

Three Ram Pickups Align With SAE Towing Standards

Beginning with the 2015 model year, Ram will become the first automaker to adopt the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) J2807 standardized tow rating practices across all three fullsize pickup truck segments – the half-ton Ram 1500, three-quarter-ton Ram 2500 Heavy Duty and one-ton "King of the Hill" Ram 3500 Heavy Duty.

Ram beats the competition, said Ram spokesperson Nick Cappa, in the two most sought-after titles in the pickup truck market – fuel economy and SAE towing capacity, offering the most capable and most fuel effi-

cient trucks available, he said.

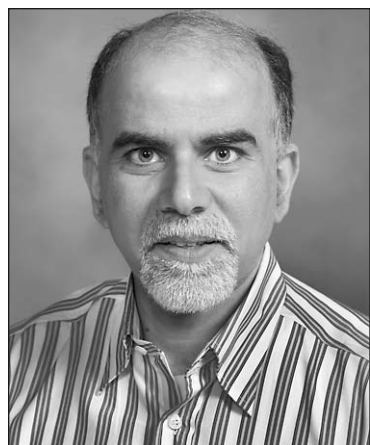
"Because our customers asked for it, every single 2015 model year pickup truck Ram sold will come with a trailer-tow rating achieved using SAE's J2807 testing protocols," said Reid Bigland, president and CEO – Ram Truck. "No other automaker can make that claim."

On the heels of finalized SAE towing specifications that now include trucks up to 14,000 Gross Vehicle Weight Rating, Ram has validated its full pickup line with the SAE J2807 Towing Standard –



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All 2015 Ram pickups will have achieved SAE's J2807 trailer-tow rating, said Ram CEO Reid Bigland.



Rami Debouk

GM Researcher Awarded for Defining Safety Standards

GM's Rami Debouk has received the 2014 Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) InterRegs Standards & Regulations Award in recognition of his research, analysis and development of system safety processes and standards.

Debouk works in the General Motors Research and Development Center at the Tech Center in Warren.

The prestigious award was presented at this year's SAE Government/Industry Meeting in

Washington, D.C. in late July.

Debouk said he received the award for his work in helping establish international safety standards for the ISO (International Organization for Standardization). The group was founded in 1947 and promotes worldwide proprietary, industrial and commercial standards.

Debouk's project, ISO 26262, got its start in 2005 and was completed in 2011.

"The full name of the project is ISO 26262 – Functional Safety for

Road Vehicles," Debouk said. "We developed ways to define safety issues for functional automobile features."

A functional auto feature, Debouk said, is something like cruise control. While it is now a common feature in cars, before it could be introduced, safety definitions had to be created and safe ways to design, build and implement cruise control had to be created.

That's what ISO 26262 did, Debouk said, adding that interest in

functional auto features has only grown since the introduction of cruise control.

"Today's cars are much more complicated," he said. "Cars have gotten more international."

To create new safety definitions and protocols, 50 experts from about 10 countries around the world worked on 26262, Debouk said.

He was GM's representative on the committee and was one of

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Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie and Chevrolet; Trout Snags 2014 Stingray as All-Star MVP

When Mike Trout was announced as the MVP of baseball's All-Star game last week, he couldn't take his eyes off the 2014 Corvette Stingray parked to his right.

The Stingray was one of two vehicles offered by Chevrolet – the other being a 2014 Silverado pickup – to be chosen by the game's Most Valuable Player.

Trout chose the Stingray.

Los Angeles Angels outfielder Trout won the award after pounding out a double, a triple and two RBI in the American League's 5-3 win over the National League.

Chevrolet, the official vehicle of Major League Baseball since 2005, capped the presentation when Chevrolet Marketing's U.S. Vice President Paul Edwards announced it would provide a second Stingray for auction at ChevyBaseball.com, a website powered by MLB.com. Auction proceeds will benefit charity.

"We honor the achievements of Mike Trout, the 2014 All-Star Game Most Valuable Player, while we showcase our own MVPs, the Corvette Stingray and Chevrolet Silverado," said Edwards. "We hope many of our fellow baseball fans join us to help raise funds for a worthy cause."

The Stingray being auctioned features both an autographed display hood signed by 2014 All-Star players and coaches and a factory original hood for driving.

Bidding on the Corvette Stingray opened immediately following the MVP ceremony, and will continue until 5 p.m. EDT on Aug. 1.

In addition to the Stingray for

auction on ChevyBaseball.com, Chevrolet will provide MLB and the Major League Baseball Players Association with a commemorative Corvette Stingray hood, also signed by 2014 All-Star players and coaches, for auction with proceeds to benefit MLB Charities and the Players Trust, the charitable organization adminis-

tered by active Major Leaguers.

Nearly 1,700 Chevrolet dealers support youth leagues in communities across the country and have hosted more than 200 youth baseball clinics this year.

Currently in its ninth year, Chevy Youth Baseball has affected the lives of approximately 3.8 million youth.



Trout and Edwards with bat trophy and 2014 Corvette Stingray

Photo by Ron Vesely/MLB Photos



Ford's Raj Nair with 2015 Mustang

Mustang Marks 50 Years By Meeting 'High Targets'

by Jim Stickford

When it came to designing the 2015 Mustang, Ford set the bar high and the company cleared it, said Raj Nair, group vice president, Global Product Development at a special media briefing July 17.

As the car celebrates its 50th anniversary, Nair had some high praise for the new version.

"We knew that the end result for the 2015 Mustang had to be the best experience anyone ever had with a Mustang," Nair said. "So we set some really high targets for the 2015. And we met those targets for performance and ride."

Nair said the 2015 Mustang is meant to be a truly international car. There are about 160,000 of them that have been sold outside the North American market, but the 2015 is meant to be sold

as an international car.

"When we spoke with our international customers, they told us the same thing that our North American buyers did – they wanted everything that people associated with a Mustang, but they wanted it to be modern."

"So we kept the long hood and short rear deck. Even the exhaust system was designed to give you feeling of being on an instant vacation, the feeling of instant freedom on four wheels."

"Our Mustang drivers want exceptional performance while still being able to use it as their everyday car."

So all the efforts to meet the new performance targets, Nair said, has resulted in an all-new platform. Getting everything to line up wasn't easy, he said.

"Me as head of product devel-

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31201 Chicago Road South
Warren, Michigan 48093
586-939-6800

Contact us:
Info@DetroitAutoScene.com

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William Springer II, publisher
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Jim Stickford, news

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Mary Barra Again Testifies Before U.S. Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) – Lawmakers Thursday demanded General Motors fire its chief lawyer and open its compensation plan to more potential victims as a Senate subcommittee delved deeper into GM's mishandling of the recall of small cars with defective ignition switches.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., chairwoman of the subcommittee, praised GM CEO Mary Barra, saying she "has stepped up, and with courage and conviction has confronted the problem head on and the corporate culture that caused it."

But McCaskill also put Barra on the spot, telling the CEO she should have fired GM's corporate counsel, Michael Millikin, based on the conclusions of an internal report by outside attorney Anton Valukas. Millikin sat next to Barra as she defended him as a man of "tremendously high integrity."

The Valukas report found GM's legal staff acted too slowly to share details of settlements it was making in cases involving Chevrolet Cobalts and Saturn Ions where the front air bag hadn't deployed in a crash, possibly due to a defect in the ignition switch. The lawyers didn't alert engineers or top executives to a potential safety issue.

She also questioned why Millikin didn't inform GM's board or the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission of the potential for punitive damages as GM settled the cases, saying, "this is a either gross negligence or gross incompetence on the part of a lawyer."

Barra said Millikin had a system in place but it failed. Some lawyers were among the 15 people the company let go based on Valukas' report.

Millikin said he only learned about the ignition switch problems in February and acted quickly once he did. He said any potential settlement, no matter how small, must now be brought to him before any action is taken.

But Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., also called for Millikin to be fired, saying that an ongoing Justice Department investigation will likely find evidence of "cover-up, concealment, deceit and even fraud" within GM's legal team.

GM has admitted it knew about the faulty switches for more than a decade before recalling the cars. It took years for GM engineers to connect the switch problem to the failure of front air bags to deploy in certain crashes.

GM recalled 2.6 million small cars beginning in February. That recall prompted an unprecedented safety review within the company, which has since issued 54 separate recalls for 29 million vehicles. Corporate counsel Michael Millikin also acknowledged that the attorneys dismissed from GM received a retirement package based on the salary they would have made if they hadn't been terminated.

Volkswagen to Produce Midsize SUV in Chattanooga

Volkswagen Group is expanding its industrial footprint in the United States as part of its Strategy 2018 plan.

The Board of Directors of Volkswagen Group of America has decided to award the production of the new midsize SUV to the Chattanooga plant in Tennessee, said company spokesperson Carsten Krebs.

The company invested about \$900 million in the production of a newly developed, seven-passenger SUV, and created 2,000 additional jobs in the U.S. About \$600 million will be invested in Tennessee.

"The United States of America is and will remain one of the most important markets for Volkswagen," said Dr. Martin Winterkorn, chairman of the board of Management of Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft, in Wolfsburg, Germany.

"Over the past few years, we have achieved a lot there (in America). We are now launching the second phase of the Volkswagen campaign in the U.S.

"With the midsize SUV, the expansion of the Chattanooga plant and the new development center, the focus is on the wishes of the U.S. customer. This is also a strong signal for the U.S. as an industrial and automobile production location. The Volkswagen brand is going on the attack again in America."

Michael Horn, president and CEO of Volkswagen Group of America, said, "The Chattanooga-built midsize SUV will allow us to fulfill the wishes of our dealer network, bringing new customers to our showrooms and additional growth for the brand.

We are eager to be entering this growing vehicle segment with a world-class, seven-passenger SUV from Volkswagen."

Apart from investing in the production of a new vehicle, the Chattanooga location is to receive a new, independent National Research & Development and Planning Center of the Volkswagen Group of America for project coordination in the North American market.

The objective is to identify customers' feedback in the market and to integrate them more expeditiously into existing and planned vehicle models, Krebs said. This will lead to the creation of approximately 200 qualified engineers working in Chattanooga.

This decision, said Krebs, is another element in the investment program that the Volkswagen Group has launched in the region. From 2014 to 2018, the Volkswagen Group will be investing more than US\$7 billion in the U.S. and Mexico. It is Volkswagen's goal to deliver 800,000 vehicles in the U.S. by 2018.

At Chattanooga, the new SUV will be integrated into existing plant structures. Existing areas in production will be used for the assembly of the midsize SUV. A total floor space of approximately 538,000 square feet will be added to the existing production facility.

The midsize SUV, which is based on the CrossBlue concept vehicle, was developed especially for the North American market. The CrossBlue made its global debut at the 2013 North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

Bernd Osterloh, chairman of the Group Works Council of Volkswagen, will be joining the Board of Directors of Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

"We are pleased that Mr. Osterloh has declared his willingness to play a concentrated role in shaping our U.S. strategy in the future," Winterkorn said. "He will represent the views of the workforce."

"This is in line with the code-termination culture of Volkswagen, which is one of our key success factors."

Osterloh said, "It is important

for us that our colleagues in the U.S. know that we also care about the production site and the employment in Chattanooga.

"I am looking forward to my work on the Board. I am determined to uphold the interests of Volkswagen employees in Chattanooga."

"The North American market offers considerable opportunities. In my opinion, these have not been pursued with sufficient consistency in the past. With today's decision to produce the midsize SUV in the USA, we are taking a key step."



Volkswagen plans to build this mid-size SUV in Tennessee in 2016.

Fiat Denies Talks with VW

MILAN (AP) – Italian automaker Fiat has denied a German media report that it is in merger talks with Volkswagen.

Shares in Fiat rose 5 percent Thursday after Manager Magazin reported that the main shareholders in Fiat SpA and Volkswagen AG have had a series of talks about Volkswagen taking over all or part of Fiat, which controls Chrysler.

The report, which did not cite

sources, said VW was interested in acquiring Chrysler to help it improve its struggling footing in the United States.

Volkswagen has often expressed interest in Fiat's sporty brand Alfa Romeo.

Fiat, in a statement, said no merger talks had taken place. Volkswagen refused comment.

Fiat is in the process of completing a merger with Chrysler, which it took over five years ago.

Takata Troubles Result in BMW Recalling 1.6 Million

DETROIT (AP) – BMW is expanding a recall of its most popular models to fix an air bag problem that is hitting much of the global auto industry.

The German automaker says it will recall 1.6 million 3-Series cars from model years 2000 to 2006 across the world, including 574,000 in the U.S.

The company said Wednesday that it's a precaution because other automakers using similar systems have reported problems.

Air bag inflators in systems made by Takata Corp. can rupture. If that happens, the bags might not work properly, and shards could fly out and cause

injury.

The problem is responsible for millions of recalled vehicles during the past few years made by manufacturers such as Chrysler, Ford, Honda, Mazda, Nissan and Toyota. The recalls have mostly been of vehicles in states with hot and humid weather.

BMW said it has no reports of problems in its vehicles. Dealers will replace the passenger-side front air bags. The new recall excludes 42,000 BMWs recalled in May 2013 for the same problem.

The company says it is recalling all vehicles equipped with potentially faulty air bag systems regardless of where they were sold.



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Fiat Hits the Web with Comedy Series

Fiat has launched a web series titled, "Neighbors," in conjunction with the comedy video website, "Funny Or Die."

The web series features five webisodes showcasing the 2014 Fiat 500L as it follows the adventures (or misadventures) of a suburban American couple as they interact with their new Italian neighbors.

"Neighbors," which debuted in June on Funny Or Die, was promoted via a custom spot that ran on TBS in addition to targeted media across Turner's digital portfolio. Fiat's "Neighbors" can be seen on Funny Or Die at www.funnyordie.com/fiat.

"The Fiat brand's playful personality and Italian heritage give us license to find new ways to tell our brand story. Partnering with Funny Or Die, which has a huge built-in fan base and social media following, has proven to be a winning formula for us," said Olivier Francois, Chrysler's chief marketing officer and Fiat Group Automobiles head of Fiat Brand.

"The reaction to our 'Backseat Italians' video proved the power of great content and a passionate fan base that Funny Or Die brings to the partnership. Since the launch of this latest series of videos, we've seen an uptick in web traffic, and this deeper engagement with our brand ultimately leads to Fiat Studio visits."

"Working with Fiat again on this new series has been great," said Chris Bruss, Funny Or Die's VP of Branded Entertainment.

"We are really aligned creatively with Fiat's brand team and the Doner agency, so it's a great collaboration. We were able to pick up where we left off and come up with a fun, creative concept that we knew would resonate with the Fiat brand and our audience."

The web series begins with "The New Neighbors Are So ... Italian," when a middle-age suburban couple gears up to meet the hot, young and stylish Italians moving in to the house next door.

The series follows the two couples through a series of four additional episodes: "Espress Lane to Trouble" proves that overdosing on espresso is no way to impress the cool, new Italian neighbor; "Spanking" demonstrates that the threat of being punished by a beautiful woman somehow does nothing to stop the neighborhood boys' bad behavior; "Gluten Free" brings the American couple over for dinner at the



A scene from the web series about a couple and their 2014 Fiat 500L

Italian neighbor's home; and finally, "When in Rome" leaves everyone lost in translation when a figure of speech leads to a big misunderstanding.

Casey Hurbis, head of Communications for Fiat North America, said the "Neighbors" had its roots in a Web campaign that ran last year.

"We collaborate with the Doner Agency of Southfield," Hurbis said. "We're always brainstorming for ideas and they came up with the 'Neighbors' concept. It's different because it tells a continuing story in five short segments."

Hurbis said it took about two months to go from idea to production to post-production to posting on the Web. The segments were filmed in California over a two-day period.

Viewers of "Neighbors" can follow along and join in the conversation on Twitter by using the hashtag #italianneighbors. The posted webisodes currently hold "Funny" rankings by Funny Or Die viewers.

Creating videos and showing on venues such as Funny or Die is important, Hurbis said, because despite being an historic automaker, Fiat is still a new brand to most consumers.

"Fiat was only reintroduced to the U.S. market four years ago," Hurbis said. "But thanks to things like 'Neighbors,' we've been able to raise consumer awareness of the brand."

He said the metrics for measuring the success of the "Neighbors" campaign are things like Web site hits and video views.

"It looks like it's working," Hurbis said. "Consumer awareness is

up, as are things like purchasing consideration and vehicle shopping.

"We had our best sales month ever in May, and our June sales were strong. July is also shaping up to be a good month for sales as well."

Faurecia Opens Auburn Hills Site

Faurecia North America celebrated the opening of its new North American Headquarters and Automotive Seating Technical Center in Auburn Hills July 16 with a flag-raising ceremony, said company spokesperson Olivier Le Fric.

The new facility, which encompasses 278,000 square feet, includes a prototype metal shop; trim development lab; just-in-time (JIT) manufacturing lab; structural testing lab; environmental testing chambers; noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) and electrical lab; and semi-anechoic chamber for sound testing.

The site also features an information sharing hub called the Innovation Plateau.

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five representing the United States.

There were about 18 face-to-face meetings of committee members over the six-year period that they worked on 26262, Debouk said.

"Of course, not everyone went to every meeting," Debouk said. "Then we also had separate subcommittee meetings."

"We were in constant contact with each other, thanks to things like email and conference calls."

There were a lot of changes in the auto industry during those years, Debouk said.

But they had a deadline, which was good because, without one, those industry changes would have kept them at the table forever.

"Eventually, you just have to turn something in," Debouk said. "Now that the industry has had the standards for a few years, we will reexamine them again in 2015."

Fine-tuning of standards isn't unusual, Debouk said. Especially since there are now years of real-world data to look at.

OEMs and suppliers have now accumulated information that can become the basis for revised and improved standards in the future.

United Kingdom-based InterRegs has been promoting vehicle safety for a number of years by recognizing the work of engineers in the global automotive industry, Debouk said. They have worked closely with the SAE to honor the engineers who have made strides in issues of safety.

The award isn't always given to automotive engineers, he said.

In the past, they've honored people in the aerospace industry as well as in the government.

Among the presenters was InterRegs CEO Rebecca Rubio. SAE President Daniel Hancock presented the engraved award trophy to Debouk.

"Each year, it's such a privilege to meet and present this award to an engineer whose work takes the plain words on a page of vehicle regulations or standards and uses them in real-life applications that will either help to protect people or the planet," said Rubio.

"Mr. Debouk's work in the safety field is no exception and he is a worthy winner."

"I am delighted to recognize his contributions and celebrate his achievement in an area that does not always get the attention it deserves."

Debouk, as a researcher for GM, has had several papers published by the SAE and said he is working on how technical systems that consist of a whole variety of systems can safely interact.

That's important, he said, because people often assume that because all the component systems of something like a powertrain and steering system work, the whole system will work.

That's not true, he said, because getting a variety of different systems to work together isn't as easy as it looks.

But the development of these technologies can make autonomous driving a possibility in the future.

"I was nominated for this award by my manager and it's a great honor to win it because it's an individual award," Debouk said.

"But the work done on 26262 was done by a lot of people who worked hard."

"My colleagues who worked with me also deserve some praise."

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Mustang Marks 50 Years by Meeting 'High Targets'

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opment said yes to all the improvements," Nair said.

"But me as head of production said, 'Why does everything have to cost so much to develop?'"

"We're really proud of what the 2015 Mustang developed into. We made the decision to go with independent rear suspension (IRS). We also went with an all-new front suspension system, so the car handles better than ever and gives you better ride quality than ever. It has better braking than ever."

The vehicle is expected to have its public debut with the next two or three months, said Paul Seredynski, manager of Global Powertrain Communications for Ford.

"We've taken the first pre-orders for the 2015. But we're still tweaking it so that it's the best possible car we can make," Seredynski said.

Tom Barnes, the vehicle engineering manager for Mustang, said the key to the 2015's success was actually setting the goals high.

"If you have a goal to aim for, you really go for it," Barnes said. "A Mustang is supposed to be fun, fast, balanced and emotional. To make such a car, we realized that adding IRS was great, but that alone couldn't cut it. That's why we added things like double ball joints."

New to the Mustang lineup is Ford's new 2.3-liter EcoBoost engine.

"The EcoBoost engine delivers the healthy output Mustang drivers expect, regardless of the car's speed," said Scott Makowski, EcoBoost powertrain engineering manager. "It delivers where a Mustang driver expects it to — with broad, flat torque and great driveability under any conditions."

"In order to develop precise and predictable handling characteristics, a car needs a solid platform where the suspension mounts don't move relative to one another," Barnes said. "The structure of the new Mustang is much more resistant to twisting, with 28 percent more torsional stiffness for the fastback, and a 15 percent improvement for the

convertible."

Despite being so much stronger, the new Mustang is actually lighter than the previous version, Barnes said. This was achieved through extensive use of advanced technologies and materials including hydroforming, laser welding and high-strength steels. Lightweight aluminum is used for the hood and front fenders to help reduce body mass and improve weight balance, Barnes said.

"Attention to detail throughout the design process yielded significant weight savings that help to offset increases from adding performance-enhancing features such as larger, more powerful brakes and independent rear suspension," Barnes said. "The result is a vehicle that is more capable than before while remaining significantly lighter overall than key competitors."

All these improvements matter, said Pat Barber, 6R80 Automatic Transmission program manager, because "people are demanding better performance and a better ride. The muscle cars of old really wore a driver out, so after being in one for a couple hours, that driver was ready to call it a day. Now it takes 12 or 14 hours to get a driver to that point," Barber said.

Ultimately, the new Mustang builds on its muscle car heritage, but its performance much more closely matches that of a high-performance sports car. And that's something new to say for the e Mustang.

Charles Poon, design manager for Drive Line and Manual Transmissions, said that Ford expects about a third of the 2015 Mustangs sold to have a manual transmission.

"When we talk with our customers, they tell us, to put it simply, that the difference between stick and automatic transmissions is the difference being a driver and being driven."

"Many Mustang customers want to have complete control of when and where they shift gears. They want to have control of speed and torque generated from the engine so they're always driving in the sweet spot."

Nair said the 2015 model is already the best-handling, best-



The 2015 Mustang comes in both hard top and convertible.

braking standard Mustang ever right out of the box.

But, he said, drivers looking to take their cars to even higher levels of capability can add a performance pack to the Mustang EcoBoost fastback or convertible or Mustang GT fastback.

Both performance packs get:

- Retuned springs, bushings and monotube rear dampers;
- Additional cooling capability for track-day durability;
- Thicker rear sway bar;
- K-brace connecting strut towers to bulkhead;
- Unique tuning for ABS, electronic stability control and electric power-assisted steering;
- Center gauge pack.

Nair said the 2015 Mustang EcoBoost performance package also includes:

- Front brakes: Four-piston, 46-millimeter fixed aluminum calipers with 352-millimeter rotors;
- Rear brakes: Single-piston, 45-millimeter floating iron calipers with 330-millimeter rotors;
- Unique 19x9-inch alloy wheels painted Ebony Black with Pirelli 255/40R19 Y-speed-rated tires front and rear;
- 3.55:1 final drive ratio.

The 2015 Mustang GT performance package includes:

- Front brakes: Brembo six-piston, 36-millimeter fixed aluminum calipers with 380-millimeter rotors;
- Rear brakes: Single-piston, 45-millimeter floating iron calipers with 330-millimeter ro-

Ford's Mulally Becomes Google Board Member

NEW YORK (AP) — Google has appointed Alan Mulally, the former CEO of Ford Motor Co., to its board.

Mulally, 68, retired from Ford at the end of June after heading the company for several years. Over the winter, he was rumored to be in the running for the top job at Microsoft Corp., but it went to an internal candidate.

Google said July 15 that Mulally's appointment was effective July 9. He will serve on the company's audit committee.

Google has developed car prototypes that drive themselves, but hasn't revealed what it plans to do with the technology in the long term.

In announcing Mulally's appointment, it didn't mention its cars.

Mulally, who also worked for Boeing, is the only director with a background in traditional manufacturing on Google's board.

Mulally returned Ford to profitability, in part, by shedding brands like Volvo and Jaguar so the company could focus on its core Ford and Lincoln brands. Mulally also drove Ford to innovate, championing new features like touch-screen dashboards before others had them.

Warren Buffett Buys New Caddy Thanks to Barra

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Billionaire Warren Buffett decided it was time to upgrade his 2006 Cadillac DTS after General Motors CEO Mary Barra pointed out how many improvements had been made since then.

Buffett wrote a letter to Barra praising his car-buying experience at Huber Cadillac in Omaha. GM posted the letter and a story from the saleswoman who handed the deal online at its blog, <http://fastlane.gm.com>, last week.

Buffett sent his daughter, Susie Buffett, to the dealership to make the purchase.

Warren Buffett says the saleswoman did a great job, including recommending that Buffett buy the XTS sedan he picked, not the CTS coupe that Barra had originally recommended to him to purchase.

Buffett joked that the reason the saleswoman recommended the sedan is that his daughter described the 83-year-old investor who runs Berkshire Hathaway as "hopelessly over-the-hill."

Buffet praised dealership owner Brett Huber for being "extremely accommodating."

Buffett received nothing trade because he donated his old Cadillac to Girls Inc., a charitable organization for girls.

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Dodge Viper SRTs Race to Final Double Podium in 6th GTLM Event

SRT (Street and Racing Technology) Motorsports recorded its second consecutive dual podium when the team's Dodge Viper SRT GTS-Rs finished second and third at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park in the sixth event of the IMSA TUDOR United SportsCar Championship's GTLM season on July 13.

After taking second and third two weeks ago at New York's Watkins Glen International circuit, the Viper entries again shared the podium for the team's third-ever dual podium result. This double - a second-place result by the No. 93 Dodge Viper SRT GTS-R and third by the No. 91 - also gave the team shared podiums in back-to-back seasons at the Canadian Motor-sport track.

In both last year's race and recently at The Glen, the No. 91 Viper of Dominik Farnbacher and Marc Goossens placed second while the team's No. 93 Dodge entry with Jonathan Bomarito and Kuno Wittmer finished third.

With July 13's double podium, the team flipped its result with Bomarito and Wittmer taking runner-up honors and the No. 91 finishing third.

The event could have very well produced a Viper victory, too, as pole-winning driver Wittmer led the race's first 41 laps. The Canada native was running up front and preparing to pit when he was run off course by a fellow GTLM competitor. Wittmer quickly recovered and returned to the track running second.

Despite the incident and following the pit sequence, Bomarito maintained second place and chased down the eventual race winner through two stints, setting the fastest GTLM race lap in the process, but ultimately settled for second at the finish as time ran out in the two-hour-and-45-minute sprint race.

Farnbacher, who started the No. 91, quickly climbed to fourth from eighth during his opening stint after starting seventh. The German pitted in the same sequence as the No. 93 and his teammate Goossens took over and ran the entirety of the race's second half en route to the third-place finish.

The Glen result came almost exactly a year after the team's first double-podium finish at Motorsport Park, which propelled the team to a summer surge that included their first win and six podiums over four races.

TI Automotive Will Sponsor Dodge Viper

TI Automotive will serve as the primary sponsor for the SRT (Street and Racing Technology) Motorsports No. 91 Dodge Viper SRT GTS-R in the IMSA TUDOR United SportsCar Championship's Brickyard Grand Prix at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Friday, July 25.

TI Automotive, a leading global supplier of automotive fluid systems, will partner with SRT Motorsports as a team associate sponsor for the remainder of the 2014 season.

TI Automotive currently supplies the fuel pump module system to the production Viper and the recently released Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat. In honor of the partnership, the No. 91 Dodge Viper SRT GTS-R will sport a new livery for the IMSA TUDOR United SportsCar Championship's Brickyard Grand Prix at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.



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Three Ram Pickups Align With SAE Towing Standards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the only truckmaker to adopt the standard in all three pickup truck weight classes, said Cappa.

"Ram Truck has been preparing for integration of the SAE towing standard over the past few years, and adding heavier three-quarter- and one-ton trucks to the criteria gives it more teeth," said Mike Cairns, Chrysler's director - Ram Truck Engineering.

"For too long, an uneven playing field existed and towing capacities went unchecked. We're happy to be the only pickup truck manufacturer to align with the SAE J2807 towing standard across our pickup truck lineup."

This is important, Cappa said, because for years each automaker had its own standards for truck testing.

That made brand-to-brand comparison by the buyer problematic, he said.

"Now," Cappa said, "the OEMs have agreed upon standards set by the SAE. That's good for the consumer because he or she can now have an accurate comparison of what different trucks can do."

Cappa added that Ram is testing not just half-ton trucks, but three-quarter- and one-ton trucks as well. So consumers can be assured of the brand's towing ratings.

"We're saying that some of our trucks can tow up to 30,000 pounds," Cappa said. "That's a lot of weight, so being able to assure buyers that our claims have met the SAE standards for towing is a real benefit."

The SAE J2807 towing standard outlines dynamic and performance criteria as it relates to a given vehicle.

Examples within the standard include a number of tests while towing: 0-60 mph time allowance, tackling the notorious Davis Dam Grade on the Colorado River while maintaining no less than 40 mph for single-rear-wheel trucks and 35 mph for dual-rear-wheel trucks, a constant radius under-steer test while increasing speed and a sway maneuver using aggressive steering input.

The purpose is to put all trucks through the schedule of tests that operators will likely see in the real world.

SAE standards have existed in a number of other areas including engine torque and horsepower. Ram Truck is the first to adopt the official towing standard for half-ton, three quarter-ton and one-ton trucks, said Cappa.

2015 Ram listing of SAE J2807 towing capacities:

- Ram 1500 V6 with 3.6-liter gasoline Pentastar - Unsurpassed 7,600 pounds;
- Ram 1500 V6 with 3.0-liter EcoDiesel - Best-in-class 9,200 pounds;
- Ram 1500 V8 with 5.7-liter gasoline Hemi - 10,650 pounds;
- Ram 2500 V8 with 6.4-liter gasoline Hemi - 16,300 pounds;
- Ram 2500 with 6.7-liter Cummins diesel - Best-in-class 17,970 pounds;
- Ram 3500 V8 with 6.4-liter gasoline Hemi - 16,420 pounds;
- Ram 3500 with 6.7-liter Cummins diesel - Best-in-class 30,000 pounds.

Prize Winners Develop App To Aid Detroit Library Users

Two interns from Detroit Venture Partners were awarded the \$5,000 grand prize at #hackDPL, Automation Alley's 24-hour hackathon to build an app for Detroit Public Library.

Automation Alley held the event July 11-12 at its Detroit office, located at Grand Circus.

The first place winners are David Kircos of Grosse Pointe and Hunter Rosenblume of Syosset, N.Y.

Both winners are computer science majors - Kircos at Michigan State University and Hunter at Georgia Institute of Technology.

The mobile application they developed will provide library users with alerts and notifications about Detroit Public Library events, programs, closings and other important dates. It will also allow users to search the library's catalog and order e-books.

The apps were judged by Will McDowell, business analyst with Detroit Labs, maker of mobile apps for iPhone, Android, Windows and the Web; Victor Ibegbu, acting assistant director for information systems for the Detroit Public Library; Beth Niblock, CIO for the City of Detroit; and Mark Ostach, CEO of Digerati Inc.

"#hackDPL was a tremendous success thanks to the hard work of Automation Alley and Grand Circus and all of the contestants who 'grinded it out' for 24 hours to create a mobile application to benefit the citizens of Detroit," said Atiim Funchess, Detroit Public Library's assistant director for marketing.

"We were extremely impressed with the diversity and level of talent that competed and truly grateful for the end results."

Second-place honors and \$300 in gift cards from Gift Detroit

went to a team from Detroit Labs: Nick Virag of Dearborn Heights, Tobi Adebisi of Flint and Andrew Giang of Canton. Virag and Adebisi are computer science majors at Lawrence Technological University and University of Michigan-Flint, respectively. Giang is a 2014 graduate of Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science.

Virag and Adebisi are Detroit Labs summer interns, and Giang is a former Detroit Labs intern who was recently hired to be an app developer. (In order to avoid a conflict of interest, McDowell recused himself from evaluating the app submitted by Detroit Labs staff.)

Third-place honors and Made In Detroit gear, courtesy of FAMS Printing, went to Evol Johnson, a Web and mobile app developer who has his own consulting company called NgeosOne LLC.

New Car Prices Up Since Last Year

The data analysts at Kelley Blue Book www.kbb.com, recently reported the estimated average transaction price (ATP) for light vehicles in the United States was \$32,342 in June 2014.

New car prices have increased by \$454 (up 1.4 percent) from June 2013, while increasing \$113 (0.4 percent) from last month.

"Most major OEMs showed positive growth for June 2014, as the market continues to shift toward utility vehicles this year," said Alec Gutierrez, KBB senior analyst. "SUV and crossover share increased more than two percentage points in 2014 comprising a third of the market."

In June, GM posted a 5.4 percent year-over-year gain, helped by its truck and SUV lineup.



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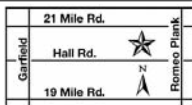
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No More Belfries – Bats Can Live in Special Houses

JACKSON, Mich. (AP) – More than 2,000 bats could have a new home at Consumers Energy hydro power plants thanks to collaboration between the utility, General Motors and a Boy Scout from Clarkston.

Using scrap Chevrolet Volt battery covers donated by GM, 16-year-old Matthew Netherland from Clarkston, (about 40 miles northwest of Detroit) and some helpers built 30 bat boxes in a few months, according to the Jackson Citizen Patriot.

Consumers Energy, which operates 13 hydroelectric plants along the Au Sable, Grand, Kalamazoo, Manistee and Muskegon rivers, will install 22 of those bat houses at select properties.

“I thought it would be nice to give them a place to stay,” said Netherland, who will enter his junior year at Clarkston High School this fall. “They have a place to stay for the winter.”

Netherland created the bat houses for his project to earn Eagle Scout, the highest achievement in Boy Scouts of America.

The houses are about 2 to 3 feet long and 1 foot wide and will give the bats a place to live, other than people’s attics, he said. Each house can fit more than 100 bats, if not 200, Netherland said.

Consumers Energy and GM have both been recognized for their dedication to preserve natural resources, and properties for each company have received certification by the Wildlife Habitat Council.

“Hydro dams generate clean electricity, and cars that run on electricity are a cleaner form of transportation,” said Rich Castle, Consumers Energy’s natural resource manager for hydro generation. “The battery covers from

the electric-powered vehicles are being kept out of landfills, and by being utilized as bat homes they allow biodiversity to thrive along the river habitats that produce renewable energy.”

Emily McDonald, environmental engineer for GM, coordinated with Netherland on his project and was impressed by his energy and dedication.

GM has built more than 520 wood duck, bat and bluebird nesting boxes from Volt battery covers, with many spread out among its facilities’ grounds.

“We’ve worked with renowned bat experts on our bat house design and are grateful that we can partner with others who share our passion for conservation and will help us make a lasting impact,” McDonald said. “The Volt covers are made with durable material and will result in wildlife nesting opportunities for a long time.”

GM Supports Bill Affecting Rentals Of Recalled Cars

WASHINGTON (AP) – GM has become the first big automaker to support legislation barring rental-car companies from renting or selling vehicles subject to a recall.

GM’s support was announced July 16 by bill author Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. GM endorsed the bill after language was inserted clarifying that automakers wouldn’t face liability when they repaired rental cars, Schumer said in a news release.

GM sent Schumer a letter June 26 expressing its support for his bill.

Prestige CADILLAC



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- Bluetooth for Phone! • Remote Keyless Entry!
- AM/FM/XM Radio w/CD!
- Aluminum Wheels!
- 38 MPG on the Highway!



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- Aluminum Wheels!
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- Power Locks & Windows! • Cruise/Tilt Wheel!
- AM/FM/XM Radio w/CD! • Remote Keyless Entry!
- 17" Aluminum Wheels!
- 32 MPG on the Highway!



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Students Dig in to Learn Environment Conservation

Detroit-area students are working this summer toward a greener future for the city, thanks to Johnson Controls' Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC).

Last week, 33 high school students kicked off the summer jobs program created and sponsored by Johnson Controls in partnership with the Student Conservation Association.

The CLC, in its seventh year in Detroit, provides students with the development and leadership skills to help them gain environmental conservation experience, while completing fundamental projects in local community parks, said Johnson Controls spokesperson Mary Kay Doder.

Throughout the course of the six-week program, students will work with seven crew leaders and seven crew leader apprentices, and focus their efforts in Detroit's Belle Isle Park, River Rouge Park and the Brightmoor neighborhood.

Student crews work on a variety of projects, including outdoor classroom construction, new trail development, green space acreage expansion, planting of native trees, grasses and flowers, invasive plant species removal and general operations management.

Students also will cultivate vital professional development skills, including help with resume writing and interview skills, Doder said.

"The Conservation Leadership Corps program is important to us as it has a positive impact on the city of Detroit and the area's high school students," said Karen Sommer, Johnson Controls' director of global public affairs.

opportunity to gain hands-on work experience while developing professional skills and learning about the importance of environmental conservation."

New this year, a crew of returning students will work on environmental conservation projects in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in partnership with the National Parks Service and U.S. Forest Service.

Over the course of two weeks, the students will camp and work at the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and the Hiawatha National Forest. The students will learn about camping, risk management and explore a variety of conservation careers while working with conservation professionals.

According to Sommer, CLC participants were selected for this highly competitive program from more than 150 applicants based on their interviews. Student candidates were assessed on leadership, work ethic, civic engagement, and interest and commitment to the environment.

On July 21, Johnson Controls employees worked alongside the students as they volunteer with CLC teams at several Detroit locations for an environmental learning experience. Activities will include planting, developing and maintaining trails, and removing invasive plant species.

On Aug. 14, the students will participate in a professional development day - hosted by Johnson Controls' Automotive Experience in Plymouth - where they will learn the importance of sustainability, energy efficiency, hybrid battery technology, and expectations of today and tomorrow's leaders, Doder said.

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2.4L DOHC 4 Cylinder with VVT
FWD, 6 Speed Automatic

36 Month Lease/10,000 Miles

\$216* + Tax with \$0 Down
No Security Deposit Required

2014 IMPALA LS

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED



Stk.#42528

Ecotec 2.5L DOHC
6 Speed Automatic & More...

36 Month Lease/10,000 Miles

\$255* + Tax with \$0 Down
No Security Deposit Required

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Buick Achievers to Award \$2.5 Million In STEM Scholarships to 100 Students

The Buick Achievers program last week announced new scholarships totaling up to \$2.5 million.

Funded by the General Motors Foundation, the scholarships will be awarded to 100 recipients pursuing careers in the areas of STEM, information technology and other fields related to the automotive industry.

Of these funds, more than half will be awarded to female students, said Buick spokesperson Amy Grundman.

In four years since the program's inception, Buick Achievers has awarded more than \$28 million in scholarships to 3,400 high school seniors and undergraduate students, including this year's recipients and those currently receiving renewal funds through the program.

Buick Achievers annually grants 100 students with up to \$25,000 renewable for four years, and one additional year for those entering a qualified, five-year engineering program.

"Thanks to this scholarship, I can focus on my studies without having to worry about financial constraints," said Meri Mullins, 2014 Buick Achievers recipient and University of Toledo chemical engineering student.

"I've always been interested in understanding how the world works. It's my goal to instill this passion in future generations so they too can gain an interest and appreciation for STEM fields."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, only 16 percent of American high school seniors are proficient in mathematics and interested in a STEM career.

Among those who pursue a college major in the STEM fields, approximately half choose to work in a related career, the DOE said. The United States is falling behind internationally, ranking 25th in mathematics and 17th in science among industrialized nations.

"Our Buick Achievers are evolving the face of STEM in that half are the first in their family to attend college, more than half are female, and minorities make up the majority," said GM Foundation President Vivian Pickard.

"These milestones are a positive indication that we're making great strides to pave the way for our industry's future leaders and innovators."

As one of the largest programs in the country, Buick Achievers focuses scholarship awards on students who excel in the classroom and give back to their communities. Special consideration is given to students who are female, minorities, first-generation college students, military veterans and military dependents.

Among the 100 students being recognized this year, 61 percent are female. This milestone suggests forward momentum for women who have historically been underrepresented in STEM fields, Grundman said.

Half of the recipients are the first in their families to pursue a secondary education, and more than half are of ethnic backgrounds, underscoring diversity. Additionally, 78 percent are pursuing STEM-related majors, with degree programs in computer science and chemical engineering topping the list.

"It's imperative that young women who wish to pursue STEM-related careers are given every opportunity to make their dreams happen," said Greg Dehn, general manager and senior vice president, Scholarship America.

"By awarding more than half of their scholarships to female students, the GM Foundation encourages women to pursue a career in a traditionally

male-dominated field. "Buick Achievers' multi-year, renewable awards will not only make postsecondary education possible for these deserving students, they will also propel them through to graduation and a promising career in STEM."

General Motors and the GM Foundation have a long history of investing in education initiatives. Since 2007, the GM Foundation has invested \$70 million in educational programs and institutions to help nurture tomorrow's innovators and leaders.

In addition to Buick Achievers, the GM Foundation provides approximately \$3 million annually to key university partners and professional organizations to advance STEM curricula.

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Concours Show Set for July 27

The 36th annual Concours d'Elegance of America exhibition is scheduled to be held at St. John's in Plymouth on July 27.

Each year, the exhibition is the site of classic and unique vehicles from different eras.

Some of the vehicles set for this year's show are a 1913 Peerless 48 Roadster, a 1964 Shelby 427 Cobra "Flip-Top" Roadster, a 1960 Plymouth XNR concept car, and a 1955 Alfa Romeo 1900 SS.

Numerous associated events will be held on Friday and Saturday leading up to the Concours on Sunday.

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GM Global Sales In First Half Were Up 1.4 Percent

General Motors Co. sold 2,505,889 vehicles around the world in the second quarter of 2014.

Year-over-year sales in the United States and China were up 7 percent and 8 percent, respectively, for the quarter.

Total sales were up one-half percent in the second quarter.

In the first half, GM sold 4,921,928 vehicles, up 1.4 percent.

"GM did well in the world's two largest and most profitable vehicle markets and that helped us grow despite very challenging market conditions in parts of South America, Asia and Eastern Europe," said GM CEO Mary Barra.

"We are investing in our brands around the world to keep our momentum going, and that includes growing Cadillac in China, launching a total of 27 new Opel models between 2014 and 2018 and entering new segments in North America with vehicles like the Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon."

Chevrolet had record sales in China in the first half of 2014 and the strong performance of the brand's new full-size pickups and large SUVs in North America helped GM achieve record average transaction prices in both the second quarter and first half, said GM spokesperson Jim Cain.

Buick, which celebrated the best sales year in the brand's 110-year history in 2013, posted an 11 percent increase in the quarter and it is up 12 percent year to date.

Buick global sales in the first six months of 2014 are 152 percent higher than they were just six years ago, growth that has outpaced all major American, European, Japanese and Korean makes.

Cadillac's global sales were up 14 percent in the quarter, including a 51 percent increase in China. Calendar year to date, deliveries were up 12 percent, driven by a 72 percent increase in China sales.

Opel/Vauxhall sales increased 3 percent in the second quarter.

Sales were up 4 percent in the first half and Opel gained market share in 11 European markets.

In addition, the Mokka was the best-selling SUV in the first six months of the year in Germany.

GM Scheduling \$27M Investment In Casting Plant

BEDFORD, Ind. (AP) - General Motors has proposed investing \$27 million at a southern Indiana casting plant for machinery, equipment and tooling needed to produce aluminum engine blocks.

The automaker filed a tax abatement request for the Bedford factory project, saying it would add about 40 jobs and raise the plant's employment to some 650 workers.

Bedford Economic Development Commission chairman Patrick Robbins says the tax abatement would save GM \$1.9 million over 10 years.

The Times-Mail reports the commission recommended approval of the request July 14. It now goes before the Bedford City Council.

GM plans to start installing the new equipment in November and finishing in March 2016.

GM announced last December it planned to invest \$29 million in the Bedford plant to make parts for six- and 10-speed transmissions.

Jim Causley BUICK-GMC

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\$19,716**			
EVERYONE LEASE		EVERYONE PRICE	
24mo. 10K	\$169* \$1999 DOWN	36mo. 10K	\$219* \$0 DOWN
\$20,627**			

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Stk. #B1262

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4 YR/50,000 Mile Bumper to Bumper Warranty!

GM EMPLOYEE & FAMILY LEASE		GM EMPLOYEE & FAMILY PRICE	
24mo. 10K	\$169* \$1999 DOWN	36mo. 10K	\$235* \$0 DOWN
\$28,412**			
EVERYONE LEASE		EVERYONE PRICE	
24mo. 10K	\$199* \$1999 DOWN	36mo. 10K	\$242* \$0 DOWN
\$28,684**			

NEW 2014 BUICK ENCORE



33 MPG

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- Air Cond
- Power Windows/Locks
- Power Seats
- 10 Air Bags • Bluetooth
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- Traction Ctrl
- Stabilitrac
- Fog Lamps
- Side Blind Zone Alert
- Rear Cross Traffic Alert
- Remote Start
- 18" Alum Wheels
- Tilt Wheel • Cruise Ctrl
- IntelliLink Radio System

Stk. #B1809

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED!
4 YR/50,000 Mile Bumper to Bumper Warranty!

GM EMPLOYEE & FAMILY LEASE		GM EMPLOYEE & FAMILY PRICE	
24mo. 10K	\$175* \$1999 DOWN	36mo. 10K	\$245* \$0 DOWN
\$23,887**			
EVERYONE LEASE		EVERYONE PRICE	
24mo. 10K	\$218* \$1999 DOWN	36mo. 10K	\$273* \$0 DOWN
\$24,948**			

New 2014 BUICK REGAL TURBO



30 MPG

- 2.0 TURBO
- Auto
- Pwr Windows/Locks
- Air • Cruise • Tilt
- AM/FM/CD/XM Radio
- Power Lumbar
- Alum Wheels
- Fog Lamps
- Bluetooth • Compass
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- Keyless Entry
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4 YR/50,000 Mile Bumper to Bumper Warranty!

GM EMPLOYEE & FAMILY LEASE		GM EMPLOYEE & FAMILY PRICE	
24mo. 10K	\$226* \$1999 DOWN	36mo. 10K	\$271* \$0 DOWN
\$26,987**			
EVERYONE LEASE		EVERYONE PRICE	
36mo. 10K	\$235* \$1999 DOWN	36mo. 10K	\$289* \$0 DOWN
\$28,557**			

NEW 2014 BUICK ENCLAVE



24 MPG

- 3.6L • V6 • Auto
- Air Cond
- 7-Passenger
- Heated Mirrors
- Fog Lamps
- Power Rear Hatch
- Side Curtain Air Bags
- Rear Backup Camera
- Power Windows/Locks
- AM/FM/CD/XM HD Radio
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EVERYONE LEASE		EVERYONE PRICE	
24mo. 10K	\$289* \$1999 DOWN	36mo. 10K	\$348* \$0 DOWN
\$35,576**			

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Chevy Focuses on Versatility, Value for Equinox Owners

Versatility and value are helping make compact crossovers and SUVs among the hottest vehicles in the country.

Chevrolet is among those meeting the demand with its strongest lineup in history, including the Equinox and – early next year – the new Trax, said Steve Majoros, Marketing director for Chevrolet.

“Compact crossovers and SUVs make sense for so many consumers,” said Majoros. “Suited to adapt to whatever life throws at them, our customers want a vehicle that can do – and go – anywhere, and they want it with expressive design and fuel efficiency.

“It’s a tall order and it’s why Equinox sales have risen nearly every year since we introduced the original in 2006.

“Next year, the Trax will provide this same flexibility in a smaller footprint.”

Equinox retail sales in June were up 11 percent from June 2013. Chevrolet has sold nearly 1.5 million Equinoxes since the first generation was introduced in 2005.

A second generation was released for the 2010 model year.

The popularity of Equinox has helped Chevrolet grow its share of the segment from 7 percent to more than 10 percent in the past eight years.

Overall, demand for compact crossovers and SUVs has nearly doubled since 2008, from 10 percent to 18 percent of the market, according to AutoTrader.com.

“Sales of crossovers of all sorts have been growing significantly in recent years, but the growth in sales of smaller crossovers and SUVs has been nothing short of phenomenal,” said Michelle Krebs, senior analyst for AutoTrader.com.

“It’s easy to see why, with the segment being so versatile to

meet the needs of a wide variety of car buyers.

“They can carry people, serve as a substitute truck or haul bigger cargo while still driving like a car.”

According to AutoTrader.com’s research, crossovers and small SUVs are the only growing segments within the SUV market and, for the first time, outpace two other segments that have experienced consistent growth in the past eight years – compact and midsize sedans.

“I call my Chevy Equinox my ‘multi-tool’ of vehicles,” said Gail Haffey of Beverly Hills, Mich. “It fits my family’s needs perfectly, from traveling to our summer cottage to flipping down the seats to hauling cargo and supplies from the garden shop to my daily commute to work.

“Plus, the fuel economy is great, so I get versatility and value in one package.”

The Equinox seats five, offers a maximum cargo capacity of 63.7 cubic feet and a maximum towing rating of 3,500 pounds (3.6L V6 models) and an EPA-rated 32 mpg highway (2.4L FWD models).

Both the Equinox and GMC Terrain with available forward collision alert technology received 2014 Top Safety Pick+ ratings from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, the only mid-size SUVs of nine evaluated to earn Good ratings in the Institute’s small overlap front crash test, said GM spokesperson Katie Adams.

“For 2015,” said Majoros, “Chevrolet brings OnStar 4G LTE capabilities to Equinox and Trax. Combined with standard Chevrolet MyLink, these technologies accommodate customers’ increasingly connected lifestyles with a more reliable connection during road trips, connectivity for up to seven devices, and



2015 Chevrolet Equinox

range of up to 50 feet outside the vehicle.”

The Chevrolet Trax small SUV – a customer favorite in the global markets where it’s already being sold, arrives in the U.S. early next year, Adams said. Part of another fast-growing segment, Trax sales have grown from just over 3,000 in 2006 to more than 90,000 last year.

Trax will offer eight different seating arrangements with 60/40 split rear seats and a fold-flat front passenger seat, as well as more than 48 cubic feet of cargo space and a standard turbocharged engine.

Both Equinox and Trax are available with all-wheel drive.

Sales of small SUVs have evolved along with consumers’ changing driving, spending and lifestyle habits. They’ve gone from being “second” vehicles in a household to replacing older vehicles.

Once inside the small and compact SUV segments, buyers are loyal – more than a quarter of them come from other small and compact SUVs, Adams said.

“We work hard to deliver the versatility and value our customers expect in our Equinox,” said Majoros.

Ky. Programmer Crashes Toyota Computer System

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) – A computer programmer from central Kentucky convicted of hacking into and damaging Toyota’s computers has been sent to a prison in Natchez, Miss.

The federal Bureau of Prisons lists 37-year-old Ibrahimshah Shahulhameed as an inmate at the Adams County Correctional Institute.

A federal jury in February found Shahulhameed guilty of intentionally sabotaging and crashing Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky’s supplier computer network.

Prosecutors say Shahulhameed, a citizen of India, did more than \$5,000 in damage to the Japanese company’s computers on Aug. 23 and Aug. 24, 2012, at the Scott County Camry plant.

Prosecutors say Shahulhameed, a fired employee of a supplier company, rendered the system inoperable in some cases and, in others, prevented some Toyota employees from accessing the system.

Ford Transit Wagon Debuts 5-Row Side-Curtain Airbag

The new Ford Transit 15-passenger wagon makes its debut in the United States and Canada with the industry’s only five-row side-curtain airbag.

Part of Ford Motor Company’s Safety Canopy System, this jumbo airbag is designed to help provide enhanced head and neck protection in rollover and side-impact crashes, said Ford spokesman Ed Saenz.

“The Transit wagon’s five-row side-curtain airbag is a great technological innovation that allows us to provide a high level of protection to multiple passengers in one of Ford’s largest vehicles,” said Sean West, Ford restraints manager. “We are proud to build on our safety leadership.”

The airbag measures close to 15 feet long and 3 feet tall with a volume of 120 liters. By comparison, West said, a side-curtain airbag for a sedan like Ford Fusion is approximately 6.8 feet long and 2 feet tall with a volume of 42 liters.

In a crash situation, a series of sensors detects the impact and triggers two of the industry’s largest inflators to fill the entire airbag with stored gas in a fraction of a second.

The inflators fill the bag in a pattern engineered to manage the direction of bag deployment and control cushion thickness throughout the length of the bag.

The airbag is made of a coated, polyester-based fabric that holds the gas, so the bag remains inflated for several seconds.

The single-bag design – in conjunction with tethering and the vehicle’s B-, C- and D-pillars – helps keep the curtain supported when deployed, West said.

Ford developed the five-row side-curtain airbag in cooperation with TRW Automotive, a global supplier of active and passive safety systems.

“This airbag technology is unique in its purpose, which is to help provide protection across five rows of passengers in a cabin that is more spacious than the more traditional light-duty vehicle,” said Norbert Kagerer, vice president, Occupant Safety Systems Engineering for TRW Automotive.

“The stringent customer and industry regulatory requirements for airbags called for developing a system that provides appropriate occupant protection in a smart package.”

Side-curtain airbags are standard on the Transit wagon, which is available in three roof heights, two wheelbases and three body lengths.

The high-roof, long-wheelbase wagon seats as many as 15 people and provides as much as 65.2 inches of headroom. The 15-passenger extended-length Transit wagon offers best-in-class cargo capacity – 100.5 cubic feet – behind the last row of seats.

The side-curtain airbag is just one of many standard safety features on the new Ford Transit wagon, said Saenz.

Other standard safety features for Transit wagon include front and front-seat side airbags for the driver and front passenger, three-point safety belts for all seats, AdvanceTrac with Roll Stability Control and SOS Post-Crash Alert System.

Ford advises those using its vehicles to always wear a safety belt and secure children in the rear seat, Saenz said.

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