



# POWERLine



"Published for the people of GM Powertrain Toledo / UAW Local 14"

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## Torque Converter Machining Run

GF6 began to run the first pieces through the machining process in preparation for our scheduled launch. **Top photo:** Carl Hudson runs Op.5 load station.

**Bottom photo:** Launch Manager, Jill Phillips Ortega, and Team Leaders, Ray Hill and Pat Sweeney inspect parts at the unload station.

## Chili Challenge

The 2nd Annual Chili Challenge sponsored by the AFG is just around the corner .... Participants will showcase their best chili during the cook-off on Wednesday Feb. 24, 2010. Tasters can enjoy for a \$5 donation.

If you want to participate, contact Desiree Hillmon at: 419-470-5424. We are still looking for chili cookers, donors of baked goods and volunteers to help.

## Wishful Thinking...

Your joint plant leadership remains committed to the full and effective utilization of our plant's Suggestion Program to generate both cost saving and safety improvements at Toledo. The Suggestions Program, over several decades, has generated millions of dollars in savings for our company and been a meaningful way to enhance the income of our plant people.

Each year, the company allocates up to 5 per cent of the generated savings to help promote the program. This "Involvement Fund" has been very effective in reminding and encouraging our people to participate in the program. In the past, you may recall we have used this fund to raffle a GM vehicle or to provide tokens of appreciation to our people like gas cards or lunch coolers. As your joint leadership contemplated the use of this year's fund, a decision was made to consult YOU, our workers. In doing so, an idea emerged which has gained some traction.

This year, things are very different. As we continue our emergence from bankruptcy and our return to profitability, many difficult decisions had to be made. One area significantly impacted by our situation has been our ability as a plant to support, with monetary contributions, all the many great charitable organizations in our community. UAW Local 14 and Toledo Transmission have supported Make-A-Wish for years. Like most all charitable organizations in our community, they have seen contributions drop as good people struggle to maintain their standard of living in this tough economy.

The idea that emerged was this... Rather than promote the Suggestions Program as we have in the past, why not pool the money and make a significant contribution to our local Make-A-Wish organization? These are kids, in our own community, with life-threatening illnesses who have a wish. Maybe it's a tree house for their backyard. Maybe it's a trip to Disney World. Maybe it's meeting a celebrity or going to a sporting event. Simple things really. But things that give them and their families a short break from the grueling focus of caring for a seriously ill child. We liked this idea. We have contacted the National Parties and been assured of their support. They have given us an enthusiastic "thumbs up" for promoting the program in such a meaningful way. So that's what we're going to do.

Here's how it will work. General Motors will provide three tickets to each active employee at Toledo for a chance to win the 2010 Camaro that is being raffled off for Make-A-Wish. For each set of three tickets, \$20 will go to Make-A-Wish. More details will be forthcoming.

You can honor this donation by identifying and submitting a cost saving idea as soon as possible through the Suggestions Program. And if you win that smokin' hot Camaro, you owe us all a ride!

Joe Choate, plant manager

Steve Rupley, shop chairman

Joe Farinella, personnel director

Ray Wood, UAW Local 14 president

# Skin deep

By George Williams, senior resource manager

For many people, the cold clear days of winter bring more than a trip to the auto show or attending a Super bowl party. They also bring uncomfortable dryness to the skin of the face, hands and feet. For some this is worse than just a general tight dry feeling. The skin gets so dry it results in flaking, cracking even eczema, where the skin becomes inflamed. I have a nephew that has a severe case of eczema and believe me, he's always uncomfortable.

The skin is the body's largest organ and a natural defense against infection and disease. The skin protects us from microbes and the elements, helps regulate body temperature, and permits the sensation of touch, heat and cold. Take care of your skin so it can continue to protect you all year long. You ever see those people with perfect skin texture? Is it gene related or do you think the following tips help? Let me know.

## Survival tips

- Moisture more – An oil based lotion will create a protective layer to help retain skin moisture. Apply lotion to moist skin for better absorbance. I always keep a bottle/ container of lotion in my office – feel free to stop by if you're feeling ashy or dry.
- Give your hands a break – The skin on your hands is thinner and more susceptible to itchiness and cracking. Wear gloves to protect your hands, avoid wool without cotton liner. Avoid both wet gloves and socks.
- Drink more water – not just for your skin but your overall health. I don't' drink enough water but I'm trying to do better. My wife drinks two to three bottles of water a day. Good for her.
- Avoid super hot showers and baths – they break up and wash away the skin's naturally oily layers exposing the skin to cracking. Hot water, though it feels soothing tends to leach out natural oils the skin produces to lubricate itself, coupled with harsh soaps we use and love, they can indeed disrupt the natural balance of skin leading to itch. There's nothing like a hot bath or shower after working 10-12 hours a day, yes I do (LOL), but try to keep the temperature at a level that's not harmful.

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*"Take care of your skin so it can continue to protect you all year long."*

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Thanks for reading, remember, to protect your skin from the evils of winter try following the above tips. Peace out!

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## Auto Recall Rules May be Tightened by NHTSA

Safety advocates say government regulators may take a more urgent and tougher position on recalls, following Toyota's callback of millions of vehicles, reports The Detroit News.

Automakers have often resisted recalls, acting only when the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is poised to order them. At other times, they have fought them off completely or argued to scale them back.

But after Toyota's two recalls linked to sudden acceleration -- 5.4 million vehicles linked to floor mats and 2.3 million to sticky gas pedals -- things may change for good for NHTSA as well as for the automakers.

NHTSA is considering issuing civil penalties in Toyota's handling of the back-to-back recalls. It also is likely that the agency will act more quickly to enforce future "stop sales," like the one ordered by Toyota, if automakers don't have a fix.

"I think that NHTSA has been stung by (the Toyota recalls)

and they should be. They have been behind the eight ball and haven't used the authority given to them," said former NHTSA administrator Joan Claybrook

## GM Powertrain Toledo Blood Drive

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 . To schedule an appointment please see your Team Leader or Group Leader.

Appointments Needed! Participants must have donated on or before December 16, 2009, in order to be eligible to donate at this drive.

Remember to bring a photo ID and eat a Good Breakfast and Drink Fluids before donating!

Appointment times are available between 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. and the drive is scheduled in the Auditorium. Please check with Donor Suitability at 866-236-3276 if you are unsure of your eligibility to donate prior to scheduling your appointment.



## Competition in North America

### Ford's Debt Twice that of GM's

One might expect Ford Motor Chief Executive Alan Mulally to be gloating these days.

While his chief domestic competitors, General Motors and Chrysler, were limping through government-funded bankruptcies in 2009, Ford was on its way to posting its first U.S. market share gain since 1995 and its first annual profit in four years.

But Mulally, a Kansas native whose favorite adjective to describe his company's success is "neat," kept his exuberance in check in a call with reporters and analysts to review Ford's 2009 performance.

Ford's \$2.7 billion net profit for the year, while impressive, was fueled mostly by a rebound in its Ford Credit arm and one-time accounting items. Its automotive operations lost \$1.4 billion on a pre-tax basis. The latter half of the year was profitable, but Ford's turnaround, Mulally said, "is far from complete."

Mulally is also worried about the competitive environment, rising commodity prices and the continued weak economy. "Global economic conditions are improving but remain fragile," he said, pointing to weak labor markets, tight credit, and depressed consumer spending. At the same time, oil and other commodity prices are rising.

Then there's a newly resurgent GM to contend with. With a clean balance sheet following bankruptcy, GM is going after Toyota customers with a new round of incentives. Chrysler, also with a fresh start, will be looking to capitalize as well.

All this will put pressure on Ford, which managed to avoid bankruptcy by borrowing \$23 billion in 2006, before the market downturn, but is now saddled with \$34.3 billion in debt—twice the level of GM.

"There's no question that our net debt levels give us a disadvantage to our competitors because of the interest," said Mulally. Ford took numerous steps last year to restructure and improve its balance sheet, but still paid \$1.2 billion in interest in 2009—the equivalent of \$733 per vehicle sold in the U.S.

"The best way to improve our balance sheet," said chief financial officer Lewis Booth, "is to improve the fundamental profitability of the company and generate positive cash flow so we can pay down that debt."

"An automaker does not turn around on a single product," said Karl Brauer, editor in chief of Edmunds.com, an automotive research site. "It turns around by introducing a string of successful products." Ford's new lineup, including redesigned Taurus and Fusion sedans and its Escape crossover, are proving popular with consumers. And this year, it will accelerate its new product introductions with the Fiesta and Focus small cars, a new super-duty pickup and a redesigned Explorer SUV. Source – www.forbes.com – January 28, 2010

### Ford to Begin Hiring at New Lower Wages

Ford will announced Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010, it is adding a second shift at its Chicago assembly plant, creating 1,200

jobs and enabling the company for the first time to hire some new union workers at significantly reduced wages. Ford's Chicago plant builds two large sedans, the Ford Taurus and Lincoln MKS. The second shift will be added to produce a redesigned Ford Explorer sport-utility vehicle later this year.

"There will be new people hired at Ford," said Bob King, the UAW's vice president in charge of relations with the car maker.

The contracts that Ford, General Motors and Chrysler signed in 2007 allow the auto makers to fill jobs vacated by older workers who leave or retire with new hires earning a little more than \$14 an hour on average—about half what current workers received when they started. Newer workers also get reduced benefits.

## Flint Assembly Adds Regular Cab Light Duty Pickup

Flint Assembly and UAW Local 598 leadership announced Monday that GM approved the addition of the regular cab light duty pickup to the crew cab version that was announced last year.

The production timetable for the regular cab is the same as the crew cab with validation builds starting in April and regular production starting in July.

Both the regular and crew cab projects

will be done under the \$21.5-million budget approved by GM last fall. Adding the regular cab at Flint Assembly allows it to be flex linked with Fort Wayne Assembly and better meet customer demand. Flint Assembly will build Chevy Silverado versions of the regular cab in long box and 2WD and 4WD versions.

Photo: UAW Local 598 Chairman Dana Rouse (yellow shirt, bottom) announces the new truck at Flint Assembly.



## World Car of the Year Finalist

**Chevy Cruze, Opel/Vauxhall Insignia, and Buick Regal Make Top Ten List for World Car of the Year.**

The World Car Awards announced that Chevrolet Cruze, Opel/Vauxhall Insignia, and Buick Regal are all finalists for the prestigious World Car of the Year Award, and the Camaro is a finalist for the World Car Design of the Year award. The winners will be announced at the New York International Auto Show on Thursday, April 1.

*All in-plant emergencies dial....*

**131\*128\*3856**

*...on your NEXTEL phone only*

## Park Shelter House and Tent Rental Information

The Park begins taking reservations for the summer months on February 1, 2010

### Shelter Rental

#### GM EMPLOYEES OR RETIREES ONLY

The Family Recreation Park is for the use of Powertrain Toledo Employees, Retirees and their families only.

#### CLASS REUNIONS, CHURCH PICNICS AND PRIVATE CLUB ACTIVITIES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Each GM Powertrain employee or retiree is allowed to rent one shelter one time per year.

### Tent Rental

Employees and retirees of Toledo GM Powertrain may rent one tent at a time, but as many times as you want during the summer.

A complete list of prices and regulations are available at the Local 14 dues office (419-473-2854) or park office (419-470-5166). Information is also available on the website [www.uawlocal14.org](http://www.uawlocal14.org).

## Haiti Relief Collection

### ADDITIONAL DROP-OFF LOCATIONS AVAILABLE

GM Powertrain Toledo Employees can support the Haiti Relief Effort at work

**GM and UAW Local 14 are partnering with the Red Cross to collect bottled water, canned goods and monetary donations.**

Please bring your donation to the UAW Local 14 Hall on Jackman Road - 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and drop it off at the counter.

And, now, employees may drop off their donation at the following locations inside the plant:

- RWD6~East Gate
- GF6 ~ West Gate
- Main Entrance ~ Lobby

*At this time, we are unable to accept: clothing and perishable items. Please limit your donation to bottled water, canned goods and monetary donations.*

**[www.uawlocal14.org](http://www.uawlocal14.org)**

### How to contact us...

GMPT Toledo Transmission Plant  
1455 W. Alexis Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43697-0909  
Communications Integrator - UAW: Daniel Macut  
Direct Connect: 131\*128\*3895; cell: (419) 408-1476  
Email submissions to [daniel.macut@gm.com](mailto:daniel.macut@gm.com)  
Communications Manager - GM: Wanda Wellman - 5280

**Deadline for POWERLine is 3:00 p.m. Tuesday.**

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## Black History Month

**Black History Month quotes help put the month into perspective.**

Here is a compilation quotes from prominent people worth reflecting on this Black History Month. Feel free to share and pass along with your family and friends.

“Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise. I rise. I rise.” -Maya Angelou

“Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated.” -Coretta Scott King

“I have learned over the years that when one’s mind is made up, this diminishes fear.” -Rosa Parks

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” -Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Early African American Inventions

<u>Name</u>	<u>Invention</u>
James Forten	Modern design for ship's sail
Norbert Rillieux	Refining sugar
Jan Earnst Matzeliger	Shoe lasting machine
Temple Louis	Temple's Toggle Harpoon
Lewis Howard Latimer	Water Closet for rail cars Process / Carbon filaments Locking racks for hats and coats
Granville T. Woods	Patent-steam boiler furnace Railway telegraph
Elijah McCoy	Ironing table / lawn sprinkler
Joseph Lee	Bread making machine

## Thank You

Mark Castillo wishes to thank everyone that donated to the American Heart Association. Mark helped his niece collect \$200 for her school project and your support is greatly appreciated.

## From the Chaplaincy Committee

*“How we think shows through in how we act. Attitudes are mirrors of the mind. They reflect thinking.”*

*...David Joseph Schwartz*

## Assembly Update:

**From our last week ending Jan. 31, 2010**

Total build scheduled	9,330
Total actual build	9,394
Production conformance to schedule	95.8 %
Next week's daily build	1,866

***Schedules are subject to change. These figures are based on the best information we have at this time.***