Like the Douglas Automotive Facebook page today for access to
EXCLUSIVE COUPONS, tips and discussions.

Trivia Challenge
WIN a $25 Gas Card!

Every issue includes a trivia contest for a $25 gas card. The first ten people to call us with the answer to our trivia question are entered in a drawing. At the end of the month, we give away the gas card. We make it easy. Just read the newsletter for answers to the issue’s trivia question and give us a call at either one of the Douglas Automotive Centers.

Congratulations to our Winter 2013 Winner: Ellen Johnson from Crystal Lake

This issue’s question:
How much is the fine for a first offender caught texting and driving?

Wheel Alignment

$25 OFF
Your Wheel Alignment

• Consultation & Road Test
• Computerized Alignment Offer

*Some vehicles require additional adjustment. Cannot combine with any other offers. Offer not valid on previous purchases. Expires 3/31/14

Black Ice: Exercise Caution

It’s safe to say we are not quite done with winter yet. The end is certainly near, but we still have a few more weeks left of unpredictable weather that has the potential to make roads unsafe. Even snowless roads can still pose a threat. Outside of snow coating the roads, we also have to worry about ice.

Outside of snow coating the roads, we also have to worry about ice. Occasionally the roads have a shiny cast to them and we can immediately recognize this as ice. Shiny roads are our indicator to drive cautiously. Other times the glare is not so apparent, yet the roads are slick. This condition is known as black ice. Saying it best State Farm says black ice is simply a “transparent glaze that forms without bubbles, allowing it to easily blend into the surface of the road.” The Federal Highway Administration accounts that nearly 116,000 injuries and 1,300 fatalities occur in auto accidents on snow or ice coated roads every year.

What should you do if you suddenly find yourself driving along a road that is coated with black ice? We suggest the following:

Recognize problem areas: Shaded roads, overpasses, and bridges are notorious for issues with black ice. These surfaces tend to be colder, so they can rapidly freeze when moisture is introduced. If you find yourself coming to one of these areas slow down before approaching.

Avoid over-steering: If you feel your vehicle start to slip on black ice, don’t jerk the wheel or slam on the brakes. Abrupt steering corrections can cause you to spinout. It is best to keep your wheel straight, lift your foot off your accelerator and coast forward until you regain traction.

Brake carefully: Instead of slamming on the brakes, push down on your brake pedal lightly, yet firmly. If your vehicle has an ABS system, let it do its job.

douglasautomatic.com
Tires & Cold Weather

Why You Need Tires for the Cold Weather

This winter hasn’t just been hard on us... it has been hard on our vehicles too. Our vehicles have been forced to endure the ice, sleet, snow and freezing cold temperatures. To keep your car rolling through the ever-changing weather conditions, it’s imperative not to neglect your tires. For some vehicles, winter tires are necessary. What makes a winter tire different than other tire types?

Greater Tread Depth

Winter weather tires simply have greater tread depth. They are built for clearing snow and slush away from the tire’s surface, helping the tire connect with the ground better.

Different Type of Rubber

Winter tires are made for colder temperatures. The rubber used in a winter tire utilizes rubber compounds that have the ability to stay soft in even the coldest of temperatures, like the polar vortex temperatures we have experienced this year.

Improve Overall Driving

Winter tires improve your driving capabilities when roads are their worst. Improved acceleration, braking and handling are all increased with the use of winter tires.

Not sure which tires are best for your vehicle? Visit us here at the shop for a tire assessment or visit DouglasAutomotive.com and try our free tire selection tool. Fill in your vehicle’s details and the tool pulls up which tires are recommended for your vehicle.

Black Ice: Exercise Caution (continued)

If your vehicle senses lack of traction, it will initiate the pulsating of your ABS system. This system is designed to bring your vehicle to a stop. If your vehicle does not have an ABS system pumping your brakes can be quite effective. Pumping consists of lightly applying pressure and then releasing your foot from the pedal repeatedly until your vehicle stops.

Above all, one of the best things you can do before preparing for rough weather months is vehicle maintenance all year round. Make sure your tires have adequate tread and can handle the roads. Drive safe!


Announcing... Babies Brooklyn & Emma

Douglas Automotive’s Newest Team Members Have Arrived!

Our fifth and newest grandchildren and newest Douglas Automotive team members were born on December 5, 2013.

Caption: Doug and Janet McAllister with their six grandchildren.

2014 New Driving Laws

It looks like you better head out and pick up that blue tooth ear piece after all. 2014, like any other year, has ushered in a slew of new laws including a couple making headlines that will undoubtedly affect our driving.

Cell Phone Ban

For those of you that love chatting on the phone on the way home from work, the cell phone ban known as House Bill 1247 is asking you to put down the phone and focus on your driving. Hands free devices, like a blue tooth ear piece are okay to use. First offenders will be fined $75 (non-moving violation) and fines could reach $150 for repeat offenders (moving violation recorded on driving records).

70 MPH Speed Limit Increase

Senate Bill 2356 increases the maximum speed limit to 70 MPH on most interstates and toll highways. Pictures of 70 MPH signs recently posted along major interstates and tollways have already begun flooding social media feeds.

2013 Recalls

Each year the National Highway and Safety Council issues recalls on vehicles deemed defective or unsafe. While some vehicle recalls are relatively minor, some are more crucial to the safety and overall driving ability of the vehicle. Was your vehicle on the recall list this year? Here are the top 3 vehicle recalls of 2013:


It’s inevitable that each year we can expect a grouping of vehicle recalls. If you find that your vehicle is among a group being recalled this year, give us a call to help facilitate your vehicle’s repair.


2014%20new%20laws.pdf

Our iPad Drawing Winner: Adam Reeves

Back in December, Adam Reeves won a brand new iPad 5. Adam received a free tire quote and was automatically entered into the iPad drawing. In mid-January Car Care Club member Amy Preves was the winner of our TV drawing—just in time for the superbowl! Congrats to both winners!

Our TV Drawing Winner: Amy Preves

Black Ice: Exercise Caution
This winter hasn’t just been hard on us… it has been hard on our vehicles too. Our vehicles have been forced to endure the ice, sleet, snow and freezing cold temperatures. To keep your car rolling through the ever-changing weather conditions, it’s imperative not to neglect your tires. For some vehicles, winter tires are necessary. What makes a winter tire different than other tire types?

Greater Tread Depth
Winter tires simply have greater tread depth. They are built for clearing snow and slush away from the tire’s surface, helping the tire connect with the ground better.

Different Type of Rubber
Winter tires are made for colder temperatures. The rubber used in a winter tire utilizes rubber compounds that will have the ability to stay soft in even the coldest of temperatures, like the polar vortex temperatures we have experienced this year.

Improve Overall Driving
Winter tires improve your driving capabilities when roads are their worst. Improved acceleration, braking and handling are all increased with the use of winter tires.

Not sure which tires are best for your vehicle? Visit us here at the shop for a tire assessment or visit DouglasAutomotive.com and try our free tire selection tool. Fill in your vehicle’s details and the tool pulls up which tires are recommended for your vehicle.

• Reminder: Those of you with winter tires should have them removed as soon as snowfall is no longer a threat.

Winter tires improve your driving ability. Was your vehicle on the recall list this year? Here are the top 3 vehicle recalls of 2013:


Reason for Recall: Brake-light problems.

Toyota: Toyota did not escape 2013 without recalls of its own with vehicles (models 2003-2004 Corolla sedan and Matrix hatchback) recalled.

Reason for Recall: Faulty air-bag control modules.

It’s evitable that each year we can expect a grouping of vehicle recalls. If you find that your vehicle is among a group being recalled this year, give us a call to help facilitate your vehicle’s repair.

2013 Recalls
Each year the National Highway and Safety Council issues recalls on vehicles deemed defective or unsafe. While some vehicle fixes are relatively minor, some are more crucial to the safety and overall driving ability of the vehicle. Was your vehicle on the recall list this year?

This winter hasn’t just been hard on us… it has been hard on our vehicles too. Our vehicles have been forced to endure the ice, sleet, snow and freezing cold temperatures. To keep your car rolling through the ever-changing weather conditions, it’s imperative not to neglect your tires. For some vehicles, winter tires are necessary. What makes a winter tire different than other tire types?

Greater Tread Depth
Winter tires simply have greater tread depth. They are built for clearing snow and slush away from the tire’s surface, helping the tire connect with the ground better.

Different Type of Rubber
Winter tires are made for colder temperatures. The rubber used in a winter tire utilizes rubber compounds that will have the ability to stay soft in even the coldest of temperatures, like the polar vortex temperatures we have experienced this year.

Improve Overall Driving
Winter tires improve your driving capabilities when roads are their worst. Improved acceleration, braking and handling are all increased with the use of winter tires.

Not sure which tires are best for your vehicle? Visit us here at the shop for a tire assessment or visit DouglasAutomotive.com and try our free tire selection tool. Fill in your vehicle’s details and the tool pulls up which tires are recommended for your vehicle.

• Reminder: Those of you with winter tires should have them removed as soon as snowfall is no longer a threat.

Winter tires improve your driving ability. Was your vehicle on the recall list this year? Here are the top 3 vehicle recalls of 2013:


Reason for Recall: Brake-light problems.

Toyota: Toyota did not escape 2013 without recalls of its own with vehicles (models 2003-2004 Corolla sedan and Matrix hatchback) recalled.

Reason for Recall: Faulty air-bag control modules.

It’s evitable that each year we can expect a grouping of vehicle recalls. If you find that your vehicle is among a group being recalled this year, give us a call to help facilitate your vehicle’s repair.

2013 Recalls
Each year the National Highway and Safety Council issues recalls on vehicles deemed defective or unsafe. While some vehicle fixes are relatively minor, some are more crucial to the safety and overall driving ability of the vehicle. Was your vehicle on the recall list this year?

If your vehicle senses lack of traction, it will initiate the pulsing of your ABS system. This system is designed to bring your vehicle to a stop. If your vehicle does not have an ABS system pumping your brakes can be quite effective. Pumping consists of lightly applying pressure and then releasing your foot from the pedal repeatedly until your vehicle stops.

At dusk, as the darkness begins to envelop the world, is the time when Black Ice becomes a real concern on roadways. Black Ice is a layer of ice that forms on the road surface when the pavement temperature drops below freezing but the air temperature is above freezing. This creates a thin layer of ice that is nearly invisible to the naked eye.

To help protect yourself from the dangers of Black Ice, it is important to drive with caution.

• Reduce your speed: As you approach a Black Ice-covered road, it is important to reduce your speed. The slower you drive, the more time you will have to react in case of a loss of traction.

• Use caution when braking: Black Ice can be slippery when braking. Be prepared to adjust your braking technique to help prevent skidding.

• Keep a safe distance: It is important to maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you. This will give you more time to react in case of a loss of traction.

• Use defrost mode: When you are driving through a Black Ice-covered area, it is important to use the defrost mode on your vehicle to help clear any ice from the windshield and improve visibility.

In conclusion, Black Ice is a real danger on the roads, and it is important to drive with caution to prevent accidents. By following these tips, you can help ensure your safety and the safety of others on the road.

If your vehicle senses lack of traction, it will initiate the pulsing of your ABS system. This system is designed to bring your vehicle to a stop. If your vehicle does not have an ABS system pumping your brakes can be quite effective. Pumping consists of lightly applying pressure and then releasing your foot from the pedal repeatedly until your vehicle stops.

Announcing... Babies Brooklyn & Emma
Douglas Automotive’s Newest Team Members Have Arrived!
Our fifth and sixth grandchildren and newest Douglas Automotive team members were born on December 5, 2013.

Above all, one of the best things you can do before preparing for rough weather months is vehicle maintenance all year round. Make sure your tires have adequate tread and can handle the roads. Drive safe!