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HANSON GOES GREEN: Energy demos on tap

WRITTEN BY MEAGHAN GLASSETT
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Green Hanson had a successful year in 2008, increasing recycling in Hanson 14 percent. For 2009, Green Hanson will be focusing on energy efficiency in February and March.

In place of monthly meetings Green Hanson has two events planned for February and March. Green Hanson Chairman Marianne DiMascio will be hosting an energy efficiency and weatherization demonstration live on Thursday, Feb 12.

The demonstration will take place from 6:30 -8 p.m. at the DiMascio-Donohue household at 552 Indian Head Street. Next Step Living will be conducting an extensive home energy audit using a blower door and a geothermal camera. While the company is there they will go around and seal up leaks and make some changes and then retest the energy efficiency, DiMascio said. The demonstration is open to the public to observe and learn how to cut their energy bills.

"The goal is making energy efficiency front and center, because it is one of the things to do to save money," DiMascio said.

The geothermal camera is able to take pictures of the house and show in colors where heat is escaping, she said. For example where it is colder the color may be blue.

Green Hanson has two people trained through Sustainable South Shore on how to use the geothermal camera. The first week in March Green Hanson will be going to 10 houses and using the geothermal camera. Those who are interested can sign up through Green Hanson's Web site: greenhanson.org.

"It's a great tool for people who want to figure out what to do to make their house more energy efficient and where to focus," DiMascio said.

Green Hanson will be hosting Jackson Madnick to speak on Thursday, March 19 at the Hanson Middle School from 7-9 p.m.

At the Ultimate Green Home and Lawn Care workshop Madnick will talk about energy efficiency and Pearl's Premium ultra low maintenance grass seed, which is native to New England. He will present information about growing a low-maintenance, environmentally safe, organic, lush-green lawn. The discussion will feature new deep rooted ecological lawn seeds that require no watering (after getting established) no fertilizer and seldom or no cutting.

To learn more about Pearl's Premium ultra low maintenance grass seed visit: pearlspremium.com/Workshop. Instead of grass roots growing one to two inches, roots may grow up to 12 inches, DiMascio said.

With the grass growing slowly it only has to be mowed once a month and saves on water, money and time. Green Hanson expects to begin community gardening in April. Hanson residents are able to reserve plots at the county hospital land free of charge.

Last year the group broke ground in May and had 12 plots that were 10 feet by 20 feet. "With this tough economy it is a great opportunity to start a vegetable garden," DiMascio said.

The organization also has a goal of starting a farmer's market and have it once



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a week at the Thomas Mill.

To find out more about Green Hanson's happenings visit greenhanson.org or contact Marianne DiMascio at 781-293-3925 or e-mail greenhanson@gmail.com . Volunteer greeters are needed for both events and also folks to distribute flyers.

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