

New Special Edition Corvettes Here

GM success on the race track has translated into excitement in the showroom.

Chevrolet has introduced the 2019 Corvette Drivers Series special edition Grand Sport models designed in collaboration with the Corvette Racing team, said

GM spokesman Chris Bonelli. Each of the four versions has a specific exterior color and unique graphics package inspired by Corvette Racing drivers Tommy Milner, Oliver Gavin, Jan Magnussen and Antonio Garcia.

“The Corvette Drivers Series celebrates Corvette Racing’s winning legacy, which is driven by a world-class team of drivers from around the globe,” said Steve Majoros, director of Chevrolet

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The 2019 Corvette Drivers Series – designed with the help of GM’s Corvette Racing team – is ready for order.



GM’s new eBike brand will be available soon in European markets.

GM Picks eBike’s New Name

As the saying goes, don’t reinvent the wheel. But that’s just what GM has done with its new eBike brand.

Last year, the company said that it had created a new type of eBike and that it would be releasing more details about the eBike in the future.

On Feb. 14, GM released the name of the two-wheeler brand – ARIV.

This new eBike brand will include two innovative, integrated and connected eBikes: the Meld, a compact eBike, and the Merge, a folding eBike.

The name ARIV was selected as part of a global crowdsourcing

campaign announced in November 2018.

“The crowdsourcing campaign allowed us to bring consumers into the development of our brand,” said Hannah Parish, ARIV director. “Combine that with our products and our blend of bike and automotive talent, and the result is a unique brand DNA.”

ARIV eBikes are launching first in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, due to the popularity of lithium-ion battery-powered eBikes in those markets, Parish said.

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HELLA is working with students to educate them in STEM fields.

HELLA Creating Scholarship Fund for Michigan Students

For the third consecutive year, Hella is offering prospective engineers looking for hands-on experience, career guidance and tuition aid the chance to apply to be a part of the Hella Scholars program.

The program awards students \$10,000 renewable scholarships, along with paid work experience, and, ultimately, career placements at Hella, said company spokesman Markus Richter.

Once students are selected, they’ll be paired with a mentor to oversee their work and offer guidance. Applications for the lighting and electronics company’s coveted program are due March 1.

HELLA is a global, family-owned company, listed on the stock exchange, with more than 40,000 employees at over 125 locations in some 35 countries. Its North American headquarters is based in Plymouth. The Hella Group develops and manufac-

tures products for lighting technology and electronics for the automotive industry and also has one of the largest retail organizations for automotive parts, accessories, diagnostics, and services within Europe, Richter said.

The program is open to high school seniors from select schools as well as university students within commuting distance to Hella. At the high school level, Hella previously has only offered the opportunity to its neighboring Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district, Richter said.

This year, Hella is expanding the program to include Northville Public Schools, since its new U.S. headquarters and technical center – which employees are set to move into at the end of February – is located in Northville.

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Ford Developing ‘Talking’ Car Technology

The technology may have changed, but the goal of making road traffic flow faster and safer remains the same.

Back in 1868, English engineer John Peake Knight invented the world’s first traffic light to help people move through a congested London intersection that had become dangerous for pedestrians due to the popularity of horse-drawn carriage.

“At Ford, 150 years later,” said Don Butler, executive director, Ford Connected Vehicle Platform and Product, “we are excited to continue advancing this type of thinking by committing to deploy cellular vehicle-to-everything technology – or C-V2X – in all of

our new vehicle models in the United States beginning in 2022,” Butler said.

C-V2X is a wireless communication technology that can “talk” to and “listen” for similarly equipped vehicles, people and traffic management infrastructure such as traffic lights to relay important information and help make city mobility safer and less congested.

Planned alongside the rapidly building 5G cellular network, C-V2X enables direct communication between the connected devices, meaning a signal doesn’t need to first travel to a cellular tower, allowing vehicles to quickly send and receive information.

Ultimately, it lets drivers know what’s ahead of them even before they have to encounter it.

Navigating four-way stops becomes much easier with C-V2X, for example, since vehicles will be able to communicate with each other to negotiate which one has the right of way, Butler said.

In the same way, a car that’s involved in an accident can relay its status to approaching vehicles, giving them advance notice of a potentially dangerous situation. Even pedestrians equipped with a mobile phone could convey their location to other vehi-

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Technology being developed by Ford will allow vehicles to communicate with each other and infrastructure.

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Honda Recalls
437,000 Vehicles
To Fix Fuel Pump

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) – Honda says it is recalling 437,000 vehicles in the U.S. to fix a fuel-pump issue.

The recall covers model-year 2016-2018 Acura MDXs, 2015-2019 Acura TLX V6s and 2015-2017 Honda Accord V6s.

The automaker says the vehicles’ software needs to be updated, and in some cases, have their fuel pumps replaced.

That’s because sodium particulates found in some U.S. gasoline can stick to internal components in the fuel pumps, reducing the pumps’ performance ability.

In hot weather, this could limit the vehicle’s acceleration or cause its engine to stall, increasing the risk of a crash.

Honda says it has received no reports of crashes or injuries because of the issue.

Owners of the affected vehicles will be notified by letter in late March, after which they are advised to take the vehicles to authorized dealers.

Warm Up Your Hot Rods – Autorama Returning

Car fans have something to look forward to during these cold winter days.

The 67th Annual Meguiar’s Detroit Autorama, presented by O’Reilly Auto Parts, is coming to Cobo Center March 1-3.

Called America’s greatest hot rod show, Detroit Autorama will feature “800 of the most amazing chopped, channeled, dumped and decked hot rods and custom cars in the world,” said Autorama spokeswoman Linda Ashley.

This year’s show kicks off with the live outdoor Smokey and the Bandit Stunt Jump – in tribute to Burt Reynolds – outside of Cobo Center, at 11:45 a.m., Friday March 1, just before the doors open to the 2019 Detroit Autorama, Ashley said.

After the jump, the Smokey and the Bandit Roadshow moves inside and includes an up-close look at the Smokey and the Bandit black-and-gold 1977 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am, the police car and memorabilia from the movie.

This year’s Autorama will also feature a live appearance by NASCAR Racing Legend Tony Stewart, The Hanson Brothers from the movie “Slap Shot,” and WWE Superstar Seth Rollins.

Also at the show will be hot rod builder Carl Casper, along with a showing of Casper’s world-famous cars, including the Batmobile from the “Batman Returns” movie and his Empress that won best of show at the first Cobo Hall Detroit Autorama in 1961, and the Young American Top Fuel Dragster.

Casper will be on hand throughout Autorama to meet and greet fans and sign autographs all three days.

“We are always striving to bring new excitement and top ourselves every year at Detroit Autorama,” said Peter A.

Toundas, president and owner of Championship Auto Shows Inc., producers of Autorama. “So, we are thrilled to create this special tribute to the beloved Smokey and the Bandit movie and the great Burt Reynolds.

“The amazing live jump by the ‘Bandit’ is sure to thrill everyone waiting for Autorama to open and brings special excitement to all of downtown Detroit. This amazing opening, along with the most spectacular showing of performance cars anywhere in the country, make the Detroit Autorama 2019 a show that no one will want to miss.”

An additional big draw to this year’s Autorama is the *Low Rider Magazine* Invitational, a special exhibit of 17 of the most amazing low-rider vehicles in the area, Ashley said. This addition to Autorama is a salute to one of the fastest-growing segments of the car enthusiast world.

Autorama is one of the largest and oldest hot rod-custom car shows in North America. It attracts visitors from across the U.S. and the globe, Ashley said. The calling card of this renowned show is the presentation of the Ridler Award, the most coveted award in hot rodding.

For 56 years, the award has been presented to the most outstanding new custom car, shown for the first time anywhere. Because of this distinction, said Ashley, the show attracts the finest custom car builders in North America to unveil their amazing vehicles for the first time at the famous show.

“It’s extremely gratifying that Detroit Autorama is the home of America’s most important hot rod award,” said Toundas.

“This is the motor city and Detroit is where hot rod, custom car shows started so we make every effort to let everyone

know about this important heritage.”

Detroit Autorama is the annual winter ritual that brings the most devout gearheads and just plain curious folks, up close and personal, with the autos that appear in hot rod and custom car magazines.

The cars, brought by backyard car jockeys as well as the top customizers in the country, compete for top awards in numerous classes.

These auto gems vie for awards and prizes in the Summit Racing Equipment Show Car Series. In addition, Autorama participants vie for the prestigious Ridler Award, sponsored by Meguiar’s for the best vehicle first time shown.

It all culminates with the announcement of the Ridler Award Winner when Meguiar’s presents \$10,000 cash plus a custom trophy and jacket to the grand winner.



The Autorama car show is coming to Cobo Center in March and will feature a host of hot rod cars.

Ford’s Developing Communications Tech

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cles, ensuring that everyone on the road is aware of people who may be out of their direct line of sight.

Communicating with infrastructure such as stoplights and road signs, meanwhile, means cities have even easier ways of making sure drivers get the information they need to move more freely and safely, Butler said.

With C-V2X, a traffic light can send signals alerting drivers about when it will turn green or red, or whether a driver is at risk of running a red light.

Road signs could provide advance warning of recent accidents or provide more context regarding road construction, giving drivers the opportunity to reroute or more safely move through work zones.

Further out, cities could even use this technology to enable

smart vehicles to “talk” to smart traffic management systems developed by local municipalities or even a state.

“Our move to deploy this technology builds on our prior commitment to equip every model we release in the United States with conventional cellular connectivity by the end of 2019,” Butler said.

“C-V2X will work with Ford Co-Pilot360, our advanced suite of driver-assist and safety features standard across North America on new passenger cars, SUVs and trucks, including F-150, going forward.”

Driver-assist technologies today and autonomous vehicles of the future utilize on-board sensors much in the way people use their eyes to navigate complex environments.

C-V2X could complement these systems in ways similar to how our sense of hearing com-

plements Ford’s vision to improve our ability to operate in a complex world, Butler said.

C-V2X will enable vehicles to receive updates about potential traffic developments and risks that are beyond the range of what sensors can pick up, provide warnings or could even be tuned to activate Ford Co-Pilot360’s automatic emergency braking system to brake for drivers if they do not respond.

With plans to roll out 5G cellular networks under way, C-V2X can complement the sensors of self-driving cars. While these vehicles will be fully capable of operating without C-V2X, the technology could add to its comprehensive view from the LiDAR, radar and camera sensors.

For instance, if emergency vehicles were equipped with C-V2X transmitters, they could notify self-driving vehicles that may be on their route so the vehicles pull over or reroute in plenty of time, Butler said.

Self-driving vehicles could even get real-time updates on road conditions that affect the choice of routes drivers use to get to their destinations.



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Wesley G. Bush

Bush Named As Latest GM Board Member

Wesley G. “Wes” Bush was just elected to the General Motors Board of Directors.

A leader in engineering, technology and manufacturing, Bush currently serves as the chairman of Northrop Grumman’s Board of Directors, said GM spokesman Tom Henderson.

Bush earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also completed the UCLA Executive Management Program. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

“Wes has a strong track record of creating shareholder value in a complex manufacturing enterprise known for its advanced engineering and technology,” said GM Chairman and CEO Mary Barra. “He will bring strong financial acumen, excellent strategic instincts and an ability to think broadly about complex business issues to our board.”

Bush, 57, served as chief executive officer of Northrop Grumman from 2010 through 2018 and as chairman since 2011.

Bush’s election brings GM’s Board of Directors to 13 members, 12 of whom are non-employee directors.

Cadillac’s XT5 Now Offering a Sporty Option

by Jim Stickford

Cadillac’s world-wide best-seller, the XT5, is getting a little update.

Cadillac introduced the 2019 XT5 Sport package at the recent Chicago Auto Show.

The vehicle has a new look infused with darkened exterior styling elements that complement Cadillac’s signature front, cornering and LED lighting, adding a personalized flair to Cadillac’s global best-selling crossover, said GM spokeswoman Tara Kuhn.

“The new XT5 Sport package harmonizes styling cues from Cadillac’s new Sport models, first launched on XT4 and all-new XT6,” said Steve Carlisle, Cadillac president. “It gives our best-selling XT5 a dark, aggressive appearance and expands customer choices within our successful crossover portfolio.”

The XT5 Sport package joins the XT4, which has soared to the top spot in its segment, the recently introduced XT6 and the iconic Escalade to accelerate the brand’s global growth.

“Starting with the XT4 and the XT6, Cadillac will be offering two different versions of the models, one sport and one luxury,” Kuhn said. “But the XT5 is out right now and it’s the most popular Cadillac worldwide. We wanted to give XT5 drivers more choice.”

So Cadillac designers developed the XT5 sport package. It allows them to customize their vehicle.

“We’ve found that customers like a darker grille and darker wheels” Kuhn said. “If we didn’t offer this package, then many customers would go to aftermarket sources to customize their car. Why shouldn’t we provide them with the chance to use our package instead of sending their business elsewhere?”

The new limited-edition Sport

package is offered on the XT5’s Luxury and Premium Luxury trims. Its distinguishing elements include:

- A gloss black grille with Galvano surround.
- LED headlamps, signature lighting and cornering lamps.
- Neutral-density (clear) tail-lamp lenses.
- Side-assist steps.
- 20-inch aluminum wheels with Technical Gray finish.
- Sport pedals.
- Two interior color choices: Cirrus/Jet Black with Diamond Cut aluminum trim or Jet Black with Diamond Cut aluminum trim.

The XT5 Sport package is furnished with all of the Luxury and Premium Luxury trims’ respective content, including Adaptive Remote Start, a Bose eight-speaker audio system, leather-appointed heated front seats (heated and ventilated on Premium Luxury), automatic heated steering wheel and a programmable memory height power liftgate, Kuhn said.



Black grille and wheels are part of the new sport package for the XT5.

The XT5 also features the Cadillac user experience system with an 8-inch-diagonal color touchscreen and available embedded navigation (standard on Premium Luxury). Connectivity features also include Apple CarPlay and Android Auto capability, Cadillac Connected Apps and an available 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot (includes 3GB/three-

month data trial, whichever comes first). A 310-hp 3.6-liter V6 engine drives the XT5 and features cylinder deactivation and stop/start technologies. It’s paired with an eight-speed automatic transmission.

The 2019 Sport Edition package is \$2,995 on the Luxury trim and \$1,995 on the Premium Luxury trim.

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Corvette Racers Help With Design of Sport Edition

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passenger car and crossover marketing.

"Each driver worked with Chevrolet designers on the graphics for their respective edition, giving the cars distinctly personalized appearances."

Offered on Grand Sport 1LT, 2LT and 3LT trims, the color and graphics packages include:

- **Tommy Milner Edition:** Elkhart Lake Blue exterior with silver stripes and red hash marks, body-color mirrors, black wheels with red stripe and red brake calipers. Jet Black Suede interior (leather seats on 1LT) with red seat belts.
- **Oliver Gavin Edition:** Shadow Gray exterior with Torch Red center stripe and Torch Red hash marks, Carbon Flash mirrors, black wheels with red stripe, red brake calipers. Adrenaline Red interior with red seat belts.
- **Jan Magnussen Edition:** Arctic White exterior with Crystal Red stripes and gray hash marks, body-color mirrors, black wheels with red stripe and red brake calipers. Jet Black interior with red seat belts; red stitching on 3LT trim.
- **Antonio Garcia Edition:** Racing Yellow exterior with "Jake" stinger stripe, red hash marks, Carbon Flash mirrors, black wheels with red stripe and red brake calipers. Jet Black interior; yellow stitching on 3LT trim.

Each edition receives a driver-specific interior plaque and other unique trim details, and models with the 3LT trim include carbon fiber interior trim.

"Customers can select the version of their favorite Corvette Racing driver or simply choose the one with the color and graphics that appeals the most to them," said Majoros. "And like the drivers they represent, each special edition is a winner."

Similar to the Corvette Racing C7.R race cars, the Grand Sport-based Drivers Series models feature a naturally aspirated V8 engine. The 6.2L LT1 engine is rated at 460 horsepower (343 kW), and

also like the race cars features a dry-sump oiling system designed to support high-performance track driving.

Additional features include wide fenders and rear quarter panels that accommodate large 19 x 10-inch front and 20 x 12-inch rear wheels wrapped with Michelin Pilot Super Sport run-flat summer-only tires.

Also available: Functional brake ducts and enhanced cooling package, Brembo brake system with 14.6-inch (370 mm) rotors and six-piston calipers in front and 14.4-inch (365 mm) rotors and four-piston calipers in the rear, magnetic ride control, specific stabilizer bars and unique springs, electronic limited-slip differential, five-position Driver Mode Selector that tailors 12 vehicle attributes to fit the driver's environment.

An available Z07 package adds larger carbon ceramic-matrix brake rotors and Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 summer-only tires, leather-wrapped flat-bottom steering wheel, front Curb View Camera2 on 2LT and 3LT trims, head-up display included on 2LT and 3LT trims, heated and ventilated leather-appointed seats on 2LT and 3LT trims and leather-wrapped interior with suede upper interior trim included on 3LT.

Penske Group 4Q Earnings Fall Short

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Mich. (AP) – Penske Automotive Group Inc. (PAG) on Feb. 7 reported fourth-quarter earnings of \$98.1 million.

The Bloomfield Hills-based company said it had profit of \$1.16 per share. Earnings, adjusted for non-recurring gains and to account for discontinued operations, came to \$1.11 per share.

The results fell short of Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of four analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of \$1.16 per share.

The auto dealership chain posted revenue of \$5.44 billion in the period.

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HELLA Offering Help for STEM Students

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“Through this program, we are able to see firsthand the impact we are having on the next generation of engineers,” said Jörg Weisgerber, CEO of HELLA Electronics for North and South America.

HELLA is planning to add approximately eight more students to the program, with hopes of retaining the 15 students currently enrolled in the program. The 2019-2020 program will kick off in June. To be considered, applicants must:

- Show proof of their acceptance to an accredited, local university.
- Attend college with the intent of obtaining a degree in a related science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) field.
- Achieve a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Scholarship recipients are required to work at HELLA full-time during the summer months and part-time during the school year. Scholars receive an hourly wage with pay increases each year they continue the program.

Derek Goderis, a freshman at Michigan State University and former Plymouth-Canton Community Schools student, is wrapping up his first year as a Scholar.

“Participating in the HELLA Scholars program has been a pretty amazing, growing experience for me; overall, it’s making me a better student and employee,” said Goderis.

“This program offers immense value for both the company and myself because I’m working on real projects and, by the time I’m done with college, I’m going to know the ‘HELLA way.’”

Through working on real projects, students like Goderis are

gaining hands-on experience, learning concepts in the classroom and applying in the real world and vice-versa, while gaining experience from a cohort of other mentors and scholars, said Richter.

Matt McAmmond, manager of the Advanced Engineering Group at HELLA, and a Scholars mentor, noted from experience that learning theory in school and practicing at work is the best way to prepare for a career.

Likewise, he concurred it’s a

mutually beneficial program for the company and the students that get financial help.

“The Scholars add tremendous value,” said McAmmond. “Evidence of the Scholars’ contributions become apparent when they reduce their hours of work to attend their university in the fall. It’s at this point that the teams the Scholars work with feel the impact of their reduced presence, so we know they are making a significant, positive difference.”

Nissan Sees Profits Decline

TOKYO (AP) – Nissan lowered its profit forecast for the full year on Feb. 12, partly due to special charges related to alleged false financial reporting by its former chairman, Carlos Ghosn.

Nissan Motor Co.’s profit in the October-December quarter was 70.4 billion yen (\$637 million), down from 301.6 billion yen the previous year. Quarterly sales grew 6 percent to 3.05 trillion yen (\$27.5 billion).

The main factor behind the sharp weakening in profit for the fiscal third quarter was the absence of a lift from U.S. tax reforms that sharply boosted Nissan’s earnings in late 2017.

The maker of the Leaf electric vehicle, X-Trail sport utility vehicle and Infiniti luxury models cut its profit forecast for the fiscal year through March to 410 billion yen (\$3.7 billion), down 45 percent on the year. The previous projection was for a 500 billion yen (\$4.5 billion) profit.

The company said the main reason for the downgrade was faltering sales in China and the U.S.

But it also logged about 9.2 billion yen (\$83 million) in costs related to the alleged false under-

reporting of Ghosn’s compensation, according to Nissan.

Ghosn has been detained without bail since Nov. 19. Besides falsifying financial reports, he has been charged with breach of trust related to his handling of investment losses and payments to a Saudi businessman.

Ghosn has said the payments were for legitimate services and Nissan didn’t suffer losses and that he has said he is innocent of any wrongdoing and is the target of a conspiracy to oust him from the company.

Nissan Chief Executive Hiroto Saikawa told reporters last week that whether the company will pay Ghosn the under-reported compensation has not yet been decided. Ghosn has said the compensation was never paid or decided upon.

Saikawa said Jean-Dominique Senard, who recently replaced Ghosn as chairman of Nissan’s alliance partner Renault SA of France, will visit Japan later this week for meetings.

“It is practically our first meeting,” he said, declining to detail the agenda. “We want to build mutual trust and good communication.”

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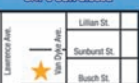
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