

Hausmann named top construction engineer

Ronald L. Hausmann of Bloomfield Hills was named outstanding construction engineer of the year by the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers.

Hausmann is executive vice president of Walbridge Aldinger of Detroit, a firm he joined in 1971. He is a director of the National Erectors Association and vice president of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers. He is also chairman of Walbridge Contracting in Tampa, Fla.

Soil and Materials Engineers has moved its corporate offices from Livonia to 43980 Plymouth Oaks, Plymouth.

Nissan of North America on Nov. 7 will celebrate the opening of the Nissan Research & Development Technical Center, 39001 Sunrise Drive in



Ronald L. Hausmann
Country Club Corporate Park at Haggerty and 12 Mile roads, Farmington Hills.

ington Hills.

Detroit Metro Commercial Investment Division of the South Oakland Board of Realtors will host a seminar on opportunities in commercial-corporate real estate from 11:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Southfield.

Speakers include Stephen Quatro, president of Equity Institutional Investors; Jack Chandler, vice president of LaSalle Partners; Matthew Campbell, president of Corporate Services Group; Raymond DuPont, vice president of corporate real estate for Ford Motor Land Services Corp.; David Hirsch, director of property management, Masco Corp.; Robert Pilla, president of Horton Commercial Realty Services.

Cost is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. For reservations,

building news

call 585-1283.

Duke Associates of Michigan, Southfield, has been chosen by the state of Michigan Retirement Systems to manage the Ann Arbor Technology Park, a 720-acre parcel with 330 acres for sale. Duke will perform a feasibility study including the reassessment of the master plan and a new marketing plan, act as the overall project manager and represent the park in selling the remaining land.

Two area men were named to the Glazing Contractors Association board of directors. They are Ed Wil-

llams of Edwards Glass Co., Livonia, and Jim Vogelberg, American Glass Metals Corp., Plymouth.

The Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan will present three seminars. Where to put your advertising dollars to ensure success will be subject of a panel discussion on Thursday, Nov. 7. The meeting is sponsored by the New Generation Builders Council of BASM.

Speakers will be Ron Weisbaug of the Detroit Newspaper Agency; Jack Patey of Observer & Eccentric Newspapers; Susan Adler of BASM; Jim Terebus of New Housing maga-

zine; and John Serra of the Builders Home Show.

The program will be from 9-11 a.m. at the Northfield Hillion, 5500 Crooks Troy.

Holiday promotions and selling strategies will be the topic of a seminar sponsored by the Sales and Marketing Council of the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan, from 10-11:30 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 11, at the Kingsley Inn, 1475 N. Woodward.

Dennis P. Dickstein of Ralph Manual Associates and Dave Lewens of S.R. Jacobson Development Corp. will speak.

The Commercial Builders Council of the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan will host Tom Dye of Asbestos Abatement, who will speak on the medical and legal ramifications of asbestos at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the Clarion Hotel, 13525 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

To register for the conferences call 737-4477.

Michigan Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects will hold its 1992 annual meeting Friday, Jan. 31, at the Dearborn Inn. Theme is "Common Ground - Landscape Architecture/Architecture/Civil Engineering/Planning." To register, call Deb Krus, 262-1543.

Fall brings rush to energy efficiency

(AP) - Some houses simply take more energy to run than others, but the worst of them can be made better by do-it-yourself efforts. A number of low-cost and no-cost energy conservation practices can help noticeably slash off your heating bills.

You can begin by reducing your water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Install water-flow restrictors on shower heads, install insulation behind electrical outlets and switch plates and add insulation over the attic stairs.

A faucet leak, small as it may be, is an energy waster. The fix may be

as simple as a new washer. An often-overlooked measure is vacuuming dusty baseboard heaters.

OTHER LOW-COST practices include lowering the thermostat to 55 degrees when your family is out of the house for four hours or more. Also, consider reducing the oil burner firing rate to the proper level after you've made your home more energy efficient by sealing the house shell.

A chart showing the energy-saving plan listing measures to reduce heat loss and cold air infiltration through the roof, walls, floor, windows and

doors would include items like these:

- Caulking, \$50 in cost, \$282 (first-year savings), and two months (payback time). Weatherstripping, \$20, \$15, seven months. Interior storm windows, \$250, \$53, 4 1/2 years. Attic insulation, \$50, \$40, 1 1/2 years. Foundation insulation, \$400, \$100, four years. Water heater insulation, \$15, \$10, six months. Costs and payback time can vary depending on your own situation, but this typical chart will give you a relative idea of the benefits you can expect.

SOME PRETTY simple but laborious jobs can pay anyone to learn how to do - jobs such as installing switch plate insulation and weatherstripping. Others, such as insulating an attic or, worse yet, an outside wall, are really jobs for a professional even though some super-handy homeowners with lots of time at their disposal might be able to handle them.

Additional energy-saving measures that you may be able to handle, or hire a professional to handle for

Be EnergyWise

Residential construction

Continued from Page 1
Still, there were several red flags. Applications for building permits - often a barometer of future activity - rose 2.7 percent after a 5.3 percent loss a month earlier. Applications had risen each month since February before the August drop.

And Richard Peach, an economist with the Mortgage Bankers Association, said interest rates below 8 percent were stimulating mortgage loans. Applications which he said, was a "pretty reliable" indicator of future trends.

DELANO NOTED the inventory of new homes on the market has fallen to its lowest level in five or six years. "All it takes is some recovery in income and employment prospects," he said. "There is pent-up demand out there that will be released at some time." That and falling rates will stimulate renewed construction. Single-family starts fell 2.0 percent, to

868,000 units at an annual rate, after a 0.8 percent increase in August.

Multifamily starts also fell, down 2.9 percent to a 165,000 rate. New apartment construction was flat a month earlier.

Regionally, the South posted the only gain, a

1.6 percent increase to a 453,000 annual rate, but failed to regain the 3.4 percent loss in August.

The West recorded the biggest loss, a 5.2 percent decline to a 254,000 annual rate.

Starts were off 4.5 percent in the Midwest, to 433,000 units.

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