



PHIL POWER

## Our prayers go out to victims of Tuesday's terrorist acts

This newspaper is a hometown paper. Among our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers and to nourish the communities we serve.

As we go to press, our nation has been shocked and horrified by a terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Many — perhaps many thousands — have been killed and maimed.

As a community newspaper, it is neither our place nor within our competency to analyze the national or international impact of what has happened or why.

But we simply cannot let these ghastly events pass by without expressing to our readers and to our communities our collective sense of dismay, shock, sorrow and grief. Our prayers go out to the victims, whether through our churches, our synagogues, our mosques or in the privacy of our own homes and hearts.

There is not a single person who reads this newspaper who will come through this experience without being harmed. Some of the harm will be direct, in the sense that a family member, a friend, a colleague or an acquaintance will have been injured or killed.

Some of the hurt will be indirect, rooted in the shattering loss of a sense of comfortable security that we have all shared, safe in our own neighborhoods and communities.

Up to now, mainland America has been protected from direct attack by two mighty oceans. But in an age when planes can fly, evil viruses can be spread from an aerosol bottle and nuclear weapons smuggled in suitcases, oceans alone are no longer a guarantee of security.

I remember riding in my parents' car on Dec. 7, 1941, when news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor came over the radio. I recall my mother, never overtly very emotional, breaking into tears. She knew in that instant that nothing would ever be the same.

And I, in turn, know that our nation has unexpectedly crossed a threshold and that nothing will ever be quite the same.

Our purpose is to understand this and to formulate a proper response: thoughtful, resolute, never — never, ever — forgetting.

And our immediate task is to grieve for our dead and injured and for our loss of comfort and security. We are all in this together, wherever we live, whatever we do.

The English poet John Donne expressed this thought perfectly when he wrote:

No man is an island, entire of itself:  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
a part of the main ...  
Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind;  
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;  
It tolls for thee.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@hometowncomm.net.

## 'There is no agenda today but sadness.'



Faith, hope, love: Nadine D'Iorio comforts her daughter Anne during an evening interfaith hour of prayer at Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

## Disbelief follows disaster

BY KEVIN BROWN  
STAFF WRITER  
kbrown@hometowncomm.net

"It's just devastating. Words can't express how we feel." ABC Warehouse store manager Robert Kelcey was talking to someone at his side. But his eyes were fixed on the bank of TVs along a store wall and the awful story unfolding Tuesday morning.

Salesman Norm Kurizkus' brother, John, worked at Goldman Sachs across from the World Trade Center. Less than a half hour after the collapse of the second Trade Center tower, Norm learned over his cell phone that his brother had escaped unharmed.

"They evacuated the building after the first plane hit," Norm Kurizkus said. "After the second plane hit, he was pretty shaken up."

"He said there is a lot of chaos, he's crossing the Brooklyn Bridge. Kelcey said several ABC customers

Please see REACTION, A5

## Parents, students shocked and frightened

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
sbuck@hometowncomm.net

Farmington School board member Pam Christian was among North Farmington High School parents who came early and waited for their children Tuesday afternoon.

As she walked toward school, other parents either stood outside or lined up in their cars in front of the school.

The TV broadcast images of the tragic terrorist attack at the World Trade Center towers, which caused their collapse, and the plane accident at the Pen-

tagon in Washington, D. C., remained fresh in their minds.

"The schools are doing a good job at keeping kids safe and making them feel safe," Christian said. She waited for Ricky, a junior, and Jaya, a freshman. "I came here early because I was in panic."

For Christian who lived with her husband and children in Maryland for several years, the distance from the Pentagon attack was closer than for other Michiganers. The faces of her friends and neighbors and even a friend of her son, who lives in



AFTERMATH

Please see SCHOOLS, A5



How?: Brandon Leopold wonders where the U.S. armed forces were when the tragedy occurred.

Relieved: At ABC Warehouse on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills Norm Kurizkus watches large-screen televisions tuned to coverage of the terrorist attacks on the east coast. He later learned his brother, who works adjacent to the World Trade Center, was unharmed.



## Faith community maintains hope

### BLOOD DONORS NEEDED, SEE A6

BY MARY RODRIQUE  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington area clergy responded to acts of national terrorism with calls to pray and hope for calm to prevail. Here are the thoughts of some local clerics as the terrorism unfolded Tuesday morning in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania:

The Rev. Alexander Hiegel, Farmington Unitarian Church: "It's very important to remember no one community can be held responsible. (Terrorism is) always the actions of disturbed individuals. To me, that is one of the most important things. What is needed at a time like this — calm, restraint and don't get carried away into actions we may regret later.

Please see FAITH, A5

## Sparks fly as Hills council approves 11 Pines development agreement

BY KEVIN BROWN  
STAFF WRITER  
kbrown@hometowncomm.net

The Eleven Pines golf course expansion and landfill capping project sparked debate Monday between Farmington Hills city council and some opponent.

When the talk was done, the council approved by 7-0 vote an agreement with a developer to create a site plan for the long anticipated project.

The debate included questions from mayoral candidate Ron Oliverio concerning the land buy that made the project possible.

Oliverio asked the council to identify the members of the partnership which sold most of the land to the city. "Were any of them elected officials, public officials, or related to public officials?" he asked.

Mayor Nancy Bates said that was a matter of public record. Some council

members said they didn't know who the partners were. Beyond that, they said, it didn't matter.

"Not one person on this council has made one nickel," said Councilman

■ 'Were any of them elected officials, public officials or related to public officials?'

Ron Oliverio

—Mayoral candidate asking who was involved in the 11 Pines sale

■ 'When we put things on the ballot and say this is what we'll do, we always follow through on that.'

Vicki Barnett  
—City Council member

Jerry Ellis. "I can't tell you who the sellers were because it wasn't relevant."

Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said the decision to buy land came from voters. "When we put things on the ballot and say this is what we'll do, we always follow through on that," she said.

Council approved a four-page letter of intent between the city and prospective developer Selective Group of Farmington Hills. The letter calls for creation of a site plan for the \$10 million project, planned for 90 acres on the southwest corner of 11 Mile and Halsted roads.

Mary Johnston, a Friends of the Rouge supporter who identified herself as an environmentalist, said the council had already settled on a developer and what to include in the project.

Please see 11 PINES, A4

## Spooky



Surprise! That's Farmington Observer editor Joni Hubred under all the make-up and Hometown Life editor Mary Rodrique laughing. Find out why in the story on page C5.



6 53174 10005 4