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# ON THE ROAD

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PRESS & ARGUS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

With its commitment to customers and quality service, it's no surprise that Corky's Car Clinic in Brighton is celebrating 30 years of business.

## Corky's Car Clinic turns 30 this month

By Laurie Eichler Stiers  
SPECIAL WRITER

With its commitment to customers and quality service, it's no surprise that Corky's Car Clinic in Brighton is celebrating 30 years of business.

"We moved to Brighton in February of 1980," said owner Bob Corcoran. "We offer quality service and we are family owned and operated and our customers know all of our mechanics."

Corcoran said he has a loyal customer base, which has helped them keep their business successful. In addition, Corky's Car Clinic offers a wide variety of automotive repair, from factory scheduled factory preventive maintenance, computer control diagnostics, electrical repairs and brake work. Corky's mechanics will work on all makes and models as well as new and used automobiles.

"We have ASE-Certified mechanics with certificates in advanced drivability," said Corcoran.

"They are Carquest Technical School graduates and they have been factory trained to do the job right."

Corcoran added that the technicians are adept at working on the latest model vehicles. Corky's has advanced up-to-date diagnostic equipment and techniques, including lab scope analysis and current ramping.

"We have the ability to re-flash or install new calibrations or computers on many of the new cars," said Corcoran.

For added peace of mind, Corky's offers its customers a 12 month 12,000 mile warranty on all repairs with a nationwide warranty covered by the Car Quest Tech Network, which has service locations from coast to coast.

Corcoran advises vehicle owners to pay attention to maintenance during the winter to spring months.

Changes in temperature, road conditions, and wear and tear can impact the function of vehicles if they are not maintained properly.

"Now is the time to check the suspension," he stressed. "Potholes in the road are very hard on the suspension and breaks."

Corcoran added that all of the technicians on staff live for automobiles.

They have experience that includes mobile audio sound competitions and National Hot Rod Association Drag Racing competitions, Mud Bog competitions and more.

"We have been drag racing for 25 plus years," said Corcoran. "I myself have worked on world record setting land speed vehicles at the Bonneville Salt Flats."

The commitment to all things automotive doesn't just mean quality repair, it means quality customer care, noted Tim Corcoran, Bob's son, and one of the staff technicians.

"We offer service with a smile," he said.

Corky's Car Clinic is at 735 Grand River Avenue in Brighton. Hours are Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (810) 227-7655 or visit [www.corkyscarclinic.com](http://www.corkyscarclinic.com).

# It's a guy thing



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

At The C.A.R. Guys, at 915 S. Old U.S. 23 in Brighton Township, customers can find everything they need to bring their car's performance above and beyond the ordinary as well as general repair.

## C.A.R. Guys' specialty? High performance

By Laurie Eichler Stiers  
SPECIAL WRITER

High performance. It's what separates the standard from the spectacular. At The C.A.R. Guys, at 915 S. Old U.S. 23 in Brighton Township, customers can find everything they need to bring their car's performance above and beyond the ordinary as well as general repair.

"People decide to get high performance so they can increase the power output in their car," said Dan Sienkiewicz, performance manager. "People can get higher horsepower, engine upgrades, and suspension upgrades — everything they want to make their cars go faster."

For those who don't know a lot about high performance, the basics include higher engine output, enhanced braking and suspensions systems, all meant to enhance the driving experience or increasing vehicle performance. This can be for cars that are used for racing, as well as pleasure drivers who are looking for a truly immersive experience. Almost everyone wants their vehicles to perform at their best. For those with high performance cars and trucks, getting the best horsepower and performance available is important. That means finding the right performance auto parts for your needs.

The C.A.R. Guys can provide just that.

Sienkiewicz said it's not just serious racers who get involved. Many auto owners are looking to upgrade their vehicles. Everyone wants their vehicles to perform at their best. For those with high performance cars and trucks, getting the best horsepower and performance available is important. That means finding the right performance auto parts for your needs. The C.A.R. Guys can provide just that. Some relatively inexpensive or easy to install options to consider include installing a cold intake air system which replaces the factory airflow assembly to boost engine power, installing headers, which allows each cylinder to have its own exhaust pipe instead of a common manifold, and boost performance, and opting for a turbocharger or a supercharger, which force air into the engine's cylinders.

"If you have a Corvette and you want it to go faster, we give you the recipe to do it and we can put all of the parts in for you," noted Kyle Davis, General manager. "And we get a lot of younger people, too."

At the C.A.R. Guys, which stands for complete automotive repair, customers can opt for get-



The C.A.R. Guys employees Pat Tulip, left, and Rich Shmaus work on a vehicle.

ting a bit more vehicle power or choose to have a complete engine overhaul. Either way, the technicians know just what to do. Some of the services offered include: transmission rebuilds, aftermarket and OEM fuel injection systems, custom fabricated exhaust systems, custom wiring and repair, nitrous systems, ignition systems, and more.

The C.A.R. Guys opened in

June, and offers both high performance outfitting as well as standard vehicle maintenance and parts. Fleet vehicle service and inspection is also offered, including preventative maintenance, fabrication, welding, plow installation, and other services. And, in true car lovers' fashion, most of the technicians on staff are avid car racers.

"Most of us who work here are racers," said Davis. "We race at Milan Drag way and other places."

Modifying a car to increase performance can be easy and inexpensive, or can be a complete overhaul and investment. No matter what, adding high performance to a vehicle can turn driving from a chore into a pleasure. At The C.A.R. Guys, customers can find the best quality performance auto parts for the price.

For hours and information, call The C.A.R. Guys at (810) 229-9300, e-mail [info@thecar-guysgarage.com](mailto:info@thecar-guysgarage.com) or visit [www.thecarguysgarage.com](http://www.thecarguysgarage.com).

## Knowing about fuel economy is critical

By Dan Retherford  
SPECIAL WRITER

The ushering in of winter's arctic temperatures leaves customers scratching their heads about dropping fuel economy on their vehicles.

A few insights into EPA regulations as well as an understanding of the impact that certain driving habits can have on fuel economy should help all drivers maximize their miles per gallon.



Dan Retherford

Every car buyer, new or used has either seen the MPG ratings on the new vehicle window sticker or researched the numbers in the case of a used vehicle purchase where the window sticker may long since have ended up in a landfill.

It is important to know where these numbers come from and how we might be able to help maximize these numbers so that life may imitate art if you will.

Fuel economy ratings for all vehicles are monitored by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, there are standard rating, and testing procedures that all vehicles, that the government mandates for fuel economy standards, must go through in order to develop the most accurate fuel economy ratings for those vehicles.

Some vehicles fall outside of the rating criteria and thusly will have no expected fuel economy ratings, these types of vehicles are typically more specialized or heavier vehicles more often used for commercial applications.

The procedures by which MPG ratings are derived are readily available at no charge on [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov).

There are several free resources as well as tips and tricks to maximizing fuel economy, I will spend some time describing these tactics as we progress.

### Intangibles

It is important to understand that every driver, no matter what type of vehicle you drive, will see expected decreases in fuel economy during winter months or when weather is unseasonably cooler.

This is a product of government mandated auto emissions technology and subsequently fuel standards meant to maximize the effectiveness of said technology. Those of us familiar with the national debate involving fuel economy have probably heard the term CAFE as it relates to industry standards.

CAFE describes Combined Average Fuel Economy; it is a federally mandated number that increase with each model year in order to gradually raise fuel economy standards amongst manufacturers by a certain future target year.

Obviously, companies like Ford Motor Co., General Motors Co. and Chrysler LLC who dominate the market for trucks in the United States have had a more difficult time in achieving the new administrations aggressive CAFE number.

The fact is, however, that by aggressive innovation and an understanding of market trends the domestic manufacturers have been able to successfully move their averages up to meet the future requirements; as well as surpass their foreign competitors.

The reason that these improvements lead to decreases of fuel economy in the winter is due to the intricate array of emissions sensors and modules that are constantly interacting during vehicle operations.

These On-Board diagnostic components make an infinite

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