

# AAA program to guide them

## Couple's goal: How much gas can we save?

There's Suzuki violin lessons for Dina and Girl Scout meetings for Kathy. Music teacher Norman Zamczyk travels between five different elementary schools in Livonia each week and wife Sharron spends three days a week extolling the virtues of the Farmington Community Center.

This Farmington Hills family travels quite a bit in the course of the week just keeping up with the day-to-day necessities of shopping, doctor visits, music lessons and religious classes. But for the next couple of weeks, things will be a little different for the Zamczyks. They'll be keeping track of the number of miles they drive and then later trying to use some simple energy-saving tips to cut down on their gasoline consumption.

**GAS WATCHER** families from throughout the metropolitan area will be joining with the Zamczyks in a AAA-sponsored program to try to put some proven gas-saving techniques into use.

Norman drives a '79 Datsun station wagon which he says gets about 20 m.p.g. in his daily drive of 23 miles each day hopping from one school to another to teach instrumental music. Sharron will try to save gas in her '75 Thunderbird which gets a not-too-economical 11 m.p.g.

"We do a lot of driving and we try to use the station wagon whenever we can, but when it's time for violin lessons and the only car sitting in the drive is the T-bird, that's the one I have to use," says Sharron, the public relations director for the Community Center.

Besides driving the 10 miles to and from work three days a week, Mrs. Zamczyk or her husband takes daughter Dina, 7, to violin lessons once a week and religious school twice a week. Daughter Kathy, 12, is chaperoned to Girl Scouts once a week and makes a couple of visits a month to the allergist as well as her monthly trip to the orthodontist.

On weekends, the family occasionally visits Sharron's father in Windsor and in the summer they make a trip or two to a cottage on Lake Erie.

"We have bikes to ride, but the roads out here are pretty bad for bike riding. You have to get on the main roads to enjoy it, but then it isn't as safe for the kids," Mrs. Zamczyk noted.

"I wouldn't even mind doing a bit more walking," she added, "but out here, there's no sidewalks."

**FOR THE FIRST** week of the program, each family will drive as usual.

During the second week, gas watchers will try to adapt some energy-saving techniques into their regular routines and at the end of the week compare figures for the two weeks.

Each participating family has been asked not to go to extremes lengths to save gas, but only to alter their driving habits slightly in an effort to find ways to save gas that will continue to be effective after the program is over.

The goal of the Auto Club's gas-saving program is to "make five gallons do the work of six," and to do that the club offers several tips to their gas watcher families and to all drivers who would like to save gasoline.

Some obvious things drivers can do to cut their gas use include car pooling, keeping the car in tune and frequently checking for proper tire pressure. But there are some other things which, when combined with the above tips, can contribute to at least a 15 percent gas savings by most drivers, according to the folks at AAA.

- Make careful shopping lists and try to combine errands. If possible, combine a trip to the hair stylist, cleaners and drugstore.
- Try to arrange dental and medical visits so that more than one member of the family can go at the same time.
- Schedule errands during non rush-hours.
- If you own more than one car, use the most fuel-efficient one for most of your travel.
- Plan driving routes to avoid local bottlenecks.
- Smooth footwork is crucial to good mileage. Gradual acceleration and braking both save gas.



Norman and Sharon Zamczyk, of Farmington Hills, prepare for two weeks of economy driving under the tutelage of AAA. (Staff photo)

There ARE even a few tips which can help out on pleasure rides — trips to vacation spots, weekend cottages or other recreation spots:

- If you're planning a trip with friends, don't meet them there, ride up in the same car.
- Extra luggage means extra weight and costs fuel. Keep baggage to a minimum.

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