

Chrysler Employees Volunteer to 'Clean Up' Belle Isle

Belle Isle Park in Detroit is a regional resource and the people at Chrysler have spent some time helping keep the place nice.

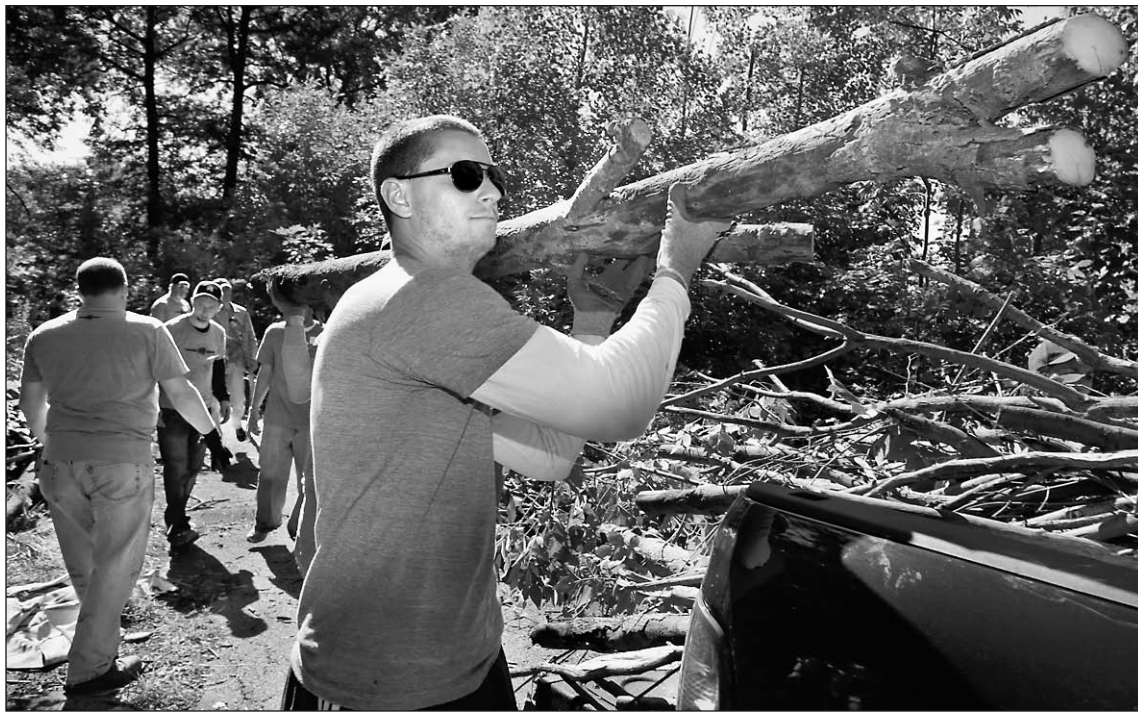
Kevin Frazier, Communications manager of External Affairs & ITM at Chrysler, said more than 100 Chrysler Group employees partnered with the Belle Isle Conservancy on July 25 to help preserve Belle Isle Park in Detroit.

Frazier said employees, most of whom were from the automaker's Powertrain Manufacturing Group, devoted six hours to helping preserve one of the city's jewels by potting native plants in the greenhouse, removing invasive plant species – such as honeysuckle – and clearing dead wood and brush from along the canals and forest.

"Chrysler Group believes in the city of Detroit and its people," Jody Trapasso, president – The Chrysler Foundation, said. "Giving our employees the time and resources to make a difference in the community is part of our ongoing commitment to playing a positive role in the city of Detroit's revitalization."

Marcy Hayes, a spokesperson for the Belle Isle Conservancy, said the group formed last year out of four different organizations – The Friends of Belle Isle, the Belle Isle Women's Committee, the Belle Isle Botanical Society and the Friends of the Belle Isle Aquarium.

The mission of the Conservancy is to "protect and preserve and restore and enhance the natural environment of Belle Isle," Hayes said. The group also wants to preserve historical buildings



Chrysler employees volunteer to help preserve the natural beauty of Belle Isle Park in Detroit.

and enrich the character of Belle Isle as a public park that is available to everyone.

"Our goal is to get people energized about the park and to make sure that it's used and that it's relevant to the people of metro Detroit," Hayes said.

"I'm proud to say that we've introduced the park to a lot of people. So when Chrysler contacted us and volunteered the time of its employees, we were grateful for their help. I want to thank the company and the people for their time and effort."

Frazier said Chrysler recognizes that volunteerism is an es-

sential part of making a positive, lasting impact in the communities where its employees live and work.

In response, employees have answered the call to support the community in many ways, including: collecting and delivering food to community food banks; beautifying playgrounds, community centers and neighborhoods; donating generously at company-organized blood drives, participating in charity walks and runs, and supporting Habitat for Humanity, United Way and many other organizations and programs.

Also, Chrysler executives lend their time and talents by serving on boards of various community institutions and organizations, Frazier said.

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Car Dealerships Expected to Boost Profits This Year

The average number of sales in each dealership across the country will rise to 877 units this year.

That's what the midyear Automotive Franchise Activity Report released last week by Urban Science says.

The figure is based on vehicle sales of 15.6 million, which has been predicted by LMC Automotive, a global forecaster of automotive sales and production.

"Automakers are keeping their retail networks stable even as sales continue to rise, creating a tremendous opportunity for dealerships to reap the benefits of the industry's most profitable periods in two decades," said John Frith, vice president, Urban Science.

While these levels are on track to crush last year's all-time high, said Frith, "we believe we're hitting the top of the curve." He added that historical trends say that these increases "should slow in the next year or two before they start a mild decline."

The Urban Science news release noted the increase projected would extend the unprecedented three-year throughput – the average number of sales per dealership – to four years and "further heighten dealer profitability."

LMC Automotive previously was the forecasting division of J.D. Power & Associates.

Hot July Brings Hot July Auto Sales

GM's Four Brands Post Double-Digit Retail Sales Jumps

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pickup sales were new 2014 crew cabs, McNeil said. Double-cab models are now being shipped to dealers and regular cab production begins later this summer.

Crossover sales were up 6 percent, with the redesigned Chevrolet Traverse and Buick Enclave up 33 percent and 14 percent, respectively.

Sales of the new Buick Encore increased 39 percent from June 2013.

All four brands posted double-digit retail sales increases compared with the same time last year, McNeil said, and Buick retail sales have now increased for 15 consecutive months.

Full-size pickup deliveries were up 51 percent and crossover sales increased 18 percent, McNeil said. Deliveries to small business customers increased 61 percent, including a 107 percent increase in full-size pickup deliveries.

Sales of the Chevrolet Malibu increased 31 percent and the Chevrolet Equinox had its best-ever July retail sales with deliveries up 9 percent, McNeil said.

GMC Terrain sales increased 24 percent for its best-ever July.

GMC retail sales were up 23 percent year-over-year in July, closing at the highest sales volume since 2006. Total sales, up 14 percent, were the best since 2007.

Ford's July Sales Of Small Cars Up 32 Percent

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F-Series sales increased 23 percent to 60,449. F-Series sales now have increased for 24 consecutive months, and July 2013 marks the best July sales month for F-Series since 2006, Czubay said.

Here are July 2013 sales compared with July 2012:

- Fiesta – 7,667, up 88.9 percent;
- Focus – 16,764, up 1.9 percent;
- C-MAX – 2,700, not sold in July 2012;
- Fusion – 20,522, down 12 percent;
- Taurus – 6,373, up 21.3 percent;
- Mustang – 5,768, down 21.7 percent;
- Escape – 22,343, up 3.6 percent;
- Edge – 10,541, up 14.9 percent;
- Flex – 2,689, up 16 percent;
- Explorer – 12,742, up 12.6 percent;
- Expedition, 2,744, up 1.6 percent;
- F-Series – 60,449, up 22.6 percent;
- E-Series – 9,724, up 13.4 percent;
- Transit Connect – 2,885, up 9.8 percent;
- Lincoln MKZ – 2,809, down 7.4 percent;
- Lincoln MKS – 1,038, up 18.2 percent;
- Lincoln Navigator – 633, up 20.6 percent.

Chrysler Sales Up 11 Percent; Best July Since '06

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sales since 2005 and the 26th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains.

The Avenger and Challenger each recorded their best July sales ever, while sales of the Durango full-size SUV were up 88 percent. The Dart compact sedan had its second straight month of year-over-year sales gains.

Sales of the Dodge Charger are up 10 percent this year through July.

Bigland said all Jeep brand models in production recorded sales gains in July compared with the same month last year, led by the Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Sales of the Grand Cherokee were up 30 percent, its best sales month since 2005 and largest percentage increase of any Jeep brand model.

The Jeep Wrangler and Jeep Compass each had their best sales for the month of July. Sales of the Jeep Compass were up 27 percent compared with the same month a year ago.

Last month's Fiat sales were the best in July since the Fiat 500 was launched in 2011 and its 17th-consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains.

Sales of the brand's flagship Chrysler 300 full-size sedan were up 12 percent, the vehicle's best July sales since 2008.

Chrysler brand sales were down 4 percent in July compared with the same month last year.

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