

HomeTown Farmington Observer"

Your hometown newspaper serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 113 years

Thursday, May 25, 2000 hometownnewspapers.net

HomeTown offers e-mail shopping

HomeTown Communications Network, the parent company of this newspaper, announced today formation of a new subsidiary corporation, hometowndigital.com.

The new company will carry out HomeTown's emerging Internet strategy, which includes creating a local electronic mail on the Internet. The -mail, to be called "hometown-mail.com," will offer local merchante an easy and inexpensive way to get into the rapidly growing field of electronic commerce. For readers of this newspaper, the e-mail will offer a quick and convenient way to use the Web to shop their favorite local merchant from the comfort and convenience of home.

"An 'e-mail' work just like an ordinary shopping center,' according to

"An demail works just like an ordi-nary shopping center," according to Phil Power, chairman of HomeTown Communications Notwork. "But instead of being made of bricks and mortar like an ordinary mall, it exists in cyberspace, like amazon.com," Power explained. "Tenants in hometown-mall.com

Please see COMMERCE, AS

To the editor: Letters appear on A12, 13 and 14

Thoughts: Staff writer Joni Hubred gives her thoughts on a pet park in Farmington Hills./A11

HOMETOWN LIFE

Help: Got a green thumb to spare? The Warner Mansion needs gardeners to help keep the grounds looking so nice./B1

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HomeTown Classifieds **WORK!**

"We're very pleased with the ad we took out in the Observer-Eccentric Newspapers. Our pontoon sold in just two days."

> --Fay K. Farmington Hills



Schools forced to make up shortfall

■ Farmington school officials are dipping into the district budget to make up a shortfall in the state's financing of special education. Officials say state legislators need to take note of the problem and take action.

BY TOS EMPTH

STAFF WATTER

EMILIDOG-Shome-communest

Approximately \$3.6 million will need to be siphoned out of Farmington Public Schools general fund budget for 2000-01 to make up for a shortfall in

the needs of special ed and general ed students, district officials said.

"I'd like to bring home the issue," said Farmington schools Trustee Cathy Webb, during Tuesday's regular board meeting."... The state should be paying us 28 percent for special education, which it is not.

"The impact for 2000-2001 in Farmington is the loss of \$3.6 million and the shortfall must be taken from the general education. If anyone is moved by that, I think the Legislature would

SPECIAL ED

like to hear from you."

Citizen input still can have an impact on the final draft of the 2001 School Aid Bill, which members of the state House are expected to vote on in June, Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Markield said Monday.

"The House has a chance to make it.

Please son SPECIAL AS

Friends recall his devotion

One day, Fred Steinkopf and Walter Sundquist were riding together in the same car. On one side of the street was a gorgeous young woman, on the other was a blue spruce "If I could tree.

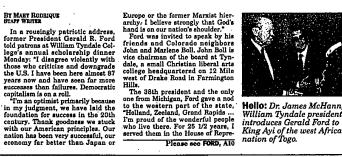
ame car. Un one sade of the street was a gorgeous young woman, on the other was a bine spruce and good. And he said, That's the nicest tree. I've see "father, it would be tree. I've see "devoted, seen," recalled Sundquist, a fourde a de selong friend of the late Steinkopf, who died Friday, May 19. Steinkopf suffered a fatal heart attack in the very farmhouse when the was born July 20, 1932, and not far from the offices for Steinkopf Nursery on Farmington Road north of Eight Mile Road.

That atory was indicative of two things: Steinkopfs unwavering devotion to wife, Sharon; and his interest in the blue spruce.

Fredrick L. Steinkopf also enjoyed practical jokes, antiques, sports and the Farmington Road nursery he took over during the 1970s from his father. Above all, of course, were his atong religious beliefs and love for his family which included seven children and 22 grandchildren.

Sarah Young, one of Steinkopf's four

- which included seven children and 22 grandchildren.
Sarah Young, one of Steinkopf's four daughters, said Tuesday that her father would never so much as even glance at another woman. 'If I could sum up my father, it would be 'davoted, leving, earing Christian man.' He leved everylody.'
About 250 people attended the funeral services Tuesday in the Harvest Temple Worthip Center, with burial at North Farmington Cometery in Farmington Hills. The funeral procession stopped briefly at Steinkopf Nursery.
Officiating during the service was



Start Former President Gerald Ford Speaks at the Typdale College Scholarship Diffier.

Ford says U.S. is headed

for success in new era

Please see FORD, A10

Helio: Dr. James McHann, William Tyndale president, introduces Gerald Ford to King Ayi of the west African nation of Togo.

Masters speak up for their pooches

By Mary Rodrique Stapp Writer

ington Hills City Council meeting, until it came time for his master to speak.

Even then, Pongo didn't make much noise. He jumped a little enthusiastically but sat quickly when commanded to do so. Jess Elison brought him with because he enjoys taking his pots everywhere he goos.

In Farmington Hills, he can't do that: Dogs aren't permitted in Hills parks. "It's very difficult to go on a picnic and enjoy the scenery and fresh air and not have my pots with mee," Elison told city officials.

While they discussed a request for a dog park and the possible compromise of allowing dogs on a least in neonects more study. They also concluded that a compromise wouldn't really selve the problem.

Pengo the golden retriever sat quietly throughout Monday night's Farmington Hills City Council meeting, until it came time for his master to speak.

Even then, Pengo didn's — noise, He immensions to immension to the council meeting and the council meeting and the council meeting to the council meeting to the council meeting to the council meeting the council meeti

Although she doesn't own a dog and ian't a "dog person," Grace Tocce supported the idea of a dog park, a fenced-in area where dogs could run without a leash. While she once jogged around the track at North Farmington High, Tocce gave it up after being chased, nipped at and scratched by unleashed dogs.

Also, she said, her nephews frequently end up cleaning dog feces from their shoes after playing seccer on fields near the school.

"If it keeps the dogs off the seccer field, I'm all for it," she said.
Frank Delewsky isn't a Hills resi-

Sound of music

Schools chosen as tops in the country

You could have knocked Farming-ton Schools Director of Music Paul Barber over with a feather Tuesday

Barber over with a feather Tuesday morning.

He learned then the American Music Conference named Farmington Public Schools first on a list of the 100 best communities for music conducation in American The list omerged from results of an Internet survey of school music education programs, conducted by the AMC, the National Association for Music Education, the Music Teachers National Association and the National School Boards Association.

"I just filled the survey out with the ider, this would give them more information about what's going on in music across the country," Barber



Farming ton shares the top honor with the Coppell Independent School District in Texas. Surveys were filled out by more than 5,800 and independent teachmusk director and ministrative administrative adm

Please see Millic. As

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