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very, very busy - probably the busiest we've been in five years," said Jim Boduch, a manager with Farmington Hills air conditioning sales/repair firm Danboise and Son, on Grand River.

"Just the last two weeks we've had 300-400 calls per week related to air conditioning, commercial and residential," he said, adding there were so many calls that people were put on a week-long waiting list.

During hot weather, Boduch said you can't have enough technicians. "You jump at the ones who walk through the door who are qualified to do the work."

Boduch said people mistakenly think air conditioner problems can be solved by adding more freon. "A lot of people think you can just charge an AC unit," he said. But it's more likely that a system is leaking from a system.

He urges changing furnace filters twice a year and making sure the outside unit is clean.

The heat kept things hopping at Damman Hardware in downtown Farmington as well.

"We did very, very well with garden hoses and sprinklers," said Brian Burson, store supervisor. "The fans were going out the door extremely quickly, too. Last summer it was cool most of the summer. During that hot two-week period, we probably went through as many fans as we did all of last year."

Park use up

Yet, the hot spell was just business as usual for some others. "Basically, if the weather doesn't affect us, we don't have irrigation systems in both of our parks," said Kevin Gushman, Farmington director of public works. He said parched grass "stays dried out until it rains."

Gushman said pleasant summer weather does encourage more people to use Shiawassee or Drake Parks. The effect is that more staff hours are devoted to maintaining public restrooms and baseball fields.

While some say the hot spell was the most severe in the last few years, Gushman said, "It's definitely not as severe as back in those drought years," in the late '80s. He noted that water restrictions remain in effect.

Dan Rooney, Farmington Hills superintendent of public works, said some grassy areas he's in charge of maintaining have gone brown. "Our experience indicates the roots are hearty and able to survive. In '88 there was an extended very hot drought, and the lawns came back," he said.

Power stays on

Detroit Edison spokesman Scott Simon said no power outages occurred in greater Farmington during the hot spell, but minor outages happened elsewhere in metro Detroit.

"We've been planning for load growth the past several years

and added new generators and increased transmission capacity," Simon said. "We spend about \$500 million a year to improve our distribution system and maintain it, but because it is mechanical equipment it can break down."

He urges customers to postpone using larger appliances including washers, dryers and dishwashers outside the peak hours of 2-8 p.m., and to generally watch their electricity usage in summer.

Nearly 280,000 metro Detroit Edison customers participate in interruptible air conditioning programs. Those who sign up get a lower rate or up to a \$40 rebate, and Edison can shut off their air conditioning for 15-minute periods.

Health concerns

Farmington Hills EMS coordinator Kevin Bersche reported, "We have not seen EMS-wise very many heat-specific related events. It's kind of a normal flow for us. People are dealing with the heat and dry spell really well."

"The primary thing is to stay hydrated and make sure you're taking enough fluids in. That's your best protective mechanism," Bersche said. If you must be outdoors, know a cool place where you can take a break when needed.

"At the first sign of any symptoms - muscle cramps or a profound fatigue sensation comes over you or if you begin to feel light-headed or nauseous - call 911 and have us come out," he said.

Silver Dairy ice cream vendor Cindy Crespi said very hot

weather "actually hurts business."

"Basically when it's too hot people complain the ice cream melts too fast," she said.

On this summer afternoon, people walk on blacktop stained darker here and there with ice cream spills. Young kids sometimes drop the whole works.

"That happens all the time. Then the tears start. We make them another one," Crespi said.

CAMPUS PIPELINE

MADONNA DEAN'S LIST

The following students were named to the dean's list at Madonna University for the spring semester:

Julia E. Alschul; Beth Z. Comal; Ellen Engellina Ely; Karla Ann Fischer; Laura Anne Judge; Denise L. Kimball; Jennifer A. Loberman; Rachael E. Lukasiak; Eric J. Ming; Annette R. Peruchetti; Sarah L. Schuster; Deborah K. Thams and John J. Trullitt.

NORTHWESTERN DEAN'S

Jennifer Ruff of Farmington Hills was recently named to the dean's list at Northwestern University's Medical School of Journalism in Evanston, Ill. She is the daughter of Gary and Betty Ruff and will be starting her junior year this fall.

JOHNSON & WALKES DEAN'S

Nicole Semposki of Farmington and Allison Barney of Farmington Hills were among those named to the dean's list for spring term at Johnson & Walkes University in Providence, R.I.

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HUDSON'S
is becoming Marshall Field's

M-CARE from page A1

Medicare plan effective Aug. 1. Officials said the decision was sparked by low federal reimbursement rates and the possibility that a significant number of new members could burden the system.

The move was also sparked "by recent actions by other Medicare+Choice providers in the metropolitan Detroit area." The company said the changes "will not cause any current M-CARE Medicare+Choice members to lose their coverage."

"It was a difficult decision to stop enrollment in what we know are desirable plans for Medicare-eligible residents of southeastern Michigan," said Zelda Geyer-Sylvia, executive

director of M-CARE. "We are, however, planning to maintain these products in 2002, at a time when other managed care organizations are dropping theirs due to reimbursement payments from the federal government that are not keeping pace with medical costs."

"Our decision to temporarily stop enrollment also helps us continue to provide quality services for our current members," she said.

For more information, M-CARE members can call M-CARE customer service at (734) 332-2998 or toll free at (800) 228-8554 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Robert Czamecki, MD -
Internal Medicine & Allergy/Immunology

Ghaith Ibrahim, MD -
Internal Medicine & Gastroenterology

Stanford Rapp, DO -
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