

George Witt Service

Honda/Acura/Toyota/Lexus/Scion Only



NEWSLETTER



“We help people love their cars.”

June 2014

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New Convenience

Recently, I had to travel from 14th and Highway 2 to the shop. I took 10th St, hit all the green lights at 35mph and went around Memorial Stadium to State Fair Park Drive. Took it to Cornhusker, then on to the shop in 12 minutes. **12 minutes from 14th and Highway 2!**

Using that same route, we are now only 7 minutes from 10th and P St downtown.

Antelope Valley Parkway now also connects to K and L Streets and Capitol Parkway, making it easier and faster than ever to get to us. Avoid 27th and 33rd and use the fast lanes.

We're "in the neighborhood" from a lot of places.

Solar Roadways

An idea by a couple who's built a prototype driveway, this uses segments that fit together like a little puzzle and have a tough glass surface. They can be programmed to light up imbedded led lights to make stripes, lines and markings. They can also detect the weight of objects or animals in the roadway to alert oncoming cars. This solves the problem of "where can we put all the solar panels needed to provide electrical power"?

Two Financial Odysseys

10 years ago, Kari decided to save money and purchase a 3-year old Odyssey. Her friend Harry bought a new one and then traded it 5 years later for another new one. He said that's the best way to avoid big repair bills.

Depreciation	\$15,979	The information in the chart on the left is from Edmunds.com and shows the total costs to be \$30,452 to buy a new Odyssey and drive it 5 years/60,000 miles. Trade it in, drive another 5 years and it's over \$60,000 for 120,000 miles or 50 cents
Taxes/fees	\$ 2,073	
Financing	\$ 2,920	
Insurance	\$ 7,319	
Maintenance	\$ 2,161	
Cost to own	\$30,452	

a mile. Harry says he's "avoided car repair expenses" by trading every 5 years, but he's owned 2 vehicles and spent 50 cents a mile. That can buy a lot of parts...

Kari has spent a meager 10 cents a mile over 10 years on all maintenance and repairs, including oil changes and tires. We have many customers who spend this or less over long terms. Taxes, financing and insurance went way down over time, as well.

While Harry dished out \$60,000 on 2 vans, Kari paid off her loan and kept making payments into a savings account. She's probably got \$30,000 saved up. Smart.

"Our mission is to help you enjoy the benefits of a good running vehicle as an alternative to buying a new one. We strive to provide the overall lowest costs for private transportation. And, we think it should be fun to come here, too." ©

Sal's Car Wins Top Recognition



Sal recently drove his Mustang show car to Illinois for a National Show, hosted by the Central Illinois Mustang Club.

Cars don't compete against each other, they compete against a points list and earn recognition based on the score.

Having a show car that gets driven often is very difficult. Transporting a car by trailer is common, driving a show car to an event is a significant feat. Think of picking the bugs out of the grill.

Sal scored Silver in class. There was no Gold awarded. This is a real accomplishment. Sal is the guy you want working on your car. Congratulations, Sal.

402-434-6961

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Car Quiz

1. T or F—If you have a blowout on the highway, the first thing you should do is lightly hit the accelerator.
2. T or F—If your car's AC is a little smelly when first turned on, that's normal.
3. T or F—When on a trip, it's best to check the tires at the first gas stop.
4. T or F—On very hot days, the temp gauge might go well above half, that's normal.

Answers to Quiz

1. True—True, according to Michelin.com. They have a video on this that shows how light application of the throttle stabilizes the vehicle, whether the tire failure is on the front or the rear.

A blowout can cause the vehicle to sway and sudden movement of the steering wheel can lead to a rollover or other accident.

After the car stabilizes, shift to neutral and coast to the side of the road to stop.

Under no conditions should you brake hard or jerk the steering wheel.

2. True—When you shut off the car, the AC cooling coils are all wet and in the dark. What usually happens in those conditions? Yes, it can get ripe.

If you always run the fan, even with the AC off, it will keep the area as dry as possible and this will minimize odors. This costs nothing and does the best job of minimizing odors. A little odor on startup is normal.

Keeping the pollen filter clean and replacing it every 15,000 miles prevents a buildup of crud in the system.

3. False—Once you've driven the car for 3 miles or more, the tire temp has increased and raised the air pressure 4 to 6 psi or more. Tire pressure was only meant to be checked "cold", before the car is driven. After that, leave it alone the rest of the day.

I've checked hot tires on a bus and found them to run as high as 160 degrees F. This is why you should never lean against the hot tires of a bus. ☺

4. False—The temp gauge should never move, other than to come up off "cold". They seem to be designed to run about 1/3 of the way up. If it goes above half, the engine is hot.

Keep an eye on it during periods of idling, as this is one time vehicles can easily overheat.

What to do if it does get hot—Turn on the heater, full blast. Yes, really. If there's no heat out of the dash vents, shut it off and call a tow truck. The system is out of coolant. Hot coolant from the engine provides the heat, so no heat means no coolant.

This also means that the heater can cool the engine. If the temp gauge goes down, problem solved



for now. Drive the car and turn off the heat. If it stays in normal range, you just need to shut the car off at stops. You can still drive it to the shop, just don't idle for extended periods.

Whatever you do, don't keep going with a temp gauge anywhere above normal. It's pricey.

Don't Buy It

A tempting operation now is "air conditioner deodorizing", which leaves your AC sweet smelling.

Honda and Toyota have special coatings on their AC parts that inhibit the growth of mold and bacteria. They both recommend against using these treatments, as they may damage this coating. This means your AC can get really smelly in the future and you'll be stuck having to pay money to deal with the stink.

Don't buy it unless the smell is so bad it burns your eyes. Otherwise, as we stated earlier, it will go away as you use the AC.

Getting the Creeps

If you notice your car creeping forward at stops on hot days, or the brake pedal slowly dropping to the floor, it may be the early stages of a brake hydraulic failure. Get it in and have us check it right away. There's a chance your brakes could go out. That's no fun.

This is sometimes due to a wear condition inside the brake master cylinder and symptoms can be highly temperature sensitive. It may not show up during a brake inspection in mild temperatures. Be sure to report either of these symptoms when you make your appointment.

Hail Yes?

Want to do the most to save money on a car? Consider buying a car that already has hail damage. In the trade, these are referred to as "dimpled darlings".

It's not good to get it all fixed, as the panels and paint work will be a substantial expense. The sheet metal doesn't affect the mechanical workings.

If you can buy it right, a dimpled darling might be a cheap alternative to expensive transportation.

Insurance Plug-in Thingys

Those little gadgets that the insurance companies are advertising to help you "reduce your rates" are an interesting bit of technology. They're a combination GPS tracker, auto computer interface and monitoring device.

I don't know exactly what they really track, but here's some educated guesses. They'll likely record hard braking, hard acceleration, speeding (they do have GPS and they know the speed limit), left turns, crossing many lanes to enter a roadway from a parking lot, how many miles you drive, the times of day that you drive and if you often park near a bar... You'll soon be able to buy a similar device to track your kid's driving and it will report when they get out of your pre-set boundaries, in addition to reporting all the above information.

Food Drive—Ideal Grocery

We've challenged Ideal Grocery, Randolph Car Wash, A St. Auto Parts and Lincoln Clutch and Brake to collect food for the Food Bank. Everyone thinks about the Food Bank during the holidays, but hunger is an every day struggle and we want to help.

Bring us 5 food items and we'll give you \$30 credit



towards a pair of new wiper blades installed. Some blades appear to be a single beam and are more than \$30, so all we're promising is **up to \$30 credit**, not free blades, but we won't give you change, either. At any rate, do bring some food items and help us help others. Food drive ends 7/30/14.

Quick Tips—Hey, wait a sec!

When looking left and right checking for traffic, fix your gaze on the oncoming car just a second longer. This lets you better judge the speed of the vehicle. Even though at first it may seem far enough away, if it's really speeding, it'll be on you too fast.

Wait for the fix—On a very hot day, your car may not start, even though the starter cranks the engine over just fine (cranks, won't fire). Should this happen, open the doors and let the interior cool off a few minutes. Odds are that it will just start right up and run like nothing ever happened.

We know how to fix this. Electronics in the car are sometimes affected by the heat and quit working. Cool them off and they're fine. Call us, we'll fix it.

The awful film that everyone has seen—The film that gets on the inside of the car glass is from the "outgassing" of the vinyl interior parts. The film gives moisture something to cling to and causes the windows to fog faster and clear slower. Use a good window cleaner to remove the film for better vision, especially in the rain.

The best approach is long range—One way to produce a quality job is to be complete, based on a shop's experience. Many phone call shoppers have said that timing belt replacement packages commonly have new engine oil seals included, which can raise the price hundreds of dollars.

We've found that our "best" oil keeps the seals and gaskets soft and prevents them from leaking in the first place. This saves you big money, in addition to the time saved by longer service intervals.

Indoor pool—If you see water dripping on the floor while running the AC, you've probably got a plugged AC drain tube. Don't drive across country like this, it can flood the floor. We can fix it quickly most of the time. Call us for a quick "wait" appointment. Your car *should* leave a puddle on the ground after running the AC. It's distilled water from the AC itself.

3% Cash Discount Coupon

We are delighted to encourage those who strive to stick to a budget and pay cash for things. Simply present this coupon for a 3% discount when you pay by cash (U.S. currency) or paper check. Offer ends 7/30/14. Uh, it has to be YOUR check, not a paper photo of a Czech.

Free Lunch! Friday, June 27th

We're having a grill out at the shop from 11am to 1pm. We'll be grilling jumbo Fairbury brand hot dogs and having a little open house. Stop by, say hi and ask any car questions you'd like answered. There'll be some presentations on cleaning, waxing and caring for your car, too.

"Better"

Oil Change Service

4-month, 4,000-mile oil

change. Ideal to use with oil monitor, get car checked 3 times a year. Same service as below, only the oil is different. Ends 7/30/14. For best protection, change the oil when the monitor reads "20% oil life remaining". Additional charge for 0W20 oil. If you forgot and left your car home, you'll have to go back and get it. We're reasonably strict on this one.

\$43.50+ Tax
Parts & labor incl.

"Best"

Oil Change Service

6-month, 8,000-mile oil

change Includes oil filter and motor oil specially rated for long-life service. Includes a multi-point inspection by a Technician who knows your car. This oil protects your engine better than any other oil, regardless of drain interval. Up to 5 quarts, additional oil extra charge. Some trucks more. Regular price \$78.00. Ends 7/30/14. **Good only with Coupon** If you don't have a coupon, just tell us and we'll give you one. You do NOT need to present coupon at time of order, just any old time works. We're real flexible like that.

\$75.50+ Tax
Parts & labor incl.

George Witt Service 402-434-6961

We'll Wash Your Car FREE!

Simply spend \$50 or more with us and we'll give you a coupon for a FREE car wash at Randolph Car Wash, Lincoln's best car wash, 21st and N Sts. Good til 7/30/14. You can also park out front in a rain storm and say you got it washed.

Coupon

10 Wittbucks

Good on anything you want, except pop, coffee, Twinkies, rides to work, great conversation, friendship and respect. Those are always free. Oh, yeah, cash. We won't give you cash...Or a check. © Ends 7/30/14

Low Tire? How About a Portable Air Compressor?

Think you have a low tire? This system lets you hook up the air hose, read the gauge, then hit a button to inflate the tire. It's magic. Never again sweat a low tire. It's the size of a kid's lunchbox and plugs into a lighter socket. List \$59.95, on sale for **only \$39.95**. +tax. Offer ends 7/30/14.



Vacation Inspection \$29

A road trip should be a bonding experience and a great adventure because of the sights you see and the fun you have. It shouldn't be memorable because of car trouble.

The majority of cars that have trouble on the road should have never left home the way they were.

This is a great inspection we developed to address the things that might become a concern on a road trip. Start your trip with confidence and look forward to fun. (Be sure to put gas in, too). Ends 8/29/14



7am-5pm Mon-Thurs & Fri 7am- 4pm

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Newsletter for Honda & Toyota Owners

George Witt Service, Inc. (Since 1995)
"Empowering People to Love Their Cars"
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We sell peace and quiet while you wait— and an art show on the walls, a dozen current magazines, free

WiFi, free Twinkies, fresh fruit and free pop. We offer the nicest place in town to wait. It's just like Starbucks, without the bucks. Call for appointment for fast service.



4-month Oil Change
\$33.50*

*When you use the \$10 coupon inside. A great value for your car.

E-Mail: service@georgewitt.com



How to Buy a Car Class

Many have saved thousands by taking this class. Tuesday, June 24th, 5:30 to 7pm. Make a reservation and bring all your friends. Free pizza.



This woman took the class and used our strategy of striking when the dealer was the weakest. She went in to buy a car when the Huskers were playing football on TV. They got her right out of there with a great deal on the exact car she wanted. :) Brilliant.

- ◆ **Inside**—How to keep the AC from getting smelly
- ◆ Solar roadways
- ◆ Food drive
- ◆ What those insurance thingys that you plug into your car and drive for 6 months (in exchange for reduced rates) *really* track
- ◆ How to get a good free lunch