

Your Car Matters

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services January 2013 Newsletter

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Green Renaissance will amaze you every day

ChartPorn has nothing to do with porn. We promise!

The first full bridge closure is on us.

The Sellwood Bridge will close Jan 17th to Jan 24. Here's what we're doing about it.



Our Year-In-Review Issue

A look back at everything we covered in 2012.



News To Make You FURIOUS

Our yearly Wrapup of Wrath



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Tom's Tidbits

The first closure of the Sellwood Bridge

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A look back at all our Feature articles from 2012

The Sellwood bridge is closed Jan 17th to 24th. Here's what we're doing about it.



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- The Illahee Lecture series is back for another year
- Are women and men treated differently at repair shops?
- Green Renaissance will amaze you every day
- ChartPorn has nothing to do with porn. We promise!

PLUS

- A big, steaming bag of Popcorn Shorts from 2012

News To Make You Furious

Our yearly wrap-up of wrath



Tom's Tidbits

The first closure of the Sellwood Bridge



Greetings!

The new year is bringing a huge change, not only to our Sellwood neighborhood but to the entire region. The Sellwood Bridge is facing its first full closure (Jan 17th through the 24th) so the old bridge deck can be moved over to make way for the construction of the new bridge.

The new bridge is a vitally important project for Oregon, and we realize that everyone will have to put up with some inconvenience during the reconstruction. However, we're very nervous about the closure and its effect on our clients, and we want to do everything we can to make sure it has as little impact on your life as possible. This month we expanded our "Sellwood Bridge Update" column into a full Feature article, giving you the best alternative routes, information on the closure and construction, and some offers we're making to encourage you to keep using our services during this brief closure.

The other big thing this year is...last year. This is our Year-in-Review issue where we bring together everything we shared with you in 2012. We work very hard on Your Car Matters, and this is our chance to show off a little. From major world events to obscure quirks of our shop, we covered it all, and I hope you find some time to flip through last year with us.

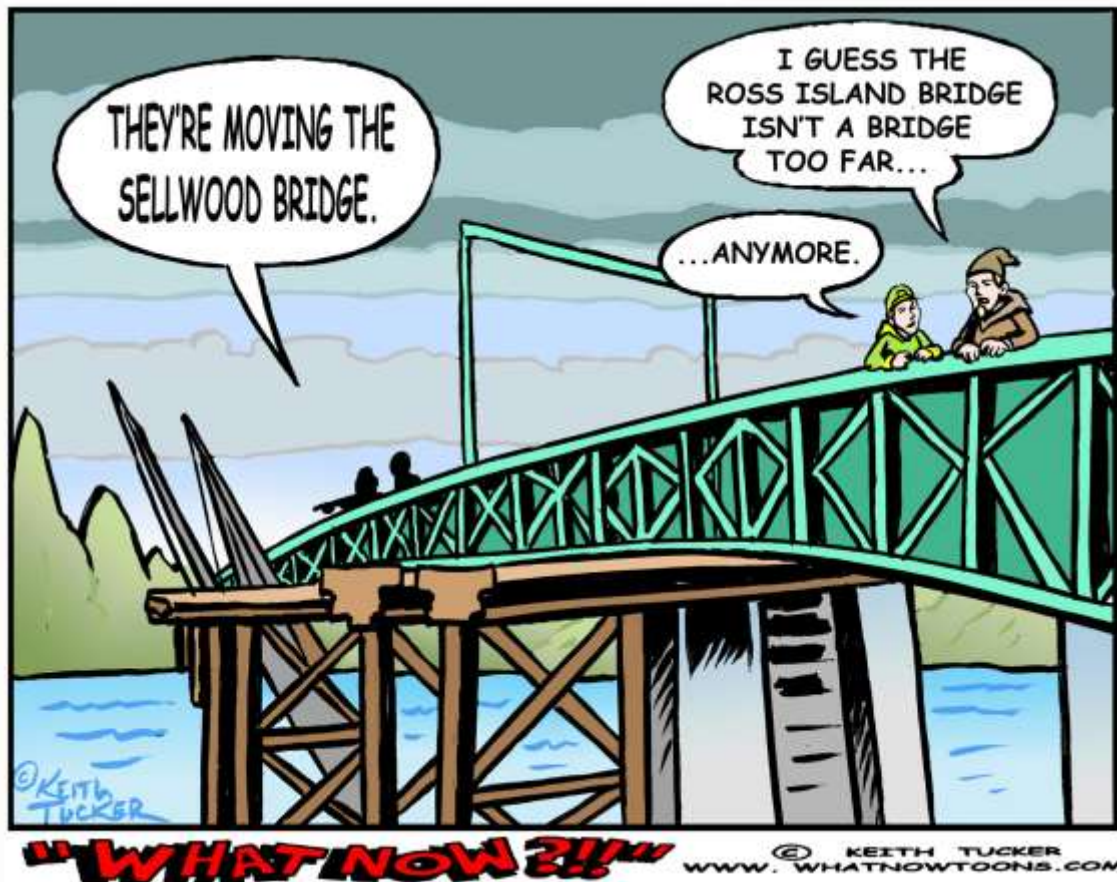
Like every year before and (I assume) every year to come, 2013 looks to be a year of hope and opportunity. I wish you and your family all the best for this new year, and I hope you'll continue to spend a few quality minutes with us each month at Your Car Matters. Best of luck in 2013, and I hope to see you soon!

Take Care and Make a Great Day!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tom'.

What NOW?!! Toons

See it FIRST in Your Car Matters!



Click any of the Toons below for a version large enough to read!



[And Click Here for Keith's 2013 Tiki Calendar!](#)

Sellwood Bridge Closure

The Sellwood Bridge will close from
January 17th -24th.
Here's what we're doing about it.



January is a month for *Your Car Matters* to take it easy. We have fun going back and looking at everything we wrote about last year. However, there is one issue that can't just get the "look back" treatment this month... the Sellwood Bridge Renovation Project is about to have its first complete closure of the bridge, scheduled from January 17th through the 24th. We need to tell you how to make it as easy as possible to get along without our crumbling companion, as well as what we're planning on doing to compensate you for any inconvenience or lost time you may encounter due to the bridge closure.



Will YOU actually be affected by the closure? Chances are good that you won't. Let's take a look at a few maps. Here you see our beloved Portland in all its GoogleMaps glory. The downtown bridges are in blue and the Ross Island and Sellwood bridges are in red. No matter which bridge you take, to get to our shop you'll want to aim at either McLoughlin Blvd or Milwaukie Ave, then turn west when you hit Tacoma. We're the last left you can make before you get on the Sellwood Bridge. (We're the little blue star at the bottom.)

One thing to be aware of... whether you're coming from the north or the south, Tacoma is the most main-line route to the shop. It may not be the quickest, however. Traffic builds quickly on Tacoma at the best of times and the Sellwood construction isn't helping. It may be quicker to come down one of the side streets that parallels Tacoma, like Tenino, Umatilla, Spokane, or Nehalem.



Who ISN'T affected by the closure?



First, we know no one on the east side of the Willamette needs a bridge to get to us, so those folks can rest easy.

If you live or work on the west side of the river, (including downtown) down to just a little south of the Ross Island bridge then the situation looks pretty good for you too. Any of the downtown bridges will work to get you across the river, and the Ross Island Bridge has always been quicker than the Sellwood for you. Not much change there!



Down south into Oregon City, the situation is also pretty much unchanged. The east-siders are still safe, and for everyone on the west side of the river south of Lake Oswego, say in West Linn for example, it will be quicker to take the Oregon City bridge. Once you're across you can come back up McLoughlin Blvd (Highway 99E) but there's a quicker way. Come north on I-205 to the Milwaukie Expressway (Hwy 224) exit, then come in on Highway 224 to McLoughlin and turn right on McLoughlin.

Who IS affected by the closure?



That leaves these people as the ones who will be most affected by the closure. It's basically an area bounded by the Ross Island Bridge and Highway 26 to the north, the Willamette River to the east, the Lake Oswego lake to the south, and open to the west as far as you want to go.

What are your alternatives?

If you live or work in the affected area you have two basic choices to get to Sellwood...



If you started from the west end of the Sellwood Gap, went north and crossed the Ross Island bridge, then came back down McLoughlin, Google Maps says this should be a 7.1 mile trip that takes 16 minutes.

On the other hand if you headed south, took the Oregon City bridge, then came back up McLoughlin you'd add 19.6 miles and 44 minutes to your trip.

There's not much of a question on which way to go if you're starting near the west end of the Sellwood Bridge, but how far south do you have to start before it makes sense to take the Oregon City bridge instead?



After trying many Google Map variations, it turns out it really doesn't make sense to take the Oregon City bridge until you're south of Lake Oswego lake, where it would have made sense to take the Oregon City bridge before anyway.

Here's the short story... For just about anyone living in what we called the "affected zone", YOUR **BEST ALTERNATIVE DURING THE SELLWOOD BRIDGE CLOSURE IS THE ROSS ISLAND BRIDGE**. If you took the Oregon City Bridge to get to our shop before, keep doing it. It will still be your quickest route during the closure.

What are we doing to make up for any inconvenience?

On-the-spot discounts- The maps tell us that few people will be directly affected by the closure, but maps can lie. If YOU feel inconvenienced then you ARE inconvenienced, and we can't have that. If the Sellwood Bridge closure has affected your use of our service in ANY way, just tell us! Our Service Advisors have been authorized to make accommodations for any problems you may have encountered.

Closure discounts- There's something else we're doing as well... if you schedule your vehicle for service during the Jan 17th -24th bridge closure period, we'll offer a 15% discount on labor (up to \$200). This doesn't apply to oil changes or other services under \$100, but if you've been putting off some major repair then now may be the ideal time to do it.

Is there any more information on the bridge?

Glad you asked. The Sellwood Bridge project isn't just a big project for Portland, it's one of the largest projects of this type in the country and it's garnering a lot of press. For instance, did you know the "Shoo Fly" move that's causing the closure is one of the largest bridge moves ever attempted? Here are links to some of the detailed coverage available now...

[Sellwood Bridge Replacement Effort Nears Major Milestone](#)

OPB, Dec 17, 2012

[Portland Has Less Money For The Sellwood Bridge](#)

OPB, Dec 13, 2012

[Omega Morgan Will Move Portland's Sellwood Bridge January 19](#)

Information on the contractor who will be doing the move, Jan 2, 2013

[Sellwood Bridge to slide downriver, carry traffic while new bridge is built](#)

Oregonian, Dec 27, 2012 (with photo slideshow)

[Portland's share of Sellwood Bridge costs capped at \\$86 million and could go lower](#)

Oregonian, Dec 20, 2012

[Your Car Matters recap of Sellwood Bridge articles in 2012](#)

Everything we wrote last year on the Sellwood Bridge

Multnomah County has maintained a website dedicated to the Sellwood Bridge reconstruction project, with constant daily updates, construction updates, construction cams, and links to outside articles. This is the best source for any information on the Sellwood Bridge project. You can access it at

<http://www.sellwoodbridge.org/>



We appreciate your patience!

We know that this construction can cause headaches for everyone with business in Sellwood. We appreciate your patience during this time, and we want to make it as easy as possible to use our service while the project continues. If you find yourself inconvenienced by the bridge construction in any way please tell us... we'll do something to show how much we appreciate your support during the construction disarray.

2012 Year In Review

Our Feature articles from 2012

It's our privilege to send you this newsletter each month, and we don't take that privilege lightly. You didn't have to give us your email address, but you did. You don't have to keep us off your "blocked senders" list but (so far) you have. If we want to stand out among the thousands of companies competing for your time and attention, then we have to give you something informative and entertaining in return. That's why we work so hard on this newsletter: we realize you've trusted us with your valuable time, so it's up to us to make it worth your while. With that in mind, the KPOJ closure sent a lot of new readers to *Your Car Matters* and we should probably let them know what they're in for. With 2012 in the rear-view mirror, here's a look back at the stories we covered last year, which is a good guide to what you can expect in 2013...



[January 2012](#), saw our first "look back" issue. Ahhh, the memories! Here's just some of the things we covered in our Feature articles in 2011... we had horror stories of [what happens when you don't change your oil](#), a [home test for your halogen fluid](#) (don't pay dealer prices!) and a [report back from the Veterans for Peace march](#). We introduced you to Naomi and Neil Montacre of Naomi's Organic Farm Supply and gave you [an inside look at their battle with Les Schwab](#). (Naomi's, unfortunately, lost). We covered the [proposed Oregon Bank](#), we told you [how to beat the salesman when buying a new car](#), and we had the tables turned on us when [an investigative report on our Tom Dwyer Automotive came out in June](#). We told you [how to increase your gas mileage](#) and [how to decrease your student loan debt](#). In September we worked with [350.org in their annual Day of Action](#) and our [whole September issue was devoted to Climate Change](#). We sat down with [Brad Witt to talk about his run for Congress](#) after David Wu left. (Brad, like Naomi's, unfortunately lost). When Occupy hit the streets in November so did we, [scooping some of the major news agencies by actually putting a live reporter on the ground](#) to talk with the Occupiers. We finished out the year with [Tom Dwyer Movie Night](#), [tips on winter](#)

[driving](#), and a [warning about the 2012 Defense Authorization Act](#) (which President Obama signed into law after promising to veto it). It was a full year, but we were just getting ready for 2012...



[February](#) gave us the chance to meet one of our own neighbors, [Oregon Tilth](#). This small company located in our Sellwood neighborhood is one of the largest organic education and certification organizations in the country. We looked at some history with the [Powell Memo](#), the 8-page letter that is frequently referred to as the blueprint for the modern conservative echo chamber. We wrapped up the month with news about the new season of the [Illahee Lectures](#), an innovative lecture series on the environment, technology, politics, policy, and more.

When asked about vehicle reliability, we typically give this advice- Toyota and Honda are best, everything else is a distant second,



and stay away from European manufacturers. There's more to be said, though, and our [article on vehicle reliability](#) allowed us to say it in [March](#). We were also able to bring you an [interview with Jefferson Smith](#), a new face in the Portland Mayoral race. Jeff is a sharp and innovative thinker whose ideas for Portland broke some of the city's political molds. Although he survived the primary battle with Eileen Brady, the general election with Charlie Hales proved too



much. Jefferson, like Naomi and Brad above, unfortunately lost. Also in March came the first tremors of what would later be a full earthquake at KPOJ... they began pre-empting their political shows to cover Beavers Baseball. Frustrated listeners got no satisfaction from KPOJ, so we [wrote an article explaining the whole thing](#) as best we could.



In [April](#) we premiered our new layout for the [PDF version of our newsletter](#). Since most people only see the email version of *Your Car Matters*



we can't afford to spend a lot of time laying out a print version as well, but we still tried to spiff it up a little bit. We continued our political coverage by [interviewing Steve Novick](#), "the fighter with a strong left hook". Steve was running for the Portland City Council, but unlike Naomi, Brad, and Jeff, Steve actually



won his battle and will take office in January 2013. We also brought you news about a [Blues Festival to support Single Payer Health Care](#), and we finished up with an [article on the](#)

[hidden dangers of DHMO](#), a chemical which has now been found in every river, lake, and stream in the US. It's everywhere and you can't avoid exposing yourself to this proven killer, but you can also relax a little. While DHMO is real and can indeed be dangerous, [this April Fool's article](#) explains why it's not as bad as you might think.



In [May](#) we checked in with longtime nuclear activists John Bartels and Helen Caldicott when we published their [open letter to Congress calling for the repeal of Price-Anderson](#).

Price-Anderson is a holdover from the 1957 "Atoms for Peace" program, and puts the liability for nuclear disasters

on taxpayers while letting the nuke companies keep the profit. (We also created a "Repeal Price-Anderson" poster that you can [download here for free](#)). We told you

about the [10 cheapest cars to own and insure](#), and we brought you the good news that just [two short years after the massive BP oil spill](#), the entire disaster had been cleaned up and the Gulf Coast had been made whole. Well, maybe not so much.



[June](#) brought a change at the shop as Jeff Andersen, our longtime and very popular courtesy shuttle driver, left to get his teaching degree. Our [exit interview with Jeff](#) was a rare look behind-the-scenes with us, and an opportunity for him to say goodbye. With the summer driving season on us, we gave you some advice



on [planning for summer road trips](#) that would help keep your vacation on track. Finally, as the country celebrated Memorial Day, our



[“Thank You For Your Service?”](#) article asked tough questions about the way we treat the people who put their lives on the line for all of us.



As our [July](#) issue hit the e-streets, we were already making plans for the holidays as we asked for nominations for our [annual Charitable Giving calendar](#). This is our



third year creating this calendar, and it's something we're very proud of. We ask our clients to nominate non-profit groups they care about or work with, and we choose 12 of them to feature in the calendar. Hopefully, it will give these groups a little more of the exposure they need and



deserve. We also re-ran one of our most popular articles from 2011 with our photo-rich look at [what happens to your engine without oil changes](#). Our third article was a response to client questions... many people had asked [what happened Naomi's Organic Farm Supply](#) after their battle with Les. We checked in with Naomi, and it turns out they're doing fine in their new southeast Portland location.



As the summer waned, things stacked up a little in the *Your Car Matters* editorial offices and we found ourselves consolidating a couple newsletter issues, but we hope the content didn't suffer. Our [August/September](#) issue took you inside one of the scariest, darkest, most evil government programs ever



created to steal your freedoms... [Obama's infamous Health Care Exchanges](#). Just as Virgil guided Dante through Hell, we took you safely



on a step-by-step journey past the Death Panels and screams of the insurance companies to discover the reality of these much-maligned exchanges.

Portland's parks were cleared late in 2011, but the Occupy movement didn't die just because the tents were gone. We checked in with one of our clients to find out [what Guy Fawkes was doing on his summer vacation](#). Then we wrapped up our monthly Feature articles with a glimpse into the future... [self-driving cars](#) have been a sci-fi staple for years, but they're inching closer to reality. There are a lot of worries associated with this new technology, but we know what your biggest worry is and you can relax... Tom Dwyer Automotive Services will be ready to fix your self-driver when it finally appears.



In our [October/November](#) issue we sat down for a [chat with the mailman](#). Most people have heard that the Postal Service is in trouble, but few know the largest part of their problem is a Congressional mandate that requires them to *pre-fund their retirement programs 75*



years into the future, and to do it in a 10-year period. That's bad enough, but in talking with the two representatives from the Postal Union we learned



something even worse... they've *already* pre-funded the retirement in a separate account, but Congress won't transfer the money! One much-overlooked event in November 2012 was the presidential election. We put on a little party at the Historic Bob White Theatre to mark the occasion, and this [second October article was your invitation](#). We closed this issue with a little [catch up on our summer contests](#). We do some small cash contests

around the shop every year to spice up the summer doldrums. Two of the contests went winnerless (so keep that in mind when next summer rolls around) but you may enjoy this look at some [kid's visions of what the Cars Of The Future will bring.](#)



December brought an earth-shaking change to our company. Many (most?) of the people who are now our clients met us through our [ads on KPOJ](#), which until recently was Portland's Progressive Talk radio station. Friday, November 9, three days after Obama's election, the station closed unexpectedly and became an automated FOX Sports feed. For the entire next week we fielded calls from bereaved listeners wondering what happened, why it happened, and what they could expect going forward. While we answered these questions as best we could, we saved our detailed response for ["The KPOJ Debacle-](#)

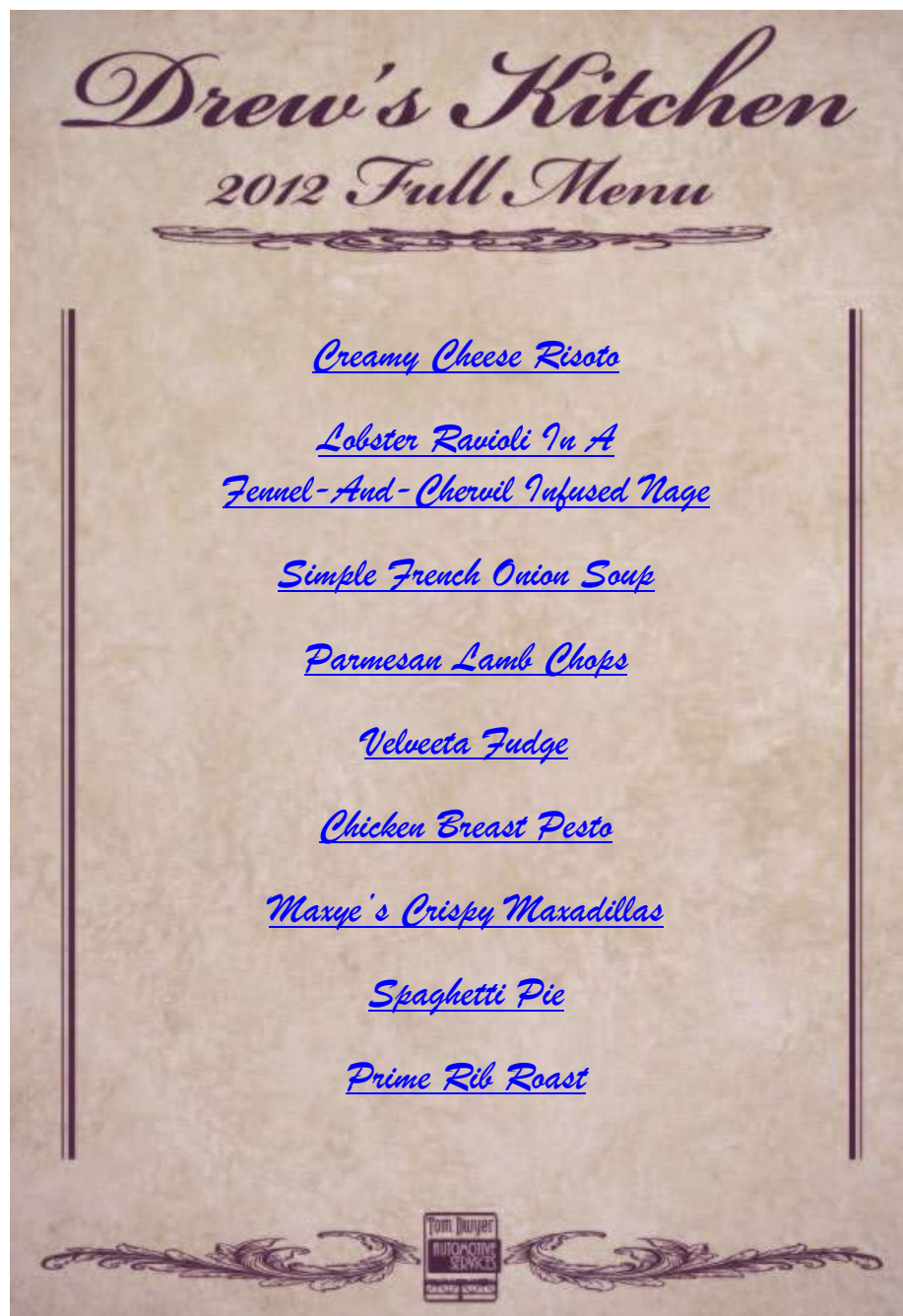
[Death comes to Progressive Talk in Portland"](#).

This became the most-read article we've ever published in *Your Car Matters*... so far. In December we also told you about people taking responsibility for their own government when we told you about [Iceland's response to their financial meltdown including their crowd-sourced constitution](#), and we finished out the year with a [report back on November's 2nd Quadrennial Election Night Bash](#).

So that about wraps up 2012 at *Your Car Matters*. We already have plans for some of our 2013 articles, including an exclusive, in-depth blockbuster expose on... well, you'll just have to stay tuned. Actually, there's something even better than staying tuned, you can get involved. Is there an issue on your mind that you think our readers need to know about? Email us at tomdwyer@tomdwyer.com and tell us about it, and we'll tell the world. Until then, sit back, relax, and enjoy the hard-hitting reporting you have (or will) come to expect from *Your Car Matters*!



Without a doubt, our longest running and most consistently popular column is Drew's Kitchen. Drew Pearson, one of our Service Advisors, is quite the cook when he's not dispensing car advice. Month after month he dips into his recipe vault to bring you another of his show-stopping dishes. Drew started this year with a couple more complex offerings, but then settled down into his simpler but still delicious meals to finish up. If you haven't sampled Drew's eats yet, here is your chance to catch everything he cooked up in 2012...



Shop Talk

Cleaning up the Shop for 2012



You may have noticed that Tom Dwyer Automotive Services is a little different from most automotive shops. Because we're different, we started the Shop Talk column to keep you posted on features you should know about to get the maximum possible value from our business. Here's what came across our Shop Talk desk in 2012...

[January- 2011 in the rearview mirror](#)

We recapped Shop Talk from 2011, including features of our new website, why we don't pave the lot, our company certifications, and the rest of the year's worth of fun.

[February- The Scan Scam](#)

Why a free "Check Engine Light" scan may not be worth the money.

[March- Save money on our services](#)

We don't offer coupons, but we do have ways for you to save your hard-earned money on our services.

[April- Changing our tire rotation policy](#)

We used to recommend new tires be put on the front of a car, but these videos and research changed our mind.

[May- Free carwash season on the way](#)

We do this every summer to help with our dusty parking lot, and we announce it here in Shop Talk.

[June- Auto detailing and summer cash contests](#)

We started offering auto detail services this year, and told you about our annual summer contests.

[July- Cleaning dirty fuel injectors](#)

What to look for when you need it, and how to know when you don't.

[August/September- Our BAD Reviews](#)

Not every review can be A+. Here's a look at what happens when we DON'T live up to our goals.

[October/November- Fire strikes our team](#)

When our shop manager's house was destroyed by fire, our Tom Dwyer clients offered to help.

[December- Dwyer holiday season](#)

Our annual FREE coffee giveaway, our FREE Charitable Calendars, and more.



Health Notes

Another year of healthy living



Yes, we're known as the company that's "trusted to keep your vehicles safe, breakdown-free, and operating at their best". We're very proud of that, but (and it's a hard thing for an auto repair shop to say) your vehicles aren't the most important thing in your life. *Your* health matters more, so we started this column to help keep *yourself* breakdown-free and operating at *your* best. Here's a look back at the tips we passed on in 2012...

January- [A Look Back At Our First Full Year Of "Health Notes"](#)

February- [WHY Apples Keep The Doctor Away](#)

March- [Medical Uses Of The Birth Control Pill](#)

April- [Smaller Batteries Mean Larger Problems](#)

May- [Party In Your Gall Bladder](#)

June- [Laziest Way To Health](#)

July- [Bootin' The Gluten](#)

August/September- [Heartburn Might Not Mean Heartbreak](#)

October/November- [Is Canola Oil Healthy?](#)

December- [12 Health Myths You Probably Believe](#)



Sellwood Bridge Update

The final year for the old Sellwood Bridge



2012 was a huge year for the Sellwood Bridge as construction finally got under way in earnest. January will bring a whole new world of chaos as the bridge faces its first complete closure for the “Shoo Fly” move, in which it will be cut, scooted over onto temporary supports, and reopened as the temporary bridge for the remainder of construction. We wrote a Feature article this month on the upcoming closure and how to deal with it, but the update this month isn’t about looking forward... it’s about looking back to everything the bridge went through this year.

January- [Year in the life of our crumbling neighbor](#)
February- [More than a crumbling relic, a teachable moment](#)
March- [Quiet, but moving along](#)
April- [Hurry up and wait](#)
May- [Goodbye for now, trees](#)
June- [Construction hits home](#)
July- [How to save \\$287](#)
August/September- [Now getting serious](#)
October/November- [Construction slows for fall](#)
December- [Shoo fly don’t bother me. Until January.](#)

For Project Information: For project information, contact Mike Pullen (mike.j.pullen@multco.us, 503-209-4111) or visit www.sellwoodbridge.org. View live construction from our two web cams at www.sellwoodbridge.org/?p=construction-camera.

Don’t forget ...

Multnomah County is set to keep you updated on the bridge construction 24/7. Their website at SellwoodBridge.org has full project information, archives, and other resources. Probably the most interesting thing on the site is the cameras set up to cover the new bridge construction. The link at left takes you to the [live camera](#), and there’s also a [time-lapse video](#) that will condense the each day’s construction progress into just a few minutes.



We appreciate your patience!

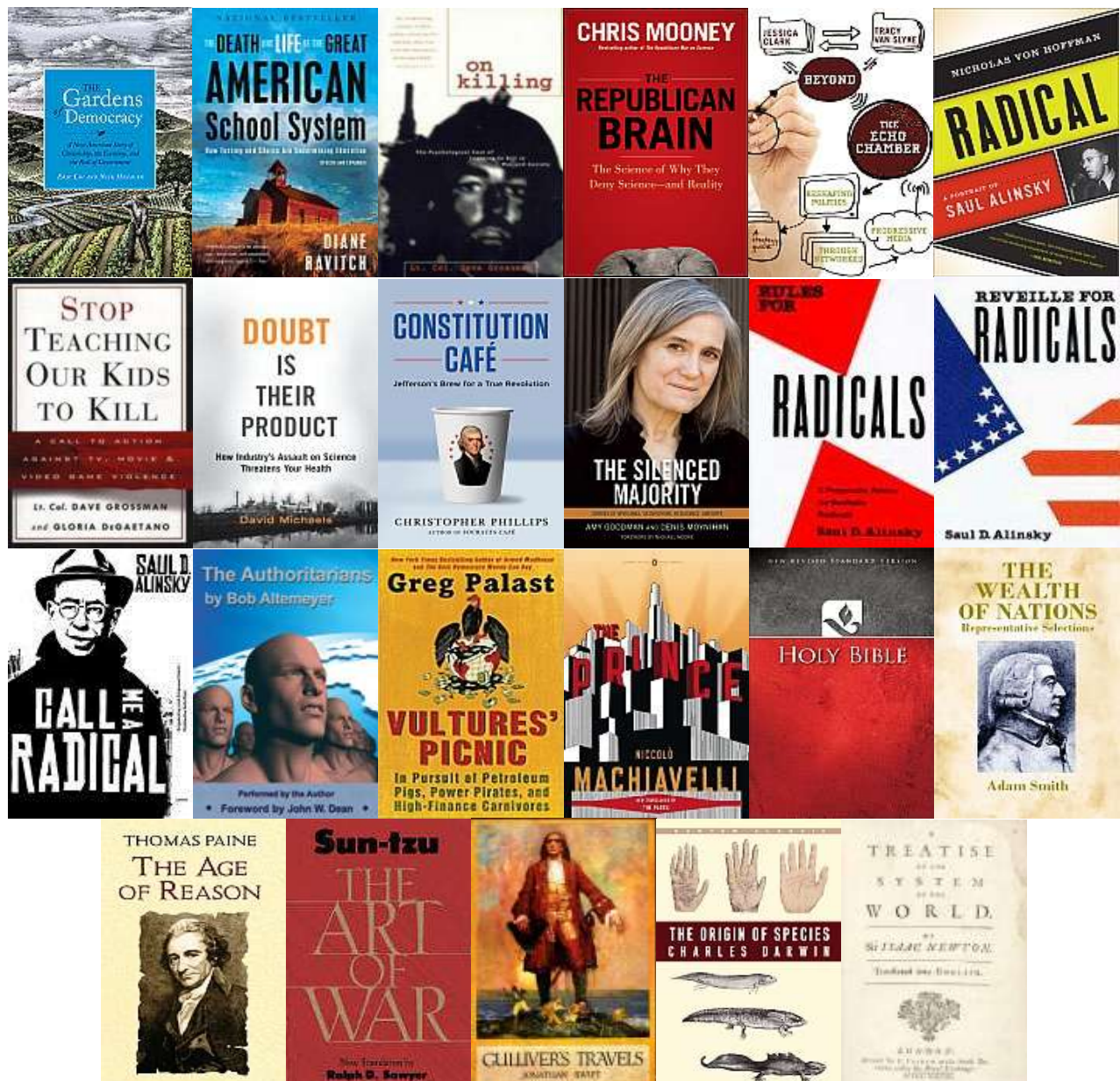
We know that this construction can cause headaches for everyone with business in Sellwood. We appreciate your patience during this time, and we want to make it as easy as possible to use our service while the project continues. If you find yourself inconvenienced by the bridge construction in any way please tell us... we’ll do something to show how much we appreciate your support during the construction disarray.

Book Spotlight

2012 Book Floodlight



One feature of our shop is the extensive reading and lending library in our lobby. If you see something you like, you can always take it home with you and bring it back on your next visit. Our Book Spotlight column started as a way to let you know when new material hit our shelves. This was a big year as we not only had several months with multiple books, but we even passed on Neil DeGrasse Tyson's list of 5 books he thought were critical for any educated person. Just click any of the covers below to go to the website for that book, or better yet, come by and check one out for yourself!



Humorousness

Our first year of yuks



In March we started another column for your reading pleasure... Humorousness. Just like any other work environment with a computer, we get stacks of stuff that makes us laugh. Humorousness is our way of sharing some of it with you. We try to stay away from the raunchy or obscene stuff, but humor is very subjective. If we DO run something that offends you, please remember that we probably weren't trying to. And of course, if you have any chuckles you'd like to share with our audience, just email them to TomDwyer@TomDwyer.com. Now, without further ado, we bring you 2012's Humorousness!



March- Left Wing Bumper Stickers-

A collection of bumper stickers from the folks who do it best.

April- Do It Yourself Car Repair-

A jaw-dropping collection of photos showing why you REALLY don't want to tackle car repair without a qualified professional.



May- Net Memes-

These pithy little images are everywhere on the net now. Here's a look at some of the groundbreakers



June- Explain This Image-

Why is this dog so relaxed? He's one of a gallery of images that defy explanation. But you can try.



July- Editorial Cartoons

Here's a gallery of editorial cartoons, and a way to get them delivered to your inbox.

August/September- Vice-Presidential Joke Buffet-

Jokes about people who ARE "worth a bucket of warm spit", including this Craig Ferguson line about the current VP- **"Democrats are calling Christine O'Donnell 'the Sarah Palin of the East.' Really? She's a loud, emotionally unstable woman from Delaware. That's not Sarah Palin, that's Joe Biden."**

October/November- 82 Things To Never Do-

A slew of product warning labels like this one from a birthday card for a 1 year old: **"Not suitable for children aged 36 months or less"**

December- Autotune The News-

Does politics not inspire music in you? Take a listen to these guys.



Popcorn Shorts

Cool stuff that's too small for a big article



Just like it says, Popcorn Shorts is about the kind of things we think are really interesting, but don't really need a large article to explain them. From the sublime to the ridiculous, you never know what you'll find but you'll always know it's worth checking out. Let's start you off with some fresh Popcorn for 2013 before we give you a look back at the crunchy bits of info we munched in 2012...

Illahee Lecture Series is back for another year



We LOVE the Illahee Lecture Series, and if you've been meaning to go then wait no longer... the 2013 series, "Who Owns YOU?", opens January 23 with Raj Patel on "Who Owns Your Food?". Other speakers this year will talk about "Who Owns Our Environment?", "Who Controls Our Media?", "Who Owns Our Finances?", and "Who Owns Our Government?". We are big fans of the challenging, unique, and informative content of these lectures, and you'll find MANY of these speakers represented in our lobby library. Make your plans now at illahee.org!

Are women and men treated differently at repair shops?



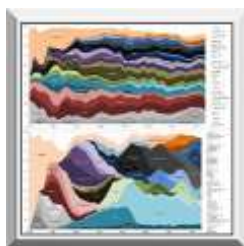
The cliché about automotive repair shops is that when a woman walks in you can almost hear the cash registers going off in the Service Advisor's heads. Women are thought to be easy targets because they (stereotypically) don't know much about cars and aren't very assertive in the face of a hard sales pitch. But is this really the case? This [investigative report from a San Antonio television station](#) may surprise you. (Of course you know that whatever the report shows, you never have to worry about being treated with less than total respect at Tom Dwyer Automotive Services!)

Green Renaissance will amaze you every day



If you're on Facebook (like 66% of US adults) then you know the storm of pages competing for your attention. [Green Renaissance](#) stands out against the noise and is well worth your "Like". Day after day they send a steady stream of gorgeous photography, exotic places, environmental information, fascinating animals, and much more. Our favorites are the pictures that give you clever ideas in one shot with no words. Give them a try, and you'll be amazed and delighted at every post they make.

ChartPorn has nothing to do with porn. We promise!



For most of us the idea of "data" has changed from boring books at the library to a constant blizzard of facts and figures that assaults us every minute. Access to *data* isn't a problem but access to *information* is, and [ChartPorn](#) can make that access enjoyable. It surfs the edge of information and art, presenting massive amounts of information in beautiful and immediately understandable ways. It changes the way you see information, shows you new connections, and gives you understanding of issues in ways you never could have expected.

Our full year of Popcorn

Now that you're done with this month's fresh hot Popcorn, you can go back and see what else we shared with you in 2012. From individual events and quirky news stories to important trends and major events, Popcorn Shorts covered it all. And the best thing about our Popcorn from last year? It never gets stale!

<p>Yoda speaks out</p> 	<p>The President is in your living room</p> 	<p>Carl Wolfson is coming back!</p> 	<p>Sellwood Park Summer Concert series</p> 
<p>Keeping up on Citizens United</p> 	<p>Public Intelligence puts research at your service</p> 	<p>Engine of the Future</p> 	<p>Warp drive is closer than you think</p> 
<p>Living Wage Calculator</p> 	<p>Congratulations, Curiosity!</p> 	<p>"Healing the Health Care Blues" benefit</p> 	<p>Treknology is here to stay</p> 
<p>You MUST love thy neighbor</p> 	<p>Robert Reich on Bain Capital</p> 	<p>Best Health Care graph ever!</p> 	<p>What microchip should your child use?</p> 

Extract your own DNA



Corporate Dominance Loop



Own your own Japanese fighting robot



The President is in your living room



Phame's "Willy Wonka" show



Unicorn habitat found in North Korea



Paralyzed woman completes marathon



Know your place in the Universe



Can that "new car smell" actually kill you?



How to ditch Big Brother on the Internet



15 Green inventions



Following in Frankenstein's footsteps



How to save money at Farmer's Markets



Two great slideshows on the economy



Studded tire ban?



Swarms of flying nanobots attack!



Should we teach gravity in school?



Amazing sculptures from used tires



Guess who doesn't pay taxes



"GasLand" producer arrested at hearing

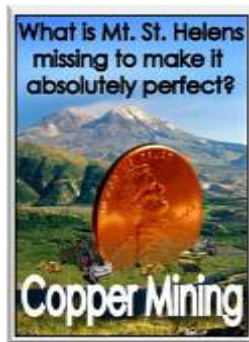
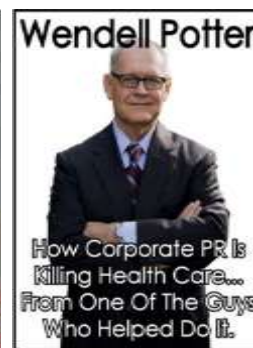


News To Make You Furious

Our Yearly Wrap-up Of Wrath



When the 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez spill passed in 2009, it went almost unnoticed. We were so furious at the minimal coverage that we decided to do what little we could about it, so our “News To Make You Furious” column was born. Each month since then we’ve focused on a different issue that just isn’t getting the coverage we think it deserves. Click any of the images below to be taken to information we guarantee will get your blood pressure up. Will our monthly nod to these issues make a difference? Probably not. But then maybe it’s not up to us to make a difference... maybe it’s up to you.



[And click here to see ALL of our News To Make You Furious articles from previous years!](#)