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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

TODAY

Egg hunt: No doubt another success for the Jaycees, who again hosted the Easter bunny and an egg hunt - sort of. /A4

High Tech: Students participate in an all-school technology night at Warner Middle School. /A7

OPINION

Assess: It's time the city of Farmington Hills antes up for the cost of dust control on the city's dirt roads. /A10

Holy days: All in the same week, Jews and Christians celebrate their respective holidays. /A10

COMMUNITY LIFE

New meanings: A Farmington Hills couple found new meaning to life when they became foster parents. /B1

Screenings: April 5 is National Alcoholism Screening Day. Free local screenings are available. See the Chat Room. /B1

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I-275 residents consider lawsuit

Residents who live along I-275 say they're at the end of their rope when it comes to dealing with freeway noise. They want the interstate rebuilt with asphalt instead of concrete, along with sound barriers.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Residents along I-275 say they have run short of options - except one: Going to court.

With Michigan Department of Transportation officials in the next room, families near I-275 mapped out their strategy on how to take on the state agency during an informal meeting at the Spicer House Tuesday afternoon.

At a March 16 state Transportation Commission meeting, residents asked MDOT to reply to their concerns regarding I-275 reconstruction and road noise by Wednesday. As of Tuesday, the state agency hadn't responded. Construction is expected to start in two weeks.

The resident group wants I-275 rebuilt with asphalt instead of concrete. In lieu of surface changes, they want sound barriers to cut noise, which

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has been measured by a Channel 7 news crew as high as 91 decibels.

MDOT officials say its too late to change designs, which would delay reconstruction of the state's second busiest freeway behind I-75. Sound walls are too costly, they add.

"We've got to pull on all the chains," said Bob Townsley, a spokesman for the ad-hoc group to residents and elected officials gathered in the room.

The group is grasping onto the last link of legal action. Some 700 homes in Livonia and Farmington Hills along the 1.6 miles of freeway are affected by

the rumbling of traffic.

Townsley suggested each homeowner pitch in \$100 to raise \$70,000, which will offset court costs in seeking a restraining order.

"That will do a lot of fighting," Townsley said.

One resident immediately raised his hand to say he was in. Others are eager to join.

"If you don't sue them, they won't do anything," said Bob Kofluk, who lives in Meadowbrook Hills.

Those who live along I-275 reiterated that they're not against the road pro-

Please see NOISE, A5

Back to drawing board

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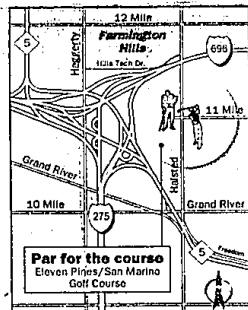
With a revised set of rules, developers are trying again to come up with a plan that includes a golf course, housing and possibly office buildings for Halsted and 11 Mile.

Plans and proposals have to be submitted to Farmington Hills City Hall by 4 p.m. Friday, April 30. Farmington Hills city officials want to recoup at least \$5.5 million paid to buy property to expand San Marino Golf Course from nine to 18 holes.

Along with the golf course, city council members would like to see residential homes, a senior assisted-living facility or office on the 92 acres.

Nine developers submitted proposals in November. After going over their

Please see PROJECT, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEGENLER

Arrived: Jim Fuqua, new director of the Farmington area YMCA, brings 20 years of experience.

Director brings worldly experience

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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When most talk about being in touch with the world, Farmington YMCA's new director talks about how it has touched him.

Jim Fuqua, 46, has been with the YMCA for 20 years. As executive director, he's well-attuned to its operations, programs and volunteers.

Yet the organization touting friendship, families and community opened his eyes to different cultures and inner resourcefulness. Fuqua was named Farmington executive director in January, succeeding Kevin Bush.

Fuqua (pronounced "Fow kway") started in the Houston

"You never look at the news the same: The world becomes a lot more real to you."

Jim Fuqua

-Farmington Area YMCA executive director

Y, helping legal immigrants from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam settle in the U.S. during the late 1970s. Their hardships were best described with the tag, "Bad People."

Despite language and cultural barriers, Fuqua helped

Please see YMCA, A9

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



Editor's note: From now until the debut of the Festival of the Arts April 25-May 2 at the William Costich Activities Center, we will highlight the myriad of clubs and organizations that comprise the Farmington Community Arts Council, which hosts the week-long festival.

Farmington Players

Members - all 100-125 of them - are getting ready to put on the final show of their 45th season.

"Don't Dress for Dinner" will close the season beginning Friday, April 24 and run for four weekends through May 16 at the Players Barn on 12 Mile Road. The organization will remain in the Barn for another season after which it will be razed to make room for a new performing center.

During the season, which runs October to mid-May, the Players meet monthly, with the purpose of working on the three or four shows performed throughout the season.

"We do a mix of everything," said Cynthia Tupper, president.

Please see ARTS, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEGENLER

On tap: Linda Trzcinski is the newest member of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

Blooming

What downtown will do

BY TIM SMITH
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If new Downtown Development Authority board member Linda Trzcinski has her way, downtown Farmington will begin to bloom as much as the florist shop she has operated for 29 years.

Trzcinski, 45, who operates the Farmington Florist in the Downtown Farmington Center, was recently appointed by the city council to fill a vacancy on the DDA, cre-

ated by the resignation of Jody Soronen. She said she will serve until February 2002, to complete Soronen's term.

"Over the next few years, I think we can really make it happen," said Trzcinski, a 1971 graduate of Farmington High School.

Trzcinski, recruited for the position, said she likes the direction the DDA has been taking in recent years. Still, she noted that improving downtown Farmington is a work

Please see DDA, A4

Group home workers to be charged in assault

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Two workers at a Farmington Hills adult foster care home are expected to be charged with abusing a 46-year-old woman who is mentally impaired.

On Oct. 15, authorities believe the resident had been slapped in the face and knocked to the ground where she was kicked inside the home on Greening Street.

The victim was later hit in the head

with a rearview mirror during an altercation in the garage.

She suffered a bruised ear and eye and had scratches on her face. She also may have sustained a broken cheekbone, police said.

Those injuries surfaced after she was taken to the hospital with a broken leg, which occurred during an outing on Belle Isle the following day.

Kyla Foundren, 21, of Detroit turned herself into police March 29. She was

Please see CHARGES, A5

The 'Goose' urges us to fly with God-given talents

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Detroit Rockers' netminder Bryan "Goose" Finnerty has made a career of preventing goals, but he gave 100 or so people at a Farmington Hills prayer breakfast something to shoot for.

The indoor soccer goalkeeper urged those who attended the fourth annual gathering at Faith Covenant Church March 27 to find their God-given talent and pursue it with gusto. Finnerty certainly has.

The San Diego, Calif., native made a career out of stopping soccer balls hurled at him in excess of 80 mph an

PRAYER BREAKFAST

hour. For his craft, the Walled Lake resident has suffered countless broken fingers, nose and lost a molar or two.

In eight seasons with the National Professional Soccer League Detroit Rockers, Finnerty has only missed six of 332 games. On March 8, he was named Rockers head coach.

"Talk about a gift," he said.

Please see GOOSE, A5



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