

SEMCOG ready to help employers with 'vanpooling'

Major employers are taking an interest in setting up gasoline-saving vanpools for their workers.

Personnel directors from 16 companies or institutions have buzzed the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments at 561-4266 since the program was announced May 17. SEMCOG says it's "sitting here with free assistance for employers."

Steve Woody, a staff member for the regional planning agency, said he has had inquiries from such diverse firms as D'Arcy-MacManus & Masius, Inc., the advertising firm in Bloomfield Hills; Parke-Davis, the pharmaceutical firm in Detroit; Ann Arbor Hospital, Wayne; the Michigan Credit Union League and Sinal Hospital, both in Southfield; Federal Mogul and Bechtel Power, both in Ann Arbor; Volkswagen of America, Warren; and Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit.

"THE SOUTHEAST Michigan region has been fortunate so far with a seemingly adequate supply of gasoline," said James P. Grannan, chairman of SEMCOG's vanpooling task force (SEMVAN).

"But we've all seen what's happening in California and other states, and we don't want the same consumer frustration occurring here."

"We urge employers to investigate the possibility of vanpools for their people."

The task force was appointed last November by SEMCOG Chairman David H. Shepherd, mayor of Oak Park. It attempts to attack multiple problems: energy consumption, traffic congestion, air pollution and parking.

It has the blessing of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority, which has been unable to buy buses fast enough to meet the demand for more public transportation.

"WE ARE PROPOSING that large employers in the region — those with 500 or more employees — lease or purchase vans from private industry for use by their own employees," said Grannan.

"Employers with overcrowded parking lots may be interested to know that it costs \$500 to \$700 today to construct one parking space, plus the cost of the land. And if you need deck parking, the cost is \$3,500 to \$4,000 per space, plus land."

"If just one van operates a daily 50-mile round trip, it saves 5,000 gallons

of gas per year, takes eight cars off the road and out of parking lots, and prevents four tons of pollutants from entering the air.

"Vanpoolers themselves can reap significant benefits," Grannan added. "The average commuter fare in a vanpool program is \$45 a month, based on a 50-mile round trip."

He praised Blue Cross-Blue Shield and the Automobile Club of Michigan for setting up SEMCOG-assisted vanpools for employees. "The Auto Club, headquartered in Dearborn, is a newcomer to the vanpooling program and will soon have three vans operating at a savings of some 15,000 gallons of gas."

WHAT KIND of help will SEMCOG offer?

It has information on:

- How to promote a vanpooling program.

- How to match interested employees into vanpool groups.

- How to organize the vanpool as far as drivers' routes, fares, insurance, trial runs, cash flow and bookkeeping.

For example, SEMCOG can show firms how to use grid maps to match persons in vanpool groups and provide samples of promotional material.

Among members of the vanpool task force were Brent O. Bair, transportation planning coordinator for the Oakland County Road Commission, and State Rep. Robert Law, R-Livonia.

LAW IS AUTHOR of a series of house bills to help form vanpools.

The bills would provide a gasoline and sales tax exemption and a state income tax and single business tax credit as incentives to employees and employers.

If they are passed, vanpoolers would be entitled to a refund on the tax they pay on gasoline to operate the van. Employers would receive an income tax credit to offset their ride sharing costs and contributions.

A single business tax credit would be allowed for the net costs paid or accrued for organizing, promoting and administering a vanpool program. And vanpool vehicles with a seating capacity of 15 would qualify for a sales tax exemption.

Vanpool programs would be exempt from the no-fault insurance law, as are school buses, public transportation services and taxis.



Very berry good

It's harvest time for fields and fields of sweet Michigan strawberries. For the firm of spirit, there's no better time to get some sun,

save some money and pick your own at farms all over Michigan. (Staff photo by Gary Caskey)

REMEMBER

Dad & Grad

with JEWELRY

from **CONNOLLY'S** and **SAVE 1/3**

SAVE 1/3 ON DIAMONDS

for Him or Her

Save 33% on the largest collection of fine Diamond

Gent's Rings, Pendants, Diamond Stud Earrings, Stick Pins, Diamond Bracelets and Dinner Rings in this area.

Diamond Stud Earrings

Priced from \$59.95

SAVE 25% ON POCKET WATCHES

We have one of the largest and finest collections of Pocket Watches in the Detroit area.

Priced from \$50.00 to \$500.00

FATHER'S DAY JUNE 17TH

SAVE 1/3 ON 14KT. GOLD JEWELRY

Priced from \$12.00 to \$1,200.00

See our huge selection of 14KT. & 18KT. Italian Gold Chains, available in 15" to 36" lengths. Plus 100's of 14KT. Gold Earrings, Stick Pins, Bracelets, Pendants, Charms and Charmholders and jewelry, many with diamonds and genuine stones.

See on display one of the largest selections of fine SEIKO Timepieces in the Detroit area

SEIKO

Seiko's new Quartz

Solar Alarm Chronograph

that can run up to **10 years** on a single battery.

This latest example of Seiko Quartz technology operates up to 10 years without a battery change. You can set the alarm to sound automatically at the same time every day and there's an hourly signal, too. Plus a precision stopwatch that measures to 1/10th of a second.

A few examples of our huge collection

Priced from \$59.95 to \$400.00 and SAVE at CONNOLLY'S

FREE GIFT WRAPPING

SAVE 30% ON CROSS

12KT. Gold Filled Pen \$10.50 Reg. \$15.00

Set \$21.00 Reg. \$30.00

Chrome Pen \$5.25 Reg. \$7.50

Set \$10.50 Reg. \$15.00

The Perfect Father's Day or Graduation Gift. A Cross Pen and Pencil Set \$12.00 Reg. \$15.00

SAVE 40% ON STONE RINGS

14KT. Gold setting

Priced from \$24.00 to \$210.00

Reg. \$39.95 to \$350.00

Save 40% on our entire inventory of Genuine Stone Rings for Him and for Her. Many accented with Diamonds!

SAVE 40% PERSONALIZED INITIALS

14KT. GOLD

These beautiful personalized initials will look lovely with any of our huge inventory of 14KT. Gold Chains.

Medium SALE \$27.95 Reg. \$50.00

Small SALE \$14.95 Reg. \$25.00

CONNOLLY'S

JEWELERS & SILVERSMITHS since 1916

61 YEARS OF BETTER DIAMOND VALUES

414 OAKMONT STREET, DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER MEADOWS VILLAGE MALL, FISHER BUILDING, ANN ARBOR, MI 48106

120 FISHER BUILDING, ANN ARBOR, MI 48106

125 N. ZEEB, ANN ARBOR, MI 48106

125 N. ZEEB, ANN ARBOR, MI 48106

PROFESSIONAL Carpet Cleaning

SHAMPOO ANY LIVING ROOM & HALL

Regardless of Size

\$17.95

STEAM CLEANING ALSO AVAILABLE (At reduced rates)

We specialize in carpet tinting, dyeing and laying

REID

CARPET, UPHOLSTERY, DRAPERY CLEANERS

533-0665

EACH ADDITIONAL ROOM SHAMPOOED: \$10.95

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING SPECIALS:

COUCH \$30.00

LOVE SEAT \$20.00

CHAIR \$15.00

SENIORS

Are You Living Alone and NOT Liking It?

Or, Living With Your Children and Feel Like You're In The Way?

Perhaps You Should Consider...

FRANKLIN CLUB APARTMENTS

An Adult Community Located at 28301 Franklin Road, Southfield, Michigan

Among the Many Services We Offer...

- Breakfast and Dinner
- Attendants on Duty 24 hrs. Daily
- Apartment Cleaning
- All Utilities
- Linen Service
- All Chauffeur Service...
- Ongoing Activities

and, of course Companionship!

All apartments are air conditioned and have kitchenettes.

Come to our OPEN HOUSE EVERY SUNDAY from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

... And See For Yourself

Call 353-2810 for details