

Here are tips on how to save

By Mary Kay Zolton
special writer

The Hills Energy Committee thanks those who attended our Founders Festival planning meeting. The watchwords for all July 30 parade-goers are: "Keep an eye on the sky!"

July 30, Saturday, is the kick-off date for the Farmington Hills energy management program, funded by the state energy administration, Department of Commerce. Festival activities will be the first of many events planned to help all of us become aware of and in control of our energy use.

This winter (must I write the word?) the Department of Commerce will send a team of experts to Farmington Hills to begin taking infra-red photos, or thermographs, of buildings. The photos show areas of heat loss — where air needlessly escapes from the home.

By fall this Van Scan — so named because photos are taken from a van traveling down every street — will be completed.

Then you and I can attend neighborhood meetings to learn about our heat-loss problems.

Information will be available to as-

energy update

slut us in ways to conserve heat, thereby saving some long-term energy dollars. A good portion of our energy budget can go in the bank, not out the chimney.

Speaking of Michigan's energy budget, did you know that an estimated \$8.2 billion left our state in 1989 to purchase energy supplies? That compares to approximately \$1.3 billion in 1972. According to the Michigan Energy Data Book, published by the energy administration, about \$1.5 billion could be saved through energy conservation practices. That's over one fifth of that \$8.2 billion.

EACH OF us can shrink our energy budgets (and reduce exported energy dollars) in simple low cost or no cost ways. You'll be hearing a lot about that in weeks to come.

Think about this: A Michigan household with minimum insulation can re-

duce demand and costs by as much as 64 percent through insulation and weatherization actions. In such a home heated by natural gas, an annual fuel bill of about \$584 could be reduced to about \$318.

If you're excited about savings like that and want to know how to begin your own energy management program, here's a suggestion. Sign up for a complete energy audit of your home. Utility companies charge a \$10 fee for this service, which takes three hours — even your light bulbs will get checked-up.

Excellent "how-to" information, including tax credit data and alternative energy sources, is available through the Michigan Energy Administration. Call their toll-free energy hotline, 1-800-292-4704.

If you own a small business, you can call the City Hall at 474-6115 and schedule an energy analysis.

If you want more involvement in shaping your community's energy future, come board the energy handwagon as a concerned group or individual. Many volunteers will be needed for a variety of jobs — some requiring only a few hours of time.

If you enjoy putting smiles on children's faces, help us give out helium balloons at the energy tent July 28, 29, 30, any time interval you can between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. If you have a background in home construction or energy conservation — please call — we would love to hear from you. To volunteer, please phone Department of Special Services, 474-6115, and leave your name and number.

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Faxon sponsors business meet

State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Southfield, is sponsoring a conference entitled, The Relationship Between Business and Government in Michigan: Strategies for Improvement, from 8 a.m. to noon Monday at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield.

Gov. James Blanchard will be the keynote speaker at the conference, which will begin with a continental breakfast at 8 a.m. Ralph Gerson, Robert Bowman, and Martin Taylor, the directors of the state departments of

Commerce, Treasury, and Labor, respectively, also will participate as speakers during the opening segment of the conference, and also as leaders of discussion groups during the final segment. Jack Williamson of Design Hagan also will speak and lead a discussion group.

Discussion groups will focus on such topics as state reform of Workers' and Unemployment Compensation laws, taxation, business regulation, jobs programs, the state as an investor in Michigan business.

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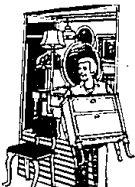
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Elephant Parade - Fri., July 15, 11 A.M. down Main & Center Streets with merchants giving out Birthday presents to "Bimbo" the Elephant. An official Birthday Party to be held in the parking lot behind Cloverdale 12 Noon. Free peanuts & discounts on Ice Cream Cones to all who attend.

Tickets ordered in advance by mail, send checks to Community Fund, c/o Lapham's, 120 E. Main, Northville 48167. Family tickets: Adults & 3 children, \$15.00 (advance sales only). Adults \$5. Children \$3 in advance. Tickets purchased at the door are slightly higher. Advance tickets also may be purchased at stores in town.

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