

tion keys, car thieves are getting somewhat savvy in taking advantage of some less 'high tech' methods of theft.

Recently, area residents of New Bedford have seen an increase in car thefts in which the suspect either, opens an unlocked car door, or breaks a window to gain access to the car's interior.

Once inside, many thieves are rifling through glove boxes, but it appears they are not looking for your loose change. These crafty thieves are checking those glove box and center console compartments for a second set of keys. Keys not necessarily to the car they have broken into, but the other family car in the same driveway. It appears that some area residents have been keeping a spare key in their glove box or console for another car that they own, which is often parked close by. The thieves are taking advantage of this to take off in the other vehicle. As such, area police and auto technicians are advising residents not to leave any spare keys in your vehicles, regardless of what car the keys are for.

Also, there has been a sharp increase in the theft of visible items inside area vehicles. Many of these break-ins have been occurring in daylight hours both in driveways and in parking lots. Thieves appear to be checking autos for items left 'visible' on the seat like purses, laptops, cell phones and portable GPS Navigation systems. Also, in many of these cases, the victims are reporting to the police that they left their car unlocked because they either forgot or thought they were only going to be away from the car for a short period of time.

In addition, there has been a pattern of break-ins recently, in which, no handbags or electronic items were even visible. In many of these cases, police have noticed that the victim had left a GPS Navigation mounting bracket on the windshield. In some of the cases, the owner had removed the bracket but there was a visible round stain on the windshield from the suction cup on the bracket. It appears that, when the suspect observes the stain or bracket, they then break into the car presuming that the GPS system is inside, either in the glove box or the console. And unfortunately, that's often just where it is.

Please remember to keep your GPS brackets hidden and try to keep the windshield clear of any 'circular witness marks' of the mounting bracket suction cups to help thwart a possible entry into your vehicle.

As far as GPS systems and laptops go, many of these portable items are not covered under your vehicle insurance policy if they are not permanently mounted to the vehicle. Due to the expense as well as the risk of data and identification loss, try to never leave a laptop visible and always lock it in the trunk and out of view if possible.

In addition, lap top owners may want to consider downloading some anti-theft software like 'Lojack for Laptops' where the laptops location can be traced if stolen. Are police departments are reporting that they are recovering more and more laptops when the owners have installed this special tracking software.

This then leads to more instances of prosecution of the suspects involved. Also, some of these software providers also offer monetary protection guarantees as well as a 'data delete' options in which the lap tops hard drive can be remotely 'wiped clean' of all personal data if the lap top itself can't physically be recovered. You can learn more by visiting the vendor's web site at: www.absolute.com/products/lojackforlaptops

In Passing

Obituaries Courtesy The Standard Times

Note: Due to recent requests, we will be adding family survivors to our customer's obituaries as space allows.

NEW BEDFORD - William T. Binning, 86, of New Bedford, passed away on Tuesday, November 17, 2009, at St. Luke's Hospital, after a brief illness. He was the husband of Estella (Martin) Binning, married 67 years and son of the late Roy and Nan (Shrimplin) Binning.

He was born in Coshocton, Ohio and has lived in New Bedford since 1951. He was a WW II Army veteran and was a member of the 411th Infantry Regiment. He served in the battles of Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe.

He was formerly employed for Mullins Refrigeration Services and was very proud of having worked for 33 years at Peter's Orchard in Acushnet where he thoroughly enjoyed being with people and making friends.

Mr. Binning was a lifetime member of the New Bedford Post #1 American Legion; member of the AmVets of Boston, VFW Post of Acushnet and the D.A.V. He adored spending time with his dog "Cocoa."

Survivors include his wife; his son, William T. Binning, Jr., and his wife, Debra of New Bedford; his daughters, Mae Peters of Acushnet and Dian Binning of New Bedford; five grandchildren, Lori Fillion and her husband, William, Geremie Camara and his wife, Stacey, John Peters and his wife, Christine, Kari Binning, and Garth Camara and his wife, Jessica; five great-grandchildren, Mackenzie and Lindsey Fillion, Kelsey Peters, Gabriella and Grady Camara; a brother, Hugh Binning of Utah; a son-in-law, Glenn Camara of Assonet; and several nieces and nephews.

He was the father of the late Patricia Camara and the brother of the late Roy, Jack and Dallas Binning and Delores Cantlebury.

We appreciate your business. Please drive safely.

Giammalvo Quarterly

A Publication of Sam Giammalvo's Auto Sales & Service Inc.

Volume 15 Issue 4

Visit our website @ www.samscars.com

Fall 2009



Odds & Ends

- Our sales hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 - 9:00 and Saturday 9:00 -4:00. Our service hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 - 5:00 and Saturday 8:30 - 12:30.
- Giammalvo Quarterly is edited, designed and printed by our staff right here in our facility.
- Feel free to let us know what you think. Give us a call or send us an e-mail at: samgauto@samscars.com

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Life Expectancy Of Full Tank Of Gasoline Now Only 14-21 Days

Source: Ethanol.org & Fuel-Testers.com

Ethanol is a clean, renewable, high performance fuel for your vehicle. Up to a 10% blend of ethanol, (E10), is authorized for use by warranty by every auto manufacturer that sells vehicles in the U.S. for every make and every model of vehicle. E85 (85% ethanol, 15% gasoline) is for use in flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) which can operate on gasoline or any blend of ethanol up to 85%. Many recommend its use because of its high octane and superior performance characteristics.

Ethanol is currently blended into about 70% of America's gasoline, the majority is the E10 blend. Each state determines whether gasoline needs to be labeled if containing ethanol, so if you're in an area where labeling is voluntary or not required, it is not always possible to tell if the gasoline contains ethanol. Ethanol blends are offered extensively throughout the Midwest and are becoming more and more widely available from coast to coast.

Because ethanol has an octane rating of 113, adding 10% ethanol to gasoline raises the finished fuel's octane rating by 2 or 3 points, improving the fuel's performance.

In some cases, different percentages of ethanol are used instead of the 10% blend. In California, for example, all gasoline contains 5.7% ethanol. E85 is a blend of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline that is meant for use in only flexible fuel vehicles.

E10 is safe to use in small engines such as motorcycles, lawn mowers, trimmers, boats, personal watercraft, snowmobiles, ATVs, and many others. Manufacturers understand that a considerable portion of the gasoline sold in this country contains ethanol and ensure that their products are compatible with oxygenated fuel.

E10 and E85 gasoline contains alcohol, which has a tendency to absorb water into the gasoline. Due to the absorption rate of the alcohol, the shelf life of E10 and E85 is only 3 months under ideal temperature and humidity conditions. As such, it is now recommended that you change or use up the gasoline in your vehicles fuel tank every 3 weeks, if possible.

Keep an eye out for the symptoms of water contaminated gasoline. Symptoms of such can be, stalling, hesitation, exhaust smoke, clogged fuel injectors and carburetors.

Giammalvo's Upgrades Computer & Network Operations

Here at Giammalvo's this past October, we upgraded our dealerships local area network as well as our complete computer operations systems. With the help of Joe Shuster, of HiTech Business Systems, we recently installed 7 new high-speed Dell computer workstations, all linked via a Microsoft Windows Network. All users, both in the shop and office areas, now have high speed access to our shop management system for writing repair orders as well as on-line Internet access to our various suppliers, including Alldata and Iatn. These various automotive service web sites that we subscribe to assist us in making sure that we are using the latest recommended procedures and software updates for working on the hardware and software in today's high tech automobiles.

Noisier Hybrid Vehicles To Aid Blind

Source: Associated Press

One attractive aspect of a hybrid or electric car is its super-quiet drive. But worries are growing that blind people may be endangered by the vehicles' silence.

The Japanese government has set up a panel with automakers, organizations for the blind and consumer groups to come up with a solution, which could have such vehicles emitting what would sound like engine noise, or musical sounds like a cell phone ring tone, officials said Tuesday. A legal change would be needed to equip the vehicles with such special features.

"We are still listening to different opinions and trying to figure out the best solution," said Yuta Kaga, spokesman for Toyota Motor Corp., which makes the gas-electric Prius hybrid and is represented on the panel.

The panel, which began meeting in July, plans to have a proposal ready by the end of the year, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

The group was set up partly in response to worries voiced by the blind. The Japan Federation of the Blind, which submitted a request in June, is asking the government to instruct hybrid manufactures to make the vehicles safer for the blind. An informal survey of 52 blind people carried out by the group last year found that more than half of the responders said they were terrified of hybrids because they were so quiet, although none reported being in an accident.

Recent Recalls

Source: National Highway & Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Toyota is recalling certain model year 2004-2010 passenger vehicles. The accelerator pedal can get stuck in the wide-open position due to its being trapped by an unsecured or incompatible driver's floor mat. A stuck open accelerator pedal may result in very high vehicle speeds and make it difficult to stop the vehicle, which could cause a crash, serious injury or death. Toyota will notify owners of affected vehicles to remove any driver's floor mat and not replace it with any other floor mat pending the development of model-specific remedies. Toyota will mail a second notification to owners of affected vehicles notifying them of the free remedy when it is available. The first notice was mailed on October 30, 2009 and Toyota will advise NHTSA an estimate of the date when the remedy parts will be available.

Nissan is recalling certain model year 2008-2010 vehicles originally sold in, or currently registered in, the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington D.C., West Virginia and Wisconsin, (Otherwise known as, the Salt-Belt States). The material in the nut used to secure the sensor-transmitter of the tire pressure monitoring system, (TPMS), may corrode and potentially crack in areas with heavy concentrations of road salt. If this occurs, the nut may come out of the sensor transmitter and the TPMS lamp will illuminate. If the TPMS lamp is disregarded and the vehicle continues to be driven in this condition, the tire will quickly lose air pressure at a consistent rate resulting in a flat tire increasing the risk of a crash. The dealer will replace the TPMS nut with a new, more robust nut. This service will be performed free of charge.

Ford is recalling model years 1995-2003 Windstar, 2000-2003 Excursion, 1993-1997 and 1999-2003 F-super Duty, 1992-2003 Econoline, 1995-2002 Explorer and Mercury Mountaineer, 1995-1997 and 2001-2003 Ranger, and 1994 F53 vehicles equipped with the Texas Instruments speed control deactivation switch, (SCDS). The SCDS may leak internally and then overheat, smoke, or burn. A vehicle fire could occur. Ford will notify owners and dealers will install a fused wiring harness for the SCDS. Dealers will also inspect the abs control connector and repair as necessary. Repairs will be completed free of charge. The safety recall began on October 27, 2009.

What Costs Society \$44,193 A Minute?

Source:

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Answer? Check your speedometer as you drive home! Exceeding the posted limit or driving too fast for conditions is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic crashes. Speed is a factor in nearly one-third of all fatal crashes. Speed-related crashes cost society more than \$23 billion a year. Too few drivers view speeding as an immediate risk to their personal safety or the safety of others. Yet, speeding reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway, and it extends the distance required to stop a vehicle in emergency situations.

Crash severity increases with the speed of the vehicle at impact. Inversely, the effectiveness of restraint devices like air bags and safety belts, and vehicular construction features such as crumple zones and side member beams decline as impact speed increases. The probability of death, disfigurement, or debilitating injury grows with higher speed at impact. Such consequences double for every 10 mph over 50 mph that a vehicle travels. Many drivers don't consider this. They slow their speed in residential areas, or when the weather turns bad. To them, a few miles an hour over the posted speed limit is an acceptable risk. Their excuse -- other drivers do it. They believe the worst that can happen to them is to receive a speeding ticket.

Drivers like this are wrong. Maybe even dead wrong, because driving too fast for conditions or exceeding the posted speed limit can kill you. Consider these speed-related facts; Rural roads account for over 60 percent of all speed-related fatal crashes. Sixty six percent of speed-related crashes involved a single vehicle. Sixty percent of all speed-related fatal crashes occurred at night (6 pm to 6 am). Drivers involved in speed-related fatal crashes are more likely to have a history of traffic violations.

On average, 1,000 Americans are killed every month in speed-related crashes. Of all drivers aged 15-24 years of age involved in fatal crashes, 32 percent were speeding. Of drivers under age 21 involved in fatal crashes, 38 percent of the male and 24 percent of the female drivers were speeding. Speeding also has economic and environmental costs. Fuel consumption increases steadily above 45 mph with passenger cars and light trucks using approximately 50 percent more fuel traveling at 75 mph than they do at 55 mph.

Car Theft & Break-In's On The Rise

Area residents of New Bedford, Dartmouth, and other surrounding cities and towns, have been reporting a noticeable increase in both car thefts and car break-ins. Although many late model cars today have sophisticated alarm systems and special computerized igni-