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it before ol' Man

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proaching, which leaves drivers only a few weeks to prepare their vehicle tires for inclement weather. The American Automobile Association sees an increase in tirerelated calls in the winter, from tire damage caused by potholes, ice chunks and other road hazards, to vehicles sliding off the slick involved," said Jim Hanni, execu-

Old Man Winter is quickly ap- roadways due to worn tire treads. tive vice president at AAA." A few Winterizing tires now can help drivers stay safe and save money. Replacing a tire can cost an average of \$150 or more per tire, compared to the negligible and often free cost of maintaining tires.

"Drivers often don't think about tires until there is a problem or cost

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simple tips can help drivers prepare tires for winter to stay safe on the road and save money.

AAA recommends the following tips to help drivers to get ready for the winter driving season: • Check tire pressure. Proper

inflation during winter keeps vehicles and drivers safe. If pressure is too low, the tires may become damaged. If pressure is too high, drivers risk prematurely wearing out tires. Tire pressure should be checked monthly. • Check tread depth. As tires

wear, tread depth gets shorter and provides less traction in rain and snow. Drivers can check tread by inserting a penny upside-down into tire treads. If drivers can see all of Lincoln,s head, it,s time to replace tires.

• Rotate and balance tires every 6,000 miles. Tire rotation and are expected to last 60,000 miles can wear out as quickly as 20,000 miles without the proper rotation and balance. Tire rotation and balance is often provided free of charge at the location consumers purchased tires, or can be done for a nominal fee at auto repair and maintenance locations.

• Have alignment inspected annually. Wheel alignment also presafer driving on the road during can visit AAA offices in Topeka, inclement weather.

inflated and undamaged. Also, (800) 365-5222.

check that all the necessary tools to remove and attach a spare tire are in the vehicle to avoid being stuck on the side of the road longer than necessary.

· Inspect valve stoppers. Missbalance, ensures proper tire wear ing valve stoppers on tires can helping tires last longer. Tires that cause rust or corrosion on tire valve stems, making it difficult or impossible to properly inflate tires and ultimately lead to a tire replacement.

AAA provides travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services to 52 million members nationwide. Since its founding in 1902, AAA has been a leading advocate for motorists and consumers. For more information about vents uneven tire wear, making for AAA, members and non-members Wichita, Manhattan or Lawrence, • Make sure the spare tire is go online to AAA.com or call

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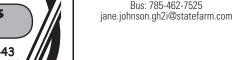
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