

Convenience goes gourmet at Daisy Hill

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Convenience just got yummiier.

The new Daisy Hill Market on E. Susquehanna Street in Salisbury Township aims to make stopping for fuel and food a gourmet experience. What other gas station has a full-time chef?

Since opening July 1 on a busy corner between Allentown and Bethlehem, the place has become a favorite among commuters. Mornings are the busiest times, says owner Dimitri Bozikis. "We are making breakfast sandwiches from scratch on the grill. Everyone comes back for another because they say it's good."

Last year, Bozikis, 36, was an associate professor at Lehigh University, and before that, he was in Manhattan developing products in the food industry, notably nutrient-enhanced baked goods.

His research confirmed that people want value and quality, often lacking in the convenience end of the market. "If you want that and are in a hurry, good luck," he says. His goal: restaurant-quality food for health-conscious people going to and from work.

His father-in-law, Emmanuel "Manny" Sossiadiis of Bethlehem, found, bought and developed the site for Daisy Hill and is in charge of its gas pumps.

The coffee is a proprietary Daisy Hill Market mix of 100% arabica beans roasted in New Jersey, chosen after a year-long search for a smooth, strong, non-bitter brew. A recent lineup included dark roast, regular, decaf, French vanilla and hazelnut.

Big surprise: prices are about the same as other grab-and-go marts: 99 cents for a cup of coffee, and between \$4 and \$5 for a full platter or large sandwich. Gas prices are in line, too.

Like other convenience stores, Daisy Hill has cigarettes, newspapers, milk and the odd necessity. But packaged munchies also include Carr's crackers, Suzie's flatbreads, Terra Vegetable Chips, mini pecan pies, and Pirate's Booty, to name a very few.

The beverage section is interesting: Over 300 to choose from, "I'm selling out of San Pellegrino because of construction guys wanting carbonated water," says