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# WHEELS & DEALS

## Small steps to extend a car's life expectancy

Vehicles continue to get more expensive. The automotive experts at Kelley Blue Book indicate the average American car buyer paid \$50,080 for a new vehicle in September 2025, which was the first time the average price for a new car ever topped \$50,000. More drivers are looking for ways to push their current vehicles

past the 200,000-mile mark to save money.

According to S&P Global Mobility, the average age of a vehicle on the road hit a record high of 12.8 years in 2025. Although major mechanical failures concern drivers of older vehicles, it's actually much smaller things that can affect vehicle longevity. There are small actions anyone can take to significantly extend a car's life.

- Use caution on cold starts. When a vehicle sits, oil settles at the bottom of the engine. To help combat damage that can occur, drivers can wait about 30 seconds before shifting into gear, as this will allow the oil pump to circulate the lubricant to the upper valve train and help prevent extra wear on the engine. Modern fuel-injected engines warm up faster and more safely by being driven gently rather than sitting still, so it's not necessary to idle for a long while with the vehicle in the driveway, says Smart Motors Toyota. In fact, long idles actually can strip away oil.
- Treat fluids wisely. Ac-

ording to EngineeringCivil.org, checking and replacing fluids is cheaper than replacing hardware. Recent data suggests that consistent oil changes can add between 50,000 and 100,000 miles to an engine's lifespan. It's important to follow a vehicle's manual for time-based intervals for fluid replacement, rather than just going by mileage.

- Drive faster on occasion. Oil will never get hot enough to evaporate internal condensation for those who primarily drive short distances under 10 miles. Once every few weeks, it's important for drivers to drive at least 20 minutes at highway speeds to help get rid of contaminants.
- Drive smoothly on roads. Aggressive driving will not just burn more gas; such driving also creates heat, which can impact longevity. According to Kia, hard braking generates immense heat that can warp rotors and stress suspension bushings. Likewise, it's key to ease into acceleration. Rapid acceleration forces the transmission to downshift abruptly, in-

creasing wear. Reports from The Zebra, an insurance shopping company, indicate that mindful driving can reduce mechanical strain by up to 30 percent.

- Fight corrosion. Rust can kill a car before the engine actually fails. People who live in areas where roads are treated with salt in the winter should use a winter car wash that includes an undercarriage spray. Auto Recycling World says road salt can eat through brake lines and fuel lines. In addition, applying a coat of wax twice a year can prevent UV rays and other damage to the clear coat, which protects the metal body from the elements.
- Address engine lights promptly. CarMD says addressing a "check engine" light immediately is 20 percent cheaper than waiting until the vehicle has a driveability issue. For example, ignoring a \$150 oxygen sensor can eventually destroy a \$1,500 catalytic converter.

Small habits can help prolong the longevity of vehicles and help people save money.

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# Common car noises and what they might be indicating

Although there are many drivers who understand what goes on under the hood of a vehicle and the inner workings of car mechanics, there are plenty of others who might not know a spark plug from a dipstick. For the latter group, random noises when driving can be a cause for immediate alarm.

Certain noises can be innocuous and easily fixed, while others may be indicative of something more complex. Pinpointing where a noise is coming from can help vehicle owners identify the problem. Here's a list of some common sounds and what the causes might be, courtesy of Firestone, Geico and Nationwide.

### High-pitched squealing

Screaming or squealing coming from the tires when stepping on the brakes likely means that brake pads are wearing down and the indicator is rubbing against the rotor. Although this is not an emergency situation, it does mean that brakes will need to be replaced sooner than later.

### Rattling in the wheel

If you hear rattling inside of a wheel at low speeds which stops as you drive faster, it could mean there is a loose lug nut inside of the

hub cap. That wheel wasn't tightened properly the last time it was removed and replaced. Bring the car to a mechanic as soon as possible.

### Clicking

If you try to start the car and only hear a clicking sound instead of the car turning over, a dead battery is likely the cause. Such a noise also may indicate corroded battery terminals that are preventing the current from flowing. Terminals need to be cleaned. The battery should be checked and jumped, if necessary. If a battery is not holding a charge, a new one is needed.

### Squeaky or scraping windshield wipers

Squeaking and scraping means the windshield wipers are wearing down or the windshield is dirty. Clean the windshield and inspect the wiper blades to make sure they are in working order. A bad wiper and dirty windshield can reduce visibility and make driving dangerous.

### Clunking sounds

Clunking sounds may indicate a few different issues. A clunking sound might indicate worn out shock absorbers, which absorb vibrations from the wheels. Dam-



aged struts also can cause clunking. Worn out leaf spring shackles that help in off-roading conditions also can cause clunking when they bend or break.

### Humming, whining or whirring

These strange noises might have different origins. Check if the differential needs to be lubricated. A wheel bearing also could be worn out and produce a

noise. In more severe cases, the transmission could be failing. The best course of action is to get a professional opinion from a mechanic.

### Flapping noise

A broken belt typically is the culprit when a vehicle makes a flapping or slapping noise. Something also

may be interfering with the fan. Driving with a broken belt may cause severe engine damage, so it's important to address the issue.

### Squealing under the hood

Squealing can indicate worn or loose accessory belts. In newer cars it might

be the serpentine belt. Belts are relatively inexpensive and easy fixes.

These are some of the sounds that vehicles can make when something is awry. Figuring out the issue can prevent further damage.

## Considerations for your young driver's first vehicle

Getting a driver's license is a major rite of passage in a young person's life. Depending on where that teenager lives, he or she is likely to secure a license between the ages of 15 and 18. The next natural step is finding a vehicle to get around town.

A teenager's first ride may be a family car that is not used frequently by parents or a vehicle that is shared among the household. Over time, juggling usage can prove difficult, and parents and children may decide the moment has come to shop for an additional vehicle. These guidelines can make car shopping for young drivers go smoothly.

### Budget

Cost is a concern when buying a vehicle. Calculate how much the teen will be contributing and how much parents may be putting into the equation. Check with the financing department to determine if a teen is eligible to take out a loan. If not, a loan might need to be co-signed by an adult. In-

surance costs also must be considered. Certain vehicles are more expensive to insure than others, so finding one that won't break the bank to insure is a good idea.

### Safety

The automotive experts at AAA note that teenagers are among the riskiest drivers due to their inexperience, so it's important to choose a vehicle that gets high safety marks. Features to look for include automatic emergency braking, side-crash prevention systems, lane departure, blind spot alerts, and other accident prevention options. Midsize sedans are safe and easy enough to maneuver, and they have shorter braking distances than most SUVs.

### New or preowned

Both new and preowned vehicles have various pros and cons. It may be difficult for a teen to afford a new car and make monthly payments, but new cars often come with warranties and other protections. Preowned cars may not have all of the

safety features of newer vehicles, but many are certified preowned, which gives buyers some peace of mind in case service work is needed. Also, parents may not be so worried about teens dinging up a used vehicle rather than one right out of the showroom.

### Reliability

It may be tempting to purchase the least expensive vehicle, but price should not always be the deciding factor. Reliability should be a major consideration. Check that the vehicle (if purchasing a preowned) has not been in any major accidents that necessitated extensive repairs. Also, certain brands are known to stand the test of time better than others. Research makes and models through Edmunds or Kelley Blue Book to determine which vehicles boast such a reputation.

These are just some of the variables to consider when helping young drivers choose their first vehicle.



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<sup>1</sup>"Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2025. <sup>2</sup>"Aging changes in teeth and gums", medlineplus.gov, 4/7/2022. <sup>3</sup>FairHealth, Inc. National average dental fees. Data current as of July 2025; subject to change.

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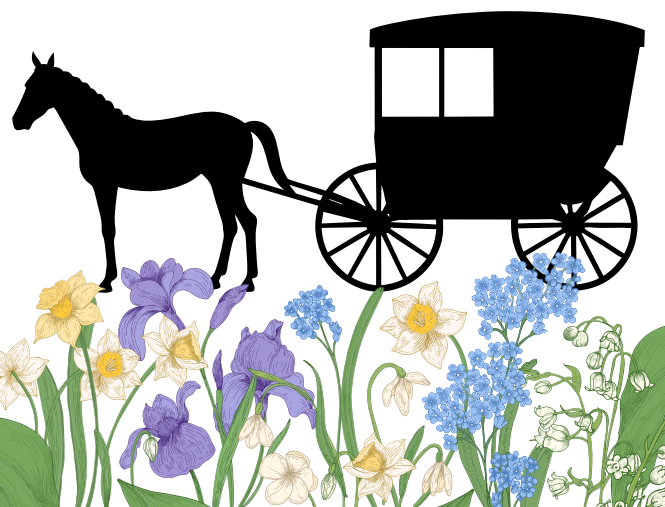
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**Pay:** Competitive hourly rate based on experience

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Applications can be found at [www.janesvilleia.com](http://www.janesvilleia.com) or in person at Janesville City Hall  
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**Mail To:** PO Box 146, Janesville, IA, 50647  
**In Person:** 227 Main Street, Janesville, IA, 50647 Email: [cityclerk@janesvilleia.com](mailto:cityclerk@janesvilleia.com)  
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**Deadline to advertise in the Newspaper/Sale bill Friday, May 8th**

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 Email: [hogauctioneering@gmail.com](mailto:hogauctioneering@gmail.com)

Day 1 Saturday, May 30th:  
 Equipment Live & Online @ 9:00AM

Day 2 Sunday, May 31st:  
 Pallet Row items- Online only @ Noon

### Accepting Equipment Now by appointment

**Open: May 18th to May 27th - Monday to Friday 8:00AM-5:00PM & Saturday, May 23rd - 8:00AM-3:00PM** Closed Sunday & Memorial Day  
**Must be to lot by 5:00 Wednesday, May 27th.**



Get your items to the lot early for the best advertising. This auction will be open to all farm machinery. Full line or single items. Antique, late model, livestock equipment, construction & more. If you are planning on consigning items (trucks, trailer, UTV) that need paperwork (title registration etc.), be prepared to have it with you, registration current, and in your name. No tires unless 75% or better tread, No cars or household items.

**Next Auction: August 15th & 16th**  
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# Detweilers

Henry & Mary Beth  
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## GREENHOUSE IS NOW OPEN!

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*Fruit and shade trees, red and black raspberries, strawberry plants, rhubarb & asparagus roots.*

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**OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8 AM TO 5 PM**

## Grilled kebabs made a flavorful addition to any backyard barbecue

Grilling enthusiasts are always on the lookout for something new to cook over an open flame. While traditional staples like steaks, hamburgers and hot dogs will never lose their favor among lovers of grilled food, expanding one's grilling repertoire can open doors to new flavors and ensure meal time is always something to look forward to.

Fans of foods cooked over an open flame who want to try something new and flavorful can try this recipe for "Grilled Pork and Mango Kebabs With Chili Sauce" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

**Grilled Pork and Mango Kebabs With Chili Sauce**  
*Makes 4 Servings*

**For the chili sauce:**

- 1/2 cups rice wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

- 1/4 teaspoon caster sugar
- 2 red chilies, sliced

**For the kebabs:**

- 2 tablespoons whole grain mustard
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black peppercorns
- 11/4 pound pork tenderloin, trimmed of silver skin and cut into chunks
- 1 large ripe mango
- Olive oil, for brushing
- 1 handful small mint leaves

1. For the chili sauce: Whisk together all the ingredients for the chili sauce in a small saucepan. Warm over a low heat, stirring until the sugar and salt have dissolved. Set aside until needed.

2. For the kebabs: Preheat a grill to a moderately hot temperature.

3. Stir together the mustard, pineapple juice, lime juice, salt, and pepper in a large mixing bowl. Add the pork, stir well to coat, and set aside until the grill is preheated.

4. In the meantime, halve and pit the mango. Cut away the skin before cutting the flesh into cubes.

5. Thread the pork onto the skewers, alternating with the mango flesh. Brush the grates of the grill with some olive oil.

6. Lay the kebabs onto the grill and leave to cook, turning occasionally, until the pork and mango are lightly charred all over, about 8 to 10 minutes.

7. Remove from the grill to a plate and let rest for 5 minutes, covered loosely with aluminium foil.

8. Scatter with mint leaves and serve with the chili sauce on the side.

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# Spice up brunch this Mother's Day

Children commonly like to give their mothers a break from cooking on Mother's Day. Youngsters may be eager to help out in the kitchen and whip up something that Mom is certain to enjoy. But many recipes can be complicated for younger children or others who might not be so adept with meal creation. However, with a few ingredients that families may already have on hand, it's possible to craft a delicious Mother's Day brunch.

This recipe for "Wee Chicken & Waffles with Jezebel-Maple Syrup" from Denise Gee's "Southern Appetizers: 60 Delectables for Gracious Get-Togethers" (Chronicle Books) utilizes commercially available miniature waffles and popcorn chicken bites to create a chicken and waffles dish with a kick. Serve alongside mini muffins, deviled eggs, cheese and crackers, and other brunch dishes that are simple for youngsters and their little fingers to prepare.

## Wee Chicken & Waffles with Jezebel-Maple Syrup

Serves 10 to 12, Three or Four Waffles Each

### Jezebel-Maple Syrup

- 2 cups maple syrup
  - 1/4 cup pineapple preserves
  - 1/4 cup apple jelly
  - 1 1/2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
  - 3/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 40 mini waffles from a 10.9-ounce package, lightly toasted
  - 40 pieces cooked fried popcorn chicken
  - Finely chopped fresh Italian flat-leaf parsley or green onion for garnish (optional)
  - Hot sauce for serving

To make the syrup: In a large microwave-safe glass measuring cup with pour spout (one holding at least 3 cups) or a bowl, add the maple syrup, pineapple preserves, apple jelly, horseradish, pepper, and salt; whisk to combine.

Microwave the mixture on high for 35 seconds. (You also can heat it in a small saucepan on low until the mixture is warm.) Stir and taste, adjusting the flavor if desired. Set the syrup aside.

Place the toasted waffles on a large serving platter. Top each waffle with a piece of chicken. Drizzle the chicken-waffle bites with about 1 teaspoon of the syrup. Garnish with the parsley, if desired, and serve with the remaining syrup and hot sauce.



# Meet Our TEAM!



**TOM WHEELER**  
sales account executive  
tomw@cvsaver.com

**DANIELLE POTKONAK**  
graphic designer  
danielle@cvsaver.com



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# Signs a roof must be repaired or replaced

The exterior components of a home, such as the siding and the roof, help to protect its occupants from the elements. While many roofing materials can last for decades, at some point in time homeowners will likely have to repair or replace the roof on their home.

Roof wear and tear may not always be so evident, particularly because most homeowners do not make it a point to get on their roofs very often. The first sign of roof damage typically is a

leak that is noticeable from the indoors. It may include a browned spot on the ceiling or even pooling water in the attic. Leak from storm damage or something minor like a water intrusion through a nail hole or from a lost shingle typically can be repaired easily enough. However, additional indicators may necessitate a complete roof overhaul. Here are some signs a roof is in need of repairs or replacement.

• **Sagging roof:** If the roof is sagging, it could be due to

excess loads, such as water-damaged shingles or even weakened roof structure. A professional will need to restore the integrity of the roof.

• **Cracking and buckling:** It is likely that shingles will have to be replaced if there is cracking or if shingles are buckling and warping.

• **Exposed nails:** Exposed nails may rust and contribute to a leaky roof, says Family Handyman. How long the nails were exposed could indicate if the roof can

be repaired or if everything should be redone.

• **Lost granules:** Asphalt roofing shingles have small granules on the surface. Over time these granules will slowly degrade and fall off. If there are many granules in gutters or if one can see that portions of the shingles are bare, it is likely time for a new roof.

• **Visible light:** Homeowners who can see light streams coming into the home need roof repair. This is indicative of holes, cracks

or spaces in the roof.

• **Growth on the roof:** Mold and mildew on the roof is a sign that the roof needs to be repaired or replaced. Such growths contribute to rot that jeopardizes the integrity of the roof.

A durable roof protects a home from the elements. Various symptoms signal that it is time to repair or replace a roof.



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