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■ Circulation 734-591-0500 ■ Home Delivery 734-591-0500 ■ Photo Reprints\* 734-591-2234  
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One year (Sr. Citizen) \$41.60	One year (out of State) \$97.60
Newsstand .....75¢ per copy	



A HomeTown Communications Network™ publication  
33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335  
(On the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Rds.)

## DCX parking lot deal moves ahead

BY PAUL R. PACE  
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Residents near the new DaimlerChrysler finance offices off Inkster and north of I-696 appeared pleased with the latest planned parking lot to be built near an existing parking lot.

The building previously served as Michigan National Bank headquarters.

Under the latest planned unit development agreement with the

city, the parking lot will add more medians with trees and go from an original proposal of 300 parking spaces to 200.

An attorney for the German company joked with council, saying, "This has to be the most thoroughly reviewed parking lot I've ever been involved with."

The architect for the project asked the council to change the 15-foot height limit for the light poles and instead allow the project to have 20- and 30-foot light poles that match the adjacent

lot. Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said she didn't want residents to suffer a glow from the parking lot in their back yards and suggested the light poles be lowered and have timers.

Councilman Christopher McRae, who specializes in lighting, said he agreed with the architect that taller poles would not make the shine from the pavement less a nuisance.

The council asked the city attorney to draft the final PUD

agreement for council approval.

During the public hearing, one nearby resident said the latest site plan was agreeable to him.

Bill Crabtree, administration manager for the company's North American services, said the company plans to consolidate two of its financial services offices under one roof at the site.

DaimlerChrysler plans to move 1,200 employees in the building in August or September.

## Fire department investigates home fire

BY PAUL R. PACE  
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Dan and Fran Sutherland made it safely out of their dream home early Tuesday morning after Dan spotted a fire outside the back of the house, located in the 21150 block of Woodfarm

Drive in Farmington Hills.

Despite efforts to control the fire with a garden hose, Dan said the fire quickly spread to the roof and the home was fully engulfed in flames by the time firefighters arrived.

There were no injuries, but the home, located in a subdivision

north of Eight Mile and west of Halsted was destroyed.

The cause of the fire is still being investigated, said Farmington Hills Fire Inspector Mike Kieh, who estimated total damage at \$1 million.

Dan Sutherland said he heard what sounded like hail as he was in bed watching television just before midnight Monday. When he went to investigate he noticed the fire on the back deck and

woke his wife.

Sutherland said he wasn't able to grab any valuables before leaving. He said the fire was doubly upsetting because he and his wife just finished decorating the inside the way they wanted it. They have lived in the roughly 35-year-old home for 15 years.

Sutherland said he hopes to rebuild the home.

"I'd like to build it exactly like it was," he said.

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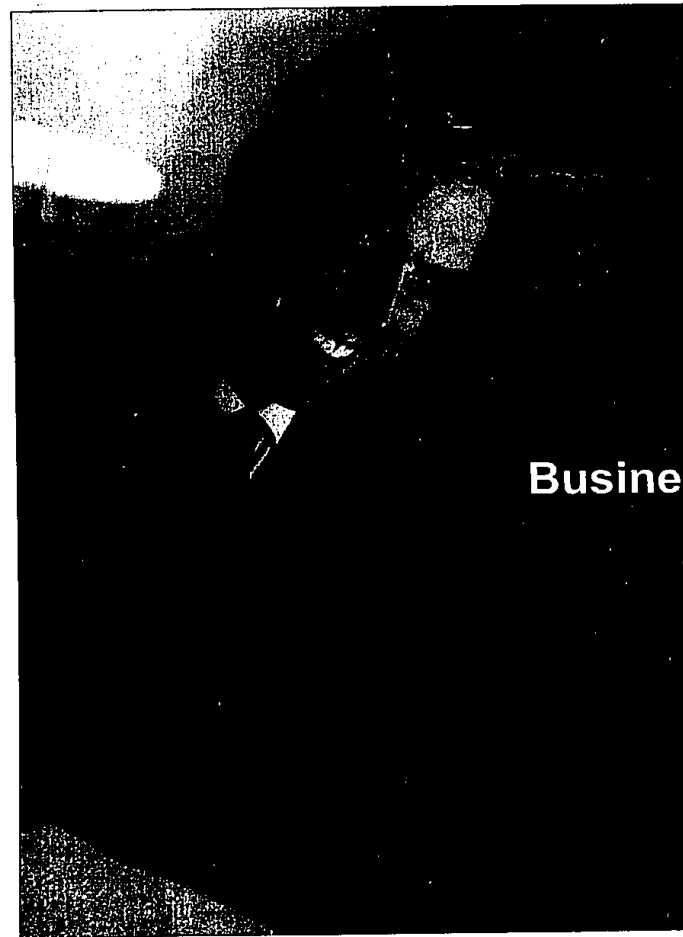
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