

## The Last Generation of Town Cars



Representing the last generation of Town Cars is this 2008 model.

*Welcome to the Northstar News, the monthly publication of the Northstar Region of the Lincoln and Continental Owners Club. We value your opinions and appreciate your input concerning this newsletter and the operation of the club. This is your club.*

This month we are featuring the final installment of the Lincoln Town Car's three-part series. The third generation 1998 Town Car was introduced in the fall of 1997 and was a completely redesigned model. The public received the new model well, initially proving to be a good-selling automobile. The Town Car and the Cadillac Sedan DeVille were the last true American branded luxury cars. And, the Town Car was the last of the large, full-sized sedans for the Lincoln brand. Truly the end of an era. The Lincoln MKS, offered from 2008 through 2016 was thought to be a successor to the Town Car, but it was much smaller, and was not favored by the more traditional Town Car buyers. The MKS was a fine car in its own right, but it just didn't have the same cachet that made the Town Car popular with the older buyers.

The Town Car was built on the same platform as the Ford Crown Victoria and the Mercury Grand Marquis and shared many common items. All three were fairly good cars, very reliable, and noted for being easy to repair. Eventually, however, Ford did not keep up with trends in the luxury car market, and sales started falling off. Buyers were becoming a fickle bunch and wanted the new and the latest. Had a new fourth generation been introduced in 2008 or 2009, perhaps we would still be seeing Town Cars in dealers' showrooms and more prevalent on the streets and highways. Surprisingly, there are still a lot of them in service. Many with 3-400,000 miles which attests to the well-engineered design and the tremendous durability of these fine vehicles. We have assembled several articles about the Town Car for this issue. We hope you find them interesting and perhaps

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Trivia from the Internet



Bill Murray  
American Actor  
And Comic

*Bill Murray was born September 21, 1950 in Evanston, Illinois, to Lucille Murray, a mail-room clerk, and Edward Joseph Murray II, a lumber salesman. He was raised in Wilmette, Illinois, a northern suburb of Chicago.*

*Murray and his eight siblings grew up in an Irish Catholic family. His paternal grandfather was from County Cork, while his maternal ancestors were from County Galway. Three of his siblings, John Murray, Joel Murray, and Brian Doyle-Murray, are also actors. A sister, Nancy, is an Adrian Dominican nun in Michigan; she has traveled the United States in two one-woman programs, portraying Catherine of Siena and Dorothy Stang. His brother Ed Murray died in 2020. Their father died in 1967 at the age of 46 from complications of diabetes when Bill was*

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Editors Message

October 2022

Dear Friends and Gentle Readers:

It is a time of bereavement for your editor. Sweet Olga has left us to begin her journey over the Rainbow Bridge to join those who have made the journey before her.

She left us at the end of August after receiving the diagnosis of an inoperable malignant tumor surrounding her heart. She made it for about two weeks, but her rapidly advancing illness got to the point where she was no longer interested in her favorite foods, including some of the best treats she loved. It was best not to continue her suffering any longer.

Olga dearly loved people of all ages, shapes, and sizes. She enjoyed going with her dad in the car, her favorites were the Mark VIII and the Continental, as they were easy for her to get in and out. Olga was a girl who had good taste; she thought that Lincolns were some of the best cars made and had nice comfortable seats for her to stretch out on.

One of her most favorite places was Lincoln of Bloomington. She was always welcomed there, and everyone fussed over her when she came to call. The good folks there gave Olga a lot of attention and made her feel as much at home as any of their customers. They even had a special dish of treats just for her. On our trips down to the Lincoln store, she soon learned to visually recognize some of the landmarks along the way. When we started getting close, she would look around, see some familiar scenery, and begin to get excited, barking anxiously and shaking until we arrived. She wanted to be first in the door to see her friends there and, hopefully

receive a fresh treat. I want to thank all of the fine folks down at Bloomington Lincoln for making her time at your store something special for her whenever she visited.

Olga also liked to attend our North Star events and was a regular fixture at our monthly board meetings. Over the years, she has met a lot of nice people through her dad's connection with the Lincoln club. I don't think that she would want us to grieve for her, and I believe that Olga would like us to think of her and smile while we try to remember her at her best.

In time, I would like to have another Sammy come and live with me. They know their roles as good friends and excellent companions... That is their job, and they seem to do it very well. Some friends who are active in the Samoyed Club of America heard of my recent loss. They do believe that while we should never forget about one of our canine companions that we have lost, we should think that our personal wounds would perhaps heal more quickly if another one of these large fluffy white creatures could come into my life. They also be-

lieve that it might be a good opportunity for me to provide a good, loving home to another Sammy.

Conversely, the new Sammy could provide me with friendship and companionship as we move further down the road of life. Another girl would be nice, perhaps three to six years of age, as I probably would not excel at puppy training. A search is on; let us see what the future holds for me.

Till next month.... David



Sweet Olga 2010 - 2022

Sweet Olga is in a melancholy mood. She is looking at some of the back issues of the Northstar News and checking out all of the ground she has covered in the last eight years that she has lived with her dad in Burnsville. She knows that she is not feeling well and that her remaining time is short. She was the best of companions and got to meet some really fine people over the years, and she enjoyed her life to the maximum. I am sure that she thought of each day as an interesting adventure and did her job keeping her dad on his toes, from getting him up in the morning to making sure that he went to bed at night. She brought joy to many, and now, sadness to her dad with her passing. Rest well, Sweet Olga, your work on this good earth of ours is done.

*Directors Message by Bob Johnson October 2022*

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17.

As a youth, Murray read children's biographies of American heroes like Kit Carson, Wild Bill Hickok, and Davy Crockett. He attended St. Joseph's grade school and Loyola Academy. During his teen years, he worked as a golf caddy to fund his education at the Jesuit high school, and was the lead singer of a rock band called the Dutch Masters and took part in high school and community theater. One of his sisters had polio and his mother suffered several miscarriages.

After graduating from Loyola Academy, Murray attended Regis University in Denver, Colorado, taking pre-medical courses, but quickly dropped out and returned to Illinois. Decades later, in 2007, Regis awarded him an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. On September 21, 1970, his 20th birthday, the police arrested Murray at Chicago's O'Hare Airport for trying to smuggle 10 pounds of cannabis, which he had allegedly intended to sell. It was discovered after Murray joked to the passenger next to him that he had packed a bomb in his luggage. Murray was convicted and sentenced to probation.

Career - Second City, National Lampoon - With an invitation from his older brother, Brian, Murray got his start at The Second City in Chicago, an improvisational comedy troupe, studying under Del Close. In 1974, he moved to New York City and was recruited by John Belushi as a featured

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It is hard to believe another October is just about here. In December 2001, Dave Gustafson helped me write my first column as your new Region Director; that column was over 20 years ago, and I still require his continuing help every month.

This year has really been difficult trying to recover from the COVID shutdowns and getting people out and about again. We were able to add over 25 new members to LCOC/ North Star Region this year because of the special membership rate of \$25 and the efforts of Jay White and Bob Roth in recruiting members at area car shows. Now, we need to find more area restaurants that offer our type of meals or buffets so we can meet and greet our new members over a good meal during the upcoming winter months. If you know of a good restaurant that our club would like, please let me or one of our directors know about it. Again we want your input.

Our Annual North Star Lunch and Auction is at Morris Car Collection Sunday, October 2, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. RSVP is done, but call Bob Johnson, we may still have room for you to attend, but you must call first on my cellphone at 651-587-1212.

Sunday, October 9, 2022. Driving tour to view fall leaf colors and breakfast at the Hilltop Retreat, 2896 1-1/2 St, Cumberland, Wisconsin, at 11 a.m. This is a special place for our North Star LCOC car club to do a driving tour, and it is about 8 miles northwest of Cumberland, Wisconsin. For those of you that would enjoy a caravan, we will meet at the White Bear Lake city offices, 4701 Highway 61 N, White Bear Lake, at 9 a.m. Sunday on October 9th. To make this a special tour of western Wisconsin, after breakfast, going home, we will go through Cumberland, with stops, if you wish at Louis Special Meat Market and the Turtle Lake Casino or any other place of interest. Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 4. Call Bob Johnson at 651-257-1715 or email [arborbob41@aol.com](mailto:arborbob41@aol.com) if you plan to attend.

Our Facebook page now shows us with likes from 888 people. Please use our correct Facebook page, and the one to use is *North Star Lincoln Continental Car Club*.

We need your Pride and Joy Article about your favorite Lincoln and what makes it special to you. Please take the time to etch it on a piece of paper and send it off with some pictures to our North Star news editor, Dave Gustafson. Personal Lincoln stories make our newsletter the best in the LCOC and are what our members enjoy the most about our region. Again, we need your help; please write a story about your Lincoln straightaway.

Jay White and Bob Roth have been traveling around the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area, and attending car shows of all types and sizes. By doing this, they have successfully rounded up a few new members. Please try to follow their lead and have a few membership applications handy to give any other non-Lincoln club member you might run into. Our members may very well be our best recruiters as they know about the club and how nice it is to be a member.

Membership forms are available from anyone on the board. Please pass it on to a prospective member, or put it on a Lincoln that you know that is not in our club. Please write down the person's name or any other information if there is a windshield card. Pass it on to Bob Johnson, and he will try to follow up for you. We need to call every person you can find to tell them about our club. Personal contact is the best way we can grow our club. Please help us out and be our best recruiter. Please call me if you have any suggestions on how to find new Lincoln owners for our club.

We are now in the process of planning for 2023; please get in touch with one of the North Star Region Board members if you have a suggestion for next year's activities.

As always, keep the journey continuing in our marvelous Lincolns.

*Bob and Mary Johnson...*

# Board Of Directors - 2022 - 2023

Title	Name	Phone Numbers	email	Term Ends
Regional Director	Bob Johnson	H(651)257-1715	arborbob41@aol.com	2023
Secretary	Chris Struble	(952)679-0342	cgstruble@fedex.com	2023
Treasurer	Matt Foley			2022
Activities Director	Jay White	H(612)559-3219	jay@jwhiteandassoc.com	2023
Director	Bob Roth	H(763)475-1429		2023
Publications/ Membership	Dave Gustafson	H(952)435-1919	davidwgustafson@att.net	2022
Director	Tom Brace	H(651)644-1716	trbrace@comcast.net	2022
Director	Bill Holaday	H(763)402-1171	bill.holaday59@gmail.com	2023
Director	Jeff Eisenberg	(612)521-3537	Jeff.eisenberg@libsontruck.com	2023
Director	Dave Heeren	(952)469-3647	dheeren41@hotmail.com	2022

Members and guests are welcome to attend the Board Meetings. Our meeting location, unless otherwise specified, will be held at Bloomington Lincoln in their conference room. Meeting time will be 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month, except December.

Articles and other information for the newsletter should be sent to David Gustafson, Editor, at 308 Brandywine Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337. email: davidwgustafson@att.net

## The last generation of Town Cars continued...

*(Continued from page 1)*

increase your knowledge about the Lincoln flagship of prior years.

The third generation (1998 – 2011) of the Lincoln Town Car was unveiled at the 1997 New York International Auto Show, going on sale in November 1997. For the 1998 model year, all three Panther-platform sedans underwent complete exterior and interior redesigns, with the Town Car given the most extensive revision. Shifting away from the straight-lined design language used by full-size Lincoln sedans for over 35 years, the 1998 Town Car adopted the rounded exterior of the Lincoln Mark VIII and 1995 Lincoln Continental. The third-generation Town Car was introduced nearly concurrently with the Lincoln Navigator, the first SUV sold by the Lincoln division.

The third generation of the Town Car marked several major changes within Lincoln-Mercury. From 1999 to 2002, the Lincoln-Mercury division became a brand of Premier Automotive Group, a division of Ford created to manage its premium automotive brands acquired during the 1990s; following organizational difficulties (leading to Lincoln once again falling behind Cadillac in sales by 2000), Lincoln-Mercury was restored under its previous divisional structure during 2002. As part of The Way Forward, the 2007 closure of Wixom Assembly Plant was announced, initially putting the future of the Town Car at risk. To continue the Town Car, for the 2008 model year, production of the Town Car was transferred to the St. Thomas Assembly plant in Canada, alongside the Ford Crown Victoria and Mercury Grand Marquis.

Chassis - For its redesign in the 1998 model year, the Lincoln Town Car retained the Ford Panther platform that had underpinned its predecessor. To improve the cornering stability of the Town Car, a Watt's linkage was fitted to the solid rear axle suspension (a change also seen in its Mercury and Ford counterparts). The front brake calipers were changed to a larger dual-piston design; 16-

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The Town Car interior was not lavish, but tastefully elegant in its own way.

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player on *The National Lampoon Radio Hour*.

*Saturday Night Live* (1977-1980) - In 1975, an Off-Broadway version of a *Lampoon* show led to his first television role as a cast member of the ABC variety show *Saturday Night Live with Howard Cosell*. That same season, another variety show titled *NBC's Saturday Night* premiered. Cosell's show lasted just one season, canceled in early 1976. After working in Los Angeles with the "guerrilla video" commune TVTV on several projects, Murray rose to prominence in 1976. He officially joined the cast of *NBC's Saturday Night Live* for the show's second season, following the departure of Chevy Chase. Murray was with *SNL* for three seasons from 1977 to 1980. A *Rutland Weekend Television* sketch Monty Python's Eric Idle brought for his appearance on *SNL* developed into the 1978 mockumentary *All You Need Is Cash* with Murray (alongside other *SNL* cast members) appearing as "Bill Murray the K", a send-up of New York radio host Murray the K, in a segment of the film that is a parody of the Maysles Brothers's documentary *The Beatles: The First U.S. Visit*. During the first few seasons of *SNL*, Murray was in a romantic relationship with fellow cast member Gilda Radner.

1980s: Work with

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## Northstar Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2022

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

The meeting was called to order at Bloomington Lincoln by Regional Director Bob Johnson at 6:10 p.m.

Board members attending the meeting were Bob Johnson, Dave Gustafson, Bob Roth, Jay White, Dave Heeren, and Matt Foley. The Board members not present were Tom Brace, Bill Holaday, Chris Struble, and Jeff Eisenberg. The minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of this meeting were approved.

Director reports:

The meeting started with an update on COVID-19, which is still a concern for club activities.

Upcoming activities were discussed:

The club will be having a Sunday buffet at the Bungalow Inn Restaurant September 11 at 11:30 a.m. in Lakeland, Minnesota, 1151 Rivercrest Rd N, just one block northeast of I-94 and MN 95, Exit just before the bridge to Hudson.

The annual North Star Region, free catered lunch and auction at Morries Classic Car Collection. The date is Sunday, October 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The location is Morries in Long Lake, Minnesota. Seating for lunch is limited to 80 persons, so please RSVP to Bob Johnson by Wednesday, September 21, with the number attending for the meal. Please note if you are only attending to view the car collection, you still need to RSVP and specify no lunch. Call Bob Johnson at 651-257-1715 or email [arborbob41@aol.com](mailto:arborbob41@aol.com).

Sunday, October 9, 2022. We will have a driving tour to view fall leaf colors and breakfast/brunch at the Hilltop Retreat, Cumberland, Wisconsin. For those who would enjoy a caravan, we will meet at the White Bear Lake city offices at 9 a.m. Sunday, 10/9/22, the address is 4701 Highway 61 N, White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Or you can tour directly there; the address is Hilltop Retreat, 2896 1-1/2 St, Cumberland, Wisconsin. Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 4 by calling Bob Johnson at 651-257-1715 or email [arborbob41@aol.com](mailto:arborbob41@aol.com)

With the popularity of going to car shows this year, here is a possible North star region-sponsored schedule for car shows for 2023:

- Bloomington Lincoln in June
- Out-State Car show and Tour to Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, May
- North Star Region Lincoln and Classic American car show at Black Smith Lounge, Hugo, Minnesota, July
- 10th Annual Lincoln Homecoming, Hickory Corners, Michigan, August 10-13
- No LCOC Mid-America or Eastern National Meets yet scheduled

Dave Heeren updated the Directory project that will feature a color picture with your favorite Lincoln. The plan is to have it completed in January.

Membership update: We have four new members, thanks to Jay White and Dave Gustafson. Jay White reported that our Facebook page now has 888 likes, up 34 during the past month

**Next Meeting to be held at Bloomington Lincoln Thursday, October 6 at 6 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Chris Struble.

# Third Generation TC continued...

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 Harold Ramis - Murray landed his first starring role with the film *Meatballs* in 1979. He followed this with a portrayal of Hunter S. Thompson in 1980's *Where the Buffalo Roam*. In the early 1980s, he collaborated with writer-director Harold Ramis and starred in a string of box-office hits, including *Caddyshack*, *Stripes*, and *Tootsie*. Murray was the first guest on NBC's *Late Night with David Letterman* on February 1, 1982. (He later appeared on the first episode of the *Late Show with David Letterman* on August 30, 1993, when the show moved to CBS. On January 31, 2012 - 30 years after his first appearance with Letterman - Murray appeared again on his talk show. He appeared as Letterman's final guest when the host retired on May 20, 2015.)  
 Murray began work on a film adaptation of the novel *The Razor's Edge*. The film, which Murray co-wrote, was his first starring role in a drama film. He later agreed with Columbia Pictures to star in *Ghostbusters*—in a role originally written for John Belushi—to get financing for *The Razor's Edge*. *Ghostbusters* became the highest-grossing film of 1984 and, at the time, the highest-grossing comedy ever. *The Razor's Edge*, which was filmed before

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 inch wheels became standard.

For 2003, the chassis of the Town Car was extensively redesigned and changes were made to the tuning of the suspension. The steering system was changed from a recirculating-ball to a rack-and-pinion configuration.



The Town Car is powered by the Ford family 4.6 liter V8 engine rated at a maximum of 239 horsepower toward the end of the model run. Very reliable and very economical, many owners experienced miles-per-gallon economy in the mid-twenties.

**Powertrain** - In the redesign, the Lincoln Town Car carried over its Modular V8 (shared with the Crown Victoria/Grand Marquis). For the first time since its 1991 introduction, the 4.6 L SOHC V8 saw an increase in output, rising to 200 hp in Executive/Signature models; dual exhaust Town Cars produced 220 hp in Cartier trim with 239 hp in Signature Touring versions. In 2000, the V8 was retuned to 200/215 hp, rising to 220/235 hp in 2001. For 2003, the powertrain would get a final power increase, rising to 224/239 hp.



The drivers side exterior door handle. Retained is the SeruriCode entry code pad.

**Exterior** - While three inches shorter than its 1997 predecessor, the 1998 Town Car gained two inches in width and an inch in

height (becoming the tallest Lincoln sedan in 40 years). In a major break from Lincoln styling tradition, the Town Car abandoned many of the straight-edged lines of its predecessor. Adopting styling cues of the outgoing Mark VIII and the 1995 Continental, the Town Car adopted a curved design scheme in place of the previous straight-lined body. While the radiator grille was retained, its rectangular shape was changed to oval (its waterfall pattern was adopted by the Lincoln Navigator introduced alongside it), and the hood ornament was deleted.

The curved design scheme carried further to the rear of the Town Car, in the C-pillar (losing its opera windows) into the trunk lid. To differentiate from its Mercury counterpart, the Town Car switched to individual tail lamps, deleting the filler panel on the trunk lid; a large chrome surround was used on the trunk lid to mount the license plate.

In 2001, the stretched Town Car L was introduced, with a six-inch stretch in its wheelbase. To produce the variant at a lower cost, the B-pillar was widened on 2001-2002 versions to use the existing rear door glass of the standard Town Car. In 2003, the Town Car L was redesigned, giving it model-specific doors proportioned to the longer roofline; these versions are distinguished by wider rear quarter glass in the doors.

In 2003, coinciding with the chassis redesign, the body of the Town Car underwent a number of changes. To bring it in line with contemporary Lincoln vehicles, the lower body was squared off; the oval grille was redesigned in the style of the Lincoln LS; the hood ornament made its return after a 5-year absence.

**Interior** - As with its predecessors, the 1998 Lincoln Town Car visibly shares few common interior parts with its Ford and Mercury counterparts (aside from its steering column, radio, and climate controls). To improve ergonomics, power seat controls on Signature and Cartier models are relocated from the seat to door panel (Executive Series, in 1999). Seat-mounted side airbags become standard on all Town Cars for 1999. In the same year, the Executive Series regained its rear-seat center armrest (initially deleted in a cost-cutting move). A new in-vehicle telematics system, called "RESCU", included a rearview mirror with integrated microphone and SOS and roadside assistance buttons, and replaced the previ-

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## More on the Last Gen TC...

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*Ghostbusters* was released, was a box-office flop.

Frustrated over the failure of *The Razor's Edge*, Murray stepped away from acting for four years to study philosophy and history at Sorbonne University, frequent the Cinémathèque in Paris, and to spend time with his family in their Hudson River Valley home. During that time, his second son, Luke, was born. With the exception of a cameo in the 1986 film *Little Shop of Horrors*, he made no film appearances. Murray returned to films with *Scrooged* in 1988 and *Ghostbusters II* in 1989.

In 1990, Murray made his first and only attempt at directing when he co-directed *Quick Change* with producer Howard Franklin. In 1991, he starred in the Frank Oz comedy film *What About Bob?* (1991) alongside Richard Dreyfus. The film was a box office hit. In 1993, he starred in the Harold Ramis fantasy comedy *Groundhog Day*. The film was an immense critical success. Hal Hinson, film critic for *The Washington Post* praised Murray's performance, writing in his film review that, "Murray is a breed unto himself, a sort of gonzo minimalist. And he's never been funnier as a comedian or more in control as an actor than he is here. It's easily his best movie." That same year, he starred in the comedy film, *Mad Dog and Glory* alongside Robert De Niro and Uma Thurman.

Critic Vincent Canby of *The New Yorker* wrote in

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ous in-car telephone with a portable Motorola Timeport cellular telephone that now featured voice recognition. The system was discontinued after the 2003 model year.

For its 2003 redesign, the interior of the Lincoln Town Car saw extensive changes. To differentiate the Town Car from the Mercury Grand Marquis, the radio and climate controls were integrated into a single unit with an analog clock; the interior was given a model-specific wood trim bordered by satin metal.

The redesign included new seats, distinguished by taller head restraints. Alongside the Lincoln LS, the 2003 Town Car introduced a DVD-based satellite navigation system designed by Pioneer; it was later paired with THX sound processing. On all Town Cars except for Executive Series, ultrasonic park assist was standard, alongside a power-open/close trunk lid.



Later models could be had with the THX sound system, simple to use, but rich in features, including a navigation system. Near the top of the picture is the signature Cartier clock. Literally, timeless beauty.

For 2004, the "Soundmark" standard stereo system is redesigned to offer dual-media capability (AM/FM/cassette/CD). For 2005, for the first time since 1996, the Town Car received a redesigned steering wheel. For 2006, the instrument panel was redesigned, with the Town Car gaining a tachometer alongside its Ford and Mercury counterparts; The Town Car was one of the last American-market vehicles sold without one.

As part of the 2008 shift in assembly plants, to streamline production, Lincoln deleted or standardized many features of the Town Car, leaving only four remaining options: HID headlamps, whitewall tires, polished 18-spoke wheels (in place of 10-spoke "machine-finish" wheels), and a trunk organizer.

**Trim** - At its redesign for 1998, the Lincoln Town Car was produced in three trim levels: Executive Series (primarily for fleets and livery sales), Signature Series, and Cartier Designer Edition. From 1998 to 2002, Lincoln offered the Signature Series Touring; essentially the Lincoln counterpart to the Handling and Performance Package option for the Ford Crown Victoria/Mercury Grand Marquis, the Signature Series Touring offered suspension upgrades to optimize handling.

For 2002, the Town Car line was expanded as Lincoln introduced a Premium option package for the Signature Series, Cartier, and Signature Touring; the Premium option package is distinguished by a glass sunroof.

For 2003, the Town Car was redesigned to have a new look and the Executive became the base model. The Signature was the next step up, and then the Cartier and Cartier L. A new "SoundMark" premium audio system, featuring nine premium speakers (including a rear deck-mounted subwoofer, coaxial front and rear speakers, and an amplifier), became available, and was paired with a dual-media AM/FM stereo radio with integrated cassette and CD players. A trunk-mounted CD changer was still available, though an AM/FM stereo radio with an in-dash CD player replaced the cassette-only unit (the standard sound system still featured four speakers mounted in the front doors and rear deck of the Town Car).

For 2004, several shifts were made to the model line, with the Executive becoming available solely for fleet/livery customers and the Cartier discontinued altogether. To replace the Cartier, Lincoln introduced the Town Car Ultimate. Ultimate buyers could now opt for "upgraded" leather seat trim. A touchscreen GPS navigation system radio became available for the first time, available on the new Ultimate trim. For 2005, the Ultimate was replaced by the Signature Limited (first introduced as an option in 2000) along with the Designer Series in 2006-2007. Also in 2005, Signature Limited models equipped with the GPS navigation system radio also came equipped with a new THX Certified premium audio system, adding tweeter speakers in the upper corners of the front door panels, and a more powerful amplifier, and all Town Car models could be paired

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## Last Gen TC continued...

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his review, "The great satisfaction of *Mad Dog and Glory* is watching Mr. De Niro and Mr. Murray play against type with such invigorating ease."

2000s - Murray decided to take a turn towards more dramatic roles and experienced a resurgence in his career, taking on roles in *Wild Things*, *Cradle Will Rock*, *Hamlet* (as Polonius), and *The Royal Tenenbaums*. In 2003, he appeared in Sofia Coppola's *Lost in Translation* and went on to earn a Golden Globe Award, a BAFTA Award, and an Independent Spirit Award, as well as Best Actor awards from several film critic organizations.

During this time, Murray still appeared in comedic roles such as *Charlie's Angels* and *Osmosis Jones*. In 2004, he provided the voice of Garfield in *Garfield: The Movie*, and again in 2006 for *Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties*. Murray later said that he only took the role because he was under the mistaken impression that the screenplay, co-written by Joel Cohen, was the work of Joel Coen. In 2004, he made his third collaboration with Wes Anderson in *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* and in 2005 his second collaboration with Jim Jarmusch in *Broken Flowers*. That same year, Murray announced that he was taking a hiatus from acting as he had not had the time to relax since his new breakthrough in the late 1990s. In 2009, Murray had a memorable cameo role as himself in the

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with Sirius Satellite Radio, regardless of radio option. Effectively replacing the Cartier, the Designer Series offered a two-tone interior with Provenca leather and adjustable head restraints; the exterior was distinguished by chrome wheels and B-pillar trim.

For 2008 through 2011, the Signature Limited became the sole trim available on the standard-wheelbase Town Car along with the long-wheelbase Signature L; the Executive Series remained in production for fleet and livery sales. The dual-media cassette and CD player radio was replaced with a six-disc, in-dash CD changer unit, and both the trunk-mounted CD changer and GPS navigation radio were discontinued, as was the THX Certified premium audio system.



Drivers seat and window controls also are easy-to-use and are part of the drivers door panel.

**Special editions** – Touring - Intended to enhance the driving appeal of the Lincoln Town Car, the *Touring/Touring Sedan* was an option package for Signature Series Town Cars from 1998 to 2002. Essentially, the Lincoln counterpart of the Ford Crown Victoria/Mercury Grand Marquis Handling and Performance Package, the Touring option package featured a dual-exhaust 239 hp V8, heavy-duty KONI shocks, revised suspension bushings, wider 16-inch wheels with 235 mm tires, a 3.55 rear-axle ratio, and revised steering tuning. Town Cars with the option package featured a black-painted grille, exterior chrome delete, black wood interior (fitted with perforated leather seats, and a JBL sound system).

**Limited Edition** - In 2003, Lincoln offered a Limited trim; having Limited badges on the C-pillar, fog lights, heated and memory seats, as well as Arden inserts in the rims and grille. For 2005, the Limited offered

two-tone paint schemes (in addition to two-tone seats) with Limited badges on the C-pillar as well, but no fog lights.

**Pro Series** - Offered in 2004, a special Pro-series badge was placed on the C-pillars; having the background of a golf course. This badge was stitched onto the front seats, in addition to having chrome 9-spoke rims and a two-tone color scheme.

**25th Anniversary Edition** - Lincoln commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Town Car by offering a 25th Anniversary Edition package on the 2006 Signature Limited. The package included chrome B-pillar and door handles, unique Eucalyptus wood applique and matching steering wheel with wood inserts, scuff plates with "25th Anniversary Edition" and "25th anniversary" badging, Provenca leather individual 40/20/40 lounge seating with individual comfort, shirring, contrast piping and rear seat adjustable headrests, fog lamps, and 9-spoke chrome wheels.

**Continental Edition** - Offered in 2010 and 2011 was the Continental Edition package; available as an option only on the Signature Limited trim. The package added Continental badging, chrome 17-inch wheels, and accents to the B-pillars. On the interior, the Continental name was embroidered on the front seats and front floor mats.

**Safety** - The Lincoln Town Car was the first production sedan in the world to receive US five-star crash ratings in every category.

**Livery variants** - Featuring a standard V8 engine, body-on-frame design, rear-wheel drive and large exterior and interior dimensions, the Town Car became popular in livery and commercial service. *In commercial service, the typical Lincoln Town Car saw a life expectancy of well over 400,000 miles. Its basis on the Ford Panther chassis gave it powertrain and suspension commonality with the Mercury Grand Marquis and the Ford LTD Crown Victoria (later the Crown Victoria). This design made them durable even in the rough conditions taxi and livery cars are subjected to, and easy and cheap to repair when they did suffer damage.*

The Lincoln Town Car was popular as a stretch limousine donor chassis; it was the most commonly used limousine and chauffeured car in the United States and Canada. Hearses and funeral cars were also built on the Town Car chassis, through Ford's QVM program; the chassis was modified by

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## A little more about the 3rd Gen TC

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zombie comedy *Zombieland* starring Woody Harrelson, Emma Stone and Jesse Eisenberg. Murray provided the voice for the character Mr. Badger in another Wes Anderson movie the 2009 animated film *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. The film went on to receive an Academy Award nomination for Best Animated Feature.

In 2012, Murray starred in Roger Michell's historical comedy *Hyde Park on Hudson*, where he played Franklin D. Roosevelt opposite Laura Linney who played Roosevelt's cousin Margaret Suckley and Olivia Williams who portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt. The film focuses on the 1939 visit at the Roosevelts' home *Hyde Park of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth* portrayed by Samuel West and Olivia Colman respectively. Murray received praise from critics with Roger Ebert writing, "Murray, who has a wider range than we sometimes realize, finds the human core of this FDR and presents it tenderly." Murray also received a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor - Motion Picture Musical or Comedy nomination for his performance.

There had been speculation that Murray might return to the *Ghostbusters* franchise for a rumored *Ghostbusters 3*. Murray once stated, "I'd do it only if my character was killed off in the first reel," and also, "You know, maybe I should just do it. Maybe it'd be fun to do." Eventually, he appeared in both the 2016

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coachbuilders for use in the funeral business, though Cadillac has always dominated in this market.

**Presidential State Car** - A 1989 Lincoln Town Car was commissioned by United States President George H. W. Bush as the Presidential State Car of the United States to succeed the 1983 Cadillac Fleetwood used during the Ronald Reagan administration.

The Presidential Town Car limousine arrived in 1989 and was the state car for the entire presidency of George H. W. Bush. It was succeeded by a 1993 Cadillac Fleetwood, used by his successor, Bill Clinton. As of 2021, the 1989 Lincoln Town Car is currently the last Lincoln vehicle to have served as a Presidential State Car.

**Town Car L** - A new "L" designation was used for extended-wheelbase Town Cars from 2000 to 2011. The L editions offered an additional 6 inches of rear-seat legroom, as well as remote access audio and climate controls mounted in the rear center armrest. Also included was a two-way travel switch for the front passenger seat base (a feature shared with the extended-wheelbase Jaguar XJ). The L designation was applied to the top-of-line Cartier (2000–2003), Ultimate (2004 only), and Signature (2005–2011) trim levels. Fleet buyers received it under the Executive L trim designation.

**Ballistic Protection Series** - Starting in 2003, the Lincoln Town Car had been available featuring ballistic protection from the factory. Adding nearly \$100,000 to the base price, the armored body and bulletproof glass raised the curb weight of the Town Car to nearly 7,000 pounds. Other changes included the suspension and brakes. Only a few dealers in the US were authorized to sell this series.

**Discontinuation** - During the 2000s, in spite of declining sales, the Town Car remained one of the highest-selling American-brand luxury sedans. Outside of retail markets, it was the most used limousine and chauffeured car in the United States and Canada.

In 2006, as part of The Way Forward, Ford considered ending production of Lincoln's largest model as part of the 2007 closing of the Wixom Assembly Plant. Industry observer George Peterson said "It blows everybody's mind that they are dropping the Town Car. Just think what Ford could do if they actually invested in a re-skin of Crown

Victoria, Grand Marquis, and Town Car."

Ultimately, Wixom Assembly was closed following the 2007 model year, with the production of the Town Car consolidated with the Ford Crown Victoria, Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor, and Mercury Grand Marquis in Canada at St. Thomas Assembly; the first Canadian-produced Town Car was assembled on January 10, 2008.



The steering wheel has the usual controls for the cruise control and sound system. The analog reading instruments are easy to read.

Following the 2007 model year, however, the Town Car was discontinued for retail sale in Canada, available exclusively for fleet and livery customers afterward. In 2009, the fate of all three Panther-platform models was determined when Ford announced the 2011 closure of the St. Thomas Assembly Plant. For the limousine and livery markets, Ford had promised availability of the Town Car through the 2011 model year; retail sales continued on a limited basis in the United States and for export. In 2010, Ford announced the closure of the Mercury brand at the end of the year, effectively making the Town Car the final model line sold for retail sale produced by St. Thomas Assembly (retail sales of the Crown Victoria ended after 2007).

On August 29, 2011, the final Town Car rolled off the assembly line, without any fanfare or announcement from Ford; St. Thomas Assembly produced its final vehicle (a 2012 Crown Victoria for export) on September 15, 2011.

While Lincoln has not developed a direct successor to the model line following its 2011 discontinuation, the use of the nameplate returned for 2012, denoting a variant of the Lincoln MKT designed for limousine/livery use. The MKT was discontinued after the 2019 model year without a direct replacement, marking the final use of the Town Car name; the nameplate was in use for 49 continuous

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*Ghostbusters* reboot as Martin Heiss, a cynical ghost debunker, which was released on July 15, 2016, and 2021's *Ghostbusters: Afterlife*.

On February 2, 2020, a commercial starring Murray aired during the Super Bowl referencing his role in the film *Groundhog Day* as Phil, with him stealing the groundhog and driving him to various places in the orange Jeep Gladiator.

Murray appeared in a small role in *The French Dispatch* reuniting him with Wes Anderson for the 9th time. It was set to premiere at the Cannes Film Festival on May 12, 2020, and get a wide release on July 24, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the festival was cancelled and the film was pulled from the schedule on April 3, 2020. The film was rescheduled for release on October 16, 2020, before being pulled from the schedule again on July 23, 2020. It ultimately premiered at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival and was released on October 22, 2021.

Murray reprised his role as Peter Venkman in *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* directed by Jason Reitman.

**Other Interests** - Murray is a partner with his brothers in Murray Bros. Caddy Shack, a restaurant with two locations. In 2001, they opened a location at the World Golf Village near St. Augustine, Florida. In 2018, the second location was opened inside the Crowne Plaza Rosemont Hotel near the O'Hare In-

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## More TC...

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years by Lincoln (30 as a distinct model line, 11 as a sub-model of the Continental, 8 of the MKT).



The color that the Town Car was best known for... Black. In virtually every large city, many of these black Town Cars were pressed into service for use as limousines ferrying important people from point A to point B.

**Awards** - The Town Car has received several awards and recognitions: *Forbes* magazine repeatedly named the Town Car one of the best cars to be chauffeured in along with other, often more expensive flagship sedans, such as the Mercedes-Benz S-Class, BMW 7 Series and Lexus LS. The Town Car Signature L features a rear seat comfort package which not only provides rear seat passengers with audio system and rear compartment climate controls, but also features a control function which allows for the rear seat occupants to move the passenger seat forward, a feature exclusive to few ultra-luxury sedans. In addition to its many amenities, the Signature L also features an unrivaled 46.9 in of rear legroom, and 60 in of rear shoulder room.

In 1990, upon the introduction of the second generation Town Car, the vehicle was named Motor Trend Car of the Year. However this award was later included by *Car and Driver* in a list of poorly chosen car of the year award winners. Motor Trend has changed the criteria by which it awards its highest accolade: Originally, Car of the Year awards went to the vehicle model which was the most significantly improved over the previous year's design in all respects. Currently, no such consideration is given to contenders for this award, and vehicles are considered for the award even if in their first year of production.

## Town Car Test Drive

The following is a test drive and overall evaluation of a 2007 Town Car, courtesy of AutoBlog, an on line source of information.

The Lincoln Town Car, a traditional American luxury car.

**INTRODUCTION** - The Lincoln Town Car is a big American luxury car. The Town Car is appealing for its spacious six-person seating and cavernous trunk, with plenty of storage for luggage and golf clubs. This is a traditional American luxury sedan. It's roomy and comfortable. It's smooth and stable. Its V8 engine and rear-wheel-drive layout give it a traditional feel. And it's luxurious.

People who buy Town Cars like them; The Town Car is the highest-rated American car in the mid-luxury segment, according to a J.D. Power and Associates customer-satisfaction study; 60 percent of all Town Car customers are repeat buyers. Some 75 percent of limousine and livery fleets are made up of this large American luxury sedan. Yet individuals still account for more than 65 percent of all Town Car sales.

After significant re-engineering for 2003, the Town Car has changed very little. Last year, each trim level got a new set of wheels. Changes for 2007 are limited to new paint colors.

The Town Car boasts a record Five-Star federal safety rating in five categories for four years in a row (2003-06).

**LINEUP** - The 2007 Town Car is available in four trim levels and two wheelbase lengths. Sharing the standard (117.7-inch) wheelbase are the Signature (\$42,175), Signature Limited (\$45,040), and Designer Series (\$47,300). Signature L (\$50,645), on the longer, 123.7-inch wheelbase, provides more headroom for all passengers and nearly six inches of additional legroom for those sitting in the rear seat.

Signature is a fully equipped luxury car, with premium leather seating surfaces, eight-way power driver and passenger seats with power lumbar support, dual-zone electronic automatic temperature control, overhead console, extended rear park assist, 17-inch 12-spoke machined aluminum wheels, dual-power remote-control heated outside mirrors with auto-dimming on the driver's side, auto-dimming inside rearview mirror, power-adjustable pedals, driver and passenger front dual-stage and side-impact airbags, CD play-

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## More Town Car drive test

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ternational Airport. He resides in Charleston, South Carolina and he is a very active community member.

In 1978, Murray appeared in two at-bats for the Grays Harbor Loggers Minor League Baseball team, credited with one hit and a lifetime batting average of .500.

He is a part-owner of the St. Paul Saints, a Minor League Baseball team of the International League and the Triple-A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins. Bill occasionally travels to Saint Paul, Minnesota to watch the team's games. He also owns part of the Charleston RiverDogs, the Hudson Valley Renegades, and the Brockton Rox. He has invested in a number of other minor league teams in the past, including the Utica Blue Sox, the Fort Myers Miracle, the Salt Lake Sting (APSL), the Catskill Cougars, and the Salt Lake City Trappers. In 2012, he was inducted into the South Atlantic League Hall of Fame for his ownership and investment activities in the league.

Being very detached from the Hollywood scene, Murray does not have an agent or manager and reportedly only fields offers for scripts and roles using a personal telephone number with a voice mailbox that he checks infrequently. This practice has the downside of sometimes preventing him from taking parts in films such as *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, *Monsters, Inc.*, *The Squid and the Whale*, *Charlie and the*

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er, remote fuel filler door release, remote keyless entry system, keyless entry keypad on driver door, automatic parking brake release, SecuriLock passive anti-theft ignition key system, speed control, steering wheel-mounted audio/climate controls, power pull-down trunk lid, SmartLock anti-lockout system and universal garage door opener. Options are limited to white-sidewall tires (\$125), a premium dual-media sound system (\$195), and some extra-cost paint colors. Signature Limited adds Soundmark audio-ophile dual-media sound system; leather-wrapped tilt steering wheel with wood inserts and audio, speed and climate controls; full power trunk with key fob open and close; memory driver's seat, pedals and mirrors; heated front seats; and its own 17-inch, 10-spoke machined aluminum wheels. The full range of options (see below) becomes available.

Designer adds chrome trim on the B-pillar, door handles, and its unique 18-spoke wheels. Provenca leather seating surfaces, adjustable rear head restraints, and two-tone door panels brighten its interior.

Signature L begins with Signature-level equipment and adds folding front and rear arm rests with storage; a rear seat amenities package with dual power points, four-way rear head restraints, tissue bin, illuminated cigar lighter, heated rear seats and remote controls for audio, climate and front passenger seat. A heavy-duty front stabilizer bar helps compensate for its six-inch longer wheelbase.

Major options include Navigation (\$2,995-\$3,600), HID headlamps (\$495), chromed wheels (\$895), trunk organizer (\$195), power glass sunroof (\$1,595), and a six-CD changer (\$605), which is available at no cost with the sunroof and/or on Signature L. Also available is a new THX-certified sound system.

WALKAROUND - The Lincoln Town Car is every bit as big as the cars people once thought Detroit would never build again. Need some figures for proof? The 1961 slab-sided, suicide-door Continental that has become an American icon rode on a wheelbase of 123 inches and weighed 4,927 pounds; the 2007 Lincoln Town Car Signature L stretches three-quarters of an inch longer and weighs only 409 pounds less. And at 4,129 pounds, the lightest short-wheelbase

2007 Town Car weighs only 36 pounds less than the great road-racing Lincolns of the early 1950s.

Machined-aluminum wheels highlight the Town Car at every trim level. Signature gets 12-spoke rims, while Signature Limited and long-wheelbase Signature L get a 10-spoke design. The Designer series comes with chrome-plated 18-spoke wheels. High-intensity discharge lamps are available, and they double the output of the standard halogen lights.

Little has changed since Lincoln last restyled the Town Car for the 2003 model year. Up front, a chromed, waterfall-style grille is flanked by quad-beam headlamps with a jeweled appearance. A stand-up four-point star hood ornament reminds owners that they are driving a Lincoln. The Division tried to retire the stand-up ornament earlier in the decade, but customers complained that they used it as a lane marker on the road and, to better locate the front of the car's long hood when parking.

The trunk lid opening is wide and low to make loading and unloading easier. Inside the trunk, the spare tire is stowed vertically behind the right rear tire, so you don't have to unload the trunk to get at it. A covered and removable storage tray fills the deepest part of the trunk well. When in position, the tray's cover raises the trunk floor and thus makes loading and unloading easier.

Like all Lincolns, the Town Car comes with a 48-month, 50,000-mile warranty, free maintenance through 36 months or 36,000 miles, 24-hour roadside assistance and transportation assistance, travel expense reimbursement, destination assistance and trip planning services, and a dedicated customer assistance center.

INTERIOR - The Town Car interior is plush and luxurious. It hasn't changed since the 2003 model year when it was redesigned with a new dashboard and instrument panel. It's a nice design. The instrument panel is elegant, even fun to look at. There's plenty of burl walnut veneer all around the interior, plus brushed satin metal panels, and a winged analog clock at the top center of the dash.

The up-level wood-and-leather steering wheel features buttons for cruise, audio, and climate controls. The instruments feature large, easy-to-read numbers. A digital speedometer easily monitors your speed as you

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## Town Car drive test continued

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*Chocolate Factory, and Little Miss Sunshine. When asked about this practice, however, Murray seemed content with his inaccessibility, stating, "It's not that hard. If you have a good script that's what gets you involved. People say they can't find me. Well, if you can write a good script, that's a lot harder than finding someone. I don't worry about it; it's not my problem."*

*Murray's popularity has been such that he holds an iconic status in American popular culture. Murray's eccentric style of comedy, both on-screen and in his personal life, has caused him to be seen as a folk hero to many making him a significant meme in various media including books and the Internet. In 2016 he was awarded the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor by the Kennedy Center.*

*On his birthday in 2016, Murray, along with his brother Joel, launched an apparel brand called William Murray Golf.*

*During the filming of Stripes, Murray married Margaret Kelly on January 25, 1981. Later, they remarried in Chicago for their families. Margaret gave birth to two sons, Homer and Luke. Following Murray's affair with Jennifer Butler, the couple divorced in 1996. In 1997, he married Butler. Together, they have four sons: Caleb, Jackson, Cooper, and Lincoln. Butler filed for divorce on May 12, 2008, ac-*

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drive quickly and quietly down the road. The doors open wide to make it easy to get out of the front and rear seats. Storage space abounds: A fold-down front armrest with a double-hinged top can be opened to either the driver's or passenger's side. Cupholders and a storage tray come out from the front edge of the center front seat. Storage pouches are sewn into the front cushion of the front seats. There are also hinged storage bins in the front doors, a large glove box. Atlas-sized pockets in the front seatbacks, and a fold-down rear armrest with storage and cupholders.

The interior is very quiet, with thick insulation in the floor, firewall and pillars. This allows maximum fidelity from the 145-watt Alpine sound system, which includes AM, FM, cassette and single CD play (a trunk-mounted six-disc changer is optional on all models except Signature). The audio system offers CD and cassette players for buyers who enjoy books on tape.

The long-wheelbase Signature L offers 45.4 inches of rear seat leg room, with 116.3 cubic feet of total passenger volume, compared to the standard model's 108.7 cubic feet.

Lincoln is selling several different kinds of luxury with the new Town Car, starting with its quietness, materials, and pure spaciousness, and the Signature L has more of that than any other luxury car on the market. Its rear-seat armrest contains controls for the rear climate control and the audio system, two additional 12-volt power points, an ashtray and lighter in each door, and a separate control that can adjust the fore/aft position of the right front seat. Heated rear seats are standard on the Signature L.

**DRIVING IMPRESSION** - Lincoln wants the character of all of its vehicles to be similar, so drivers will know they're driving a Lincoln regardless of whether the vehicle is a Town Car, an MKZ sedan, or a Navigator SUV. To make to soft-sprung Town Car handle like more youthful Lincolns, the Division has given it hydroformed rails for the front part of the frame, relatively lightweight front suspension components mounted to a cast-aluminum

cross member, monotube shock absorbers, powerful front brakes, carefully selected tires, sophisticated body and suspension mounts and variable-ratio rack-and-pinion steering.

All Town Cars have the same engine, a 239-hp 4.6-liter V8. The four-speed automatic transmission produces quick downshifts. The engine and transmission in our Signature L moved the big car from place to place quietly and efficiently, but lacked excitement and do not represent the current state of the art. Other cars in this class come with more powerful engines with a great deal of technical sophistication. The new paradigm in transmissions is five speeds, not four, with full electronic control of upshifting and downshifting and an electronic torque management program for smoothness. The Town Car transmission has partial electronic controls and only four speeds, which offers less flexibility, eats into gas mileage and dates the car.

The suspension system, which includes automatic load leveling in the rear, keeps the car relatively flat in the corners and provides a smooth, quiet highway ride and substantial amounts of understeer, just the right thing for a big, long, heavy car. However, while ABS and traction control are standard equipment, the chassis and suspension are completely devoid of any type of electronic yaw control system like almost all of its price and class competitors have, and it offers no electronically variable shock absorbers like those that come on the Cadillacs. Years ago, Lincoln promised increase power, an upgraded transmission and yaw-control technology, but we haven't seen it.

The Town Car offers what Lincoln describes as a creamy on-center feel to its steering while cruising down the Interstate, and it requires little effort to turn into parking spots. But steering and body movements are reasonably controlled for driving on curving country lanes and mountain roads. Careful positioning of the rear shock absorbers, plus directional rear body mounts, has reduced the tendency of many rear-drive, live-axle cars to hop sideways in tight turns. The Town Car belies its size and weight when pushed through the curves in the hill country. The modestly sized

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## Test driving the Town Car

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cusing Murray of domestic violence, infidelity, and addictions to sex, marijuana, and alcohol. Their divorce was finalized on June 13, 2008. Butler died on January 19, 2021.

Murray stated in a 1984 interview: "I'm definitely a religious person, but it doesn't have much to do with Catholicism anymore. I don't think about Catholicism as much."

In 2007, Murray was pulled over by Swedish police on suspicion of driving a golf cart under the influence of alcohol.

Murray has homes in Los Angeles; Rancho Santa Fe, California; Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts; Charleston, South Carolina; and Palisades, New York. Between 2008 and 2013, Murray maintained a residence in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Lower Manhattan.

Murray is a fan of several Chicago professional sports teams, especially the Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears, and the Chicago Bulls. (He was once a guest color commentator for a Cubs game during the 1980s.) He was in attendance, along with fellow Cubs fans John Cusack, Eddie Vedder, and Bonnie Hunt, during the Cubs' historic Game Seven victory during the 2016 World Series. Murray is an avid Quinnipiac University basketball fan, where his son served as head of basketball operations, and he is a regular fixture at home games. He cheered court-

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P225/60R-17 all-purpose tires are very quiet and relatively grippy. It's not just a Town Car; it's also a Country Car. Lincoln designed the latest Town Car to appeal more to younger, enthusiast drivers, but traditional customers should not notice any deterioration in the soft ride they expect and enjoy.

The brake pedal is responsive, completely without that when-is-this-thing-going-to-stop feeling and the high pedal pressure that was prevalent in older-generation full-size cars. Braking performance is exemplary for a 4500-pound sedan. The braking system features 12.0-inch ventilated discs in front, 11.5-inch ventilated discs at the rear, with stiff twin-piston calipers a large vacuum booster. The system comes with Brake Assist, which delivers maximum braking force when it detects quick, hard brake pedal inputs. ABS (antilock brake system) is, of course, standard. Brake pads are formulated not only for

long wear but to produce less dust, so owners who insist on immaculate wheels may not have to wash them as frequently.

SUMMARY - *The Lincoln Town Car is the only game in town if you are in the market for a large, traditional American rear-wheel-drive V8 luxury car. The Town Car remains the vehicle of choice for limousine services and for conservative buyers who want lots of room and a soft and quiet ride. It appeals to businessmen and women who need to carry lots of people and cargo but who also enjoy the driver's seat. But buyers looking for technical sophistication in a luxury sedan may find themselves looking elsewhere.*

MODEL LINEUP - Lincoln Town Car Signature edition (\$42,175); Signature Limited (\$45,040); Designer (\$47,300); Signature L (\$50,645). (2007 Prices)

ASSEMBLED IN - Wixom, Michigan.

### Town Car Sales - Calendar Years - 1998 - 2012

1998	97,547	2006	39,295
1999	84,629	2007	26,739
2000	81,399	2008	15,653
2001	66,859	2009	11,375
2002	59,312	2010	11,264
2003	56,566	2011	9,460
2004	51,908	2012	1,001
2005	47,122	Total 3rd Generation sales	660,129



### For Sale - 1979 Town Car

Linda Fenelon has decided to sell the car that she and her late husband, Ron, enjoyed for 20 years. The rust-free California Town Car has 106,000 miles. It is mechanically sound and has a nice interior. The clear coat paint is fading. The tires are nearly new. For a personal inspection or more information, contact Linda Fenelon, Alexandria, Minnesota, 320-763-4197 or 320-491-4484. \$6000/offer.

## The Northstar Welcome Wagon

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side for the Illinois Fighting Illini's game against the 2004-2005 Arizona Wildcats in the Regional Final game in Chicago. He is a fixture at home games of those teams when in his native Chicago. After traveling to Florida during the Cubs' playoff run to help "inspire" the team (Murray joked with Cubs slugger, Aramis Ramirez he was very ill and needed two home runs to give him the hope to live), he was invited to the champagne party in the Cubs' clubhouse when the team clinched the NL Central in late September 2007, along with fellow actors John Cusack, Bernie Mac, James Belushi, and former Cubs player, Ron Santo. Murray appears in Santo's documentary, *This Old Cub*. In 2006, Murray became the sixth recipient of Baseball Reliquary's annual Hilda Award, established in 2001 "to recognize distinguished service to the game by a fan". He sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during a 2016 World Series game at Wrigley Field.

In 1987, he donated a large amount of money to help build the Nathalie Salmon House, which provides affordable housing for low-income seniors. Michael and Lilo Salmon, the founders of Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly (HOME), said Murray performed "miracles" for them.

From the internet...

by Francis Kalvoda, Willmar, Minnesota  
[fjk@charter.net](mailto:fjk@charter.net) 320-235-5777



The North Star Welcome Wagon out looking for new members.

Micki and I were hoping to join many of you at the catered Fall Picnic at Morrie's, but the COVID bug has finally found us. We don't want to spread this to anyone. We plan to get out for a colorful Fall cruise soon. Hopefully, we can all enjoy our Lincolns for a few more weeks. Let's meet our newest North Star Lincoln and Continental Owners Club members.



Above... Catlin and Michael with their 1962 Continental convertible.

This month I would like to introduce Michael and Caitlin Lawrence, Eden Prairie, MN 55437, [Falconpilot4@hotmail.com](mailto:Falconpilot4@hotmail.com), and their 1962 Continental convertible. The '62 Continental has been in Caitlin's family for decades. They are pictured here at the Back to the Fifties event in St. Paul. You will read more about their car in next month's Pride and Joy feature article. When Michael and Caitlin are not cruising the highways and byways in their Continental, they might be enjoying the scenery from the sky in their 1962 Piper Cherokee airplane. This is a great time of year to see the beautiful Fall colors from any angle.

Our next new member is Ernie Chris-

tensen, 2101 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430, [ernobc@yahoo.com](mailto:ernobc@yahoo.com), 651-500-0179.



Ernie's 1977 Town Car.

For the last 18 years, Ernie has enjoyed his 1977 Lincoln Town Car. Precision is important in his job as a CNC machinist, and that quality transfers to his Lincoln. Many of us watched Frank Cannon solve cases while behind the wheel of his blue Mark IV. The quick red and white Torino always got Starsky and Hutch to the crime in time. They were often aided by Huggy Bear, and what he drove impressed Ernie. I'll let Ernie tell you... *I'm Ernie Christensen. I'm 41 years old and have been into cars on some level for most of my life. I got the car bug from my dad, who's had a few classics over the years, including a current roster of a 1949 Chrysler New Yorker first edition and a 2015 Morgan 3 Wheeler. My 1977 Lincoln was purchased on eBay about 18 years ago. I've always liked that era of Continental and bought it on impulse after watching Starsky and Hutch and seeing Huggy Bear's Continental enter the scene. My dad and I took a Greyhound from Minneapolis to Sandusky, Ohio, and drove the Town Car back. I've enjoyed owning the car over the years and get a lot of positive attention when driving it.*

I think Ernie will enjoy the attention his '77 will get from North Star LCOC members and from many others at car events. Even though my '77 Lincoln Town Coupe has been with me for 45 years, I never tire of its good looks and quality. Seeing the number of younger members joining us and enjoying their vintage Lincolns is especially gratifying. WELCOME, Caitlin, Michael, and Ernie!!!

# North Star LCOC events

For 2022

October **Sunday, October 2, 2022. Free lunch and auction at Morries Classic Car Collection** in Long Lake, Minnesota. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Seating for lunch will be limited to 80 persons. You must RSVP to Bob Johnson by Wednesday, September 21 with the number of persons attending. You will have the option to view the car collection only, but please let Bog know your intentions. Bob Johnson is awaiting your call at 651.587.1212 or email: [arborbob41@aol.com](mailto:arborbob41@aol.com), please do this as soon as possible so we can plan for enough food to meet everyone's needs. And least, but not last, bring something to donate to the auction. *At the time this is being published, we still had a few seats remaining for dinner. If you are interested in attending, please call Bob Johnson, on his cell, 651.587.1212.*

**Sunday October 9, 2022, Brunch** at 11 a.m. We will begin with a driving tour to view fall leave colors. We will eventually find our way to the **Hilltop Retreat, Cumberland, Wisconsin**. For those who might like to caravan, we will meet at the White Bear Lake city offices, 4701 Highway 61 North, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning, that Sunday, October 9th. Should you wish to skip the caravan, the Hilltop Retreat is located at 2896 1-½ Street North, Cumberland, Wisconsin. Please RSVP to Bob Johnson by Wednesday, October 4. Operators are standing by awaiting your call at 651.257.1715 or email [arborbob41@aol.com](mailto:arborbob41@aol.com).

November **Sunday Brunch**, year end. Date and time to be determined. We will say goodbye to summer and hello to five months of miserable weather.

— Celebrating 100 Years of the Lincoln Motor Car Company —

We are celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the Lincoln Motor Car Company. Since 1922, Lincoln has turned out high-quality luxury automobiles, ranging from the very first Lincoln 1922 Model L to the latest 2022 Lincoln Navigator. Fine quality automobiles, many of which are true icons of fine styling, including the luxurious Model L and Model K's of the 1920s and 1930s. The high styled pre-war Zephyr and Continental models. The postwar Cosmopolitan series, which served the needs of several American presidents, the Kennedy era "slab-sided" four-door convertibles, which were an instant fashion statement. Serious collectors of all ages still desire them to have an understated elegance, minimalist styling, luxury, and performance far exceeding anything else in the marketplace.

BACK ISSUES OF THE NORTHSTAR NEWS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE  
ON THE NORTHSTAR LCOC WEB SITE.

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# The Back Page



**I am a very fine car that desperately needs a new home.** I have been with my present owner(s) since the early 1980s, and it has now time for me to be much loved and well taken care of in the way that I have become accustomed to by a new family. I have an excellent pedigree that can be easily verified by all of my present masters' documents.

I am a 1979 Lincoln Mark V, having traveled less than 35,000 miles in my lifetime. I have always spent my nights and days

safely stored inside, in a nice secure garage, except when my mom and dad took me out for special rides and bring to car shows. I finished in a Diamond Blue metallic paint, which was rare in 1979. Both my inside and outside are spotless, with no dings, dents, or scrapes. I look almost as good as the day my first owner took delivery of me from the dealership. I have a moonroof and virtually all of the accessories that Lincoln offered in 1979. Plus, I come with all the owners and factory manuals too.

Would you please come to see me and check me out? I will not disappoint you and provide you and your family with many years of enjoyment behind the wheel and pride of ownership. Plus, my owners' price aligns with current Mecum auction results for similar Mark V's, most having more miles than I do. Very fairly priced at \$14,500 obo.

Further inquiries should be directed to Ann at 612-695-6524. She will be awaiting your call.



Yes, We Want You to join the  
Lincoln *and* Continental Owners Club!

Now Only \$25 for the first year  
New Members Only

We are now offering the bargain of the century. A full years membership in the Lincoln *and* Continental Owners Club, which includes six issues of our flagship magazine, Continental Comments, and a full years membership in the North Star Lincoln Club, which includes a monthly newsletter and participation in all Club events; including car shows, picnics, driving tours, brunches and other interesting activities held throughout the year. Here is your opportunity to learn more about Lincolns and meet and enjoy socializing with some truly interesting people of all ages who also have a passion for Lincoln automobiles. Come "Take the road less traveled" with us and join the Lincoln club. Normally LCOC membership is \$54 per year, and the North Star club is \$20 per year for a total of \$74, but for new members during this celebratory 100 year period, the price has been reduced to a total of \$25. No better bargain exists today.

Joining is easy and takes only a few minutes. There are two ways to do it. Online, go to:

**[lcoc.cornerstonereg.com/Member/New](http://lcoc.cornerstonereg.com/Member/New) or call our membership office at 763.420.7829.**

Join Today! We want you as a member of the Lincoln *and* Continental Owners Club.