

Miller School earns safety award

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Sally Krause doesn't mind the nickname her co-workers at the William E. Miller School have bestowed on her through the years.

The school, with 21 employees, is located on the grounds of Boys and Girls Republic, 28000 Nine Mile in Farmington Hills, within the Farmington Public School District.

Krause, a paraprofessional and member of the safety team, is known as "Sally the Safety Nazi" because of her constant reminders to co-workers to be careful.

She is active in the Employee Support Personnel unit, helped bargain contracts and helped revise the health manual, according to Barb Fries, director of human resources and benefits.

"When she walks into a room and sees someone on a chair doing something, she says, 'Excuse me, don't we have a ladder for that?' Anytime she sees anybody doing anything they shouldn't be, she is on their case. Now they think before they do things."

Krause takes personal pride in her building, and the staff has respect for her, Fries said.

"I take it very seriously" because I'm on the committee," Krause said. Others tell her when they see a safety concern looming, and Krause is constantly looking for trouble spots, like slippery areas in parking lots.

The district's safety advisory committee evaluates safety records regularly. The program was started five years ago.

No accidents, injuries

Krause, a 25-year employee, along with the concerted efforts of staff played a part in the Miller School receiving a safety award Aug. 26 for having no recorded employee accidents or injuries, for five consecutive years, Fries said.

"This never happened before," said Pat Fletcher, director of maintenance operations and safety for the school district.

Miller staff members received leather binders with the district crest. With confidence in the future, Krause is still jokingly pushing to make leather jackets for everyone a possible reward next time.

"This building takes safety as a top priority," said Sue Zurvalac, assistant superintendent for staff and community services. "That requires supporting each other. I appreciate the teamwork involved."

Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for business, finance and operations, also praised the group. "This shows you have your head in the job," Cannon said.

Other buildings

The 10 Mile Annex celebrates two years with no accidents and East Middle School has gone one year, Fletcher said.

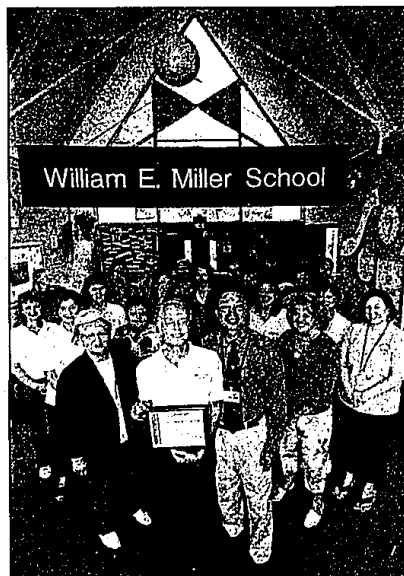
Areas subject to the most employee accidents are the transportation department, where employees have slips and falls, and maintenance and the Cloverdale Development Center in Farmington, where there are back injuries.

Proper lifting techniques, like two-man lifts, will be taught at Cloverdale.

Fries said every employee injury is recorded. If somebody trips over something and falls, but still feels fine, an injury report is required.

"They could be minor things but we still encourage them to report," Fries said. "If they don't report it, five days later they could feel a backache. We used to have 10 reported injuries a week. We are not anywhere near that now."

Injuries can also occur when employees try to carry extra weight. Sometimes a cafeteria worker who has been doing the same job for 20 years finds doing it increasingly more difficult with time, Fries said.



Honored: Sally Krause, Principal Ben Chin and the rest of the Miller School staff have gone five years without a staff accident in school.

The district's Workers Compensation carrier can come in on an as needed basis and observe how workers do their jobs.

The carrier also held a workshop to help employees do their job more effectively.

This may mean changing the way they do their jobs. "They provide us 90 hours a year where they come in to each

building and school to make sure everything is where it needs to be safelywise," Fries said.

Repetitive motion is a concern, and new machines were put in the nutrition services area to wrap and bag foods. The district provided secretaries with wrist pads to prevent carpal tunnel syndrome, Fries said.

City action on Oxford Estates home stalled

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Farmington Hills, through its attorney, filed a motion in Oakland County Circuit Court to have a receiver take over the home of Betty and Ajay Shah in order to have the house in Oxford Estates completed.

Neighbors in the upscale northern Farmington Hills subdivision have been putting pressure on city officials for more than a year to utilize city and state laws to have the home completed. Residents say the unfinished home and landscape have been an eyesore for the past four years.

However, the motion to appoint someone to complete work on the house will likely not be entertained by a local judge anytime soon, as Ajay Shah filed for bankruptcy in federal court Tuesday.

The action will delay any power on what the city can do for several months, said John Donohue, city attorney.

Contacted by phone Wednesday, Ajay Shah confirmed he filed for bankruptcy. He said he wanted to refer any other questions to his attorney.

Donohue said the Circuit Court held off ruling on the city's motion considering the Shahs' assets will likely be overseen by a court-appointed trustee until a bankruptcy hearing takes place.

"The future of the house is

■ Residents say the unfinished home and landscape have been an eyesore for the past four years.

uncertain," Donohue said.

He said the Circuit Court will not have jurisdiction over the estate if the Federal Bankruptcy Court becomes involved.

A trustee to oversee the Shahs' assets has not been appointed yet, Donohue said, adding the process usually takes about a week.

Shah's attorney, Daniel Landman, said the Shahs filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy because of mounting debt.

He said the Shah home will likely not be put in jeopardy while Shah's creditors hold a meeting in the next four to six weeks to discuss the request.

Shah plans to reaffirm the mortgage on the house, Landman said, but is asking the court that his other debts be discharged.

Landman said creditors will not likely go after the house as he said he believes its equity is not high enough to settle Shah's other debts.

The entire procedure for settling a personal bankruptcy usually lasts 120-150 days, Landman said.

Register for Youth Olympics

The City of Farmington Hills Recreation Division will host the 25th Annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Youth Olympics at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 9 at Heritage Park.

Children ages 7-14 are welcome to test their skills and compete to qualify for the Metro Youth Fitness Championships at Kensington Metro Park on July 25.

For more information or to register for the local competition, call the Recreation Division at (248) 473-1800 or visit your local Summer Fun Center. Registration deadline is July 8 at the practice session 4:50 p.m. in Heritage Park.

There is no fee for this program.

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