bolt EV has an EPA-estimated 238-mile range on a full charge, and when it's equipped with the optional DC

Fast Charger, customers can get up to 90 miles of range in 30 minutes.

"The Chevrolet Bolt EV is an affordable, world-changing vehicle that delivers on the promise of an electric car for the masses," said Drew Winter, WardsAuto senior content director. "It is quick and smartly designed and its official range of 238 miles makes it attractive to a wider audience."

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The award-winning 2018 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid is rated at 84 MPGe.

FCA Hybrid Engine a Winner

FCA engineering has stood the test of time.

Editors at WardsAuto have named the 3.6-liter Pentastar eHybrid one of Wards 10 Best Engines for 2018, said FCA spokesman Eric Mayne.

The achievement marks the second time the powertrain has been so-honored, Mayne said. The 3.6-liter Pentastar eHybrid was named to the annual list last year, when it debuted in the Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivan.

The plug-in hybrid propulsion system makes the Pacifica Hybrid the most efficient minivan ever, based on its Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rating of 84 miles-per-gallon-equivalent (MPGe) – a measure that accounts for a plug-in hybrid vehicle's blended use of electricity and gasoline, in combined city- and highway-cycle testing, Mayne said.

The 2018 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid also excels on two other effi-

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WardsAuto staff was "blown away" by the Ford 5.0L DOHC V8.

Two Ford Engines in Top 10

Ford's engine design excellence received some notice when WardsAuto placed two Ford engines – the 2.7L Twin Turbo DOHC V6 (Ford F-150) and the 5.0L DOHC V8 (Ford Mustang GT) – on its 2018 Wards 10 Best Engines list.

WardsAuto editors chose the winners after spending October and November evaluating 32 engines and electric propulsion systems during routine commutes in metro Detroit. It's the 24th year for Wards 10 Best En-

gines, said Drew Winter, Wards senior content director.

"We're happy to recognize great engines in luxury cars, but we're thrilled to see so many high-volume automakers whose vehicles are more affordable for average Americans delivering truly outstanding powertrains," said Winter.

It's been five years since an engine in a gasoline-powered pickup

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Detroit Building Reaching New Heights

by COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) – An 800-foot-tall (244-meter) centerpiece is coming to Detroit's resurgent downtown as the city continues to build momentum about three years after exiting the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history.

The 58-story building dominating the local skyline will rise on the site of the iconic J.L. Hudson department store, whose 1983 closing epitomized Detroit's economic downfall.

"When we lost Hudson's, it symbolized how far Detroit had fallen," Bedrock Detroit real estate founder Dan Gilbert said Dec. 14 during a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new building. "When it was imploded in 1998, it was a very sad day for a lot of people."

But the bad times for downtown appear to be largely over. Bedrock Detroit's \$900 million, two-building project will include a 58-story residential tower and 12-floor building for retail and conference space. Up to 450 residential units can be built in the tower.

It is one of four projects representing a \$2.1 billion investment in downtown by the Detroit-based commercial real estate firm. Altogether, the projects are expected to create up to 24,000 jobs in a city that desperately needs them and generate \$673 million in new tax revenue.

Mayor Mike Duggan's office has spearheaded redevelopment

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Van Elslander Helps Charity

DETROIT (AP) – A businessman is donating \$20 million to help expand a Catholic pilgrimage site in Detroit.

Art Van Elslander, founder of Art Van Furniture, donated to the Solanus Casey Center, *Crain's Detroit Business* reported. Interest in the center has increased since November when the late Rev. Solanus Casey was beatified and put on the path to sainthood.

The center hopes to use the money to acquire city-owned property to create more parking space for the center, said Rev. David Preuss, the center's director. The center is in negotiations for about 75 city-owned and privately owned properties. Officials also hope to build a cafe with outdoor seating, open green spaces for large gatherings, gardens, an outdoor votive chapel and housing for visitors.

Van Elslander said the donation pays homage to his father's friendship with Casey.

"Growing up in Detroit, I remember my dad going to see Father Solanus when he needed help and guidance," Van Elslander said. "Father Solanus still offers that hope to so many through the work of the Center and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, and I am privileged to honor his legacy in a way that will benefit the entire community."

Latest Detroit Project Reaching for the Sky

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

programs targeting a number of city neighborhoods, but Detroit's growth is most evident in greater downtown, where office space now is limited and available apartments are tough to come by.

A ribbon-cutting was held in August for an \$860 million sports complex just north of downtown. The 20,000-seat Little Caesars Arena is the new home of the Detroit Red Wings and Pistons. It will anchor a 50-block neighborhood of offices, apartments, restaurants and shops.

A 6.6-mile-long light rail system launched earlier this year along Woodward Avenue, downtown's main business thoroughfare.

Software maker Microsoft announced in February that it plans to move its Michigan Microsoft Technology Center next year from the suburbs to downtown. In 2016, Ally Financial opened new offices downtown that the financial services company said eventually would be occupied by more than 1,500 employees and contractors.

"Bedrock building on the Hudson's site will be an important addition to the community and the vitality and prosperity of downtown," said John Mogk, a Wayne State University law professor whose work has included policy on economic development issues.

"It will act as an important centerpiece for continuing the overall downtown development . . . but much more has to be done for the entire city to feel a resurgence."

He said much work remains for a city where many residents are still poor.

Detroit's unemployment rate was about 8 percent in April, yet far below the more than 18 percent unemployment rate during the city's 2013 bankruptcy filing.

The city's 2016 poverty rate was just over 35 percent – the highest among the nation's 20 largest cities and more than dou-

ble the national poverty of 14 percent. A family of four is considered living in poverty if its annual earnings are less than \$24,563.

Downtown construction projects such as the work at the Hudson's site can help change that, some say.

"What a shame that anybody should be unemployed in Detroit when we have a need for skilled trades," Gilbert said.

"We like to say Detroit is located at the intersection of muscle and brains. We need brains to sort this all out . . . somebody still has to build stuff. We still need muscle."

While Bedrock's new building would be Detroit's tallest, rising above the 727-foot Renaissance Center along the city's riverfront, it still would be far shorter than some other U.S. towers.

One World Trade Center in New York measures 1,776 feet. Chicago's Willis Tower hits 1,451 feet, while the Empire State Building in New York climbs to 1,250 feet.

Although the 25-story Hudson's building was once the nation's tallest department store, it measured only about 400 feet. It was far more famous for what was inside.

When Detroit was humming along and leading the nation in car production, the store was where auto executives and assembly line workers shopped. From household goods to clothing and furs and many things in between, it was a primary downtown destination.

There were 50 display windows, 12,000 employees and 100,000 customers per day. But as shopping tastes shifted to ex-



This rendering shows how the Bedrock project will look when finished.

pansive suburban malls and Detroit's population tumbled by more than 600,000 people between the 1950s and 1980, Hudson's lost its luster.

"Building something of significant magnitude on the old site will provide a good deal of good feelings by older generations," Mogk said.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson called it a "huge magnet for people like me who grew up in Detroit." He and his brother would ride a city bus downtown and play tag on the Hudson's escalators.

"I think that putting up this glorious glass building is a fitting succession," Patterson said.

County is Searching for E. coli in Warren

Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller has launched an investigation into two hot spots for E. coli in Warren.

Responding to a citizen's complaint, her office has found two locations in that city where it is believed that sanitary sewage is entering county storm drains that ultimately empty in to Lake St. Clair, said county spokesman John Cwikla.

The E. coli bacteria is entering the county drains from two city-owned local pipes. In a neighborhood between Schoenherr and Bunert, south of 14 Mile Road; and along the east side of Schoenherr, immediately north

of I-696, Cwikla said. Both sites tested positive for the bacteria, which is found in human and animal waste.

The test results were literally off the chart – showing more E. coli than that test was able to count. The maximum test count is approximately 2,400 count of E. coli per milliliter, Cwikla said.

A count of 300 is enough to close a beach. Both sites tested off the chart.

"We are doing a comprehensive inspection of drains all over Macomb County because there is no one single source of pollution and contaminants. As we inspect drains, we are looking at the condition of the pipe if it is an enclosed drain, and running samples to make sure there are no illicit connections – in other words, some type of sanitary sewerage that should not be in a storm drain.

"This is what we have found in these two locations and we have notified city officials in Warren and they have assured us they will work with us to identify the point source of their sewer pipe which is somehow entering the county storm sewer," Miller said.

The MCPW will be following up

with the city to ensure corrective action is taken.

The investigation began in late November after a local resident reported seeing a sheen on the Red Run near where the Schoenherr Relief Drain empties in to the creek, just north of 14 Mile Road, west of Schoenherr Road, Cwikla said. Since that time, the county has been collecting samples from the Schoenherr Relief Drain and other connecting underground storm sewers, trying to find the source. The county is able to test the samples in a lab at its Chapaton Pump Station in St. Clair Shores.

The MCPW had previously scheduled the Schoenherr Relief Drain for a major structural and illicit connection inspection, slated to begin in early 2018.

"Obviously, when we received this report of a sheen on the Red Run, we accelerated things. We will still be conducting additional testing and conduct a structural review of the Schoenherr Relief, but when we find something like this, we're not going to wait to get it fixed," Miller said. "When we find it, we fix it."

The MCPW collected and tested samples from more than 20 locations along the drain in an effort to isolate the source. Crews found a 36-inch diameter city pipe at the location near 14 Mile Road and a 72-inch diameter city pipe at the location near I-696. Water from both pipes is entering into the MCPW with the high E. coli counts, meaning the source is somewhere in the Warren pipes.

The Schoenherr Relief Drain was constructed back in the early 1950s, Cwikla said.

It runs roughly along Schoenherr Road from 9 Mile Road to the Red Run, just north of 14 Mile Road.

One of the hot spots was found on the 14 Mile Schoenherr Relief Drain, which runs east-west along 14 Mile Road, Cwikla said.

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This 1916 GMC Model 31 truck is on display in Warren.



While kept in a produce market, this truck is for display purposes only.

Local Market Restores a 100-Year-Old GMC Pickup Truck

Talk about going back to your roots. What better place to display a 100-year-old pickup truck than in a produce market?

One of the main uses of the early pickup trucks was to deliver groceries, said Sharon Katz, owner of the Produce Palace International in Warren who has just put a fully-restored 1916 GMC Model 31 on display.

"We opened up in 1995," Katz said. "My late husband, Sam, and a partner ran the store, and one of the things the partner bought was an old 1916 GMC Model 31 pickup truck. It was on display for many years and this was the kind of truck that grocery stores used to deliver groceries to customers."

The truck was restored, but as time went on, Katz said, the truck was put away in a backroom and was ignored. As a result, it fell into disrepair. That did not please Katz.

"I felt this truck was a real piece of history," Katz said. "It had become neglected and I really felt that it had been mishandled. So I decided to do something about it."

"I hired a carpenter familiar with the truck. His name is Leo Biela and he was a friend of my husband."

One of the things Katz liked about the truck was that wood was heavily used in its body.

"Can you imagine getting into an accident with a truck with a

wood body?" Katz said. "By the time Leo started working on the truck, it looked like a junkyard special. He really worked hard on the truck. It now looks brand new."

Biela said that he was able to find a lot of the parts needed at a couple of Grosse Pointe estate sales. But not all the parts are original.

"I ordered the wood from a place in Lansing," Biela said. "I then worked on the wood and ordered other parts that were then manufactured at Classic Welding in Warren."

"It took a total of three months to do all the restoration work once we got started on the project in early September. We were

able to immediately put the newly-restored truck on display in the store just after Thanksgiving."

Produce Palace store manager Bob Montie said that the truck has attracted a lot of attention from members of the public who have seen it. This time, the store has taken efforts to protect the truck from neglect.

"We had to put it behind ropes," Montie said. "We're proud of it, but remember, it's still 100 years old. We haven't heard from anyone at GM yet about the truck, but we're hoping people at the Tech Center will hear about it and stop by to see what GM was doing a century ago."

Federal-Mogul Creates Apps For Parts

Federal-Mogul Motorparts has introduced an array of packaging-related product security features for its complete range of FP Diesel replacement engine and sealing components.

The brand protection solutions initiative was launched to thwart counterfeiting and to ensure that FP Diesel products continue to be premium-quality repair solutions for the world's hardest working engines, said Federal-Mogul spokeswoman Karen Shulhan.

Originating from Federal-Mogul Motorparts' manufacturing facility in Skokie, Ill., the cartons include automated authentication package labels, offering an easy way to confirm that the product is genuine anywhere in the world.

Known as SmartAuthentication, Shulhan said this track-and-trace feature uses the product's serial number to locate it along the distribution channel, while a mobile app enables customs officials to quickly and easily authenticate each product.

For end customers, it is easy to determine if their FP Diesel product is authentic by using the SmartAuthentication Data Metric code that can be read via scanner or through a smartphone, Shulhan said. (Apps are available for download for Android, Apple, BlackBerry and Windows devices.)



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FCA Foundation Grants \$500K to United Way

In this holiday season, it's always nice to remember those who are less fortunate, and the FCA Foundation has done exactly that.

The FCA Foundation, the charitable arm of North American automaker FCA, last week gave a \$500,000 grant to United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

The grant will help United Way implement two primary strategies to ensure that more children have access to and participate in child nutrition programs throughout the school year and during the summer, said FCA Foundation spokesman Kevin Frazier.

First, the FCA Foundation grant will enable United Way to provide partner organizations (community groups and schools) with the funds and technical assistance needed to run and expand Meet Up and Eat Up summer meals programs, Frazier said.

Additionally, the grant will support United Way's efforts to implement robust community engagement, marketing and canvassing strategies to ensure that children and families, school administrators and the public know about both the Meet Up and Eat Up summer program and the School Breakfast Program available each school day.

"FCA US cares deeply about our communities and respects United Way for the work they do. In no uncertain terms, United Way is committed to improving lives," said Brian Harlow, head of Manufacturing, North America and FCA US United Way co-chair.

"By focusing on key areas including education, economic prosperity and health, United Way works to connect corporations, nonprofits and government agencies to tackle problems as a team, therefore ampli-

fying what no singular organization could do alone."

Raising awareness about the free food programs remains a priority to United Way, Harlow said. During the school year, nearly 300,000 children in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties qualify for either free or reduced-price meals.

Yet, of those eligible children, only about 17 percent participate in the free summer meals program Meet Up and Eat Up. In response, FCA US sponsored five United Way block parties this summer to increase awareness and attendance of the Meet Up and Eat Up program.

"We are grateful for strategic partners like FCA US for helping us support families throughout the tri-county," said Tanya Heidelberg Yopp, interim CEO, United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

"With partnerships that reach more than 700 sites, this significant grant will help further our efforts for greater impact so that children continue to have access to this valuable free meals program each summer."

According to data from the



The FCA Foundation's \$500,000 grant to United Way will fight hunger.

Michigan Department of Education, Harlow said the total number of summer meals served in 2016 in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties was 1,210,049.

All donations to United Way this year count toward its overreaching 2016-18 Annual Community Giving goal of \$100 million, set by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles CEO Sergio Marchionne, who also serves as United Way Campaign chair.

United Way for Southeastern Michigan mobilizes the caring power of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties to improve lives in measurable and lasting ways throughout the region, Frazier said.

The organization is led by a diverse group of volunteers from business, labor, government, human services, education and the community, Frazier said.

Ford Expanding Porfolio in China Market

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – Ford Motor Co. is promising to roll out more than 50 new vehicles in China over the next eight years including 15 powered by electricity as it restructures its business and responds to a government push for cleaner air by making all new vehicles electric.

The automaker, currently a small player in the world's largest auto market, announced

the ambitious plan recently in Shanghai.

In addition to the Ford and Lincoln brand electric vehicles, the company said a new Zotye-Ford joint venture will sell a new line of affordable vehicles that run on batteries.

The move comes as Ford tries to become more competitive globally under new CEO Jim Hackett. In October, the company announced plans to cut \$14 billion in costs, drop some car models and focus resources on

trucks, SUVs and electric vehicles.

It's also a sign that, unlike rival General Motors, Ford has missed out on the past opportunities to grow substantially in China, said Jeff Schuster, senior vice president of forecasting for the LMC Automotive consulting firm. "China is extremely important and I think this is an acknowledgement of maybe some previous missteps of investment in China for Ford," he said.

Here's what you need to know about Ford's plan:

- Foreign and domestic automakers in China sold 24.4 million cars, minivans and sport-utility vehicles in China last year. LMC forecasts only 1-2 percent growth this year because part of a tax incentive expired at the end of last year, forcing buyers to act in 2017. Schuster says annual growth should settle in in the 3 percent to 4 percent range in future years.
- General Motors Co. and Volkswagen AG vie for the title of largest automaker in China. GM sold 383,000 vehicles in October compared with Ford's 150,000.
- In September, China joined France and Britain in announcing plans to end sales of gasoline and diesel cars. It's developing a timetable to end production of traditional fuel cars and no date has been set for the change to electrics.
- Schuster says it's not too late for the company to increase sales in China, where growth is expected to outpace other developed nations.
- Ford says it will assemble five additional vehicles in China for customers there, including a Lincoln SUV and Ford's first global all-electric SUV.

Honda's Electric Hybrid to Hit 2018 NAIAS

DETROIT (AP) – Honda will unveil a new five-passenger gas-electric hybrid sedan at the Detroit auto show next month.

The company says it's bringing back the Insight name for the compact car that will offer mileage competitive with other hybrids. Fuel economy and price weren't released Dec. 19 for the car that will be in U.S. showrooms next summer.

The Edmunds.com auto buying site is predicting that sales of electric and hybrid cars will hit record numbers in the U.S. next year. The website says fully electric vehicles, plug-in rechargeable hybrids and traditional gas-electric hybrids will make up 4.4 percent of the market. That's up from an estimated 3.2 percent this year.

Edmunds expects automakers to sell 17.2 million new vehicles this year and says that will fall to 16.8 million next year. Most of the sales will be driven by gas-powered trucks and SUVs. The company predicts that cars will fall to a record low of 34.5 percent of the U.S. market next year.

Honda's funky two-door Insight hybrid came out in 1999 and got 70 miles per gallon on the highway.

But the company said the new version will have four doors and use a two-motor hybrid system. It will have premium features and performance for mainstream car buyers. It's part of the brand's promise to make two-thirds of its global vehicles at least partly electric by 2030.

A prototype will be shown at Detroit's North American International Auto Show.

It's expected to have competitive gas mileage with Toyota's Prius, which now gets 52 miles per gallon in combined city and highway driving.

State Gas Prices Drop in Time For Holidays

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) – AAA Michigan says gas prices statewide have dropped by about 6 cents per gallon between Dec. 11 and Dec. 18.

The Dearborn-based auto club says the average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was about \$2.45 per gallon. Prices are about 19 cents more than at the same point last year.

Michigan's lowest average price was about \$2.37 per gallon in the Traverse City area.

The highest was about \$2.62 per gallon in the Marquette area.

It was the third consecutive week that the Marquette area had the highest average in the state.

The Detroit-area's average price dropped 3 cents to \$2.47 per gallon.

AAA Michigan surveys daily fuel prices at 2,800 gas stations across the state to obtain these numbers.

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Pacifica Hybrid Engine in Ward's Top 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ciency fronts, with EPA driving-range ratings of 33 miles in electric-only mode, and 570 total miles.

“We knew this was a special project when we were asked to develop the most fuel-efficient minivan ever,” says Bob Lee, head of Engine Powertrain and Electrified Propulsion Systems Engineering, FCA – North America. “Receiving this award, especially for the second time, validates our early conviction – as do reports from our customers.”

FCA has engaged 100 Pacifica Hybrid customers who have agreed to participate in monthly ownership-experience surveys over a two-year period, Mayne said. To date, 47 percent of respondents report more driving range than expected, with 22 percent saying they have observed “much more.”

Wards 10 Best Engines judge Drew Winter echoes this satisfaction.

“The Pacifica Hybrid is a big, seven-passenger plug-in hybrid minivan with all the bells and whistles families have come to adore, but with 33 miles of full electric range and levels of fuel efficiency unimaginable just a few short years ago,” said Winter, senior content director at *Ward'sAuto*. “With most owners using their minivans to run errands and occasionally take a long-distance drive, the Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid is a stroke of genius.”

Central to the vehicle's performance is its eFlite electrically variable transmission, Lee said. An in-house FCA innovation, it was developed by a team of engineers assigned exclusively to the task of delivering a high-efficiency driving experience that retains the functionality customers expect from minivans.

Conventional electrification schemes dedicate one motor to serve as a generator and a second motor, usually much larger, to deliver torque to the wheels, Lee said. The eFlite gearbox uses a one-way clutch that enables the motor typically used only as a generator, to power the wheels, depending on driving conditions.

The result is increased efficiency, refinement, and improved component packaging. The lifeblood of the 2018 Pacifica Hybrid is its 16-kWh lithium-ion battery pack, which is located under the second-row floor, Lee said. Recharging can take as little as two hours using an optional 240-volt (Level 2) charger, available from Mopar through dealers.

When the battery's energy is depleted to a certain threshold, the Pacifica Hybrid becomes a

part-time electric vehicle, like a conventional hybrid, to maximize energy and efficiency, Lee said. Power to the wheels is supplied by the electric drive system or helped by a specially adapted version of the gasoline-powered Pentastar 3.6-liter V6, which was named one of *Wards* 10 Best Engines in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

“Imagine the convenience that comes with plugging in at home, instead of stopping at the gas station once or twice a week,” says Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Car Brands – Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and FIAT, FCA – North America.

“Now combine that with the capacity to transport up to seven people in superior comfort. That makes the 2018 Chrysler Pacifica minivan a mobility solution like no other.”

F-150 Engine Earns Honors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

up truck has landed on the *Wards* 10 Best Engines list, Winter said.

“Cars seem to have the upper hand in our competition because they're lighter, quicker off the line and more fuel-efficient,” Winter said.

“This year was different. Ford loaned us the redesigned 325-hp twin-turbo 2.7L EcoBoost V6 in the F-150, and our staff was blown away by its vibration-free idle, its nearly imperceptible stop/start system and especially its tomb-like silence. We've been in luxury cars that aren't this quiet.

“Judging by its relatively small displacement, one might assume this engine, using both direct and port fuel injection, is merely an adequate offering within the F-150 lineup. Not true. It will snap your head back if you stomp on

the gas at just about any speed. No wonder the 2.7L is now the most popular engine in America's most popular pickup truck.”

Winter and his fellow judges also had strong things to say about the redesigned 5.0L V8 in the Mustang GT. “This engine shares some of its voodoo with the Shelby GT350's 5.2L V8 that made our list two years ago, such as lightweight spray-in cylinder liners,” he said.

The 5.0L now adds direct fuel injection to existing port delivery and has a higher (7,500-rpm) redline, reinforced crankshaft and bumped-up compression ratio (12.0:1), enabling 460 hp and 420 lb.-ft. of torque, Winter said.

Paired to a new 10-speed automatic transmission, this muscle car is “shockingly efficient as some of our editors routinely topped 24 mpg despite our heavy-pedal testing.”



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Bolt EV Earns High Praise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thrilling acceleration, which makes it fun to drive every day, and it is available now in dealerships in all 50 states."

For the competition, *Wards Auto* editors evaluate every new propulsion system available in production vehicles on sale in the U.S. Vehicles must have a starting MSRP less than \$63,000, Winter said.

The editors score eligible vehicles on horsepower, torque, technology, observed fuel economy, relative competitiveness and noise characteristics.

"The *WardsAuto* 10 Best recognition of the Bolt EV propulsion system is an accolade for the entire team behind its design, engineering and manufacturing," said Tim Grewe, general director for GM Global Electrification programs. "Chevrolet committed to offering the world's first affordable, long-range EV and delivered."

"More than 20,000 Bolt EV owners are already benefiting from great range and performance thanks to its state-of-the-art battery and electric motor technology."

Starting at \$37,495 with destination and freight charges and excluding tax, title, license, dealer fees and any available federal or state tax incentives, the Chevrolet Bolt EV's 266 lb.-ft. of torque and 200 hp help propel the Bolt EV from 0-60 mph in 6.5 seconds.

In addition to the award-winning propulsion system, Grewe said the 2018 Bolt EV offers as standard equipment remote keyless entry; Teen Driver technology that helps encourage safe driving habits and lets parents know how their teenager drove the vehicle; 10 air bags, and a rear vision camera.

Available features include On-Star 4G LTE with Wi-Fi hotspot (data subscription required), Lane Change Alert with Side Blind Zone Alert, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Rear Park Assist, Low Speed Forward Automatic Braking, Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning, Forward Collision Alert, Following Distance Indicator and Front Pedestrian Braking.

Among other honors, the Chevrolet Bolt EV is a 2017 IIHS Top Safety Pick when equipped with the optional Driver Confidence II package, Read said.

Auto Dealership Now Accepting Electronic Cash

EAST GREENBUSH, N.Y. (AP) — A car dealership in suburban Albany is accepting bitcoin purchases.

Michael Severance, of Michael's Auto Plaza, tells WTEN-TV the dealership recently started accepting the digital currency. Severance says he became interested in bitcoin as its value rose.

The East Greenbush businessman says he wanted his dealership to take advantage of an opportunity.

Bitcoin is the world's most popular virtual currency. Such currencies are not tied to a bank or government and allow users to spend money anonymously. They are basically lines of computer code that are digitally signed each time they are traded. The price of one bitcoin is approaching \$20,000.

Severance says he saw people purchasing large pieces of property with the digital currency and figured cars should be no different.

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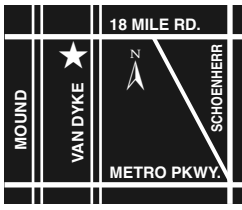
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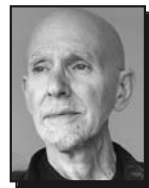


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Saturday	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

*Pictures may not represent actual sale vehicle. All applicable incentives including bonus cash, bonus tags, competitive lease, lease conquest and/or lease loyalty offers have been deducted from Sale Prices/Payments and are subject to change by the manufacturer without notice and are plus title, tax, plate and CVR fees and were valid at time of printing. GM Employee discount required except where noted. Leases are 10,000 miles per year. Disposition fee may be required at lease turn in. 2018 Cruze is a former courtesy transportation vehicle with under 3000 miles. \$2000 minimum trade-in guarantee is on 2006 or newer vehicles. No branded, salvage or rebuilt titles. Certain restrictions apply, see dealer for complete details on all incentives/offers. Sale ends 12/30/2017 @ 2:00PM.

CHEVROLET