

# Money saving tips for your vehicle

I would like to share with you some money saving tips for your vehicle. A no-cost fix for any squeaks and raffles. Turn the volume up on your radio, most effective if you keep the windows closed. Is your vehicle pulling to one side? Leave some air out of the tires on the opposite side. Does the engine leak a lot of oil? Put a pan under the engine, catch the oil, and pour the oil back into the engine. You say the brakes don't stop very good? Try driving with the emergency brake on. NO, I am just kidding.

I know the economy has affected everybody, and money is an issue, but one of the first things people cut out is the vehicle repairs. Driving a vehicle in poor mechanical condition is very unsafe, not only for you but also for the other people on the road.

The past couple of weeks our garage had some emergency repairs that could have turned into dangerous situations.

The first vehicle, a Ford Focus, was dropped off for a poor performance problem. During the test drive, I could hear some type of noise from the right when turning. After pulling the vehicle into the garage, the right front corner of the vehicle was sitting lower than the left front. Once on the lift, I saw the spring was broken and the broken edge was only about one inch away from the tire! Imagine if the broken spring would have poked into the tire, bigger problems and more costly! When we asked the customer if they felt or heard anything when driving, their response was, "we did, but we don't drive the car much."

The other vehicle was a mid 90's Chevy Cavalier. The gentleman who owned the vehicle was scared to drive it any farther. He said it felt like the left wheel was locking up and sometimes sparks came from the wheel. Well, my test drive did not make it out the driveway. I could feel and hear the problem. As I was

raising the vehicle in the air, you could see the left front wheel flop outward. Here the wheel bearing was bad, so bad that I am surprised it didn't damage the axle, but it did start to damage the new brake rotor and pads somebody had just installed. After I informed the gentleman what his problem was, he said it was making noise for over a year, so he stopped at a chain store garage a couple of weeks back and they said he needed brakes. After the repairs were done, it still made the noise, so he just kept driving the vehicle. Just don't take all noises for granted. Some may be nothing at all to worry about, but most could be costly.

For the month of March, Dave's Auto Service, Inc. is offering \$20.00 off on any repairs over \$100.00. This does not include inspection and emission fees. Just bring in this article, or mention this article when making your appointment.

Call Dave's Auto Service, Inc. at 610-367-1844, located at 925 W. Phila. Ave., Boyertown, for fast and reliable service.