

VFDA MOVES

The Vermont Fuel dealers Association has moved to Montpelier. We are now located at 250 Main Street, #301, Montpelier, VT 05602. Our new phone is 802 223-7750 our fax is 802-223-7751. We will hold many of our education and training seminars on the first floor.

HAZMAT

VFDA's Montpelier office is also the site of the new TSA fingerprinting center for Hazmat endorsement. After listening to numerous complaints about the delay in obtaining their hazmat endorsement, the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles decided to join nearly 40 other states in the TSA system. Drivers will now receive their endorsement in a few days, rather than a few months. The downside is that as of today there is only one location. VFDA is working with DMV, TSA and Shane Sweet at NEFI to create another Hazmat fingerprinting center in southern Vermont or western Massachusetts. If you have any questions about this new system contact VFDA Executive Director Matt Cota matt@vermontfuel.com

EFFICIENCY UTILITY

On June 27, VFDA will participate in a stakeholders meeting to design the new heating efficiency utility in Vermont. This new entity was passed overwhelmingly by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Douglas. VFDA members are encouraged to attend. The group will figure out how to market low interest loans and tax incentives to Vermont home owners and businesses that want to upgrade their heating systems and improve efficiency. VFDA successfully lobbied to be included in the stakeholder group and to allow VFDA members to market efficiency services.

STOP OIL SPECULATORS

While VFDA, NEFI and PMAA successfully closed the "Enron Loophole" there are many more ways speculators can trade on dark markets without oversight. We continue to work aggressively to stop this from happening. We have set up a website with other state associations to bring more awareness about this issue (see www.stopoilspeculators.com). We also have access to marketing materials to help you explain to your customers why Wall Street is behind the spike in oil prices and what your customers can do to help all of us reduce the cost of oil. For more information contact VFDA Executive Director Matt Cota matt@vermontfuel.com

CREDIT LINES

VFDA members who took part in the Lifeline Seminar on March 27th or the VFDA Forum on May 28th heard from Matt Ide from Citizen's Bank about the need to increase your credit line before winter begins. According to Ide, the average Vermont company (2 million gallons) would need approximately a \$3 million line to get through the winter months- at current prices. VFDA is in talks with the Vermont Economic Development Authority to help provide loan guarantees to banks in order to keep small dealers in business in the event of a cash crunch. For more information contact VFDA.

SALES TAX HOLIDAY

Governor Jim Douglas signed into law two sales tax holidays. The first sales tax holiday – which the Governor has dubbed "Sales Tax Independence Days" – takes place on July 12th and 13th. All non-business purchases of property up to \$2,000 will be exempt from state sales tax except automobiles and vehicles. The second tax holiday is from July 14th through 18th, and it applies specifically to Energy Star-rated appliances costing \$2,000 or less. The 2.5 million to pay for this "holiday" comes the Petroleum Clean-up fund which was in surplus this year. The PCF is collected by fuel dealers; it is a .01 a gallon tax on motor fuels and a .005 a gallon tax on heating oil. VFDA and VPA were promised that a cap would be put in place so the next time the fund is in surplus, fuel dealers could stop collecting the tax.

HEAT PAC

At the direction of the VFDA Executive Committee Vermont Fuel Dealers Association will be forming a political action committee or PAC. The Heat PAC is designed to help heating fuel dealers elect public officials and promote legislation. We encourage fuel dealers to contribute to the fund. Make checks out to VFDA HEAT PAC, 250 Main Street, #301, Montpelier, VT 05602

CONFERENCE

The Vermont Fuel Dealers Conference at Basin Harbor wrapped up last week. More than 250 people attended the three day event. VFDA members received some valuable insight on contract law, pre-buys, hedging, BioHeat® and SPCC regulations. Thanks to all of our speakers and sponsors who helped make the event possible.

Rick Face, Rick Casadonte, Tom Jackman and Kim Brill picked up first place in the VFDA Golf Tournament sponsored by Massamont Insurance. Congratulations also go to John MacIntyre, Chuck Bullard, Gilles Brunelle and Scott Pinkham who won the closest to the pin contest. Richard Weber won the longest drive competition. All received \$100 courtesy of Marketplace Insurance.

You can see more photos of the conference at www.vermontfuel.com

VFDA will hold its fall membership meeting at the NEFI Visions Conference. The 2008 Visions Conference will be held at the Hilton Boston Logan Airport Hotel in Boston, MA on September 8-10, 2008. The program is taking shape and information and registration are available at www.visions2008.org. Contact Samm DeCoteau at the VFDA office to learn more about sponsoring the "VFDA at Visions Hospitality Suite." 802-223-7750 samm@vermontfuel.com

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