

# TRI-COUNTY Autos

20A Sunday, October 26, 2014

www.tctimes.com

## THE NEW 2015 MUSTANG



► Ford's brand new redesigned model of the iconic car 'ponies up' to original, plus more

By **Sally Rummel**  
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When it comes to iconic nameplates on a car, the Ford Mustang trumps just about any other vehicle. Fifty years after the debut of the original Mustang, the

new 2015 Mustang has been completely redesigned in honor of its half-century birthday in 2015.

Customers have been waiting for the arrival of this iconic pony at both local Ford dealerships, Lasco Ford in Fenton and Szott Ford in Holly.

"Our first stock Mustang arrived at the dealership about a week ago," said Matt Lasco of Lasco Ford. "We already have 15 pre-sale orders for customers that should be coming in, in a week or two. There's a lot of excitement about this car. It's one of those passionate buys."

While the Mustang in the past had earned a reputation for being a little "rough around the edges," this new 2015 model combines a blend of the most current design features with styles from the '60s and '70s. Mustang designers and engineers had to walk a fine line between advancing the car's capabilities without alienating existing owners and prospective buyers.

"The drivetrain options are the best we've ever seen," said Lasco.

"You can get today's Mustang with a four-cylinder turbo engine and base features all the way up to a premium loaded GT model with 435 horsepower."

What makes this new 2015 Mustang stand out?

### FUEL ECONOMY

In addition to powertrain enhancements, the new Mustang is about 200 pounds lighter, thanks to its aluminum hood and front fenders, and more aerodynamic. But the real driver behind the fuel economy is the new 2.3-liter EcoBoost turbocharged 4-cylinder engine, offering 310 horsepower and 320 pound-feet of torque.

Fuel efficiency specs for the new 2015 Mustang at Lasco Ford is up to 22 mpg in the city and 31 mpg on the highway, for a combined 26 mpg.

### SAFETY

Advancements in chassis and body design technology are resulting in the most structurally safe Mustang to date,

See **MUSTANG on 21A**

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This 2015 Ford Mustang Coupe Premium, in ingot silver, pumps 310 system horsepower from a turbocharged 2.3 liter EcoBoost four-cylinder motor. It gets an average of 25 miles per gallon, and sits lower and wider than previous models.

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# MUSTANG

Continued from Page 20A

according to torquenews.com. The improved stability of the new independent rear suspension system will help reduce accidents due to loss of control, and will keep occupants as safe as possible in the event of an accident.

The 2015 Mustang includes all the safety features of the 2014 model, including MyKey programmable vehicle features aimed directly at young, potentially irresponsible drivers, an SOS Post Crash Alert System, smartphone-pairing Sync technology, and rear parking-assist sensors.

The new model improves on this list by offering a reversing camera, a blind spot monitoring system with rear cross-traffic alert and an adaptive cruise control system with forward collision warning, plus modern structural engineering.

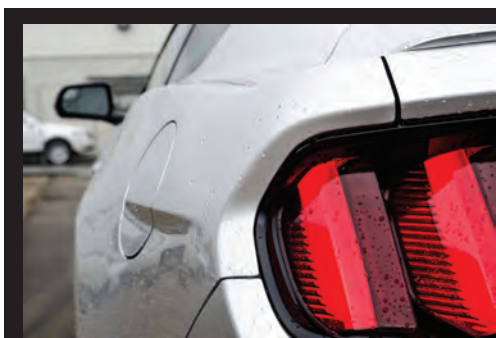
## VALUE

The starting price from the 2014 to 2015 Mustang is up only about \$500, but you get a lot of car for those dollars, according to forbes.com.

For the base price of \$23,600 at Lasco Ford, you get the 3.7-liter V6 engine, push-button start, revised clutch and synchro settings for the six-speed manual, twice as many airbags, HID headlights, a new independent rear suspension and redesigned double-ball joint front suspension, high-strength steel in the body and larger brakes.

The 2015 Mustang GT starts at \$32,100 at Lasco Ford.

“There’s something for everyone, with the new 2015 Mustang,” said Jay Lasco. “Take all the options available with all the new redesign that incorporates the past 50 years of Mustang, add today’s technology and you have the perfect car.”



**“Take all the options available, add the new redesign and today’s technology and you have the perfect car.”**

— Jay Lasco, Lasco Ford



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The 2015 Mustang comes in ebony and ceramic and features a push-button start.

### ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson, Certified Mechanic

**Q:** I have a '92 Subaru Legacy. My mom poured water on her battery to clean it and killed the battery. I took her to get a new one and put it in which fixed the problem. In less than 4 hours the brand new battery died completely where even the lights don't work at all. There is no noise when you turn the key. Any idea what she did by pouring water on it?

- Jesse

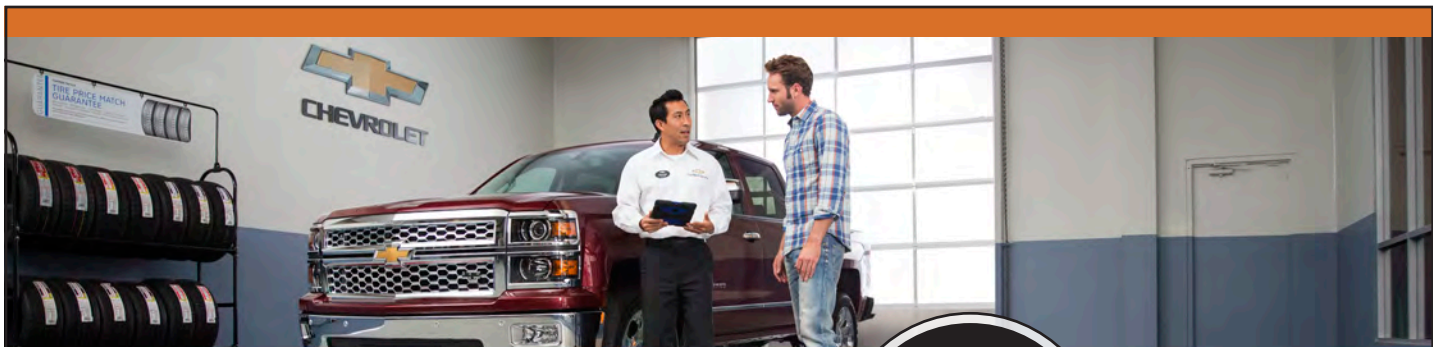
**A:** Jesse, Pouring water on the battery would not have caused this problem, unless there was water left on top of the battery and it is a top post battery. Water can conduct electricity, but we clean batteries with a solution of baking soda and water and rinse with water regularly and never see this kind of problem. You might want to have your car checked for a draw like something staying on (light, motor etc.). This is most likely the cause. Also have the charging system tested.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered? E-mail it to me at: askthemechanic@wilkinsonautorepair.com

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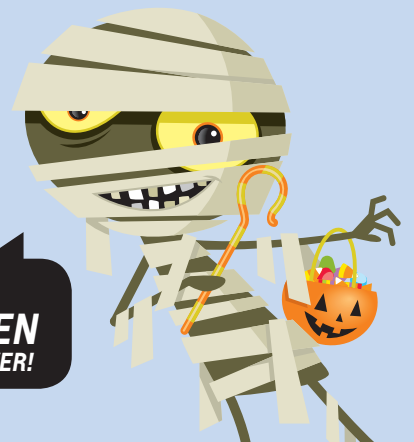
Great team of people at the dealership and wonderful service manager. -Linda E.

Don in service was extremely friendly and helpful. Thank you for your kindness. -Julia K.



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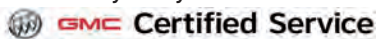
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# The 3,000-mile myth . . .

► Routine oil changes are important, but newer cars don't need it as often as they used to

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

When it comes to routine maintenance on your vehicle, changing your oil is one of the most inexpensive services you can have done on your vehicle.

**Why is changing oil so important?**

Oil plays a very important role in the life of your car for three main purposes, according to cars.com:

- It helps keep engine components working smoothly together.
- It helps draw heat away from the combustion chamber inside the engine, where thousands of controlled detonations happen every minute.
- It helps prevent carbon and varnishes from accumulating in the engine.

**What kind of oil does my engine use?**

The kind of oil your engine requires will be listed in your vehicle owner's manual. The viscosity, or the measure of how much resistance a fluid has to flowing, may also be stamped on the oil reservoir cap on the engine itself.

Look for an oil that meets the standards set by the American Petroleum Institute, which would be marked on the oil container.

**How often should I have the oil changed?**

This is the million dollar question.

How often you should change your oil depends more on the number of miles and the kind of mileage you typically drive than the number of months it has been.

Driving has far more of an impact on your engine oil; if a car is sitting, there is less need to replace the engine oil.

Also, most of today's newer cars come with a maintenance reminder, a flashing light on the dashboard that alerts the driver when the system judges that the oil only has a certain percentage of its useful life remaining.

If your vehicle doesn't have this luxury, you can rely on the recommendation given in your owner's manual before you make an appointment to have the oil changed. Most manual recommendations for oil and filter changes vary from 3,000 to 10,000 miles.

Car Talk on National Public Radio recommends changing your oil and filter every 5,000 miles. "That's our best estimate," according to their website, cartalk.com. "It may be too soon for many people and too late for a few, but for the vast majority, 5,000-mile oil changes will help your engine last to a ripe old age."

You may want to consider changing your oil more frequently if you do a lot of "severe" driving, like stop and go, short distances, extended idling, muddy, rough or dusty roads or really humid or cold temperatures.

**What happens if I don't change the oil often enough?**

Your engine won't last as long as it could, according to Car Talk.

You don't actually run out of oil, it simply gets dirtier and dirtier. It can build up in the cooler parts of the engine, which can lead to carbon deposits, or sludge, coming out of the old oil. This could require an expensive engine cleaning or the need to replace worn out piston rings. The pistons could eventually seize or the camshafts could be damaged — both expensive fixes.

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# 10 ways to save money behind the wheel

►The vehicle itself is just the beginning of monthly, annual expenses for car owners

**By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

First, there's the car itself to buy, and then there are all the hidden extras that you'll be paying for month after month, including gas, insurance, maintenance and repairs.

With gas prices up and down like a roller coaster and a maze of confusion with car insurance, here are a few ways for drivers to save a few bucks, from bankrate.com.

**1. Drive your car longer.** That's the easiest way to save money on your daily commute. With an average monthly payment on a new vehicle about \$400, according to The State Bank's Loan Department, saving that money means an annual savings of \$4,800. However, if your vehicle is beginning to cost a lot in repairs, you'll have to assess those costs against the price of another vehicle.

**2. Reassess your insurance needs.** By raising your deductible on a comprehensive policy, you may be able to save an average of 40 percent or \$100 per year on the comprehensive portion. Those with older cars may want to re-think their coverage, also. Consumer Reports recommends dropping comprehensive coverage if annual auto insurance premiums are 10 percent or more of the book value of the vehicle.

**3. Buy after-market products** on your own to save on a variety of accessories and upgrades for new cars.

**4. Buy pre-owned cars.** You can save thousands of dollars by letting someone else take the initial hit on depreciation. Many manufacturers have certified pre-owned programs that take the risk out of some used cars by offering extended warranties and putting vehicles through rigid certification tests.

**5. Buy what you can afford.** Don't spend money on a vehicle that will take dollars away from savings, retirement funding and debt management. Experts typically recommend not spending more than 20 percent of after-tax household income on all vehicles in the household.

**6. Do some of your own** maintenance, including checking tire pressures, changing oil, etc. Having the ability to change a flat or jump your own vehicle in an emergency can save you money over the course of a year.

**7. Do your homework** before you visit a dealership. Know what you can afford and what you can expect to pay by doing research before you buy. Then when you sit down with a sales associate, you already know the numbers they'll be working with.

**8. Reduce fuel consumption** by maintaining your vehicle and driving

in a sensible manner. Drivers can increase their fuel efficiency by checking their tire pressure, reducing speed, avoiding stop-and-go traffic and consolidating trips and errands.

**9. Shop around for insurance rates.** Even after you've reassessed your insurance coverage, shop around for new rates every year or two to save money on premiums. Each auto insurance company can have different premiums, depending on the vehicle you drive, the coverage you need and your driving record.

**10. Be careful of "freebies"** offered to you in exchange for getting you to buy a car. Take a look at the whole picture, and explore what other rebates, incentives or low prices might be available to you that's really a better deal.

Michigan is #43 out of 50 states and District of Columbia for most costly annual car expenses in 2014. The cheapest annual costs for owning a car is in Iowa, at \$1,942 and the most expensive state is Wyoming, at \$2,705.

## ANNUAL COST TO MICHIGAN DRIVERS IN 2014

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Source: bankrate.com



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