

# School board tackles energy conservation

In a two-week period last month, utility bills for the Farmington School District amounted to more than \$100,000, one more example of the skyrocketing costs of energy that has hit the district hard.

School officials have been attempting to conduct an energy audit with the hopes of reducing expenditures for about eight months, ever since Board President William Gravitt first proposed the idea last May.

However, the project has hit a few snags, particularly since Detroit Edison

hasn't come through with specific recommendations for electricity savings.

In an attempt to begin some energy conservation methods before spring, the Board of Education voted last week to appropriate about \$4,000 to let some professionals get started on energy audits at two schools.

Admittedly, it's just a beginning, says William Prisk, assistant superintendent of finance, but the cost of conducting professional energy audits for the entire district is prohibitive, he stresses.

S.F. Sonk Associates will conduct energy audits at East Junior High and Shawassaw Elementary School for a fee not to exceed \$2,000 per school; and Prisk is hoping some of the firm's recommendations may be used in other buildings.

ALTHOUGH \$15,000 had been appropriated for the energy audit last May, Prisk admits that the funds remain intact, since he's had a difficult time determining what an energy audit involves and who can do it.

He had originally planned to get information from Detroit Edison, who last year was promising help on energy conservation. But the utility company has failed to produce any results, despite the fact that statistics for one of the high schools was forwarded to their experts.

"I'm still hoping that Detroit Edison will come through with the promises," Prisk told the board, but he also hopes to glean information for the entire district from the Sonk audits.

"I've had a difficult time trying to determine what an energy audit is and what we're paying for," he says. And the audits are further complicated by state laws.

"You need to know what you're allowed to close off and what you can't close off," he says. For example, while it's fairly easy to realize savings from shutting down vent fans, under the state laws fans must be operating, he explains.

PRISK ASSURED the board that the

Sonk audits will reveal what improvements can be made, the estimated costs of improvements, and the pay-off—what kind of utility cost savings can be realized from the improvements.

He cautioned the board that such improvements might prove too expensive.

Trustee Dr. Mervyn Ross suggested that an attempt be made to share energy audit results with other districts attempting to cope with the problem.

# Farmington Observer

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## Hills man captures top prize with rebuilt 'Vette

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

When Jim Edwards of Farmington Hills was faced with the task of repairing his 1972 Corvette Stingray after a minor accident, he intended to replace a few parts and put the car on the road again.

Instead, his denied sportscar gradually underwent a beauty treatment that landed it a first place award at the recent Autorama show in Cobo Hall.

The transformation from a limp-fendered victim of the traffic wars to a gleaming show car came about by accident, both on the roads and in Edwards' estimation of the length of the repair work.

"I was going to fix it up but it turned out to be better than I would be," said the soft-spoken Edwards, 22.

His prized car was in a fender bender last January, which left Edwards with the task of replacing parts of the fiberglass body. Once started working on the car, he discovered that the task could be a little like eating a jar of salted peanuts—he couldn't stop halfway.

INSTEAD of only the fender being replaced on the car, Edwards installed a new front end. Then he began to look under the hood. The engine was replaced with a stock high-performance motor that boasts 370 horsepower.



JAMES EDWARDS

upholstery of the interior which was painstakingly installed by Edwards.

"I took apart a couple of seats to see how they do it," said Edwards of his upholstery project. "And part of it I figured out myself."

Figuring it out for himself was how Edwards learned to take care of cars when he was a student at Farmington High School. By the time he graduated in 1975, he was working for a local collision shop.

Edwards has enough projects to keep him busy and his family happy for a while. His temporarily-neglected van is scheduled for a rehaul that will make it road efficient for a trip to either California or Florida.

That trip might wait for a while, though. After winning first prize for the semi-sports division, he has received offers to bring his car to seven other shows in Flint, Lansing, Ohio and Boston.

While he's considering the offers, his motives stem more from pride and interest than money. For the Cobo show, his \$12,000 investment was rewarded with \$80 in prize money.

Eventually, he hopes to sell the Corvette. His asking price is \$20,000, but buyers should be aware that the car has 100 miles on it. It's rarely driven.

Instead, Edwards can be seen cruising through town in a much-used late model Plymouth.

His explanation for saving his show car is simple. "I've got good shoes and I've got working shoes," he said.



Although it wasn't planned, James Edwards of Farmington Hills changed his street-weary Corvette into a show car. (Staff photo by Cynthia Abatt)

## Fans love him tenderly

By TERESA BANAS

A woman from a nearby Detroit suburb calls frantically requesting a better seat. The third row is just not close.

A Kalamazoo woman decided to curtail her hospital stay and travel the 150 miles to the Redford Theatre to see and hear him perform.

Elvis Wade Cummings is coming to the Redford Theatre at 17360 Lahser this Friday night, and his fans couldn't be more ecstatic.

For those who can't even wait that long, the singer, who has adopted the

Elvis name professionally, will appear at 10 a.m. Friday at the Sound Station record store in Canton.

"People are dying to see anyone who just looks like Elvis," Pat Hatala says. "But when they come back, it's to see Wade because he's like himself and not Elvis."

Mrs. Hatala, of Farmington, is one of Wade's most ardent promoters. She's the secretary of his national fan club and both she and her husband are responsible for his professional photography, out of their Livonia photo shop. The fan club has members from

throughout the area, including Redford Township.

They say Wade has a magnetism that only the best entertainers project. They say his style is unique, all his own; although they admit his national popularity originated from his impressions of the late legendary Presley.

It may seem somewhat of a paradox, but his local fans still say there's only one Elvis Wade.

THE FAN CLUB'S treasurer, Fay Stein of Dearborn Heights, once stitched yards of silk scarves so the

(Continued on page 12A)

## For community band Sports and music headline benefit

If you like sports and music, you'll love the Farmington Community Band's All-Sports and Variety Show.

That's the word from Bill Conroy and Roger Walker, who are spearheading this event. The program is co-sponsored by the band and the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, along with a bevy of band boosters.

The performance, a fundraiser for the band, will be held Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Harrison High School. Event organizers are bringing in sport and musical talent from around the country to entertain Farmington area residents.

"It's a great way for families to have an entertaining evening," says Ralph Chapman, activities director for the variety show.

Among the entertainers are Larry Chopp and Judy Landau, world roller skating dance champions; television's Mr. Houdini; Masters of Dance Arts Company; an exhibition by Dale Hartzell, world champion figure skater; and a soccer exhibition by Peter Stoyanovich, national champion soccer ball juggler.

Other entertainment includes the Plymouth File and Drum Corps, the Acrobats Gymnastic Team, the Motor City Boxers, the Vernor's gnome, and the Farmington Community Band.

### Schedule of events

Trampoline exhibition by Dennis Harlan and George Hontzicker, former world champions.

Mr. Houdini.

Acrobats Gymnastics Team, featuring Marina Davidovich and Karen Martini.

Roller skating exhibition by Larry Chopp and Judy Landau, 2nd place world dance pair champions and Nanette Pawlik, Michigan ladies champion.

Prisbee exhibition by Dale Hartzell, world junior champion.

Motor City Boxers from Detroit.

Plymouth Drum and File Corps.

The Vernor's gnome.

The Farmington Community Band.

Mr. Dance of America, 1977 Douglas Lingle.

Russian Ballet by the Masters of Dance Arts Company.

Concert Pianist Gordon Bleich.

The Redford Township Uccycle Club.

Baton twirling by Barbara Reuter, former national intermediate fancy street champion and presently Miss Dearborn Heights.

Soccer ball juggling champion Peter Stoyanovich.

Old-time bicycle exhibition by Paul Grimschaw riding his 1886 and 1888 bicycles.

A walking exhibition by Jeanne and Gerald Bocci and Martin Kraft, state and national champions.

A trumpet solo by Frank DBIAB, Oakway Symphony conductor.

"This is a great program for church groups, boy and girl scouts and any other youth group," says Chapman.

"Local, state, national and world champions in various sports will demonstrate their skills and really thrill you and give you an exciting evening," he says.

Adult tickets are \$3, students and children's tickets 12th grade and

below) are \$2 and senior citizens, 65 years and older, are also \$2.

Tickets may be purchased at the Farmington Insurance Agency, 33215 Grand River; Paul Barber, Farmington Community Band director at 477-3382; or any band member.

Parking is free and refreshments—pop, popcorn, candy bars, potato chips and coffee—are 25 cents for the evening.

Funds raised from the evening's events will be used to support the community band for the coming year. Expenses for the band are the band director and assistant band director salaries, purchase of band sheet music, band equipment, travel expenses, honorarium for visiting artists, maintenance of uniforms and expenses incurred in providing free concerts.

Donors of \$2, \$3 or \$4 become band patrons, and anyone giving \$5 or more will become a sweetheart patron. A contribution of \$100 or more makes the donor a century patron.

All contributors will be listed in the Farmington Community Band show program booklet.

### UNITED STATES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Champion roller skaters Larry Chopp and Judy Landau will be featured at the Farmington Community Band "All Sports and Variety Show."

### Drugstore break-ins net narcotics

Two Farmington drugstores located on Grand River were relieved of cash and narcotics by thieves over the weekend.

Woodfield Pharmacy, at 35151 Grand River, was entered through a hole in the roof sometime between 3 p.m. Sunday, and 9:30 a.m., Monday, according to City of Farmington police.

About \$1,500 in cash and checks, and a large quantity of narcotics were taken from the drugstore, police report.

A similar breaking and entering occurred at Concord Drugs, at the corner of Grand River and Halstead, according to Farmington Hills police.

### inside

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### FARMINGTON COMMUNITY BAND Patron Listing Fund Drive

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