

Richmond Street Automotive Notes Rising Vehicle Age Among Appleton-Area Drivers

A national shift toward longer vehicle ownership is changing routine maintenance for drivers across the Fox Valley.

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[Richmond Street Automotive](#), a family-owned auto repair shop in Appleton, Wisconsin, reports that a growing share of the vehicles entering its service bays are well past the manufacturer warranty period, reflecting a national shift toward longer vehicle ownership that is reshaping routine maintenance for drivers across the Fox Valley.

The trend is well documented. The average age of light vehicles on U.S. roads reached 12.8 years, rising for the second consecutive year, according to S&P Global Mobility, which counts 289 million vehicles in operation nationwide. Passenger cars now average 14.5 years, while light trucks average 11.9 years. The Auto Care Association and MEMA Aftermarket Suppliers project that the U.S. light-duty automotive aftermarket will grow 5.2 percent in 2026 and surpass \$500 billion by 2029, citing the aging vehicle fleet and increasing vehicle complexity as primary drivers.

For drivers, an older vehicle changes the maintenance equation. Components that rarely require attention in the first several years of ownership, including alternators, batteries, belts and hoses, and cooling systems, become routine service items as mileage accumulates. Preventive maintenance also carries more weight, because a single overlooked issue can cascade into a larger repair on a vehicle with more wear on surrounding parts.

"Drivers are holding onto vehicles longer than they used to, and most of them can get many more good years out of the car they already own," said Brent Vanden Heuvel, owner of Richmond Street Automotive. "What matters is catching the small things early and being honest



Team members at the service counter of Richmond Street Automotive, a family-owned NAPA AutoCare Center in Appleton, Wisconsin, where qualifying repairs carry a 24-month, 24,000-mile nationwide warranty on parts and labor.



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*Brent Vanden Heuvel, Owner,
Richmond Street Automotive*

with people about what actually needs attention right now versus what can wait."

Richmond Street Automotive employs ASE Certified Technicians and its staff brings more than 50 years of combined experience in the automotive repair industry. As a NAPA AutoCare Center, the shop backs qualifying repairs with the NAPA Nationwide Peace of Mind Warranty, which covers parts and labor for [24 months or 24,000 miles](#) and is honored at more than 14,000 NAPA AutoCare locations across the country, meaning the coverage travels with the

driver rather than remaining tied to a single shop. The shop offers repair financing through NAPA EasyPay and Snap Finance, and after-hours towing is available for vehicles that need to be brought in outside business hours.

The shop provides [brake repair](#), engine repair, alternator and battery service, air conditioning repair, belts and hoses replacement, oil changes, and tire repair and alignment. Located at 1731 N Richmond St, Richmond Street Automotive serves customers throughout Outagamie, Calumet, and Winnebago counties, including Neenah, Menasha, Oshkosh, Kaukauna, New London, Chilton, and surrounding communities.

About Richmond Street Automotive

Richmond Street Automotive is a family-owned automotive repair shop located at 1731 N Richmond St in Appleton, Wisconsin. A NAPA AutoCare Center staffed by ASE Certified Technicians, the shop provides diagnostics, preventive maintenance, and repair services for a wide range of vehicle makes and models, serving drivers throughout Outagamie, Calumet, and Winnebago counties. Learn more at <https://www.richmondstreetautomotive.com>.

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