Alan Batey Retiring After 40 Years With General Motors

North America, has elected to retire after 40 years with the com-

Barry Engle, currently execu-

Alan S. Batey, GM's executive tive vice president and president vice president and president, of GM International, will succeed Batey in leading North America and will maintain his current responsibilities for GM's operations in South America, said

GM spokesman Pat Morrissey. With this role, Engle is named to the new position of executive vice president and president, the Americas. Engle's appointment is effective April 1. He will report to

GM Chairman and CEO Mary Barra. Batey will remain on as an advisor to Engle to assist in a smooth transition.

Julian Blissett, currently SAIC-GM executive vice president in China, is named senior vice president, International Operations. Blissett will have responsibility for GM's operations outside of

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MARCH 4, 2019

FCA to Add 6,500 Jobs, Invest \$4.5B in Michigan

by Jim Stickford

VOL. 87 NO. 8

Investment in the Detroit area just took a huge leap forward.

FCA is moving ahead with plans to invest \$4.5 billion in five of its existing Michigan plants, and to work with the city of Detroit and state of Michigan on building a new assembly plant within Detroit city limits.

The move would increase capacity to meet growing demand for its Jeep and Ram brands, including production of two new Jeep-branded white space products, as well as electrified models. The proposed projects would create nearly 6,500 new jobs, said FCA spokeswoman Jodi Tinson.

The FCA investment at the Warren, Mich., Truck plant - to retool for production of the new Jeep Wagoneer and Grand Wagoneer, announced in 2017, along with their electrified counterparts – would increase to \$1.5 billion, Tinson said. Production is expected to launch in early 2021.

In addition to the new Jeep

models, the Warren plant would continue building the Ram 1500 Classic, which is being extended to meet market demand. It is expected that 1,400 new jobs would be added, Tinson said.

As a result of this investment, production of the new Ram Heavy Duty will continue at its current location in Saltillo, Mexi-

To support the additional production, the company's Warren Stamping and Sterling Stamping (Sterling Heights, Mich.) plants would receive investments of \$245 million and \$160 million, respectively, with Sterling Stamping expected to add more than 80 new jobs, Tinson said. This investment is part of the company's capital spending plan presented in June 2018.

Stephanie Brinley, principal analyst for IHS Markit, said that the announcement made on Feb. 26 was no doubt in the works for a couple of years.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 This rendering of the new-to-come FCA Mack Engine Complex in Detroit shows how the project will look.

GM Extends Hamtramck to 2020

DETROIT (AP) - General Motors is extending the life of its only Detroit factory until early next year.

The plant on the border of Detroit and the hamlet of Hamtramck was to stop making vehicles as of June 1. But the company now says production of the Chevrolet Impala and Cadillac CT6 will continue into January of

The factory is one of five that GM plans to shutter as part of a restructuring to cut costs and reduce underused plants.

6,000 factory jobs and another 8,000 salaried positions.

The company says the plant will stay open as it produces a high-performance version of the CT6 and vehicles with its "Super Cruise" advanced driver assist system.

But the plant is likely to close early next year.

GM announced the restructuring plans in November. In addition to the Detroit plant, the company plans to stop making cars and transmissions at factories in

In all, GM is shedding about Lordstown, Ohio; Oshawa, Ontario; Warren; and near Baltimore. The company says it has 2,700 jobs available for factory workers at other U.S. plants.

Technically, the company can't close the plants without negotiating with the United Auto Workers union, and many workers are hoping their factories can be saved in contract talks that start this summer. But GM says it has too much capacity to build cars as the U.S. market has shifted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Ford is using a Miami florist shop to test self-driving technology.

General Motors is keeping open its Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant an additional eight months.

Ford Giving Self-Driving Tech Real-World Tests

Sometimes you can welcome new technology with flowers. Just ask Romina Orozco-Encio and her family.

When they arrived in the United States almost three decades ago, her parents had to quickly figure out how to make a life for their family. So they dipped into their history and opened a flower shop like Romina's grandfather had in their native country of Argentina.

For almost 30 years, she and her family have steered Abbott Florist through Miami's evershifting landscape, tackling the challenge of running a local business amidst a sea of large corporations, intense competition and evolving customer habits, said Alexander Buznego, Miami market manager in Ford Autonomous

Now, with the advent of selfdriving vehicles, they've taken a step into the future and, along with other shop owners, started working with Buznego to improve deliveries.

"To test out the opportunity, we first spent time with Romina and her fellow business owners to understand we needed to build to ensure our selfdriving delivery service could seamlessly integrate with their operations," Buznego said.

"We needed to know whether they already had digital ordertaking capability or whether we had to build it for them. For our first trial, we designed an easyto-use app for shops to request a test vehicle when they needed to make a delivery.

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Oakland County Health Program Receives Honors

Henry Ford Health System was recognized with a Michigan Works! Association Impact Award for its medical assistant apprenticeship program - the first U.S. Department of Laborregistered apprenticeship program of its kind in southeast Michigan.

Beside the health system, the award was given to Oakland County Michigan Works! Oak Park, Oakland Community College and Henry Ford College during a luncheon held Feb. 27 in Lansing. The health system was nominated for the award by Oakland County Michigan Works!

The Henry Ford Health System medical assistant apprenticeship program provides \$8,000 worth of classroom instruction, on-thejob training and an hourly wage to qualified candidates who enroll in the yearlong program at Oakland Community College or Henry Ford College, said Oakland County spokesman Steve Huber. The county helps Henry Ford with outreach.

FCA Investing Billions in Michigan Facilities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The plant actions detailed in FCA's announcement represent the next steps in a U.S. manufacturing realignment that FCA began in 2016, Tinson said.

"I wouldn't put too much thought into the timing of the announcement," Brinley said. "They will be starting construction in a few months and that's hard to hide. This plan confirms what people have been speculating and talking about for a few years. This gives a framework to the building of the Jeep Wagoneer and the three-row Grand Cherokee.'

In response to a shift in consumer demand toward SUVs and trucks, the company discontinued compact car production and retooled plants in Illinois, Ohio and Michigan to make full use of available capacity to expand the Jeep and Ram brands, Tinson

"Three years ago," said FCA CEO Mike Manley, "FCA set a course to grow our profitability based on the strength of the Jeep and Ram brands by realigning our U.S. manufacturing operations. This announcement represents the next step in that strate-

"It allows Jeep to enter two white space segments that offer significant margin opportunities and will enable new electrified Jeep products, including at least four plug-in hybrid vehicles and the flexibility to produce fully battery-electric vehicles.'

The city of Detroit has 60 days to meet the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding, which requires the acquisition of property critical to the execution of the Mack project, Tinson said. The additional investments are subment packages with the state and other local governments. Under current plans, FCA

and final approval of develop-

would invest \$1.6 billion to convert the two plants that the Mack Avenue Engine Complex comprises into the future assembly site for the next-generation Jeep Grand Cherokee, as well as a new three-row full-size Jeep SUV and plug-in hybrid (PHEV) models, adding 3,850 new jobs to support production, Tinson said.

The company, said Manley, intends to start construction of the new Detroit facility by the end of the second quarter of 2019, with the first three-row vehicles expected to roll off the line by the end of 2020 - followed by the new Grand Cherokee in the first half of 2021.

Additionally, the Jefferson North Assembly Plant would receive an investment of \$900 million to retool and modernize the facility to build the Dodge Durango and next-generation Jeep Grand Cherokee. FCA expects to create 1,100 new jobs at Jefferson North, Tinson said.

The reborn Mack facility would be the first new assembly plant to be built in the city of Detroit in nearly three decades. In 1991, Chrysler's Jefferson North became the last new assembly plant built in the city. When complete, Mack would join Jefferson North as the only automotive assembly plants to be located completely within the city limits of Detroit.

The Pentastar engines - the 3.6-, 3.2- and 3.0-liter – currently built at Mack I would be relocated to the Dundee, Mich., Engine Plant as part of a \$119 million investment. Pentastar production at Mack I would end by the third quarter 2019. Mack II has been idle since it ceased production of the 3.7-liter V6 in September

Brinley said that it was important to note that part of this investment will allow FCA to build EV and hybrid engines. Before he died, CEO Sergio Marchionne said that he was "agnostic" about this technology. He wasn't for it or against it, but he needed to be convinced that it could be profitable.

"This part of the announce-

ment shows that EV and hybrid created additional manufacturing technology is inevitable," Brinley

Warren Truck is one of the facilities that FCA is retooling.

She also said that FCA has cut back one shift in the Belvidere (Ill.) plant that makes the Cherokee.

Brinley said that the newly announced plans are part of a larger plan FCA announced in June of 2016. The company said then that it would stop making the Dodge Dart and the Chrysler 200. The Belvidere plant where the Dart was made, the 2016 announcement stated, would be converted to making the new Cherokee and Sterling Heights Assembly would make Ram trucks.

"When FCA made that announcement, the company was basically playing to strengths," Brinley said. "It was doing very well with trucks and SUVs. The move wasn't so much anticipating a change in consumer tastes so much as it was concentrating on what the company did best.

"I don't think anyone anticipated just how much consumer preferences for trucks and SUVs would grow. Since then, Ford and GM have made similar announcements.'

Since 2016, FCA has realigned production at four plants in Illinois, Ohio and Michigan to increase capacity for the Jeep Cherokee, Jeep Wrangler and Ram 1500 light-duty truck, and

capacity for the Jeep Gladiator in Ohio, Tinson said.

The investments included:

- \$350 million in the Belvidere plant to produce the Jeep Cherokee, which moved from Toledo, Ohio, in 2017. More than 300 new jobs were added to support production, which launched in June 2017.
- \$700 million in the Toledo Assembly Complex to retool the North plant to produce the next-generation Jeep Wrangler. Approximately 700 new jobs were added to support production, which began in December 2017.
- \$1.48 billion in the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant to build the next-generation Ram 1500 truck, adding more than 700 new jobs. Production of the new truck began in March 2018. Production of the Ram 1500 Classic continues at Warren Truck.
- \$273 million in the south plant of the Toledo Assembly Complex to prepare the facility to produce the new Jeep Gladiator. The new truck is scheduled to launch in the first half of 2019.

In total, FCA has committed to invest nearly \$14.5 billion in its United States manufacturing operations, creating nearly 30,000 new jobs since June 2009, Tinson

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Last GM Volt Has Rolled Off Assembly Line

pany was swirling around the financial drain in the early 2000s, General Motors executives came up with an idea to counter its gas-guzzling image and point the way to transportation of the future: an electric car with a gasengine backup that could travel

At Detroit's auto show in 2007, they unveiled the Chevrolet Volt concept car, not knowing yet whether they had the technology to pull off a major breakthrough in battery-powered vehicles.

It took nearly four more years, but the first Volt – a longer-range version of a plug-in hybrid -

in 2010. GM had hopes that customers would be ready for a car that could go 38 miles on electricity before a small internal combustion generator kicked in.

They weren't. On Feb. 22, the last Volt was built with little ceremony at a Detroit factory that's now slated to close. Sales averaged less than 20,000 per year, not enough to sustain the costly undertaking.

The Volt wasn't the first electric car, but it was the first to conquer anxiety over range at a reasonable cost. GM's limitedrange EV1 came out in the 1990s. and Tesla put out its 200-plus-

DETROIT (AP) - As their com- rolled off the assembly line late mile Roadster in 2008 for more than \$100,000.

The Volt was among the first plug-in hybrids, many of which can go only 20 or so miles on electricity and haven't gained much popularity among consumers.

Yet the Volt did serve a purpose. It led to advances in lithium-ion batteries similar to those that power smart phones and computers. But such advances ultimately led to the Volt's demise as GM and other manufacturers developed fully electric vehicles that can go 200 more miles per charge.

"While it was a financial loser, it did what was intended," said retired GM Vice Chairman Bob Lutz, who shepherded the Volt into production. "We viewed it as a stepping stone to full electrics. which were totally out of reach due to the then-astronomical cost of lithium-ion batteries."

GM now has the Chevrolet Bolt, which can go 238 miles on a single charge, and it has promised many more electric vehicles in the future.

Navigant Research analyst Sam Abuelsamid said the Volt's end has come.

"It's not the right vehicle for the market today," said Abuelsamid. "It doesn't really make sense to keep it going. As much as you'd like to, it's probably better to let it go."



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MARCH 4, 2019 "FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933" PAGE 3

Alan Batey Retiring After 40 Years With GM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Americas and China. Blissett will also report to Barra.

SAIC-GM is a joint venture between General Motors Company and SAIC Motor that manufactures and sells Buick, Chevrolet and Cadillac brand automobiles in mainland China.

'As our company continues to streamline operations, simplify our systems and refine our global go-to-market strategies," said Barra, "I see Barry as the perfect leader to continue our transformation in each of these markets.

"Alan and his team have achieved record financial performance and created a customer-focused foundation, and we greatly appreciate what he has contributed to GM over his almost 40 years of service across the globe."

Batey has been in his current position since 2014 and has led Global Chevrolet since July 2013. He also served as GM vice president, U.S. Sales and Service and interim GM chief marketing officer from 2012 to 2013 and vice president, U.S. Chevrolet Sales and Service, from 2010 to 2012.

A native of the United Kingdom, Batey began his General Motors career in 1979.

Throughout his career he has held several senior management positions of increasing responsibility for GM in the United King-



Alan Batey

dom, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, Germany, Korea and Australia.

Engle joined GM as executive vice president and president, GM South America, in September 2015. In October 2017, it was announced that his duties would expand to include all operations outside North America and

Engle has lived and worked around the globe, running businesses in Latin America, Europe and Asia, as well as the U.S. and

His automotive experience includes 13 years with Ford Motor Company before going on to become the president and CEO of New Holland Agricultural Equipment, the CEO of THINK (an EV



Barry Engle

start-up) and the CEO of Agility Fuel Systems (a private equitybacked Tier I supplier). Engle also has automotive retail experience, having been a Chrysler Plymouth Jeep dealer.

Blissett has been executive vice president of SAIC-GM since 2014. Prior to that, he held a variety of management positions in GM's International Operations, including vice president of New Business Development and Al-



Julian Blissett

liances from 2011 to 2014 and executive director of Manufacturing Engineering from 2010 to

He began his career with GM as Central Engineering manager for Opel Polska.

Prior to joining GM, Blissett worked for Nissan Motor Manufacturing U.K. Ltd. for eight years in manufacturing engineering and production leadership in the U.K. and Japan.

GM to Keep Open **Hamtramck Plant For Eight Months**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dramatically to SUVs, CUVs and trucks.

Union leaders welcomed the extension for the Detroit plant and promised to fight the other paint closures that were recently announced by General Motors officials.

"Let me reiterate that the UAW will leave no stone unturned in seeking to keep your plants open, and we hope today's news brings a measure of hope as we continue that important work," UAW President Gary Jones said in a statement to employees Feb.

General Motors spokesman Dan Flores said about 700 hourly workers remain at the Detroit plant, down from 1,348 in November.

Most of those laid off have been placed at other General Motors factories, with the majority of them going to the company's pickup truck assembly plant

DTE Using Wind Power To Power Up GM Facilities

It's not exactly free electric global manager of Sustainable power, but it is blowing in the

As part of its commitment to increasing its renewable energy footprint globally and finding clean energy solutions near its operations, General Motors has partnered with DTE Energy for 300,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of wind energy in the state of Michigan.

Once complete, the energy sourced will be enough to power 100 percent of the electricity needs of GM's global Tech Center in Warren and its Detroit-based operations at the Renaissance Center, said GM spokeswoman Jennifer Korail.

The 300,000 megawatt hours (MWh) are equivalent to the amount of power consumed by nearly 30,000 U.S. households

To date, GM has contracted or invested in 1.71 terawatt hours of clean energy power in North America, equivalent to more than 145.000 households and more than any other automaker in the region, said Korail.

GM will source the wind power through an agreement with DTE Energy's MIGreenPower, a renewable energy program that enables DTE customers to attribute up to 100 percent of their energy use to DTE clean energy projects in Michigan.

In January 2019, DTE received approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission to offer a mental leadership and are excit-MIGreenPower program designed for major Michigan corporations and industrial companies who want access to more renewable energy to meet corporate sustainability goals.

"Investing in renewable energy remains an important part of GM's vision for a zero emissions future," said Rob Threlkeld, GM's

Energy and Supply Reliability.

"Our partnership with DTE Energy will help us get closer to achieving our goal of powering all our operations in Michigan with 100 percent clean energy. It helps demonstrate that local and regional industry partnerships are paramount to GM's clean energy future, where renewable sources will account for 100 percent of our global energy footprint by 2050.

DTE plans to build or acquire additional clean energy projects and expand MIGreenPower to meet increasing customer demand, Korail said.

It will begin sourcing to GM once the first new projects are on line. As the state's largest producer of renewable energy, DTE will more than double its renewinvesting an additional \$2 billion in wind and solar by 2024. As part of its commitment to reduce carbon emissions by more than 80 percent by 2050, DTE is significantly increasing the amount of clean energy in its generation portfolio

"Knowing that access to more renewable energy is important to our largest corporate and industrial customers, DTE will continue to expand MIGreenPower to help customers meet their sustainability targets," said Trevor F. Lauer, president of DTE Electric.

"We appreciate GM's environed that we can partner with them through MIGreenPower to deliver on their clean energy goals.'

The MIGreenPower agreement comes on the heels of GM reaching 20 percent of its global energy supply from renewables.

GM is a member of the Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance



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Ford Testing Self-Driving Tech in Miami

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Using our app, they were able to make deliveries on demand for items that needed to be delivered right away, or they could schedule deliveries at a specific time. We used our routing technology to optimize the vehicle's travel schedule and make sure it could effectively balance demand among the businesses."

Ford also took the opportunity to test different interior designs for the purpose-built, self-driving vehicle planned to arrive in 2021, Buznego said.

For this test program, they used a customized Ford Escape to handle the deliveries. The Escape's cargo area was outfitted with a foam vase holder capable of securing four different floral arrangements, as well as with a clothes rack for items from the dry cleaners.

Testing modifications like these gives Ford important early insight into how to make delivery service most valuable to customers, Buznego said.

"As with our previous business pilot programs, the vehicles we use are not equipped with selfdriving technology yet," Buznego said

"We simulate the experience with graphics and sensor attachments so we can gather insights on how people will really interact with a self-driving vehicle in the future.

"The development of our selfdriving technology, led by Argo AI, continues independent from these business experience tests."

For Romina, the delivery service meant relief. The app notified her when the vehicle arrived at her shop and gave her time to load the cargo area, which safely held her floral arrangements in place, even in Miami traffic.

She was able to track her deliveries through the app and reliably let her customers know when to expect their flowers, Buznego said.

"For a business like Romina's, filling delivery requests is often a stressful process," Buznego said. "Without a delivery van, she was usually left trying to find a delivery driver who could help – a complex task since some days she'd have more orders than others.

"A self-driving delivery service that she could tap into as needed brought an element of convenience to her business while ensuring her customers got their orders on time."

Beyond just handling customer orders, Ford found that a self-driving delivery service can bring other efficiencies for a small business, Buznego said.

At Giralda Cleaners in Coral Gables, owners Roland and Lydia Losas found that using the Ford service between their storefronts and processing plant boosted productivity at their four locations.

Their 22 employees were apprehensive about using a self-driving service, but soon came to love its convenience to the point that they kept asking about the availability of "el carro cybernético."

Instead of spending time driving back and forth to the plant, they were able to spend more time working with customers and performing other tasks at their storefronts, Buznego said.

"Lydia told us she honestly didn't expect the service to be as helpful as it was," Buznego said.

"Looking to the future, she and her husband are considering how the access to self-driving vehicles would allow them to expand their business. Between

coordinating current activities and dealing with maintenance fees, insurance and liability costs, growth is challenging without solutions like ours."

And that's the point. Self-driving vehicles have the potential to remedy many of the issues facing local businesses owners, said Buznego, allowing them to focus on what really matters – running their business.

"We're excited to be part of this important sector of our economy and community," Buznego said. "We're working to build a service that's accessible, reliable, and that helps our communities thrive.

"And when a third-generation florist calls our initial attempts at this kind of service 'a delivery life-saver,' we know we're on the right track."

Fisher Offers Chance to Win FCA Vehicles

FCA is sponsoring this season's Broadway in Detroit musical season at the Fisher Theater, and as part of this sponsorship, the company will be raffling off a 2019 Jeep Wrangler Sahara.

Those attending performances at the Fisher Theater can enter a raffle to win tickets to future Fisher shows as well as enter a raffle where the grand prize is a new Wrangler Sahara.

Another contest offers \$45,000 toward the purchase of any FCA product.

Fisher 2019 Broadway in Detroit shows include:

- "The Lightning Thief" Feb. 26 March 9.
- "Hamilton" March 12 -April 21.
- "Waitress" May 7-19.
- "Anastasia" June 11-23.

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FCA Sees Slight February Vehicle Sales Decline

FCA reported that the Jeep Cherokee set an all-time February sales record, despite another month of bitter weather across key selling regions for the brand.

The Ram brand scored another record month as well, on the back of award-winning products in the hot light-duty and heavyduty markets.

Following 11 straight months of year-over-year sales increases, the company's overall U.S. February sales retreated 2 percent to 162,036 vehicles in a soft market, compared with sales of 165,903 vehicles in February 2018, said FCA spokesman Jeff Bennett.

The Jeep brand is returning to a more "normal" sales cadence after benefiting from both the new and old Wrangler coming off the production lines this time last year, Bennett said.

"The overall industry is starting off slower due in part to weather, the U.S. government shutdown and concern over tax refunds," U.S. head of Sales Reid Bigland said. "We still see a strong, stable economy and anticipate any lost winter sales will be made up in the spring. For us, the Ram brand was the standout in February, and Jeep Cherokee set a February record as well."

The Jeep Cherokee defied the general sales trend, with a 31 percent sales improvement compared with the same time last year, Bennett said. The model sold 16,020 in 2019 compared with 12.225 in 2018.

Sales for the Grand Cherokee showed a slight 3 percent increase - 18,009 compared with 17,468, while the Compass saw a 25 percent decline - 12,063 this year compared with 16,026 last

Ram pickup trucks saw a 25 percent increase – 39,950 versus 33,299, Bennett said. On the other hand, Chrysler Pacifica sales dropped 32 percent, going from 11,482 in February of 2018 to 7,854 this year.

Dodge Durango sales were good this February, Bennett said. Going up by 17 percent, with sales of 6,105.

Dodge did see a drop in its muscle car segment, with sales of the Charger dropping 13 percent - 6,547, and sales of the Challenger dropping to 3,639, a 40 percent decline.

More Pedestrian Fatalities Being Reported

DETROIT (AP) - The number of pedestrians killed on U.S. roads last year was the highest in 28 years, according to a report from a safety organization.

Using data reported by states, the Governors Highway Safety Association estimates that 6,227 pedestrians were killed last year. That's up 4 percent from 2017 and 35 percent since 2008.

The association blames the increase on factors that include distracted or impaired drivers. more people walking to work, and more SUVs on the road, which cause more severe injuries in collisions with people.

It also says most deaths happen on local roads at night and away from intersections, and it called for safer road crossings. Night crashes accounted for more than 90 percent of the increased deaths in the last 10 years

"While we have made progress reducing fatalities among many other road users in the past decade, pedestrian deaths have risen 35 percent," Jonathan Adkins, the association's executive director, said in a statement issued Feb. 28.



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SALE PRICE \$19,463	SALE PRICE \$19,115	SALE PRICE \$20,341
NEW 2017 JEEP Wrangler Sahara 4x4	NEW 2018 JEEP WRANGLER Unlimited Sport 4x4	NEW 2018 JEEP WRANGLER Unlimited Sport 4X4
MSRP JF-30185 \$38,825	MSRP J8-31085 \$35,300	MSRP J8-31029 \$37,875
REBATES & DISCOUNTS -57,160	REBATES & DISCOUNTS -\$5,855	REBATES & DISCOUNTS -56,162
SALE PRICE \$31,665	SALE PRICE \$29,445	SALE PRICE \$31,713
NEW 2018 JEEP WRANGLER Sahara 4x4 2 dr.	NEW 2017 JEEP GRAND Cherokee Limited 4x4	NEW 2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE Laredo upland 4x4
MSRP JB-31023 \$36,815	MSRP JT-20373 \$42,980	MSRP J8-20809 \$40,185
REBATES & DISCOUNTS -\$6,548	REBATES & DISCOUNTS -\$10,719	REBATES & DISCOUNTS -59,784

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Gilmore Museum Honors Model History

A lost piece of automotive history will be brought to light at the Gilmore Car Museum near Kalamazoo this year.

Between April 6 and Oct. 1, the museum is putting on its Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild (FBCG) Reunion & Model Exhibition.

This project has been in the planning phase for more than a year, said John Jacobus, a former member of the Guild.

General Motor's FBCG was sponsored by the Fisher Body Division in 1930-1968.

It was an automobile design competition for American youths (ages 11-20) to design, engineer and build 1/12-scale model "Dream Cars," using their imagination and creativity, Jacobus

Guildsmen used laminated wood (e.g., sugar pine, poplar or balsawood) to carve and shape their 3-dimensional concept cars, while others used plaster, fiberglass or rigid polyurethane. Harley J. Earl, Chuck Jordan and Bill Mitchell (GM Styling then GM Design) organized and ran the FBCG model car competitions.

At the end of the school year, the Guildsmen shipped their finished 1/12-scale model creations to the Fisher Body Engineering Administrative offices at 12 Mile Road & Van Dyke Avenue. The program was popular among teenagers and thousands of entries were received annually.

The models were scored based on originality of design, craftsmanship, workmanship, aesthetics, appearance, scale fidelity, practicality, etc., Jacobus said. GM's Styling Staff (later called Design Staff) scored the amateur automobile designs in concert with Industrial Arts teachers from the Detroit School System.

Together, they awarded college scholarships to national winners, cash awards to state

winners, as well as trophies and Certificates of Design and Craftsmanship.

"I maintain the Guild mailing list," Jacobus said. "Guildsmen (former participants) have been contacted across the country and models are being shipped or hand-delivered to the Gilmore. More than 80 models have been committed so far and they expect over 100-plus for the big show."

The scholarships were worth thousands of dollars and enabled some of the talented Guildsmen to pursue design training at professional schools (e.g., Pratt Institute, Art Center College of Design) or at similar colleges/universities with Industrial Design programs in Transportation or Product Design.

Many had successful careers in the burgeoning field of Industrial Design, Jacobus said.

Some well-known Guildsmen include Gary Graham (1954), E. Arthur Russell (1957), Terry R. Henline (1958), Ronald J. Will, Thomas L. Covert (1962), Robert E. Davids (1963) and Thomas Semple (1964), Jacobus said.

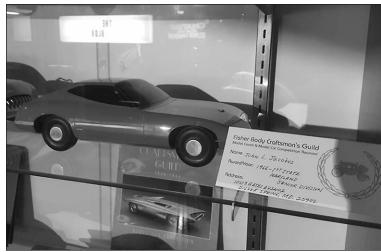
Henline, Will, Covert, and Semple are examples of Guildsmen who had successful careers as auto designers and rose to top leadership positions.

The site where all the important Guild business occurred (e.g., model scoring/grading, the Annual Guild Convention and the GM VIPs awarding scholarships) was at the GM Tech Center's Fisher Body Engineering Headquarters Auditorium

"Although the Guild scholarship program operated from 1930 to 1968, this site is where all the 'action' played out from 1955 to 1968," Jacobus said.

The Gilmore Car Museum is located in Hickory Corners near Kalamazoo, and houses one of Michigan's largest collections of classic and vintage automobiles. More than 300 vintage and collector vehicles and motorcycles from all eras are on display in over a dozen vintage buildings located on 90 acres.

To learn more about the museum and the upcoming exhibition, go to its Web site at gilmorecarmuseum.org.



Jacobus' model car from 1961 will be part of the Gilmore exhibition.

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UAW Suing General Motors For Closing Three Plants

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) – The United Auto Workers has sued General Motors for closing three plants in Ohio, Michigan and Maryland, claiming the union's current contract forbids the company from idling them, according to the suit filed in court last week.

GM announced plans in November to end production at U.S. plants in Lordstown, Ohio; White Marsh, Md.; Warren, and Hamtramck. GM announced this week that production at the Hamtramck plant, which borders Detroit, would continue until January, after the UAW contract expires. The plant was not included in the lawsuit.

The UAW's lawsuit includes a September 2015 letter from GM Vice President Catherine Clegg that says her correspondence "confirms" the company won't close, idle, sell off or consolidate plants during the union contract, which expires in September.

GM said in a statement Feb. 26 that the company's announcement last year about the closings doesn't violate the UAW contract.

"We continue to work with the UAW on solutions to our business challenges," the statement said.

Workers at Lordstown and the other plants are hoping the union will be able to negotiate to keep their factories open after the contract talks formally open this summer. Lordstown, which is expected to be idled in early June, has drawn support from President Donald Trump, who has campaigned on saving industrial jobs in Ohio, a key state in his 2020 re-election bid.

Lordstown has around 1,400 hourly workers who help assem-

ble the Cruze subcompact sedan. The Maryland plant manufactures electric motors and drive trains and employs 250 workers. The Warren plant has 265 workers who make transmissions.

New Vehicle Transaction Prices Are Up

The analysts at *Kelley Blue Book* reported the estimated average transaction price for a light vehicle in the United States was \$36,590 in February 2019. New-vehicle prices increased \$993 (up 2.8 percent) from February 2018, while decreasing \$205 (down 0.5 percent) from last month.

"New-vehicle transaction prices climbed nearly 3 percent in February, led by the strength in full-size pickup trucks," said Tim Fleming, analyst for Kelley Blue Book. "New pickups from General Motors and RAM are setting the pace for the segment, and every full-size pickup truck had year-over-year growth greater than 4 percent. Looking at midsize trucks, the segment was only up 1 percent for the month, but it is set for a similar revival with the new Ford Ranger hitting the market right now and the Jeep Gladiator coming soon."

Gaining most year-over-year, Ford's average prices were up more than 5 percent, with both Ford and Lincoln up by 5 percent. Ford's strength was led by the refreshed Edge and its new ST trim, which helped pull the model's average up 5 percent. The F-Series also saw prices rise as the Super Duty trucks capture a larger share of sales.



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