

Gary's Cleaning Services

Submitted by Gary Smock, Owner



Q: What is your name and what is your business name?

My name is Gary Smock and my business is Gary's Cleaning Services.

Q: What is your line of business?

For over 55 years, Gary's Cleaning Services has provided window washing, solar panel, skylight, and gutter cleaning services to the San Carlos community; in addition to interior house cleaning.

Q: When did you start your business? What motivated you to start it?

It all started in 1967. I was managing apartments at 530 Chestnut Street in San Carlos. A friend of one of the tenants started cleaning commercial buildings. I did that for five years and then I moved into residential cleaning. I was tired of sleeping all day just to clean or work at night. I wanted to enjoy my life. With commercial cleaning, you need to work at night and on the weekends. It just wasn't for me.

Q: What's your background in a nutshell? Tell us about yourself.

I was born in San Jose and we moved to San Carlos when I was eighteen months old. I lived on Carmelita and went to Arundel Elementary, Terra Linda and then Carlmont High School. I worked for the San Carlos post office out of high school as a mailman, managed apartments for five years after that and then started my business. I love San Carlos and everything it has to offer. I love the weather, the restaurants, Laurel Street and especially the community.



*Congratulations to Mario Mora!
Gary's most tenured employee - for his 33 years of service*

Q: What makes you unique and sets you apart from your competitors?

I would say maintaining the same staff is what sets us apart from our competitors. Mario has been your longest employee for over 33 years. Alex, Monica and Rosa for 23 years. I have found that clients are more comfortable using us because the same person comes to service their home every time. Trusting the person that is in your home is so important and it's hard to build that trust when you have different workers all the time.

Q: What's your favorite part of being a business owner?

I enjoy meeting new people, especially when I do estimates. I also love knowing that we are able to make someone's day when they come home to a clean house.

Q: Do you have any business plans for the future you would like to share with the community?

I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing. There are no signs of us slowing down. As they say, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Q: What do you like to do when you aren't working?

I read two newspapers every day and love to watch Bay Area sports, especially the 49ers. On Wednesdays, my high school friends and I go out for Chinese food.

