

Beyond Grand Rapids

Malibu is a hot seller!

- Sales of the Malibu in California have increased 186%, and 51% of those buyers were conquests over other brands.
- Sales of the Malibu have increased 125% in other key markets
- The average transaction price has increased by \$4000! That's up from \$16,800 for the previous model to \$20,800 for the current model, which means that Chevrolet is making more sales at higher prices

And get this: According to Peper, "the new Malibu's are selling faster than we can put them on dealers' lots." Chevrolet estimated it would need to ship about 85,000 units, but dealers have requested nearly 200,000 units.

Source - AskPatty.com

On the road again

Got a summer road trip planned? If so, *Kelly Blue Book's* kbb.com might suggest that you're behind the wheel of a Chevy when you take off. KBB's editors have picked their Top 10 Best New Road Trip Vehicles, and Chevrolet is the *only brand* to have more than one vehicle on the list. The Chevy Malibu was chosen in the category of Family Car, and the Chevy Tahoe Hybrid was picked for Big SUV. As for the Malibu, the editors remarked, "The remarkably quiet and comfortable Chevy Malibu handily outshined the competition."

DOE driving Chevy Equinox fuel-cell electric vehicles

Last week, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) added the Chevy Equinox fuel-cell electric vehicle to its fleet of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. For the next six months, DOE employees will use the Chevy Equinox electric vehicle to conduct day-to-day business while sharing real-world performance data. The vehicle uses no petroleum and zero greenhouse gases are released. The only emission is clean water vapor.

That's a lot of vehicles!

Since its inception in 1908, General Motors has sold more than 308 million cars and trucks in the U.S. and more than 445 million worldwide. No matter where you go — any place on the planet — you can go in a GM car and truck. A GM facility or dealer won't be far away.

Malibus replacing Toyotas and Hondas

Mike Herhold, the new car manager at Shaheen Chevrolet in Lansing says, "We're taking a lot of import buyers. We're seeing a lot of Toyotas and Hondas on trade-in for the Malibu."

The vehicles are selling well, he said, because they are comfortable for five people, good-looking and get good mileage. The car has won many accolades, including 2008 North American Car of the Year.

Source: Detroit Free Press May 22, 2008

Toyota builds third hybrid battery plant

Toyota is preparing to rev up production of hybrids, announcing its third plant in Japan for producing batteries that are key components for the "green" cars. It recently announced that it was building a second such battery plant.

Toyota has emerged as the world leader in hybrids with its hit Prius, which has sold more than a cumulative 1 million vehicles over the last decade. Sometime after 2010, it hopes to sell 1 million hybrids a year.

For that, it needs to boost battery production as Honda and other automakers aim to catch up with their new gas-and-electric hybrids — a technology that is growing in appeal for the world's drivers as gas prices soar.

Source: The Associated Press May 27, 2008

Nissan targets 1M China sales in 2012

Japan's third-largest automaker, Nissan, said its Chinese joint venture, Dongfeng Motor, aims to sell 1 million vehicles in 2012, up from 610,000 in 2007, by introducing new models to grab a bigger share of the rapidly growing market in China. Nissan said it will introduce more than 10 new passenger car models under the Nissan brand and more than five new light commercial vehicles.

Source: Automotive News May 28, 2008

New flex-fuel vehicles

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 industry-leading flex-fuel lineup.

"The success of E85 as an alternative fuel depends on having the fuel readily available and having a range of cars and trucks that can use it," said GM Vice President of Environment, Energy and Safety Policy Beth Lowery. "We will offer more than 15 flex-fuel capable models for 2009 compared with 11 this year."



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.

Winners of Gas Cards Named

During the first week of June, plant leadership handed out candy bars as employees entered the plant at the start of each shift. The candy bars were labeled with the six different *Team Member Competencies*: Individual Respect/Personal Integrity, Accountability, Teamwork, Safety Oriented, Quality and Process Oriented, and Training/Coaching.

In groups of six, employees put their labels together to have a complete set of all six competencies. In total, 540 employees (90 groups) participated in the contest to win free gas cards. Here are the winners:

\$100.00 gas card winners

Doug Hallerberg	Tech Support
Rick Turcotte	Blanking
Tim McKay	Tech Support
Charles Vokes	Blanking
Lee Gilbert	Tech Support
Andra Jackson	Material Handling

\$50.00 gas card winners

Karen Tickner	Metal Assembly
Lamar Bleckley	Material Handling
James Melville	Metal Assembly
David Fulmerhouser	Metal Assembly
Mark Kempthorne	Metal Assembly
Steve Huizenga	Metal Assembly

\$20.00 gas card winners

Myron Holmes	Material Handling
Phorn Tea	Material Handling
Larry Strasburg	Material Handling
Don Armstrong	Material Handling
Terry Jones	Material Handling
Robert Smitter	Material Handling

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Customers Most Satisfied with GM Vehicles

Question: Which automaker has the most top-ranked award winners in a recent study on vehicle satisfaction? Did you really have to ask? Of course it's General Motors! In a study released Tuesday, May 27, by noted automotive consulting firm AutoPacific, Inc., GM is number one in 11 of 28 categories, capturing more number-one spots than any other automaker. In addition, the brand with the highest satisfaction rating is Cadillac. Here are the GM winners:

Category	Vehicle
Aspirational Luxury Car	Cadillac CTS
Large Luxury Car	Cadillac DTS
Image Compact Car	Chevy HHR
Sports Car	Saturn Sky
Large Light-duty Pickup	Cadillac Escalade EXT
Large Heavy-duty Pickup	Chevy Silverado HD
Luxury Sport Utility	Cadillac Escalade and Escalade ESV
Luxury Crossover SUV	Buick Enclave
Large Crossover SUV	GMC Acadia
Mid-size Crossover SUV	Saturn Vue

Owner satisfaction is measured across 46 specific areas related to a vehicle's operation, comfort, safety and the overall purchase/lease experience. The 2008 ratings reflect input from buyers and lessees of new vehicles acquired September through December 2007.



2008 GMC Acadia

Safety Corner

From a strictly measurement perspective, we cannot have more than **17** additional recordable injuries between now and the end of 2008 if we want to meet our Recordable Injury Rate stretch goal of 2.20.



Cut-resistant Sleeves

The elastic in the cut-resistant sleeves can be repaired. If you believe that the elastic is worn out on a sleeve, place the sleeve in the blue containers for damaged PPE. The sleeve will be sent out to the cleaners, where the elastic will be removed and replaced with new elastic. This process not only extends the life of the sleeve, but it also saves money. Iron Rhino sleeves cost \$5.50 each. It costs \$3.00 each to repair the sleeves.

Know Safety, No Accidents

	2007	Through 6/16/08
First-aid Injuries	454	157
Recordable Injuries	65	17
Lost Work Days	6	1
Near Misses Reported	232	194

Gas Card Winners

(continued from page 1)

\$20.00 gas card winners

Dan McLaren	Accounting
David Jones	Accounting
Cynthia Reed	Accounting
Ted Ojczencz	Accounting
Jim TenEyck	Accounting
Kathy VanderSloot	Accounting

\$20.00 gas card winners

Deb Schullo	Material Handling
Steve Lipski	Material Handling
Robert Schripsema	Material Handling
Deb Aaron	Press Room
Rich Rendon	Material Handling
Dennis Sullivan	Material Handling

Dress Safely as the Weather Heats Up

As the summer months approach, it's important that everyone follow the safe clothing requirements regardless of the temperature. For your own safety, safe clothing must be worn to protect exposed skin from such hazards as objects that can cause lacerations, abrasions, puncture wounds, or chemical or thermal burns:

- All employees must wear socks and ankle length trousers.
- Shirts must remain buttoned as protection against sharp metals and sparks.
- Sleeveless tops of any type are prohibited.
- Canvas or nylon shoes, deck shoes, open toed or open heeled shoes, sandals, etc. are not considered adequate foot protection and must not be worn by employees on the plant floor.

Let's "Take 2" for safety, follow the safe clothing requirements, and have a safe summer.

Exit Interviews for Employees Retiring or Terminating July 1, 2008

Before your interview, you must report to #3 crib for clearance, leave your coveralls and/or uniforms in your uniform locker, take care of any travel advance/expense report issues, if appropriate, and return your keys and padlocks to Plant Security. Skilled trades employees should also make arrangements with their supervisor for a Material Pass for the removal of personal tools. At the time of your interview, Employment will collect your ID badge and crib clearance slip. Please bring these items with you.

Exit Interview times are scheduled in the Labor Relations Conference Room (in the Personnel hallway) as follows:

- 3rd shift: Thursday, June 26, 6:30 – 7:30 a.m.
- 1st shift: Friday, June 27, 6:30 – 8:00 a.m.
- 2nd shift: Friday, June 27, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Employees who are not working these dates may make arrangements to interview at another time with Laura Hilaski, 246-3107.

NOTE TO SUPERVISORS: Once an exit interview has been completed, the employee will no longer have a timecard. Please verify the employee is at work and input rings as needed.

Around Grand Rapids

Fitness quiz winners

In the May 7 issue of the *AutoKnow* we ran a fitness quiz. The winners of the quiz are **Scot Gugle** of Material Control and **Maria DeLeon** of WFG. Scot and Maria each won a one-month pass to a local YMCA. Here are the answers to the quiz:



1. **If you don't need to lose weight, there's no need to be physically active. False.** Physical activity is an important part of a healthy lifestyle. It improves your mood, reduces your risk of disease, strengthens your heart and lungs, and promotes better sleep.
2. **At least 60 minutes of physical activity is recommended every day. False.** The recommendation is at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity five days a week or at least 20 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity three days a week, plus strength training twice a week.
3. **There are four primary elements of fitness: aerobic fitness, muscular fitness, stretching and core stability. True.** A well-rounded fitness program includes aerobic exercise, strength training, stretching, and exercises for the core muscles.
4. **If you're physically active, you can eat whatever you want. False.** To maintain a healthy weight, you need to have a balance between the number of calories you take in and the number you burn.
5. **Regular physical activity can reduce the need for some types of medication. True.** Physical activity can help you lower your blood sugar level and blood pressure.
6. **You can stop thinking about physical activity at age 65. False.** Muscle mass naturally diminishes with age. If you don't do anything to replace the muscle you lose, you'll increase fat. Physical activity also helps you maintain stamina, balance, coordination, and mental agility.
7. **Full steam ahead is the best way to start an exercise program. False.** If you haven't been active for awhile or have a chronic health condition, then consult your doctor before starting an exercise program.
8. **If you have no energy for physical activity, it's better to rest instead. False.** Physical activity is necessary in order to have energy.
9. **To maintain the benefits of physical activity, you need to keep it up. True.** Your fitness level may decline quickly if you become sedentary.

From the Child Care Office

Telephone Support for Eldercare Concerns:

- Gerontology Network Caregiver Support Line: 616/771-0714 or 800/730-6135, ext. 714
- Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter – West Michigan Region, 24/7 Helpline: 800/272-3900
- Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program: 800/803-7174