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# Opinions

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October is Car Care Month at AAA

## Drivers urged to perform car maintenance before winter hits

**BY AAA OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL NEW YORK**

October is Car Care Month at AAA Western and Central New York! As the weather cools, AAA reminds motorists that completing a seasonal vehicle checkup can maintain safety and maximize efficiency throughout the fall and winter. Unfortunately, AAA research has found that 35% of drivers have skipped needed car maintenance or repair, and 65% of drivers did not have their battery tested before finding it dead.

During Car Care Month, AAA encourages drivers to focus on essential vehicle repair and to prepare for winter by packing an emergency kit before the snow flies.

•**Battery and charging system:** An average car battery typically lasts three to five years. Drivers should have the battery and charging system tested prior to winter at a service facility or with AAA Mobile Battery Service, included in membership.

•**Traction:** Replacing worn tires when tread depth begins to recede is critical to vehicle safety. Worn tires are much more likely to hydroplane on wet pavement or lose traction in the snow.



•**Suspension and alignment:** A poorly maintained suspension and alignment can accelerate tire wear, reducing traction in adverse driving conditions.

•**Braking:** Old brake fluid or low fluid levels can lead to brake failure. Inspect brake fluid at every oil change. Most vehicle manufacturers recommend that brake fluid be replaced every two years.

•**Fluids:** Leaking fluids are a sure sign of needed maintenance. They also can be a dangerous fire

hazard. Have fluid leaks inspected and remedied as soon as they are detected.

•**Vision:** Check a vehicle's wiper blades at each oil change or whenever they fail to wipe the glass clean in a single swipe. The life of a blade is typically six to 12 months. Check the washer fluid reservoir monthly. Make sure all lights are working properly.

•**Emergency kit:** AAA recommends keeping your emergency road kit stocked year-round, especially in the winter. The kit

should include a cellphone charger, water, snacks, extra gloves/scarves, jumper cables, flashlight and a basic toolkit.

•**Find a mechanic:** Motorists can identify reliable, high-quality repair shops with certified technicians by looking for the AAA Approved Auto Repair sign. These facilities must meet and maintain high professional standards for customer service, technician training, tools, equipment, warranties and cleanliness. Nearby shops can be located at [AAA.com/Repair](http://AAA.com/Repair).

AAA is also hiring reliable individuals to join our automotive team. Full and part-time positions are available for roadside technicians. Enjoy a rewarding career with a well-established company. Learn more at [www.AAA.com/Careers](http://www.AAA.com/Careers).

As upstate New York's largest member services organization, AAA Western and Central New York provides more than 887,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1900, AAA has been a leading advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. Visit AAA at [www.AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com).

## Can You Help? Zimmerman-Swanson continues her battle with cancer

Dawn Zimmerman-Swanson is currently battling advanced Stage 4 cancer (small cell lung cancer). Family and friends announced plans for a benefit on Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Frontier Volunteer Co. firehall, 2176 Liberty Drive, Wheatfield.

Dawn was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in August 2016 and underwent surgery in September, followed by chemotherapy. She was declared free from ovarian cancer in February 2019.

On Dec. 20, 2020, Dawn was

diagnosed small cell lung cancer. At that time, surgery was not an option, as the cancer spread to her adrenal gland. Following rounds of chemotherapy and immunotherapy, a CT scan and MRI revealed the cancer spread through her lungs and into her brain.

Due to this continuing illness, Dawn and her family have been struggling with medical bills and many more everyday expenses.

From 5-10 p.m. Nov. 5, her friends and family will host a

fundraiser that will include a basket auction, 50/50 raffle and big-ticket items. Snacks, soda and a cash bar will be offered. Residents are invited to attend this event, and organizers welcome donations of a basket, gift card or any assistance the community can provide.

"The benefit is being given to assist her with mounting medical and personal expenses related to her treatment, only a fraction of which is covered by health insurance," family member Jordan

Wollaber said. "Please take a moment and consider helping this beautiful lady and her family with all the medical bills and everyday expenses. This benefit will, hopefully, put her mind at ease with all the bills, so she can concentrate on her health.

"Let's all get together and show her she is not alone."

For more information on this event, or to assist, contact Jordan at 716-478-5392 or Dianna at 716-417-2792.

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