

These Repair Bays Are Set Up Like a Thanksgiving Kitchen

by Jim Stickford

When one thinks about getting a hot meal on Thanksgiving, thoughts don't usually go to a place like Independence Auto Repair on Van Dyke in Warren.

And that would be a mistake. The people who work at the auto repair shop, for the second year in a row, will be preparing hot meals to be given away.

Shop manager Stacey Sears said that her stepfather/owner William Pash decided last year to do something nice for the neighborhood.

"He thought that if it weren't for the community, we wouldn't be here," Sears said. "So he decided to do something for the community by preparing hot meals for Thanksgiving."

Sears said that about 200 meals were prepared at the Van Dyke shop and about eight to 10 families were fed there.

"The rest of the meals were distributed downtown Detroit," Sears said. "We prepared the meals here at the shop and a friend of the family took them downtown and handed them out to people who looked like they could use a good meal."

Sears said that they do all the work themselves and while they are not officially affiliated with any charitable organization, United Way of Southeast Michigan called them to make sure they were going to offer meals again this year. When they were told yes, the United Way people placed the activity on its web site.

And any food left over is donated to the Salvation Army, Sears said.

What Sears likes about the



On Thanksgiving, this empty Independent Auto Repair's bay will be filled with food and, from left, Chris Fusco, Stacey Sears and Gregg Peterson will be shuffling around to put meals together for the hungry.

feast is that all the employees from all three Independence Auto Repair shops – including facilities in Romeo and Shelby Township – get involved.

"We set up a production line in our repair bays in Warren," Sears said. "Employees then package the food there."

The meals consist of ham, which they get from The Ham Store next door. They also provide green beans and corn. But those are canned and not difficult to prepare and place in a large vat.

"We also have baked potatoes that are prepared off site at my parents' home. That takes some

time," Sears said. "Last year, we worked in shifts, so people could take some time off and watch parts of the Lions game. I expect we'll do that again this year."

Sears said they hope to provide at least as many meals as they did last year.

And, she said, they are not asking for food donations. "This is something we do for the community, and we really have everything covered," Sears said.

"When people ask why we're doing this, I think it comes down to my stepfather Bill wanting to help a community that's been good to us.

"We've been here in Warren for

about four years and a lot of people forget what the holidays are about. We'd like to do something about that. Times are getting better, but there are people who still need help."

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Wreath-Making, Cooking Classes Set for Library

The Warren Public Library has a number of holiday-themed events coming up.

On Thursday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. Lisa Howard, operator of the web site, "The Cultured Cook," will give a class on how to prepare different holiday treats, including gourmet popcorn, spiced baked pecans and ginger-snaps.

The class will be held at the conference room next to the Warren Civic Center Library. Space is limited so those wishing to attend are asked to call 586-574-4564 to reserve a spot.

At the Dorothy Busch branch of the Warren Library, a special class on holiday wreath making will be taught on Tuesday, Nov. 26.

The course begins after school and will be open to children in grades K-5. To register, call 586-755-5750.

And a reminder. All branches of the Warren Public Library will be closed beginning at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27.

They will not open again until Monday, Dec. 2, when normal library hours resume.

GM Calls Its Pickups Fit as a Fiddle, Strong, Efficient

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"By using lightweight materials like ultra-high-strength steel and aluminum for key structural parts and components in our new trucks, we were able to improve both capability and efficiency."

It's been said that stronger muscles and bones help prevent injury, Wilkinson said, and the same can be said of the high-strength and ultra-high-strength steels that make up two-thirds of Silverado's and Sierra's cab structures, including A-pillars, B-pillars, rocker panels, roof rails and underbody. High-strength steel is several times stronger than mild steel.

These rigid materials helped Silverado and Sierra become the first pickup trucks to receive the highest possible 5-star Overall Vehicle Score for safety since the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration changed its New Car Assessment Program for the 2011 model year, Wilkinson said.

Similarly, the main rails and key cross members of Silverado's

and Sierra's updated frames are high-strength steel with major elements hydroformed for reduced mass and improved strength. Their pickup boxes are made from roll-formed steel for increased strength and reduced mass, compared with the stamped beds used by major competitors, said Wilkinson.

According to U.S. Steel Corp., the use of advanced high-strength steels is the fastest-growing trend in auto manufacturing today, because parts made from high-strength steel can be as much as 39 percent lighter than parts made from traditional steel.

Strong, lightweight aluminum alloys also play a key role in Silverado and Sierra by reducing the weight of the trucks' engines, front suspension components, hoods and other parts, said Wilkinson.

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