

Energy measures cut school utility bill

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Thanks to a series of energy con-

servation measures, Farmington Public Schools has avoided spending \$200,000 on heating and electricity for Farmington High School in the past seven years.

Between 1978-79 and 1984-85, gas consumption at the high school has been reduced by 39.2 percent — a \$143,086 saving, said Jack Lawing, Farmington Public Schools administrative services director. Electrical consumption dropped 25.2 percent — a \$84,215 saving.

Back in 1978-79, officials began conserving energy at the high school — one of the district's biggest energy users — through such low-cost projects as simple window coverings and more insulation.

In 1980, the district's first technical audit was conducted.

Farmington High School ranked low enough in energy conservation that the U.S. Department of Energy provided a matching grant so the district could make \$186,000 worth of improvements

at Farmington High and Warner Middle School.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS applied for a similar grant to cover needed energy conservation at North Farmington and Farmington Harrison senior highs, but the request was denied with no reason given, Lawing said. "We could reapply and possibly qualify."

The district also received federal money for improvements at East and Duncklee middle schools. Although school officials have statistics on how much money has been saved at the two schools, surveys have not been conducted at either building, Lawing said.

Even though the district began saving money on energy costs at Farmington High School in 1978-79, the most significant savings occurred from

1980-81 to 1984-85; major improvements were financed by the energy grant.

Improvements made at Farmington High and at East and Duncklee middle schools include:

- Coverings for many windows, or portions of windows. The coverings are designed to keep out noise and keep in heat.
- Installation of ceiling fans in larger, high-ceilinged rooms.
- Re-calibrated thermostats and elimination of fresh-air sources from which heat could escape.
- An energy management system complete with microcomputers in each building to be tied into a central com-

puter in the district maintenance department. The system will control temperatures in the building. Heating and ventilating is now included on one system.

• A change in the lighting from incandescent to fluorescent, a less expensive lighting source.

• Installation of water-saver showers, and a small domestic boiler to warm water during the summer.

• Installation of solar heating systems to provide hot water.

"We also try and maintain 68 degrees for heating. It seems a little cool, but we are trying to maintain it. And 74 degrees for cooling," Lawing said.

police/fire calls

Listed below are highlights of Farmington-area police and fire calls received during the past week:

ATTACK REPORTED

An 18-year-old clerk of a convenience store was sexually attacked by a customer who faked a fall, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

According to the report, a man entered the store about 4 a.m. Wednesday and approached the clerk, who was stocking a shelf near the counter. He then faked a fall, landing partially on top of her. When both stood up, he grabbed her and dragged her into the walk-in cooler. Once inside, he tried to sexually assault her, but fled when she said the police were watching nearby. The man had come into store several times before, each time striking up a conversation with the clerk.

After the attempted assault, a witness saw the man drive from the store lot into a nearby gas station, buy a newspaper and flee in an unknown direction, according to the police report.

WALL FIRE

A fire in the wall space of a four-unit apartment building at 21702 Wheeler caused about \$1,000 in structural damage Thursday night, Farmington Hills Fire Department investigators report.

Flames were confined to the wall space off the first-floor entrance to one of the units, Lt. Peter Baldwin said. The fire, reported about 9:50 p.m., appeared to be the result of an electrical short in a porchlight fixture, Baldwin said.

BEDROOM FIRE

Farmington Hills Fire Department investigators believe careless smoking was the cause of a bedroom fire about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Lt. Peter Baldwin said.

No one was injured as a result of the fire. Flames were confined to the bedroom and the carpeting in an upstairs bedroom of a house on Randlewood, Baldwin said.

Using a wet towel, the homeowner was able to extinguish the fire before firefighters arrived, he said. The house was equipped with two smoke detectors, but the batteries in each were dead, according to Baldwin.

He urged residents to make sure their smoke detectors are properly working and supplied with fresh batteries.

Smoke detectors will often alert you to a fire before you might otherwise discover it, Baldwin said.

BATHROOM FIRE

A fire in a house on Briaridge in Farmington was reported shortly after 4:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Heat from a fixture above the shower in an upstairs bathroom ignited the rafters on which the fixture was mounted. Surrounding insulation also ignited, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

Farmington Hills fire fighters assisted the Farmington fire fighters in extinguishing the flames.

LAWN DAMAGED

Several times in the past two weeks, someone has driven on the lawn near the rear of Shilawassaw School, 30415 Shilawassaw, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

Damage, confined to the rear of the school's gym area, was estimated at about \$30.

THEFT REPORTED

About \$2,000 in building materials were stolen sometime Oct. 2-3 from a house under construction on Lancaster, according to a Farmington Hills police report. Taken were five cabinets and 120 gallons of paint.

WINDOWS SMASHED

Vandals smashed three windows in two houses under construction on Windwood sometime before 5 p.m. Oct. 6, according to a Farmington Hills police report. The damage was estimated at \$120 at each house.

Bell exec to speak

An executive speechwriter for Michigan Bell will talk about helping audiences understand technical information.

Shawn McGee will speak at a dinner meeting sponsored by the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication (STC-SEM).

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, at the Marriott Inn, 3600 Plymouth, just west of U.S. 23, in Ann Arbor.

For reservations, call Tom Glover at 541-6769.

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NIGHT BREEZES AND STIFF MUSCLES
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Cold causes blood vessels to constrict, which in turn decreases blood flow to the area that the blood vessels supply. A wind blowing over the skin accelerates surface evaporation and permits the cold air to penetrate deeply into the muscles. Aching and stiffness represent the muscle's response to the chill it has received.
Since heat dilates blood vessels and thereby augments blood flow, providing a steady warmth is the quickest way to restore the involved muscles to their normal state. A shower is best because running water brings both heat and massage; a hot water bottle often will have a similar effect.
A return to good health does not depend on treatment; medical experience has shown that when muscle stiffness related to cold occurs, the episode will not lead to lasting damage to muscles or surrounding joints.

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