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G.A.I.N. EVENT

Sunday March 13, 2016

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in this issue:

What is Your Midtown Neighborhood Association Doing?	1
Jan Karski: Humanity's Hero	1
Midtown Rising: Development Update	2
Security Tips: Beware of Tax Scams	3
Community Calendar	4,5
How the Streets Got Their Name: Thomas Road	6
Get to Know Your Neighborhood	7
Car Corner: Winter Car Care Checklist	8
Winter Air Travel - Avoiding Cancellations, Delays	8

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At Southwest Gardener and PaloOco Design

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southwestgardener.com | paloocodesign.com

What is your Midtown Neighborhood Association Doing This Quarter?

by Susan Thompson

Midtown is looking forward to 2016. We closed 2015 with our 3rd Annual Urban Living Tour sponsored by Deco Communities, Nicholas Yale Real Estate, Jetland restaurants (Corduroy, Switch and Pizza People Pub) and Oven + Vine.

On December 2nd we elected our new board for the Midtown Neighborhood Association. Under our revised bylaws, they will have staggered terms of one, two or three years so there will not be a complete board turnover each year.

We are excited to have our board retreat, revisit old goals and develop new ones for the 2016-2017 season in Midtown. We are always looking for new volunteers to support our efforts. Please feel free to contact Margaret Wright at margaret2.mmdna@gmail.com.

Planning for our 4th Annual **Sunday Off Central** is already underway and we are looking for folks who would like to work in preparation or on the day of the event. We will continue to have food trucks, live music, artisans/craftspeople and our popular KIDZONE. It takes place on East Vernon Ave. at Central on Sunday, March 13th.

It has been an honor serving Midtown these past five-plus years and although I will no longer be sitting on the board, I will continue to be involved with this amazing organization and the good work it does every day.

The MNA Board:

Margaret Wright
Michael Chesworth
Constance Combs
Jay Russet

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Treasurer

Contact us:
infor@midtownmuseumdistrict.org
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www.midtownmuseumdistrict.org
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Paula Bernier
April Hadaway
Austin Head
Jason Mazanek

Jan Karski: Humanity's Hero

By Mark Sendrow



From January 31 through March 31, 2016 the Arizona Jewish Historical Society will host *Jan Karski: Humanity's Hero*, an exhibition about Karski's courageous life and World War II legacy, at its Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center. Jan Karski was a Polish World War II resistance fighter who acted as a courier between the Polish underground and government-in-exile in London. 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Karski (1914–2000), one of the first to deliver eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust to Allied leaders during the war. Karski was smuggled in and out of the Warsaw ghetto and a transit camp at Izbica, where he saw for himself the horrors suffered by Jews under Nazi occupation including mass starvation and transports of Jews to the Belzec killing center.

In 1942, Karski traveled to London where he delivered a report to the Polish government-in-exile and to senior British authorities, including Foreign Minister Anthony Eden. He described what he had seen and warned of Nazi Germany's plans to murder European Jews. In July 1943 Karski journeyed to Washington and met with American President Franklin D. Roosevelt to give the same warning and plead for action. Allied governments were focused on the military defeat of Germany, and his message was greeted with disbelief or indifference.

Once in America, Karski was assigned by the Polish government-in-exile to write his account. His book, *Story of a Secret State*, was published in 1944 in the United States and became an overnight bestseller. This opened the door for Karski to conduct an extensive speaking tour throughout the United States and Canada, influencing public opinion. Spurred by the memory of the Holocaust, for the rest of his life Karski worked tirelessly for Polish-Jewish understanding and to honor the memory of all victims of Nazism. On June 2, 1982, Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust museum and memorial recognized Karski as Righteous Among the Nations.

The *Jan Karski: Humanity's Hero* exhibit is sponsored by a collaboration among The Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Phoenix, the Jewish Studies Center at Arizona State University, and the Arizona Jewish Historical Society.

Related Karski exhibit events (reservations are required):

- **February 9, 7 pm** - a new film about Jan Karski's mission to save the Polish Jews, *Karski and the Lords of Humanity*, will be screened at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center.
- **February 18**, (call for time) - there will be discussion of Karski's book, *Story of a Secret State*. Seating is very limited.

The Arizona Jewish Historical Society was founded in 1981 to preserve the rich heritage of Arizona's Jewish communities and educate the public about Jewish contributions to Arizona and American life. The AZJHS maintains an archival collection of 50,000 primary source documents, photographs, artifacts and other memorabilia pertaining to Arizona and Southwest.

In 2001 the AZJHS acquired the home of the first Phoenix synagogue and restored it as the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center. The Center is located at 122 E Culver Street in Phoenix. For times the exhibit is open and reservations for the film and book discussion call 602-241-7870 or email lbell@azjhs.org. For information about the Center's other programs consult its website www.azjhs.org.



oven + vine
www.ovenandvine.com

Midtown Rising: Development Update

Alta Midtown

Location: 2943 N 2nd St (NW corner of Thomas and 3rd Street)

Alta Midtown will be a 225 unit state-of-the-art apartment community located two blocks off the epicenter of Midtown Phoenix. The community will offer easy walkable access to light rail, entertainment, dining, retail, arts, culture and festivals. Alta Midtown will offer residents highly refined and smartly appointed living space, combined with the cutting-edge amenities and functional and interactive common areas that facilitate a sense of place and community in Midtown Phoenix.

Status: Under construction – Leasing to begin Fall of 2016

Website: www.AltaMidtownPhoenix.com

Developer: Wood Partners – www.woodpartners.com

arTHAUS

Location: 1717 N 1st Ave (just north of McDowell)

Sales Office: 1425 N 1st St (W-F Noon-5pm, Sa-Su 10am-2pm or by appointment)

A model transit-oriented urban infill residential development, arTHAUS was created for those who desire to live, work, and play in the Midtown Phoenix arts and culture community. Dwellings consist of seven three-story townhomes, fifteen two-story lofts and three single-story flats ranging in size from 561-1,905 square feet.

Status: Under construction – Accepting reservations – May 2016 delivery

Website: www.arthausphx.com

Broadstone Arts District

Location: McDowell & Alvarado (2nd Street)

For information please call Alliance Residential 602-778-2800

An urban infill redevelopment consisting of 280 studio, one, and two bedroom residences located immediately adjacent to major downtown employment and the Valley Metro Light Rail, within the newly formed Central Arts District of Downtown Phoenix. This unique residential property will offer residents the opportunity to live among some of central Phoenix's finest cultural amenities and destinations. Amenities will include a gourmet demonstration kitchen, mezzanine library, art exhibition gallery, resort style pool & spa, a two-story fully appointed fitness center and yoga lawn.

Status: Under construction – First residences open for occupancy August 2016 (hopefully) with final completion in May 2017

Circa on Central

Location: 2346 N Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Seven-story residential development Circa on Central is set to take the place of the former ChildHelp building in the heart of Midtown Phoenix, offering 94 contemporary urban units.

Status: Construction Beginning 2016

Edison Midtown

Location: 3131 N Central Ave

Sales Center: 46 E Monterey Way - (open seven days a week from 10am-6pm)

Edison is one of the first lifestyle brands to apply the principles of authenticity and integrity to modern urban living. Each unit offers residents premier stainless steel appliances, real wood and tile flooring, European-style cabinetry, and quartz countertops. From technology and security to convenience and leisure, the amenities at Edison Midtown make the community as smart as it is stylish. The seven-story property will consist of 110 residences—one and two bedroom units with balconies showcasing urban views—ranging from 808-1,374 square feet.

Status: Under Construction - Accepting Reservations - November 2016 delivery

Visit www.liveatedison.com, call 602-441-4669, or email info@liveatedison.com

The Muse

Location: Central and McDowell

Lennar Multifamily Communities is building the 367 apartments with approximately 11,000 SF of retail/commercial, with the first apartment homes to be available for move-in March 2017 and final project completion October 2017. Retail leases have been confirmed with Salon D'Shawn (*see ad*) and Press Coffee. Even though heavy equipment has been on the site for two months, the official groundbreaking was December 10th. with Mayor Greg Stanton, our Councilwoman Laura Pastor and Nate Stum, the Lennar Project Manager. Susan Thompson and Margaret Dietrich were invited to attend because we had met with the Lennar team in charge of the project to encourage them to provide a project worthy of the Central Arts District - within their parameters. Below is a photo of the groundbreaking.



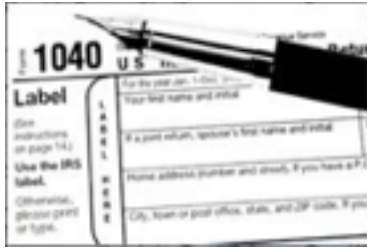
Photo: Jan Bracamonte of J. Lauen

Status: Under Construction

Cruz Law Firm 125 E McDowell Rd This project has been approved by the Phoenix Planning Department. The rendering we have seen is very nice. They will be requesting permits in May and sharing plans with us – hopefully at our March Quarterly Meeting, March 23rd.

Beware of Tax Scams

The IRS warns that tax scams, fraud and outright cheating could make tax season a lot less enjoyable than it already is if you get caught.



We all know that each year the tax man cometh and that paying our fair share of taxes is something we cannot legally avoid. Or do we?

Unfortunately there are people so caught up in trying to figure out a way to get a larger refund or pay less tax that they easily fall prey to unscrupulous tax preparers, identity theft, email phishing schemes, and less-than-helpful credit counselors. Those are just a few. Let's not forget classic tax fraud schemes like dubious offshore transactions, trust schemes and plain old lying about how much you made last year. There are countless ways to wind up in hot water over your taxes.

If someone tells you that they can eliminate your taxes completely you should be especially skeptical. There is no silver bullet for taxes. We all have to pay them. But because people will do almost anything to avoid paying taxes they make themselves easy prey for con artists that are ready, willing and able to capitalize on taxpayer angst. Do you know how to tell a legitimate tax deduction from a fraudulent claim?

Pay them now or pay them later

So what happens when you get caught up in one of the scams to lower your tax bill? First of all you are out the money you paid for your service and on top of that you will have to pay some pretty hefty penalties, and the interest owed on past tax bills can set you back quite a bit. It doesn't matter that you were the victim of a con, you will still owe your tax debt to the IRS. If you knowingly participate in a tax scam you could even face jail time.

So while we all hate paying taxes and want to pay as little as possible, don't fall for any of these schemes. You'll end up paying your taxes in the end. You can either pay them now and avoid jail, fines and the interest on your original tax bill or you can pay them later plus interest, fines and possibly enjoy a vacation at a federal resort. We also urge you to remember the Golden Rule: If something seems too good to be true then it probably is.

How to Report Suspected Tax Fraud Activity

The following two paragraphs come directly from the IRS website, www.irs.gov. We recommend reviewing the site for further detailed information regarding tax fraud. Suspected tax fraud can be reported to the IRS using IRS Form 3949-A, Information Referral. Form 3949-A is available for download from the IRS Web site at IRS.gov, or through the U.S. Mail by calling 1-800-829-3676.

The completed form or a letter detailing the alleged fraudulent activity should be addressed to the Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888.

The mailing should include specific information about who is being reported, the activity being reported, how the activity became known, when the alleged violation took place, the amount of money involved and any other information that might be helpful in an investigation. The person filing the report is not required to self-identify, although it is helpful to do so. The identity of the person filing the report can be kept confidential. The person may also be entitled to a reward.

Phoenix Block Watch Advisory Board

www.phxblockwatch.org link to Fraud Guides.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Arts & Culture

ASU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

602-543-6440 www.lifelonglearning.asu.edu
Many short series and single classes for the 50+ group

ASU Institute for Design & the Arts

www.herberger.ASU.edu/Update
Many and various performances. Check it out.

Arizona Humanities Council

602-257-0335 www.azhumanities.org
Programs and events nearby and around the state

Arizona Opera at Symphony Hall & 1636 N. Central Avenue

602-266-7464 www.azopera.org
2/5-7 Carmen
2/26-28 Don Giovanni
4/1-3 Falstaff
check website for other related events

Arizona Theatre Company at the Herberger

602-256-6995 www.arizonatheatre.org
until 1/17 Snapshots
2/11-28 Fences
3/31-4/17 Of Mice and Men

Ballet Arizona

602-381-1096 www.balletaz.org
Classes in Jazz, Belly Dance and Ballet
2/11-14 The Sleeping Beauty Symphony Hall
3/24-27 Today's Masters Orpheum
check website for other related events

Burton Barr Public Library - 1221 N Central Ave

602-534-5208 www.plfriends.org
602-262-4636 www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org
check Phoenix Library Friends website for book sales

Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center - 122 E Culver

602-241-7870 www.azjhs.org
Genealogy classes, exhibits, films and book discussions
1/12 Hollywood: An Empire of Their Own
2/9 Jan Karski and the Lords of Humanity
3/8 Above and Beyond

Great AZ Puppet Theater - 302 W Latham

602-262-2050 www.azpuppets.org
Great schedule-check the website

Hance Park - north of Roosevelt between 3rd St & 3rd Ave www.hancepark.org

Heard Museum - 2301 N Central Ave

602-252-8840 www.heard.org
Exhibit: Frida Kahlo - Her Photos until 2/8
2/13-14 Hoop Dance Contest
3/5-6 Guild Indian Fair & Market
4/9 Katsina Doll Marketplace

Irish Cultural Center - 1106 N Central Ave

602-258-0109 www.azirish.org
Classes, dances and special events
St Patrick's Day Parade and Faire 3/12

Japanese Friendship Garden 1125 N 3rd Ave

602-256-3204 www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org
check website for events and classes.

Phoenix Art Museum - Central and MacDowell

602-257-1222 www.phxart.org
Multitude of films, talks and special exhibits

Phoenix Center for the Arts - 1202 N 3rd St./Hance Park

602-254-3100 www.phoenixcenterforthearts.org
Many forms of art classes for children and adults

Phoenix Symphony

602-495-1999 www.phoenixsymphony.org
Spring season is full of great performances.

Phoenix Theatre - 100 E McDowell

602-254-2151 www.phoenixtheatre.com
1/20-2/7 Calendar Girls
2/24-3/20 Evita
4/6-5/1 The All Night Strut

Phoenix Trolley Museum - 25 W Culver St. Hance Park

www.phoenixtrolley.com

Rosie's House

602-252-8475 www.rosieshouse.org
Music classes for kids and events

The Nash - 110 E Roosevelt

602-795-0464 www.thenash.org
Jazz Jam Sessions on Sundays at 6:00, other jazz events

Valley Youth Theatre - 525 N 1st St

602-253-8188 www.vyt.com
1/7-8 The Complete Works of Wm. Shakespeare
2/5-21 Pinocchio

(continued on next page)

COMMUNITYCALENDAR

MNA Events

602-758-3129 www.midtownmuseumdistrict.org

Board meetings - first Wednesdays (location TBA)

3/13 Block Party on East Vernon - see cover

3/23 Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting-Fairfield Inn

Home Tours and Events in the Area

First Fridays and Third Fridays every month

www.artlinkphoenix.com

3/10 4th Annual Art D'Core Gala - Hance Park (under Central bridge)

3/19-20 28th Anniversary of Art Detour

1/2 Fiesta Bowl Parade 11:00 on North Central Ave

1/2 27th Annual Cactus Bowl at Chase Field

www.fiestabowl.org

1/8-10 College Football Playoff Fan Central

www.collegefootballplayoff.com/events

1/16-17 Rock n Roll Marathon

www.runrocknroll.competitor.com/Arizona

2/14 Willo Home Tour

www.willotour.com

2/28 Coronado Home Tour 9:00-4:00

www.greatercoronado.com

2/28-3/6 Devoured Culinary Classic

www.devouredphoenix.com

3/12 St Patrick's Day Parade and Faire

602-258-0109 www.azirish.org

3/11-13 McDowell Mountain Music Festival - Hance Park

www.mmmf.com

Cycling

Info about cycling in Phoenix

www.phoenix.gov/bicycling

AZ Bicycle Club

azbikeclub.com

Phoenix Spokes People www.phoenixspokespeople.com

Nightlife/Happy Hours

Alexi's Grill - Happy Hour M-F 3-7pm

3550 N Central Ave

602-279-0982 www.alexisgrillphx.com

Clarendon Hotel Skydeck

401 W Clarendon Ave

602-252-7363 www.theclarendon.net/roof

Corduroy - Happy Hour Tue-Sun 4-6:30 & 10-close

2601 N Central Ave

602-374-7585 www.corduroyaz.com

Kobalt - Daily events - Park Central

602-264-5307 www.kobaltbarphoenix.com

Macayo's - Happy Hour M-F 4-7pm

4001 N Central Ave

602-264-6141 www.macayo.com

Ocotillo 3243 N 3rd St

602-687-9080 www.ocotillophx.com

Oven & Vine - Happy Hour M-F 11-6

14 W Vernon Ave

602-687-7632 www.ovenandvine.com

Pizza People Pub - Happy Hour daily 3-6:30

1326 N Central Ave

602-795-7954 www.pizzapeopleaz.com

Switch - Daily Happy Hour 4-6:30

2603 N Central Ave

602-264-2295 www.switchofarizona.com

Wild Thaiger

2631 N Central Ave

602-241-8994 www.wildthaiger.com

ADVERTISE IN THE MUSE

info@midtownmuseumdistrict.org

How the Streets Got Their Names: Thomas Road Revisited

By Derek D. Horn



By 1900, the city limits extended to Baltimore, now Roosevelt Street. While there was a pattern that generated street names inside the city, there were no rules on street names outside the city. As Phoenix grew northward from the original town site, builders, developers, and private citizens created street names. Often a street was an unpaved road that provided access to a few farms and ranches, and, as noted in past

articles, the street names could be different along the same corridor and change over time.

Origins of street names often involved actions and locations of early settlers, and, as related in the January, 1972, issue of *Phoenix* magazine, Thomas Road got its name from just such an action.

The article referenced an interview conducted with Charles (Chick) Orme in 1965 when he was 72 years of age. Chick was the son of John P. Orme who was president of the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association and one of the developers of the Grand Canal. The Ormes lived on land at the southwest corner of an un-named road (later Thomas) and Cave Creek (later 7th Street). Chick's aunt Harriet (Hallie) was his father John's sister and married to William E. Thomas, a deputy County Recorder, later postmaster and then Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. The Thomases owned a ranch about two miles north of downtown on the southeast corner of Center (later Central) and the future Thomas Road. As the story goes, about 1900 Hallie decided the east-west dirt roads between Center and Cave Creek that served the Thomas and Orme properties needed names, and what could be better than naming them after the two prominent families along that corridor. So she had signs painted: one read "Thomas Road" and the other "Orme Road." She then hired Chick for 50 cents (now over \$10.00) to put up the signs, but it is not known if she gave him instructions on placement.

Young Chick posted the "Thomas" sign on the northern, more prominent road that ran east of Center past the Thomas and Orme holdings. He placed the "Orme" sign on the road that ran between 3rd Street and Cave Creek about a block south. Why did he post the greater road with the Thomas name and not his own family name? He probably gave preference to his aunt Hallie Thomas who provided the funds for the venture.

Chick's efforts did not settle the matter. An article that appeared in the April 1, 1912, edition of the *Arizona Republican*, the forerunner to today's *Republic*, expressed concern that there was no method for officially naming roads in the unincorporated areas of the county.

An example of this name confusion was Thomas Road, which was also called Oleander Avenue, Orme Road, Pemberton Road, Creighton Road, and Palm Lodge Road. It was also known as Taft Road after President William Howard Taft and, per the article, may have had other names as well. Articles and advertisements during that time consistently call this street "Palm Lodge Road."

Eventually the Thomas name prevailed and this major street through Midtown Phoenix became Thomas Road. The Orme name on the road to the south, which honored a family who had a major impact on early Phoenix development, became Windsor Avenue.

Which leaves one last question: what was the "Palm Lodge" that drove an alternate street name for many years?

Tuberculosis was a major health issue in the early 20th century, and Arizona, with its dry air and mild climate, attracted people with this and other respiratory conditions to visit and seek a cure. Palm Lodge was a sanitarium established in the early 1900's as a haven for people with lung illnesses, which occupied the northeast corner of Thomas Road and Central Avenue and was run by Dr. Henry Stone. Later it became a resort and eventually a private home. The buildings lasted until the 1950s when they were demolished and replaced by the popular Bob's Big Boy drive in. It is now the site of the Phoenix Plaza office complex.

PHX RENEWS - Vacant lots occupy 43% of the total land in Phoenix. The mission of PHX Renews is simple: to find temporary uses for these lots that will beautify the city while promoting sustainability and a sense of community.

Central & Indian School - The lot on Central & Indian School is a 15-acre space on lease from Barron Collier Companies. Here you can learn about sustainability, create and view art, grow your own garden, exercise your pet, meet others from around your city, and much more. Everyday: 7 AM to 6 PM

Looking to garden with us? Get on the waiting list by filling out the form at www.phxrenews.org/apply-for-garden. Here's what you need to know about our community gardens:

- The space is free. We just expect you to keep it clean.
- The community garden space is open dawn to dusk. If you have a restaurant you want to grow produce for, 24-hour access is available.
- The lease period is 6 months & you can renew it for 6 months.
- PHX Renews is an organic space. No chemicals or pesticides are allowed.
- Accessible gardens are available!



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Landscape + Design + Style

Get to Know Your Neighborhood

By Tom Simplot, President and CEO, Arizona Multihousing Association and licensed attorney and real estate agent



Recent economic forecasts agree that Arizona's housing market will continue to recover at a reasonable and sustained rate. Gone are the days of crazy housing prices, unstable lending and over-extended property owners. Many former homeowners shifted into the rental market over the past few years and it's expected that a large number will stay in that market for a variety of positive reasons.

The US Census offers a different perspective in its most recent American Community Survey. Using the collected data from all Americans about their homes, ages, and lifestyles, the US Census Bureau generates localized reports that businesses and governments can use to plan for the future. Those who are looking for a home can also tap into this research to explore the right location and price point.

For those in the housing market, this data can be help inform a moving decision. Arizona reports just over 2.3 million housing units; 842,814 of these are rental housing units according to their most recent report.* With about 34% of Arizona's population renting homes (all types of housing units), readers can learn more about average gross rents by city and the gross rent as a percentage of household income. Using this data to help build a household budget can help to ensure that you are renting a home at the right price point, and not overextending your budget.

A recent *Washington Post* article by Emily Badger and Christopher Ingraham about the Census report tracked types of housing in different metro markets across the nation. Arizona's housing supply continues to be dominated by single family homes. Tucson's and Mesa's housing stock offers more diversity than Phoenix, giving homebuyers and renters different lifestyle and budget opportunities.

Deciding on a home in the downtown corridor should also be influenced by the investment in mass transit. Land values in these areas increased as light rail creates greater mobility and access to business, residences and retail. According to Valley Metro, residential developments nearby light rail performed 24% better than values in the rest of the Phoenix metro area. Vacant land sales have also increased in these areas as developers make investments in the future. Over time, these projects will further enhance the neighborhoods and add vibrancy to Midtown.

Midtown residents and visitors have seen the impressive array of multifamily developments under construction along the light rail lines. The variety of housing types, styles and amenities in these communities offers renters an opportunity to reshape their lifestyle and be more connected to entertainment and employment cores.

Exploring the American Community Survey can offer those who are looking for a home a more complete look at a community and its population. You can even learn about average commute times, income levels and so much more. This free resource is another great tool to use in finding your perfect home.

*<http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmlk>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2015/09/21/the-most-popular-type-of-home-in-every-major-american-city-charted/>



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Car Corner: Winter Care Checklist

By Roger Cahill

The fall and winter months bring cooler wet weather and shorter days of sunshine, which could present problems for some motorists and their vehicles. Here are some tips to prepare your vehicle for the colder months of the year.



- **Have your tires checked.** Air contracts and becomes denser in the cooler weather reducing the amount of air pressure in your tires which makes them vulnerable to blow outs. (Have them checked once a week during the colder parts of the season.)

- **Replace windshield wipers** when they begin to streak or when they no longer clean the windshield. Check the fluid in the reservoir. (Don't use plain water because it can freeze.) Also replace wiper blades annually.

- **Check headlights, tail lights, brake lights and turn signals** for proper operation. Good working lighting helps ensure the safety of you and others on the roadways.

- **Batteries can fail without warning.** With today's equipment a failing battery can be identified even when the battery appears to be working fine. This is great a time to make sure cables and connections are clean and tight.

- **Make sure the heater and defroster are working properly,** as the colder winter season can bring early morning frost, making visibility a problem.

- **Have the entire brake system checked, including the brake linings, rotors and drums.** When traveling you may encounter snow and ice; working brakes are vital in these driving conditions.

- **Belts and hoses tend to get overlooked** mainly because you may think since they made it through the hot summer months they should be okay for the next 3-4 months. This is dangerous because sometimes the dramatic change in temperature is all that's needed to reveal a leaking hose or broken belt.

- **Don't forget routine maintenance items** such as changing the engine oil and filter, replacing the engine air filter, checking the condition of the coolant in the radiator and transmission fluid level and condition. Being proactive with maintenance helps increase safety and reliability by ensuring smooth, trouble-free operation.

Winter Air Travel - Avoiding Cancellations, Delays

By Gary Coleman



Winter air travel presents numerous chances to be stranded in an airport. This is not to be confused with problems you may incur when traveling during the holidays, this is about routine winter travel and what you can do to avoid most delays and cancellations.

You only have flexibility to make flight changes if you do not check bags. If your flight is delayed and there is an alternative flight you could take, you will not be allowed to take it without your bags.

If you cannot get a direct flight and have to make a connection, avoid northern city connections that may result in a delay. For example, if you are leaving Phoenix for New England, make a connection in Charlotte, NC or Washington, DC, rather than Chicago. Whenever possible, make a direct flight.

Book your flight for early afternoon. Obviously, it is colder at night, increasing the chances of ice, freezing rain and snow. This can disrupt early morning flights and those passengers will then be looking for afternoon flights. These flights will book up quickly, thereby reducing your chance of making a change. If you are already booked on the afternoon flight, even if delayed some, you will have a seat.

Never make reservations for the last flight of the evening. If cancelled or delayed due to weather, you may end up stranded at the airport. Airlines do not need to give you accommodations when delays are caused by weather or air traffic control delays beyond the airline's control.

Consider purchasing refundable tickets when flying during the winter. If you want to be sure to get to your destination, buy a seat on two different flights one day after the other. If the first flight gets delayed or cancelled, you may ask for a refund and you will already have a seat on a flight the next day. Everyone else on the cancelled flights will be scrambling to get a seat and you will already have one. If you make the first flight, just cancel the second and get your refund.

You know what is even better? Tell everyone in those colder climates to just come see you in Phoenix. We are pretty certain there won't be any snow delays here.

Gary is a part-time Midtown resident, the CEO of an Automotive Consulting company and a frequent flier averaging over 220 flights a year.

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