



RPM Services will soon occupy the former Best Appliance location at 2180 E. Main St. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press)

RPM relocating to Main Street location

By PAUL HURSCHMANN
MONTROSE DAILY PRESS PHOTOJOURNALIST

It won't be long now before RPM Services moves into the old Best Appliance Building just east of Hillcrest Avenue.

RPM stands for Repairs, Performance and Maintenance, according to owner and chief mechanic Jarrott Dowdy.

"Servicing all your automotive needs and fleet," he said. "We started in 2012 with just myself, and we have grown now and are continuing to grow. In light of that, we are out of room at our current facility, and that's why we're moving to a new location, 2180 East Main."

He said the new location may offer better visibility and accessibility to customers than its current one behind the Conoco station, all the way back in the plaza behind the Shop 'N Lube Express, on South Townsend Ave.

"It can't be any worse than where we're at back here," he said. "So, yeah, it'll definitely be better visibility. That location has multiple buildings. Our intent is the back building, we're going to make our shop. Then the front one, we're going to use a portion of that front building as offices and lobby and customer receiving and everything."

Dowdy preferred to take a slightly different approach to explaining just what RPM Services offers.

"Maybe instead of talking about what we do, just what (we) try to do differently. This business was started in light of several people being frustrated with quality of work and pricing of the work they were getting done (elsewhere)," he said. "We have had a good response and a good customer following that has continued to grow. We honestly try to be the best at customer service. One of the things we're doing to accommodate that ... We're already kind of doing shuttles to help people get here ... we're going to try and have a vehicle dedicated for a shuttle to get people picked up and dropped off and help them about their day because it's certainly inconvenient when your car is down."

He said the problem RPM is currently having is a lack of space to fix cars; and to hire enough employees to do that.

"This new building will hopefully help us move stuff through quicker and still give you the same quality of work," he said. "Finding qualified mechanics is also a challenge. We get a flood of applicants. We have a very small number that are potentials. Finding the applicants isn't the problem, finding qualified ones is."

Now that Dowdy has purchased the

new property, he is in the process of renovating and making it into an auto care facility.

"We've got to insulate the back building and set it up for vehicle entry and then install our lifts. We're designing it with eight bays in there," he explained. "The front building is getting a renovation, which it desperately needs. We don't do much of the below-ground stuff, most everything is above ground on the lifts. So, it's simply running electric to it, mounting it to the concrete — making sure that we've got the right concrete and the right thickness at (the new) location — and installing that way. It's a little simpler."

He said the floor plan calls for eight bays, but RPM will open with four and then have the room to expand as demand calls for it. He said there are still two in operation at the existing location with one down and ready to move, and another ordered and on its way.

The Best Appliance location has been vacant for about three years, according to realtor John Renfrow of Renfrow Realty, who brokered the sale.

"I'm just glad RPM Services is going in there and there will be a business in there," Renfrow said. "They will have more than enough room to expand into with this location, they'll have a lot of square footage to grow. It's nice to get some of these empty buildings sold or rented. I'm glad to see more businesses growing in Montrose."

Dowdy said the property had been for sale for quite some time and he was keeping his eye on it.

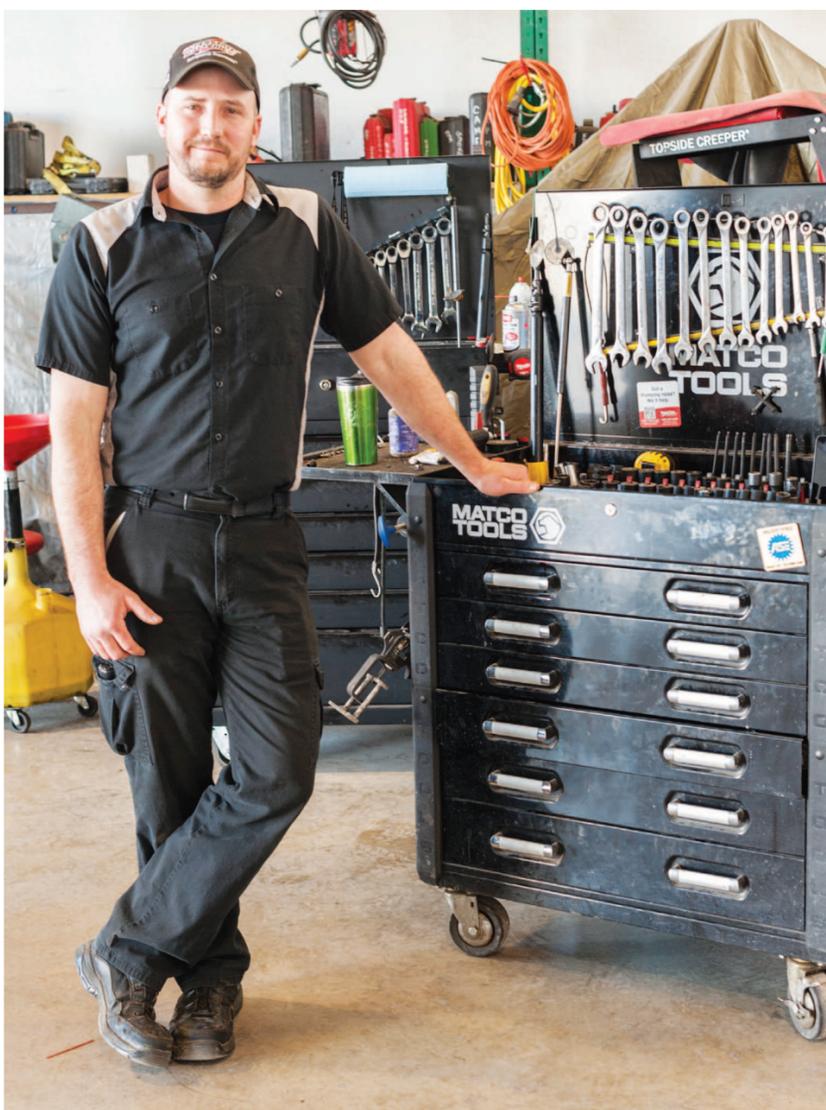
"There was a flood of interest at the end there," he said. "It was a good purchase here in town. I would really like to give Mr. Renfrow a lot of credit."

Dowdy said he has one other master level training technician, in addition to himself. Said he hopes to hire another soon.

"All my guys ... when you come to work for me, I provide all the training materials and I pay for any tests you pass," he said. "Anybody that comes on here should be advancing and growing in their certifications and their training and their college. If they're not, they will not continue to work here."

Dowdy said he got his start doing modifications and specialty work and although he still provides those types of services, he doesn't really advertise that type of work anymore.

"As you get larger and you get more (customers), it's kind of hard to do that oddball stuff because getting parts in this area is difficult, storage space



Jarrott Dowdy, owner of RPM Services, will soon be relocating his business to the former Best Appliance building at 2180 E. Main St. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press)

for the vehicle for long-term projects is difficult," he said. "We still do that. That's how I got my foot in the door and got started in this community."

He said RPM's goal now is to be a one-stop shop for everything you need.

"I know that's an overused term," he said. "A lot of shops, you know, they send you out for an alignment or they send you out for A/C work or they send you out for who knows what. We've done everything we can to eliminate that. I'm not saying there's nothing we won't send you out for. Were not doing paint right now. We try to meet all your repair and service needs."

Although currently RPM does not do any body work, Dowdy sees the

potential for growth into that area with the availability of more space in the new facility.

"We send out that stuff right now. So that's a potential, that's something I'd like to bring on. In the past, we've done restorations," he said. "I've taken vehicles apart and I've painted and done all that stuff. If we continue to do a good volume of that stuff, we will bring it in-house because we have room for that now."

Dowdy said the grand opening at the new location will happen sometime in May.

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How can the sandwich generation relieve financial stress?

Don't worry too much if you haven't heard, but April is National Stress Awareness Month. Of course, stress can present emotional and physical challenges to all of us, but if you belong to the "sandwich generation" — that is, you may be caring for aging parents while still supporting your own children — you may be facing some financial stress as well. What can you do to relieve it?

For one thing, be aware that you're certainly not alone. About one in seven middle-aged adults is providing financial support to both an aging parent and a child, according to the Pew Research Center.

Still, knowing that you have plenty of company won't provide you with solutions for your own situation. So consider the following:

- Suggest "downsizing." Are your parents still paying a



Financial Focus

By Jerri Mattics

costly mortgage on a house that's now too big for them? You might want to encourage them to think about downsizing. They may be emotionally attached to their home, but they might benefit substantially if they moved someplace that's less expensive.

- Talk to parents about their income sources. Are your parents maximizing their Social Security payments? Are they following a sensible withdrawal strategy

for their IRA, 401(k) or other retirement accounts? You may want to recommend that they work with a qualified financial professional.

- Discuss all legal arrangements. Be aware of your parents' estate plans and the status of important legal documents — will, living trust, power of attorney, health care directive, and so on. When the time arises for any of these arrangements to take effect, you don't want to face any unpleasant — and possibly costly — surprises.

- Find out about health care. Try to learn about your parents' health insurance coverage. And have they done anything to protect themselves from the potentially catastrophic costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay? You may not be able to do a great deal for them in these areas, but at the least, you may be

able to get them to take some positive action on their own behalf.

- Don't ignore your own retirement savings. Even if you can afford to provide some financial support to your parents, don't shortchange yourself when it comes to your own retirement savings. You don't get a "do-over" when it comes to putting away money for retirement, so contribute as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

- Prioritize your investment choices. If you would like to help your children go to college, you might want to consider a college savings vehicle. Still, you may need to prioritize your investments. After all, your children will likely have a variety of options — such as loans and scholarships — to help them pay for school, and they may

also be able to reduce costs substantially by going to a community college their first two years. But you are basically "up against the clock" when it comes to saving for retirement, so you'll want to take that into account when allocating your investment dollars.

- Belonging to the sandwich generation can certainly produce feelings of anxiety. But by following the above suggestions, you may be able to reduce some of this stress. And by doing so, you can help your parents, your children — and yourself.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial adviser.

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