

# Fred's Automotive provides good service and value to all his customers

BY SUSAN MCFARLAND

Tribune Correspondent

Fred Rosas has been fixing cars for a very long time. He grew up in his father's auto shop in Baytown and had significant on-the-job training. In high school, he thought he might like to be a jeweler, so he studied and began working in the jewelry industry. When he was 19, his parents separated and his mom asked him to support her and run the shop. He agreed and the career change stuck.

Many years later, Rosas is still in the auto shop business. He has had several shop locations over the years. He's been at the most recent location at 1407 E. First Street, a block from the Humble Post Office, for about two-and-a-half years. The current shop location, which has been in existence since the 1980s, was formerly called Preston's Auto. Before this location, Rosas owned a shop at Charles and First Street in Humble, but it was too small.

Fred's Automotive specializes in exhaust systems, cooling systems and electrical work.

"We aren't a body shop; we are more mechanical," said Rosas. The shop fixes radiators, brakes, transmissions, air conditioning, electrical wiring, alternators, starters and fuel injectors, and catalytic

converters, and offers custom pipe bending. All parts have a minimum of a 12-month warranty. Radiators have a three-year warranty and catalytic converters have a 50,000/five-year warranty. The shop also does 30,000-, 60,000- and 90,000-mile scheduled maintenance and offers a free shuttle for those who would rather not wait in the shop while work is being done.

Rosas said they also offer accessories such as 4x4 lift kits, diesel down pipe kits, nerf bars, bed covers, grill guards, running boards, Weathertech floor mats, chrome door-handle kits and stainless steel exhaust tips. Rosas noted that the shop honors extended warranties and insurance claims and provides same-day service in many cases.

The shop employs eight people. Rosas

said times have changed since he first started out in the auto industry. It's now easier to identify problems with the help of car computers, but fixing problems hasn't gotten any easier.

"There is less troubleshooting, but the cars are engineered so that it can take four hours to take off a 50-cent piece. Radiators are plastic and intakes are plastic," said Rosas. Rosas' wife of 22 years, Kim, who also works in the shop, added that years ago they would repair radiators, but today they just replace them.

Fred said, "Our goal has always been to provide our friends and neighbors with the best auto service at a great price. We are honest and we will tell you like it is. It's incredible what some auto shops will do. People are generally not trusting when it comes to auto work, but we build their trust. I would always rather have my actions speak louder than my words."

High school sweethearts Fred and Kim met in high school and have two daughters, 16 and 19, who also work at the shop. The family moved to Summerwood from Baytown 12 years ago. Kim home-schooled both daughters and said about the experience, "It was hard but I wouldn't have traded it for anything. I got to see a lot of milestones

they hit and it was a lot of good times. It went by too fast."

Kim works the front desk at the shop and manages the books. The family are members of Humble Area First Baptist Church.

Fred said the shop can fix just about any type of car. "We stay away from big industrial diesel trucks, but other than that we can fix anything. I once fixed an old 1940s Bentley that had electrical problems. Everything in those old cars was hand-made, dashboards and everything. That was a neat old car," said Rosas.

The Rosas also have a used car lot on site, Humble City Motors, where they sell a variety of vehicles. Fred's Automotive can be reached at 281-812-8500 or visit [fredsautomotiveonline.com](http://fredsautomotiveonline.com).



Manager, Raul Torres and owner, Fred Rosas



**OWNER:**  
*Fred Rosas*



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