Clean Shop Awards, Congratulations on a Great Job

--- Michael Stanley

The Clean Shop Award was created by the ARB program and the City of Grand Prairie, to annually recognize three businesses which exemplify the goals of the Automotive Related Business Program. Award selection is made by the ARB Inspectors, after considering all businesses, inspection records, and the special accomplishments of the businesses being considered. Congratulations to the awardees.

This year’s awards were presented to three different types of automotive related businesses. While there was improvement noted throughout the city, the three shops selected were notable in that they had made excellent progress or maintained exemplary compliance with the automotive ordinance.

AJ’s AUTOBODY
2025-37 W. Jefferson St.
Owner/Manager: Raymond Vasquez
Assistant Manager: Lou Sanchez

MAGIC’S AUTO PARTS PLACE (Salvage)
3416 E. Jefferson St.
Owner/Manager: Abdol Magic Sardarabadi
Yard Mgr: Hector Maygora

ADVANCED AUTOMOTIVE
131 SE 14th St.
Owner/Manager: John Stepan
Assistant Mgr: David Thompson

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

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

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Grand Prairie Disposal: 817.261.8812
Municipal Court: 972.237.8600
Streets Division: 972.237.8525
TCEQ Small Business: 800.447.2827

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Did you know that you live in a watershed? If you live in Grand Praire, you live in the Trinity River watershed. This means that all the water that falls to the ground from precipitation will eventually flow, untreated, into the Trinity River by way of storm drains, creeks, and streams. This also means that anything already on the ground has the ability to flow with this water, called storm water, and allow those contaminants to enter the river system.

The Trinity River provides drinking water to thousands of homes. Used oil, gasoline, antifreeze, or any engine fluids have the potential to be spilled on the ground and cause contaminants to runoff with storm water. It is very costly to remove contaminants like used oil and ultimately it is taxpayers that pay that cost.

It is important for your facility to have an accidental spill response plan and methods to abate spills immediately such as absorbents, booms, pads, or absorbent pillows. Here are a few suggestions to stop spills before they happen:

- Keep used oil collection drums free of oil pans, filters, and funnels to ensure the drum is always accessible to receive used oil.
- Keep your shop clean to allow adequate space to work on vehicles and free of accident causing clutter on the floor.
- Do not leave open containers full of vehicle fluids on the floor or lying around the shop. As soon as possible put all used oil and like fluids, into the proper collection receptacle. Five-gallon buckets are not sufficient used vehicle fluid containers.
- Do not work on vehicles outside of your shop. The potential for contaminants to enter the storm drain system is increased 100 percent if oil is spilled outside. All vehicle repairs should be done indoors.

The Trinity River provides a valuable resource to not only humans, but also to plants and animals that depend on it for survival. EVERYONE is responsible for taking care of our watershed. Remember that everything outside your shop is exposed to storm water. Make sure you do your part to curb contaminants from entering the watershed. If you have a spill inside your shop and clean it up yourself, contact a registered waste hauler to pick up any contaminated absorbent materials. If you see a spill of vehicle fluid on the street, contact Environmental Services immediately at 972-237-8055 or 911 to dispatch an emergency response team.

My Car Was Towed!!

I operate a body repair shop, my customers are car dealers who bring vehicles for me to fix. Most of the vehicles are inoperable, that is they do not have tags or stickers, and their physical condition makes them unable to be driven on the roadway.

Last Monday I was inspected as part of the Automobile Related Business program, and advised that I had too many inoperable vehicles on my property. In response I moved three vehicles. One I placed in my residential garage, one I left at my cousin’s residential driveway behind his pickup truck, and one vehicle I parked on the street half a block from my business.

This morning, after I repaired several vehicles, I went to get the vehicle parked on the street. It was not there. When I called police to report a theft, they said the car had been towed. I left to get the other car from my cousin’s house, and found a yellow tag on it indicating that it would be towed. What is going on?

Sec. 13-535. ARB General Operating Requirements

The following regulations shall apply to all automotive-
Towed! (Continued from page 2)

related operations in the city and it shall be unlawful to operate such business in any manner not in accordance with the terms contained herein:

(x) No more than two (2) inoperable vehicles shall be allowed to be stored outside. All facilities are subject to and must be in compliance with City Code of Ordinance Chapter 29, Article – VII – Junked Vehicles.

Sec. 13-536. General Prohibitions.
It shall be unlawful for any person, owner, tenant, or employee, to commit such acts as listed below:

(i) Store or Park any vehicle, operable or inoperable, or any portion of such vehicle on the public right-of-way.

(m) Vehicles shall not be parked or stored to impede traffic on the sidewalk or to block a portion of the roadway. Vehicles parked or stored on the right-of-way in violation of this article for a period in excess of forty-eight (48) hours will be towed to the city vehicle impound or another approved vehicle storage facility and charges will be assessed for such expenses.

The intent of the ordinances and any enforcement actions taken regarding the ordinances is:

1. Maintain a safe environment for our citizens, by removing parked vehicles which force pedestrians into the street and impede the flow of traffic by forcing traffic to veer around the parked obstacle.

2. Maintain an aesthetically pleasing business environment, which will encourage and support the continued economic development and health of our city. This means that junk and/or inoperable vehicles are restricted with regard to where they may be stored.

The vehicle parked in your garage may not be repaired at your residence, this would be a violation of residential zoning codes. Long-term storage of shop vehicles awaiting repair at your residence is also a violation of residential zoning.

The Automotive Related Business Team is available to come to your business site and explain ordinance requirements to your workers. Call Michael Stanley at 972.237.8332 or Diane Castillo at 972.237.8351 to schedule a seminar.

Upon the dissolution of your business, you must return your Certificate of Occupancy to the Code Enforcement office to avoid continued billing of annual inspection fees.

Trash Disposal – An Interview with Marchella Bell-West, Recycling Coordinator

We’ve all seen it, you can’t hide it anymore! Every trash day you know you are only allowed to put two bags on the corner for Duncan Disposal to pick up, but you think, “What’s four, six, or eight bags going to matter? Who’s going to know the difference”? Well, there is a new Sheriff in town that is cracking down on repeat trash offenders. Marchella Bell-West is our new Recycling Coordinator and we interviewed her for this issue of Auto Watch.

Marchella, can you tell us what your position is?
I am the Recycling Coordinator for the City. I am also responsible for enforcing our Solid Waste Ordinance by identifying commercial customers that are not in compliance with the current rules for trash service.

Can you tell us the trash service requirements for businesses in Grand Prairie?
According to the Garbage Collection and Disposal section of our City Ordinance, (No. 7328, §3, 1-3-06, §§ 26-101) every business must contract trash service with Duncan Disposal (a.k.a. Grand Prairie Disposal). Every customer using the bag service is on the honor system to use no more than two bags every pick-up day.

What if customers use more than two bags?
We will issue a warning at first, and require customers that abuse the bag service to either increase the frequency of pick-ups from two to three days or lease a dumpster from Duncan Disposal. If the bags aren’t enough, it is recommended the customer lease a dumpster to reduce the amount of debris accumulating on the property in unsecured containers. Contact Duncan Disposal at (817) 261-8612 for information on prices and billing options.

Do we issue citations for non-compliance with their service agreement?
Yes. Maintaining the Grand Prairie Landfill costs taxpayers more and more every year. With gas prices soaring, it costs more to put trash trucks on the streets. We issue citations to businesses that abuse their service agreements repeatedly because taxpayers shouldn’t be the ones footing the bill for their trash disposal.

What else do you want to say to commercial customers?
All garbage cans kept outside must have lids. You cannot use trailers, severed truck beds, or other makeshift container as a garbage receptacle. If you have questions about this or about recycling options contact me at the landfill at 972-237-8061.
The Automotive Related Business (ARB) Program

A scrap metal recycling facility in Tarrant County was assessed $26,775 for violations including: failure to conduct waste determination and classification, failing to dispose of municipal solid waste and to prevent spills of industrial solid waste, failing to comply with their SWP3 plan and failing to clearly label containers storing used oil.

A steel drum recycling facility in Tarrant County was assessed $13,500 for failing to dispose of hazardous waste at an authorized facility, failing to maintain accurate information on their Notice of Registration and by failing to have a waste code for one waste stream generated by the facility.

A stone cutting facility in Travis County was assessed $800 for failing to obtain authorization to discharge storm water associated with industrial activities.

An oil field drill pipe plant in Midland County was assessed $2,000 for failing to obtain a permit prior to construction or operation of a regulated operation.

A sludge transporter in El Paso County was assessed $950 for failing to prevent unauthorized dumping or disposal of municipal solid waste.

A barrel cleaning and refurbishment facility in Lubbock County was assessed $10,350 for violations including failing to prevent and immediately abate and contain a spill of oily industrial waste and failing to prevent the discharge of hazardous waste into or adjacent to water in the state and failing to notify the TCEQ within 24 hours.

An oil field equipment repair yard in Midland County was assessed $3,150 for failing to obtain proper authorization to conduct surface coating operations and failing to prevent outdoor painting operations overspray from impacting adjacent property.

A fertilizer mixing facility in Freestone County was assessed $3,150 for failing to obtain storm water authorization and failing to prevent an unauthorized discharge of fertilizer and storm water that had come into contact with bulk agricultural chemicals.

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**Annual Inspection Checklist (Common Violations)**

- Certificate of Occupancy (C/O) not possessed or not displayed
- Non-compliance with C/O
- Building address / suite number missing
- Unsanitary conditions
- 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 tires, engine fluids, or batteries
- Failure to utilize a dumpster for the disposal of rubbish, when rubbish accumulation is in excess of two bags per week
- Discharge oil or other fluids/substances to the ground or air

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**Money Talks**

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