

Schools Take Emergency Steps In Fuel, Gas Crisis

An Observer Roundup

In suburbia, the energy crisis is affecting local school districts most.

Several school districts fear they may have to close schools which are heated by fuel oil if they can't find backup supplies. At least one district came near to canceling bus service because its gasoline supplier is on strike.

All the districts are taking steps toward conserving on energy such as limiting lighting of buildings, lowering heat levels and limiting school vehicle usage. If problems become more severe, several are considering eliminating field trips and use of buses for athletic activities.

Here's what is happening in your school district and other local areas:

SOUTH REDFORD is reviewing alternatives but may be forced to close six buildings which are heated with fuel oil. The fuel is supplied by Marathon Oil Co. which is currently on strike.

Supt. Joseph Rzepka said the schools affected are Rogers, Mann, Ashcroft, Mason, Vandenberg and the district headquarters. He has ordered heat reduced to 68 to 72 degrees depending on the building locations.

"We don't expect to be closing any schools within the next three months," Rzepka said.

Gasoline service from Standard Oil is dependable so far but the supplier has the right to cancel its contract on 30 days notice.

LIVONIA schools were notified last week by its fuel oil supplier that deliveries would be cut by 20 per cent. Twenty of the district's 38 buildings are heated by fuel oil.

The administration has ordered temperatures cut to 68 degrees in the classrooms and recommended that the temperatures be cut to 50 degrees at 4 p.m. on school days.

Livonia has formed a Livonia Energy Resource Conservation Committee to recommend other fuel-saving measures.

Already Livonia buses are buying gas at local stations to supplement deliveries from the supplier. Gulf Oil agreed to supply the same amount of gas as it did last year during the same calendar month, but the district has needed more.

FARMINGTON may be forced to close six buildings in December, including the administration building, if light only the areas where administrators don't locate a heating oil source by then.

The district anticipated a shortage in the normal fuel oil this year and was in the process of converting several burners to use a heavier grade oil.

But the supply of the heavier grade also is limited and now the district is looking into using "reclaimed oil," according to business manager William Prisk.

He said that Farmington doesn't anticipate a problem getting gasoline from Standard Oil but noted that it is paying 17 cents per gallon this year compared to 12 cents last year.

SOUTHFIELD may have to close two elementary schools if it can't locate a source for fuel oil. The heating contractor notified the district that it would be unable to make additional deliveries for Lederle and Angling Road Elementary schools, the only two which are heated by fuel oil.

Assoc. Supt. William Adcock said the district is initiating an energy preservation plan but hasn't taken action yet other than to maintain furnace equipment to prevent waste and preserve gas.

Classrooms are heated at 72 degrees because the administration thinks 68 degrees is too chilly for classes.

Southfield hasn't experienced problems getting gasoline from its supplier, Gulf Oil and Adcock says he doesn't anticipate problems.

PLYMOUTH schools faced a near-crisis last week when it was discovered the gasoline reserve was almost empty and its supplier, Marathon Oil, couldn't live up to its contract because of a strike.

After a frantic day of calling local gas stations, Tom Abbott, supervisor of purchasing, managed to locate a Livonia Gulf gas station which agreed to fill the bus tanks, at least temporarily.

Plymouth has two schools, South Elementary and East Middle School, which are heated by fuel oil but hasn't had difficulty obtaining the fuel so far. The fuel tanks were filled by supplier Petro Products in October.

REDFORD UNION schools are gas heated after recently completing conversion from fuel oil in several buildings.

Supt. Paul Shoemaker said he ordered the temperatures in most school buildings cut back to 68 degrees. Generally they are at 70 degrees.

Redford Union orders its gasoline for buses from Standard Oil at a price of 21.4 cents per gallon and hasn't had difficulty obtaining a sufficient supply so far. However, the company has reserved the right to cancel its contract on 30 days notice.

CLARENCEVILLE is worried about its gasoline supply since its agreement with Texaco is for 90 per cent of the number of gallons supplied two years ago.

Business Manager Ed Salas says the district will be left short because it now has to bus students to vocational education classes in Walled Lake. He noted that Clarenceville is paying 23.5 cents per gallon this year compared to 12.5 last year.

Since all Clarenceville schools are heated by natural gas, Salas said he sees "no problem at this point" but added that the administration has taken steps to conserve energy such as limiting lighting. Classrooms are heated at 68 to 70 degrees now compared to a steady 70 degrees prior to the shortage.

GARDEN CITY'S administration announced several measures designed to conserve energy in the school district. All schools, which are heated by natural gas, will be set at 68 degrees during the day and 65 degrees at night and vacant storage areas will be set at 50 degrees.

The district imposed a 50 mile per hour speed limit on all school vehicles and stated the vehicles will be monitored closely to assure efficient use of gasoline.

It also took steps to conserve electricity by reducing hall lighting by one-half and instructing custodians to turn off the areas where they are working during the evening.

Garden City also stated that other actions may be taken such as alerting the student busing radius and limiting field trips to a certain radius and "critically defined posture."

WESTLAND doesn't anticipate problems with its gasoline supply although it is paying 2.5 cents per gallon more for gas this year.

Wayne-Westland schools, the third largest district in the state, uses 152,000 gallons of gasoline for its 45 buses. Gulf reserved the right to raise its prices without notification.

All schools in the district are heated by natural gas.

ORCHARD RIDGE campus of Oakland Community College has agreed to turn off the numerous gaslines that dot the Farmington Hills campus in the interest of conserving energy. The

State Sen. Jack Faxon (D-Detroit) will talk on legislation proposed on political ethics during a meeting of the citizens group, Common Cause, Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at Mercy College, 8200 W. Outer Drive, Detroit.

The meeting is open to all residents of the 17th Congressional District which includes Redford Township, Farmington, Southfield, Farmington Hills and northwest Detroit. A general meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. with Faxon's talk at 8:30 p.m. in the student activities center.

gaslines had been on 24 hours a day since the campus opened in the mid-'60s.

OAKLAND COUNTY may have to delay 13 paving projects, including one at Orchard Lake and 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, because of difficulty obtaining sufficient bituminous paving material which is a byproduct of petroleum.

"Because of the petroleum shortage, suppliers have imposed quotas on contractors," said John Grubba, county commission director. "To further complicate the

problem, a strike is in progress against our principal source of bituminous material - Marathon Oil Co.

"Now that weather is becoming a critical factor in application of bituminous paving, some or all of its current projects may not be completed until next spring."

LIVONIA city government has taken steps to cut use of energy and formed a committee to plan for long range energy conservation.

City offices are set at 68 degrees and city cars are ordered to stay below 50 miles per hour.



MICHIGAN DEER HUNTERS will find some of their best prospects in oak forests and, along oak ridges, thanks to a bumper crop of acorns, report Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologists. Acorns are important to the diet of deer as a fat-producing staple and even if snow blankets the countryside, deer should be pawing for the little nuggets in oak-wooded areas.

It's our birthday, but you get the prizes!



It's a Happy Birthday to us and Bonus prizes for you! There could be as many as 36 Birthday Bonus winners each week! 144 in four weeks, based on anticipated ticket sales. \$288,000 in Birthday Bonus gift certificates worth \$2,000 each.

If you win, you can select one of the 8,000 Lottery Ticket Agents to redeem your \$2,000 certificate for merchandise or services. And remember, Agents sell everything from steaks to stereos to the snowmobiles, so you could have yourself dozens of \$2,000 Birthday Bonus prizes each week for four weeks!

December 6 and 13 are eligible to win. After each of the two regular drawings for the above weeks, a third set of three numbers will be drawn. If you match any two sets of these numbers, you win a \$2,000 gift certificate. Sorry, matching one of the Birthday Bonus numbers does not qualify for a \$25 prize.

Buy Birthday Bonus tickets now. It's the Lottery's Birthday, but you get the prizes!

First week Birthday Bonus tickets on sale at statewide agency locations now until noon, November 20. Then three more weeks!

the home of your dreams... the car of your future... the boy of your lifetime. Find whatever you are seeking, large or small in the Observer Classified Want Ads. The Observer Want Ad pages are your personal shopping center bringing you fresh selections every Wednesday and Weekend.

FIND 522-0900

"People turn to the Yellow Pages when they want specific answers."



"That's what we think and that's why we list many of our special sign services in our ad," continues Mr. Loren Whitcomb, Whitcomb Sign Co., 7636 West Road, Washington.

"With few exceptions, people don't have a definite idea of what they want. Quite often potential customers call and ask about items like displays, plaques, silk screen, pin stripping, electrical signs, etc. We take this as a sign they're probably looking at our Yellow Pages ad. By explaining our services I feel the Yellow Pages has a definite place in our total advertising program."

WHITCOMB SIGN CO.

DESIGNING SPECIALIST

7636 WEST WASHINGTON

781-5561

ANY 6:00 P.M. 710-699

Mr. Hershel Stuart, Federal Hardware and Supply, 29080 Southfield Rd., Southfield recommends Yellow Pages advertising highly. "My program includes display ads in the North Woodward and East Area Directories. These ads pull in literally hundreds of calls for fireplace fixtures, resulting in sales ranging from \$20 to \$200. I also receive a great deal of response from our ad at the 'Hardware' heading. This ad produces both calls and walk-in business."

A lot of sales help, that's what the Yellow Pages gives Mr. Chester Podgorny, Venoy Realty Co., 32508 Michigan Ave., Wayne.

"During the past 16 years we have found Yellow Pages advertising a very efficient way to attract potential real estate customers. The calls we get from the Yellow Pages are regarded as very important because these buyers are in the market now. We began with a half-page display ad. After we became established we switched to a smaller ad. However, we noticed a definite decrease in leads from the Yellow Pages and decided to return to the half-page ad we carry today."

Travel the Yellow Pages road to sales success. Call your Yellow Pages representative!