

GM Creates a Flag Display to Honor the Fallen

by Jim Stickford

Memorial Day is a time to remember the sacrifice so many Americans have made for their country. To that end, volunteers at the GM Global Propulsion Systems (GPS) facility in Pontiac have planted 6,959 American flags in front of the GPS building on May 23 – one flag for each American killed in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq since October of 2001.

And to Stephen Young, a group leader for Wing 2 Development at GPS's Development Lab, the flags are very personal.

Young joined GM on May 8, 2017, after spending 28 years in the U.S. Army, where he was a Green Beret. He served in both the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters of operations as well as in Somalia and was stationed in places like Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Okinawa.

"I retired from the Army in 2012 at a Sgt. Major, with the E-9 rank designation in special forces, also known as Green Berets, and was on the Golden Knights Parachute Team my last two years in the service," Young said. "I was able to join GM because this company takes helping our veterans seriously. They offer us real opportunities. They just don't talk about helping vet-

erans, they actually are good to their word and really help veterans."

Looking at the number of flags as they were being planted meant a lot to Young.

"This event really gets to me," Young said. "When you look at

these flags, you realize each one represents a person that has been killed. And each person lost has a family who has to suffer with this loss. When I see the number of flags, it's overwhelming. We live in a country where people volunteer to protect us

and give us the chance to be free and live the values we esteem. When I see the number of people we have lost because of this, it's really humbling."

Young said that the second

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Volunteers at GM Global Propulsion Systems in Pontiac lay down a field of flags for each fallen warfighter.

FCA Cars & Coffee Gathering Set For Sunday in June

by Jim Stickford

Summer is here and the folks at FCA want to celebrate by holding a special Cars and Coffee event on June 3.

Anthony Grifka, a business planner in FCA's Product Design Office, said this year's Cars and Coffee event will be held on a Sunday because they wanted a day without competition.

"What we've found out is that there are several regular Saturday Cars and Coffee events held in the area," Grifka said. "So we picked a day where our event won't take away from other events. It's actually nice to have the whole day to ourselves."

Grifka said the event will be held in Lot 25 of the FCA headquarters in Auburn Hills. It begins at 9 a.m. and goes until noon.

"In previous years, we used to hold this event right outside the Walter P. Chrysler Museum," Grifka said. "But that's been closed down and converted to offices for Alfa Romeo and Maserati. People who don't know their way around the headquarters shouldn't worry because we'll be putting signs up

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Ford Introduces New, Improved F-150 Raptor Using New Technology

Given the popularity of aftermarket alterations to the F-150 Raptor pickup truck, Ford has decided to get rid of the middle man for the 2019 model.

Ford is making its iconic F-150 Raptor – the ultimate high-performance off-road pickup, said Ford F-150 program manager – even better with upgraded technology including class-exclusive, electronically controlled FOX Racing Shox, new Trail Control and new Recaro sport seats. "The upgrades," he said, "are focused on key components that have made the F-150 Raptor the benchmark in off-road trucks."

Greco said the F-150 has been

the best-selling truck for the past 41 years, and Ford takes that honor seriously.

"The question was, how do you take a great truck and make it better?" Greco said. "We always start with the suspension. The shocks are now electronically controlled to give the driver a more refined ride and to improve the truck's off-road capability."

And the new 2019 Raptor will have trail control, Greco said. This is basically a slow-speed feature that lets the driver focus on steering. He said this system can be best described as a low-speed cruise control system.

And working on improving the suspension also drove designers

to improve the Raptor's interior, Greco said.

"If the truck gets better, it only makes sense to make the interior better," Greco said.

Chris Paiva, head of Raptor Vehicle Dynamics, said that one of the driving forces behind improving the Raptor was the desire to up their game.

So Ford engineers and designers developed an active shock control system for the Raptor. This uses electronics to better adjust the suspension to the road and general environment.

Paiva called it a great improvement over "passive" shock control

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Paiva talks about the hi-tech suspension of the 2019 F-150 Raptor.



Contestants from around the world attended the Global Robofest recently held at Lawrence Tech.

Lawrence Tech Is Home To Global Robot Contest

Teams from Illinois, Michigan, Canada, Colombia, Hong Kong, Korea, and South Africa took home the top awards in Saturday's World Robofest Championship, held on the campus of Lawrence Technological University May 17-19.

Nearly 100 teams from around the world competed in a variety of robotic challenges, said LTU spokesman Matt Roush.

Lawrence Tech President Virinder Moudgil provided opening remarks, noting that participants are tomorrow's global leaders in engineering and science. Glen Bauer, Acting Dean of LTU's College of Arts and Sciences, provided closing remarks.

"It was another great year for Robofest, an event that brings together students from all over the globe in the pursuit of robotic

engineering excellence," said C.J. Chung, professor of computer science at LTU. Chung founded Robofest in 1999.

Taking home the Toyota first place award in the Senior Game division was a team called Blood, Sweat and Gears from Birmingham's Roper School. Second place went to Royal Robots from the Annapolis West Education Centre in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, Canada, while third place went to R&G 9 from the R&G Robot Center in Seoul, South Korea.

In the Junior Game division, the Denso first place award went to Insele Solutions, sponsored by Trophy Computers & Robotics in Vanderbijlpark, South Africa. Second place went to the Jammin' Awesome Blockies of Aurora, Ill., and

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UAW Region 1 To Bless Bikes This June

Motorcycle enthusiasts should check out the UAW Region 1 Blessing of the Bikes.

The special event will be held on Sunday, June 3, with the blessing taking place at noon, said UAW Region 1 Director Chuck Hall.

The event will be held at the UAW Region 1 Pavilion located at 27800 George Merrelli Drive in Warren, Hall said.

"This is the fifth annual blessing," Hall said. "There will also be rodeo games. Everyone is welcome and is one of Macomb County's largest such event."

While the blessing is at noon, the fun starts at 10 a.m. and goes to noon, Hall said.

There will be live music, cards, extra games, hot dogs and hamburgers, as well as a raffle and more – all after the blessing.

"This is something everyone can enjoy," Hall said. "It's great fun for families and motorcycle lovers. We think anyone who attends will have a great time, so come on down."

FCA Cars & Coffee Event Set for Early June

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to direct them to the right place."

Grifka said that the event is free to the public and is meant to be an informal gathering of car enthusiasts. For example, there will no charity or other organizations associated with the gathering.

"This is really just an event designed to let people who show off their cars and for others to find out what their fellow auto enthusiasts are up to and what they are doing to their vehicles," Grifka said.

"In past years, we've had 300 to 400 people attend the Cars and Coffee gatherings. We expect the same for this year."

While the event is open to the public at no cost, Grifka said that his fellow FCA employees are very excited about it.

"They get to show off their cars to people who can appreciate them," Grifka said. "My current vehicle is a 2018 Ram Rebel. I just traded in my 2015 Charger Scat Pack. I don't have a place to park it and protect it from Michi-



Last year's FCA Cars and Coffee was well attended and organizers of the 2018 event expect a similar turnout.

gan's harsh winters, so I decided it was better to get another vehicle when the lease was up."

The informality of the gathering hasn't prevented FCA from lending the event some of its past concept vehicles to show off

to the public, Grifka said. They include Jeep's Quicksand, Jeep's 4Speed, the Jeep Wagoneer Roadtrip (it has a .57-liter Hemi engine), the SpringFest 2018 Challenger TA and the 1970 Challenger TA.

"Last year, we held a couple of Cars and Coffee gatherings," Grifka said.

"This year, we only have firm plans for the June 3 one, but if we see there is enthusiasm for more, we'll schedule them."

Indy 500 Engineers Earn 2018 Louis Schwitzer Award

The 52nd annual Louis Schwitzer Award has been presented to engineers Tino Belli from INDYCAR, Andrea Toso and Antonio Montanari from Dallara, and Chris Beatty from Chris Beatty Design Limited for the IndyCar Universal Aero Kit, which is a complete aero and body package utilized on the vehicles racing in the 2018 Indianapolis 500.

The award and a \$10,000 prize was presented on May 18 by BorgWarner and the Indiana Section of the Society of Automotive

Engineers (SAE) International at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

"With this award we celebrate the people behind the scenes that make the Indianapolis 500 the 'Greatest Spectacle in Racing' – the engineers that spend countless hours dreaming up, developing and implementing the technologies that continually improves the action on the track, whether through improved performance, safety, or efficiency," said James R. Verrier, president and CEO, BorgWarner.

"We are proud to acknowledge excellence in race-car engineering by immortalizing on the Louis Schwitzer Award trophy Chris Beatty, Tino Belli, Antonio Montanari and Andrea Toso, who developed the IndyCar Universal Aero Kit. Congratulations to this year's winners."

The IndyCar Universal Aero Kit (UAK18) is the perfect example of a successful collaborative engineering effort, Verrier said. The project shows the challenges that modern engineers face to

please many diverse and conflicting requirements.

The UAK18 meets performance targets for all types of tracks from street courses like Long Beach to high-speed oval tracks like Indianapolis. Incorporating classic styling cues, it matches or surpasses all previous aerodynamic stability metrics, improves side impact safety, and makes for great racing.

Presented by engineers to engineers, the Louis Schwitzer Award recognizes individuals for innovation and engineering excellence in racing technology associated with the annual Indianapolis 500, said BorgWarner spokeswoman Martha Avery. It honors the engineers with the courage and motivation to identify new concepts in racing technology.

The Schwitzer Award focuses on new innovations with applications in the engine, powertrain, profile or chassis, for the cars conforming to Indy Racing League Series specifications, Avery said.

Judges look for advancements that increase performance, safety or energy efficiency and emphasize the competitive potential in racing with additional applications in off-track vehicles, Avery said. Recent past innovations to win the Louis Schwitzer Award include the PFC carbon disc brake system from PFC Brakes in 2017 and the Rear Beam Wing Flap from Dallara in 2016.

The award memorializes Louis Schwitzer, the winner of the first auto race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) in 1909 and designer of the "Marmon Yellow Jacket" engine that powered the Marmon Wasp to victory at the first Indianapolis 500 in 1911, Avery said.

A century ago in 1918, after working in the automotive industry for many years, Schwitzer founded Schwitzer Corporation, which produced innovative cooling fans, water pumps and turbochargers.

Throughout his lengthy career, Schwitzer achieved numerous technological accomplishments, Avery said.

He also supported higher education, as well as leading the IMS technical committee and he also maintained a strong association with SAE through the years.

Schwitzer Corporation joined up with BorgWarner beginning in 1999.

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Faurecia to Invest in Traverse City Startup

Faurecia, an automotive technology company, will be investing in the American startup Promethient.

The move is meant to reinforce Faurecia's ecosystem dedicated to thermal management technologies for future mobility solutions, said Faurecia spokesman Eric Fohlen-Weill.

The company's North American headquarters is based in Auburn Hills.

Promethient is based in Traverse City, Fohlen-Weill said, and designs and produces Thermavance, a climate control technology that is adaptable for multiple vehicle thermal uses.

Thermavance heats and cools through conductive heat transfer, offering significantly higher efficiency than current convective technology.

"After having partnered last year with MAHLE, our investment in Promethient represents a new important step in the development of innovative thermal management solutions," said Nik Endrud, vice president for Strategy and Innovation at Faurecia Seating.

"As the cockpit of the future will allow multiple use cases and be occupant centric, technologies for thermal comfort and climate control management integrated into the seating system will facilitate individual and personalized thermal

management for all occupants."

"Our Thermavance system personalizes climate control while saving energy," said William Myers, CEO of Promethient.

"These are key considerations for automakers and are especially important in the growing electric vehicle segment. The partnership with Faurecia represents a significant step for us within the automotive industry and clearly demonstrates the value of Thermavance within the marketplace."

This investment is made by Faurecia Ventures, which advances Faurecia's technology innovation strategy by identifying, incubating and investing in startups with relevant technologies for Sustainable Mobility and Smart Life on Board, Fohlen-Weill said.

Founded in 1997, Faurecia has grown to become a major player in the global automotive industry, Fohlen-Weill said.

With 290 sites including 30 R&D centers and 109,000 employees in 35 countries, Faurecia is now a global producer in its three areas of business: automotive seating, interior systems and clean mobility.

Faurecia has started focusing its technology strategy on providing solutions for smart life on board and sustainable mobility, Fohlen-Weill said.



Army veteran Young help put together the effort to honor fallen warfighters at GM's GPS facility in Pontiac.

GM Creates a Memorial Day Flag Display

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and third row of planted flags have the names of specific warfighters who have lost their lives since 2001 and have a connection to the people who work at GPS.

"Putting this together took a lot of work," Young said. "We should really thank the GM veteran's committee - Craig Petranello, president; Tom Kavanaugh, vice president; Ethan Meske, secretary; and Dave Mooty - who put this on last year.

"They really worked hard to make this happen and deserve to be thanked."

The flags were planted by GPS volunteers.

Each row was lined up using a taut string stretched across the

lawn in front of the GPS building. Volunteers placed the flags along the path of the string and made sure they lined up with the flags in front.

Young said that he liked how

everything was coordinated. It reflected both the precision of engineers and the discipline of those in the service.

The flags will be removed on May 30.

OCC Appoints New Vice Chancellor

Oakland Community College has appointed Karen Bathanti to vice chancellor for human resources and member of the college's executive team, beginning July 9.

Bathanti formerly served as director of human resources and labor relations for Macomb County, said OCC spokeswoman Bridget Kavanaugh.

Bathanti replaces longtime OCC human resources executive William MacQueen, who will re-

main at the college as a consultant.

"Karen brings excellent leadership skills, creativity, experience and passion to continue to advance our efforts in human resources," OCC Chancellor Peter Provenzano said.

"Her commitment to employee relations, coupled with her expertise in labor negotiations, recruiting, diversity awareness and cross-training talent development, will be a driving force."

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Lawrence Tech is Home To Worldwide Robot Event

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third place went to TX-001-1, a team from Goyang, South Korea.

This year's Robofest game was called ATBC, for Autonomous Tennis Ball Challenge. Robots were programmed to collect tennis balls off a table and deposit them in a box, while knocking water bottles off the table, Roush said.

Winners were determined by how successful they were at this task in a 2-minute period, with points awarded per ball and bottle.

Robofest also features an Exhibition category, in which students can dream up any task and design a robot to perform it. In the Senior Exhibition category, the Mobis first place award went to Vriot, a team from the Logos Academy in Hong Kong, while second place was earned by GC-Earth, a team from Colegio Gimnasio Campestre in Bogota, Colombia, Roush said.

In the Junior Exhibition category, the Mobis first place award went to TechSisters of the Canton Charter Academy in Canton Township. Second place was earned by Medi-Bot GC, another team from the Colegio Gimnasio Campestre, and third place went to the Tai Po Old Market Public School in Hong Kong.

Robofest is a competition to build and program autonomous robots that aren't remote controlled, Roush said. There are multiple events created around Robofest, including a conference called WISER (World conference on Integrated STEaM Education through Robotics).

Other events surrounding Robofest include a robot drawing contest for grades K-3, a robotic

art exhibition, a computer-vision-based robotic challenge, a robotic "sumo wrestling" competition, and more.

Competition divisions include grades 5-8 and grades 9-12, Roush said. Unlike other competitions, students have a full freedom of using any robotic kits, parts, and sensors.

Since its founding, more than 23,000 students have participated in Robofest events all over the world.

German City Seeks Ban on Diesel Engines

BERLIN (AP) - Officials of the German city of Hamburg have announced a ban on some diesel cars, to combat air pollution.

The German news agency dpa reported May 24 that parts of two streets in the city will be banned for older models of diesel cars and trucks starting June 1.

The ban comes after Germany's top administrative court ruled in February that cities can ban diesel cars to combat air pollution. That decision was a further blow to diesel fuel technology after the revelations that German automaker Volkswagen cheated on U.S. emissions tests.

In mid-May, the European Union announced it would take six member states, including Germany, to court for exposing their citizens to too much air pollution.

The value of diesel vehicles in Germany already had fallen significantly, and their market share has fallen since the VW scandal broke in 2015.



This Jeep design by Eduard Cret was the winner of the 2018 FCA "Drive for Design" contest.

FCA Names Winner of Its Design Contest

Pencils down. Votes have been made and the results are in for the FCA 2018 Drive for Design contest.

"Three talented high school students from Miami, Fla., and Buffalo, N.Y., have earned top honors in the 2018 Drive for Design contest, sponsored by the FCA US Product Design Office," said FCA spokeswoman Alyse Tadjewski. "The contest, in its sixth year, challenged U.S. high school students in grades 10-12 to design a Jeep Wrangler for the year 2030."

The FCA design team partnered with EyesOn Design and Lawrence Technological University for this year's contest, Tadjewski said.

"Six years ago, we created the Drive for Design contest to cre-

ate awareness about the various career paths available in automotive design," said Mark Trostle, head of Performance, Passenger Car and Utility Vehicle Design, FCA - North America.

"We wanted to connect with young artists early in their curriculum and help guide them in the right direction to begin a career in automotive design.

"The creative perspective on all this year's submissions were inventive and exceptional as you could truly see the inspiration, objective and emotion behind each concept."

The three student winners are:

- **First place** - Eduard Cret, Design and Architecture Senior High (Miami);
- **Second place** - Emily Bryson, Design and Architecture Senior High (Miami);
- **Third place** - Jinho So, Canisius High School (Buffalo, N.Y.)

This year's prizes included a

an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the FCA US Product Design studios and the opportunity to work one-on-one with professional automotive designers, Tadjewski said, as well as a two-week summer automotive design course at Lawrence Technological University; passes to the "EyesOn Design Automotive Design Exhibition" in Grosse Pointe Shores.

In addition, the winners receive a Wacom MobileStudio Pro 16 - a full-featured, Intel-powered computer that offers a larger space for drawing, detailed concept art, 3D sculpting and painting, motion graphics and advanced image editing for retouching - and an Apple iPad and Apple Pencil.

EyesOn Design is a benefit for the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology, a not-for-profit corporation, and is a major source of revenue for the DIO's research, education and support group programs for the visually impaired.

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Dodge Hellcat Finishes First In GTA Race

Last week, Wesley Motorsports, in its specially prepared 2018 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat Widebody, took on the curves and elevation changes of Road Atlanta to claim a first place finish in the Unlimited RWD class during the Global Time Attack event May 11-12.

The Global Time Attack (GTA) is a fastest-lap competition held on road-race circuits in which competitors make timed solo runs around a course with different classes based on car modifications and tire tread wear.

The Wesley Motorsports Hellcat Widebody was up against stiff competition as rules for the Road Atlanta event made the slightly modified Challenger ineligible for all but the top Unlimited RWD class, said FCA spokesman David Hakim.

This pitted the Wesley Motorsports entry against highly modified competition on full-race slicks versus the treaded performance street tires on the Challenger SRT Hellcat Widebody.

"It was an uphill battle that was close right to the end," says Wesley Motorsports owner Kevin Wesley. "The Challenger SRT Hellcat Widebody was the only American manufacturer entered in Unlimited Class and the second-fastest American car in the entire field. For the Challenger to do so well says a lot about the team who built it and its driver."

One of their goals during the Global Time Attack event was to showcase the competitive qualities of its stock-based Challenger SRT Hellcat Widebody. Other than the Bilstein MDS double-adjustable dampers, the majority of modifications to the Challenger have been built entirely from the Mopar parts supply.

The Challenger pulls from the Dodge Viper ACR for its aero, using a factory Viper ACR Extreme wing, splitter and canards. The front brake calipers are the Dodge Viper ACR-spec Brembo units.

In order to run the 355/30/19 Kumho V720 ACR tire, all four corners of the Widebody are sporting Jongbloed 19" x 12" 2-piece wheels.

The final result is a Challenger SRT Hellcat Widebody that is close to a production version of the car with the only significant fabricated modifications made in regard to safety.

"We just had a perfect event," said Wesley. "There was no drama, the car was flawless. Everyone just did their job and we made it to the top of the podium."

FCA Vehicles Score Big at GAAMA Show

FCA brand vehicles stole the show at the annual Family Car Challenge hosted by the Greater Atlanta Automotive Media Association (GAAMA), winning more awards than any other manufacturer at the annual competition.

The new 2019 Ram 1500 was honored with overall Best Family Car and Best Family Truck awards, said FCA spokeswoman Kristin Starnes.

The Chrysler Pacifica was named the Best Three-Row Family Car for the second consecutive year, as well as Best Green Family Car.

GAAMA members evaluated various manufacturers' vehicles, spanning several family-oriented categories, Starnes said.

Journalists scored vehicles after driving suburban routes around The Hotel at Avalon in Alpharetta, Ga.

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Tesla Braking Questioned

DETROIT (AP) – Long emergency stopping distances, difficult-to-use controls and a harsh ride stopped Tesla's Model 3 electric car from getting a recommended buy rating from *Consumer Reports*.

While the magazine said the car has exhilarating acceleration and handling, testers were troubled by its 152-foot average stopping distance from 60 miles per hour in emergency braking tests.

The magazine said the distance was worse than any modern car it has tested, and is about seven feet farther than a Ford F-150, a full-size pickup that weighs about twice as much as a Model 3.

Tesla said in a statement that its own tests found 60-to-zero braking distances averaging 133 feet. It says stopping distances are affected by road surface, weather, tire temperature, brake conditioning and other factors. It also says it continually does software updates to improve factors such as stopping distance.

The Model 3 is Tesla's first attempt to appeal to mass-market buyers. The car that starts at \$35,000 but can run as high as \$78,000 has been plagued by production delays.

Consumer Reports said it tested the car at its track on pavement monitored for consistent surface friction, using industry standard test procedures.

The car was tested with the same 18-inch Michelin tires that were used in Tesla's test, the magazine said.

On the first *Consumer Reports* test, the Model 3 stopped in about 130 feet, similar to Tesla's findings, according to the magazine. But testers could not repeat that distance even after letting the brakes cool overnight.

Because of the inconsistency, the testers borrowed a second

Model 3 and got results similar to longer distances in testing the first one.

The Tesla's stopping distance was 21 feet longer than the class average for luxury compact sedans, the magazine said.

Jake Fisher, director of auto testing for *Consumer Reports*, said the first test shows him that the Model 3 has the mechanical ability to stop in 130 feet and that a software change may bring consistently shorter stopping distances. If that happens, *Consumer Reports* would re-evaluate the car, he said.

Consumer Reports also said that *Car and Driver* magazine experienced inconsistent and sometimes long stopping distances when it tested a Model 3, including one stop from 70 mph that took 196 feet.

Although it doesn't happen often, *Consumer Reports* in the past has decided not to recommend vehicles based largely on long braking distances. Last year, the magazine decided not to recommend the Hyundai Ioniq gas-electric hybrid car because of below-average braking. It took the car 144 feet to fully stop from 60 mph on dry pavement.

The magazine also said nearly all of the Model 3's controls are on a center touch screen direction with no gauges on the dashboard and few buttons inside the car. This forces drivers to take several steps to do simple tasks and can cause driver distraction, the magazine said.

The car also had a stiff ride and excessive wind noise at highway speeds, unlike competitors, *Consumer Reports* said.

Consumer Reports also said it got a record 350 miles of range per charge with a long-range version of the Model 3 when it's set on a high mode to recharge batteries with energy from braking.



The 1928 Alfa Super Sport was a winner at the 2018 Mille Miglia race.

Alfa Romeo Repeats Itself at Mille Miglia

History has repeated itself 90 years later, with the Mille Miglia race in Italy ending in victory for the Alfa Romeo car brand.

1928 was the year of Alfa Romeo's first win at the Mille Miglia, and 2018 has seen a record-breaking edition with 450 teams competing and three Alfa Romeo cars taking the top three places. It is confirmation of the brand's unbreakable bond with "the most beautiful race in the world," said FCA spokesman Berj Alexanian said.

Alfa Romeo was the star of the event, setting a milestone, as Automotive Sponsor, as well as the winner of the top prizes on Viale Venezia in Brescia: the 2018 Mille Miglia was won by the Alfa Romeo 6C 1500 GS Testa Fissa crewed by Tonconogy-Ruffini, Alexanian said.

Finishing in second place, just eight penalty points behind the victor, the 6C 1500 Super Sport dating from 1928 with coachwork by Stabilimenti Farina, an official car from the FCA Heritage collection. The vehicle is normally on display at the Museo Storico Alfa Romeo, Alexanian said.

The car carried the race number 30, also worn by its sister vehicle that won the first Alfa Romeo victory in the Mille Miglia with Giuseppe Campari and Giulio Ramponi in 1928. It was driven in the event by Giovanni Mocerri, with navigator Daniele Bonetti. Giovanni Mocerri is current holder of the Italian Grandi Eventi ACI Sport Champion title and already has victories in Italy's biggest historic regularity competitions to his name, from the Mille Miglia to the Targa Flo-

rio and the Coppa d'Oro delle Dolomiti.

In third place was the Alfa Romeo 6C 1750 SS Zagato driven by Vesco-Guerini. The Alfa Romeo cars entered by FCA Heritage finished the 36th historic re-evocation of the Mille Miglia by completing the traditional Brescia-Rome-Brescia course.

"So this 2018 edition has definitely earned a place in Alfa Romeo's history, and the 'Alfa Romeo: the Mille Miglia in 90 places' project has just been launched to trace the most significant stages of the brand's history at the Mille Miglia," Alexanian said. "Since its foundation in Milan, Italy, in 1910, Alfa Romeo has designed and crafted some of the most stylish and exclusive cars in automotive history. That tradition lives on today."



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General Motors Providing MIT with \$100,000 Prize

Solve, an initiative of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has created a \$100,000 General Motors Prize for Advanced Technologies in STEM Education.

General Motors will provide up to four Solver teams with grant funding for technology-based solutions selected in MIT Solve's Teachers & Educators and Work of the Future Challenges.

Solver teams will be selected by a panel of cross-sector judges at the Solve Challenge Finals during UN General Assembly week in New York City Sept. 23.

"General Motors is committed to preparing today's students – and tomorrow's workers – to address the world's most pressing problems," said Ken Kelzer, vice president of GM's Global Vehicle Components and Subsystems.

"Supporting STEM education and open technological innovation initiatives like MIT's Solve brings us closer to cutting-edge innovators and innovations of transportation technology now and in the future."

Selected teachers and educators will deploy advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning to provide affordable and accessible training to educators, personalized learning for a diverse set of learners, or a holistic ap-

proach to teaching STEM, MIT spokeswoman Andrea Snyder said.

Selected Work of the Future will deploy advanced tech to prepare current and future workforces for the transformations of work that lie ahead through improved economic security, career flexibility, or new income streams.

"We are thrilled to be working with such an innovative, iconic company like General Motors as we advance Solver teams identified through Solve's Teachers & Education and Work of the Future Challenges," said Solve Executive Director Alex Amouyel.

"Through General Motors' generous prize, the selected Solver teams will be able to scale their work and impact, creating new opportunities in an ever-changing economy."

The Solve at MIT event program and confirmed speakers can be found at <https://solve.mit.edu/events/solve-at-mit-2018>, Snyder said.

Solve and General Motors will be hosting a Solveathon on June 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tech-Town Detroit to refine and improve innovative ideas for Solve's Work of the Future and Teachers and Educators challenges, Snyder said.



Eaton volunteers at work in Southfield's Bedford Woods Park.

Eaton Volunteers Spruce Up Southfield Public Park

Power management company Eaton's employees from its Vehicle Group campus in Southfield recently partnered with Rebuilding Together Oakland County (RTOC) as part of the National Day of Caring to renovate a local park.

More than 70 employees donated approximately 400 labor hours to improve Bedford Woods Park on May 10-11, said Eaton spokesman Byron Pope.

This is the tenth consecutive year Eaton Southfield volunteers have dedicated their time and effort to improving the local community.

Eaton volunteers performed a number of tasks at the community park, including:

- Spreading mulch in the play ground area;
- Water-sealing picnic tables;
- Installing rustic park benches;
- Removing dead and damaged trees;
- Removing a deteriorated staircase;
- Harvesting plant material in bio swale; and,
- Sanding and painting trash bins.

"Community stewardship is a key part of Eaton's culture, and our 10-year partnership with RTOC is an example of our ongoing commitment to bettering the communities where we live and work," said Larry Bennett, Eaton's director of Vehicle Technology and Innovation.

"Eaton has enjoyed a long partnership with both the City of Southfield and RTOC, and together we have successfully identified and rehabilitated numerous sites needing maintenance and refurbishment."

Since Eaton began partnering with RTOC in 2008, the company has rehabilitated project sites around Southfield, enabled a city block rehabilitation in Pontiac, and funded a year-round home repair program, Pope said.

"Eaton is our only county-wide sponsor and has supported us over the past ten years to impact not only the city of Southfield but the entire county," said Halie Black, executive director, RTOC. "We enjoy working with their employees because they are enthusiastic, hardworking and always have a high volunteer turnout."

"Thank you to all of the employees who donated their time to make improvements at Bedford Woods Park."

RTOC is a local affiliate of Rebuilding Together, the national nonprofit organization that is dedicated to preserving affordable home ownership and revitalizing local communities, Pope said.

With support from volunteers, the organization provides assistance to low-income homeowners who are unable to complete their home repairs. The group includes the elderly, disabled, military veterans and families with children.



Van Dyke Across From GM Tech Center



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Sherry is Named CEO of the Ford Subsidiary Autonomic

Poised for significant growth, Autonomic, the creator of the Transportation Mobility Cloud and a wholly owned subsidiary of Ford Smart Mobility, has realigned its leadership team, officially confirming Gavin Sherry as Chief Executive Officer.

The Transportation Mobility Cloud is the first open cloud-based platform that connects the diverse components of urban mobility systems, including connected vehicles, mass transit, pedestrians, city infrastructure and service providers – with the goal of orchestrating a safer, more efficient and sustainable transportation network, said Ford spokeswoman Maggie Philbin.

“Our goal is to be the foremost connected mobility cloud globally, and I’m excited for the opportunity to power and pave the way for future cities,” said Sherry, co-founder of Autonomic. “By uniting all connected vehicles on a single platform, along with other transport agencies, cities, and developers, the possibilities of how we can advance and synchronize transportation and mobility are endless.”

Previously leading Autonomic’s innovation as co-founder and vice president of Engineering, Sherry is now responsible for spurring the growth and adoption of the Transportation Mobility Cloud.

Autonomic’s former CEO and now vice president of Ford X, a part of Ford Smart Mobility LLC, Sundeep (Sunny) Madra will serve as a board member and advisor, Philbin said.

“As cities look to improve transportation options and increase livability for their citizens, enhancing mobility is key to meeting this challenge. Gavin is the right leader to take Autonomic to the next stage of growth and

ensure the TMC becomes the foremost platform that developers and automakers use to deliver their mobility goals,” said Madra.

Autonomic’s executive team hails from Amazon Web Services, Pivotal, Proofpoint, Greenplum (acquired by EMC) and Xtreme Labs (acquired by Pivotal), Philbin said. The team has a track record of delivering large-scale, high-impact cloud and distributed systems and several executives were instrumental in building the first version of Amazon Web Services, and leading consumer, open source and cloud software.

Now, the team is taking a similar approach to creating a transportation platform at a scale that paves the way for all developers and automakers, in addition to Ford, to build on the Transportation Mobility Cloud.

As part of Sherry’s appointment into the role of CEO, Autonomic’s executive leadership is elevating to further meet the needs of the industry and the company’s partners, which include auto manufacturers, developers, parts suppliers and fleet operators, Philbin said.

Sherry has more than 20 years of experience in data processing, machine learning and engineering large-scale Internet systems globally and will advance the company’s vision of accelerating the transformation of the transportation industry, said Philbin.

Previously, Sherry served as Autonomic’s vice president of Engineering. Prior to Autonomic, Sherry served as the vice president of Engineering at Pivotal, where he was instrumental in the development of the company’s big data suite, which brought significant data warehousing and analytics to the cloud for enterprise.



Gavin Sherry

Leveraging his experience building open-source software and data processing technologies, Sherry went on to co-found Autonomic in August of 2016 with fellow Pivotal alums Madra, Nithin Rao, Amar Varma, and Benjamin Black, Philbin said.

Black, Autonomic’s CTO, previously held senior technology roles at Pivotal, Microsoft and Amazon, and was an early Amazon employee who co-wrote the paper that would become Amazon Web Services. In addition, Black worked at Microsoft where he helped build Office 365, its answer to Google Apps, and, prior to that, founded a startup called Boundary, which monitored computer networks.

COO Varma co-founded Xtreme Labs with Madra and has 20 years of experience as an entrepreneur and investor in high-profile technology companies.

General Counsel Julie Davies has more than a decade of experience advising public and private companies, venture capitalists and corporate investors in matters arising during every stage of a company’s lifecycle. Prior to Autonomic, she was a partner in the Palo Alto

office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP.

Engineering Vice President Caleb Welton has worked in data processing and machine learning his entire career. He led the development of MADlib, an open-source scale-out machine learning library. Prior to that, he was a key member of the Greenplum Database team (acquired by EMC).

Nithin Rao, vice president of Product Management, has more than 20 years of experience combining business, technology and product strategy. Rao is a technology veteran. Prior to Autonomic, he was a key member of the product teams at Pivotal and Proofpoint.

Board member Madra co-founded Autonomic and served as CEO until Ford Smart Mobility acquired it in February 2018, and also co-founded Xtreme Labs (acquired by Pivotal in 2013). He is currently vice president, Ford X at Ford Motor Company and is an experienced entrepreneur, investor and technologist.

In addition to growing its team in Silicon Valley, Autonomic is building a team in Detroit, investing in the community’s local talent and focusing on core vehicle connectivity and mobility problems. The company also aims to expand the reach of the Transportation Mobility Cloud by establishing partnerships with additional OEMs, and introducing more developers to the platform.

Continental Goes 3D by Increasing DigiLens Outlay

The auto supplier and technology company Continental is increasing its investment in DigiLens Inc., the Silicon Valley-based leader in holographic waveguide projection technology.

With its additional investment, Continental, which has its North American headquarters in Auburn Hills, will hold close to 18 percent of DigiLens after Series C financing round, said Continental spokeswoman Mary Araf.

Continental first invested in DigiLens in 2016 through a strategic partnership to jointly develop a waveguide head-up display (HUD) that fulfills automotive requirements, the technology is now ready for industrialization, Araf said.

DigiLens’ holographic waveguide technology enables head-up displays for different applications including automotive, aviation and motorcycle helmets, Araf said.

The company’s AutoHUD waveguide product transforms the HUD performance by doubling the field of view, making a much larger display required for augmented reality applications, while reducing the component volume to one-sixth of the traditional size.



The 2019 Ford F-150 Raptor features a live valve suspension system.

Ford Upgrades 2019 Raptor Using Computer Technology

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

systems where one basically sets the shocks and that’s that.

“We were able to create this active control shock system without changing the Raptor’s physical architecture,” Paiva said.

“We developed this with a lot of input from Raptor owners. They always want to push the boundaries of what their trucks can do, making aftermarket adjustments to the Raptor very popular. Visit any online forum dealing with the Raptor and you will see that.

“So that drove us to create a live valve suspension system that no other original equipment maker has as standard.

“What is different about this system is that it has developed its own control system. Drivers can set it to normal, sport or off-road.”

And the Raptor even has technology that allows it to read front sensors to determine what the road, or off-road, conditions are and adjust the suspension accordingly, Paiva said.

“That’s great for avoiding accidents where the truck bottoms out while traveling over bumps,” he said. When the truck senses rough conditions, the suspension shifts so that the truck drives softer.

When the truck does not sense that kind of obstacle

ahead, the suspension becomes stiffer.

Paiva said now that Ford has developed the proper software and hardware, it wouldn’t be difficult to add it to other vehicles in the Ford portfolio.

“Raptor’s success is rooted in its incredible suspension, superb vehicle control and the confidence the truck instills in its owners,” said Hermann Salenbauch, global director, Ford Performance vehicle programs.

“Upgrades to the 2019 F-150 Raptor have improved all three to new levels that the competition will have to benchmark – again.”

To enhance Raptor’s internal bypass shocks, Ford Performance worked directly with FOX to develop new electronically controlled Live Valve technology for the new platform that continuously adjusts damping in real-time. This class-exclusive setup uses sensors in the suspension and body to maximize comfort, handling and bottom-out resistance.

“By automatically varying compression rates, Raptor can now make the most of its suspension travel of 13 inches at the front and 13.9 inches at the rear,” said Salenbauch. “The 2019 Raptor is not just more capable off-road. It’s smarter.”

Paiva said the 2019 Raptor will hit the showroom floor by the end of 2018.

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Public Has Doubts About Autonomous Tech

Following high-profile incidents involving autonomous vehicle technologies, a new report from AAA's multi-year tracking study indicates that consumer trust in these vehicles has quickly eroded.

Today, three-quarters (73 percent) of American drivers report they would be too afraid to ride in a fully self-driving vehicle, up significantly from 63 percent in late 2017, said AAA spokeswoman Erin Stepp.

Additionally, the AAA report, which was issued on May 22, stated that about two-thirds (63 percent) of U.S. adults report they would actually feel less safe sharing the road with a self-driving vehicle while walking or riding a bicycle.

"Despite their potential to make our roads safer in the long run, consumers have high expectations for safety," said Greg Brannon, AAA's director of Automotive Engineering and Industry Relations.

"Our results show that any incident involving an autonomous vehicle is likely to shake consumer trust, which is a critical component to the widespread acceptance of autonomous vehicles."

Brannon said surprisingly, AAA's latest survey found that Millennials – the group that has been the quickest to embrace automated vehicle technologies – were the most affected by these incidents.

The percentage of Millennial drivers too afraid to ride in a fully self-driving vehicle has jumped from 49 percent to 64 percent since late 2017, representing the largest increase of any generation surveyed.

"While autonomous vehicles are being tested, there's always a chance that they will fail or encounter a situation that challenges even the most advanced system," said Megan Foster, AAA's director of Federal Affairs. "To ease fears, there must be safeguards in place to protect vehicle occupants and the motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians with whom they share the road."

AAA supports thorough testing of automated vehicle technologies as they continue to evolve, including testing under progressively complicated driving scenarios and under varying conditions, but not at the expense of safety, Foster said.

Additionally, to help prevent the accidental misuse of the systems, AAA advocates for a common sense, common nomenclature and classification system, and similar performance characteristics of future autonomous vehicle technologies, Foster said.

"There are sometimes dozens of different marketing names for today's safety systems," continued Brannon.



AAA says trust in autonomous cars has reached a record low.

"Learning how to operate a vehicle equipped with semi-autonomous technology is challenging enough without having to decipher the equipment list and corresponding level of autonomy."

To help educate consumers on the effectiveness of emerging vehicle technologies, AAA is committed to the ongoing, unbiased testing of automated vehicle

technologies, Brannon said. Previous testing of automatic emergency braking, adaptive cruise control, self-parking technology and lane-keeping systems has shown both great promise and great variation.

Future AAA testing will look at how well systems work together to achieve higher levels of automation, Foster said.

China to Lower Car Tariffs

by JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) – China said May 22 it will reduce auto import duties effective July 1 following pledges to buy more U.S. goods and end restrictions on foreign ownership in the industry.

President Xi Jinping promised the changes in April amid mounting pressure from Washington to narrow China's multibillion-dollar trade surplus with the United States, though Chinese spokespeople said they had nothing to do with that dispute.

The Finance Ministry said charges for many imported vehicles will be cut from 25 percent to 15 percent to promote development of the Chinese industry and increase availability of goods for consumers.

That still would be higher than the 2.5 percent United States tariff on imported autos but less than the 25 percent charged by Washington on imported pickup trucks.

The immediate impact of the changes is expected to be limited. Most cars sold in China by global automakers are produced in local factories, but the tariff cut could give them more flexibility in supplying additional models produced abroad.

Beijing used tariffs and other curbs over the past three decades to prod global auto brands to shift production to China and help develop the local industry.

China is the world's biggest auto market by number of vehicles sold. Purchases of SUVs,

sedans and minivans totaled 24.7 million units in 2017, compared with 17.2 million for the United States, the No. 2 market.

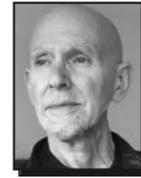
Xi's government promised May 19 to increase imports of American goods following talks in Washington on the trade balance, Beijing's technology policies and other disputes.

China's move to ease controls on its auto market reflects growing official confidence in fledgling Chinese automakers and a desire to make the industry more flexible as Beijing promotes development of electric cars.

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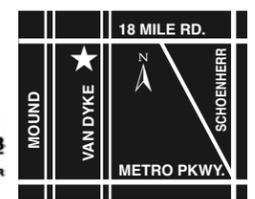
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Ford Restarts Its F-150 Truck Production

Ford Motor Company was able to restart production of the popular F-150 at Dearborn Truck Plant on May 18 after just over one week of downtime.

The company has also successfully repaired the supply chain for Super Duty, with production restarted at the Kentucky Truck Plant, as well as the Kansas City Assembly Plant that also makes F-150 pickups, said Ford spokeswoman Kelli Felker.

This follows the massive May 2 fire at the Meridian Magnesium Products facility in Eaton Rapids, Mich.

"While the situation remains extremely dynamic, our teams are focused on returning our plants to full production as fast as possible," said Joe Hinrichs, Ford's president of Global Operations. "The ramp-up time to full production is improving every day."

Ford teams, together with suppliers – including Walbridge and other contractors – worked nearly around the clock to get F-150 production back on line as quickly as possible.

The teams removed 19 dies from Meridian's badly damaged facility, and in one case, moved an 87,000-pound die from Eaton Rapids to Nottingham, U.K., via an Antonov cargo plane – one of the largest in the world – in just 30 hours door-to-door, Felker said. A die is a tool used to cut or shape material using a press.

"Faced with unexpected adversity, the Ford team, including our global supply partners, showed unbelievable resiliency, turning a devastating event into a shining example of teamwork," said Hau Thai-Tang, Ford's executive vice president of Product Development and Purchasing.

"Thanks to their heroic efforts, we are resuming production of some of our most important ve-

hicles ahead of our original targets."

Work started immediately in the aftermath of the May 2 fire, Felker said. Teams removed and remediated safety concerns – including dangling siding – and restored electricity, gaining approval to access the site while debris still smoldered inside.

This allowed Ford and Meridian to safely retrieve and relocate tools to more quickly resume part production and work to minimize the financial impact of the stalled plants.

Ford recovered, repaired and validated most dies that were at the Eaton Rapids facility, and Meridian is now producing parts for the F-150 at two locations – Eaton Rapids and Nottingham, U.K., Felker said production of bolsters for Super Duty also restarted at Eaton Rapids.

Under normal circumstances, moving tooling the size of a bolster die would take approximately 10 days just to get the proper import and export approvals, Felker said. However, Ford and its suppliers managed to cut the total time for the entire move to

30 hours, including trans-Atlantic flight time.

When the team removed the die from the Eaton Rapids factory, it was shipped to Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus, Ohio, Felker said. Rickenbacker had both the capacity to handle such a large piece of equipment and allowed the Antonov An-124 Russian plane – typically used to transport trains, dump trucks and even a 25-foot sea yacht – to take off as soon as the equipment was loaded.

Nearly 4,000 miles away, a team in Nottingham was waiting to receive the die and take it to Meridian's nearby factory. In between, the Ford team received a U.K. import license for the die – a mere two hours before the plane touched down. Parts produced at Nottingham are being shipped via daily flights on a Boeing 747 jet until production in Eaton Rapids returns to pre-fire levels.

Inventories of the F-Series pickups and other vehicles remain strong and customers won't have a problem finding the model they want, Hinrichs said.



The first post-fire Ford F-150 rolls off the line at Dearborn Truck Plant.



Waze users can now see real-time traffic and navigation service.

Ford Adopts Use of Waze System for Better Driving

It's important for the driver to keep his or her hands on the steering wheel and Ford has just made that easier thanks to a partnership with Waze.

Waze is GPS navigation software that works on smartphones and tablets with GPS support, said Ford spokeswoman Michaela Johndrow.

Waze users around the world can now project the app's real-time traffic and navigation service onto the touch screen in Ford vehicles via SYNC AppLink and control it through voice command, Johndrow said. For owners of Ford SYNC 3-equipped vehicles, this allows easier access to features that include finding efficient traffic routes, locating cheaper fuel prices and reporting traffic accidents.

To use, customers simply connect their Waze-equipped iPhone to the USB port of their Ford vehicle and view the service as it is projected onto the vehicle touch screen, Johndrow said. With Ford SYNC AppLink, users can now conveniently access the app's features on a larger display and have voice guidance through their own vehicle speakers and microphone system.

"Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for people to access the smartphone features, apps and services they care about most in the car, without having to pick up their device," said Don Butler, executive director of Ford's connected vehicle platform and product.

"With Waze, our customers get the benefits they're accustomed to with the added luxury of experiencing them on a bigger screen."

In addition to the ability to report on heavy traffic, accidents and fuel prices, Ford's integration of Waze includes recent app updates such as talk to Waze, which lets you control the app via voice command, Butler said. Features also include route support for high-occupancy vehicle

lanes (carpool lanes), providing additional navigation options and more accurate arrival times.

"We're excited drivers of Ford SYNC 3-enabled vehicles will now be able to use Waze for iOS right from their dashboard, getting access to features like planned drives, alternative routes, talk to Waze voice commands and more," said Jens Baron, product lead, in-car applications, Waze.

"They'll also benefit from the best routes and most accurate ETAs, thanks to our global community of drivers on the go who update the map in real-time – helping our mission to one day eliminate traffic."

To deliver optimal driving directions and traffic updates, Waze uses crowdsourcing to gather information about road conditions from all of its users. People simply type in their destination and drive with the app open to contribute data to Waze's community of users.

At the same time, people can take a more active role by sharing reports from the road, including notifying the community of accidents, hazards or route changes that were previously unknown.

By working together, said Butler, the aim is for people to help each other improve the quality of their commute. Waze can help commuters avoid congested roads in favor of other routes, or see when their friends are expected to arrive at their destination. Users can even help each other save a few dollars by sharing fuel prices as they travel, allowing people to navigate to the cheapest nearby station.

To access Waze on AppLink in your Ford vehicle, Butler said drivers will need SYNC 3 software version 3.0 or greater installed in their vehicle. They will also need iOS 11.3 and the Waze app downloaded on their phone. Ford.com has a complete set of instructions.

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2018 Summer Jazz Series

2018 marks Prestige Automotives fifth season of free community concerts sponsored by Gregory Jackson, owner and operator of the Prestige Automotive Group based in Metro-Detroit.

The Jazz on the River summer concert series features 13 bands with performances held every Thursday night June 7 to Aug. 30 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Roberts Riverwalk Hotel in downtown Detroit. Rain location is inside the banquet area located onsite.

"Please join us as we participate in the revitalization of the riverfront by bringing jazz and music arts to the area for all to enjoy," Jackson said.

The concert series highlights a variety of jazz-influenced genres from Big Band Jazz, Latin, Funk, Soul, and more. The summer concert lineup will feature different local and international favorites each week, Jackson

said. Prestige Mercedes-Benz of St. Clair Shores, Prestige Courtesy Ford of Okemos, and Prestige Cadillac of Warren will put the new Mercedes-Benz, Ford, and Cadillac vehicles on display.

The June 7 concert will feature music by the band 313 Detroit Live. Phil Denny will perform at the June 14 concert and Ralphe Armstrong will be the featured player at the June 21 concert.

The Band Straight Ahead plays on June 28, followed by Walter White on July 5 and Larry Lee & The Back in the Day Band on July 12. Daryl Beebe plays on July 19 and The Sun Messengers perform on July 26.

The Aug. 2 concert features Charles and Gwen Scales. 313 Detroit Live returns on Aug. 9. BF Legacy Jazz plays on Aug. 16, Ed Stone and the Flow Masters on Aug. 30. LL7 Latin Jazz finishes the series on Aug. 30.

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