

Gasohol

No rush at pumps for corn-fed fuel

By CRAIG PIECHURA

Gasohol has arrived in Southfield with a whimper.

The company-owned Total station at the northeast corner of 12 Mile and Southfield Road introduced the 90 percent unleaded/10 percent ethanol mixture one week ago today.

Crowds haven't exactly beat a path to the pumps. The reason for the lack of enthusiasm could be gasohol's high price. Tuesday at the station, gasohol was selling for 130.8 cents per gallon, compared to a price of 124.8 cents for unleaded and 119.8 cents for regular.

At that price it costs \$26.16 to fill an empty 20-gallon tank — with uncertain hopes of receiving better mileage.

Just one mile up Southfield Road, cars were stacked up at a Boron gas station/car wash where gas prices were 109.9 cents for regular, 113.9 cents for unleaded and 111.9 cents for diesel.

Tim Sawyer, station manager, said they've sold more gasohol — "I'd say an average of 50 gallons a day" — than they did with premium unleaded.

Sawyer said that on Sunday the station sold about 200 gallons of gasohol compared to 3,000 gallons of unleaded gas.

In a half hour's time Monday afternoon, three people out of about 20 asked for gasohol. For every one of them, it was their car's first taste of corn liquor. They were curious about the concoction and figured they'd

pay more to give it a try. The first gasohol customer questioned was unhappy with his mid-sized Ford and figured a boost in octane might soothe the surly beast.

"THE CAR runs lousy anyway," said Burt Schwartz of Birmingham. "If it was running good, I don't think I'd try it. But I figure maybe with gasohol it'll perform better. We'll see if it's a better idea than Ford had."

Schwartz is an auto mechanics teacher in the Northville school district.

Jack Curtis of Troy spends \$40-\$45 a week on gas in his sales job. He said he'd try gasohol to see if the higher mileage claims, disputed by some, are accurate.

"Besides, once it starts selling, maybe it'll be cheaper," Curtis said.

"This is the first time I've seen it advertised and the first time I've stopped. Mrs. Margaret Malloy of Detroit had a yapping poodle in her lap and misunderstood the roving reporter's question. Asked if she was buying gasohol, Mrs. Malloy first thought the reporter was a lazy attendant and then thought he was a salesman trying to drum up sales for gasohol.

"Maybe I'll try it," she said. "We've got to have something to fill in with gas, I guess. I might as well try it, see what it does."

Customers received a questionnaire on the gasohol which comes from the Iowa Corn Promotion Board asking them to respond to questions about whether the mixture improved mileage or reduced engine knock.

A Total spokesman said the fuel is dispensed through equipment that used to pump premium unleaded gas. Total has been marketing gasohol for months at stations in north and central Michigan. The company introduced gasohol to 22 Total and Best stations in the Detroit area last week.

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Colleges list top students

Following is a list of students from Farmington and Farmington Hills who have been placed on the dean's list or honor roll at a college or university for the fall term.

UM-DEARBORN

DEAN'S LIST — Parviz C. Ahmadi of Farmington; Frank J. Jacobson, Diana L. Leeper, Russell L. Loomis, Sharon L. Powell, James P. Thomas, all of Farmington Hills.

ALBION COLLEGE

DEAN'S LIST — Michael Stoffes of Farmington Hills.

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

DEAN'S LIST — Shabbie Turabali Potia of Farmington Hills.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

DEAN'S LIST — Kristin L. Hauser and Catherine S. Shaefer, both of Farmington; James F. Cutler, Erica Hambou, John M. Cotter, Charles J. Paulson, Jane E. Scharfberg, Eric I. Shugerman and Mary B. Tompkins, all of Farmington Hills.

OCC election set for June 9

The regular election for community college trustees for Oakland Community College will be held Monday, June 9.

The present terms of David W. Hackett, Gordon C. Henderson and Barbara J. Willing will expire June 30. Three members will be elected to six-year terms.

Nominating petitions containing the signatures of not less than 50 or more than 200 registered and qualified voters of the community college district

must be filed with Board Secretary Helen S. Kaiser at the George A. Bee Administrative Center, 2480 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills, on or before 4 p.m. April 22.

Nominating petitions are available at the above office. Nominations for the terms must be registered voters of the community college district, which includes all of Oakland County and small parts of Washtenaw, Livingston and Lapeer counties.

Lady of Mercy to present 'Birdie'

"Bye Bye Birdie" will be the spring musical at Farmington Our Lady of Mercy High School March 21-23 in the school's auditorium.

The musical resembles the story of Elvis Presley with a few minor changes. The story revolves around the character of Conrad Birdie, who is played by Greg Swam, a Farmington Hills resident and a senior at Birmingham Brother Rice. Mercy senior Lisa Hane of Farmington has the lead female role of Rosie.

Mrs. Debbie Wilson, a Mercy alumna, is directing the musical. Ron Sill is in charge of all crews and back stage work.

On Friday and Saturday (March 21-22), the show has an 8 p.m. start. The Sunday show begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets at \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 12 years of age may be purchased at the door.

Mercy is located at 29300 11 Mile Road at Middlebelt.

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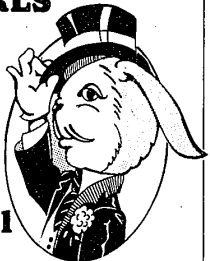
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