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PRESS RELEASE

May

"Business of the Month"

Hutcheson Collision Center

The St. James Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate Hutcheson Collision Center for being selected May "Business of the Month".

In 1992, after visiting St. James on a vacation, Jim and Elaine Van Tilburgh made the decision to relocate from Ohio to St. James, Missouri. Jim scouted around for a job and was hired by Butch Tucker as a service manager at his Ford dealership. A year later, Jim transferred to the collision repair division of Hutcheson Ford. In August of 2000, Butch and Susan Tucker sold the collision center to the Van Tilburghs and moved the Ford Sales division of the business to the area next to the interstate where it is located today. Jim continued to operate his newly acquired collision center out of the old Ford complex on West James Blvd., but the rapid growth of the business soon led the Van Tilburghs to look at options for expansion. Seeing a win/win situation for both parties, Butch and Susan Tucker constructed a 10,800 square-foot building with the same look as their Hutcheson Ford Sales building on their property along the interstate. In 2003, the Van Tilburghs moved their collision center business into the new building. Today, the Van Tilburghs continue to lease the property and operate the Collision Center as a completely separate entity from the Ford Sales dealership. Together, Jim and Elaine run the business with Elaine responsible for the bookwork. They currently employ 4 technicians.

The Collision Center works on all makes and models of vehicles, including imports. Approximately 45% of their work is on Ford vehicles. The remainder is GM, Chrysler, and imports. Ninety percent of their claims are insurance related and the Van Tilburghs feel a strong responsibility to assist their clients in making the paperwork as simple as possible. Their focus is to serve the customer with high quality repairs and make sure everyone is safe.

Jim credits his interest as a mechanic/collision technician to his grandfather who owned a Chrysler dealership. As a kid growing up in Sydney, Ohio, he spent many hours at his grandfather's dealership learning to repair all makes and models of cars.

As well as family in Ohio, the Van Tilburghs have one daughter, Sara, who graduated from John Hodge High School and is now employed at the Razor's Edge in St. James.

The Chamber will host a coffee at Hutcheson Collision Center on Friday, May 22, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Please stop by and congratulate Jim and Elaine for having their business selected as May "Business of the Month."