

AUTO

Faber's Auto site for collision repair school

by Don Jovich
Reporter

CUYAHOGA FALLS – A new automotive school is being planned that will facilitate automotive training for students from all across Summit County and parts of Portage County.

The Jacob and Clara Faber Community Enrichment and Education Foundation, named in honor of the late Jack Faber, former owner of Faber's Body Shop on Front Street, is a \$1.2 million project slated to be up and running for the 2003-04 school year.

Woodridge High School will be the host school for the two-year career program.

The Six District Educational Compact includes Tallmadge, Stow-Munroe Falls, Hudson, Kent, Woodridge and Cuyahoga Falls and provides services to

more than 24,000 students.

According to Sixth District Educational Compact executive director, Mary Jane Stanchina, the compact has been in existence since 1969 and now offers a variety of career programs to high school students.

"This is a wonderful addition to the two Career Programs now being offered from their school district," said Sixth District Educational Compact executive director, Mary Jane Stanchina.

"The Sixth District Educational Compact provides several other services including professional development proficiency testing and preparation courses, summer school programs and special events like the Reading and Writing Festival for middle school students," said Stanchina.

There are currently 19 voca-

tional programs high school students can choose. The latest program, Faber's Automotive Collision Repair school will be the 20th career program in the compact.

Jacob [Jack] Faber died Nov. 13, 2000. He started working at a body shop in the 1930s on Front Street and remained there for the next five decades.

He was born in Copenhagen, Denmark and came to this country during the Depression. Faber was married to Clara Gabriel in 1938, a union that lasted for 62 years.

"He [Faber] came to this country in the 1920s during the midst of the Depression, actually penniless, and settled here in Cuyahoga Falls and built a business and remained here for 50

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years and actually learned the trade right here on Front Street," said Guy Klapp III, the executive director of the Faber Foundation.

Klapp has been working in the auto body field for the past 25 years and will be heading up the program.

Klapp was responsible for running Faber's Auto Body for the past seven years and has been actively involved with students as a coach.

"I've got experience dealing with kids from all different ages," said Klapp, who will also be teaching the course when the school opens.

He will be participating firsthand with the students demonstrating the various aspects of auto body refinishing and repair.

Other foundation officials include Terry Penrod, president; Woodridge superintendent Dr. George McGuire, vice president; and trustees Clara Faber and James Dunn.

The Woodridge Board of Education recently approved the lease for the Faber Foundation to provide the location for the Six District Compact Auto Body Refinishing School along the 1800 block of Front Street. It will be leased to the school district for one dollar per year.

The new 10,000-square-foot auto body school will include garages, classrooms, a conference room, lockers and several automotive training stations and safety equipment.

The facility will not be limited in space and will provide actual work stations for classroom simulations.

The city of Cuyahoga Falls is supportive of the project as well

Community Development Deputy Director Norma Horowitz said on the development of the site, "it is something the city would like to see happen."

According to Klapp, the vocational program combines academic skills with a real-life context for learning.

The new school will be the only auto body vocational program in the area. "We should be breaking ground in three to four months," said Klapp.

"I grew up in this trade working for the family business Guy's Body Shop, started in 1962 and owned by my father Guy Klapp Jr. I have more than 25 years experience in all aspects of this trade from running a collision center for the last seven years," said Klapp.

He has been actively involved with students, serving as Woodridge head basketball coach for the past four years.

"I realized about 10 years ago that money wasn't everything and wished I would have become a school teacher. I love working with kids and coaching. This opportunity has been a true blessing to me."

Anyone interested in becoming involved or donating to the Jacob and Clara Faber Community Enrichment and Education Foundation may call 330-923-8113 for more information.

"The greatest thing about learning a trade, is that you can go anywhere in the world and be working in the trade almost anytime you want. That's really the greatest asset of it," said Klapp.

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