



"A [dream](#) without ambition is like a car without gas... you're not going anywhere."

Sean Hampton

Spring Open House 2026!!

Zakira's Garage Spring Open House Cars 'n' Coffee

Saturday, May 16 from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Back lot of Zakira's Garage - Blue Ash, Ohio

Join us for a relaxed morning of cars, coffee and conversation at Zakira's Garage. We're opening up the back lot for our annual start-of-the-driving-season Cars 'n' Coffee-style Open House with coffee and donuts (while supplies last), open shop bays and a great mix of vehicles rolling through all morning.

Whether you bring your daily driver, weekend toy, project car, classic, truck or just come to hang out, all makes and models are welcome. This is a family- and dog-friendly event (please keep dogs leashed and close by).

We'll also have a raffle table set up with prizes from Zakira's Garage and some of our favorite local business partners. Prizes will be on display with entry slips at the table—just fill one out and drop it in the box. Winners will be drawn before the end of the event (must be present to win).

What to expect:

- Coffee & donuts (while supplies last)
- Open shop bays with cars on display
- Raffle prizes
- Great cars and good conversation
- A laid-back, welcoming crowd

Event notes / etiquette:

- Rain or shine (we're always hoping for shine)
- Please be respectful of the neighborhood
- No burnouts, racing or excessive revving
- Look, don't touch unless invited by the owner
- Please keep dogs leashed at all times

- No bicycles, scooters or powered ride on toys in the shop

Bring a friend, bring the family, bring a camera and come enjoy a good Saturday morning with Cincinnati's car community. We'd love to see you here.

Back for 2026—Zakira's Summer Garage Cars 'n' Coffee

Join us **every third Saturday from May through October, 9:00–11:00 AM**, in the back lot at Zakira's Garage. Come hang out with fellow enthusiasts, check out the latest Zakira's merch (check out the graphic on top), and enjoy a cup of HG Coffee on us.



What is on our Calendar for 2026

Jyan Waespe Memorial Foundation Car Show – May 9 | 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

- Lindner Family Tennis Center - Mason, Ohio - [Register Here](#)

Eclipse Open House – May 23 | 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- Eclipse facility - Cincinnati, Ohio - [More Information Here](#)

Mid America Classic hosted by Ohio Valley Austin Healey Club – June 7 -10

- Waynesville and Lebanon, Ohio - [Register Here](#)

Southern Ohio Forest Rally – June 11 - 13

- Chillicothe, West Portsmouth and Mearthur, Ohio - [More Information Here](#)

Cincinnati Concours de' Elegance – June 14 | 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

- Ault Park - Cincinnati, Ohio - [More Information Here](#)

Glendale Gathering – Sunday, June 28 | 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

- Glendale Village Square - Glendale, Ohio - [Register Here](#)

Bellefontaine Hill Climb 8 – August 21 - 22

- Corkscrew Hill - Zanesfield, Ohio - [Register Here](#)

Fall Classic Driving Tour – October 10 | 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

- Sports Car Preservation HQ - Milford, Ohio - [Register Here](#)

Preservation or Restoration?

Here at Zakira's Garage, we're often asked what makes a car a good candidate for preservation or restoration...

The reality is that there are only so many truly original classic cars left. No one knows the exact number, but it's safe to say that number gets smaller every year. Some are lost to accidents or neglect. Others quietly rust away. But a surprising number lose

their originality through well-intentioned restorations that replace the very details that made them special in the first place.

A car, after all, is only original once... Because of that, a lot of enthusiasts today think of themselves less as owners and more as caretakers, as stewards. The goal isn't always to make a car perfect. Sometimes it's simply to keep it alive and intact for as long as possible, preserving the charm and character that has allowed it to survive this many years in the first place.

Of course, preservation isn't always an option... By the time many cars reach us, the decision has already been made somewhere along the line. Paint has been redone. Interiors have been replaced. Mechanical systems have been modified. Once that originality is gone, restoration often becomes the natural path forward.

That said, when done thoughtfully, restoration plays an important role in keeping automotive history alive. A proper restoration can rescue cars that might otherwise deteriorate beyond repair. In some cases—particularly with rare or historically significant vehicles—it can also help protect the long-term value of the car. For many enthusiasts, the process itself is part of the reward. Bringing something tired and worn back to life can be incredibly satisfying, and the finished car often reflects a huge amount of dedication and craftsmanship. But restorations *rarely* go exactly the way people imagine, unlike what television and Facebook reels lead us to believe.

Costs can climb quickly depending on the vehicle's rarity and its condition. What begins as a straightforward project can easily stretch into years rather than months. Parts that haven't been produced in decades can be difficult to locate, expensive to refurbish, or require custom fabrication. Even when you finally find the right part, it doesn't always fit the way it should or you are modifying a different model year part to fit. Anyone who has been through a restoration knows that setbacks are simply part of the process. They're one of the reasons restoration requires not just skill, but patience—and sometimes a little stubbornness!

There are also different schools of thought when it comes to how a car should be restored.

Some owners pursue a **Factory-correct Restoration**, returning the vehicle as closely as possible to the way it left the assembly line. Others aim for **Concours-level Restoration**, where every detail is finished to a standard that often exceeds the original production quality. And then there are **Restomods**, where classic styling goes hand-in-hand with modern performance and reliability. Each approach has its place depending on the condition of the car, budget and the goals of the owner.

At the same time, preservation still plays an important role in the conversation. Some cars retain enough originality that the best decision may simply be to preserve what's still there with cleaning, protecting and maintaining the vehicle without pushing it into a full restoration. Recognizing when preservation is still possible—and when restoration has become necessary—is part of the responsibility that comes with caring for these cars.

Either way, both paths ultimately serve the same end result: keeping these machines alive and on the road rather than letting them quietly disappear. Maintaining and repairing what already exists also has a practical benefit—it prevents these cars from ending up in junkyards or someone's field.

Well-preserved examples of automotive history really don't have substitutes. Like historic architecture or pieces of fine art, original machines offer a direct connection to the people, technology, and craftsmanship of their time. And when they're cared for properly, they give future generations the chance to experience that history firsthand.

Bottom line? Whether you choose the preservation or restoration route, Zakira's Garage is here to advise and guide you through the process.



Is Your Car Ready for the 2026 Driving Season?



Tires and Alignments

If your car has been sitting, there's a good chance the tires have developed some flat spotting. It's also worth checking the age of your tires—older DOT dates can mean reduced grip and safety, even if the tread still looks good.

If it's time for a new set, Zakira's Garage is a Tire Rack recommended installer. You can order directly through Tire Rack, have the tires shipped to us, and we can typically get you in within a day of delivery.

We also recommend checking alignment, especially if you've noticed uneven tire wear. A quick adjustment can make a big difference in how the car feels on the road.

Oil Changes and Brake Fluid Flushes

Even when a car isn't being driven, fluids don't just sit unchanged.

Engine oil can break down over time, especially with short run cycles or long periods of sitting. Brake fluid is another one we keep an eye on—winter temperature swings and moisture can lead to contamination, which affects braking performance.

These are simple services, but they go a long way toward making sure everything is working the way it should when you head out for that first drive.



Inspections

If you've recently picked up a car—whether from Bring a Trailer, a local enthusiast or anywhere else—it's always a good idea to have a second set of eyes go through it.

We offer pre-purchase and post-purchase inspections, as well as general checkovers if it's been a while since your car has had a thorough look. We can also perform track day inspections to make sure everything is ready before you push the car a little harder.

The Final Pylon...

Our schedule is already starting to fill up and 2026 is shaping up to be a strong season for Zakira's Garage. We're looking forward to another great year of driving and

events around the Greater Cincinnati area. The local car community continues to grow—and we're proud to be part of it. As always, we're incredibly grateful for the continued support from enthusiasts like you.



ZAKIRA'S
GARAGE

As always, if you need anything automotive, please call us at [\(513\) 272-2229](tel:5132722229), email us at info@zakiras.com, check out www.zakiras.com or just stop by the shop 9 AM - 5 PM Monday through Friday in Blue Ash at 4480 Lake Forest Dr., #314, Cincinnati, OH 45242.

***We thank you for your continued business
and we will see you on the road!!***

Regards,

your Team at Zakira's