



Connected... to meet your needs

***"Intellectuals solve problems; geniuses prevent them."***  
***– Albert Einstein***

Dear Friend,

The holidays are fast approaching and that means you are hopefully getting ready to spend quality time with friends and family. If it means that you'll be driving any kind of distance, as you well know, plans can change dramatically if you encounter car problems while you're en route.

As with most things, though, you can do some things beforehand to avoid possible issues. Preventive maintenance – just like we talked about for your home last month! – will almost always save you money, and is certainly easier to plan for. Keeping an eye on your car and staying on top of maintenance should serve you very well.

This month's flyer outlines some easy preventive measures that you can take. I have also included the warning signs to watch for to ensure your car is running smoothly and efficiently. And on the back, you'll find a checklist that will reduce the need for repairs that cost time and money.

And since we're in the Northwest and they're saying it's going to be another la Nina winter – in other words, here comes the snow!!! – while you're checking on the first-aid kit contents before you cross one of the passes, please make sure you also have tire chains and blankets and other safety measures. The holidays are meant to be enjoyed – please plan ahead.

And while you're planning ahead, please also check out the insert on the classes that I will be hosting over the next several months and let me know which ones you would like to attend. Guests are more than welcome too! My goal is to be of continued service to you... and to reach out to others in your life who you believe would also enjoy my level of service.

Sincerely,

***Everyone deserves exceptional service...if you know of someone else who would appreciate the level of service I provide, please call me with their name and business number, and I'll be happy to follow up and take great care of them.***

PS. If your upcoming home maintenance includes window/gutter or roof cleaning, call AA Window and Gutter at 206-522-8526 and tell them I sent you – for a limited time, they will honor \$20 off most service. I also still have a \$27 coupon for carpet cleaning – first come, first serve on this one!



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Given that I am always trying to find new ways to deliver more value to you, and in the interest of sharing good information, I am delighted to present several classes to you. The instructors have been arranged at my cost and we will be serving light refreshments.

This is just another aspect of my service to you – just call to save your place! All I ask is that you invite someone else who might be interested as well. I appreciate your advocacy and am always looking for other folks who would like to be part of this special group of people that I serve.

### **The Secret, the movie**

Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm to 9pm  
13868 Morgan Drive NE, Redmond (The Estes residence)

You may have heard about it on Oprah, you may have read about it; you may just want to see it again. Come for a private screening of The Secret – pizza and snacks will be provided. Just bring your own libations...

### **Art, lighting and color – options you may never have thought of!**

Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm  
2240 SW 156th Street, Burien (The Taylor Ferguson residence)

Doug Taylor has graciously agreed to host an art and color and lighting class. Come to see their lovely home in Coastal Burien and gain a first-hand understanding of the impact of light and view on wall color choices and positioning of art. Find out more about shopping at auctions, and be ready to throw out your ideas of only one way to hang/display art!

### **Feng Shui – exploring the art of placement and philosophy to enhance energy and harmony**

Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 5pm – *Note the change in date from my first invitation!!!*  
13868 Morgan Drive NE, Redmond

Start the New Year off with something better than a list of resolutions. Cynthia Chomos will join us again to explore the "person / place" connection and offer valuable tips for enhancing success and wellbeing in your home, office and life. Explore the art of "intentional" design including artwork, plants, water, furniture placement, color, chi leaks (yes, the energy that you want to stay in your home can leak out of your home!) – come to learn more about the Chinese art of placement. Cynthia also offers a gift certificate towards a personal, in-home consultation to all of our attendees...

### **Enhance living in your “composed domain” – understanding order, layout and energy**

Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3:30pm  
13868 Morgan Drive NE, Redmond

You know the way your home should feel – safe, warm, relaxed and welcoming. Rebecca Ross will help us to understand that our environments can (and should!) ideally reflect back to us who we are and what matters most to us. Every single item in our space should say: “Yes! This is what I care about; this gives

me joy.” Please join us if you feel at all hampered with objects, furnishings and decorations that reflect who you *were*, what you used to spend money on, what someone gave you, or what you are afraid to let go of.

**Container planting with a Pro (we, too, can have planters to still be proud of in September!)**

Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 2p to 5pm

13868 Morgan Drive NE, Redmond and Molbaks Nursery 13625 NE 175th St, Woodinville

Jennifer Christensen, owner of Vida Verde landscape design, will be delivering a two-part class that I am personally very excited about. Part one, you see, is that Jennifer will prepare and plant three containers for my home’s entryway, explaining why she recommended the pots, the colors, the plants, and how to best situate the plants in the pots for many months of display. Then, for part two, we’ll all caravan over to Molbaks so that you can browse the plants for your own displays, with Jennifer there to advise and guide you.

**Commuting can enhance the positive experiences in your life... with Drive Time Affirmations**

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 2p to 5pm

13868 Morgan Drive NE, Redmond

Kathryn Lengell and The Transition Point have accepted the mission of making one of our more stressful activities – commuting – into a time to easily deliver affirmations to ourselves, to enhance our experiences at home, in relationships, in our spirituality, our body, and with prosperity and abundance. Come to understand just how much affirmations can increase your focus – and we really do create what we focus on! Kathryn will have a booklet for you that will walk you through 21 days of gratitude, the key attribute of a joyful life. It also includes instructions for writing your own positive affirmations. Or let the experts make it easy! The Drive Time Affirmations CD set will be available for \$54.20 including tax.

***And there will be more coming... Do let me know if you have other requests for classes, or recommendations for specific instructors / classes that you may already be familiar with***

P.S. You will likely have noticed that I am not hosting a ‘how to navigate getting a mortgage in this changing market’ class. That is because, no matter what the situation, I believe the best service is delivered one on one and I have the utmost confidence in my lenders. The best information is personalized – there is no need to be in a group when it is your specific circumstances that you deserve to have direct insight about. While many of the instructors for my classes charge for individual consultations – which is why I so enjoy bringing them in for you as a group! – the lenders that I refer do not. They, like me, are committed to service first. When we have done our job right, and when the time is right for you, we will get paid when you close on your home.

If you would like to take the step of conferring directly with a lender, please let me know and I would be happy to introduce you.

And, just to be sure you know this as well, if you know of anyone who would like to understand more about the first-time buying process, they don’t need to go to a group class for that either – I would be happy to invest time with them to ensure that they have the best information possible there too.

***Everyone deserves exceptional service... if you know of someone who would appreciate the level of service I provide, please call me with their name and business number, and I’ll be happy to follow up and take great care of them.***



# They just keep going & going

## Energize your car's health, mile after mile.

It's rush hour, and you're in bumper-to-bumper traffic. Suddenly, the "check engine" light appears on your dashboard, and steam begins rising out from under your hood. You creep your way over to the shoulder of the road and call for help.

Fortunately, this scenario can be easily avoided with a little preventative TLC for your car.

### Prevent trouble before it starts.

Car repairs can cost you time and money, but preventing them can be easy and cost effective. Preventative care, such as frequent oil changes and routine tune-ups and maintenance, will keep your car running smoothly. Track your service records so you will know when to do less frequent, but equally important tasks—such as flushing your transmission or changing your engine belt.

### The monthly checkup.

Take five minutes and check the following items in your car. With a few simple precautions, you may save thousands of dollars by preventing a breakdown.

- Oil – learn the location of your engine oil dipstick and check it
- Automatic transmission fluid dipstick
- Windshield washer reservoir
- Cooling system reservoir
- Brake fluids
- Tire pressure

### A word about tires.

Even if your engine is running smoothly, if your tires aren't in good shape, you won't be going anywhere. Familiarize yourself with the tire inflation pressure and check it monthly. (The recommended PSI can be found in the owner's manual.)

While checking the tires for inflation, inspect them for punctures, splits, wear and tear and nails. While you're at it, check the spare tire as well. What could be more annoying than breaking down with a flat only to discover the spare tire is flat, too?

### Heed the warning lights.

Warning lights mean business, particularly in cars made after 1996, so become familiar with your car's lights. The lights should all come up when you turn on the ignition. If for some reason a light doesn't come on during ignition, have it checked out. A shorted-out warning light could manifest in costly repairs.

And of course, if a warning light comes on while driving, don't just ignore it and simply hope it will go away. Get to a mechanic as soon as possible and have him or her investigate why your warning lights are shining.

### Get an outside party involved.

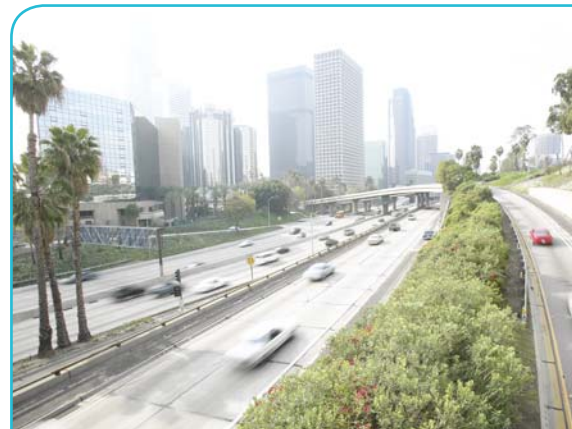
It's time to check all the lights—headlights, high and low beams, taillights, reverse lights, front, rear and side signals, as well as brake lights. Have a friend or family member stand behind you and give the thumbs up when each light switches on. (Diligence in checking your lights may also pay off in avoiding tickets.)

**THE SINGLE, MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO FOR A HEALTHY CAR.**  
Change the oil regularly.  
Hey, that's worth repeating: change the oil regularly.  
Nothing helps keep the engine running smoother than clean oil.

## 10 Warning Signs to Watch For:

If you notice any of the problems listed below (courtesy of AAA), get to your mechanic as soon as possible. These are symptoms of more serious engine problems and shouldn't be ignored:

- Your car jiggles or shakes when reaching certain speeds
- Your brakes squeal or screech when you apply them
- Your engine makes knocking sounds when you speed up or drive uphill
- Your temperature gauge abruptly changes
- Your "check engine" light is on
- One or more of your tires is making a thumping sound
- Your car makes clicking sounds when you make turns
- Your engine keeps running even after you turn off your car
- Your muffler makes rumbling or hissing noises
- You can smell antifreeze or notice excess moisture inside your car





# A handy, dandy guide to car care.

Here's a worksheet to keep track of your auto maintenance, what to do and when to do it. Keep in mind that the recommendations below are general guidelines—check your auto owner's manual for manufacturer's recommendations.

## Regularly (twice a month or more often)

- Check your fluid levels
- Visual tire inspection—check to make sure that your tires look full, if there seems to be excess wear or if a tire is tilting out of alignment

## Every 3,000–7,000 miles

- Change the oil
- Check the pressure in your spare tire
- Check wiper blades for wear
- Lubricate steering components
- Check transmission fluid

\* Most oil change or lube shops will do all of the above for you at one visit.

## Every 7,500 miles

- Rotate tires
- Replace air filter

## Every 15,000 miles

- Transmission checkup

## Every 25,000 miles

- Replace fuel filter

## Every 30,000 miles

- Replace the differential
- Replace the spark plugs and wires

## Every 60,000 miles

- Replace the timing belt
- Align and balance the tires

## If something does go wrong...

Despite our best precautions, trouble can sometimes happen. So what are you to do if your car breaks down or you're in an accident? Read on for some helpful tips:

**Accident blues?** First, assess everyone involved in the accident for injuries and call the police immediately to report the accident. Collect the following information from all involved parties:

- Names (of drivers and witnesses)
- Addresses
- Phone numbers
- Insurance details
- Driver's license and license plate numbers
- Take as many pictures of the damage and accident location as possible

Some states require you to notify the Department of Motor Vehicles that an accident has occurred. Be sure you are familiar with the requirements of your state. It is important to call your insurance company as soon as possible after the accident to report a claim. This is where those photos will come in handy. Your agent will appreciate any visual documentation of the damage that you can provide.

**Find a stellar mechanic.** There are plenty of great mechanics out there, and finding one of them could be easier than you think. The best way is to ask friends, co-workers or family members for referrals. If you're new to the area, check out [www.cartalk.com](http://www.cartalk.com) where you can get the scoop on the best local mechanic. Once you're at the mechanic's shop, look for certification by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) or check to make sure that the shop is a AAA-approved repair facility.

## Prepare for the worst.

Whether you're zipping around town or on a cross country drive, one of the most important auto accessories you can own is a first aid kit. Create your first aid kit using the following list:

- First aid manual with CPR instructions
- Adhesive bandages
- Sterile gauze
- Antiseptic wipes
- Burn ointment
- Antibiotic cream
- Scissors
- Latex gloves
- Acetaminophen and aspirin
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Always bring your charged-up cell phone.

**Avoid tire trouble.** Always keep your tire chains in your car if you live in an area where it snows or will be traveling to one. Familiarize yourself with changing a flat tire and putting on snow chains.