

# Eye on the future

## New owner follows in Dr. Dubin's footsteps

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When Dr. Howard Dubin decided the time was right to retire and sell his optometric clinic in downtown Farmington, it came with the caveat that the new owners must take the same personalized, caring approach to serving patients.

But since Dubin found someone just like himself in Dr. Daniel Vargovick, he decided to stick around for a while and team up with the new guy. The 33-year-old Vargovick, who grew up in Farmington Hills and attended Our Lady of Sorrows, took over ownership of Dubin Optometric Clinic in the Downtown Farmington Center on Sept. 7.

"I see a lot of me when I started out in him," Dubin said. "It's like living my life all over again."

According to Dubin, 59, whose wife Susan continues in her longtime role as office manager at the clinic, there will be more time in his schedule for things such as running, taking computer courses, charity work and travel.

Vargovick isn't changing a thing, except for adding a part-time employee — Howard Dubin.

"For me, I feel so lucky because I can stay and work," said Dubin, who will put in about 20 hours per week in what he described as a dream-like arrangement. "And I can have Dan take over the management of the office and ownership and allow me to do things I want to do. I guess I can have my cake and eat it, too."

About Vargovick, he said that: "We know Dan will carry the torch and keep it burning as bright as we ever did."

The transition from Dubin to Vargovick has been a smooth one. Many patients are signing on with Vargovick, sight unseen, simply from Dubin's high recommendation. And the office staff stays on board, including veteran assistant office manager Pat Bolt.

### Perfect fit

Susan Dubin, who also is a member of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, said she and her husband really wrung their hands about selling a business they began building three decades ago. Who could they entrust to properly care for the people who have been their customer base for several generations?

A mutual acquaintance of both



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNEKE

The eyes have it: Farmington Mayor Mary Bush talks with Drs. Daniel J. Vargovick and Howard Dubin.

**"To accomplish what we have over these 32 or 33 years we've had to love what we do, and love the city of Farmington and the patients as well. This became like an actual child to us. When you love something that much, it becomes part of you. This office is us."**

Susan Dubin  
—Dubin Optometric

Mary Bush, also a patient. She was suffering from blurred vision and called the clinic. They told her to come right over for a checkup. It turned out to be a migraine headache and she was successfully treated in quick, but caring fashion.

By talking to the patients, Susan Dubin said, it is easier for eye-care needs to be customized. "People today are so busy and (are) into so many things," Dubin explained, listing fashion, athletics and staring at computer screens at their jobs.

Meanwhile, noted Bush, it "says volumes" that the Dubins took such pains to make sure the business was taken over by the right kind of people — and by someone with Farmington-area roots, too.

Vargovick, his wife, Maureen, and their sons Daniel, 4 and Christopher, 1 1/2, moved back to Farmington Hills last year following a stint in Indiana. The boys someday might attend Sorrows, the same private Catholic school their father went to.

"I'm real excited about the future and about this opportunity," Vargovick said. "I feel fortunate to be here."

Howard Dubin undoubtedly feels the same way.



Welcome: Celebrating the change in ownership are Dr. Howard Dubin, office manager Susan Dubin, Mayor Mary Bush and the new owner Dr. Daniel J. Vargovick.

## Farmington High students nominated for Heisman Award

Meghan O'Rear and Grant Weber, both seniors at Farmington High School, have been nominated for the sixth annual Wendy's High School Heisman Award, said John Barrett of Farmington High School.

The national awards program was created by Wendy's, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Downtown Athletic Club of New York City. The program recognizes academic achievement, community service and athletic accomplishments of high school senior men and women.

The following accomplishments earned Meghan O'Rear and Grant Weber their nomination for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award.

O'Rear has a grade point average of 3.73, is involved at a local nursing home, is on the varsity basketball team, and captain on both the varsity volleyball and softball teams. She received the Farmington High School Scholar Athlete Award.

Weber has a GPA of 3.95 and is a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council. He is also a peer mediator. He is on the varsity football team and has been the captain for the past two years. He has been the Prep Star of the week for football. He is also on the varsity basketball team. He has received the Farmington High School Athlete Award.

"Meghan O'Rear and Grant Weber have achieved a tremendous amount of success through their involvement in academics, community service and athlet-

ics," Barrett said. "We are proud to honor them, and they will be recognized as role models in our school and as remarkable citizens within the community."

Principals at the nations estimated 23,000 high schools were invited to nominate one male and one female student-athlete for the awards competition.

Entries will be evaluated by the scholastic review service, CTB/McGraw-Hill, to narrow the field to 1,020 state award finalists and soon to 102 state award winners, including the District of Columbia.

A panel of judges, including past Heisman Trophy recipients and education, business and community leaders, will review the 102 state award winners and name 12 national finalists, one male and one female representing six geographic regions.

Each national finalist will be invited to New York City to participate in the Heisman Memorial Trophy weekend festivities at the Downtown Athletic Club Dec. 9-12. One male and female will then be selected as the national winners and honored during the Heisman Memorial Trophy national telecast on Saturday, Dec. 11, on ESPN TV.

The awards presentation will be made by Wendy's Founder Dave Thomas and program spokesman Archie Griffin, the only two-time Heisman Memorial Trophy winner and current associate athletic director at the Ohio State University, and Dr. Gerald Tirozzi, the executive director of the NASSP.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNEKE

Leadership: Meghan O'Rear and Grant Weber are nominees.

NASSP is a school leadership organization, representing more than 42,000 middle-level and high school principals and assistant principals. It administers the National Honor Society, the American Technology Honor Society, the National Association of Student Councils, the National Association of Student Activity Advisors, the National Alliance of Middle Level Schools, and the National Alliance of High Schools, an organization of school-based teams across the country, working with principals to implement recommendations in NASSP's reform report, Breaking Ranks: Changing and American Institution.

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