



Discover Haverford Welcomes Foster Mechanical

In the world of plumbing, it's not just about fixing leaks and installing pipes—it's about making connections, solving problems, and loving what you do. For Eric Foster, a registered master plumber with 20 years of experience, the decision to start his own plumbing business was driven by a desire for independence and the opportunity to combine his passion for plumbing with his love of helping people. Now, as the owner of Foster Mechanical, he is providing plumbing solutions to residents in Havertown and the surrounding areas.



Foster Mechanical opened in the spring of 2024, but Foster isn't new to the plumbing game. "I've worked for a lot of the big companies in the area for many years but I was really ready to go out on my own. I've actually been doing this work since I was a kid. When I was in grade school, I worked with a friend's dad who was a plumber and I really loved it. He taught me the value of hard work and how to work with my hands. Plumbing is my heart and soul."

Foster grew up in Upper Darby and the Clifton Heights area and has lived in Havertown for five years. He attended Monsignor Bonner High School and went through their vo-tech program. He notes, "When I was in high school, if you asked to go to vo-tech, they'd try to talk you out of it. I told them

'I know what I want to do, I want to be a plumber,' and I just kept pushing through, got into vo-tech, then I went to Stevens, tested, got in there."

Foster attended Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster where training was rigorous. "The school follows strict guidelines, rules and structure; they molded me into a really good mechanic," Foster says. "They give you a lot of hands-on work, so our senior year we built a whole house from scratch because we're a whole college of trades. It was donated to

Habitat for Humanity and that was our senior project to graduate, so you kind of got to see how everything worked.”

Foster’s wife Kathy was a big part of his motivation to go out on his own. “What helped me was the stability of having my wife here. It’s too hard to do it all on my own. Knowing that I have her to help me made me really get the push.” Kathy, a teacher at Bensalem High School, helps with marketing and social media. “I give him moral support, too,” she shares, “Eric likes to talk about things as he makes decisions. He’s also really good at explaining things to people who don’t understand plumbing, so I’ll post things on Facebook and Nextdoor, especially if someone is having a specific problem. We’re trying to put out helpful hints—sometimes they can do it themselves—and save them some money.” Foster laughs, “If I can guide someone along the way with a \$12 part that’s not going to blow their house up, sure!”

What’s unique about Foster Mechanical? “What’s unique about me and my business is that I’m familiar with these old homes,” Foster says. “I don’t like to toot my own horn but these old homes have old pipes and old boilers and I really love the way that they were designed. So I really nerd out about how there’s plaster and stone, there’s different kinds of stuff in these walls. The sewer pipes were sometimes actually built into the stone walls so I got good at taking that stuff out and putting it back in. It’s an art. I’ve figured out ways to transfer modern piping and adapt to the old stuff that’s there and make it less invasive. I don’t get scared away from working on a lead drain line or fixing a cast iron line. I even bought all the old tools that they don’t really use any more to take care of certain lead drain lines. I’ve done a lot of renovations. Those are my strong points, but we’re a full blown heating and air conditioning and plumbing outfit. We do drain cleanings and sewer lines—we do it all.”



Why start a business in Havertown? “I have family here from long, long ago,” Foster says. “We actually have plots at St. Denis, so I feel like it was just meant to be. My grandmother had the plots and gave them to me and my mom, and my mom’s like, well you want to be in Havertown so much, here you go, be with the rest of the family! So that’s why I say I always wanted to be in Havertown. I like Havertown because the little storefronts remind me of a little old town. We really like the schools. I grew up in an area that was a tight-knit town and that’s how Havertown feels to me. It’s just a nice neighborhood, people are very warm. I work around here, I see friendly faces, people wanting to help other people out.”

Foster is a Philadelphia suburban member of the PHCC, the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association, and he likes to help out at Williamson College of the Trades in Media.

“I try to give my time to that school because the kids are more or less from this area, so I help out on the weekends putting projects together, getting things set up for the kids to do demonstrations.”

What does the future hold for Foster Mechanical? Foster says, “I don’t want to grow too big. I want to keep this a family-owned business and I don’t want to ever sell my hard work. So I probably will take on a couple of people as I grow but I want to keep it within reason because I think if you grow too big, the quality’s just not there anymore. I want to keep the costs down. If I get too big, you’re just not going to get the love. And I like to be on site when I work, so if I do grow, I want to be able to pop in and check out the handful of projects that I am working on to give it that family love.”

Foster’s mission to serve the community with a personal touch and his passion for plumbing make Foster Mechanical a most welcome addition to Haverford Township!

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