

RIDES **DID YOU KNOW?**

GM is recalling 1.5 million vehicles to fix problems with a heated windshield-washer system that could cause a fire. The recall covers several cars and SUVs from 2006 to 2009. GM will contact owners by mail or you can contact your dealer.

Let's recall memorable Mercurys

Production of Mercury vehicles will end this year. Over its 71-year existence, Mercury strove to offer more style and performance than Ford models, but those plans repeatedly fell victim to a lack of vision and corporate infighting. In spite of that, Mercury sold some memorable cars. Here are a few that show what Mercury might have become, if Ford had managed the brand effectively.

— Mark Phelan, Detroit Free Press



Getty Images

A Mercury badge was one of the line's few differences.

1949 Mercury sedan: The first car from a combined Lincoln-Mercury division, this low-slung sedan became a favorite with street rodders, police departments and James Dean's character in *Rebel Without a Cause*. A mainstay of ZZ Top videos and album covers.

1967-70 Cougar: This fashionable European-inspired sport coupe featured crisp lines and sequential turn signals.

1971-77 Mercury Capri and Capri II: This German-built coupe was among the first sporty compacts sold by an American automaker.

1988-89 Merkur Scorpio: A rebadged version of Ford's big European sedan, the Scorpio was another attempt to give Mercury international flair. Merkur was a separate brand, but its cars were sold only by

Lincoln-Mercury dealers. The Scorpio was the brainchild of Bob Lutz, who ran Ford of Europe before going on to become the product guru at Chrysler and GM.

1991-94 Mercury Capri: Italian design graced a little front-wheel drive roadster that went on sale just before Mazda introduced the Miata. Weak performance and poor quality undid it.

1999-2002 Cougar: A dramatic design that was Ford's last attempt to create a distinct Mercury look. The compact coupe had sporty and precise handling.

2003-04 Marauder: This high-performance version of the Grand Marquis sedan was the last Mercury that mattered. An instant collector's car.

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Auto Credit Amnesty Sale Helps Improve Consumer Credit Ratings This Weekend at Local Dealership

Tampa, FL - This weekend, Kuhn Honda has been selected as the Hillsborough County location to host an automotive credit amnesty event sponsored by federally insured banks and lending institutions. Over \$7,500,000 has been secured for this event to lend to anyone regardless of credit history. The reason for this event is to help improve consumer credit ratings and to dispose of excess vehicles as automotive manufacturers prepare to ship new models.

"We've been interested in an auto amnesty event of this scope for some time now," said Tony Swain, Director of Auto Amnesty 2010. "Over 200 vehicles are inventoried, and the lenders are ready." Pre-owned vehicles at this event will be priced from just \$1,991, according to Swain. "We're offering prices starting that low on anything out there," he said. "We'll have cars, trucks, vans and sport utilities. We've got what you're looking for." To commemorate this event, special finance programs have been created to aid in retailing the large number of vehicles set aside for this event. Auto Amnesty 2010 has not only been designed to allow anyone to qualify for an auto loan, but also to make buying a quality new or pre-owned vehicle easy and affordable.

According to Swain, rebuilding credit is based on successfully taking a couple of simple yet necessary steps: To begin with, a consumer with troubled credit needs to maximize the opportunities and programs designed to meet the needs of a buyer that has a credit score that is

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-Tony Swain, Auto Amnesty 2010

less than perfect. "Auto Amnesty 2010 is that opportunity," he said. "Secondly, you've got to set yourself up for success.

This is why we're able to help so many local consumers with stressed credit. We'll allow them to make payments as low as \$159 with little or no money down in order to assure their successful loan fulfillment. We stock these events with popular brands so consumers can enjoy driv-

ing the vehicle they're rebuilding their credit on.

In fact, manufacturers represented will be Honda, BMW, Toyota, Hyundai, Ford, Kia, General Motors, Chrysler, Mercedes, Nissan, Jeep and VW."

Another major benefit of Auto Amnesty 2010 is no charge loan and lease termination. Regardless of the amount you still owe, the number of miles you drove or the condition of your current vehicle, finance specialists can terminate any loan for no charge. "This is the opportunity for individuals whose financial situation has changed, or who took on more than they could handle to get a car payment they can actually afford," said Tony Swain. For location information and to pre-register for Auto Amnesty 2010, call 813.872.4841. This event will take place Thursday June 10th through Sunday June 13th.

"This may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the people living in Hillsborough and surrounding counties to be pardoned from past credit problems," said Tony Swain, "because sometimes bad credit happens to good people." Kuhn Honda is located at 3900 W. Kennedy Blvd., just one block west of Dale Mabry Hwy in Tampa.

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