



Farmington Hills Department of Special Services assistant director Eric Wurmlinger confers with other car care clinic workers.

# Safety time

## Hills clinic promotes car care

Fuel conservation and highway safety were promoted at the Farmington Hills Car Care Clinic held at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, on Nov. 1.

The free clinic was sponsored by the Energy Committee with funding from the Michigan Department of Commerce Energy Administration.

The goal of the drive-through clinic was to provide residents with an opportunity to have a full and thorough inspection of their vehicles. In this age of self-service gas stations, regular vehicle maintenance is often neglected by motorists. Although most people have learned how to pump their own gas, many do not know how to check their oil, tires, belts, hoses and anti-freeze.

Car Care Clinic participants underwent a series of checks on their vehicles. A visual inspection area checked the lighting system, wiper blades and oil level. The next check station provided diagnostic information for hundreds of the car's operations.

Two Smart Engine Analyzers provided by Allen Testproducts of Farmington Hills provided each participant with a printout in easy-to-understand, laymen's terms that pinpointed needed repairs in major engine systems and proposed solutions.

Since each analysis took approximately 20 minutes, only motorists who scheduled appointments prior to the clinic were able to have their vehicles analyzed. Forty vehicles participated in the clinic.

The Energy Committee is planning another clinic for the spring. To be placed on the Energy Committee's Car Care Clinic mailing list, contact Colette Forney in the Department of Special Services at 473-5583.

# Reye's

## Month spotlights killer of kids

November is "National Reye's Syndrome Month." Reye's Syndrome is a childhood killer, striking without much warning. It is an often misdiagnosed disease.

According to Thomas Price, national executive director of the National Reye's Syndrome Foundation, "Parents of children from infancy to young adulthood should become aware of this deadly disease and know its symptoms."

"Reye's Syndrome can develop three to five days after the onset of the flu, chicken pox, an upper respiratory illness or other viral infections," Price said.

It affects all organs of the body, but most lethally, the liver and brain. It is non-contagious and is often misdiagnosed as encephalitis, meningitis, diabetes, poisoning, drug overdose or sudden infant death.

"After a viral infection has seemingly run its course," Price added, "and a child is feeling better, the following symptoms should be treated as serious and as possibly the first indication of Reye's Syndrome."

The American Academy of Pediatrics also warns that aspirin may increase the risk of developing Reye's Syndrome. Parents should avoid the use of aspirin when a child or young adult is recovering from the flu and chicken pox.

Anti-nausea medication may mask the symptoms of Reye's Syndrome, and parents should consult their physician before using these drugs.

TO COINCIDE with National Reye's Syndrome Month, the National Foundation has launched a massive public educational campaign releasing awareness bulletins to area schools.

"We will be reaching countless households with Reye's Syndrome fact sheets in an effort to alert the public to the risk factor involved with aspirin, early symptoms and the importance of prompt diagnosis," Price said.

Parents should watch for these symptoms, usually occurring in this order:

- Persistent or continuous vomiting;
- Lethargy (loss of pep and energy, drowsiness);
- Personality changes (such as irritability, combativeness or slurred speech);
- Disorientation (unable to identify whereabouts or family members); and
- Delirium and convulsions.

A child's life can depend on early diagnosis. If any of the above symptoms develop in a child or young adult, medical attention should be sought immediately.

For more information and what you can do to fight this killer, contact the National Reye's Syndrome Foundation, 125 N. Washington Avenue, Suite 201, Saginaw, 48607 or call 617-762-7110, toll free 1-800-422-0505.

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