

Money saver

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Fair theme: energy conservation

By Lord Bell
special writer

As National Energy Week begins Sunday, Oct. 20, Farmington Hills Annual Energy Fair.

To provide the community with money-saving energy ideas and information on low-cost heating alternatives, these businesses will be exhibiting their products at the fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26 in Harrison High School, 29995 12

Fourteen businesses are highlighted this year. At the request of the Farmington Hills Energy Commission and the Department of Special Services, these businesses have volunteered their time and money to exhibit for the fair.

These companies, specializing in areas such as thermographic inspection, energy management systems, furnaces, fireplace energy-saving devices, photovoltaic systems, and air conditioning, will present themselves using displays, exhibits, pamphlets and brochures.

ENERGY ONE, a mechanical contracting firm that specializes in heating ventilation, air conditioning and energy management, will be just one of the many exhibitors at the fair.

A major product sold by the Energy One company is the FuelMizer. This energy-saving device, made for most standard furnaces, saves the consumer money by automatically controlling the fire that burns gas. The FuelMizer regulates this fire so that the stored heat in a furnace is utilized without burning extra fuel. This device can save consumers 10-30 percent on their heating costs, sometimes more.

Stephen Mercer, partner in the Energy One Corp. with Mark Straszewski, says, "The FuelMizer is great for businesses and homeowners alike, because the low price makes for a one- or two-year payback on the investment. Recently we put together a package for homeowners that include a FuelMizer, a setback thermostat, a hot water blanket, and a flue damper for the furnace and hot water heater."

Along with the FuelMizer, Energy One will display a heat recovery unit, a highly efficient furnace, and will offer brochures about their company and products. Energy One has donated a FuelMizer as a door prize for the fair, and will install it free to the winner.

LYN SNOW, systems designer, says the purpose of Star Pak Energy Systems is to "save homeowners between \$500 and \$1,000 a year in utility costs. Guaranteed." Star Pak designs, sells and installs a solar-based heating system that features efficient, liquid panels. The company also manufactures the Heatgrabber, a fine heat recovery program that collects wasted energy and puts it back into the home.

At the fair, Star Pak hopes to educate homeowners about how to maximize their energy dollars. It will provide advice on the Michigan Solar Tax Credit Law and subsidies available for energy home improvements. Free followup appointments will be offered to consumers to analyze their utility costs and project annual savings.

Star Pak has been in the energy business for 10 years and involved in many energy fairs.

THE ENERGY Keeper Corp., another company to exhibit for the fair, markets an energy-saving device for fireplaces called the Keeper Kap. This product combines a top-sealing fireplace chimney cover and damper into one unit. Able to open and close from the hearth, the Keeper Kap keeps out wind, rain, snow, as well as small animals. Installation is easy without special tools and know-how.

Martha Tabacco, spokesperson for Energy Keeper, says, "The Keeper Kap is a home-grown product. It's an invention of a Farmington Hills resident and is marketed exclusively from the Energy Keeper Corp. of Farmington Hills."

In February, 1985, by invitation of the U. S. Patent Commission, the Keeper Kap was displayed at the Annual Inventor's Exhibit at the United States Patent Trademark Center. It has also been recognized at the Chicago National Hardware Show, the New York International Inventor's Expo, and at local energy fairs.

THERMOGRAPHIC inspection is the primary service of the Infra-Scan Co. By using specialized equipment, Infra-Scan pinpoints sources of excess

heat loss in homes. Two machines are used to detect these losses.

An infra-red scanner enables a technician to "see" heat loss and locate areas of cold-air infiltration and missing or insufficient insulation. A blower door fan locates and measures unwanted air leakage. Infra-Scan helps homeowners reduce heating costs by identifying sources of heat loss, thereby helping eliminate them.

Scott Dooly, owner of Infra-Scan, says, "A local Energy Fair is a good way to get the community involved in pursuing energy conservation goals, while also allowing local energy-related businesses to display and discuss their products and services."

Infra-Scan will exhibit its infrared scanner and blower door fan at the fair in the hopes of educating consumers about this fairly new service of thermographic inspection. Infra-Scan shared both space at the Cobo Hall Builder's Show last spring.

CONTROL PAK Corp. manufactures energy management systems for commercial buildings. Keeping buildings energy efficient, without causing discomfort or disruption to building occupants, is the primary service of Control Pak.

One energy-saving device that Control Pak will be exhibiting is the EM Series 96 unit. This product electronically controls the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning in a building. The unit saves money by controlling the flow of energy that may be used unnecessarily during normal business days and during non-work hours.

Because energy costs have become a major part of operating expenses for businesses, Ann Schaffer, publicity coordinator, said, "Control Pak wants to introduce people to energy management and show them what businesses can do. By implementing simple energy management techniques, much energy and money can be saved."

Control Pak is a local manufacturer that markets nationwide and has participated in trade shows to promote the EM Series. For a door prize, it has donated a free energy audit.

THE ENCON Corp. is a total home energy company that specializes in photovoltaic systems, Blackberry heating systems, window quilts, and hot-water systems.

Encon is the only retail dealer of photovoltaic systems in the state. These systems are solar electronic panels that make electric energy from the sun. These panels have the capability to run electric lights, as well as create attic ventilation.

Blackberry solar heating systems is another product of Encon. Says Alan Fattel, solar consultant, "The Blackberry heating system is custom designed according to your house's design."

ANOTHER HEATING alternative offered by Encon is window quilts. These quilts provide insulation that measures 500 times greater than window glass. They come in different colors and fabrics suitable for any curtain color.

Encon also has a number of domestic hot-water systems that include an option with the Blackberry heating system and a passive solar water heater.

These are just six of the 14 businesses involved in the Energy Fair. There will also be films, guest speakers, contests, prizes and refreshments to complement exhibits.

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Discounts available

Farmington area residents who are at least 60 years old are eligible for discounts from many local merchants.

Pictures for identification cards will be taken from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, at the Farmington Hills Senior Center at Mercy Center, 28500 11 Mile.

These plastic I.D. cards will enable program participants to take advantage of discounts ranging from 4 to 40 percent. Discounts are offered on items such as automobile parts, rustproofing, hair care, prescription drugs and eyeglasses.

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