Beloit
SHOPPER

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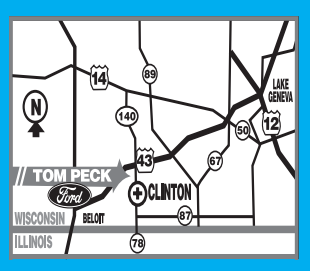

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Police Beat

The following arrests are on file at the Loves Park and Machesney Park Police Dept. Readers are reminded that suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Loves Park

Oct. 22

4722 N. 2nd St. – Mychelle L. Boyd, 25, on charges of a warrant/summons/subpoena

5757 Harlem Road – Robert A. Young, 37, on charges of disorderly conduct (not drunkenness)

Oct. 24

N. 2nd St./E. Riverside Blvd. – Maria C. Villegas, 46, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license

5036 N. 2nd St. – Dre A. Wilson, 23, on charges of an in-state warrant

735 Windsor Road – Bruce S. Dunlap, 43, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license and speeding in a school zone

Oct. 25

4702 N. 2nd St. – Richie L. Wyatt, 45, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license

N. 2nd St./Riverside Blvd. – Chasity E. McBride, 29, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license

Second/Sheridan – Manuel Gonzalez, 60, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked registration, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license, and muffler violations

5318 N. Second St. – James A. Sandquist, 40, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle, driving under the influence of alcohol (aggravated), possession of a controlled substance, delivery or possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance, possession of drug equipment, and driving under the influence of alcohol (aggravated)

Oct. 26

6550 N. Alpine Road – Fasavang Douangchampa, 33, on charges of a warrant/summons/subpoena

1500 Windsor Road – Georgia D. Gray, 23, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license, false auto insurance card, speeding, failure to signal/improper lane usage, and other moving violations (non-specific)

1810 Harlem Road – Cassandra L. Forner, 33, on charges of retail theft and possession or sale of hypodermic needles

1810 Harlem Road – Christopher K. Angel, 25, on charges of two counts of retail theft

7400 Forest Hills Road – Eric J. Reyes, 22, on charges of domestic battery and aggravated battery

Machesney Park

Oct. 22

331 Gilbert – Brent E. Huber, 46, on charges of a warrant/summons/subpoena

633 Hollybrook Dr. – Charles Elmer Hobson, 42, on charges of dumping/littering

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Building Our Future

Local veteran wins new high efficiency furnace

By Anne Eickstadt
STAFF EDITOR

"Lennox is giving away high efficiency furnaces. A total of 175 heaters are being installed today across the United States and Canada," said Greg Fleming of Fleming Heating & Air Conditioning. "I donate materials and the guys are donating their time."

This year, the Northern Illinois recipients of the Lennox Heat Up Illinois event are Mr. Joseph Sutherland of South Beloit and Mr. Herman Hollingsworth of Belvidere. Both homes were scheduled to have their new heaters installed on Saturday, Oct. 7.

"His heat exchanger was bad," Fleming said of the old Hollingsworth heater. "The blower motor was water damaged and the furnace was very old.

"The project by Lennox has been ongoing since 2010, giving back to the community. Fleming Heating has been in business for 54 years in both Belvidere and in South Beloit. We have been a part of the Heat Up Illinois project from the start."

"The nomination process begins right away for next year at www.heatupillinois.com. It's a great program. We're happy to do it."

Mike from Lennox said, "I started in the Wisconsin district. We partner with dealers. Lennox supplies the equipment and the equipment companies donate materials and labor. Some guys get very elaborate."

"A lot of dealers do a lot in their community, helping with Habitat for Humanity, and other organizations," Fleming said. "Lennox gives us furnaces for Habitat also. This is the second year for Heat Up Illinois. We usually install the furnaces on the first Saturday in October.

"A lot of prep work goes into this. We have to come in and measure to make sure the furnace will fit and see what modifications we have to make to switch from the old furnace to a new high efficiency furnace."

Mr. Herman Hollingsworth is 92 years old with medical issues. He graduated from Belvidere High School in 1943. He served in the Navy during World War II as a signalman aboard a minesweeper. "We patrolled back and forth. We sailed through the Bermuda Triangle three times. We would often tow targets for the guys in airplanes to aim at. When a plane actually hit a target, it blew it all apart.

"We were having trouble with our furnace and called Fleming. He made several trips out to fix things. He told us that everything was going bad and asked if we had entered the Heat Up Illinois contest. My wife, Nancy, filled out a form, mentioned who I was, and told about our furnace.

"Some time later, Fleming called and said we were on the list. About a week or so later, he told us we had won a new furnace."

"Old furnaces may be a source of carbon monoxide," Mike of Lennox said. "The winner of a new furnace might be a single mother or a senior citizen. A lot of decisions are based on the applications. Mobile homes have a different program. Sometimes it is hard to choose because there are so many nominations. We will talk to churches, schools, and veterans groups.

Our primary goal is to supply heat and hot water in the house.

Nomination forms are collected throughout the year.

Nominees are chosen based on a variety of criteria, including physical, mental, or social disabilities; financial challenges; job loss; military service; community service; and more.

The installing dealers contact a nominee from the applications, often visiting their home to review the job site and ensure they will have all of the materials necessary for the installation.

Then, on the first Saturday in October, all of the participating Lennox dealerships will install a brand-new, high-efficiency Lennox gas furnace for their chosen nominee. These furnaces are provided by Lennox to the dealerships free of charge, and all labor and installation materials are donated by the installing dealer and their employees. There is only one thing the recipients need to do... enjoy the comfort, efficiency, and safety their new furnace provides!

2016 was the inaugural year for the Heat UP Illinois program, although the "Heat UP" program itself began in 2010 in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Since then, Lennox Industries and dealerships have provided more than $2 million in support to households in need.

ANNE EICKSTADT PHOTOS *Rock Valley Publishing*

Greg Fleming of Fleming Heating & Air Conditioning helps deliver the brand new high efficiency furnace from Lennox to winner Herman Hollingsworth.

Mr. Herman Hollingsworth, winner of the new Lennox furnace, was a signalman in the Navy during World War II.

The new high-efficiency furnace from Lennox is installed in the Hollingsworth home.

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ESTATE AUCTION

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DATE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017 • TIME: 9:30

LOCATION: 22500 IL-173, HARVARD, IL (HARVARD MOOSE AT THE BACK BUILDING)

MACHINE SHOP ITEMS INCLUDES: SNAP ON TOOL BOX W/ 30 DRAWERS (73" L X 70" T X 29" D); HORIZONTAL & VERTICAL BAND SAW; LG AMOUNT OF SNAP ON TOOLS; C.M. TOOLS; S & K TOOLS; MILLER SYNCROWAVE 351 WELDER ON CART & WATER MATE 1A COOLING SYSTEM; CUTTING TORCH SET; ATLAS LATHE 54" L; ATLAS MILLING MACHINE; BUFFALO # 18 DRILL PRESS; ENCO MILLING & DRILLING MACHINE; ENCO BRAKE-SHEARING MACHINE; ENCO BRAKE SHEARING & METAL ROLLER; PIPE BENDER; PRESS; CAR PARTS INCLUDES: FORD 390 ENGINE COMPLETELY REBUILT 4 CYLINDER SCAT MOTOR FOR MIDGIT RACER(2) NEVER BEEN USED (SET UP FOR RACING); LOTS OF CAR PARTS FOR RACING & ANTIQUE CARS; AIR COMPRESSOR; GRINDER; PLUS A LOT MORE. HOUSEHOLD & LAWN ITEMS: OAK DINING ROOM TABLE W/ 6 CHAIRS & HUTCH (NEWER); BEDROOM SET; DESK; STORAGE CABINETS; LG AMOUNT OF GLASSWARE; COLLECTIBLES; DOLLS; KENMORE W&D; 2 WHEEL CARTS; TRAILER; MARBLE TOP DRESSER; HANDICAP SCOOTER; TOYS; PUZZLES; STEREO SYSTEM; NEW BIKE PARTS; METAL WASH TUBS; ANTIQUE WATER PUMP; PLUS, A LOT MORE.

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Auction Schedule

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Loves Park Civil Service Commission

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Starting salary: Labor Grade I, $20,000-35,000 DOQ.

Apply at Loves Park Civil Service Commission, c/o Clerk's Office, City of Loves Park, City Hall, 100 Heart Boulevard, Loves Park, IL. Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. on December 1, 2017. Examinations will consist of oral interviews by the Commission on December 6, 2017 and December 7, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. EOE. Applicants must be able to pass a pre-employment background check and a post-offer drug screening test.

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Autumn leaves present driving hazards

Autumn is the picture-perfect time of year when many drivers take to the road to view the colors. The leaves are beautiful to see, but when wet or in piles, they present driving hazards unique to the season.

The Car Care Council reminds drivers to prepare for fall driving conditions by having their vehicles' tires, brakes and wipers checked before heading out.

"Drivers should be aware that wet leaves on the road surface can make stopping difficult, and piles of leaves can obscure potholes, curbs and street markings," said Rich White, executive director of the Car Care Council.

"Add to these hazards the fact that road conditions can change from ideal to miserable in a matter of minutes, and what you have is a potentially dangerous situation."

Tires can affect the car's ride, handling, traction and safety, and are a critical connection between the car and the road in all types of driving conditions.

To maximize tire life and safety, check the inflation pressure and the tread depth, and inspect the sidewalls for cracks or punctures. As a general rule, tires should be rotated every 6,000 miles and balanced.

The brake system is the car's most important safety system. Brakes are a normal wear item for any car, and brake linings, drums and rotors, as well as brake fluid, should be checked at each oil change.

> "Add to these hazards the fact that road conditions can change from ideal to miserable in a matter of minutes, and what you have is a potentially dangerous situation."
>
> ***– Rich White, executive director of the Car Care Council***

To help ensure the performance and safety of wipers, blades should be replaced every six months or when cracked, cut, torn, streaking or chattering.

Windshield wiper fluid should be checked monthly and only washer fluid should be used.

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers.

For more information or to receive a copy of the council's new Car Care Guide for motorists, visit www.carcare.org.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

Wet leaves on the road surface can make stopping difficult, and piles of leaves can hide potholes, curbs and street markings.

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Tires are the only thing gripping the road

Have you ever thought about all of the distractions associated with driving? Weather, kids, pets, eating, cell phones, billboards, the radio and even a friend riding shotgun all compete for the driver's ever-shrinking attention span.

Some distractions like cell phone usage - whether talking or texting - pose a greater risk than others in keeping the road a safe place. At any given time, more than 600,000 people in the U.S. are using their phone or other electronic device while driving, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Agency.

If that's not scary enough, a study by the University of Utah reports the impairments associated with cell phone usage are similar to intoxicated drivers. In short, distracted drivers, much like drunk drivers, are more likely to drive aggressively, tailgate, hit the brakes harder, have slower reactions and cause accidents. Now more than ever, defensive driving has become critically important.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

Make sure that your tires are properly maintained and have enough tread depth to ensure ample traction.

"One way to battle distracted driving is to be extra attentive to what's around you as a driver," says Andrew Briggs, director of marketing and product planning for Yokohama Tire Corporation, maker of a variety of truck and car tires.

"Pay attention to what's in front of you, behind you and to your sides. Keep enough distance between you and the other vehicles. Try to anticipate the action of the other drivers. These defensive driving techniques are already familiar to many of us, but practicing them in our daily driving, especially these days, can help determine whether one will be in an accident or avoid one."

The ability to stop quickly or change lanes is another essential technique and that's where your tires can play an important role.

"Your tires are the only part of your vehicle that grips the road," says Briggs.

"The first line of defense, even before you get on the road, is to make sure that your tires are properly maintained. You always want to make certain your tires have enough tread depth to ensure ample traction."

Checking your tires' tread depth is easy, Briggs says.

"Tires should be replaced when the tread is worn down to 2/32 of an inch to help prevent skidding and hydroplaning. Simply place a penny upside down into a tread groove."If part of Lincoln's head is covered by the tread, you're driving with at least that 2/32 of an inch that is a minimum amount of tread required. If you can see all of his head, you should buy new tires."

When it comes to the ongoing battle against distracted drivers, Briggs says today's tires can really help.

"There are new tire technologies that can help improve traction and handling. For example, we now incorporate the use of orange oil in many of our tires like the AVID Ascend. Orange oil creates a special compound resulting in a balance of all-season handling, long tread life and great fuel economy."

Briggs offers more tips that will keep your tires road-ready:

* When the tires are cold (at least four hours after the vehicle has been driven), check tire pressure with a reliable tire gauge. Be sure the valve stems have a plastic or metal cap to keep dirt out and a seal against water and foreign objects. The tires' proper inflation level - as recommended by the car maker - can be found on a placard in the glove box, on the car door or in the owner's manual.

* Check tire alignment once a year. Misaligned tires create unnecessary tire wear and lower mileage.

* Rotating your tires will prevent uneven wear and promote a better ride. Because the weight distribution on your car or truck can vary, it's best to rotate your tires a few times a year, like every time you get your oil changed.

* Balancing act: Tires that are balanced correctly will give you a smoother ride and help prevent improper wear. You can get your tires balanced at the same time as your regularly-scheduled rotation.

For additional tire care and safety tips, visit www.yokohamatire.com or www.rma.org.

Car care tips from the pros prepare you for winter driving

It's foolhardy to head out in a poorly maintained vehicle in the dead of winter, of course, but even vehicle owners in temperate zones need a car care check as the days grow shorter, note the pros with the nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), an independent group that tests and certifies the competence of auto technicians.

Regular, routine maintenance can help improve your gasoline mileage, reduce pollution, and catch minor problems before they become big headaches.

ASE offers these car care tips to give you peace of mind during winter driving:

Before you do anything else, read your owner's manual and follow the manufacturer's recommended service schedules.

Get engine performance and driveability problems — hard starts, rough idling, stalling, diminished power, etc. — corrected at a reputable repair shop that employs ASE-certified repair professionals. Cold weather makes existing problems worse.

Replace dirty filters, such as air, fuel, and PCV. A poorly running engine is less efficient and burns more gasoline.

As the temperature drops below freezing, add a bottle of fuel deicer in your tank once a month to help keep moisture from freezing in the fuel line. Keeping the gas tank filled also helps prevent moisture from forming.

Change your oil and oil filter as specified in your manual — more often if your driving is mostly stop-and-go or consists of frequent short trips. A poll of ASE Master Auto Technicians revealed that regular oil and filter changes is one of the most frequently neglected services, yet one that is essential to protect your engine.

The cooling system should be flushed and refilled as recommended. The level, condition, and concentration of the coolant should be checked periodically. A 50/50 mix of antifreeze and water is usually recommended. Do-It-Yourselfers: Never remove the radiator cap until the engine has thoroughly cooled! The tightness and condition of drive belts, clamps, and hoses also should be checked regularly by a professional technician.

The heater and defroster must be in good working condition for passenger comfort and driver visibility.

Replace old blades regularly. If your climate is harsh, purchase rubber-clad (winter) blades to fight ice build-up. Stock up on windshield washer solvent — you'll be surprised how much you use during the winter months. And don't forget to always carry an ice scraper.

Have your battery checked. The only accurate way to detect a weak battery is with professional equipment.

However, most motorists can perform routine care: Wear eye protection and protective rubber gloves. Scrape away corrosion from posts and cable connections; clean all surfaces; retighten all connections. If battery caps are removable, check fluid level monthly. A word of caution: Removal of cables can cause damage or loss of data/codes on some newer vehicles, so always check your owner's manual first. Be sure to avoid contact with corrosive deposits and battery acid.

Inspect all lights and bulbs. Replace burned out bulbs; periodically clean road grime from all lenses. To prevent scratching, never use a dry rag. Clouded lenses can be refinished by many service outlets or by using a DIY kit found in major auto parts outlets.

Exhaust fumes inside your vehicle's cabin can be deadly. Have the exhaust system examined for leaks and problems while the vehicle is on a lift. The trunk and floorboards should also be inspected for small holes.

Worn tires are dangerous in winter weather. Examine tires for remaining tread life, uneven wearing, and cupping; check the sidewalls for cuts and nicks. Check tire pressure once a month, letting the tires "cool down" before checking the pressure. Rotate as recommended. Don't forget to check your spare, and be sure the jack is in good working condition. Under-inflated tires or poorly aligned wheels makes your engine work harder and thus use excess gasoline.

Have your brakes checked periodically for safety and to prevent costly repairs that can be caused by neglect.

The transmission is often neglected until a major failure. Routine checks and fluid changes at prescribed intervals can prevent very costly repairs down the line.

Always carry an emergency kit with you: extra gloves, boots and blankets; flares; a small shovel and sand or kitty litter; tire chains; a flashlight and extra batteries; and a cell phone and extra car charger. Put a few "high-energy" snacks in your glove box.

The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) was founded in 1972 as a nonprofit, independent organization dedicated to improving the quality of automotive service and repair through the voluntary testing and certification of automotive technicians.

ASE-certified technicians wear blue and white ASE shoulder insignia and carry credentials listing their exact area(s) of certification. Their employers often display the blue and white ASE sign.

For more information, including seasonal car care tips, visit www.ase.com.

Routine auto care drives home savings

Whether changing the oil, replacing the wiper blades or checking the tires, finding the time to perform simple preventative vehicle maintenance is money in the bank, says the non-profit Car Care Council.

According to research conducted by IMR Inc., one out of three consumers that put off routine vehicle maintenance do so because they cannot find a convenient time. In addition, millennials and those who own older vehicles are more likely to delay routine maintenance.

"There is an old adage that if you take care of your car, your car will take care of you," said Rich White, executive director, Car Care Council. "Making time to perform routine auto care not only ensures a safer, more dependable vehicle, but car owners can preserve the trade-in value and save money by addressing small issues before they become more complicated, expensive repairs."

The most common maintenance procedures to keep a car operating safely and reliably while maintaining its long-term value involve checking the oil, filters and fluids, the belts and hoses, brakes, tires and air conditioning. The Car Care Council also recommends an annual tune-up and wheel alignment.

To make it easier for car owners to remember to include auto care in their busy schedules, the Car Care Council offers a free custom service schedule and email reminder service. This simple-to-use online resource can be personalized to help make auto care more convenient and economical.

In addition, the council's popular Car Care Guide for motorists and is available at no charge, electronically or by printed copy, in English and Spanish. The guide covers major services, component groups within the vehicle, service interval recommendations and much more.

About IMR Inc.

IMR Inc. has been an industry leader in automotive research since 1975 and conducts syndicated and proprietary market research studies that focus on do-it-yourself and do-it-for-me consumer vehicle maintenance behavior, automotive parts and services, repair shops, technicians and vehicle technology trends. To learn more, visit www.automotiveresearch.com.

About Car Care Council

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. For the latest car care news, visit the council's online media room at http://media.carcare.org. To order a free copy of the popular Car Care Guide, visit the council's consumer education website at www.carcare.org.

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Living with wildlife in Illinois public health, safety issues

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

Watch for white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) on roads, particularly in the early morning and evening hours.

Most deer-vehicle accidents (DVAs) occur during the months of October, November and December. Another peak occurs in May and June as one-year old deer are dispersing to new areas. However, DVAs can happen at any time of year. Deer are crepuscular, meaning that they are active at dawn and dusk. Thus, it is not surprising that most accidents involving deer happen between the hours of 5 to 10 p.m. and 5 to 8 a.m. While not all deer-vehicle collisions can be prevented, there are steps that drivers can take to avoid an accident.

The single best way to avoid an accident is to be aware of the surroundings. Pay attention to deer crossing signs, and scan the roadsides for the "eyeshine" of deer (reflection of headlights in the deer's eyes).

At night, use high-beam lights when appropriate. This may allow the deer to be seen a few seconds earlier, giving the driver enough time to avoid an accident.

Deer often use woodlots, fencerows, field edges or areas near water. Extra caution is needed when these habitats are close to roadways.

Slow down around curves in areas where deer are known to occur.

Slow down and prepare to stop if a deer is along the side of the road. There are likely more deer nearby. Deer will often follow one another single file across a road. Trying to cross through the middle of such a group often results in deer colliding with the side of the vehicle.

Be prepared for the unexpected. Deer may stop in the middle of the road or decide to double back to the side of the road. Hard pavement such as concrete or asphalt provides poor traction for the hard and sharp hooves of deer. They may even fall down.

If there are deer near the road, and there are no vehicles close behind, slow down, honk the vehicle s horn in short bursts and flash the headlights.

If deer are near the road, tap the brakes or use the emergency flashers to alert other drivers. Prepare to safely stop if the deer move toward the roadway.

If there are deer on or approaching the road, do not slam on the brakes or swerve sharply to avoid the deer. It is instinctual to do this, but doing so may cause a loss of control of the vehicle and a more severe accident.

Never tailgate! Always leave plenty of room between vehicles. Many severe deer vehicle accidents are caused when another vehicle becomes involved.

What to do after a deer-vehicle accident

Pull the vehicle off onto the shoulder of the road and turn on the emergency flashers.

Attend to any injured passengers. Do not get out of the vehicle to check on an injured deer or to pull a dead deer from the road. Do not risk being hit by another motorist.

Call 911 to report the accident. They will dispatch the appropriate law enforcement officials to assist at the site. Illinois law requires reporting of accidents that result in $1,500 or more in damage; additionally, an accident report must be filed.

The Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations documents what to do if you find a deer that has been killed or injured.

What to do if you find a deer that was killed or injured by a motor vehicle and you wish to claim it

White-tailed deer killed/injured as a result of a collision with a motor vehicle may be legally possessed by an individual if the following criteria are met:

The driver of a motor vehicle involved in a vehicle-deer collision has priority in possessing a deer. If the driver does not take possession of the deer before leaving the collision scene, any citizen of Illinois who is not delinquent in child support may possess and transport the deer.

There is no limit to the number of deer that may be possessed under these circumstances.

Individuals who claim a deer killed in a vehicle collision shall report the possession of the road-kill deer to the Department of Natural Resources within 24 hours via the IDNR website at http://www.dnr.state.il.us/law3/images/Road_kill.pdf or report the possession of the road-kill deer by telephoning (217)782-6431 no later than 4:30 p.m. on the next business day.

Except for any law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties, it shall be illegal to kill a deer crippled by a collision with a motor vehicle.

No part of a vehicle-killed deer can be bartered or sold.

The State of Illinois is absolved of any and all liability associated with the handling or utilization of vehicle-killed deer. This does not, however, relieve involved parties from reporting other liabilities to appropriate agencies as required.

What to do if you find a deer that was killed or injured by methods other than lawful hunting or a vehicle-deer accident and you wish to claim it

White-tailed deer killed/injured as a result of methods other than lawful hunting or a vehicle/deer collision, may be legally possessed by an individual if the following criteria are met:

Any individual finding a dead or crippled deer other than those killed/injured in a vehicle/deer collision, or legally taken by hunting methods, shall not transport said deer parts until permission is obtained from a Conservation Police Officer or a Regional Office. (Permission will be granted if it is determined that the person requesting possession did not illegally kill or injure the deer. When retained, the head/antler and hide shall be properly tagged with an irremovable tag obtained from the Regional Law Enforcement Office. The head/antler or hide tags shall remain attached to the head/antler or hide as long as the head/antler or hide remains in the green state, or when in a commercial manufacturing process).

There is no limit to the number of deer that may be possessed under these circumstances.

Except for any law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties, it shall be illegal to kill a deer crippled under these circumstances unless permission has been obtained from a Conservation Police Officer or the Regional Office (see phone numbers on page 1 of the Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations).

No part of a deer killed by methods other than hunting can be bartered or sold.

The State of Illinois is absolved of any and all liability associated with the handling or utilization of deer killed by methods other than lawful hunting. This does not, however, relieve involved parties from reporting other liabilities to appropriate agencies as required.

Don't scrimp on vehicle maintenance; Go with certified ASE tech

Technician certification organization ASE surveys show a well-maintained vehicle not only lasts longer, it retains more of its resale value.

With a sluggish economic recovery and today's consumers watching their finances carefully, it's no surprise that the average age of vehicles in the United States is more than 11 years old, according to automotive research firm R.L. Polk and Co.

With motorists holding on to their vehicles longer than ever before, maintenance takes an even greater importance in keeping roads — and people — safe.

The cost of neglect

"It's tempting to avoid car maintenance in tough economic times, but that's not a financially sound method to manage the big investment you've made in your vehicle," notes Tony Molla, vice president of communications for the nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

"Surveys of our certified technicians show that a well-maintained vehicle lasts longer, retains more of its resale value, pollutes less, and gets better mileage than one that's been neglected — to say nothing of being safer to operate."

According to the pros at ASE, neglect causes components to wear out faster than they would otherwise (poorly aligned tires, for example) and can result in minor problems growing into more expensive repairs (worn brake pads will eventually damage the more expensive rotors).

ASE suggests motorists, whether they are do-it-yourselfers or take their cars to ASE-certified technicians, become familiar with their owner's manual and follow the service schedules.

"The owner's manual is under-utilized; it summarizes systems to check and provides schedules based on normal or severe driving," notes Molla.

While some people might relish a weekend tinkering with the family car, today's technological advances under the hood and busier lifestyles find more consumers in search of dependable, trustworthy automotive service and repair.

Finding a good mechanic

Finding a competent auto technician need not be a matter of chance. Much of the guesswork has been eliminated, thanks to a national program conducted by ASE.

ASE tests and certifies automotive professionals in all major technical areas of repair and service. With more than 360,000 currently certified professionals working in dealerships, independent shops, collision repair shops, auto parts stores, fleets, schools and colleges across the United States, ASE's national certification program has industry-wide acceptance and recognition.

ASE certifies the technical competence of individual technicians, not the repair facilities.

Before taking ASE certification tests, many technicians attend training classes or study on their own in order to brush up on their knowledge.

By passing difficult, national tests, ASE-certified technicians prove their technical competence to themselves, to their employers, and to their customers.

What's more, because this program is voluntary, ASE certification becomes a self-selecting credential.

And while ASE does not certify repair shops or monitor business practices, it stands to reason that those shop owners and managers who support their employees' efforts to become ASE-certified often will be just as proactively involved in the other aspects of their businesses as well.

How certification works

More than 40 certification tests in all areas of vehicle service and repair are offered eight months out of the year at secure computer centers.

Technicians who pass at least one exam and fulfill the two-year work experience requirement earn the "ASE-certified" designation.

Those who pass a battery of exams, as well as fulfill the experience requirement, earn "Master Technician" status. In addition, all ASE credentials have expiration dates.

ASE requires technicians to retest every five years to demonstrate their commitment to continuing education and stay abreast of changing technologies.

The tests are developed and regularly updated by industry experts with oversight from ASE's own in-house pros. They are administered by ACT, the same group known for its college entrance exams.

There are specialty exams covering all major areas of repair. There are nine tests for auto technicians alone: Engine Repair, Engine Performance, Light Vehicle Diesel Engines, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Brakes, Heating and Air Conditioning, Suspension and Steering, Manual Drive Train and Axles, and Automatic Transmissions.

There are also exams for collision repair technicians, engine machinists, parts specialists, bus techs and others.

Finding ASE-Certified Technicians

Repair establishments with at least one ASE-certified technician are permitted to display the blue and white ASE sign.

Each ASE professional is issued personalized credentials listing his or her exact area(s) of certification and an appropriate shoulder insignia or lapel pin.

Technicians are also issued certificates that employers often post in the customer-service areas of their businesses.

Businesses with a high level of commitment to ASE are entitled to a special "Blue Seal of Excellence" recognition from ASE.

As with other professionals, automotive technicians often specialize, so it's wise to ask the shop owner or service manager for a technician who is certified in the appropriate area, such as brakes, engine repair, or air conditioning.

Visit www.ase.com for more information about ASE-certification, plus seasonal car care tips.

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HOTELS FOR HEROES - to find out more about how you can help our service members, veterans and their families in their time of need, visit the Fisher House website at www.fisherhouse.org.

Misc. For Sale

FROZEN DRINK MACHINE! Used SaniServ A4011N Soft Serve Ice Cream, Frozen Yogurt, Smoothie, and Frozen Drink Machine, **$1,500 OBO.** Originally bought to use as a soft serve ice cream machine, but Pressures are set for Slush or smoothie Machine, so ice cream doesn't get hard enough. Nice machine, perfect for a start up business, to rent out, or use at special events! Specs: 208-230 volt, single phase; Model A4011N, comes with agitator in the hopper. Call/Text Cyndi (815) 762-2281, or email Cyndi@jensenta.com

PORTABLE JOHN DEERE GENERATOR 15 hrs on the motor, good condition. $700 OBO 815-275-1584

Notice

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TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920 thru 1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker. Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins/Banjos. **1-800-401-0440**

GARAGE SALES

Estate Sales

2826 ORTH ROAD Belvidere, IL. Fri & Sat, Nov 17 & 18, 9-4. Estate & Christmas decor sale. Victorian home packed with antiques & vintage items. Furniture, couches, bedroom sets, pump organ, piano, crocks, large cabinets. Furnishings perfect for a B & B! Lots of one of a kind items! **Plus the Orth Pole ("Christmas Under the Sea"), in our barn.** will be open, $1 donation, per person- (donation to Vet's Roll). Come on out! Bring friends! Prefer cash. Local checks with I.D. accepted. No strollers please.

AUTOMOTIVE

Automobiles

1977 CHEVY IMPALA New wheels & tire, lots of new parts. Very good condition. $3500 OBO 262-496-6510

1990 BUICK PARK AVE. 129K mi., rust free, runs great,Must see. $2750. call 262-210-2385 after 5:30

1998 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS LS runs good, new brakes, good winter car. $1200. 262-492-4649

1998 Saturn SL2 4 door Auto. 102k miles 30+mpg $1800 815-541-2585

2002 MERCURY SABLE Good tires, battery, new fuel pump. Car serviced on regular basis. $1,595 Call 262-758-4738

2003 CHEVY IMPALA 4 DR Like Showroom condition, 6 Pass. $3,950 414-541-4644

2004 BUICK RENDEZVOUS CXL Heated leather seats, 3rd row seat, 1 owner, new front brakes & tires, 214 k mi. $2,200 OBO 262-374-0542

2005 MALIBU LS must see & drive, 220k miles, 1 owner, 262-363-7372.

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2010 SILVER 4 DR. IMPALA 70,000 mi., garage kept. $10,500 OBO 847-497-3692

2013 CHEVY MALIBU LS Excellent condition. $11,900 414-559-4516

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Bicycles

15 OLD BICYCLES Fat tires & others. All to go $250. 608-325-5803.

Boats

19 FT' SEA SPRITE, TANDEM TRAILER. Black, new white interior. Bow rider. Mercruiser. Fast. $3,450 847-987-7669

1973 25' FIBERGLASS CHRIS-CRAFT Cabin cruiser, inboard, V8 engine, w/storage trailer. $2,850 OBO 847-497-3692.

20 FT. PONTOON BOAT W/5O HORSE YAMAHA w/trailer & cover. $4,000 Call 262-895-2096

RANGER BASS BOAT W/trailer, 150 HP Merc, runs great, exc. cond., low hours, $5,000 Firm, 847-401-7927, 847-212-0597

Campers and RVs

1978 JOURNEY MOTOR HOME 32' long, sleeps 6, fully equipped, Dodge 440 engine 5KW generator $5,000 815-369-2338

Motorcycles

1999 HARLEY PRO STREET custom 107 cubic inch S&S motor. All forged internals. Axtell cylinders. 10.5 to 1 compression. STD dual plug heads. Dyna 2000i ignition. 4500 miles since built. Transmission is ultima case with Andrews gears and shaft. Bdl belt drive. Black and billet rims and matching rotors. Needs tires. No time to ride with 4 kids. Over 20k invested and hate to sell. Very fast bike and very comfortable. $9,800 OBO 815-751-2627.

1999 HARLEY PRO STREET custom 107 cubic inch S&S motor. All forged internals. Axtell cylinders. 10.5 to 1 compression. STD dual plug heads. Dyna 2000i ignition. 4500 miles since built. Transmission is ultima case with Andrews gears and shaft. Bdl belt drive. Black and billet rims and matching rotors. Needs tires. No time to ride with 4 kids. Over 20k invested and hate to sell. Very fast bike and very comfortable. $9,800 OBO 815-751-2627.

WANTED OLD JAPANESE MOTORCYLES KAWASAKI Z1-900 (1972-75), KZ900, KZ1000 (1976-1982), Z1R, KZ1000MK2 (1979,80), W1-650, H1-500 (1969-72), H2-750 (1972-1975),S1-250, S2-350, S3-400, KH250, KH400, SUZUKI GS400, GT380, HONDA CB750K (1969-1976), CBX1000 (1979,80) CASH !! 1-800-772-1142, 1-310-721-0726 usa@classicrunners.com

Parts & Accessories

4 COPPER TIRES, 265-70-17 less than 500 Mi. Discoverer H/T, $500. 262-989-4112.

Sports/Classic Cars

1934 FORD P. U. LT-1 350,400 Hp Chev. Polished ram intake, 6-97 carbs, turbo 400 trans. Chevelle 12 bolt posi. Crager mag wheels. 847-838-1916

1964 Antique Dodge 330 4 door, 318 V8, PS, AT, Rusty but runs. $900. OBO. 815-369-4334

1968 MUSTANG COUPE 289 AUTO P.S. Older Restoration, Newer Tires, Rally 15" Wheels. $14,500 or best offer. 262-537-4016

1977 AUSTIN MINI with parts to convert to rear wheel drive, w/215 alum., V8 & 5 speed, wt. 1,500lbs Call 847-838-1916.

1979 LINCOLN 2 DR. very nice shape, $4,800 OBO 262-758-6370.

1987 CHRYSLER LEBARON town & country, white turbo, excellent condition in & out, $3,500 708-448-2885 or 312-666-6666.

AVENGER FORD GT40 Tube frame, mid eng., Buick turbo v-6, 4 spd., silver, w/ chin spoiler. 847-838-1916

MANTA MIRAGE, STREET CAN AM RACE CAR S. B. C., 4 spd. tube frame, custom wheels, chrome yellow, show winner, fast. 847-838-1916

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Sport Utilities

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2004 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4x4, in good cond, heated leather seats, new tires, many upgrades, $4,500 OBO, 847-395-5128

4 WD TAHOE, NOT RUSTY Auto, leather, loaded. 5000lb. Hitch, excellent 350. 847-987-7669.

'99 YUKON 4WD REBUILT TRANS. 171K, Records avail. $2800 Cash. 262-767-9137.

Trucks & Trailers

1950 FORD F1 Pick Up cab/chassis w/T-Bird front end, 1948 F5 pick up, complete front end, 3 flat head V8 Ford engines, 5.0 liter Mustang engine, all w/transmissions. Asking $7,900 for all! 773-491-8019.

1997 FORD F-150 4x4, V8, 5 spd. manual trans. Needs work - $550. John Deere 212 with mower deck, snow blower & front blade. $850. 608-921-4010

2000 RANGER XLT 4x4, 4.0, 5 sp. manual. Needs front end work. $900 608-921-3038.

2002 COVERED TRAILER 5'x8' aluminum, 2" hitch, spare tire, jack, newer tires, ramp. $1,000 firm. Stockton, IL 815-858-0440

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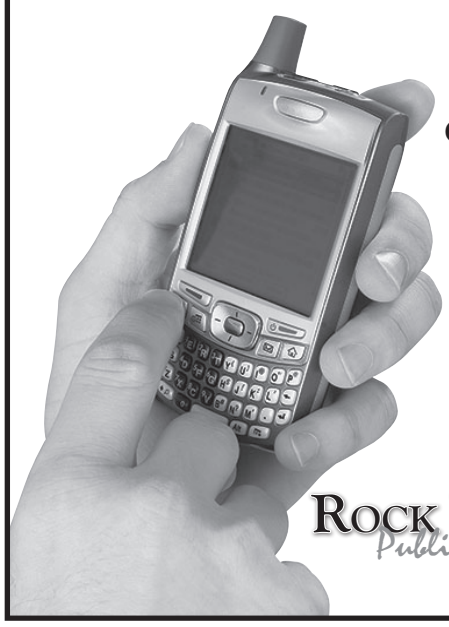

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