

Spring rush gets started

By DONNA KELL
Herald Staff

It's spring, and it's time to power-wash the salt off your car, get that new sound system you've been dreaming of, and to get all the grease, dirt and paint chips off your paint enamel.

Local car care centres say this is the time of year to clean up vehicles after the heavy salt and grime of winter.

"As soon as the snow melts, that is the time to check your car," says Chris Bydevaate, owner of the Georgetown Tidy Car franchise.

"One of the main things to do is to get salt out from under your car with a power-wash."

Mr. Bydevaate also suggested removing salt from carpets and floor mats. "It gets hard like a rock, like cement, and you can't get it out," he said.

Gary Robertson, assistant manager of Super Lube in Georgetown said drivers like to come in for engine shampoos, oil changes and oil sprays this season.

Engine shampoos "remove all the grease and dirt from the

engine," said Mr. Robertson, and oil sprays help prevent rust.

But to really finish a car, Super Lube recommends compounding, a system used to restore lustre to faded enamel.

After people finish worrying about a car's body, their fancies turn to stereo sound, says Gord Vidler, owner of Custom Car Care on Sinclair Avenue.

Mr. Vidler says in the 11 years the company has been operating, spring seems to be the peak for stereo excitement.

People "think of getting their car spruced up for spring. Sound is part of that," he said. He added that Craig and Blaupunkt systems were among the most popular.

Those who aren't installing new stereos are moving them from one car to another. "If you've got a \$500 or \$600 system you should keep it... the stereos last longer than the cars do," said Mr. Vidler.

And an increasing number of car owners are buying alarm systems, including the latest, a remote control system which can function from the comfort of your home.

For all these items, that are a part of spring and a part of car care, "the rush is just starting," said Mr. Vidler.

YEAR-OLD WIPER BLADES DUE FOR A CHANGE

Good visibility during inclement weather requires fresh, flexible wiper blades. If the ones on your car are about to celebrate their first birthday, they are probably due for a change, says Car Care Council.

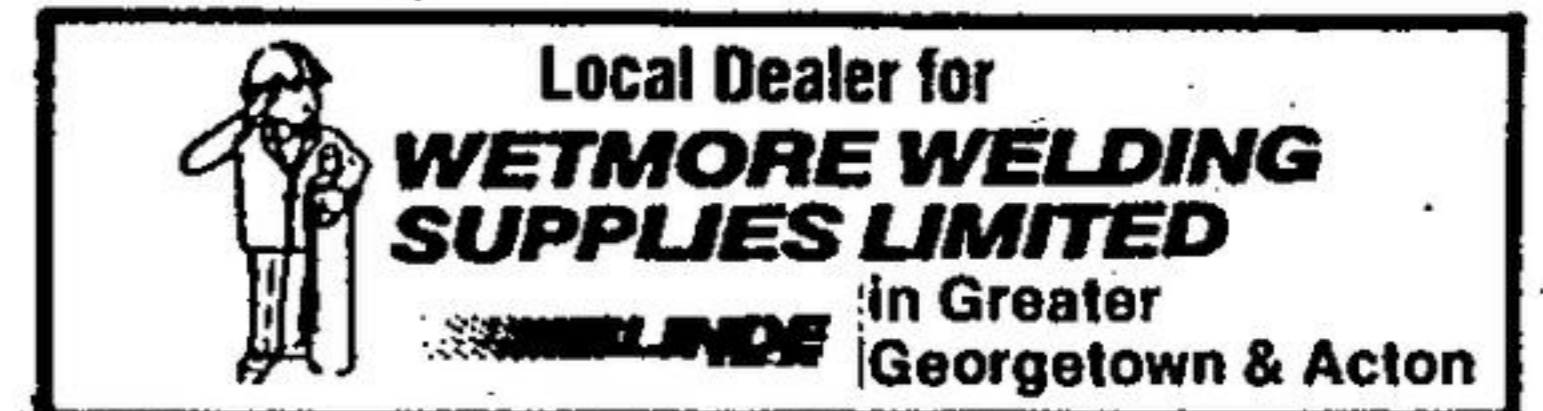
And here's a tip: When you do replace the old wiper blades with new ones, regular cleaning with a mild detergent of the wiping edge can increase their efficiency...and their life.

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A durable spring cleaning

Spring cleaning often means bringing the summer wardrobe out of the cedar chest, replacing storm windows with screens, and pulling out the lighter blankets and linen. But it shouldn't stop there.

The family car has been through a grueling winter of charging through ice, sleet, mud and snow, and deserves its fair share of spring cleaning attention.

The first step is to wash the car thoroughly. It sounds simple, but there is one precautionary step to be taken. Always use a car wash formulated specifically for washing auto paint surfaces. For example, Rain Dance Car Wash is a Ph balanced formula designed to clean thoroughly, yet is safe for automotive use.

Applying the wax

On the other hand, a household dish-washing liquid, which is used by more than two-thirds of people who wash their own cars, will actually promote metal corrosion because of its stronger alkalinity.

The next step is to apply a new coat of wax. If you're like most people, you'll want to use a car wax that protects and shines for a long time. One product renowned for its longevity is Rain Dance Car Wax which, according to independent lab tests, has been shown to last longer than any other leading car wax.

"Waxing may not be the most exciting job in the world," says Rick Manoogian,

marketing manager for Rain Dance Products Corporation, "but, when it's time to do it, you might as well do it right. That's how Rain Dance customers feel."

"They're confident that, not only are they getting a great shine, but that Rain Dance is also one of the most durable and long-lasting waxes available. New users are always surprised how easy it is to apply as well."

"In fact, in the development of Rain Dance, a special high-tech measuring device was employed, which actually measures the angle of the rain drops and thus gives an accurate reading of the amount of protection delivered by the wax," points out Dr. Jim Latty, research and development director for Rain Dance Products Corporation.

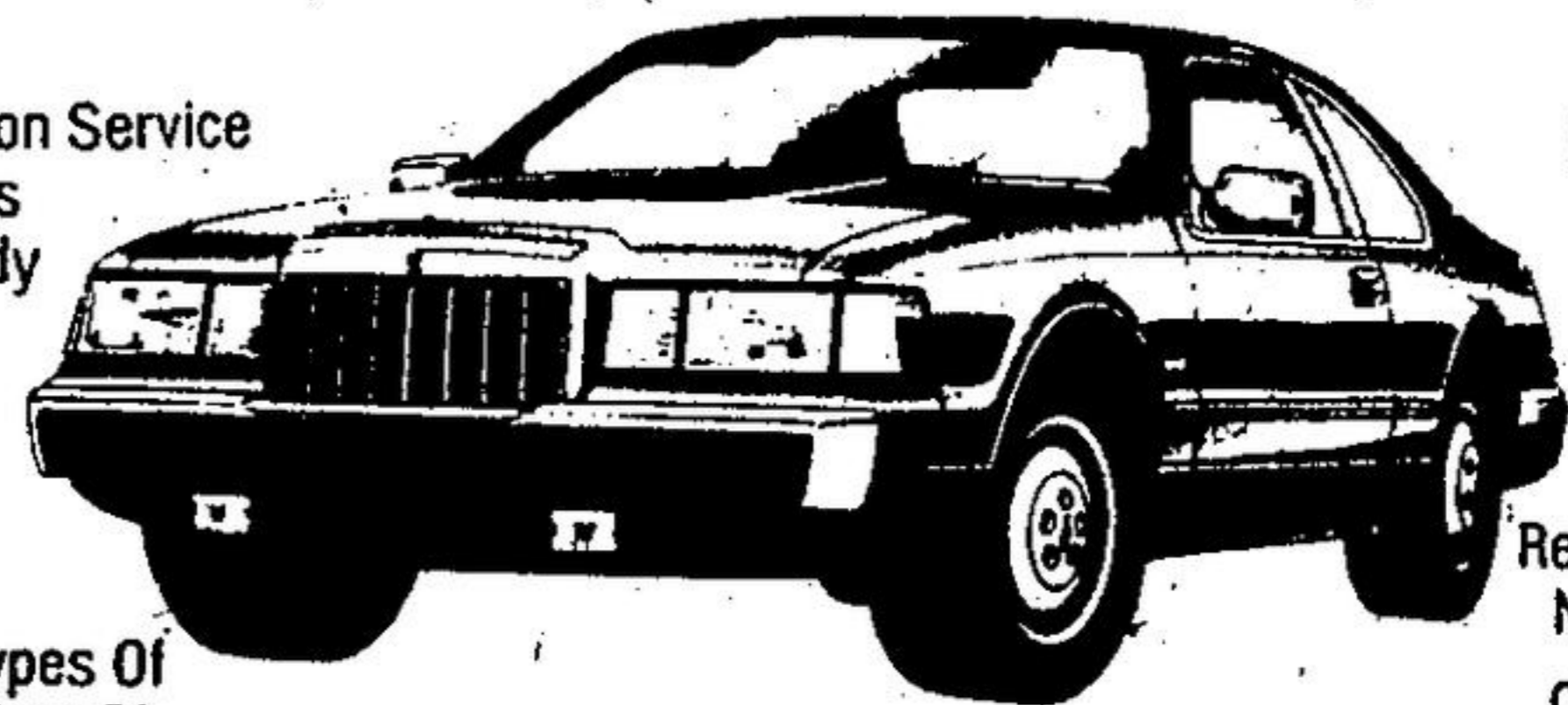
"That device was used to help ensure that Rain Dance actually does deliver a longer lasting shine."

"In addition," points out Dr. Latty, "a good wax job in the springtime will not only give the car a great shine, but it will help protect it from the harsh, dulling rays of summer sun."

Long-lasting

And, according to Dr. Latty, a durable wax, like Rain Dance, will normally last the entire summer and into fall, so that the next waxing will be many months later when it's time to apply a "winter coat" to the family car.

Park Avenue Collision Inc.

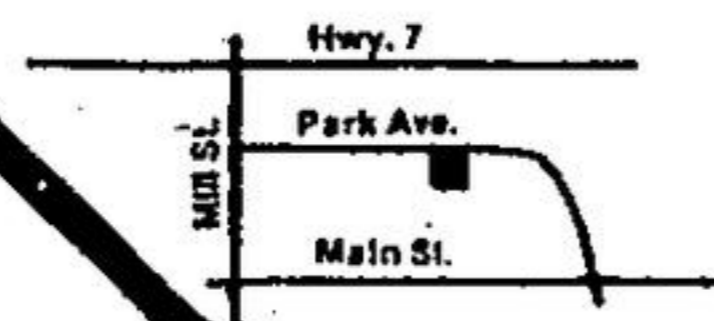


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