

Contact Us:

THOMAS J. MONIGAN

863-1111, Ext. 1438

[thomasj@nwfdailynews.com](mailto:thomasj@nwfdailynews.com)

Sunday | December 7, 2008

Page 6

## RETAIL CORRIDOR

What's new in retail and restaurants along the Emerald Coast.

By SHARON DOOLEY

[sklscoops@cox.net](mailto:sklscoops@cox.net)

## EXPRESS OIL CHANGE & SERVICE CENTER

The adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure holds true at Express Oil Change & Service Center, which opened in Destin two months ago.

Darrell Lamb, Joe Watson and Don Fillingame brought the franchise one-stop service center to Destin with the idea that their customers want full-service work done to their vehicles within a reasonable amount of time.

"Typically, we can do whatever you need while you wait," Fillingame said. He also serves as manager of the center.



MARK KULAW | Florida Freedom Newspapers

Fleet Maintenance recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with owners Dave and Joyce Wagner, Dave's parents Gordon and Margaret Wagner, General Manager Ken Craig, its technicians and staff and members of Empire Truck Sales LLC that included owner G.S. "Terry" Swanson.

# No fleeing fancy

## Transportation maintenance business rides its way to success

By THOMAS J. MONIGAN

Florida Freedom Newspapers

315-4438 | [tmonigan@nwfdailynews.com](mailto:tmonigan@nwfdailynews.com)

**F**ORT WALTON BEACH — Quietly and without fanfare, Fleet Maintenance of Northwest Florida Inc. has been busily building a success story in the Commerce and Industrial Park.

Fleet Maintenance has been around for 10 years, the last five of those at 638 Anchors St. Owners Dave and Joyce Wagner and General Manager Ken Craig lead a team of 13 employees, most of whom are technicians.

"I've never been one to chase the over-the-road market," Wagner said. "We wanted to lock into the local community, because we knew those customers would come back."

"Our success has come from cutting edge diagnostics and customer service based on getting the job done, no matter what," Craig said. "Everyone gets the same level of commitment."

Craig listed regular customers such as Waste Management, Couch Ready Mix USA, Cemex Cement Inc., Office Depot, Cox Communications



Special to the daily news

Fleet Maintenance of Northwest Florida Inc. is a 16,800-square-foot facility that sits on 4.7 acres at 639 Anchors St. in the Fort Walton Beach Commerce and Technology Park. There are eight work bays and as many as 12 jobs can be handled at once, inside and out.

and Lamar Outdoor Advertising.

Fleet closed a deal recently to become a satellite parts and service dealer for Freightliner Trucks, which continues to shift the bulk of its operations from Oregon to the Carolinas.

That's on top of being designated a Fleet-Pride, Fleet-

Care Dealer.

Fleet-Pride is the largest heavy-duty truck aftermarket parts supplier in the nation. It has more than 350 locations (such this one) in the nation.

"That means better prices

PLEASE SEE NO FLEETING FANCY | C7

### QUICK TAKE

Fleet Maintenance of Northwest Florida Inc. is a 16,800-square-foot facility that sits on 4.7 acres at 639 Anchors St. in the Fort Walton Beach Commerce and Technology Park.

There are eight work bays and as many as 12 jobs can be handled at once, inside and out.

The site has been appraised at \$2.5 million. The company did \$1.65 million worth of business last year and projects \$2 million for 2008. Technicians average about \$20 an hour.

Fleet provides services that include:

- Fleet vehicles
- Forklifts
- Heavy equipment
- Hydraulics
- Certified AC repair
- Transmission repair
- Auto and truck alignment

To find out more on Fleet Maintenance log on to [fleetservicerepair.com/](http://fleetservicerepair.com/) or call 243-1777.

To find out more about Empire Truck Sales LLC log on to [www.empiretrucksofpensacola.com](http://www.empiretrucksofpensacola.com) or call (850) 478-0031.

## NO FLEETING FANCY from page C7

for customers due to volume and warranty handled on parts nationwide," according to Fleet Maintenance's Web site.

Also located at the Anchors Street facility is a satellite office for Empire Truck Sales LLC.

Empire Owner G.S. "Terry" Swanson has 10 locations (including Pensacola) in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

"There are high-quality people with a good location, a nice facility and an excellent

reputation," Swanson said recently. "Those are all the keynote issues.

"Our intent is to be able to serve our truck customers with an 'at home experience,' and with Fleet's reputation this gives us the opportunity to do that," he added.