

Giammalvo Quarterly

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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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Federal Government Aims To End Distracted Driving

Source:
Body Shop Business

Though multitasking is a way of life in the U.S., the federal government is taking aim at a form of it that's causing thousands of collisions – distracted driving. At the conclusion of a recent two-day summit on the issue in Washington, D.C., U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced a series of actions the Obama Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) are taking to help curb activity that keeps drivers' eyes off the road, such as cell phone use.

A recent report from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute noted that people who text messaged while operating heavy vehicles or trucks were 23.2 times more likely to get into crashes or near-crash situations. According to Nationwide, driving while distracted is a factor in 25 percent of police-reported crashes. Research from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows that the worst offenders are the youngest drivers: people under 20 years of age. LaHood said he would work with Congress to ensure that the issue of distracted driving is addressed.

The USDOT plans to create three separate rulemakings addressing distracted driving that would consider:

- 1). Banning text-messaging while driving altogether and restricting the use of cell phones by truck and interstate bus operators.
- 2). Making permanent restrictions on the use of cell phones and other electronic devices in rail operations.
- 3). Disqualifying school bus drivers convicted of texting while driving from maintaining their commercial driver's licenses.

Six states (California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and Washington) already ban handheld cell phone use for all drivers, and 18 states ban text-messaging while driving. On Sept. 29, Pres. Barack Obama signed an Executive Order directing federal employees not to engage in text messaging while driving government-owned vehicles, when using electronic equipment supplied by the government while driving, or while driving privately owned vehicles when they're on official government business. The order also encourages federal contractors and others doing business with the government to adopt and enforce their own policies banning texting while driving on the job.

New Bedford Mayor Approves Ban On Texting While Driving

Mayor Scott Lang of New Bedford has now signed into law a city ordinance on 'texting while driving', which was recently approved by city council members. Effective immediately, the ordinance is now in full force and effect and it has been distributed to police headquarters as well as all three district stations. Motor Patrol Officers have been briefed on the ordinance and will be able to issue city ordinance tickets for the texting violations. First offence carries a 100.00 penalty, second offence is 200.00 and third and subsequent offences are 300.00. A portion of the new ordinance appears below;

23-29. Electronic messages by vehicle operators — Prohibited.

No operator of a motor vehicle on any street in the City of New Bedford shall use a mobile telephone, or any device capable of accessing the Internet, to compose, send, or read an electronic message while operating a motor vehicle. For the purposes of this Section, an operator shall not be considered to be operating a motor vehicle if the vehicle is stationary and not located in a part of the public way intended for travel.

23-30. Electronic messages by vehicle operators — Penalties.

A violation of Section 23-29 shall be punishable by a fine of \$100 for a first offence, by a fine of \$200 for second offence and by a fine of \$300 for a third or subsequent offence.

Bill Would Give Technicians Much Needed Information

*Source:
Anika Clark
The Standard Times*

Sam Giammalvo's Auto Sales, a 50-year-old business on Purchase Street, opened its doors at a time when mechanics could diagnose problems and fix cars without sophisticated computer technology. Decades ago, "you needed a good shop manual and tools," said Art Kinsman of the Boston-based Massachusetts Right to Repair Coalition. "Today you need literally millions of pages of information and all kinds of electronic tools to get the job done." Bay State lawmakers are weighing a bill that would give independent shops like Giammalvo's the same access to this information as dealers affiliated with big-name manufacturers. The bill also would require diagnostic tools be made available to independent shops "at a reasonable and nondiscriminatory price."

The so-called "right to repair" bill, one of several being considered by lawmakers, is expected to emerge today from the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, where Rep. Robert M. Koczera, D-New Bedford, predicted it would win favor. "From what I've been told, the votes are there in committee," he said, adding that he, too, supports the bill. "A lot of people have their own mechanics," he said. "If those mechanics are capable enough to deal with the new electronics " they should be able to access whatever codes and information they need."

As things stand, independent shops are blocked from certain repair jobs because they lack this access, according to Sam Giammalvo's son, Mark Giammalvo. Sam Giammalvo's Auto Sales paid more than \$6,000 for the generic scan tool that mechanics use to determine the causes of various vehicle problems. Generic scan tools used to work on cars from a wider range of manufacturers, Mark Giammalvo said. But now, "you'll get this code that refers you to a dealer scan tool. I don't have a dealer scan tool." This can force independent repair shops to refer their customers to dealers. "It's profit lost and, quite frankly, it's embarrassing," Giammalvo said. "The customer looks at you (like), 'What do you mean, you can't fix my car?'"

Pedro, Second Mate Ryan Pedro and Kevin Pedro; and several nieces and nephews.

type of chemical mixture, so never mix coolants unless you are certain it is an authorized substitute. Also, be careful not to confuse the windshield washer fluid reservoir, (normally filled with blue washer liquid), with the coolant overflow bottle.

- On hot days, engines can be more susceptible to ‘pinging’ or ‘detonation’, which can damage the engine over time. Do you know if you are using the correct octane rating when you purchase your gas? Does your car take rating 87, 89 or 91? If your car has a door that allows you to access the gas cap, look on the back side of this door when open for a decal that stated the octane rating. You should also be able to find this rating in your owner’s manual under the heading of fuel or specifications.

In Passing

Customer Obituaries Courtesy of The Standard Times

Matheus "Puddie" Gilmette, 88, of New Bedford died April 19, 2010 unexpectedly at St. Luke's Hospital. He was the husband of the late Rose (Spinner) Gilmette. Born in New Bedford, the son of the late Joaquim and Virginia (Raymond) Gilmette, he lived in New Bedford all of his life. Mr. Gilmette was a communicant of Our Lady of the Assumption Church. He was formerly employed as a Merchant Seaman with Texaco Inc. for many years until retirement and also served as a Merchant Marine during World War II. He was an avid fan of the Boston Celtics and Red Sox. Survivors include his 7 children, Robert Gilmette of New Bedford, Wayne Ennes of Pacifica, CA, Maureen Tavares and her husband Gene of Venice, FL, Beverly Britto of New Bedford, Susan Miranda and her husband Philip of New Bedford, Donna Jackson of LaVerne, CA, and Geraldine Barrett of New Bedford; a brother, Joaquim Gilmette of East Falmouth; 2 sisters, Rose Ramos of Leicester and Anna Monteiro of Brockton.

The Honorable Chris Byron of Rochester, Retired Superior Court Justice, a decorated Korean War Hero, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at the age of 82. Born in New Bedford on Oct. 17, 1927, he was the son of James and Evelyn Byron. He was raised in Buzzards Bay and graduated from Norwich University before enlisting in the Army, where he served in Korea as a tank platoon commander with the First Cavalry Division, earning the Silver & Bronze Stars among other accolades. After the military, he launched what was to be a brilliant legal career, which led him to the Superior Court and to receipt of the prestigious St. Thomas More Award for distinguished service in the legal field. Outside the court, Judge Byron was a devoted family man, who enjoyed traveling, sailing his boat EL Greco II, skiing, gardening, dancing, singing, riding his motorcycle, reciting poetry, storytelling, history, semantics and talking to anyone and everyone. Devout in his religion, Judge Byron was the longest serving member of the parish council at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, serving over 40 years and holding positions of president, vice-president and treasurer and receiving a Laity

Award for his dedication and commitment to his church. Survivors include his wife, Priscilla, daughters Christina of San Francisco, Dimitra Dugal of Wyoming, his grandchildren Brendan, Addison and Elijah, brothers Charles of Florida, Alexander and his wife Suzanne, his sisters Flo, Joanne and nieces, nephews.

Ovila "Mike" A. Nadeau, 90, of New Bedford, passed away on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at Alden Court Nursing & Rehab Center, after a period of declining health. He was the husband of the late Yvonne (Ouimette) Nadeau, who passed away in May 2009; and he was the son of the late Arthur and Felinease (Poulin) Nadeau. He was a lifelong resident of New Bedford and was formerly employed as a Plumbing Inspector for the City of New Bedford until his retirement. Mr. Nadeau was a former Executive Captain of the New Bedford Auxiliary Police. He was a member of the Sharpshooters and Civil Defense from 1954 to 1982. In his leisure time he enjoyed target shooting and fishing. Survivors include his daughter, Lorraine Latimer and her husband, Norbert "Chuck" of New Bedford; two grandchildren, Joseph Latimer and his wife, Maria of Westport and David Latimer and his wife, Tiffany of PA; and a great-granddaughter, Hailey Latimer.

M. Gilda Couto, 92, of New Bedford, MA and Londonderry, NH, passed away Monday, April 26, 2010, at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, NH. Gilda was born May 12, 1917, in New Bedford, MA, to the late Manuel Duarte de Mello and Angelina A. P. Vasconcellos. She was also predeceased by her step mother, Alexandrina Teresa d'Almeida. From the ages of 5 and 17 she lived and was educated in the Salga, St. Michael, Azores where she completed her high school education before returning to New Bedford to live with her aunt Maria Souza. During World War II, she was employed at the Goodyear Rubber Company where she supervised the manufacturing of rubber rafts and dirigibles. Following the war, she was employed as a seamstress for a number of well known dress manufacturing companies in New Bedford including the M & S, and the Bonney Sportswear. She was actively involved as a volunteer with Boy Scout Troop 11 at Mt. Carmel Church and several church organizations. A gentle, kind and compassionate woman, she had a unique love and passion for the downtrodden and raised her children to respect the dignity and sanctity of every human person. Never afraid of hard work, she would tailor and repair clothing for several families in need. Gilda was predeceased by her husband, Manuel P. Couto in 1994.

Mary C. (Costa) Pedro, 87, of Dartmouth, died May 11, 2010, at St. Luke's Hospital after a brief illness. She was the wife of the late Manuel Pedro. Born in New Bedford, the daughter of the late Jacintho C. and Antonia R. (Alves) Costa, she lived in Dartmouth most of her life. Mrs. Pedro was a communicant of St. Julie Billiard Church. She was formerly employed as a supervisor at Colonial Textiles. Survivors include her son, James Pedro and his wife, Caryn of New Bedford; a sister-in-law, Yvonne Mello of New Bedford; 3 grandchildren, U.S. Navy Lt. Derek

We appreciate your business. Please drive safely.

This also can undermine competition, according to Rep. John F. Quinn, D-Dartmouth, who supports the bill along with Rep. Antonio F.D. Cabral, D-New Bedford. Massachusetts Right to Repair Coalition coordinator Kinsman said he was optimistic the bill would be successful this session, despite a similar bill's death without a vote in the House after it was favorably reported out of committee in 2008. Similar legislation is pending in the U.S. Congress. "The more people know about this, the more they realize it's fair for consumers, it's fair for small businessmen," Kinsman said. Still, "there are powerful players on the other side from the auto industry who want to see this bill killed."

Robert O'Koniewski is the executive vice president of the Massachusetts State Automobile Dealers Association. "We've strongly opposed it," he said, in part because dealers are required to meet capital investment, facility and training requirements to secure their franchise status. "To draft a law to try to put independent repair shops on the same footing as dealers, we have issues with," he said.

At the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers, "We think legislation is unnecessary because we know that that information is already available to anyone who wants to access it," Director of Government Affairs Paul Ryan said. The National Automotive Service Task Force Web site provides temporary access to service information for a user fee. Ford, for example, charges \$22 for 72 hours, \$325 for a month and \$2,700 for one year. "Everything that is available to a franchise dealer is available to the independents" online, Ryan said. But Kinsman said, "In some cases, they're kind of getting the CliffsNotes version of things."

And even when independent mechanics purchase temporary access to information, these guides can still refer them to a dealer scan tool, according to Mark Giammalvo. Regardless, Jim Lutz — a dealer at Alden Buick GMC Truck in Fairhaven and Alden Volkswagen Fairhaven — argued that independent shops are faring just fine. Independent shops, he said, "have the bulk of the business already."

Spring/Summer Car Care Tips

Summer is fast approaching and soon those hot and muggy dog days will be upon us. Here are some items that you may want to consider checking on your vehicle:

- If your car is equipped with air conditioning, turn it on during a warm day, (over 75 degrees), and check to see if cold air is felt coming out of the dash vents. A proper working air conditioner will help keep windows defogged in humid and rainy weather.
- Check your owner’s manual to see if your vehicle is equipped with an interior cabin air filter. If so, this filter is positioned in the incoming air stream to the cabin and a replacement filter can help filter out pollen, dust and other containments. A dirty filter will no longer properly clean the air and can cause a restriction in air flow out the vents, the latter, causing longer cool down time on hot days and poor defogging. If you are unsure whether or not your car has a cabin air filter, check your owner’s manual or notify our service department during your next oil change appointment and we can inspect this for you.
- Tire pressure is always a good safety item to check any time of year. Many newer vehicles have a low tire pressure warning system but there is no harm in checking it yourself with a good tire gauge. Tire pressure increases with the heat caused by road speed and loads. Always check tire pressure after the car has been parked and the tires are cool. A tire pressure reading of 32 psi. is often acceptable, however, you can always look for the recommended pressure on your Tire Pressure Placard (TPP). The TPP is generally a decal that is often found on the edge of the driver’s door that is visible when the door is open. However, some car manufacturers place this decal on the passenger's rear door body opening, (also visible on the rear body panel when the rear door is open).
- It’s always good to inspect your wiper blades to see if any of the rubber on the blade is peeling off or cracking. Worn wipers can impede view on rainy days and can even scratch your windshield. Some vehicles have a rear wiper and some even have headlamp wipers. We have a complete line of replacement quality wiper blades in stock for over 90% of the vehicles on the road today.
- Low coolant can cause overheating and serious expensive engine damage. When the engine is cool, and has been turned off for at least one hour, open the hood and look for the coolant overflow bottle. Your owner’s manual is the best source of information and should show a picture of this. This bottle will often have a marking on the side to show if it is empty or full. Also, if the engine is cold, you can carefully open the radiator cap and check to see if the coolant is visible and right up to the top of the radiator neck. (On some vehicles that have a pressurized coolant bottle, the bottle’s cap is actually your radiator cap). Depending on the manufacturer, coolant comes in different colors including: green, yellow, blue, orange and red. The color can indicate the