

Auto Watch



The Automotive Related Business (ARB)
Program Newsletter
Creating raving fans by delivering world class service

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Code Enforcement:**
972.237.8296
Michael Stanley:
972.237.8332
- Environmental Services:**
972.237.8055
Echo Rexroad
972.237.8082
- Building Inspections:**
972.237.8230
- Engineering Inspections:**
972.237.8241
- Graffiti Removal Hotline:**
972.237.8599
- Grand Prairie Landfill:**
972.237.4550
- Grand Prairie Disposal:**
817.261.8812
- Municipal Court:**
972.237.8600
- Streets Division:**
972.237.8525
- TCEQ Small Business:**
800.447.2827
- Water Utility:** 972.237.8200

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

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2009 Clean Shop Awards

The Clean Shop Awards are given to those businesses which exceed requirements for compliance and take extra steps to ensure their business and property help "Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful". The three businesses listed below have demonstrated a vested interest in this city and their customers. They are being honored for their efforts, by the Automotive Related Business program of the City of Grand Prairie.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AUTOMOTIVE
2804 Green Oaks, Phn: 817.633.2886
Graydon Wall, Owner



Owner Graydon Wall purchased this automotive franchise three years ago. The business statement reflects his personal belief, "To glorify GOD by the provision of excellent, ethical, automotive repairs and service to this community, which I consider as friends and family."

Striving to do even better, Wall says that he wants Christian Brothers to be the best; he wants to become the industry standard bearer. His advice for other businesses is succinct, "Be honest, be upfront and you will be successful."

He admits that this advice is followed daily by himself. It shows!!

HG TRUCK REPAIR
1850 High Prairie #420, Phn: 214.563.6675
Halil Gestic, Owner

After four years in business, Halil Gestic the owner of HG Truck Repair, has distinguished himself in a remarkable way. His shop is ex-



ceptionally clean, an unusual accomplishment for a trucking repair business. He proudly states, "We provide fast, quality service. We stand behind our work."

When asked about the benefits of operating a clean shop, Mr. Gestic was emphatic. "My customers look at my shop differently. My employees act more responsibly. I can locate parts or tools faster. I also have fewer accidents because the shop is safer."

He has some advice for starting or maintaining a business, "Be honest, be dependable, establish a rapport with the customers. This brings repeat business."

2009 Clean Shop Awards

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LALO'S BODY SHOP

1937 Airport, Phn: 214.796.1946

Everett Menchaca, Owner

Everett Menchaca has been in business for 30 years in Grand Prairie. Seven years ago, he moved to his current location in the Twin Airports community.



Mr & Mrs Menchaca, Owners

In the last three years, the Menchacas have transformed the business site with the addition of paving, landscaping, and painting the building.

Owner Menchaca glows when he states, **“Lalo’s performs quality work at reasonable prices, to gain the trust and confidence of customers.”**

When asked about the impact of a clean shop, he said. **“The biggest impact has been the customer response. They like the clean approach, the landscaping, the clean shop, and paved yard. The improved appearance promotes curb appeal and customer confidence.”**

His advice to other businesses reveals a lot about the improvement journey for the shop. **“Do it right the first time, you will have a lot less negative attention from the City. Looking back, I realize that the attention and the required improvements helped my business.”**

Mercury Switch Program Hits Milestone

A national program to collect and recycle mercury-containing automotive switches has passed the 3 million milestone. The National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program (NVMSRP) was created in 2006 to properly manage mercury switches through a voluntary recovery incentive program. The program was the result of a two-year collaboration involving EPA, states, environmental organizations, and several industry sectors. EQ; the Environmental Quality Company was hired to handle the collection efforts.

“We provide a quick and easy way to prevent automotive mercury from going to the vehicle shredder,” said Tom Schuek, executive vice president at EQ. EQ provides recyclers with storage buckets for the collection of automotive mercury switches. Recyclers remove the switches and place them in buckets, which are returned when full. EQ then facilitates the recycling of the switches.

Automotive manufacturers stopped using mercury switches in 2002, but millions of them remain on the road in older vehicles. They present an environmental hazard if not removed before vehicles are recycled.

See www.epa.gov/hg/switchfs.htm for more information.

ARB Association

There is an Automotive Related Business Association being formed. The purpose is to provide a unified voice for business concerns and peer to peer networking opportunities. For information, or to assist in events or organization please contact:

Misty Aguinaga, C&S Autorama, 972.986.9565
Renee Perry Chiles, Perry Associates, 972.262.8266

FIGHT THE BITE

- ... **DRAIN** standing water in your yard. Never store tires outside without rims. Don't allow water to stand in containers.
- ... **DUSK/DAWN** are the times of day you should stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active.
- ... **DRESS** in long-sleeved shirts and wear pants when you are outside. Spray thin clothing with insect repellent.
- ... **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) is an ingredient to look for in your insect repellent (or use an organic alternative such as orange spray, eucalyptus, or citronella).



Spring Fling Festival - Main Street Cruise

On April 17th 2010, the ARB Association joined with the city of Grand Prairie to produce the 2nd Annual Main Street Cruise and Car Show. This show not only spotlighted the contribution that the Automotive Related Businesses make to the city, but also helped to promote the Market Square activities.



The Cruise and the Spring Fling Market Square activities were well attended and fun for all participants and viewers. A special thanks goes out to **Rick Herrold and Amy Sprinkles** from the Parks and Recreation, and Marketing Departments. Additional thanks to **Lynn McGinley** of the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce, **Misty Aguinaga** of C&S Autorama, **Renee Perry Chiles** of Perry & Associates and we thank Graff Chevrolet for allowing the program to use the business parking lot for the 2nd year.

Ultimate Outdoor Experience and Car Show

On April 24th and 25th 2010, the ARB Association participated in the Ultimate Outdoor Experience at Loyd Park. Nestled in with the campers, the boats, the ATVs and the jet-skis, were classic or custom cars and trucks.

Trophies were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place People's Choice. In addition to a trophy, the first place winners of both shows received a certificate for \$100 in cash.



ARB ROCKS!



Visit us on [http:// www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality/ARB](http://www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality/ARB)
 the web at: <http://www.gptx.org/index.aspx?page=1151>

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The Automotive Related Business (ARB) Program



To learn waste disposal policies and requirements contact the Grand Prairie Landfill at 972.237.4550.

GRAND PRAIRIE
 Auto Related Business Program
 201 NW 2nd St., Ste 150
 PO Box 534045
 Grand Prairie, TX 75053-4045

Money Talks Texas Environmental Trouble

A paint and body shop in Dallas County was fined \$1,050 for failing to obtain authorization prior to constructing and operating an automobile paint and body shop.

An unauthorized scrap tire storage and processing plant in El Paso County was fined \$18,350 for failing to use manifest and work orders to document the removal and management of all scrap tires and by failing to properly sort, mark, and arrange good used tires; failure to show that the tires were transported by a registered transporter, and by failing to control dust.

A trucking company in Bell County was fined \$1,100 for failing to submit a written report describing a spill and the adequacy of the response action to the regional office within 30 days.

A used motor vehicle dealership in Grayson County was fined \$1,125 for failing to equip a motor vehicle with either the control systems or devices that were originally a part of the motor vehicle engine for a person to sell, offer for sale, lease or offer to lease in the State of Texas.



An unauthorized disposal site in Orange County was fined \$4,375 for failing to prevent unauthorized disposal of municipal solid waste and failing to have an effective vector control program for the scrap tires stored on the ground.



Inspection Checklist - Common Violations

- Certificate of Occupancy (C/O) not possessed / displayed
- Non-compliance with C/O
- Building address / suite number missing
- Unsanitary conditions
- Fire Hazards
- Parking on unprepared surfaces, grass or dirt
- Repairs performed outside of the shop
- Excessive inoperable or junk cars, two permitted
- Outside storage of parts
- Painting without approved and certified paint booth
- Grass or vegetation, taller than twelve inches
- Improper or dilapidated fencing
- Dangerous building (hazardous structure, exposed wiring, missing or broken doors and/or windows)
- Failure to produce or maintain manifests for disposal of

The Grand Prairie ARB Team



Echo Rexroad
 Sr. Env. Specialist



Delia Sifuentes
 Permit Coordinator



M.ichael Stanley
 Sr. Code Officer

Steve Collins, Code Enforcement Manager, Planning
Cindy Mendez, Environmental Quality Manager, ESD