

Garage Celebrates New Facility, 25th Anniversary With Open House

Schatz Garage, Mount Joy, has two reasons to celebrate. The garage is marking the opening of its brand new facility, at 1090 W. Main St., Mount Joy, and the company's 25th anniversary in business.

An open house is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The open house will include a car show if weather permits. There will be door prizes, giveaways, refreshments, demonstrations, and games "just for fun," according to owner Gary Schatz.

The Schatz Garage junior dragster will be on display and is expected to be a hit with children. The public is invited to attend the open house or to call the garage at 653-0216 for information about the event and the services available at

Continued on page 4



Gary Schatz has announced an open house to celebrate the opening of Schatz Garage at its new facility at 1090 W. Main St., Mount Joy, and the 25th anniversary of the company. He invites the public to take part in a celebration on Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Continued from page 1

the garage.

Gary Schatz moved his business from Clay Alley to the new site, which was formerly the site of J&H Cycle. A warehouse that was located on the property has been extensively renovated. When the repairs and improvements were completed late last fall, Schatz Garage moved from its four-bay garage on Clay Alley to a spacious, nine-bay facility which also offers a customer waiting area, a large truck bay, plenty of parking space, and room to grow.

The history of Schatz Garage goes back to spring 1977, when Gary's father, Thomas, opened an independent auto repair shop in the family's back yard, where he built a four-bay facility with one lift. Prior to 1977, Thomas Schatz had worked at the Esso station in the center of Mount Joy and at an Exxon station on Route 743 outside Elizabethtown. Following the gas crisis of the 1970s, Thomas decided to get out of the retail gas business and concentrate on the "repair only" end of the industry.

Gary took leadership of the company in 1982, after the death of his father. Gary's automotive career had started at the Esso station when he was 11 years and began pumping gas and doing odd jobs around the garage. Gary continued to work in the family business through his high

school years. After graduation, Gary studied at the Automotive Training Center in Exton, where he learned the "basics, development and diagnosis" of the modern vehicle. Through much of the 1990s, Gary worked as a technical representative for a major tool company, while continuing the garage business part-time. As he visited other repair facilities, demonstrating, teaching, repairing and selling equipment, he gained valuable information and experience in the operation of these facilities, which

grew from major retail chains and large dealerships to technical institutions and small repair outlets.

Gary returned to Schatz Garage full time in 1998, and the business has grown steadily ever since. He credits his "treasured loyal customers," commercial clients and a stream of new customers. Gary explains that customer satisfaction has always been and continues to be the main goal of the business. "Every vehicle gets

treated with the care a customer expects and deserves," he states.

Schatz Garage is an approved NAPA Car Care Center, which offers national backing to the local repair outlet. Various programs are available that give extra value to the auto repair budget, according to Gary.

Regular business hours at Schatz Garage are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. New customers are always welcome.