

Local

Collins Propane gives back with free gas

Scott recipient of year's supply

By Patty Montagno

Ronald Scott said he was speechless when he heard his family had been chosen to receive a year's worth of propane, free of charge. Bill Collins, owner of Collins Propane, continued the tradition he started last year by donating a year of propane to a local, deserving customer.

"The idea of providing propane to one customer for a year is my way of giving something back to our loyal customers and the community," he said. "It was because of the encouragement and support of family and friends that I was able to open Collins Propane a year ago."

As with last year, deciding on the deserving customer took more thought and scrutiny.

Collins said he wanted the recipient to be a person or family who generously volunteer time to the community in which they live and who would truly benefit from a year's supply of propane.

Collins said Scott has lived in Wylie for more than 50 years and spent most of those years volunteering and doing community work.

Scott said he is always a little sad around the holidays. He remembers the devastation when his brother Joel Scott, a former Wylie councilman, died unexpectedly several years ago.

"It's really hard to put my feelings into words," Scott said. "When Bill gave me the news about the free propane, I thought he was joking with me. The gift from Bill Collins is such a blessing and it came at just the right time."

Collins Propane opened about

year ago at 1445 E. FM 544 with zero customers, Collins said. Now, he said, the company services more than 500 customers.

"Collins Propane is equipped to handle residential, commercial and industrial type accounts," Collins said. "Residential propane service is our speciality; however Collins Propane can handle commercial and industrial accounts throughout the area."

Collins, who was born in Wylie in 1956 and is married to Anita, said he made the right decision to open his business in his hometown. "The north Texas area has and will continue to experience growth in both the commercial and residential marketplace," he said. "Wylie is our home and I'm blessed to be part of this business community. Anita and I have raised our family here."

Collins previous business experience includes more than 20 years in the propane industry, beginning with Wylie Butane. That company sold their propane distribution business to AmeriGas Propane.

Collins worked for AmeriGas for 20 years until his position was eliminated in 2003.

He is a past president of the Wylie ISD board of trustees and has served on numerous other committees and boards in the community. He is a member of the Texas and National Propane Gas Associations.

He was recently chosen from 3,500 member companies to serve on the National Association's Technology and Standards committee as well as the state Finance and Technical and Standards committee.

"It is really an honor to serve on



Photo by Patty Montagno

Ronald Scott, left, reads the information regarding his new propane tank from business owner Bill Collins. Collins Propane selected Scott to receive a year's worth of propane free of charge.

these committees," he said. "These committees work so hard to improve the safety and technical standards of the industry. 'The invaluable knowledge I've gained will help me to better serve our customers.'"

Anita Collins is president of American National Bank Sachse/Wylie and part owner of Collins Propane.

Collins said according to the company mission statement Collins Propane will provide propane, which is an environmentally friendly and economical source of energy.

"Propane can be used throughout the home to heat rooms and water, cook indoors and out, dry clothes and heat pools and spas," Collins said.

"For the commercial segment, Collins Propane provides propane primarily as a motor fuel for forklifts and we are a full service company providing products for our cus-

tomers efficiently and at a competitive price."

Collins said the company offers 24-hour emergency service for out-of-gas calls or leak repairs.

"All plumbing and appliance repairs are provided by certified professionals licensed by the Texas Railroad Commission," he said. "Our goal is to be recognized throughout the area as the premier provider of quality propane-related services."

According to the Energy Information Administration, Texans spent an estimated \$20.5 billion to purchase propane in 2001 and propane usage has maintained an annual growth rate of 40 percent over the last 10 years.

"The market analysis is very favorable toward the propane industry in the North Texas area," Collins said. "Population, housing and commercial growth make the area an

ideal market for this type of business. North Texas is one of Texas' fastest growing areas, as well as one of the more rapidly growing regions in the United States."

Collins Propane serves Collin, Dallas, Denton, Hunt and Rockwall counties.

"As the population continues to grow there will be an expansion of commercial and industrial type companies within the surrounding areas," Collins said. "As residential growth moves to the rural areas custom home construction will create additional opportunities due to the fact they use propane as a primary source for heat."

Scott said he was thrilled when Collins personally came by to install the new tank.

"Of course I would recommend this company to everyone," he said. "I am blessed and I can't thank him enough."

Public invited to hear Self at Plano lunch

New Collin County Judge Keith Self will be the keynote speaker of the 2007 Plano Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Business Luncheon Friday, Jan. 19, at the Plano Centre.

The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. The lunch will highlight this year's New Member Expo. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. with a Business Interchange Networking Meeting. The cost for networking is \$1. There is no charge to attend the expo.

"The expo gives business professionals in and around Collin County an opportunity to meet more than 60 new members of the Plano Chamber of Commerce," said President and Chief Executive Officer Brad Shanklin. "It is an outstanding business program, both for new members and seasoned business professionals."

In addition to Judge Self's address, annual membership awards will be presented. These include Ambassador of the Year, Top Sales of the Year, the Goodwill/Spirit Award, and Team Captain of the Year.

"These awards honor those business professionals who work tirelessly to promote the goals of the Plano Chamber and who work to bring in quality members to our organization," said Shanklin.

The luncheon will begin as 2006 Chair Mary Jo Dean passes the gavel to incoming Chair Steve Matthews. The New Member Expo will continue until 2 p.m. for those who were not able to attend the morning session or who would like more networking time.

Advance reservations are required for the luncheon only. Members pay \$38. The cost for non-members is \$50. Tables of eight are available for \$350. The Plano Centre is located at 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy. in Plano.

For more information, contact Beverly Halperin at beverlyh@plano chamber.org or 972-424-7547 ext 225.

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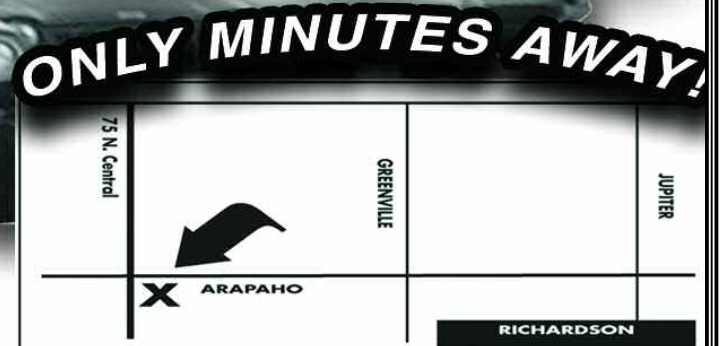
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BUDGET SPECIALS	
95 TOYOTA AVALON, AUTO, PWR, L/W, STEREO, SU041077	\$2,481
97 CHEV., MONTE CARLO, AUTO, PWR, L/W, STEREO, V9182549	\$3,495
03 CHEV. MAILBU, AUTO, PWR, L/W, STEREO, 3M545286	\$5,941
00 CHEV. CAMARO, AUTO, PWR, L/W, STEREO, 6C604	\$8,995
MID-SIZE CARS	
06 CHEVY COBALT, AUTO, PWR, L/W, STEREO, 6C547	\$9,981
04 PONTIAC GRAND AM, AUTO, PWR, STEREO, 4C249873	\$9,988
05 DODGE, NEON SXT, AUTO, PWR, L/W, STEREO, 7C001	\$10,388
05 PONTIAC GRAND AM, AUTO, PWR, STEREO, 5M169358	\$10,961
03 CHEVY IMPALA LS, AUTO, PWR, STEREO, 6C603	\$11,981
05 PONTIAC, BONNEVILLE, AUTO, PWR, L/W, STEREO, 7C002	\$12,951
05 CHRYSLER, PT CRUISER, AUTO, PWR, L/W, STEREO, 6C610	\$13,917
06 CHEV MALBU LT, AUTO, SUNROOF, ALLOYS, 6C580	\$13,925
06 CHEV IMPALA LT, AUTO, SUNROOF, ALLOYS, 6C580	\$14,888
06 PONTIAC, GRANDPRIX, AUTO, PWR, L/W, STEREO, 6C588	\$14,951
SPORT CARS	
03 MITSUBISHI, ECLIPSE, AUTO, AC, PWR, L/W, CD, ALLOY, 7C024	\$9,971
02 CHEV CAMARO, AUTO, T-TOPS, ALLOYS, 6C585	\$11,671
06 CHEV MONTE CARLO, AC, PWR, L/W, CD, ALLOYS, 7C021	\$14,821
04 FORD MUSTANG, AUTO, PWR, CD, ALLOY, 6C542	\$15,843
04 NISSAN 350Z, 6 SPD, BOSE, CD, ALLOYS, 6C594	\$22,821
06 FORD MUSTANG CONV., AUTO, AC, PWR, CD, ALLOY, 6C568	\$24,951
05 INFINITY G35 CPE, AUTO, LTHR, SUNRF, ALLOYS, 5M427489	\$27,951

IMPORTS	
02 NISSAN SENTRA SER, AUTO, PWR, L/W, LOW MILES, 2L26561	\$8,921
04 MADZA 31, AC, PWR PKG, STEREO, 41142253	\$11,942
01 NISSAN MAXIMA GLE, LEATHER, SUNROOF, ALLOY, 1T842903	\$12,341
04 MITSUBISHI GALANT ES, AUTO, PWR, LOW MILES, 6C600	\$12,854
01 HONDA ACCORD EX, AUTO, SUNROOF, LEATHER, 1A028349	\$12,931
05 TOYOTA CAMRY, AUTO, PWR, STEREO, 6C542	\$15,981
03 VW JETTA GLS, AUTO, PWR PKG, LOW MILES, 6C623	\$13,941
05 MAZDA 6I, AUTO, PWR PKG, LOW MILES, 6C543	\$14,888
05 MAZDA 6, AUTO, PWR PKG, LOW MILES, 7C003	\$14,888
04 HONDA ACCORD LX, AUTO, PWR, LOW MILES, 6C456	\$14,981
05 TOYOTA CAMRY, AUTO, PWR PKG STEREO, 6c542	\$15,981
05 SICON TC, PRW, L/W, CD, ALLOYS, 6C593	\$15,982
05 TOYOTA CAMRY SE, AUTO, PWR, L/W, LOW MILES, 7C004	\$17,953
06 BMW 330I, ALL OPT, ONLY 15K MILES, 6KR74161	\$36,888
SPORT UTILITIES	
04 SATURN VUE, AUTO, AC, PWR, ALLOYS, 6C615	\$14,621
04 JEEP GRAND CHEROK, AUTO, AC, PWR, ALLOYS, 6C621	\$14,651
05 KIA SORENTO LX, AUTO, P WR, CD, ALLOYS, 6C590	\$15,395
05 MITSUBISHI ENDEAVOR LS, AUTO, PWR, ALLOY, 6C586	\$16,351
07 CHEVY EQUINOX, AUTO, PWR, ALLOYS, 6C617	\$19,993
CORVETTES	
03 CHEVY CORVETTE, 6 SPD, HUD, CD BOSE, 7C022	\$34,821

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