

IMGA gas NEWS

Interstate Municipal Gas Agency

October / November, 2006

Issue 33

From the General Manager

Heating season arrives with nation at full pool

While the hurricane season is not yet complete, the total absence of serious storm damage to date means good things for IMGA gas purchasing members.

The lack of disruption from the storms means that the nation enters the winter heating season with its gas storage facilities at record levels – nearly 3.5 trillion cubic feet. These abundant supplies will exert a bearish pressure on prices which should help keep energy costs at reasonable levels through the winter months.

Gas prices enjoyed a steady drop throughout the late summer and most of September. The current mini-rally in prices is not expected to advance very far beyond current prices because of moderate weather predicted for most of November and the glut of gas on the market.

Virtually all IMGA member communities have now locked in at least 25% of their winter gas volumes. Some communities are hedged to the 50% level. Gas purchasers should have a strategy in mind and be ready to lock in additional volumes if – as is widely expected – prices drop further in November.

As always, if you have questions about your gas supply and risk management, give us a call. We can even do risk management agreements for non-purchasing members!



City of Creal Springs Illinois joins IMGA

The community of Creal Springs, Illinois has joined the IMGA as its latest purchasing member. Mayor Katie Sullivan and the members of the City Council voted to join the Agency during their September meeting, and deliveries of natural gas will begin effective November 1, 2006.

Located in Williamson County, Creal Springs has a population (2005) of 718. Originally a stop on the road connecting Marion with the Lusk Ferry on the Ohio River, the community now sits on Route 166 just north of Route 45. Originally the home of Creal Springs College, the town is best known for its spring water, which was reported to have wonderful healing powers. Today, the city holds a “Wonder Waters Reunion” each year to celebrate its past and look toward the future. The city is proud of its historical heritage, and its web site (www.creal springs.net) contains many historical photos dating from the early days of the 20th Century.

Creal Springs is the fourth new community to join IMGA in the past year, along with Thebes Illinois, Perryville Missouri and Corning Iowa. Please join us in welcoming the City of Creal Springs as the newest IMGA member!

Community Outreach Grants used by purchasing members to fund civic improvements

In a new program for 2006, the IMGA is awarding Community Outreach Grants to purchasing members to fund special civic improvement projects in their towns.

The \$250 grants are to be used for special projects which are not part of the normal community budget. They can't be used for salaries or normal operating expenses.

IMGA members are using these funds in new and innovative ways to improve the appearance and quality of life for their communities. Here's a summary of the ways in which grant funds have been used:

Bethany provided new perennial plants for the community's central park. IMGA Secretary Mike Collins planted the new flowers himself!

Cobden used the grant funds to help renovate the chapel at the Cobden Cemetery.

Findlay used the funds for flowers in the downtown area and trees in the city park.

Karnak used its grant to build a walkway bridge over Ketchell Creek.

New Boston purchased new American flags for the “walk of flags” at its local cemetery.

Pittsfield planted two shade trees near the ball diamonds in its city park.

Pleasant Hill used its grant toward the purchase of a four wheel drive vehicle for the local fire department.

Thebes provided decorations for the re-dedication of its historic Court House.

IMGA Member Communities

Aledo, Illinois
Auburn, Illinois
Bethany, Illinois*
Chester, Illinois
Cobden, Illinois*
Corning, Iowa*
Creal Springs, Illinois*
Divernon, Illinois
Enfield, Illinois
Findlay, Illinois*
Franklin, Illinois*
Grayville, Illinois
Karnak, Illinois*
Louisville, Illinois
Milford, Illinois
New Boston, Illinois*
Perryville, Missouri*
Pinckneyville, Illinois*
Pittsfield, Illinois*
Pleasant Hill, Illinois*
Riverton, Illinois
Rossville, Illinois
Tamms, Illinois*
Thebes, Illinois*
Waverly, Illinois*
Westville, Illinois
White Hall, Illinois
Winchester, Illinois

*Denotes purchasing members.
Communities need not purchase
gas to become a member

IMGA holiday schedule for the remainder of 2006 and all of 2007

We want to remind IMGA members that the Agency will be closed for the following holidays:

2006

Veteran's Day - Fri., November 10th
Thanksgiving - Thur., November 23rd
and Fri., November 24th.
Christmas - Mon., December 25th.

2007

New Year's Day - Mon., January 1st.
King Birthday - Mon., January 15th.

Lincoln Birthday - Mon., February 12th.
President's Day - Mon., February 19th.
Memorial Day - Mon., May 28th.
Independence Day - Wed., July 4th.
Labor Day - Mon., September 3rd.
Columbus Day - Mon., October 8th.
Veteran's Day - Mon., November 12th.
Thanksgiving - Thur., November 22nd
and Fri., November 23rd.
Christmas - Tue., December 25th.

Interstate Municipal Gas Agency completes name change

Following the adoption of affirming ordinances by a majority of its members, the IMGA change to the name Interstate Municipal Gas Agency is now complete. You'll notice the change on the front of this newsletter.

Letters have been mailed to all member and non-member communities in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky and Missouri informing them of the change – and of IMGA's new 4 cent management fee!



*Let IMGA's Experts
Double Check YOUR
Community's Bills!*