

AutoWatch

The Automotive Related Business (ARB) Program Newsletter
Creating raving fans by delivering world class service
Volume 6 Issue 2 Summer 2012



THE 2011 CLEAN SHOP AWARDS

Each year the inspection reports from the prior year are reviewed and three shops selected as exemplary examples of Code and Environmental compliance. It is a tough decision, most shops have improved quite a bit. These are the winners for 2011!!

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GYTAN AUTO SERVICE
301 BILL IRWIN
RICARDO GYTAN

GYTAN AUTO SERVICE replaced a Twin Airports eyesore. This business has only been open for one year. Prior to opening; the building was painted inside and out. Additionally, concrete parking surfaces were poured. Although new to the shop, Ricardo is not new to the auto repair business. He had advice for all would-be entrepreneurs, "Stay professional; Cleanliness is a definite factor along with honesty in dealing with the customers. Customers that trust you will refer their friends to you."

The AUTOWATCH is a publication of the Automotive Related Business Program (ARB). Submit your comments and suggestions to:

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LEWIS AUTOMOTIVE
213 SE 14TH ST
ARNOLD LEWIS

LEWIS AUTOMOTIVE is tucked away on SE 14th street. This quiet, calm location has been home to this family owned and operated business since 1980. It is a quaint shop with a large, senior, peppermint eating dog who will greet you by begging to be petted when you enter the office. Arnold said, "Cleanliness attracts customers. It breeds respect when the customers enter the shop, and it promotes an atmosphere of competence."

CONTACTS
Building Inspections
972-237-8230
Code Enforcement
972-237-8296
Environmental Dept.
972-237-8055



MAREK'S GENERATOR, ALTERNATOR, AND STARTER SERVICE
601 W. MAIN ST
BENNY & CATHY MAREK

MAREK'S GENERATOR, STARTER, AND ALTERNATOR is operated by Benny and Cathy Marek. This Main Street landmark has been in operation since 1955. It has remained family owned and operated, the current owners are the second generation of Marek's to run the shop. Cathy says that, "Quality work and good customer service is what has kept Marek's in business all of these years." In addition she said that "Marek's has the best, long-term mechanics in the city."

Think you have a CLEAN SHOP? Send a copy of your last inspection report, a current photo and a paragraph stating why you should be selected, to the editor.

The Mayan Countdown - Car Show

Best of Show



On June 16th, the Code Enforcement Auto Related Business program presented the 4th Annual Farmer's Market Car show. The show was called "The Mayan Countdown" in deference to the apocalyptic Mayan prediction for 2012.

The corporate sponsors of the show included:

1. **Century Trucks** – Show Staging lot, Volunteer T-shirts, and the after party on the Sales lot.
2. **Awesome Salvage** – Best of Class Trophies, Salvage forklift display and NASCAR vehicle display
3. **Acker Transportation** – All Event advertisement printing, vehicle placards, and bounce houses
4. **Trinity Awards** – Best in Show Trophy



With over 100 show cars on display and over 800 votes cast, this was the largest car show to date. The Cow-town Cruisers of Fort Worth, Texas Low-riders of Dallas, and Christian Motorcyclists Association, were just a few of the groups represented at the show.



The Grand Prairie Fire and Police Departments were instrumental in crowd control, parade processional, and event planning. Grand Prairie Code Enforcement officers were out in full force to insure that show vehicles were registered, staged correctly, and that votes were counted.



The Grand Prairie Department of Marketing and Communication was tireless in their promotion of the event.

The weather was perfect and so was this event; but wait until next year!



Auto Shop Fire Prevention - Don't Get Burned



Automotive businesses often store or manage flammable chemicals or combustible material like gasoline, diesel fuel, cleaning solvents, and oily rags. Fire is the result of heat, fuel, and oxygen in the correct proportions to start combustion. The following guidelines will provide important safety tips to help you avoid danger by planning ahead and playing it safe.

- ... Never use gasoline as a cleaning agent. Cleaning solvents are less flammable.
- ... Store gasoline and other flammable liquids in an approved sealed container or in an approved metal flammables cabinet, away from your work area.
- ... Make sure floors are clean and that all combustible materials have been cleaned up or properly stored.
- ... Clean oil spills immediately and remove trash daily. Keep oily rags and clothing in a closed metal container until you dispose of or launder them.
- ... Make sure compressed gas cylinders are firmly installed by chaining them to a portable dolly or the wall, standing upright.
- ... Welding or cutting should be performed in areas free of combustible materials.
- ... Be sure your work area is well ventilated.
- ... Operate a "smoke-free" shop.
- ... Eliminate 'torpedo heaters' from the shop.
- ... Inspect fire extinguishers and alarms on a regular basis.

Additionally, auto repair shops should have an emergency action plan that all employees are familiar with, and conduct periodic fire drills.

Managing Universal Waste in Texas

What is Universal Waste?

Universal waste is a specific type of hazardous waste that is subject to more relaxed standards of accumulation, recordkeeping, and shipping requirements than those of "normal" hazardous wastes.

What are the types of waste considered universal wastes?

Batteries, paint and paint related wastes, Fluorescent light bulbs, and mercury-containing equipment (including thermostats).

What does paint & paint related waste include?

Used or unused paint, spent solvents used in painting, personal protective equipment (PPE), contaminated rags, gloves, Coating waste paint, overspray, overrun paints, and paint filters.

How long can universal waste be accumulated?

Universal waste may be accumulated at your facility for up to one year from the time it is generated or received from another handler. This time limit may be extended if the handler can prove that the extension was necessary in order to facilitate proper recovery, treatment, or disposal.

What labeling is required of universal wastes?

"UW—Paint and Paint Waste" or "Paint and Paint-Related Waste" must be marked clearly on each container.

"UW—Used Battery or Used Batteries" must be marked clearly on the container or marked clearly on each battery.



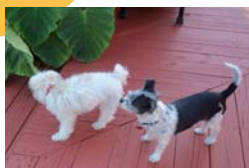
Remember: universal waste is still hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly. It should never go in the garbage.

Above and Beyond

Randy Acker of Acker Transportation Services and **Michael Stanley** of the Grand Prairie Code Enforcement joined forces to present an individual from the Grand Prairie Weed and Seed Program with over \$1,000 in clothing and a Ford Expedition SUV for transportation.



GRAND PRAIRIE
Auto Related Business Program
206 W. Church Street
PO Box 534045
Grand Prairie, TX 75053-4045



To have stray animals
picked up contact Grand
Prairie Animal Services
Phone: 972.237.8575

Texas Environmental Trouble

A motor freight transportation company in El Paso County was fined \$4,965 for failing to store used oil in approved containers, failing to label or clearly mark containers to store used oil, and failing to clean up and dispose of contaminated soil upon detection of a release of used oil.



A recycling facility in Cameron County was fined \$10,431 for failing to submit written notification to the TCEQ regarding the activities and waste to be recycled, failing to provide financial assurance, and failure to obtain storm water authorization.

An auto body refinishing and paint shop in Smith County was fined \$5,250 for failing to obtain authorization prior to conducting surface coating operations.

A scrap metal recycling yard in Nueces County was fined \$8,250 for failing to prevent the unauthorized collection, handling, storage, processing, or disposal of industrial waste, by failing to manage industrial solid waste, and by failing to prevent the unauthorized disposal of municipal solid waste.

A car wash facility in Williamson County was fined \$1,500 for failing to prevent the unauthorized discharge of wastewater into or adjacent to water in the state.

Five Mistakes of New Businesses

1. Failure to know and understand the municipal codes.
2. Failure to know and understand the zoning requirements and districts.
3. Failure to apply for, be approved, and obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for your specific business and location.
4. Failure to know and improve site issues that will attract negative municipal attention.
5. Failure to know and understand what options are available to appeal an unsatisfactory decision.

Whether you study and learn the appropriate codes or hire a consultant to help, your business depends upon your ability to interpret and comply with all municipal requirements. Visit our codes online, these are mistakes you can avoid.

The Grand Prairie ARB Team



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