

A Free Monthly Newsletter From Your Friends At Affordable Automotive

What Is April Fools' Day?

April 1 used to be the day that the New Year was observed when the Julian calendar was in effect. But in 1562, the Gregorian calendar was adopted by Pope Gregory, and that changed the observance of the New Year to Jan. 1.

In France some people either did not accept the change or had not heard of the change, and they continued to celebrate the New Year on April 1. These people earned the name of April Fools. People made fun of them and played tricks and jokes on them to see if they would fall for falsehoods, etc. And so the new tradition for April 1 took hold in the culture and is still practiced today. Practical jokes and silliness of all types are played and if a victim falls for the prank, then the prankster calls out "April Fools."

Most April Fools' jokes are harmless and fun. According to www.museumofhoaxes.com, the best April Fools' Day hoax of all time was "The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest."

In 1957, the British Broadcasting Corporation announced on a news show that because of an extremely mild winter and "the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop."

This announcement was followed up with footage of peasants in Switzerland harvesting spaghetti from trees. The BBC was inundated with phone calls by enthused viewers who wanted to grow spaghetti trees of their own. To this the BBC promptly replied: "Place a sprig of spaghetti sauce and hope for the best."

April Events

April 1-30	National Car Care Month
April 1-30	Alcohol Awareness Month
April 1-30	National Child Abuse Prevention Month
April 19-25	National TV Turn-Off Week
April 4	Daylight Savings Time Begins
April 11	Easter Sunday
April 15	Tax Filing Deadline
April 21	Administrative Professionals Day
April 25	Earth Day
April 30	National Arbor Day

Do You Want To Win A Free 3-day / 2-night Mini-Vacation?

Take the trivia challenge and you just might win!

Each month we'll give you a new trivia question. The first 10 people to call with the correct answer will be eligible to win. At the end of the month we'll draw one lucky name. That winner will receive a certificate good for 3 fun-filled days and 2 exciting nights of deluxe hotel accommodations at one of 18 fantastic locations. Here is this month's trivia question:

"Batman is the secret identity of what comic book character?"

- a) Peter Parker
- b) Clark Kent
- c) Bruce Wayne
- d) Dick Grayson

Call right now with your answer!

The answer to last month's trivia challenge, "What retailer exclusively offers the Craftsman line of tools?" was **b) Sears, Roebuck Co.** Congratulations to last month's lucky winner

Andrew Silverstein

Instant Messaging- Know The Lingo

Instant messaging is increasingly more popular for teenagers, and even more popular is the lingo used in the chat rooms. Here are some tips that could help you, the parent, translate what your teenager and their friends are saying:

AFK — Away from keyboard	G2G — I've got to go
A/S/L — Age/ Sex/ Location	IMO — In my opinion
B — I'm back	JK — Just kidding
BBL — I'll be back later	L8R — Later
BFN — Bye for now	LOL — Laugh out loud
BG — Big grin	M/OS — Mom over my shoulder
BRB — I'll be right back	NE1 — Anyone
CUL8R — See you later	OMG — Oh my gosh
EG — Evil grin	TIC — Tongue in cheek
FITB — Fill in the blank	TTYL — I'll talk to you later
G — Grin	WB — Welcome back

Do You Have A Question About Car Maintenance That You Want Answered?

We love to hear from all of our good friends and clients who enjoy reading our monthly newsletter. If you have a question about anything related to your vehicle, feel free to give us a call at **540-710-5400**.

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Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Special thanks go out to all of our clients and friends who graciously referred our shop to their friends and neighbors last month! Our business is built based on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you. We just couldn't do it without you and we'll send you \$5.00

Kids Want Fewer Activities, More You

At a family gathering, a mother noted that her son had been very talkative as a child: "He would just follow me from room to room talking."

"I remember that," said the son, now a father himself. "I kept trying to talk to you, but you would just keep on with what you were doing. You were always so busy."

How many of us have not stopped to listen, or have not spent those few moments focusing on a child?

A nationwide study of kids in grades 3 through 12 found that what they wanted most was time with parents that was less rushed and stressed, that's more enjoyable than a scheduled activity.

Reduce Your Taxes

Unfortunately it's that time of year when most of us grudgingly write a few checks to Uncle Sam. And while it's too late to cut back your tax burden from the year's past, there are a few things you can do to save money this year. Here are three ways:

1. Retirement plans. In 2004, contribution limits to 401(k), 403(b) and 457 plans increased \$1,000–\$13,000.
(Limits on SIMPLE plans rose \$1,000–\$9,000 for small-business owners and employers. And if your employer offers a retirement plan, you can get a deduction for contributions to a traditional IRA if you make less than \$55,000 a year, or \$75,000 for a couple filing a joint return.)
2. College tuition. Deductions from college tuition increased from \$3,000 to \$4,000 for those who make less than \$65,000 as an individual or \$130,000 for a couple filing a joint return. Those with an income between \$65,000 and \$80,000 (or \$130,000 and \$160,000 for a married couple filing jointly) can deduct \$2,000 from their tax return.
3. Health savings account. HSAs allow you to save money to pay for health-care expenses from a tax-free account. Those with "self-only" plans can contribute \$2,500 and families can store up to \$5,150 in pre-taxed dollars in a HSA account.

Tips To Keep In Mind During National Car Care Month

Bad driving habits have an impact on your car and the environment.

- ✓ **Avoid high speeds.** Fuel efficiency decreases significantly at speeds over 55 miles per hour. In addition, high-speed driving causes heat buildup that accelerates tire deterioration. Cornering too fast causes excessive, uneven wear on tire treads.
- ✓ **Drive smoothly.** Smooth driving saves gas and lowers vehicle emissions. You should accelerate slowly, avoiding "jackrabbit starts"; shift to higher gears at the lowest possible speed if you have a standard transmission; and accelerate gently if you have an automatic transmission.
- ✓ **Avoid lengthy idling.** Idling wastes gas. Don't start your car until you're ready to go, and keep winter engine warm-ups brief.
- ✓ **Don't rev the engine;** it wastes gas. Revving the engine can dump gas on the cylinder walls, which increases engine wear. Revving can also overheat the vehicle's catalytic converter, which makes it less effective and can damage it.
- ✓ **Keep tires properly inflated.** Under-inflated tires decrease gas mileage and shorten tire life.
- ✓ **Avoid rough roads and potholes.** Because driving on rough surfaces is hard on tires and wheel alignment, it can reduce fuel efficiency.
- ✓ **Make fewer trips in your vehicle.** Vehicle emissions and fuel consumption increase not just with number of miles driven, but also with number of trips taken. Vehicles burn more gas and emit far more pollutants in their first few minutes of operation because their emission control systems have not warmed up and reached peak efficiency.

Why Ordering Spicy Might Be Good For You

Do you love chili peppers? Go ahead and eat some more. Why? At only 4 calories per tablespoon, you don't have to worry about weight gain. Another reason to munch down on chilies is that one tablespoon contains one-third of the daily intake of vitamin C needed, 10 percent of the vitamin A needed and is chockful of antioxidants. Here's more good news: Eating chili peppers can help suppress your appetite. That's because capsaicin, the thing that makes chilies hot, aids in suppressing your desire to eat. People who consume hot peppers tend to consume fewer calories. And that's not all, hot peppers also cause an increase in metabolism, which helps burn more calories.

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How To Beat The Competition

The operator of a small town hair salon was confident in the knowledge that his was the only salon in town. In fact he was responsible for cutting and styling the hair of just about everyone in town. The money just rolled in.

Unfortunately, however, one day right across the street from his little hair salon sprang up one of those new full-service salon franchises. It's high-powered advertising campaign proclaimed, "EVERYTHING FOR \$10! \$10 haircuts, \$10 perms, everything for \$10."

Soon all his customers—even his neighbors—began patronizing the cut-rate salon across the street, and the man's once profitable business took a nosedive. In desperation, he hired a big-city business consultant, saying to him, "I'm finished. How in the world am I going to compete with that big outfit with all that advertising and with those kind of prices?"

The consultant stood looking at the cut-rate salon across the street for several minutes, and watching the patrons pour in. Then, without saying anything to his desperate client, he picked up the phone and dialed the town's only billboard company.

"Yes," he said, "right on top of our building. In the biggest letters you can find, and do it right away. And make the message read:

"WE FIX \$10 HAIRCUTS!!"

The new addition is making a difference... Now that we have the extra space, we can pull in more cars at once, which simply means that we can serve you faster. I've also added ASE certified technicians and State Inspectors to help serve you better...and faster. Our careful attention to detail will never diminish, but the time that you may have had to wait to get the "car in the shop" is what we are striving to make faster.

On The Lighter Side

It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking. I saw a little boy staring in at me. "Is that a dog you got back there?" he asked. "It sure is," I replied. Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the van. Finally he said, "What'd he do?"

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her brother. "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"

A woman was trying to get the ketchup to come out of the jar. During her struggle, the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. "It's the minister, Mommy," the child said to her mother. Then she added, "Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."

Word Play

- 🌀 Energizer Bunny arrested - charged with battery.
- 🌀 A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.
- 🌀 I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.
- 🌀 Corduroy pillows are making headlines.
- 🌀 When you dream in color, it's a pigment of your imagination.
- 🌀 Reading while sunbathing makes you well-red.
- 🌀 Pasteurize: Too far to see.
- 🌀 Propaganda: A gentlemanly goose.



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