

# Farmington Observer

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## Tanker truck issue heats up in Lansing

Legislation giving the state fire marshal emergency powers to deal with tanker trucks carrying hazardous material is expected to be considered by the house of representatives in January.

Legislation granting these powers was reported out of the roads and bridges committee the day before the Christmas recess, so the bill did not get full house consideration.

The bill gives the fire marshal the power to either completely ban or restrict the travel of tanker trucks when conditions deem them a serious threat to human safety.

"Every Michigan resident knows that our roads occasionally become hazardous during the winter months and during these times the fire marshal could, for example, further

restrict the speed of the tankers, prohibit their operation during certain hours or ban them completely for the duration of the hazardous conditions," according to State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Southfield, Farmington).

The bill does not give the fire marshal the power to ban the tankers from highways or during peak rush hour traffic unless a hazardous condition exists.

THE NEW BILL is a substitute of one introduced earlier in the fall which sought to ban the tankers from the highways during peak traffic hours. This bill is the first dealing with the tanker problem to come out of the roads and bridges committee.

Brotherton said state residents should also be made aware that injured victims of crimes for the

time can be reimbursed for out-of-pocket losses from the injury. Victims can receive payment for medical care, non-medical, remedial treatment or other necessary services, and for loss of earnings or support as a result of injuries sustained during the crime.

The Crime Victims Compensation Board offers financial assistance to victims of crimes and suffer bodily harm as a result.

In order to be eligible, the crime must be reported to the proper authorities within 48 hours and must have occurred after Oct. 1, 1977. A claim must be filed in person or by mail with the board within 30 days after the crime or 90 days after the death of the victim. The board may extend the deadline for good cause.

Each claim is assigned to a board member for examination, investigation, a hearing if necessary and a decision with reasons which is forwarded to the claimant. The district attorney for the county where the crime occurred may request that the claim filed be delayed until the conclusion of criminal prosecution.

The maximum emergency aid is \$50, but as much as \$100 a week can be awarded up to a maximum of \$15,000 for loss of earnings or support.

Claim forms are available at prosecuting attorneys offices and police stations throughout the state. The claims should be filed with the Crime Victims Compensation Board, Box 20026, Lansing 48909.



Legislators are attempting to put an end to scenes such as this one on Coolidge near Ten Mile. Bills to ban double-bottom tankers are receiving an increasing amount of popular support. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

## FHS reading program gathers mixed reactions

Farmington High School's attempt to encourage students to do extra reading is receiving mixed reviews from students, teachers and school board members.

But Principal Jerry Potter is confident that he can convince the less enthusiastic the reading program is a boon to students and teachers. Although 76 per cent of the students and 67 per cent of teachers agreed in a school survey that the reading program should continue next semester,

there are some areas of discontent, according to Potter.

About 46 per cent of the sophomores said the room in which the reading period was scheduled wasn't conducive to concentration.

"At the beginning of the year, we asked them if they minded sitting on the floor of the gym," Potter explained to school trustees.

"They said they wouldn't mind. But we think this might be part of the problem.

Another reason the program, which encourages students to choose their own books, received mixed reactions was the diversity of teacher attitude toward it, according to Potter.

TRUSTEE Anne Struble disapproved of the program. "I'm not against reading," she explained. "I come to this with a very closed mind. I discussed it with my kids. I refuse to let them sign up for study hall because they don't use it correctly."

"I visited Farmington High School and I was not impressed with the success of the program in particular in the class where I was sitting," she said. To ask students to forget a discussion and crack open a book on schedule with interest is an artificial request, according to Mrs. Struble.

There are some students who view reading as a "low form of entertainment," according to Mrs. Struble.

For such students a mandate to enjoy reading might contribute to their alienation and tendency to drop out of school, she said. Some students believe that they can read well enough to fill their needs. There is a group of students that will quit their academic life after high school and who read only for information, she added.

Some students were convinced by the survey that there is a need for the program. "I also wasn't wildly enthusiastic about it. But I look at the survey and I'm frankly impressed," said Trustee Michael Shippee.

"I THINK THAT it's something to be proud of anytime an academic program can help half of the kids," he said.

STUDENTS ARE given a half hour in which to read in a book or magazine which interests them. Teachers are encouraged to read, also.

Some teachers are more enthusiastic about the hour than others, according to the survey. While 23 per cent of the students indicated that they would prefer to see the program discontinued, 32 per cent of the teachers voted against the project.

"Some teachers are opposed to the program. We're trying to get that attitude to change by sitting in class. But if they can't change their attitude, then we would give the teachers a conference hour," Potter said.

"Some teachers at 9 a.m. don't want to read. Some faculty feel free to go into the hour," he said.

While some teachers give lip service to the program, others try to make the hour as comfortable as possible. At least two teachers in the school have coffee and tea available to the students to help them enjoy the time.

A Farmington High School senior added that her teacher doesn't dis-

consumption of oil, while at the same time increasing domestic production of oil."

The thrust of the Carter energy package is on conservation and development of domestic oil production. Blanchard, who attributed much of the delay on energy legislation to the Senate's being "distastefully delinquent," said, "A conservation policy is needed. It's a good first step, but by itself goes only part way."

BLANCHARD indicated that, in 1978, he expected the direction of energy policy, apart from the revamped Carter bill, to focus on development of new sources of energy, which the legislation only touches on.

According to Blanchard, there has been a redirection of research and development effort over the last few years. He said that federal efforts in-

(Continued on page 2A)

## Energy bill due, legislators say

By W. MICHAEL MILLER

Congressmen William Brotherton (D-Ill.) and James Blanchard (D-Ill.) agree—President Carter's energy legislation will be passed and signed by the end of January, 1978.

The two congressmen both agree that it was "unrealistic to assume that the energy bill could be passed in one year," as Brotherton said in a telephone interview last week.

But it was more Blanchard also interviewed by phone, who attributed the long-time-incoming finale to the Carter campaign promise of a bona-fide energy policy to "great friction between the House of Representatives, the President and the Senate."

Brotherton admitted that "to some extent, difficult issues were involved. There's no question," he said, "that we're consuming more oil in this country. We should be trying to decrease



Farmington Hills Fire Department officials blamed careless smoking for the blaze which gutted the rear bedroom of the house at 33480 Botswick. (Photo by Cynthia Abbat).

## Catch a class to avoid winter blues

A multitude of classes designed to keep Farmington-area residents out of the winter doldrums will be offered by the community education department of Farmington Public Schools this winter.

Proposed day classes have limited enrollment, and students are asked to register early to avoid disappointment. Registration can be handled by mail or from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. after Jan. 3 at the Ten Mile Community School, 32789 Ten Mile east of Farmington Road.

Fees are payable at the time of registration, and mail registrants are asked to attend the first class. Refunds will be granted when classes are cancelled, but all other requests for refunds must be made to the Community Education Office before the second class meeting. A \$2 registration fee will be deducted in the case of withdrawal.

A "seasoned citizen card," available to senior citizens age 60 and over who are school district residents, enables

the senior citizen to enjoy free classes or reduced fees.

Babysitting for children 2-5 years of age is available to parents enrolled in enrichment classes at a charge of \$10 per 16-week class. Babysitting fees also are payable at the time of registration. Refunds will not be made unless classes are cancelled.

All classes begin the week of Jan. 9 and will be conducted at the Ten Mile School, unless otherwise indicated.

SPECIAL CLASSES include:

\*A Happy Self—10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, for five weeks; \$10 fee. A happy self means more effective relationships with those around you. Learn to use transactional analysis and assertiveness training to feel good about yourself and others.

\*Beginning Bridge—1-3 p.m. Wednesdays, for 10 weeks; \$15 fee. The course based on Goren covers hand counting, evaluation, bidding, and playing of hands. Bring a deck of cards.

\*Intermediate and Supervised Bridge—9 a.m. Mondays, for 10 weeks; \$15 fee. This class is for those beyond the beginning level. Some instruction will be given, as well as practical experience with pre-set hands.

\*Basic reading skills for adults—Designed to help the adult who feels weak in his reading skills; the times for this class will be arranged. Phone 474-5233.

\*English classes for the foreign born—9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 7-10 p.m. weekdays. No classes are scheduled for Fridays. Register at Ten Mile School.

\*High school completion classes for adults—Day and evening classes are available at no charge. The second

(Continued on page 6A)

## Trash schedule alters

The holidays have altered rubbish pickup for some Farmington area residents, while others can put out their trash on schedule.

City of Farmington residents can follow the normal pickup schedule's next week, despite the New Year's holiday.

Farmington Hills residents, however, are asked to put out their trash one day later next

week. Those residents who normally put out their trash for Monday pickup are asked to put it out Tuesday, and likewise through the week.

There was some mixup this week, as residents assumed the schedule would be one day late, but the Farmington Hills Department of Public Works crew was not informed by the contractor that the pickup schedule would be altered.

## inside

## FROM THE LETTER BOX

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