

Month zeroes in on energy conservation

By Lori Bell
special writer

October is a busy month for energy awareness. Not only is Oct. 20-27 National Energy Week, the entire month has been designated National Car Care Month (CCM).

The primary focus for CCM is on preventive maintenance and providing consumers with information on how to

make their cars more energy efficient. The CCM program has gained the support of state and federal government agencies, as well as consumer organizations and the auto service and parts industry.

Says Arthur Nellen, president of Car Care Council, "Participation in Car Care Month has been tremendous. In 1984, 41 governors proclaimed CCM in their states. We expect to have all 50

states this year."

Information on vehicle maintenance is being disseminated throughout the country using all media: radio, TV, magazines, etc. Newspapers are expected to produce special car care supplements as well.

"BY GETTING information to motorists," Nellen says, "we hope that neglected vehicles will receive needed maintenance."

George Glick, managing director, Automotive Engineering and Road Services, American Automobile Association National Headquarters, adds, "Close to 80 percent of our total emergency road service calls result from 'can't start' and 'low oil'."

"This causes car owners and their passengers a great deal of anguish and frustration. Yet many of these mechanical problems could be eliminated if motorists would take proper care of their cars."

In a national survey taken by Car Care Council, one out of four people said they thought their car needed a tuneup. Auto club inspection programs found that the majority of vehicles checked needed some type of maintenance.

Specifically, the Missouri Auto Club inspected 1,650 vehicles and found that four out of five cars were not operating at peak engine efficiency. The study showed that 30 percent had loose belts, 40 percent had loose or corroded battery cables, and that 80 percent had ignition system problems requiring spark plugs, timing adjustments, or plug wires.

CAR CARE Council explains that having an engine tuned is not that expensive. For about \$50-75, a consumer can have the spark plugs, rotor, fuel filter, air filter, and PCV valve replaced.

An inspection conducted by an Ohio Motorists' Association (AAA) showed that the engine and transmission are the two most neglected car components for maintenance. Repair shops have backed that finding, telling Car Care Council that the transmission is the most overlooked area of a car.

Those cars subjected to stop-and-go traffic require frequent transmission service. However, seven out of 10 car owners polled, half of which did their driving in stop-and-go traffic, said they had not replaced the transmission fluid and filter since owning the car.

Automatic transmission fluid should be checked every 1,000 miles and changed every two years along with the filter. Most shops will do this for about \$30.

THOSE WHO disregard the needs of their car may be among the tens of millions of car owners who need emergency road service every year. Towing costs can range from \$15 to \$150.

"And," Nellen said, "since car trouble rarely occurs at a convenient time or location, the car owner may be dealing with an unfamiliar repair shop."

Since most people prefer to deal with the same service people, this becomes another disadvantage of neglected car care."

In keeping with National Energy Week and Car Care Month, the Farmington Hills Energy Commission and Department of Special Services is sponsoring an Energy Fair, Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Farmington Harrison High School, 29995 12 Mile.

AS WELL as providing energy products exhibits and information on low-cost heating alternatives, the fair will make available pamphlets on car maintenance.

These pamphlets include information on how to check car filters and fluid levels, easy steps to ensure efficient engine performance, and sample pictures and diagrams showing the important check points of a car engine.

Who's the best tapster?

Just who is metro-Detroit's favorite bartender?

Bartenders in the area will soon be competing to determine who will be named the friendliest, most entertaining and most understanding bartender of all.

Participating tapsters will compete for a trip for two to Las Vegas and, at the same time, make a contribution to an important charity. The Favorite Bartender contest is sponsored by radio station WOLM and Kar Nut Products and is a benefit for the American Lung Association of Southeastern Michigan.

During the Nov. 1-30 contest, customers do the voting by putting a dol-

lar in a specially marked jar that will appear in the competing establishments.

The bartender who receives the most votes wins the Las Vegas trip, giant trophies for both the bartender and the bar, and bragging rights for the year. Last year's grand prize winner was Bunny Beyer of McFrocks followed by Galligan's and Eddie Glacomb's.

WOLM's morning host, Tom Ryan, chairman of the second annual nightspot rivalry, will be promoting the contest on his daily program and giving updates on who is ahead throughout the month. Bartenders interested in getting in on the fun should call the Lung Association at 961-1697.

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