

City to utility:
Shape up

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sailing at the Drexel substation," said Maurice Vermeulen, manager of Detroit Edison's Oakland Division.

PROBLEMS COULD then be isolated faster and will affect fewer customers, Edison officials said.

More than \$250,000 was spent to upgrade power lines along Haggerty Road between 14 Mile and Maple roads. The project was completed July 31.

Almost the same amount will be spent on a new section of line along Drake Road between Maple and 14 Mile roads to be completed this fall.

Also, Detroit Edison will spend \$12 million for line clearance in these communities; \$9 million will be spent on line clearance throughout Oakland county to reduce tree-related power outages. The line clearance budget will increase to \$10.5 million in 1992.

Edison usually trims a 10-foot clearance between trees and Detroit Edison power lines.

Edison officials charged at the meeting that gaining right-of-way is a problem for the utility. "Unfortunately, our line-clearance efforts have often met with opposition in the past from both communities and individuals," Vermeulen said.

Vagnozzi wants Edison to respond, in writing, to the city's "seven-point plan".

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Be alert, not a victim

By Kim Kemske
special writer

We've all heard of the recent incidents of "carjacking" — armed robberies of automobiles — in the metro-Detroit area. Any street or highway is a potential target of this crime.

To protect yourself when driving, keep in mind the following stay alert tips:

- When possible, avoid traveling alone.
- Be sure to keep your car in good repair and have enough gas in your tank to take you to your destination and back home.
- Always keep your car doors locked and your windows up, at least most of the way. Check the back seat of your car every time you get in.
- Remain alert and aware of your surroundings, particularly in underground parking structures and dark or secluded areas.
- Park in well-lighted areas and, when possible, have someone escort you to your car after dark.
- Keep your eyes open when stopped at a light, parking lot, driveway or pay phone. If you see

Kim Kemske

crime prevention technician
Farmington Hills Police
Department

or hear something that makes you feel uneasy, be ready to move on.

- Carry car or house keys in your hand so the door can be opened immediately without fumbling in your purse.
- Avoid using Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) at night. But if you must, look for a busy, well-lighted site with good visibility from the street. If possible, take someone with you and remain alert to other people around you. Complete any paperwork before leaving your car and take your keys with you. If something or someone looks suspicious or threatening, cancel any cash transaction immediately and leave quickly.
- If you're involved in a minor car accident and are alone, or in a secluded area, keep your car doors locked and tell the other driver, through your car window, that you

will meet him or her at the local police department where you can both file a police report.

- If someone in an unmarked vehicle motions you to pull over, keep driving unless there are lights, sirens or other indicators that it is a police vehicle. If pulled over by someone in an unmarked vehicle, you have the right to ask for identification.
- If you believe you are being followed, go to a well-lighted business or a police station and sound your horn, flash your lights, draw attention to yourself. Report the incident to police, providing the license plate number and description of the car and the person.
- Don't get out of your car to help a stranded motorist. Signal that you will get help and then go to a telephone to call the police.
- Always report suspicious activities, people or vehicles to the police as quickly as possible. If it looks suspicious to you, it is probably worth checking. Trust your intuition and act on it.

Kim Kemske is a crime prevention technician with the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Proposal: televise
school meetings

Continued from Page 1

and academic demonstrations done at the beginning of each board meeting — which he called "those little jewels" — be included in any cablecasts.

Helen Prutow said the cablecasting idea "makes sense," and fellow board member Cathleen Webb said "the time has come" to look into it.

Webb said that she did not want students used for any cablecasting through Channel 10 because "meetings go too late on school nights."

FLANAGAN SAID he had surveyed other school districts in the area about cablecasting meetings and received 49 responses. Of those, 12 cablecast their meetings and called the efforts "an overall, positive thing," Flanagan said.

The only concern raised, he said, was that board members in the districts felt the need to speak on every item, extending the length of meetings.

Flanagan said he could see where cablecasting would be a positive thing, and that residents would tune in depending on what was on the agenda. He believes Tuesday's meeting, during which parents raised concerns over school busing issues, would have been heavily watched.

"We'd be more likely to have people tune into that, and not have to get up and walk away," he said.

Flanagan cautioned the board that they could expect to be criticized by some factions of the community for spending money for the cablecasting. He plans to bring a range of plans and costs for such a project to a future meeting.

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