


Today's Deal!
DealChicken.com



83% off a 4 or 6 Night Stay at Cerritos Surf Colony in Todos Santos, Mexico!

Click here to sign up to receive great deals like this one via email. A new deal hatches EVERY DAY! Deal available for purchase online today only.

ADVERTISEMENT

Sign up Log in eEdition Stay Connected Customer Service Shopping Homes Jobs Cars Classifieds Advertise

Autos Autos Insider

TRENDING TOPICS URBAN MEYER ELIZABETH TAYLOR TIME PERSON OF YEAR BRANDON KNIGHT LIGHT RAIL ROBERT FICANO COBO CENTER

Home Auto Autos Insider

DECEMBER 14, 2011 AT 1:00 AM

Cobo Center stretching out for auto show

Next month's big event will showcase renovations, addition

BY STEVE PARDO THE DETROIT NEWS 0 COMMENTS



Purchase Image

The improvements and refurbishments will increase the usable space from about 755,000 square feet to more than 850,000 square feet. (Steve Perez / The Detroit News)

Detroit — Visitors to next month's North American International Auto Show will have more room to view vehicles, due to a 25,000-square-foot expansion and other renovations that workers are completing in time for the January event.

Cobo Center officials hosted a walking tour Tuesday to give journalists a peek at the renovations and additions, even as crews work to get the existing portions in place for the annual show.

"We've come a long way in a short time," said Thom Connors, Cobo Center general manager. "The people working here are passionate about making it

2011 Silverado All-Star Edition

0% APR 72 MONTHS

+\$500 bonus cash for qualified buyers*



CHEVY'S GIVING MORE

SEE DETAILS

*Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1,000 you finance. Average example down payment is 9%. Some customers will not qualify. Take delivery by 1/1/12. Not available with some other offers. See dealer for details.

ADVERTISEMENT

Most Popular

Urban Meyer a recruiting threat for Michigan State, Michigan

National media turning bullish on Lions

Ficano: \$350K for legal costs

Pistons rookie Brandon Knight boosting team's energy

Detroit Meijer project aided, Whitney redevelopment OK'd

Pavel Datsyuk ignites offense as Red Wings beat Penguins

Rapid buses bump light rail plan

Michigan State basketball enters critical juncture

Ford wins tax credits to redevelop former Wixom assembly plant

Michigan escapes with ugly win

Recommend

Tweet 2

0

EMAIL

PRINT

SHARE

AAA

better."

The project involved expanding a loading dock and enclosing an existing dock, which makes it easier to maintain and reduces energy costs. Upgrades also include a food court and lighting improvements.

The \$300 million project also involves big changes to Cobo Arena. The seats have been torn out, the walls knocked in and concrete rubble rests on the ground. But by this time next year, Cobo officials promise it will be transformed into the largest ballroom in Michigan, ready to host concerts, theatrical events and, of course, automotive displays.

It is the final phase of major renovations since the Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority took control in 2009. The improvements and refurbishments will increase the usable space from about 755,000 square feet to more than 850,000 square feet.

Recent studies have shown a need for not necessarily bigger but rather more efficient conference centers, said Tom Constand, director of communications for the facility authority.

"You need to make the existing space more usable, more adaptable, more flexible," Constand said.

Meanwhile, laborers worked on elaborate lighting setups and were sectioning off areas in preparation for January's auto show. The main floor was reminiscent of the preparations for a rock concert, with the rigging and trusses set up to contain the complex light fixtures.

The comparison isn't far off, said Patrick Stansfield, the project manager for the lighting company PRG in Troy. Auto show preparations are similar to those for rock concerts, and Stansfield has worked on setups and lighting for performers including Neil Diamond and Barbra Streisand.

"What were trying to do is be very exact in our engineering," Stansfield said as crews worked on what will be the Chrysler section at the auto show.

Crews need to match the symmetry of autos to properly showcase the vehicles, he said.

"Unlit cars are not very interesting. Unlit cars look like cars in a parking lot," Stansfield said.

Renovations also include adding 400 parking spaces at Washington and Congress, removing an escalator and modernizing another to improve the crowd flow at the main level.

spardo@detnews.com

(313) 222-2112

Join the Conversation

The Detroit News aims to provide a forum that fosters smart, civil discussions on the news and events that we cover. The News will not condone personal attacks, off topic posts or british language on our site. If you find a comment that you believe violates these standards, please click the "X" in the upper right corner of the post to report it. Note: Some glitches have been reported when sharing comments on Facebook, we'll keep working to improve your user experience.



Artist's rendering of part of the planned renovations to Cobo.

2012 MALIBU LS

SIGN AND DRIVE FOR QUALIFIED GM EMPLOYEES AND ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBERS

\$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT DUE AT SIGNING

\$208 PER MONTH 39 MONTHS* w/ 38 MONTHLY PAYMENTS

Tax, title, license and dealer fees extra. Mileage charge of \$.20/mile over 39,000 miles

LEARN MORE >

CHEVY'S GIVING MORE

*Example based on survey. Each dealer sets their own price. Your payments may vary. Payments are for a 2012 Malibu LS with an MSRP of \$22,785. 38 monthly payments total \$7,804. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. Ally Financial, Inc. must approve lease. Mileage charge of \$.20/mile over 39,000 miles. Lessee pays for excess wear. Not available with other offers. Residency restrictions apply. Take delivery by 1/3/12.

ADVERTISEMENT

Events Calendar



Holiday Trees
Thursday, Dec 22, 10:00 am
The Detroit Zoo, Royal Oak



Holiday Nights in...
Thursday, Dec 22, 6:30 pm
Greenfield Village - Tree Farm, Dearborn

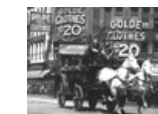


epiphany glass studio...
Saturday, Dec 24, 12:00 pm
Epiphany Glass Studio, Pontiac

Add an Event || More

- 14 Wed
- 15 Thu
- 16 Fri
- 17 Sat
- 18 Sun
- All events

- Top events
- Music
- Sports & Outdoors
- Restaurants
- Performing Arts
- Community
- Detroit events
- Movies



PhotoStore
Purchase outstanding photos from Detroit's past and present
Go to the PhotoStore