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Mechanic offers auto repair clinic

■ **REPAIRS:** The free clinic is being held in conjunction with Womenspace to help educate women about cars

By Jennifer Schmitt
Community Editor

Car repair is more than driving a car to the mechanic's; it is knowing what repairs such as brake jobs should entail and what they should cost.

A free auto clinic for women is being offered by a local automotive center's owner in conjunction with Womenspace so women can gain basic knowledge regarding their vehicles and become better auto consumers, Eric Bowser, owner of Artisan Automotive, said.

"Women are the most commonly victimized people in the industry," Bowser said. "I am trying to improve the image of the industry and give women the information they need to become better consumers."

The classes also are a way for women to empower themselves, said Jodi Henry, fund-raising coordinator for Womenspace.

"Transportation is always an issue for women," Henry said. "When all a woman has is a car in the garage that isn't running, it is the same as not having transportation."

The classes are every Thursday night for four weeks, starting May 15. Each class has a specific theme that is focused on. While each class leads to the next, Bowser said the classes also stand alone so that a person who misses one class can still understand the other classes.

The classes cover topics such as brake jobs, engine repairs and tune-ups, jump starting cars and changing tires and how to check car fluids.

The goal of the classes is to simplify auto repair and make it seem less technical.

"A lot of people don't want to know anything about cars because they think it is too complicated," Bowser said.

Bowser has been offering the four-week classes almost every other month for the last year. The informal classes usually have 30 to 40 students.

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Eric Bowser
Auto Mechanic

While Bowser offers the classes for free, he said any donations will be given to Womenspace.

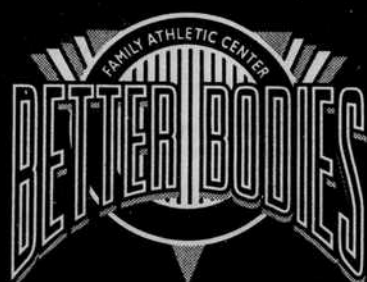
The money raised from the classes is generally very little, ranging from \$50 to a few hundred dollars, but the benefit of the classes to women is more important, Henry said.

"People who donate money to us often are apologetic because they can't give us more," she said. "But the important thing is that [Bowser] is doing something to help."

To register for the class, call Artisan Automotive at 485-1881.

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