Tommy Smithers buys out Jon Pike Sales and Service

BY GAIL OBER
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BELMONT — Smithers Automotive is the new name on the sign but for the customers who have been doing business atop Prescott Hill for years, new owner and long-time mechanic Tommy Smithers is a familiar face.

Smithers and his wife, Chrisly, purchased the former Jon Pike Sales and Service shop a few months ago after Pike chose to retire from that business after hip replacement surgery.

“I got some time to slow down and smell the flowers,” said Pike, “And then decided I needed to take some more time and smell a few more flowers.”

Smithers has been the top mechanic at the shop since Pike started it in 2009. He has also been with Pike and Neil McGreavy since Pike closed his shop on Seavey Road in 2000 and joined the former McGreavy’s Buick, Pontiac, GMC, Mazda dealership.

When McGreavy sold to AutoServ in 2007, Smithers said Pike, Neil McGreavy and he bought the business to its current location and in 2008, Pike purchased it from McGreavy and Smithers stayed on as head mechanic.

For Smithers and his wife, it’s all about being a friendly and well-known local business.

He said he grew up in Gilmanton and, because its a small town, he said he knew everyone and they knew him.

He said he actually grew up repairing antique automobiles and gradually learned to repair just about anything with an engine or a motor.

“I work on everything from lawnmowers to tractors,” he said.

But for the general motorizing public, Smithers is a General Motors, Mazda and ASA certified auto mechanic. His shop is equipped with all of the latest diagnostic tools and computer software for working on just about anything.

He said one of their medium-range goals is to get a car sales license but said he wants to get the mechanical and repair side operating first.

“This is the kind of local shop were I know everyone’s first name and they know mine,” said Smithers.

Program to focus on retirement planning, Social Security

PLYMOUTH — A program on retirement planning and the impact of changes in Social Security will take place Wednesday, Sept. 7, at 6:30 p.m. at the Enterprise Center at Plymouth, 1 Bridge St.

The free program will be led by Brandon Archibald, founder of The Ivy League Advisory Group, a registered investment advisory firm based in Tilton.

Discussion topics at this event will include:

— How the recent changes in Social Security could affect one’s retirement planning.
— Why maximizing Social Security is as important as a 401(k) and IRA.
— What options does a spouse have and which options provide the most income.
— How does earning additional income affect one’s Social Security benefit.
— Ways to lower the amount of tax on Social Security income.
— How best to fill the income gap between Social Security benefits and income needs.
— How to allocate investment assets with appropriate risk/safety.

More information is available by calling The Ivy League Advisory Group at 800-380-2724.

Franklin Savings Bank SmileSquad collecting school supplies for children

FRANKLIN — Franklin Savings Bank’s SmileSquad is collecting school supplies to assist teachers and students with attaining the necessary items needed for the new school year. SmileSquad is also soliciting assistance from the community with donating supplies to this important community initiative.

“This is a great time of year to take advantage of super sales on school supplies,” says Sarah Stanley, FSB’s community relations officer. “We are enlisting the help of the public to consider picking up something extra to help our neighbors in need, as well as assist teachers and local schools with stocking up on necessary supplies for the upcoming school year.”

Suggested items for SmileSquad’s Back-to-School Supplies Drive include: #2 pencils, colored pencils, pens, small pencil sharpeners, crayons, markers (coloring and permanent), dry erase/white board markers (thick and thin), Sharpies (thick and thin), small sticky notes, notebooks, paper (all types), glue, glue sticks, scissors, tape (clear and 2” masking), 3-ring binders, backpacks, lunch boxes, soft tissues, anti-bacteria wipes, paper towels, brown paper lunch sacks, and snack and sandwich baggies.

All donated items may be dropped off at any of FSB’s seven offices located see FSB page 10.