

Flirting with danger

Unleaded fuel ignored by many

As many as 10 per cent of motorists operating cars designed to use unleaded fuel are reportedly filling their tanks with regular, leaded gasoline.

A survey by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency disclosed the high rate of flagrant, despite the potential danger to engine performance.

Service stations can be fined up to \$10,000 for pumping regular fuel into unleaded cars or tampering with auto emission systems.

Most violations occur at self-service gas stations and are prompted by the less expensive price of leaded fuel, which represents a savings of four to eight cents per gallon compared to the cost of unleaded gas.

In Canton Township, self-service stations are banned for safety considerations.

Beginning with the 1975 model year, automobiles came equipped with catalytic converters, which were designed to reduce the amount of pollutants emitted into the air. These cars require the use of unleaded fuel.

THE CIRCUMFERENCE of the gas tank funnels of unleaded cars were diametrically reduced to prohibit motorists from using cheaper regular fuel. Unless adjustments are made, gas pump nozzles for regular fuel cannot be fed into the tanks of cars designed for unleaded use.

But car owners are finding ways to break the law and save a few extra dollars.

Rick Evenson, of Evenson Shell in Plymouth, says he has noticed several customers "using funnels or other contraptions" to pump regular gas into unleaded cars.

"We tell them it is illegal and to shut off the pump. We're not required to police violators, but sometimes it's rather obvious. In some cases, people fill down their tanks so a regular nozzle will fit."

It is questionable, however, if the savings realized by using regular gasoline exceeds the potential damage leaded fuel can cause to an unleaded car.

A Chrysler Corp. spokesman for engineering public relations said the use of regular fuel in an unleaded car will void the five-year warranty on the emission system, shorten the life of sparkplugs and cause the engine to pollute the air.

Said Evenson: "With leaded gasoline, I don't think the customer is saving that much. At Shell, the unleaded fuel is higher in octane than the regular. This means the prolonged use of regular gas in an unleaded car will result in poorer engine performance."

"In the end, the customer will be paying more in repairs."

ALL NEW CAR models, however, do not require unleaded fuel. Any vehicle exceeding 6,050 pounds in weight will run on any type gasoline. The same is true of cars with four-wheel drive.

"People sort of shrug their shoulders when they see a new car needs

unleaded fuel," said L. John Miller, car salesman at Lou LaRiche Chevrolet in Plymouth Township.

"I think that's one reason for the sales spurt in the area of pick-ups and four-wheel drives—the customer can still use regular gas."

SC's late registration set Feb. 6

Late registration for Schoolcraft College continuing education and community services classes will be held Feb. 6.

Students may register late or make course adjustments from 2:30-7:30 p.m. in the Waterman Campus Center. A late fee of \$1 is charged to new residents. NSO FEE IS CHARGED FOR COURSE ADJUSTMENT.

Resident tuition is \$15.50 per institutional credit. Non-residents pay \$26. Tuition and fees may be paid by

cash or check, and both Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

The blue and white tabloid schedule listing nearly 170 courses was mailed to area residents and scheduled to reach all homes in the district the first week of January.

Residents who did not receive a schedule or want additional information should call the college at 591-6100, ext. 404. Registration information is available at ext. 397. Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

Scouts launch funding drive

The 1978 funding drive for the community prospects in the Farmington, Farmington Hills area will commence with the chairman's kickoff dinner at Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills, on Monday, January 30 at 6 p.m.

The community effort is geared to

raise \$10,000 in the Farmington, West Bloomfield, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Milford, Commerce, Orchard Lake and Union Lake areas.

John P. Ivory, Jr., of the John F. Ivory moving firms is the volunteer chairman of the 1978 drive.

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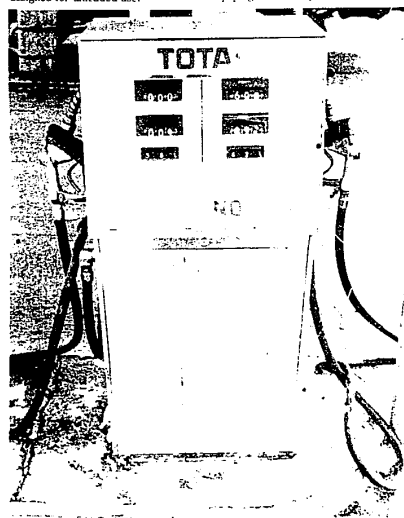
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People using regular instead of unleaded may not be saving money in the long run.

School district begins search for next year's kindergartners

In an attempt to plan for next year's enrollment, Farmington School District officials are searching for next year's kindergarten class via parent contacts.

Officials are asking parents of children who will be five years of age

before next Dec. 1 to notify local elementary school officials that their child will be attending school in the fall.

If a parent is unaware what elementary school the child would be attending, call for information at the administration offices.

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