# Tech Center News®

WARREN, MICHIGAN

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# **GM Tech Center Employees First to See New 2020 Corvette**

by Jim Stickford

The 2019 Tech Center Employees Car Show began with a \$100,000 donation and featured the Michigan debut of Chevrolet's new C8 Corvette Stingray.

The money came from the GM Corporate Giving Team, said Lori Wingerter, chief philanthropic officer for GM.

"Each year we present grants to organizations around the Tech Center in Warren," Wingerter said. "The Corporate Giving Team works with GM institutions around the country by providing them with funds. These funds go to worthy organizations around where the facility is located. Money is allocated by special teams made up of people at the local facility."

These teams decide who gets money, Wingerter said. In previous years, there was no official formula for giving out money. But GM Corporate Giving has decided to support programs that focus on specific goals, including STEM, vehicle safety and community development.

"This year we are giving out \$100,000," Wingerter said. "The grants will be of different sizes. We do this now every year so different groups get money in different years. For the first time, Macomb Community College will be \$60,000, and everyone at GM

getting a grant because of its STEM activities.'

Dave Small, president of UAW Local 160 spoke at the start of the show, saying that he was proud of all the retirees and current GM employees who helped make the cars on display.

"These vehicles represent a proud history," Small said. "And what a beautiful day for a car show. This is the largest lunchtime car show in America and I want to thank all the volunteers who made this possible and make this show run like a Swiss watch."

GM President Mark Reuss also spoke at the opening of the show. He said that in the past couple of years, GM has invested \$1 billion in the Tech Center, and those who hadn't been on the campus since the last show should notice all the new construction that has taken place on the campus.

"I want to thank all the retirees employees who have brought their cars to this year's show," Reuss said. "This year we are celebrating the Corvette. We are starting production of the latest Corvette - the C8 - this fall. I want to say that it's a mid-engine vehicle, something we've dreamt of for 60 years at GM. We got it done and we got it done in a spectacular fashion. It's under

should feel proud because we all put our heart and soul into this car. And it got its start right here at the Tech Center.'

After Reuss finished speaking, GM's head designer Mike Simcoe drove one of GM's C8s to the main band stand where, for the

first time, people in Michigan had a chance to see the Stingray up close and personal. As soon as Simcoe got out of the car, it was swamped with curious classic car fans wanting to get a picture and a closer look at the new Corvette.

But it wouldn't be an employee car show without the classic cars of current and former GM employees.

GM spokesman David Darovitz said that this year's show had

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 



The 2020 Corvette Stingray had its Michigan debut at the recent Tech Center Employee Car Show.

# Ford Pushes Ahead With Developing EV Tech for F-150

The Ford F-150 has been the ral to ask what could we do to best-selling motor vehicle in the North American market for the past several years. So it makes sense that Ford continue to develop new EV technology for the company's top seller. At least that's what Ted Cannis, Global Director, Electrification, Ford Motor Company, says.

"At Ford, our electrification plan is simple: play to our strengths and build on our iconic nameplates," said Cannis. "To do that, we will leverage the unique qualities of full battery electric vehicles to amplify the attributes our customers love and value capability, performance and leading technology. So it's only natubuild on pickup trucks in this era of smart vehicles in an increasingly smart world?"

Ford trucks provide the global backbone of work, built on a foundation of toughness. And it is time to take tough to the next level, Cannis said. Tough starts and ends with F-Series, our bread and butter. The F-Series is the best-selling truck in America for 42 straight years.

"Trust me when I say we understand trucks," Cannis said. "We know truck owners - tens of millions of them. We love trucks. And, we beat up and test trucks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Ford is already testing hybrid and EV tech for upcoming F-150 models.

# J.D. Power APEAL Study Shows Detroit OEMs in Good Light

to brands have real APEAL to consumers according the J.D. Power 2019 Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout (APEAL) Study released last

Improvements in infotainment systems and increased availability of advanced driver assistance systems are making customers increasingly satisfied with their

spokesman for J.D. Power.

The industry average satisfaction index score increases to 823 (on a 1,000-point scale) from 820 in 2018, with 22 of the 32 brands included in the study improving from last year.

"Every automaker is producing vehicles that consumers like, but some of them are doing it at a higher level than others," said

Global Automotive at J.D. Power. "Satisfaction with new technology is improving, but infotainment remains an area where automakers can get better. Owners have higher satisfaction if their vehicle is equipped with safety features such as blind spot monitor, collision avoidance and lane departure warning. This should serve as a positive sign for manu-

It looks like some domestic au- new vehicles, said Geno Effler, Dave Sargent, vice president of facturers, as these features are some of the early building blocks for fully automated vehicles."

FCA did very well in the most recent study. Ram and Dodge finish 1-2 among mass-market brands, helping FCA US LLC achieve the greatest year-overyear improvement of any automaker in the 2019 APEAL

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6** 





2019 Ford Ranger



2019 Dodge Challenger

### **Plunging Profits Force Nissan Job Cutbacks**

TOKYO (AP) - Nissan is slashing 12,500 jobs or about 9 percent of its global workforce to cut costs and achieve a turnaround amid tumbling profits, the Japanese automaker said on July 25.

Nissan Motor Co. officials also said the company will cut global production capacity by 10 percent and reduce model lineups by at least 10 percent by the end of fiscal 2022.

Nissan Chief Executive Hiroto Saikawa said most of the jobs cut will be auto plant workers. He did not give a regional breakdown, but said the job cuts were needed to cut global production capacity and cut costs.

A company presentation said more than 6,400 jobs would be eliminated in eight unspecified locations by the end of this fiscal year. Another 6,100 will come by fiscal 2022, it said.

Saikawa told reporters at the automaker's Yokohama headquarters that sales are expected to begin to recover but it will take time. Some of the efforts have already begun, he said.

The Japanese automaker is struggling to fix its brand image and get growth going again following the arrest of former Chairman Carlos Ghosn. Ghosn says he is innocent. He is awaiting trial in Japan on various financial misconduct allegations.

"Our situation right now is extremely severe," Saikawa said, noting attractive models were coming with technology like artificial intelligence and zero emissions to boost sales.

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### HAP Services **Expanding** In Macomb

Henry Ford Health System and Health Alliance Plan (HAP) has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Trusted HP - Michigan, a 9.000-member Medicaid plan based in Detroit, formerly known as Harbor Health Plan, Inc.

The move marks HAP's re-entrance into the state of Michigan's Medicaid HMO service area known as Region 10, which includes Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties, said HAP spokeswoman Brenda D. Craig.

"We are thrilled to announce a return to offering a Medicaid option that serves the people of metro Detroit," said Wright L. Lassiter, III, President and CEO, Henry Ford Health System. "As both a health insurer and healthcare provider, we are uniquely positioned to offer seamless, holistic care and coverage to our Medicaid population – a fully integrated approach focusing on quality and efficiency that creates lasting value for our patients and members."

The terms of the agreement provide for a seamless transition for Trusted HP – Michigan members, who will be able to keep their doctor and continue using their services and current ID cards, Craig said. Trusted HP -Michigan's nearly two dozen employees will also become part of the HAP team.

'True integration between provider and payer is extremely important to our Medicaid population," said Terri Kline, CEO, Health Alliance Plan.

'We also know how critical it is to understand our members' individual needs and concerns. By uniting our dedication to both, we are creating something truly exceptional for the people of southeast Michigan and we are so excited to welcome these new members into the HAP fami-

HAP serves 570,000 total members in Michigan. It's subsidiary, HAP Midwest Health Plan, offers Medicaid products under the HAP Empowered name.

HAP also participates in the MI Health Link Dual Demonstration Project, serving 4,500 members who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid in Wayne and Macomb counties, including some more underserved areas of metro Detroit.

"Our team of clinically grounded physician leaders have been instrumental in finding ways to offer our members access to programs that help them stay or become healthy," said Dr. Michael Genord, chief medical officer of HAP and CEO of HAP Midwest Health Plan. "We work diligently with our Medicaid members to be able to afford and to understand health insurance. That is an essential aspect of our commitment to the health and wellness of our members, especially our most vulnerable populations."

Trusted HP - Michigan is owned by Trusted Health Plan Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based managed care organization.



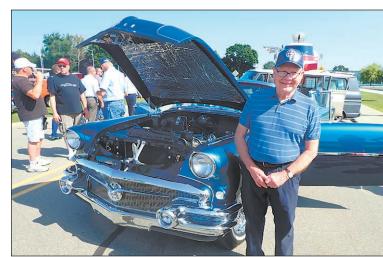
Cleaveland is a big fan of this 1967 Camaro SS owned by Dennis Hall.



The 1956 Buick X came with swivel driver and front passenger seats.



Colrey shows off his 1955 Chevy 210 at the Tech Center Employee show.



Mayton owns the only 1956 Buick X, originally built for Bill Mitchell.

# Tech Center Show Sees Michigan Debut of New C8 'Vette

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more than 900 different cars signed up to be on display.

'That just might be our highest number," Darovitz said. "I have to say, it's a real pleasure to see all these beautiful cars and see how their owners have loved and taken care of them.'

One such owner is Russ Corley. He lives in Sterling Heights and worked for GM in the 1970s. He brought his 1955 Chevy 210.

"I have owned this car for 20 years," Corley said. "And I drive it. It's a restoration project. The chassis is original, but I've done work to the brakes and the electronics. There is also new air conditioning, which is a big improvement.'

Attendees of the show also had the opportunity to see a unique vehicle - the 1956 Buick X. Owner Don Mayton, who managed six different stamping plants during his GM career, said the vehicle was originally built for Bill Mitchell, who was famed GM designer Harley Earl's assistant, then later successor.

Mayton said he bought the unique car from a private owner, and really liked the fact that the front driver and passenger seats were swivel seats. He said he enjoyed the opportunity to show off such a vehicle at the Tech Center, the spiritual home of the Buick X.

Attendees also had the chance to see the Holmes-Summerfield collection of 1977 Pontiac Can Ams. The Can Am was a special edition option package and was only available in 1977. James Summerfield said that two branches of his family, the Summerfields and the Holmes, saw the Can Am that Robert Summerfield, a retired GM painter, bought a few years ago for \$650.

"It was a barn find," said Robert Summerfield. "The man I bought it from thought it needed a new drive train because it leaked oil, so he let me have it for a song. It turns out that the car only needed a bolt tightened on the oil pan."

When family members saw the car, they all decided to get their own. James said he spent a year restoring the one he bought on eBay. In total the family has six restored Can Ams in its collection. James said the placed white tigers on top of the cars during display because Pontiac GTOs had the Bengal tiger as its symbol. The family thought white tigers would make a great symbol for the 1977 Can Am.

Shelby Jett worked at the Tech Center for 30 years in research. He brought his (he just bought three years ago) black 1962 Corvette to the show.

"This is the first time I've driven the car," Jett said. "I drove three miles from my house in Warren to the Tech Center. I bought this car because it reminds me of my red 1962 Corvette, which I've owned for years."

Gary Revyn brought his "new" 1969 Camaro Z28 yellow Camaro to the show.

"I call it my new Camaro because I've only owned the car for about four months," Revyn said. "I got the car by going to the Internet. I also own five other classic cars, but I always wanted a Z28. So when I found myself with a few extra dollars in my pocket, I went looking for one I could buy. And I never had a yellow car."

Not all the people attending the show are retired GM employees bringing their classic cars. Some, like Lia Cleaveland - a service programming engineer, are current employees who enjoyed the chance to see the cars.

"I just like the sound of these classic cars," Cleaveland said. "I used to work on them with my dad, Tate Haynes.

"In those days you got to fix your own cars and it was a joy to work on them. If I had to pick a favorite car at the show, I have to say I like the classic SS Camaros I've seen. They have a great sound and a great look that's held up for 50 years.'





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JULY 29, 2019 COVERS THE TECH CENTER AND THE IMMEDIATE AREA

#### Warren-Based TACOM Wins Army Award

The Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) Safety and Occupational Health Office located in the Detroit Arsenal in Warren this month received two Department of the Army level awards and three Army Materiel Command awards for their work in promoting safe and productive workplace environments, said TACOM spokesman Randy Tisor.

The awards, according to Adam Crafard, TACOM's Director of Safety and Occupational Health, were in three different categories, including an individual award, a brigade-level depot award and a two-star command-level award.

Clayton Nagel won the Individual Award for Excellence in Safety in the Junior Department of the Army category for his work as collateral duty safety officer from October 2017 to September 2018 at the DA and AMC levels. Nagel worked at TACOM's Integrated Logistics Support Center's Fleet Maintenance Exchange (FMX) at Fort Leonard Wood at the time of the award.

TACOM achieved the Exceptional Organization Safety Award at the two-star level of command at the DA and AMC levels and Red River Army Depot garnered AMC's Exceptional Organizational Safety Award at the brigade level of competition for the same period, Tisor said.

# GM Sets Up New Way to Visualize 2020 'Vette

A new type of car – in this case a mid-engine Corvette – deserves a new way to purchase this groundbreaking vehicle.

The first-ever production midengine Corvette is revolutionizing the iconic vehicle, and the customer experience will be equally transformative, said GM spokesman Kevin Kelly. Now interested 2020 Corvette Stingray shoppers will have access to unprecedented levels of information, as well as the ability to customize, visualize and pre-order their vehicle on Chevrolet.com or through their preferred dealer.

"With the 2020 Corvette, the introduction of the new customer experience is just as important as the reveal of the actual car," said Steve Majoros, director of Chevrolet passenger car and crossover marketing. "We will give customers unparalleled access to learn from and engage with Chevrolet, our dealers and enthusiasts on their terms, in a manner that's convenient for them."

A new digital tool, the Corvette Visualizer, allows people to design and customize their Corvette in extreme 3D detail through Chevrolet.com. The Visualizer is fully interactive, with available Corvette Stingray trims and custom combinations including exterior and interior colors, seats, wheels and even seat belt colors, Kelly said.

As customers build their Corvettes they can experience

360-degree, 3D exterior and interior renderings of their potential vehicle. They'll be able to toggle the headlights and interior lights on and off, view the vehicle with the retractable roof on or off and change the exterior lighting so they can envision all angles of their new supercar. Users can save their build and share images of their personally designed Stingray on social media, facilitating more discussion and excitement among enthusiasts.

"We want to be able to show customers what their ideal Corvette will look like before they order it," said Majoros. "They'll be able to experiment with different wheels, brakes, fabrics, color samples and much more as they craft their dream Corvette. This is the most extreme level of detail we've ever offered at reveal and it will only improve over time."

After building their personal Stingray on Chevrolet.com, customers can pre-order their vehicle through a certified dealership. The car that users create through the Visualizer can be sent directly to certified dealers who will work with the customer on final ordering information when vehicles go on sale.

The launch of the Visualizer was very successful, said GM spokesman Dave Darovitz.

"We had to add extra servers once it went online to prevent the system from crashing because so many people wanted to use the system. That tells me something about how popular this Corvette will be once it goes on sale."

The production of the C8 will being in the Bowling Green, Ky., facility in the fall, Darovitz said.

Chevy experts will host customers to showcase the new supercar, display customizable Corvette parts (seats, wheels, accessories, etc.) and teach people how to use the new Visualizer. The immersive experience includes several displays that highlight vehicle features and tech.

All certified Chevrolet Corvette dealers will have to participate in extensive training before they can put the 2020 Corvette Stingray on their showroom floors. The training includes on-track driving at Spring Mountain Motorsports Ranch in Nevada, along with an intensive immersion on every detail of the 2020 Corvette. Corvette Signature dealers will also have special training on servicing the new supercar, reinforcing Chevrolet's commitment to the complete ownership experience.

PAGE 3

A dedicated Corvette Concierge team will provide 2020 Corvette customers with answers to every question about the vehicle discovery, buying and ownership process. Specially trained Corvette Concierges also have access to the executives and engineers who helped develop the vehicle.









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# **Ford Pushes Ahead With New EV Tech for F-150**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

in the most grueling ways, so you don't have to."

Last year, Ford celebrated 100 years of manufacturing leadership at the Rouge plant, where we build an F-150 every 53 seconds, Cannis said. The plant that revolutionized American manufacturing. The plant with a living

"On that day Bill Ford proudly announced that an all-electric F-150 is being added to the most compelling truck line up in the world," Cannis said. "We are pumped to give our truck customers even more of what they love. The all-electric F-150 will be a new and exciting kind of Built Ford Tough. We're aiming to blow away truck customers with new capabilities that they never saw coming.

Recently Ford set out to flex the muscles of its new, all-electric F-150 prototype. After all, truckers will do what truckers will do, Cannis said. And everyone wanted to see what could really be done when we pushed this all-electric truck's capability.

There is no greater tension for Ford engineers than doing live tests in front of real truck owners, while cameras are rolling," Cannis said. "But that's exactly what we did. As you can imagine, math on paper is never quite the same as real work on the job. Which is why every F-Series is serious about testing... and in this case, seeing what happens with live testing.

Cannis said that he's all in on

"Climate change – you had me at hello," Cannis said. "But what we're doing here is not just about air quality or rising sea level. We are all about building better trucks for our customers who have real work to do every day. Trucks that can do more for our owners. Trucks that meet new sets of needs. Because leaders lead."

And to that end, Cannis said he and others at Ford could not be more proud of the company's engineering teams.

"We are dead serious about delivering an electric pickup truck that again sets an all-new bar for what light duty trucks can deliver - not in the science project sense, but in the reality of what tough trucks need to do," Cannis said. "This demonstration showcases our commitment to remain the clear leader in trucks as well as to highlight our commitment to the future of electric vehicles. We've already announced plans to bring an F-150 hybrid to market that can act as a mobile generator.

And, as a reminder, Ford is also working feverishly on our plans to reveal the company's fully electric, Mustang-inspired

"Get ready," Cannis said. "No games. This isn't about compliance. We are backing our plans with countless hours of research and testing to ensure we deliver an electric experience that wows - and wins - customers. And we are going to have incredible charging plans that get you where you need to go with ease and peace of mind. But more on that later. Stay tuned. There is a lot more to come."

#### GM Says its New Self-Driving Tech Not Ready

DETROIT (AP) - The top executive of General Motors' autonomous vehicle unit says in a blog post that the company won't start a self-driving ride service this year as once prom-

GM Cruise CEO Dan Ammann says the company still plans to deploy the service in San Francisco, but more testing is needed to make sure the service is safe for customers.

# Detroit Art Musuem Closing Summer Show

The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) will holding a special closing party for its "KAWS: ALONE AGAIN" exhibition on Sunday, Aug. 4.

"KAWS: ALONE AGAIN" is a solo exhibition of the Brooklyn-based artist KAWS (American, born 1974), organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit's Executive Director Elysia Borowy-Reeder in close collaboration with the artist.

Featuring five sculptures, a site specific wall work, and three paintings, this highly anticipated exhibition occupies the main exhibition space of the museum. ALONE AGAIN showcases the artist's masterful compositions that appear to be abstract while retaining the artist's colorful acrylic palette with his trademark motif.

Riffing on specific genres of pop art, figuration, deconstruction, collage, and fashion, the exhibition represents an underlying irreverence and affection for our turbulent times, as well as KAWS' agility as an artist to appropriate and transform.

"Please join us for the closing celebration of our major 2019 summer exhibition KAWS: ALONE AGAIN," said Elysia Borowy-Reeder, executive director of MOCAD. "In celebration of the iconic work of KAWS we will keep the museum open late to enjoy a final toast to this major exhibi-

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This is one of the paintings that make up the KAWS display.

closing night. It will be free for formation on the show.

Borowy-Reeder said that there regular MOCAD members. Go to is a \$5 fee to see the show on mocaddetroit. org for more in-

### Nissan Sees a Huge Profits Plunge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Our stance to lead the industry is unchanging.'

In April-June, Nissan's profit nose-dived to \$59 million, down drastically from 115.8 billion yen the same quarter in the previous fiscal year. Quarterly sales shrank 13 percent to \$22 billion.

For the fiscal year that ended in March, annual profit dropped to less than half of what Nissan earned in the previous year, at \$2.9 billion, the worst showing since the global financial crisis a decade ago.

Although Ghosn's absence from Nissan and its alliance with

Renault SA of France, which owns 43 percent of Nissan have been a concern, the latest results were so dismal that questions about Ghosn weren't raised.

Christian Stadler, professor of strategic management at Warwick Business School, said the scandal over Ghosn's case was a distraction that has undermined Nissan's business, on top of challenges faced by the auto industry as a whole.

He said the economic slowdown, which hit key markets such as the U.S. and China, the uncertainty surrounding Brexit, and the race to embrace new technology.







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# J.D. Power APEAL Study Has **Detroit OEMs Improving**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

study, said FCA spokesman Eric Mayne.

In addition, Ram records the largest uptick among any of the 33 brands in the annual study, which measures the emotional attachment customers develop for their vehicles.

"These outcomes validate our continuing focus on the voice of the customer," says Mark Champine, head of Quality, FCA North America. "We have listened and we are still listening more intently than ever."

For the second time in three vears, the Dodge Challenger earns bragging rights in the highly competitive Midsize Sporty Car category. The Challenger topped the same category in this year's J.D. Power Initial Quality Study.

Overall, FCA jumps five places to seventh, compared with its 2018 APEAL performance, said Mayne. That's also good for second place among mass-market automakers.

The company's total score of 830 marks a 20-point year-overyear improvement - greatest of any automaker in this year's study. It also exceeds the industry averages for both mass-market and premium-market automakers.

Ford also did well in the study. Ford Motor Company has earned five awards in the 2019 J.D. Power U.S. Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout (APEAL) Study - the most awards of any company or brand.

Ford trucks swept all three pickup segments, with wins for the new Ford Ranger in midsize, F-150 for the third consecutive vear in large light-duty and Super Duty in large heavy-duty.

Among large SUVs, Ford Expedition took top honors for the second straight year.

Among luxury vehicles, Lincoln Navigator earned its second consecutive win in the Large Premium SUV segment and continues to be a top three model in the industry. In 2018, Lincoln Navigator posted the highest APEAL score of any model in this generation of the study.

"Ford's truck dominance now extends from Ranger to F-Series, thanks to our deep customer insights and constantly listening to deliver the smart and insightful features they want and appreciate," said Hau Thai-Tang, Ford chief product development & purchasing officer, "Our additional results with Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator reaffirm we're making the right choices with more to come.

The General Motors vehicles that scored well on the APEAL study were Chevrolet Blazer and GMC Terrain.

The Terrain took top honors in the Compact SUV category, while the Chevy Blazer was number one in the Midsize SUV category.

In its review of the Blazer, J.D. Power judges wrote "existing in many forms within Chevrolet sport utility vehicle lineup for 50 years, the Blazer name returns for 2019 on an all-new crossover vehicle. A performance-styled fusion with urban ruggedness, the 2019 Chevrolet Blazer" has a fresh, dynamic design.

J.D. Power judges said the 2019 Terrain offers "the power of an SUV with the convenience of a smaller car, the 2019 GMC Terrain is a versatile choice for any driver." They also praised its handling and improved mileage.

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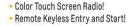
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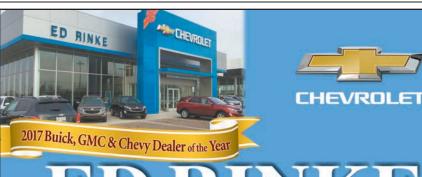
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