

## **TAX FREE WEEKEND**

Vermont's Sales Tax Holiday is this weekend. Included in the Governor's Economic Growth Initiative, the sales tax holiday on July 12 and 13 means all non-business purchases of property costing \$2,000 or less will be exempt from state sales tax except automobiles. Customers can purchase multiple items on one invoice totaling more than \$2,000 and still receive the exemption if the selling price of each item is \$2,000 or less. From July 14th through 18th, the sale tax holiday is extended on Energy Star-rated appliances costing \$2,000 or less. As you enjoy your tax free purchases, remember your local fuel dealer. More than two million dollars comes from the Petroleum Clean-Up Fund. The fund is in surplus so it won't have an impact on any clean-up operations this year. The Vermont Fuel Dealers Association and the Vermont Petroleum Association were given assurances that this was a one-time withdrawal. In order to protect against further raids, VFDA and VPA support a cap on the fund. The cap means the next time the fund is in surplus, fuel dealers will stop collecting the one cent per gallon fee for motor fuels and the one half cent per gallon fee for heating oil and kerosene.

## **SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

Learn more at [www.vermontfuel.com](http://www.vermontfuel.com)

Sponsorship Opportunities Available.

## **VFDA Open House Luncheon and Front Office Seminar for Fuel Dealers**

When: Tuesday August 19th Noon-4:00

Where: 250 Main Street, Montpelier

Join us at our new office and education center.

This is a can't miss seminar for owners, managers and front office staff.

## **VFDA at Visions Happy Hour**

When: Monday, September 8th 5:00

Where: Connolly's Pub, Boston Logan Hilton

Join us for a cocktails and appetizers at the premier heating fuel event in New England. No cost to attend, free appetizers, drinks on your own.

## **VFDA Fall Golf Outing & Dinner**

When: Thursday September 18th 1:00 tee time, Dinner 6:00

Where: Crown Point Country Club, Springfield, VT

A fundraiser for the VFDA's political action committee--the Heat PAC

## **WHEN DOES THE BUBBLE BURST?**

The cost of crude continues its march to \$150, as many analysts have predicted. Is this a lesson of supply and demand? While the ratio is a constant balancing act, supply has NOT dropped by half and demand HAS NOT doubled. Yet crude has. There are too many players with too much money who have absolutely no business in the oil market creating a false demand for oil. Speculators who could be gaming the system on unregulated markets need to be taken to task. While we have made enormous strides in our efforts to rein in speculation and close "dark markets," we have clearly awakened the giant. In the face of fierce lobbying by Wall Street and pension funds, Senate committee chairman Joe Lieberman (I-CT) has scrapped the idea of moving legislation that would limit participation by some institutional investors in commodities futures markets. Now is the time to keep up the pressure, before Congress goes home to campaign for the fall election. Learn more about what is going on and what you can do to stop it by visiting [www.stopoilspeculators.com](http://www.stopoilspeculators.com).

## **NATURAL GAS 93%**

As reported in *Business Week*, the runup in energy prices has claimed another set of victims: those who heat their homes natural gas. Soaring prices for natural gas along with the day-to-day volatility in the futures markets, have befuddled consumers. On the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the natural gas contract was \$12.391 (as of July 10), up more than 93%. As the article states, homeowners who use oil or propane can lock in their prices now, unlike large utilities.

## **Oil and Propane: The Safe Choice**

Vermont's Electric utilities are urging their customers not to resort to electric heat. Electric heat will end up costing the customer much more and will ultimately make their situation worse. In addition, portable electric space heaters and other temporary heat sources may present safety hazards in addition to higher costs. Vermont's public safety leaders will be meeting later this month to talk about how to deal with the anticipated fire hazards if Vermonters use improvised heating devices. If there is significant increase in the use of electricity for heat or hot water, it will lead to an increase utilities' peak power costs and lead to higher electric rates. The message is clear: fuel switching is a bad idea.

## **VFDA EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

[http://www.vermontfuel.com/Vermont\\_Fuel\\_Dealers\\_Association/Education.html](http://www.vermontfuel.com/Vermont_Fuel_Dealers_Association/Education.html)

### **Propane Certified Employee Training Program (CETP) Books 1, 2, 4, 6 & 7**

F.W. Webb Williston, VT

JULY/AUGUST 2008

BOOK 1 Starts on July 23 -- GET GAS CERTIFIED THIS SUMMER!!!!

### **One Pipe Steam Training**

7 NORA CEUs

Instructor - Steve Goodrich

August 15, 2008

Vermont Fuel Education Center, 250 Main Street, Montpelier, VT

### **Hands On Basic Electricity**

7 NORA CEUs

Instructor - Dave Flood August 25, 2008

FW WEBB, West Lebanon, NH

### **OIL BURNER TUNE-UP**

Instructor - Dave Flood

7 NORA CEUs

August 26, 2008

FW WEBB, West Lebanon, NH

### **Wiring Hydronic Systems & Zones**

1 Day Seminar

8 NORA CEUs

Instructor - George Lanthier

September 23

Vermont Fuel Education Center, 250 Main Street, Montpelier, VT

### **Advanced Fuel Systems**

1 Day Seminar

NORA Certified for 8 CEUs

Instructor - George Lanthier September 24

FW WEBB, 55 Etna Rd., West Lebanon, NH

### **RIELLO TROUBLESHOOTERS WORKSHOP**

1 Day Seminar

8 NORA CEUs

Instructor - George Lanthier

September 25

Howard Dean Education Center, 307 South Street, Springfield, VT

### **NORA SILVER SEMINAR, BOOK & EXAM**

(Test for Gold Available)

Instructor- Bob Hedden

August 19, 2008

Smithfield Supply, Route 3, Twin Mountain, NH

### **8 Hours of Plumbing Specialist Continuing Education for Vermont PS-1 & PS-2 License Holders**

VTF-15 4 NORA CEUs

2 Vermont Oilheat CEU'S Instructor - Steve Goodrich

September 18

FW WEBB, Cold River Road, Rutland VT

### **VFDA Vermont Electrical Class "S" A-1 Automatic Gas or Oil Heating**

Electrical License CEU Course - VTF-12

8 NORA CEUs and 8 VT CEUs Electrical (A-1) Renewal

September 25

FW WEBB, 3091 Cold River Rd., Rutland, VT

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