

## National March of Dimes Raffle Nets Buick LaCrosse Winner

A new 2014 Buick LaCrosse will soon be sitting in the Ohio driveway of a raffle winner, thanks to the UAW-GM Center for Human Resources in partnership with the Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes.

The car was given away as part of the March of Dimes Annual Campaign, and was donated by UAW-GM, said Bill Grotz, GM's Labor & Manufacturing spokesman.

The drawing was held on Nov. 19 at the UAW-GM Center for Human Resources in Detroit.

This year's proceeds from all GM-UAW efforts have totaled about \$230,000, Grotz said, which is in addition to the more than \$1.3 million raised by GM-UAW locations for the March of Dimes since 2006.

The raffle was held nationwide, Grotz said. Additionally, UAW-represented General Motors' facilities have been fundraising and selling raffle tickets to GM employees and the public with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the March of Dimes.

"The fundraising doesn't end with the raffle drawing," Grotz said. "It goes until the end of the year, so we're not done yet. GM-UAW sites across the country have done their own fundraising for the March of Dimes - things like bake sales and chili cook-offs. They've been really creative in their efforts to raise money."

"UAW-GM people are incredibly generous and have taken on this cause to support health for moms and babies," said UAW Vice President Joe Ashton, who directs the union's GM Department. "By partnering with the March of Dimes, UAW-GM strengthens families, uplifts our communities and supports our customers nationwide."

As a national voluntary health agency, the March of Dimes



From left, GM's Jim Glynn, Wayne State's Dr. Sonia Hassan, UAW's Joe Ashton and March of Dimes Ambassador Child Zariah Bradford with the Buick LaCrosse that was raffled off to raise money for the March of Dimes.

works to improve the health of babies by helping to prevent birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

The organization recognizes November as Prematurity Awareness Month, promoting the fight against more than half-a-million premature births that occur in the U.S. annually, said Grotz.

"GM is proud to join our UAW partners to support the great cause of the March of Dimes," said Jim Glynn, GM North America Labor Relations vice president.

"Working together, we will help fund ongoing medical research on premature births and find solutions to this condition that impacts one in nine babies in the U.S."

Representing the March of

Dimes was Dr. Sonia Hassan, associate dean of Maternal, Perinatal and Child Health at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and Michigan Prematurity Awareness chairperson, Grotz said. Her recent research is credited as being instrumental in the fight against premature births.

"Key partnerships have helped us make newborn health a priority, making a difference in babies' lives," said Hassan. "We will continue to work to give all babies a healthy start in life. Too many continue to be born too soon, before their lungs, brains or other organs are fully developed."

Grotz said the winning ticket was drawn by Zariah Bradford, who was born prematurely, but is now a thriving 11-year-old girl. Arrangements are under way to

inform the winner, who is from Ohio and declined to be named, and coordinate delivery of the new LaCrosse through the Buick dealer network.

The UAW-GM Center for Human Resources is the national headquarters for the joint partnership of the UAW and GM, Grotz said. It serves as a training institution and supports the communities in which UAW-GM people live and work.

## Feds Seek Ways To Prevent More Traffic Deaths

WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. government is speeding up research on safety systems that automatically prevent drivers from operating their cars if they are drunk or aren't buckled properly.

Officials also said recently that they expect to decide by year's end how to encourage automakers to make available in more cars some special safety systems already in certain high-end vehicles. Those systems warn drivers before a collision that they are about to run into another vehicle, and can brake automatically to avoid a crash or make it less severe.

The innovations - collision avoidance, seat belt interlocks and driver alcohol detection systems - hold the potential of dramatically reducing traffic fatalities, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

As they looked ahead to emerging safety technologies, officials released data showing the first increase in highway fatalities since 2005. There were 33,561 traffic deaths in 2012, 1,082 more than the year before.

"We need a new vision and a new blend of technological research to address some of the most significant and persistent threats to American motorists," the agency's head, David Strickland, said in a statement.

## ELR App Offers Buyers Ways to Save Energy and Money

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charge during off-peak hours when electricity rates are lowest.

"While RemoteLink is really our first smart-grid service to be available for consumers, the same connection we use to enable the app's EV functions can be used to open the door for more energy cost and load control benefits," said Russ Eling, manager, Smart Grid and EV Services, General Motors.

RemoteLink via OnStar's four unique Smart Grid APIs, or Application Programming Interfaces, allows ELR operators to connect utilities and third-party companies to get information that can save the user money, Cross said.

One app feature is "demand response." It is being developed and should be available in the near future, Cross said.

"This future service connects utilities to companies that have intelligent energy management products, allowing OnStar to manage energy use for ELR customers who opt in for the service," Cross said.

"Basically, it takes into account the demand for energy and the supply of energy on the power grid. It tells users when it's cheapest to charge their cars. When demand is high, the cost of the energy is higher as well. Benefits include saving money on energy costs and enabling more efficient use of the electric grid."

There is also the "time-of-use rates" app, Cross said. OnStar can receive dynamic time-of-use

pricing from utilities and notify ELR owners of the rate plan offers via email. Owners would be able to use OnStar to load the rate plans directly into their vehicle and access them to schedule charging during lower-rate periods.

The charging data app allows OnStar to send and receive EV data including location-based EV information that identifies charging locations and determines potential load scenarios, Cross said.

"So someone can come home, plug his or her car into his or her home charging station," Cross said. "The app actually sets a charging time when rates are lower. So someone doesn't have to get up at 2 a.m. and plug in his or her car. The car is already plugged in. Charging doesn't start until 2 a.m."

And finally, Cross said, there is the aggregated services app. This solution allows electric service providers to manage the charging of participating vehicles in a given geographic area, with customer consent.

This includes the ability to control charging on a large amount of EVs simultaneously. These services could potentially result in a more efficient use of clean energy.

An example of an aggregated service solution, Cross said, would be charging with renewable energy. A regional transmission organization would send OnStar a signal letting it know that renewable energy such as wind

or solar is available on the electric grid. OnStar then uses this signal to manage the charging of one or multiple EVs in order to utilize the available renewable energy.

Part of being green, Cross said, is being smart. By charging an ELR when renewable energy such as solar or wind is available, ELR users help reduce their carbon footprint.

"We give ELR buyers the ability to manage information," Cross said. "We also give them the choice of whether to opt in."

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