

Mobil's pump proceeds benefit historical museum

BY SUE DUCK
STAFF WRITER
sduck@oe.com

Regular practices become traditions.

That's true of one devised by Jack Staszak, manager of the Mobil Gas Station at Grand River and Drake. For almost three years, in cooperation with the Mobil/Exxon Corporation, Staszak has allocated one cent for every gallon of gas purchased at the gas station the first Tuesday of the month to support the Farmington Historical Museum.

The museum is located in the historic Gov. Warner Mansion on Grand River, west of Farmington Road.

Likewise, Longacre Elementary School in the Farmington Public School District receives one cent for every gallon of gas purchased the remaining Tuesdays of the month.

The Mobil/Exxon Corporation is supportive of the School Alliance Program and of elementary schools nationwide. It has annually given a \$500 grant to Longacre. This comes to about \$3,000 a year. The museum nets about \$500 a year.

"When I came here, they weren't doing it," Staszak said. "We started it up again. It goes for various and sundry things."

The program is especially meaningful, since Longacre School is located in the same neighborhood as the Mobil station. "They are right behind us," Staszak said.

Regular customers have been the key to the program's popularity and continuance, it is kept alive by residents, parents and school staff.

"They ask, 'Is today the day?' when they come in," Staszak said.

Students reciprocate by sending pictures. "They appreciate it," Staszak said. "It makes it a little better for the kids."

Staszak is always looking for new customers who may not know about the arrangement. "Lack of interest may make it go away," he said.

He operated the same program in California, where he formerly lived. He came to Michigan to be near family.

Farmington Councilwoman Mary Bush, a customer who was then mayor, asked Staszak to consider adding the museum to the program.

"I noticed the sign that they were contributing to Longacre," Bush said. "I knew that Mobil stations contributed to more than one cause. All I had to do was ask. You know what they say, 'Just ask.'"

Pumped up: Jack Staszak of Mobil Gas on Grand River at Drake looks forward to the first Tuesday of each month, when a portion of gas sale proceeds support the Governor Warner Mansion and Longacre Elementary School.

Merchants need to be alert to credit card scams



Juliet McGilich

While shopping the other day, I couldn't help but notice a bit of commotion next to me. As I turned to my left, I noticed a young lady with short blonde hair nervously fumbling in her wallet.

She had just given the clerk her credit card and it was denied. As I listened to what was going on, she revealed that she was in earlier with another credit card that was denied and went home to get the "good card". Further observation revealed that she had approximately \$1,800 worth of clothing, and all were full price.

CRIME PREVENTION NEWS

When the clerk commented that she had quite a purchase, this gal stated that she doesn't like to shop and therefore, does it all at one time to get it over with. That really piqued my interest, for shopping is without a doubt one of my favorite pastimes.

This young lady gave the clerk her driver's license and a credit card. The credit card was denied. At that point, the customer asked for the card back, stating that she would read the numbers off of the card because it doesn't scan.

The clerk gave the customer back her card and the customer began reading the numbers to her as she nervously fumbled

around in her wallet. The clerk became suspicious and told the customer it would be better if she took the numbers off of the credit card herself.

By this time, I looked over and it seemed as if this young lady was reading numbers off of another piece of paper, placed in front of the credit card, not the credit card she was originally using. The customer immediately stated that she was not feeling well, didn't have time for all of this, had to be somewhere and to just forget it.

That clerk was very smart to ask for the card so that she could read it herself. After the customer left, the clerk and I discussed what had just happened.

We both believed that the customer was scamming the department store by making a switch from one credit card to another credit card number.

It was almost pretty smooth, with the customer putting the number (which was on a piece of paper) in front of the credit card to make it look like she was reading from the credit card itself.

It takes a lot of work to pick out \$1,800 worth of clothing; however, this gal was willing to let it all go. She put the onus back on the clerk to make it look like she didn't know what she was doing, and it's her fault that she lost this big sale.

Here are a few tips that mer-

chants might look for to avoid being victimized by a credit card scam:

- Customers who are in a super hurry with extremely large purchases

- Large purchases, with a rejected credit card

- Customers unwilling to give a credit card to the clerk, but willing to read the numbers

- When customer is unwilling to hand over credit card, but willing to give numbers, the clerk may want make sure that the names match on the card as well as the ID and to check with the credit card company.

There are many credit card

Please see Crime, A5

"ARRANGING A FUNERAL SHOULDN'T CAUSE YOU MORE GRIEF"

Simple Cremation - **\$625.00** complete
Simple Burial - **\$995.00**
(includes minimal casket and concrete grave liner)

Limited service funeral options at similar savings.
Let us show you how to save on a funeral

Generations
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
1-800-491-4499 A unique approach to funeral service

Seasonings & greetings
Busch's
Your Food Store
FARMINGTON HILLS • LIVONIA • PLYMOUTH (NORTHDALE)

Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 476-7860

LEG SWELLING
If you develop leg swelling, your initial concern may be that you have heart failure, or possibly, your kidneys or liver are losing their ability to function properly. These reasons for leg swelling are not as common as the condition called venous insufficiency.

What occurs in venous insufficiency is that the valves of the veins that carry blood from your feet and calves to your heart, lose their capacity to close tightly. What results is that blood, obeying the law of gravity, moves downward in the legs and strikes rather than flowing upward to the heart.

What you see are legs that enlarge from below the knee. You can tell that the cause is not from a blood clot, because the swelling is painless and usually equal in the right and left leg.

Elderly people with arthritis are prone to swollen legs. Aging causes the valves in the veins to lose their tight fit and arthritis tends to make walking difficult and sitting uncomfortable. The legs being in a dependent position for a prolonged time amplify the effect of gravity. Furthermore, not walking means the calf muscles aren't contracting, those contractions act like pumps to push blood to the heart.

Without the assist, the blood has a hard time sustaining an upward flow to the heart.

This is why a long airplane flight can cause leg swelling. You are sitting too long with your legs too dependent.

The best treatment for most cases of venous insufficiency is support hose and walking. To use support hose effectively, you need to put them on before getting out of bed. When walking, you don't have to move hard or fast, just do it frequently.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

"Your Gift Department Store with Hallmark Cards"

QUARTERBACK SALE!
Monday, December 31st
9AM to 6 PM

You Get A Quarter Back
FOR EVERY DOLLAR
YOU SPEND
Or simply said

**EVERYTHING ON DISPLAY
IN THE STORE
25% OFF**

Christmas Merchandise Still 40% Off

Don Tom Shoppes

Brighton
Brighton Mall
Grand River
@ 1-96

Farmington
Grand River
@ Farmington Rd.

Livonia
Newburgh Plaza
6 Mile Road
@ Newburgh

Milford
Prospect Hill
Shopping
Center Kroger

Attend A.G. Edwards' Financial Consultant Career Night

The freedom to build your own business.

You've worked hard to build a winning career, but are you really fulfilled? Are you reaching your financial goals? If you are a self-driven, goal-focused entrepreneur with at least three years' business experience who wants to move your career to the next level, then a financial consultant position with A.G. Edwards may be the answer.

Our superior work environment has been recognized nationally. For the fourth time, *Fortune* magazine (January 2001) chose A.G. Edwards as one of "The 100 Best Companies to Work for in America."

You'll learn about a career as a financial consultant, including our:

- Training program
- Operational support
- Professional development

A.G. Edwards
INDIVIDUAL INVESTMENT SERVICES

ATTEND
Thursday January 17th
7:00pm

The Farmington Hills Office Center II
22260 Haggerty Road
On Haggerty between 6 Mile Rd. & 9 Mile Rd.

Please call (888) 211-0210 for reservations. Seating is limited. Booking Financial Consultants and Training Consultants welcome.

Julie's BRIDAL IMPORTS
of Plymouth

Timeless Elegance and Beauty.

Featuring the Designs of:
Berni Aera • Lazaro • St. Pochi • Paloma Blanca • Eve of Midway • Christos • Demetrios • Paula Varsalona • Jasmine • Montique Lullibier • Diamond Collection • Jim Iffelm • Watters & Watters and many more

Michigan's Largest Selection From Which To Choose!

Redeem this ad for a FREE veil with your bridal gown purchase (previous orders excluded)

570 South Main Street • Plymouth • (734) 455-1100

Medicare Supplement Insurance... The State Farm Way!

- flexible • affordable • backed by good neighbor service

Call State Farm Agent:
Dwight E V Jones
29521 W. 9 Mile • Farmington Hills, MI
248-476-0030
dwight.jones.bo5w@statefarm.com

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

statefarm.com
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
Home Office: Bloomington, Illinois
Call for details on coverage, costs, restrictions and renewability
Note: These policies are not connected with or endorsed by the United States Government or the Federal Medicare Program.

STATE FARM
INSURANCE

Federal Medicare Program.
P95414 12/00