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GM Up 15 Percent, Cadillac Retail Best Since 1989

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global financial crisis began to accelerate. Two years later, on Sept. 8, 2010, Chevrolet launched the Cruze in North America, marking the beginning of an aggressive rollout of new products that will see nearly 30 Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick and GMC nameplates either all-new or redesigned by early 2014.

Since then, the 2011 Chevrolet Volt and the 2013 Cadillac ATS won the North American Car of the Year award, the 2014 Chevrolet Impala was named the top sedan in the country by a leading consumer publication, GM topped the 2013 J.D. Power and Associates Initial Quality Study and the company has returned to competitive levels of leasing. GM and its dealers have also embarked on a multibillion-dollar program to renovate sales and service facilities in all 50 states.

"If our first Cruze customer were to walk into a Chevrolet dealership today, he wouldn't recognize the place," McNeil said. "The same holds true for Buick-GMC and Cadillac. The cars and trucks, the sales and service experience – everything is being elevated so we can offer customers the best ownership experience in the business."

August sales highlights versus 2012 sales showed that crossover sales were up 34 percent.

Chrysler Minivan Turns 30; 13 Million Sold

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At that time, McElroy said, Chrysler really only had one platform – the K car platform. The company had to milk it for all it was worth while it was developing new platforms.

"Sperlich told Iacocca that they could stretch the K car platform out and build a minivan," McElroy said. "It was given to the truck division and they really engineered it, so when it came out it was bulletproof. The rest, as they say, was history."

McElroy said that trucks by their nature have to be tougher than cars, so when the truck division was asked to engineer the first minivan, "they did it the way they usually did things. The result was a vehicle that was really well designed and was tougher than a car."

To this day, McElroy said, Chrysler's minivans are classified as trucks. And Chrysler has never dropped the ball with minivans. While they no longer have the market segment to themselves – both Honda and Toyota are known for their minivans – Chrysler is still the leader.

The Dodge Grand Caravan was the top-selling minivan in the world last year and, combined

with the Chrysler Town & Country, accounted for nearly half of all minivan sales in the United States in 2012, McElroy said.

The Chrysler Town & Country and Dodge Grand Caravan are built at the Windsor Assembly Plant in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

The 2014 Town & Country 30th Anniversary Edition is based on the Touring-L model and features unique exterior and interior content. All Town & Country models come equipped with the award-winning Pentastar 3.6-liter V6 engine with a class-leading 283 horsepower and a refined six-speed automatic transmission. Exterior features on the 30th Anniversary Edition include 17-inch aluminum wheels with polished faces and painted Satin Carbon pockets, "30th Anniversary" badging and the availability of Granite Crystal Pearl Coat paint.

The 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan 30th Anniversary Edition will be available on both the SE and SXT models, and will continue to set the mark in minivan value, according to Chrysler officials, who added that the Dodge Grand Caravan continues to be the best all-around vehicle for young families with more value-added features.



The 2014 30th Anniversary edition of the Town & Country minivan.

Equipped with the 3.6-liter Pentastar V6 with class-leading 283 horsepower and a six-speed automatic transmission, the exterior of the Grand Caravan special edition features unique 17-inch polished satin carbon aluminum wheels, body-color heated exterior mirrors and 30th Anniversary badging on the front fenders.

Grand Caravan special edition features all the same equipment as the SE, and adds premium appointments, including bright chrome window trim moldings

and roof rack, fog lamps, automatic headlamps, Black Torino Leatherette seats with suede inserts and silver accent stitching, and a 10-way power driver's seat.

Both models are available in unique Granite Crystal Pearl Coat paint, Billet Silver Metallic Clear Coat, Brilliant Black Crystal Pearl Coat, Maximum Steel Metallic Clear Coat, Bright White Clear Coat, Deep Cherry Red Pearl Coat, Redline Red 2-Coat Pearl, Sandstone Pearl Coat or True Blue Pearl Coat.

Ford Retail Sales Up 20 Percent – Best Since 2006

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F-Series sales of 71,115 vehicles were up 22 percent, for the 25th consecutive monthly increase – and for the second time this year, sales have topped 70,000 vehicles.

The last time F-Series had sales of more than 70,000 vehicles in two separate months in a calendar year was 2006.

Lincoln MKZ sales were up 10 percent to 3,652 vehicles, for a best-ever August sales month. MKZ has now reported record sales for four of the last five months.

Ford also announced it will build 785,000 vehicles in the fourth quarter of 2013, a 7 percent increase (50,000 vehicles) from the fourth quarter of 2012. Third-quarter production of 740,000 vehicles is unchanged.

Chrysler Reports 12 Percent Rise in U.S. Sales in August

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was the sixth consecutive month in which the Ram Truck brand registered the largest percentage year-over-year sales gain of any Chrysler Group brand. Sales of the Ram pickup truck were up 31 percent, its 40th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains and its best August sales since 2006. Sales of the light-duty Ram pickup were up 34 percent in August, driven by a sharp increase in Crew Cab pickups, while heavy-duty Ram sales increased 26 percent.

Dodge brand sales were up 12 percent in August, the brand's best August sales since 2003 and its 27th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains. The Dodge Challenger and Dodge Dart compact sedan each recorded their best August sales, while the Dodge Journey midsize crossover, with its 12 percent increase, had its best sales month ever.

The Dart recorded its third straight month of year-over-year sales gains. Dodge Charger sales were up 37 percent in August, while sales of the Dodge Durango full-size SUV increased 117 per-

cent. Durango registered its best August sales in eight years.

Jeep brand sales were up 8 percent in August, the brand's best August sales in 11 years. All Jeep brand models in production recorded sales gains in August compared with the same month a year ago.

The Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Compass, and Jeep Patriot each recorded their best sales ever for the month of August. Sales of the Patriot were up 42 percent, the largest percentage increase of any Jeep brand model for the month.

Sales of the Jeep Grand Cherokee were up 40 percent, its best August sales since 2003. It also was the Grand Cherokee's best sales month so far this year.

Chrysler brand sales were up 2 percent in August led by the

Chrysler 300 full-size sedan's 27 percent year-over-year sales gain. It was the 300's best August sales since 2007 and best sales month so far this year. Sales of the Chrysler Town & Country minivan were up 11 percent, its best August sales since 2002, as well as the vehicle's best sales month so far this year.

The FIAT brand recorded its best sales month since launching the Fiat 500 in 2011 and its 18th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains.

FIAT brand sales were up 1 percent in August compared with the same month a year ago. Sales of the all-new 2014 Fiat 500L, the newest addition to the FIAT brand product lineup, increased 26 percent in August compared with sales in the previous month of July. FIAT studios began selling the 500L in June.

Golling Car Show Seeks Vendors

Golling Buick-GMC and Love INC are hosting a car show on Saturday, Sept. 21.

The hosts are looking for businesses and nonprofits that would like to sell or display their products at the event.

The cost starts at \$45, which includes an eight-foot table and chairs, either in a tent or on the grounds.

The \$45 also entitles the donor to have his or her name on a three-foot trophy that will be given out to the classic car participants.

Those interested in learning more about participating should

call Bill Kokenos at 248-802-5521.

The car show will be held at the Golling dealership at 1491 South Lapeer Road in Lake Orion.

Love In the Name of Christ of North Oakland County (Love INC) is a nonprofit cooperative effort that links churches, volunteers, and service agencies and helps them to organize their efforts by reaching out to the poor and disadvantaged.

The organization serves as a needs "clearinghouse," where people in need contact it and in turn get them connected with local churches and agencies that provide them with assistance.

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