



GET TO KNOW YOUR CAR INSIDE AND OUT

Learn the ins and outs of maintaining your car during a workshop taught by Lori Johnson, a certified auto instructor at the Community College of Philadelphia. She travels the country giving "Ladies, Start Your Engines!" programs.

When: The free car-repair class will be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. April 5 at Casey Chevrolet at the corner of J. Clyde Morris Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue, Newport News. The sessions are sponsored by the Newport News Public Library System as part of its ongoing how-to series of programs for women this year. Register now at www.nngov.com/library/custom/onlineereg or call 757-247-8677.

HELPFUL HINTS Lori Johnson offers these car-maintenance tips

- ✓ Keep your engine tuned.
- ✓ Keep brakes, steering and suspension systems in A-1 condition.
- ✓ Check the antifreeze/coolant level monthly. Some cars have transparent reservoirs with level markings. Fill to level marking with 50/50 solution of anti-freeze and water. Caution: Do not remove the pressure cap when engine is hot. Coolant should be changed approximately every 30,000 miles or every two years.
- ✓ Inspect belts and hoses monthly. Replace worn, glazed or frayed belts.
- ✓ Check transmission fluid monthly. Check owner's manual to see if the engine should be running or shut off. Remove dipstick, wipe dry, insert it and remove it again. Add the approved type fluid, if needed. Do not overfill!
- ✓ Check oil every other fill-up. Engine should not be running. Remove the dipstick, wipe it clean. Insert it fully and remove it again. If it is low, add oil. To maintain peak performance, change oil every 3,000-5,000 miles or three months, whichever comes first. Replace oil filter with every oil change.
- ✓ Check air filter every other month. Replace it when it's dirty or as part of a tune-up. It is easy to reach, right under the big metal "lid" in a carburetor-type engine or in a rectangular box at the for-

ward end of the air duct hose assembly.

- ✓ Check brake fluid monthly. Low fluid level may mean the brakes need to be replaced. Never add fluid, because this is your warning device for worn brake pads.



- ✓ Keep windshield washer fluid reservoir full. When topping off, use some windshield washer fluid on a rag to clean off the wiper blades. In winter months, pay attention to the freezing point of the washer fluid.
- ✓ Use extreme caution when handling a battery since it can produce explosive gases. Have it checked with every oil change. Cables should be attached securely and be free of corrosion. Battery posts can be cleaned with a mix of baking soda and water.
- ✓ Check power steering fluid level once per month. Simply remove the reservoir dipstick. If the level is down, add fluid and inspect the pump and hoses for leaks.

- ✓ Inspect windshield wiper blades whenever you clean your windshield. Do not wait until rubber is worn or brittle to replace them. Wiper blades should be replaced at least once per year, and more often if smearing or chattering occurs.
- ✓ Be sure all your lights are clean and working, including brake lights, turn signals and emergency flashers. Keep spare bulbs and fuses in your vehicle.
- ✓ Keep tires inflated to recommended pressure (it helps to own a gauge). Check for cuts, bulges and excessive tread wear. Uneven wear indicates tires are not aligned or out of balance. Keep a record of tire rotation. Rotate at the first 5,000 miles and every 7,500 miles thereafter.

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