

Beyond Grand Rapids

Cadillac Escalade adds flex-fuel capability for 2009

All models of the 2009 Cadillac Escalade will be able to run on either ordinary gasoline or E85 ethanol, or any combination of the two. Customers will have the fueling choice at no additional cost. The Escalade, Escalade EXT and Escalade ESV, as well as the GMC Denali, join the previously announced 2009 Chevrolet HHR, Buick Lucerne and Hummer H2 and H2 SUT as additions to GM's flex-fuel lineup. GM will offer more than 15 flex-fuel capable models in 2009, compared to 11 this year. GM has committed to make half of its US production flex-fuel capable by 2012, providing the infrastructure is in place.

GM working to expand hydrogen fueling infrastructure

General Motors and Clean Energy Fuels Corporation have announced that Clean Energy will open a hydrogen fueling station in Los Angeles with support from GM. The station will be located at Clean Energy's compressed natural gas facility near Los Angeles International Airport. The hydrogen station is expected to be operational by early fall. It will be used by drivers taking part in Chevrolet's Project Driveway, GM's market test of fuel cell vehicles. The two companies also announced they are exploring further opportunities to expand the network of hydrogen fueling stations.

GM helping to keep kids safe

Safe Kids Buckle Up, the child passenger safety program of Safe Kids USA sponsored by General Motors and Chevrolet, has reached a milestone no other program can claim: one million child safety seats checked for proper installation.

Significant progress has been made since 1997, which was the year the program checked its first car seat. Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that car seats have saved the lives of an estimated 3,800 kids under the age of 5 from 1997 to 2006.

June sales--segment update

- In the Compact Regular/Specialty Car segments, sales of the Chevy Cobalt were up 36.8% compared to the previous June, the Pontiac G5 was up 17.2%, and the Pontiac Vibe was up 38.4%.
- In this same segment, the Cobalt and Vibe both had positive year-to-date sales vs. the prior year. Cobalt was up 18.5%; Vibe was up 27.9% .
- In the Mid-car segment, sales of the Chevy Malibu were up 95.1% compared to the previous June, the Saturn Aura was up 41.3%, and the Pontiac G6 was up 51%.
- The Saturn Aura had a record June, selling a total of 5,897 units. It also had a record second quarter, selling 16,556 units, and a record half year at 32,938 units.
- The Chevy Equinox outsold the combined sales of Jeep Patriot and Compass by nearly 450 units.
- Sales of the Chevy Silverado half-ton were up 3.5% year over year.
- Sales of the GMC Sierra one-ton for the first half of 2008 were up 32.4% vs. the first half of 2007.

All-time sales record in LAAM

General Motors Latin America, Africa and Middle East (GM LAAM) region broke another record in Q2 2008, selling 346,100 vehicles, up 52,100 units over the same period in 2007. GM's volume increase of nearly 18% for the quarter again exceeded the industry growth rate of 13%. Also, GM's market share in the region climbed to 17.5% for the quarter.

GM to help expand E85 infrastructure

The National Governors Association and GM will work together to expand the nationwide infrastructure and distribution network for E85 ethanol. The purpose behind this partnership is to be ready when next-generation ethanol made from a variety of non-grain sources is available. Under the plan, GM will use expertise gained in helping bring 300 E85 pumps on line in 15 states over the last three years to help more states strategically locate pumps to allow owners of flex-fuel vehicles to choose between ordinary gasoline and E85, which consists of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline.



AutoKnow



General Motors Vision Statement: GM's vision is to be the world leader in transportation products and related services. We will earn our customers' enthusiasm through continuous improvement driven by the integrity, teamwork and innovation of GM people.

Changing the Company for the Long Haul

Last week we announced a number of initiatives aimed at generating about \$15 billion of cash through year-end 2009. The initiatives fall into two main areas: operating actions and asset sales and financing activities.

As I have said from the start of our North American turnaround efforts in 2005, our goal is not just to change GM's bottom line from red to black, which we're all working hard to do as soon as possible. Our goal is to change the company for the long haul, to structure GM for sustained profitability and growth and to set us up to be competitive for years to come. In short, our plan is not a plan to survive. It is a plan to win.

In fact, at this critical time in our history, it's very important that we also remember what's going right at GM these days.

- We've done a terrific job taking advantage of the growth in emerging markets . . . making amazing progress in China, Russia, Brazil, India, the Middle East, and the Andean region, just to name a few.
- We've moved from being an also-ran in advanced propulsion technologies, to being viewed as a leader in biofuels and electrically driven vehicles, including fuel cells, and to being very much in the hybrid race.
- We've demonstrated our ability to anticipate consumer demand, by making 11 of our last 13 new products, and 18 of our next 19 new product launches in the U.S., cars or crossovers.
- We've made major strides in our commitment to product excellence and design leadership . . . as cars like the Chevy Malibu and Cadillac CTS clearly demonstrate. And we're showing similar product strength around the globe.
- And, most important of all, we have a lineup of future products that are some of the best in our 100-year history.



By any measure, GM has been – and is – an extraordinarily successful company, with a 100-year record of product and technology excellence. We enjoy a unique American and global heritage, incredible engineering and technological capabilities, thousands of dedicated and talented employees and dealers, and – despite today's challenges – absolutely awesome potential.

Working with all of you, whom I consider to be the best automotive team in the business, and our leadership team, Fritz, Bob, Ray, Troy, and others, I know that we will realize this potential. Thanks for your commitment and support, as we continue to create the new General Motors.

-- Rick

2008 Chevrolet Malibu

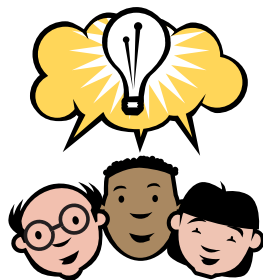


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3rd-Quarter Suggestion Program Focus: Team Cost Suggestions

In the third quarter of 2008, the UAW-GM Quality Network Suggestion Plan focus is on team **cost** suggestions. As you know, the entire corporation needs to cut costs, so your suggestions regarding cost are much needed.

At the end of the quarter there will be a drawing. Four team suggestions (three or more people) will each win \$500. The money will be split equally among the team members.



Little Energy Used During Shutdown

In terms of least energy used, the 2008 summer shutdown accounted for 12 of the top 20 days on record (that is, since January 1, 2000) for the Grand Rapids Metal Plant. Compared to our '07 summer shutdown, we reduced our energy usage by 28% during this year's--and 35% when compared to our 2006 shutdown.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to these results by making extra efforts to shut down equipment and machinery that we haven't traditionally shut down.

Service Awards

Congratulations to the following employees for their years of service to GM and this plant.

25 Years of Credited Service:

- **Donald Teunis** Maintenance
- **Greg Spearman** Maintenance
- **Dana Sadlik** Material Handling
- **Richard Baas** TDO
- **William Bakker, Jr.** TDO
- **Dan VanBall** TDO
- **William Larsen** Tech Support
- **Phillip Anderson** Tech Support

Safety Corner

From a strictly measurement perspective, we cannot have more than **13** additional recordable injuries between now and the end of 2008 if we want to meet our Recordable Injury Rate stretch goal of 2.20.



Hearing Protection Reminder

Hearing protection is required 100% of the time on the plant floor south of 5 Bay. We have installed additional Hearing Protection stations at 5 Bay on each of the three main north/south aisles to allow employees better access to the various ear plugs. Last week I asked supervisors to be more observant and to approach employees who forget to wear hearing protection. Beginning this week we are taking a zero tolerance position for employees not wearing hearing protection. Remember, loss of hearing is a "silent killer."

—Nick Kassanos, assistant plant manager

Know Safety, No Accidents

	2007	Through 7/16/08
First-aid Injuries	454	169
Recordable Injuries	65	22
Lost Work Days	6	2
Near Misses Reported	232	231

Around Grand Rapids

Bragging Corner

Chris Rinard Promoted to First Lieutenant

Congratulations to Chris Rinard, son of Mike Rinard of Welder Maintenance. Chris was promoted to First Lieutenant in the United States Army. Stationed in Iraq, Chris (right in each of the photos below) was presented with his new bars by General David Petraeus.



Janitorial Transition Begins After Shutdown

In line with the provisions of the National Agreement, Grand Rapids Metal Plant began transitioning to third party housekeeping on July 14. Premier employees started on July 14 by taking over responsibilities for janitorial duties on first and second shifts and responsibilities for duties in the pit. This transition process will be complete by September 1.

As General Motors employees who recognize our commitment to treating all employees with dignity and respect, please welcome these Premier employees to our plant and, if necessary, assist them.



UAW-GM QN Suggestion Corner

	06/07/08-06/22/08	YTD
*Awards Paid:	90	655
\$ Paid Out:	\$ 0.00	\$171,222.74
Savings to GM:	\$5,977.33	\$775,692.45
*Tangible and intangible awards		

Say Good-Bye to the Browns

Effective August 1, **Brenda Brown**, manufacturing planner – Blanking, will be transferring to the Orion Assembly Plant. Replacing Brenda is **John Hickey**, currently senior supervisor – North Press.

Also effective August 1, **Kevin Brown**, supervisor – Production, will be transferring to the Orion Assembly Plant. Replacing Kevin is **Casey Wieferich**, currently in the Tool & Die Supervisor College.

Scot Nemecek will move to North Press on third shift, replacing John. Replacing Scot as superintendent – North Press second shift will be **Kathy Coslow**.

Please congratulate Brenda and Kevin in their new assignments and extend your support to John, Casey, Scot, and Kathy as they transition to their new responsibilities.

