

GM CEO Barra Says GM Will Help Reshape World's Zero-Emissions Automotive Future

GM has “the ambition, the talent and the technology to create a world with zero crashes, zero emissions and zero congestion.”

That was the message given by GM CEO Mary Barra at the annual CERAWEEK energy conference in Houston on March 7.

Barra said the public is in the midst of a transportation revolution caused by new technologies and the evolving demands of the auto industry's customers.

“We want the freedom to visit

with friends and family, and explore new places – without traffic jams,” Barra said. “Connected and shared vehicles can help end the congestion that wastes our time and money.”

She said the company is encouraged by the momentum created by the introduction of the Chevy Bolt EV to the marketplace. To that end, Barra said GM will increase production of the vehicle at its Orion Assembly Plant later this year.

Barra also spoke of how EVs will help GM achieve zero emissions and what the company's strategy to achieve this goal is.

“We're moving fast. Last year in the U.S., our own groundbreaking Chevrolet Bolt EV, Chevrolet Volt plug-in hybrid, and Cadillac CT6 Plug-in accounted for nearly a quarter of industry EV and plug-in sales,” Barra said. “And in China, where

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Production of the Bolt EV will be increased to meet stronger demand.



GM Tech Center women gathered in the VEC lobby to celebrate International Women's Day March 8.

GM's ERGs Call for Action To Accelerate Gender Parity

March 8 was International Women's Day, and was celebrated by GM's Women Employee Resource Groups (ERGs).

According to the International Women's Day Web site, “March 8 is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.”

“The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. International Women's Day (IWD) has occurred for well over a century, with the first March 8 IWD gathering supported by over a million people in

Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. Prior to this, the Socialist Party of America, United Kingdom's Suffragists and Suffragettes, and further groups campaigned for women equality.

“Today, IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. IWD is not country, group or organization specific. Make IWD your day – every day.”

GM spokeswoman Teresa Henderson said the company has a Women's ERG, headed by Alicia

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Detroit OEMs Unveil New Work Trucks at NTEA

Silverado's New 4,5,6 Class Trucks Are Ready to Work

Chevrolet revealed its first-ever Silverado Class 4, 5 and 6 chassis cab trucks last week at the NTEA Work Truck Show in Indianapolis.

The vehicles are three “supremely capable conventional cab models,” said GM spokeswoman Rita Kass-Shamoun.

“Chevy's designers and engineers were obsessed with making this Silverado the most customer-focused medium duty truck of any major competitor,” said Ed Peper, U.S. vice president, GM Fleet. “By customer-focused, I mean work-ready trucks that are easy to upfit, easy to drive, easy to service and easy to own.”

The input of fleet managers, truck drivers, upfitters, technicians and Chevrolet dealers drove the development of the new Silverados, Peper said.

“It's not just numbers on a spec sheet that make us different

and better,” said John Schwegman, director of Commercial Product and Medium Duty at GM Fleet. “These new Silverados are designed to solve the most common upfit and ownership challenges fleets have with many of today's medium duty trucks.”

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2019 Silverado 6500HD

FCA Shows Off Its Latest Work Ram 1500

Americans work hard and the folks at Ram would like them to work hard in Ram vehicles.

To that end, Ram revealed the new 2019 Ram 1500 Tradesman model at last week's National Truck Equipment Association's (NTEA) Work Truck Show in Indianapolis.

Aimed at one of the largest traditional pickup customer categories – vocational use – the new Ram 1500 Tradesman is a hard-

working truck designed for small businesses, construction jobsites and commercial fleets, said Mike manley, head of Ram Brand – FCA.

“Ram launched the original Tradesman model in 2011, and our work truck customers have enjoyed Ram's benchmark durability ever since,” he said.

“Ram has the highest owner loyalty of any half-ton truck and the Ram 1500 Tradesman model

will continue to deliver confidence for hard-working people who rely on it every day.”

The 2019 Ram 1500 Tradesman is available in two cab styles and two bed lengths: Quad Cab with 6 ft., 4 in. bed, Crew Cab short bed (5 ft., 7 in.) or Crew Cab with optional 6 ft., 4 in. bed.

Powertrain offerings include standard 3.6-liter Pentastar V6

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Ford Upgrades Transit Van

Ford, America's commercial vehicle leader, said Ford spokeswoman Dawn McKenzie, wants to stay America's commercial leader, which is why the company introduced the new 2019 Transit Connect Cargo Van at the NTEA Work Truck Show in Indianapolis last week.

The NTEA, also known as the Association for the Work Truck Industry, represents more than 1,950 companies that manufac-

ture, distribute, install, sell and repair commercial trucks, truck bodies, truck equipment, trailers and accessories.

New and exclusive driver-assist technologies, two new drivetrains – including the only available diesel in the segment – and unsurpassed capabilities mean no other competitor can touch Transit Connect when it comes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Ford's 2019 Transit Connect Van

Cadillac Brand Enjoys Bright Lights of Oscars

For the fifth consecutive year, Cadillac returned as official automotive partner and vehicle provider of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences for the 90th Oscars.

The brand ran three television spots on Oscars night that focused on performance, technology and the future of Cadillac vehicles, said Cadillac spokesman CJ Smith.

The spots included the first glimpse of the highly anticipated, new Cadillac XT4 SUV, which will be revealed in New York later this month.

“Cadillac is proud to be a part of the Academy Awards, one of the most iconic platforms that reaches audiences across the globe,” said Cadillac Director of Marketing Renée Rauchut.

“Having been featured in more than 10,000 films and television shows, Cadillac has always played a significant role in the arts.

The Oscars is a natural fit for the brand and the perfect stage to reveal our exhilarating new creative, including a preview of the first-ever Cadillac XT4 and a look at our industry-leading Super Cruise technology. We're excited to show the world what the future holds for Cadillac.”

Cadillac kicked off the evening with a 60-second anthemic brand spot, “Future Is Here,” showing Cadillac's “endless pursuit of innovation and its ever-growing portfolio.”

An evolution of Cadillac's “Dare Greatly” platform first revealed during the Oscars in

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March 30 Deadline For MCC Job Fair

Employers interested in participating in the annual Macomb Community College and City of Warren job fair have until March 30 to register and pay the \$100 per table fee. The job fair typically attracts more than 1,400 job seekers and will be held Wednesday, April 18, 4 to 7 p.m.

Early sign-up is encouraged, since space is limited. Employers can register and pay by credit card by going online to www.myinterfase.com/macomb/employer. Registration is not complete until full payment is received. Call 586-445-7321 to learn more.

Barra Talks About GM’s Role in Future of Auto Industry

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plug-in electric sales are rising, we introduced the Buick Velite 5 and Baojun e100 along with the CT6 Plug-in.

“And this is just the beginning. We are well on our way to bringing at least 20 new all-electric models to market by 2023 – our next step toward a zero-emissions world. We are optimistic about EVs because last year, automakers sold 1.2 million plug-in electrics and plug-in hybrids around the world.”

She went on to say that increased Bolt EV production benefits GM customers around the world, GM dealers and GM employees, who are proud to build an affordable, groundbreaking vehicle that customers love.

“And,” she said, “there’s more to come because the Bolt EV is our platform providing a window into our all-electric and self-driving future.”

Barra said GM is growing its electric fleet while at the same time pushing the boundaries of engineering to improve fuel efficiency across its portfolio.

“But make no mistake, even as we deliver the best-ever fuel economy in the vehicles our customers love to drive today, we continue to make progress toward a future with zero emissions,” Barra said. “Our commit-

ment to an all-electric, zero-emissions future is unwavering, regardless of any modifications to future fuel economy standards.

“We expect to hear more on the required government review of the standards soon. What we do support in that review is the need for the government to have one set of requirements. One common standard allows us to advance innovation for our customers today and tomorrow.”

But innovation alone will not get GM to zero emissions, Barra said. Customers will have to embrace them at a time when gas prices are relatively low and stable. And there needs to be a cleaner electric grid to support EVs.

“In the U.S., the current federal tax credit helps make electric ve-

hicles more desirable and affordable,” she said, “and we appreciate that it was retained in the tax reform law. However, we feel tax credits should be expanded so our customers continue to receive the benefit going forward.

“We also need to remove barriers to consumer acceptance of EVs. For example, we believe the energy industry and other stakeholders must partner with us on a robust charging infrastructure that drives consumers’ confidence that they can drive their EVs anywhere at any time.”

The growth of EVs is affecting more than the auto industry, Barra said, with positive discussion about the need for more renewable power sources.

“We recognize the challenge that coal still generates about 30

percent of electricity in the U.S. and 65 percent in China. When we improve the percentage of renewable power sources in our grid, we can further reduce the carbon footprint of EVs,” Barra said.

Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA) was founded in 1983 in Cambridge, Mass., by Daniel Yergin and James Rosenfield. The energy research and consulting firm quickly became known for its critical knowledge and independent analysis on energy markets, geopolitics, industry trends, technology and strategy.

Each year, CERA clients gathered for a few days in Houston to attend the executive conference where they gain insight into the energy future while connecting with their peers.

GM ERGs Looking to Improve Gender Parity

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Boler-Davis, executive vice president, General Motors Global Manufacturing. And under the main women’s ERG are ERGs for different departments within GM.

The latest women’s ERG is Global Product Development, which officially kicked off on March 8, said Michelle Gardner, executive director, Engineering Operations – Global Vehicle Engineering at the GM Tech Center in Warren.

“We actually sent out the welcome on the GM internal Web site on March 7,” Gardner said. “On March 8, we posted all the position openings within the Women’s Global Vehicle Development ERG.”

This year’s International Women’s Day theme is “Press for Progress,” Gardner said. “The point is to promote the idea of driving toward progress for

women in the workforce. As a sign of support, women at GM and around the world were encouraged to wear the color purple because it is the color of the future. Last year, the color of the day was red.

“GM Women’s mission is to attract, engage, retain and develop great women to drive GM’s business results and create a culture to win,” Gardner said. “We are asking our members to hold each other accountable.” The ERG provides a forum for her colleagues to talk about their careers and how they help each other.

Gardner said her ERG’s goal is threefold. First, they want to help women gain the skills they need to get to the next level of their career.

Second, they want them to better understand how they, as women, can better understand their customers and give their



Alicia Boler-Davis

customers what they want, as well as gain the skills they need to be a spokesperson for their work and for their company.

Finally, they want to be able to contribute to the culture in general and the community, specifically, Gardner said.

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FCA Shows Ram 1500 That's Ready to Work

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with eTorque mild hybrid system, optional 5.7-liter Hemi V8 or optional 5.7-liter Hemi V8 eTorque. The model is available in 4x2 or 4x4.

Manley said that through the use of high-strength steel and clever engineering, the all-new Ram 1500 has reduced its overall weight by 225 pounds. Properly equipped Tradesman models provide work truck capability towing up to 12,750 pounds and offer up to 2,300 pounds of payload in a four-door quad cab configuration. All 2019 Ram 1500 models are equipped with the largest front brakes in the segment at 14.9 inches.

Manley added that Ram Tradesman offers greater performance for the price when compared to other work trucks, adding useful features such as a standard Class III trailer hitch and lighted, above-bumper four- and seven-pin trailer wire connectors.

The Ram 1500 features a segment-exclusive multi-link rear

coil suspension that provides best-in-class ride and handling qualities. A coil-spring setup centralizes and absorbs bumps and impacts, while reducing the amount of friction in the spring system. This setup also weighs 40 pounds less than a leaf-spring configuration. Also available is Ram's exclusive four-corner air suspension system to balance any load.

Standard interior features include Uconnect 5.0 with five-inch screen and hands-free calling, one-year of SiriusXM Radio, a 12-volt auxiliary power outlet, three USB ports, one auxiliary port and automatic headlamps. Buyers can choose vinyl or cloth 40/20/40 split bench seats with six-passenger capability, featuring shoulder and lap belts on all six seats. Interior colors include Black/Diesel Gray with either standard vinyl or carpeted flooring.

Standard equipment includes 160-amp alternator, 3.21 rear axle ratio, 730-amp maintenance-free battery, black grille and black steel bumpers, cargo bed lamp,

front and rear Frequency Response Damping (FRD) shock absorbers, rear view camera, tilt and telescoping steering column, halogen headlamps, locking tailgate, power door locks, power windows, remote keyless entry and a theft-deterrent system.

Manley said a long list of options is available for the Tradesman, including 3.21 or 3.92 rear axle ratios, anti-spin rear differential, rear electric-locking differential, off-road package with factory suspension lift, 180-amp alternator, folding trailer-tow mirrors, rubber floor mats, Mopar chrome side steps and bumper step, spray-in bedliner and trailer brake controller.

Michigan Fuel Prices Rising

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) – AAA Michigan says gas prices statewide have risen by about 3 cents per gallon in the past week.

The club said as of March 5 the average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was about \$2.53 per gallon. Prices are about 11 cents more than at the same point last year.

Michigan's lowest average price was about \$2.50 per gallon in the Flint area.

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Europeans Get Opportunity To See Cars with Latest Tech

GENEVA (AP) – Global automakers rolled out more electric vehicles at the Geneva International Motor Show last week as they try to challenge Tesla and get ahead of a disruptive shift in transportation toward lower-emission and autonomous vehicles.

For the European carmakers, the mood at the event could be unsettled by U.S. President Donald Trump's recent threat to slap tariffs on the region's manufacturers in a potential trade war.

And the three big German manufacturers – Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW – grasped the opportunity to highlight their high-tech creations amid their continued trouble with diesel technology, such as the legal attempts to ban diesel in German cities and the scandal over exposing monkeys to exhaust in lab tests.

The carmakers showed off their wares during press days. The show officially opened to the public March 8 and runs through March 18.

The biggest trend in autos is the race to make new technologies affordable and functional.

Some of the vehicles on show – such as Volkswagen's autonomous and battery-driven I.D. Vizzion – will be concepts not yet ready for production. Others will have vehicles that are ready to go on sale in coming months, such as Jaguar Land Rover with the Jaguar I-Pace, a battery-driven SUV advertising 310 miles (498 kilometers) of range and rapid-charging capability.

Mercedes-Benz had an addition to its EQ electric brand. Hyundai will show its Kona Electric, with either a 300-kilometer (186-mile) or 470-kilometer (292-

mile) range. Luxury carmakers like BMW and Jaguar are eager to grab back some of the sales of high-end vehicles taken by Tesla with its electric Model S high-performance sedan and Model X SUV.

When it comes to technological change there will be more than vehicles to talk about. The German automakers and Ford are working to build a network of fast-charging stations across Europe through their joint venture, Ionity. The idea is to make electric vehicles more appealing by enabling longer trips. Currently, many electric models are charged over several hours at home at night and used for short commutes, limiting their use. Ionity's 350-kilowatt-per-hour charging capacity could cut charge times to 15 minutes or less.

Automakers are under pressure to come up with vehicles propelled by something other than internal combustion engines to comply with government efforts to reduce air pollution and emissions of greenhouse gases blamed by scientists for global warming. The issue became even more pressing after a German court said recently that polluted cities can ban older-model diesels. Diesel sales had already slipped after Volkswagen's 2015 scandal over cheating on emissions tests.

Autonomous vehicles could herald a shift to transportation as a service with less incentive to own a car.

Analysts at IHS Markit estimate that autonomous cars will have their first significant sales volume with 51,000 units in 2021 and surpass 33 million per year by 2040.

Miller Fights for 'More Attention' To Great Lakes

Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller is joining with leaders from across the Great Lakes basin in calling for more attention to be given to the lakes, calling them a "national treasure."

Miller was in Washington, D.C., for Great Lakes Day on March 7, an event organized by the Great Lakes Commission, of which Miller is a member, said Macomb County spokesman John Cwikla.

The GLC issued a priority statement that urges members of Congress and the administration to fully fund the critical Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, preserve and strengthen agricultural conservation programs, invest in aging water infrastructure, maintain and upgrade ports, locks and other navigation infrastructure, and protect the Great Lakes from aquatic invasive species.

"Members of Congress from this region understand the critical importance of the Great Lakes, but too often those who are from other parts of the country do not fully grasp the role the lakes play as the source of drinking water for more than 48 million people in the U.S. and Canada and that the lakes directly generate more than 1.5 million jobs," Miller said. "The Great Lakes are both a unique ecosystem and a key driver of the regional economy."

Long an advocate for the Great Lakes, Miller was appointed as one of the five commissioners of the GLC in early 2017. As Macomb County Public Works commissioner, her office recently engaged in a master planning process directly focused on ways to better protect the lakes, Cwikla said.

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The FT 400 was developed in collaboration with Ignites Research, a subsidiary of the FT that provides specialized content on asset management. To qualify for the list, advisers had to have 10 years of experience and at least \$300 million in assets under management (AUM) and no more than 60% of the AUM with institutional clients. The FT reaches out to some of the largest brokerages in the U.S. and asks them to provide a list of advisers who meet the minimum criteria outlined above. These advisers are then invited to apply for the ranking. Only advisers who submit an online application can be considered for the ranking. In 2016, roughly 980 applications were received and 400 were selected to the final list. The 400 qualified advisers were then scored on six attributes: AUM, AUM growth rate, compliance record, years of experience, industry certifications, and online accessibility. AUM is the top factor, accounting for roughly 60-70 percent of the applicant's score. Additionally, to provide a diversity of advisers, the FT placed a cap on the number of advisers from any one state that's roughly correlated to the distribution of millionaires across the U.S. The ranking may not be representative of any one client's experience, is not an endorsement, and is not indicative of advisor's future performance. Neither Raymond James nor any of its Financial Advisors pay a fee in exchange for this award/rating. The FT is not affiliated with Raymond James. space Neither Raymond James Financial Services nor any Raymond James Financial Advisor renders advice on tax issues, these matters should be discussed with the appropriate professional.

MCC Sponsoring a Global Economy Talk

American economist Lawrence H. Summers is slated to discuss the global economy, changes in national economic policy and the resulting impacts on the local economy.

The event will kick off the first program in the James Jacobs Civic Engagement Project at 6:30 p.m. on March 26 at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

Summers will be joined by David Wessel, a senior fellow in economic studies at Brookings Institute, for the presentation, "Economic Globalism vs. Nationalism and Its Effect on Macomb County."

Summers served as the 71st secretary of the U.S. Department of Treasury under President Bill Clinton and as the director of the White House National Economic Council in the Obama administration.

He was president of Harvard University 2001-2006 and chief economist of the World Bank 1991-1993.

Currently, Summers is president emeritus and the Charles W. Eliot University Professor at Harvard University, where he directs the university's Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government.

As well as being a senior fellow at Brookings Institute, Wessel also serves as the director of Brookings' Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy.

Prior to that, Wessel spent 30 years on staff at the *Wall Street Journal*, most recently serving as economics editor.

He remains a contributing correspondent to the *Wall Street Journal* and appears on NPR's Morning Edition.

The James Jacobs Civic Engagement Project was created to bring nationally recognized experts to Macomb County to

generate thoughtful dialogue on issues of importance to the area.

The project is supported by J.P. Morgan Chase, The Kresge Foundation and the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Jacobs retired as president of Macomb Community College in June 2017.

Mysteries, eBay, Escape 4U

March is a busy month for the Warren Public Library.

On Thursday, March 15, beginning at 6 p.m., a special seminar on how to sell on eBay will be held at the Civic Center branch of the library.

"Have you ever wanted to sell on eBay, but didn't know where to start?" asked Cyndi Knecht, Warren librarian.

"Ms. Shirley Berry will explain the steps you should take to become a successful eBay seller. Please call 586-574-4564 to register."

On Saturday, March 24, the library is trying something a little different, Knecht said. From 1 to 3 p.m. at the Civic Center branch, the library will host its own escape room.

"Calling all adults," Knecht said. "Have you heard of escape

Tickets for the presentation are complimentary but limited to four per person. To reserve tickets call 586-286-2222, Patrick said.

The Macomb Center for the Performing Arts is located on the Macomb Community College's Center Campus at 44575 Garfield Road in Clinton Township.

rooms and want to experience one? Then sign up for one of two sessions."

Space is limited. The event is aimed at those 18 and older only, Knecht said. To register, call 586-574-4564.

Mystery lovers should enjoy an evening of mystery with author Donald Levin. The event takes place on Thursday, March 29, at 6 p.m. in the Civic Center branch, Knecht said.

"Join award-winning mystery author Donald Levin as he discusses mystery books and why we enjoy them," Knecht said. "He will also talk about his Martin Preuss mystery series set in Metro Detroit."

"Books will be available to purchase and have signed by the author. Please call 586-574-4564 to register."

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GM's New Work Trucks Designed to Meet Owners' Needs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Creating these new trucks presented a number of challenges, Schwegman said. One was cost and complexity of upfits. They had to find a solution to frames that rust; rivets, brackets and fluid lines that interfere with body mounting.

The solution was a factory-painted frame with one-piece frame rails, smooth, unobstructed top sections, and through-the-frame fuel fill lines.

Then there was the problem of frame compromises; that is, frame rails that are too short behind the rear axle to accommodate longer cargo boxes without extensions and reinforcements.

The answer they came up with was seven Cab-to-Axle (CA) options ranging from 60 to 162 inches, along with five unique axle-to-

back-of-frame (AF) lengths sized in 8-inch increments.

They also wanted to make the vehicles easier to work on, Schwegman said. Past hood designs forced technicians to use a ladder or remove vehicle components to access under-hood components for maintenances and repair.

So they designed a lightweight, front-hinged "clamshell" hood that, combined with a 50-degree wheel cut, allows for easy walk-up access to under-hood components.

Schwegman said they also wanted to improve the ease of driving for the new models because of poor downward perspective for the driver, along with poor low-speed maneuverability due to narrow wheel cuts, and wide turning radiuses. So they came up with a precisely

crafted and contoured hood that optimizes the driver's perspective of the road.

Now, maneuverability is excellent, said Schwegman, thanks to up to 50-degree wheel cuts.

GM also wanted to reduce noise, vibration and harshness of ride, Schwegman said. They noted that many owners retrofitted aftermarket air suspensions to improve ride and reduce noise.

The solution was offering an available, factory-installed rear air suspension as well as triple-sealed, inset doors to help reduce wind and road noise. They also now use huck bolts throughout the frame for better clamping force.

The Silverado will be available in 2WD and 4WD and will be powered by a 6.6-liter Duramax diesel engine with 350 horsepower and 700 lb.-ft. of torque and Allison transmissions with a Power Take Off (PTO) option.

"When you consider all of the flexibility, capability and durability we have engineered into the Silverado, along with the proven power of Allison transmissions

and the Duramax diesel engine, we have a medium duty truck line that will appeal to both Chevrolet loyalists and competitive owners alike," said Schwegman.

The Silverado will also be the most connected commercial truck available, he said, thanks to options that include OnStar and Commercial Link, a built-in 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot (paid data plan required), wireless cell-phone charging, Bluetooth and support for Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

The launch of the new Silverados will build on the momentum Chevrolet and GM Fleet have been building over several years, Schwegman said.

"Chevrolet's return to the conventional cab medium duty segment," said Peper, "is part of a multi-year strategy to earn the business and loyalty of Commercial and Government customers by expanding into new product segments, delivering innovative business solutions, superior value and an exceptional customer experience."

Packard Plant Getting New Renovations

DETROIT (AP) – It's been nearly a year since developers began a more than \$300 million revamp of the former Packard car plant in Detroit into a multi-use project they hope will include apartments, shops and galleries.

Developers have already spent \$4 million on the pre-development and cleanup of the Packard Plant, *The Detroit News* reported.

Workers have hauled away 14,000 yards of debris from the site, which has been mostly vacant for decades, said Kari Smith, the project's director of development through site owner Arte Express Detroit. Some of the material has been salvaged for future use, she said.

"We've salvaged all the wood on the floors," Smith said. "There's arches and dentil work on the bottom floor. That's been kept. . . There wasn't much because it was scrapped pretty significantly."

The goal is to turn the area into mixed-use development over the course of 10 to 15 years, Smith said.

"It will function like a mini city," she said. "There will be commercial, restaurants, eventually residential. There will be several uses."

The first phase of the project focuses on the redevelopment of a 121,000-square-foot, four-story administration building expected to house several tenants when completed in 2020.

Fernando Palazuelo, a Peruvian developer who also is Arte Express' chief executive, bought the complex in 2013 for \$405,000 at a tax foreclosure auction.

The plant long has been a symbol of Detroit's urban decay and past automotive glory. It was built in 1903.

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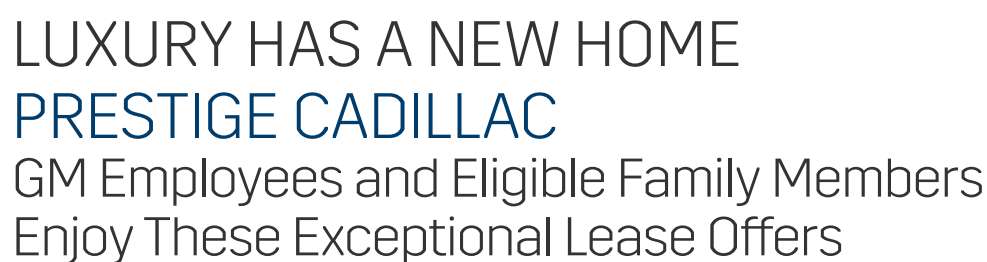


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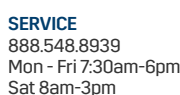
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Cadillac released this silhouette shot of the new XT4.

Cadillac Teases Public With Dark Glimpse of New XT4

The 30-second upbeat ad, set to Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk," gives a sneak peek at the highly anticipated Cadillac XT4, the

Further showcasing the brand's commitment to the entertainment industry, earlier this week Cadillac continued its support of the entertainment industry and its diverse storytellers as the official automotive sponsor of the American Black Film Festival Honors.

AxleTech Gets New CFO

He most recently served as managing director at Angle Advisors, a boutique investment banking firm, where he provided a variety of merger and acquisition advisory services. Prior to joining Angle Advisors, Larkin was a partner at GR Investment Group, a private equity firm, responsible for acquisition and divestiture activities, financial management, and overseeing all portfolio investments.

"As we continue to invest in new powertrain technologies, including electric vehicles, we are focused on developing our team to support significant growth. Rick and Mike's roles are key in the success of AxleTech; they bring energy, extensive industry experience, and leadership in their respective fields," said Bill Grzenia, CEO, AxleTech.

PSA Group Earning Record Profits

Last year, General Motors sold off its money-losing European operations to the PSA Group for \$2.3 billion. GM had not made

PSA is also taking advantage of new French labor rules championed by President Emmanuel Macron, planning 1,300 voluntary job cuts this year and restructuring its workforce to boost production of electric and autonomous vehicles.

Maven Charges Up Fleet in Heart of Texas

Maven now offers its first all-electric fleet of cars for use in the gig economy, making it easier for Austinites who want to get the most out of their side hustle.

Earlier this month, 20 Chevrolet Bolt EVs became available for freelance drivers in Austin, Texas, to earn money on their own schedules, said GM spokeswoman Annalisa Bluhm. The city's passion for tech start-ups, combined with its high concentration of college students, makes it the ideal location for Maven Gig.

Maven is working with Austin Energy, the Austin Transportation Department, and Rocky Mountain Institute to create infrastructure solutions leading to an all-electric future. Maven will leverage Austin's Plug-in Everywhere network of EV chargers, including Electric Drive, Austin's downtown smart mobility showcase complete with a DC Fast Charger and solar kiosk.

Maven Gig vehicles are available for flat weekly rates that include the car, unlimited miles, insurance (minus deductibles) and maintenance, Bluhm said. Pricing starts at \$229 per week plus taxes. For that, Maven will provide charging for Maven Gig drivers for a limited time through the Austin Energy Plug-In Everywhere and EVgo networks.

Drivers can see vehicle availability and pricing via the mobile app, Bluhm said. Reservations and pickup date/time can be scheduled through the app.

Maven Gig is platform agnostic and members can use the car to drive for rideshare services or for grocery, package and food delivery.

The Chevrolet Bolt EV with an EPA-estimated range of 238 all-electric miles is the most popular vehicle among Maven Gig drivers, Bluhm said. Bolt EVs in the Maven fleet have driven 6.5 million all-electric miles since February 2017 and have saved an estimated 250,000 gallons of gas.



Maven all-electric fleet has been launched in Austin, Texas.

An estimated 643,800 rideshare passengers have been transported in Maven Gig vehicles, and drivers shouldn't feel any range anxiety, Bluhm said. On average, Maven Gig members in Bolt EVs drive more than half the vehicle range every day.

And approximately 9 percent of daily trips exceed the EPA-estimated range of the car. To that end, Maven Gig drivers have taken trips from San Francisco to Portland and from San Diego to Los Angeles.

"Maven is excited to offer an all-electric fleet of shared vehicles for the gig economy," said Julia Steyn, vice president, General Motors Urban Mobility and Maven. "Austin is a perfect partner for this launch because of the city's commitment to innovation and sustainable transportation."

"The city of Austin launched Electric Drive one year ago as an example of a sustainable mobility hub in the heart of downtown," said Austin Mayor Steve Adler. "We now have the launch of Maven's first all-electric fleet in our community as a result. Maven Gig creates more opportunities to earn a living while on a sustainable platform."

"We are very pleased that

Maven chose Austin for its first all-electric fleet," said Jackie Sargent, Austin Energy general manager.

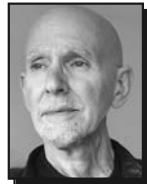
"Austin is a community that champions clean air, renewable energy and, increasingly, electric vehicles. Austin Energy will continue to work on innovative solutions that will help Austin achieve its ambitious climate protection goals."

Maven Gig first launched in November 2016 to provide vehicles for rideshare drivers in San Francisco and has since expanded the offering for package, grocery and food delivery drivers.

The mobile app provides drivers the ability to reserve cars and earn money on their own terms. Unlimited miles and insurance are included, and there's no membership fee.

Vehicle reservations are now available in Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Interested drivers can download the Maven app for Apple in the App Store and for Android in the Google Play Store.

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Detroit Auto Show Moving to Fall?

DETROIT (AP) – Organizers of Detroit's big auto show are talking about moving it from frigid January to October starting as early as 2020.

North American International Auto Show spokesman Max Muncey says a change is being considered but isn't final.

An earlier show would allow for outdoor displays including autonomous vehicle driving courses that can't be done in January. It also would distance the show from winter holidays and the CES gadget show in early January. CES has been attracting automotive technology announcements that could go to an earlier show in Detroit.

The Detroit show also has lost some automakers in recent

years, including Porsche, Jaguar-Land Rover and Mazda. Mercedes-Benz is pulling out starting next year. Muncey says the 2019 show will happen as scheduled Jan. 14-27.

More than 5,000 journalists normally attend the Detroit show, and over 809,000 attended the public days this year. But organizers say the show, conceived in 1907 by the Detroit Auto Dealers Association to boost lackluster January sales, might have to change to stay in the spotlight.

"This year, like many years in the past, we are exploring additional opportunities to best leverage our global stage," Muncey said, adding that discussions about a change are "more aggressive" this year.

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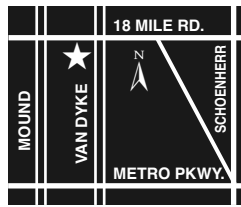
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FCA Works with MCWT to Help Educate Girls on Value of STEM Careers

by Jim Stickford

When planning a career, it never hurts to have help. Which is why FCA is holding special events in conjunction with the Michigan Council of Women in Technology (MCWT).

One such event was held at FCA's headquarters on March 9, and was put together by Paulette Ozga, a senior manager for Information Communication Technology – Risk Management and Compliance for FCA.

“At FCA, we partner with MCWT,” Ozga said. “We are one of the many corporate sponsors who work to improve the status of girls in technology fields. One way is to host GET IT groups. That stands for Girls Exploring Together Information Technology. It’s a program for girl middle and high school students that meets after school to encourage girls to go into IT. Part of what makes it work is that it applies STEM to real-world uses.”

Ozga said that just about everybody she knows has asked, at one point in their student days, “Why am I learning this?” Part of GET IT is to show students just what applications STEM fields of study have in the real world.

Which is why students who attend FCA GET IT events are able to get help in understanding the importance of STEM and how they, as females, can have a career in an area where the demand for employees is strong and the pay is good.

“Our objective is to reinforce why it’s important to continue their studies in STEM fields,” Ozga said. “This a fabulous chance for these girls because it is a great opportunity for them to get hands-on experience.”

The students attending the March 9 event came from five

schools, Ozga said – three in Detroit and two in Westland. The participating schools are Carver STEM Academy in Detroit, Emerson Elementary and Middle School of Detroit, Ludington Magnet and Honors School of Detroit, Franklin Middle School of Westland, and Stevenson Middle School of Westland.

Ozga is a graduate of Wayne State University and got her start as a computer programmer. When she was studying programming, she said the classes seemed just about evenly divided between men and women, but that balance might have changed over the years. Part of what MCWT and FCA is trying to do, Ozga said, is to keep girls interested in STEM study.

“Girls studying STEM start to fall off as they progress through middle school and high school,” Ozga said. “We’ve seen that change in attitude happen and we’re trying to impress them to change things.”

Part of the problem seems to be that tech fields might seem a little “geeky” and by having GET IT, the pressure to be cool is removed, Ozga said.

“They get to be with other girls like themselves,” Ozga said. “They get to pursue STEM with like-minded girls and they are free to explore their interests.”

Kevin Frazier, an FCA spokesman who helped put on the March 9 GET IT event, said that just seeing someone like yourself in a field can be encouraging. He said that as an African American, he hasn’t seen a lot of people like himself in public relations, so when he first did, he realized he could be a part of that field.

Ozga said MCWT and FCA programs do more than encourage girls to study STEM. They also work to provide mentoring from



Students from Carver STEM Academy in Detroit got to see the tech that goes into FCA vehicles.

middle school to high school and college and beyond.

“We offer a full cycle of mentoring,” Ozga said. “It is important to have someone that these girls can go to so they can talk about the challenges of studying STEM and to bounce ideas off of. We’ve all said, ‘I wish I knew then what I know now.’ With a mentor, these girls have the chance to do just that.”

The March 9 GET IT event was broken into three segments, Ozga said. The first segment allowed the girls to experience the technology that goes into a real-life vehicle.

There were 10 vehicles set out and the girls were able to review the tech features and use FCA’s UConnect services.

The second segment was built around teamwork. The girls were divided into teams and given challenges to solve. The work involved listening and solving problems. They used modeling clay to create vehicle solutions and show how they came up with the answers to the challenges as a team.

The third segment took place in a hands-on demonstration room where the students got to work with robots and see people in motion-capture suits design moves to create more efficient manufacturing techniques.

The motion-capture suits were used to create different virtual

manufacturing environments, Ozga said. STEM is important, but the girls need to see how the knowledge is applied in real-world situations.

“I love talking with the students,” Ozga said. “Because in Detroit, whenever I talk with a group, someone always tells me that a relative works in some sort of auto plant. This last segment can connect them with what these relatives do.”

GET IT holds events throughout the year, Ozga said. FCA volunteers are happy to participate in such programs and they will continue to do so as time goes on.

Ford Upgrading Its Latest Transit Van with New Tech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to helping any business go big, said McKenzie.

The best-selling compact cargo van in America, Ford Transit Connect has a commanding 46 percent market share, McKenzie said.

More than 300,000 Transit Connect vehicles have been sold since 2009 when Ford created the segment in the United States. Of those, 97 percent are still on the road – a testament to Transit Connect’s proven Built Ford Tough durability and versatility, said McKenzie.

“The original Transit Connect’s compact size resonated with customers searching for a more maneuverable and efficient commercial van,” said Tim Stoehr, Ford general fleet marketing manager.

“We’ve enhanced Transit Connect’s available technology and powertrains to keep up with what our customers need. It is a critical tool with smart features to help improve productivity out in the field.”

Transit Connect has the most driver-assist technologies in the segment, including Automatic Emergency Braking, Stoehr said. Transit Connect Cargo Van debuts as the only vehicle in its segment to offer the technology as standard across all models, helping to reduce accidents and time in the shop.

It also offers standard Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection to help avoid collisions with other vehicles and pedestrians who might cross in front of the vehicle’s path, as well as standard Side Wind Stabilization and standard Rearview Camera, Stoehr said.

The vehicle also comes with available Blind Spot Information System with Cross-Traffic Alert

and available Lane Keeping System, which helps drivers avoid lane drift to keep the vehicle centered on the road, as well as aAvailable Adaptive Cruise Control that makes highway driving easier by automatically slowing the vehicle when radar detects traffic slowing ahead.

Transit Connect is now smarter than ever to help these customers stay on the go, Stoehr said. Tools like the only standard embedded 4G LTE modem in the segment provides Wi-Fi for up to 10 devices, while an available 6.5-inch floating touch screen running SYNC 3 helps drivers keep their eyes on the road as they field customer calls and text messages hands-free or navigate to job sites.

Available wireless phone charging is a segment-first feature that keeps compatible mobile devices topped off and ready for service.

FordPass helps monitor small fleets, including driver location, fuel level, tire pressure and more.

These features are important because today’s business lives revolve around the mobile phone and staying connected. According to Pew Research Center, smartphone ownership among U.S. adults has grown from 35 percent in 2011 to 77 percent today.

Ford’s MyKey programmable ignition key remains standard for Transit Connect XLT enabling owners and fleet administrators to preset warnings and limits for vehicle speed, while restricting the entertainment system’s audio to 45 percent of maximum volume.

Transit Connect’s interior has also been rethought. Redesigned front seats with new seat foam offer enhanced comfort over the previous model.

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