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San Gabriel Area Neighborhood Association May 2015

Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale: Yes, it's time for the **Yard Sale** sponsored and supported by your Neighborhood Association. Whether you're new to the neighborhood or have been doing this for years it's a great opportunity for you to pass on to somebody else the things you wish you hadn't brought here or to go through those closets, drawers, sheds, garage and all the nooks and crannies where you tuck stuff away. We will place an ad in the Albuquerque Journal, post it on Nextdoor and place signs at key entrances to the neighborhood. **The date is Saturday, June 13, start time is 8 a.m.** so be sure to have your sale items out and ready to show by then. End time is up to you.

Remember - Albuquerque zoning code allows one yard or garage sale per year. We invite you to join in this one and let your Association pay for the publicity. You can take a trip to your dream destination with all the money you make on sales and save on advertising.

If you plan to participate in the Yard Sale please contact Carol Driscoll no later than Wednesday 6/10 at caroldriscoll01@comcast.net or 332-8038. She will prepare a list of participants with a map of the neighborhood and make a copy available on the Nextdoor Neighborhood site by Friday morning.

Meet Robert Muñoz, Owner of Morris & Comanche Auto Service at 3701 Morris Street NE.

Robert grew up as a military brat, with 2 brothers and 6 sisters. He has lived in Texas, Japan, New Jersey and New Hampshire but his roots are deep in New Mexico with both Mom and Dad being born in Dawson, a coal mining ghost town in northern NM. When his father retired from the Air Force, he opened an Enco/Exxon gas station here in town at Montgomery and Louisiana. This is where Robert began his automotive career working throughout his teens with dad and crew. He then worked for Avery Auto Supply for several years and sold parts to Jim Hernandez, co-owner of Morris & Comanche Auto Service. When Avery closed, Robert joined Jim and, in the mid 80's, became a business partner. Robert knew he had a lot to learn and has always been motivated to do his best. He began taking courses at TVI studying business management, accounting, law - and many automotive technical classes. He regularly attends Management Success Workshops to stay abreast of the recommended business practices.

When Jim retired in the mid 90's, technician Matt Coulombe, who had first come to the shop at 16, became Robert's new business partner and remains a great asset to the business. As the business grew, Robert needed more space and moved a Ryder Truck Rental division, acquired in 1995 to the NE corner of the intersection. This location became a top rental company with as many as 4 employees during the peak of its operation. Budget truck purchased Ryder but after a few years went bankrupt and American Diesel Service was born. Matt currently runs this shop with a crew of 3 technicians; Mike, Matthew and Alvin servicing Ford, GM and Dodge vehicles. In 2009 Morris and Comanche Auto purchased the NW corner, moved the auto repair operation to this larger location and officially became part of the San Gabriel neighborhood. Robert has since remodeled the original southeast corner location and now includes this in day to day operations. He now owns properties on 3 of the 4 corners operating in general automotive repairs for the local community. Robert also purchased the office building adjacent to 3701 Morris and uses this location, which has a conference room and several offices, for employee training and interviews.

The business now employs Russ, Joel and Tim as service writers; and Matt, Sunrise, Jonathan and Aaron as technicians. Robert and Matt are active members of the local NAPA Car Care group under the umbrella of NAPA Auto Parts. The Car Care group supports business development and offers at least 6 technical training classes throughout the year. It also provides a network of 14,000 locations for their nationwide warranty program which is offered on most repairs.

Robert, in his commitment to provide the highest quality workmanship to a loyal customer base, expects all of his technicians to participate in training classes and to be current with their ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certification. His mission statement says it well: "To provide the community with quality automotive repairs at a reasonable cost, in a timely manner, with professionalism and honesty on a daily basis. This will be accomplished by skilled staff working both independently and as a team to achieve automotive excellence." Excellent service includes a quality assurance inspection done on every repair job by service writers and technicians.

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