

The house doctor calls

Energy auditor does work on the spot

Second of two articles
By Penny Wright
special writer

Most doctors treat patients with bandages, pills and hypodermic syringes.

Dell Schott cures his ailing patients with shots of caulking compound, bands of weather-stripping, and selected doses of insulation.

Schott is a new breed of energy conservation professional called a "house doctor." His mission is to go into a "sick," heat-leaking house, diagnose how the heat is escaping and administer on-the-spot cures.

The house doctor concept provides a new alternative to the widely available utility home energy audits.

"THE MAIN difference between the utility company energy audit and our visit is that we deal in remedies," said Schott, who is with Princeton Energy Partners in Troy.

Remedies may include sealing plumbing pipe penetrations, furnace tuneups, and installation of such energy

saving devices as set-back thermostats and floor dampers.

"We want to avoid giving homeowners a list of things to do," Schott emphasized. "We do the work to assure the quality of repairs and the energy savings."

The house doctor approach to home energy conservation was hatched in the early '70s by a Princeton University research team. Its studies revealed a big difference between theoretical models of a home's heat loss and what actually was being wasted.

The solution: Send a specially trained team equipped with the latest heat-sensing gear into a home and maximize energy savings.

"THE SPECIALIZED equipment allows me to find areas of heat loss overlooked by other audits," Schott said.

Typically, Schott will use a large fan, called a "blower door," to depressurize the house. Then, aided by an infrared viewer that senses surface temperatures, he will locate cracks and insula-

tion bypasses which allow outside air to infiltrate the house.

"Due to the nature of the construction, houses in this area will lead three-quarters to one air change per hour," he said. In layman's terms, it means nearly all the volume of air in a house would be exchanged with new air every hour.

According to Schott, these air infiltration losses account for 40 percent of the heating bill. His efforts are concentrated on plugging these air leaks or "shell tightening."

HOW EFFECTIVE is the visit in reducing energy bills?

"In most cases, we can save 15 to 25 percent of the total utility bill," said Schott. "Generally, the savings pay back the cost — \$450 to \$500 for an average size home — in two years or less."

A key element to the house doctor approach is completing the conservation work during the visit.

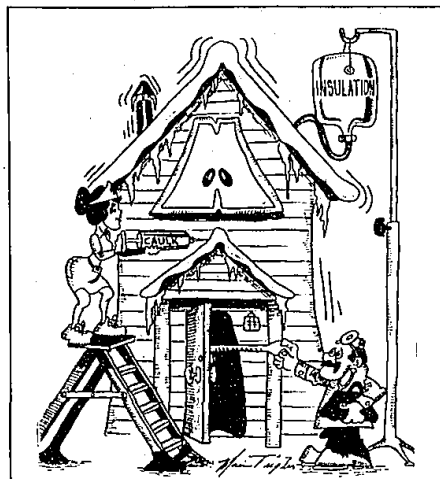
Another version of this work-type home energy audit is offered by the Ecology Center in Ann Arbor. And the concept is spreading to county governments.

Funded by federal community development block grants, the Ecology Center conducts free home visits to qualifying low to moderate-income people. The visit places high priority on training the homeowner to fix identified heat loss problems.

JIM FREY, Ecology Center staff coordinator, believes more energy savings occur when people are shown the techniques of making conservation modifications. "It's easy to say 'do it,' but we go in and say, 'This is HOW you do it,'" said Frey.

Based on the Ann Arbor plan, Wayne County offers free home conservation workshops for low-income households. Workshop participants apply energy-saving cures to a selected home.

At the conclusion of the session, attendees are given a packet of materials to apply to their own heat loss problems. Information about this program can be obtained by calling the Wayne County Energy Service office at 843-2550.



Autorama expects 137,000 in Cobo Hall

TV stars and sports celebrities will herald 500 gleaming custom street rods, trucks, buggies and drag boats as the main attractions at the annual Autorama scheduled for Jan. 6-8 at Cobo Hall, Detroit.

Each day, monster truck "USA-1" of the "That's Incredible" TV show will crunch a bunch of full-sized cars by being driven over them.

Autorama opens Friday at 5 p.m. and runs until midnight. Saturday and Sunday hours are 11 a.m. to midnight.

Ticket prices are \$8 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under; children 5 years old and under are free. Discount, presale tickets are available at participating Fotomat stores for \$4.50 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under.

THE 32ND Detroit Autorama will host the teen-age heart-throb John Stamos, who plays Blaine on "General Hospital," and John James, the dashing Jeff Colby of "Dynasty." They will make appearances and sign autographs Saturday and Sunday.

Morganna, "The Kissing Bandit," and Hollywood auto designer George Barris will also make appearances.

"We're expecting attendance to be in excess of last year's total of 137,000," said Tom Williams, general manager of the show. "With the exceptional car and star lineup we have, the Detroit

Autorama could approach a record level this year — if the weather cooperates."

"Of the 200 shows each season, the Detroit event is the most popular and prestigious, with more prize money and trophies than any other show in the country."

WHILE MOST cars entered will be exhibited by Michigan car builders, entries have been received from many states across the country.

With more than 100 categories for everything from custom rods, trucks and vans to drag boats and antique cars, motor sports fans and automotive connoisseurs will have their fill at Autorama.

One category includes six Detroit-area high schools which spent several years evolving junked cars into classy show models. Besides individual entries, several professionally built "feature" cars will also be displayed. Among them will be the famous talking Trans Am, K.I.T.T., from the TV show "Knight Rider," the world's first 100 miles-per-gallon hot rod, "Turbo-T," and USA-1, the world's largest 4x4 pickup truck.

In addition, motorcycle manufacturers will display their 1984 models in the show. "With the exceptional car and star lineup we have, the Detroit

lower level.

control superintendent, Marvin L. Gertz, said that the actual record changed several times during the long weekend.

"Colder-than-normal temperatures, coupled with commercial and industrial activity, helped give us the new record on the 23rd," Gertz said. "But the numbers kept climbing throughout the weekend, despite the absence of large industrial loads."

Gertz said that gas supplies remain adequate to meet the rise in consumer demand for natural gas.

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PRIME HUNT CLUB Sub. of Farmington features spacious 4 bedroom Colonial with Florida room overlooking private treed yard. Central air, bay windows, more. 626-9100. \$156,900. (49393)



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ONE OF A KIND Contemporary! Features dramatic family room with two-story cathedral ceiling, master bedroom loft, lake privileges on Middle and Upper Straits Lakes! 626-9100. (47418)



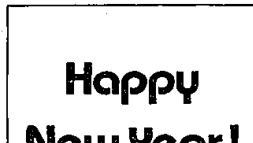
UNIQUE SETTING with privacy-filled yard and covered patio with "hot tub." Good family home, 4 bedrooms, attractive family room, second floor laundry. 851-8100. \$98,000. (48281)



GREAT BUY! Sharp mint condition Farmington Hills Ranch features open floor plan, central air, neutral decor. Good assumption to qualified buyer! 626-9100. \$51,900. (50286)



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Happy New Year!



CATHEDRAL CEILINGS, large family room with raised hearth fireplace, and acre sized lot highlight attractive West Bloomfield Quad-level—near shopping and schools! 851-8100. \$119,500. (50278)



GREAT STARTER home includes neutral decor, 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths, built in 1981. Features Lake Privileges on Elizabeth Lake! 851-8100. \$54,900. (50777)



ASSUME HIGH Mortgage to qualified buyer! Approx. 3100 sq. ft. plan offers indoor "spa" room, central air, interior, great room, moral 851-8100. \$99,500. (48941)



A RARITY ON LAKES! Unique 1978 redwood Contemporary offers exceptional design concepts. Neutral decor, two-way fireplace, spectacular great room, central air. Spectacular decking views premium Lower Straits Lake view. 626-9100. \$249,000. (50161)



FARMINGTON HILLS! You'll love all the extras in this exceptional split level with brick fireplace in family room, central air, 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, play area and great workshop area. 626-9100. \$89,500. (48961)



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Record gas sendout — CP

Subfreezing temperatures during the Christmas holiday weekend gave Consumers Power Co. a new 12-month peak for gas sendout, the second such record in three days.

During the 24-hour period ended at 9 p.m., Dec. 26, the company dispatched 2.185-billion cubic feet of gas to its 1.1-million gas customers. Gas sendout is typically measured in 24-hour periods.

The previous 12-month high was established three days earlier, during the one-day period ending at 3 p.m., Dec. 23. However, Consumers Power's gas

control superintendent, Marvin L. Gertz, said that the actual record changed several times during the long weekend.

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Blood drive

The 10th annual Save-A-Life Days, a seasonal blood drive held during periods of low collections that occur during the holidays by the Southeastern Michigan Red Cross Blood Services to recruit blood donors will take place on Mondays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

though there is no shortage of demand. The beginning of January marks a period of increased blood demands because many people undergo elective surgery they had postponed until after the holidays.

Persons between the ages of 17 and 65 in good health and who weigh at least 110 pounds can give blood. Persons who give blood during or before

the last week in October will be eligible to donate during the holiday period.

To make an appointment to donate blood either on the Save-A-Life days or at other times during the holidays, call 866-2253. The center at 2900 Greenfield, will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Save-A-Life

BIRMINGHAM 415 S. Hunter 646-6000
 BLOOMFIELD HILLS 1920 N. Woodward 647-5100
 FARMINGTON HILLS FRANKLIN 31000 Middlebelt Rd. 626-9100
 TROY 5017 Rochester Rd. 689-8900
 ROCHESTER 1000 W. University 651-8850
 WEST BLOOMFIELD 4318 Orchard Lake Rd. 851-8100