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# FARMINGTON Observer

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## Middlebelt closes for construction

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Motorists who use Middlebelt Road between 11 and 12 Mile will be taking a different route this spring and summer as the Michigan Department of Transportation closed a section of the road this week to begin the replacement

of the bridge that crosses I-696.

The work may take more than three months to complete, said Tom Biasell, director of public works for Farmington Hills.

Road closings and detours in the community will not be as numerous this season as in past years, Biasell said.

The Road Commission for Oakland County will be reconstructing and resurfacing Eight Mile from Grand River to Farmington Road starting sometime this month.

A punch list of work on the northern section of Northwestern Highway will also take place this season, with landscaping efforts slated for

the 2004 season, Biasell said.

A tunnel to connect the new 9-hole expansion of the San Marino golf course will be built under the intersection of 11 Mile and Halsted sometime after school lets out this year. During construction, the intersection will be closed for up to three weeks sometime this summer, said Biasell.

A resurfacing of 11 Mile from Drake to Halsted will also take place.

Also, traffic may be affected at times along Nine Mile between Tick and Shiawassee as the city installs a new water sewer line by the road this year, Biasell said.

pace2@hometownlife.com | (248) 477-5450

OUT TOWN

### Support troops

A rally in support of U.S. troops fighting in Iraq will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the War Memorial near the Masonic Temple in downtown Farmington.

Those who attend are invited to bring flags and signs to wave in a show of support, as well as nonperishable food items. These items will be donated to the Sellridge AHP Base Food Closet, which helps families while their spouses are away fighting.

### Egg Hunt

The Downtown Merchants Association of Farmington will host an Easter Egg Hunt at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 13 at Memorial Park behind the Masonic Temple in downtown Farmington. There will also be an appearance by the Easter Bunny. The event is free.

### Tax night

The Farmington Hills Post Office at 32455 W. 12 Mile Road will extend window hours until 7 p.m. The final pull for outside collection boxes will be at 8 p.m. on



Tuesday, April 15. Post offices at 200 W. 2nd Street in Royal Oak and 22200 W. 11 Mile in Southfield will offer full window services until midnight.

### Eight Mile

The resurfacing of Eight Mile between Farmington Road and Grand River is expected to begin on Monday, April 14. The project involves some base repair work followed by the addition of three inches of new asphalt to the entire road.

Additionally, the intersection of Eight Mile and Middlebelt will be completely reconstructed in concrete. The project will not add any additional lanes to the road. Throughout the project there will be lane closures on Eight Mile, but at least one lane in each direction will remain open at all times. The project is expected to be completed by Sept. 1.

Because the Middlebelt/Eight Mile intersection will be reconstructed with concrete, which is a more involved process than asphalt resurfacing, Middlebelt will be closed for three weeks on the south side of Eight Mile and then three weeks on the north side of Eight Mile.

The closure on the south side of the intersection is expected to take place from April 21 to May 12. The closure on the north side is expected to take place from May 12 to May 30.



BILL BRESLER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Rabbit ears

The Easter Bunny thinks that Rebecca Shewfelt might have ears. Just like a bunny but it turns out to be hair. The two visited Saturday during the Easter Egg Hunt held at the Masonic Temple in downtown Farmington. More photos, page A4.

## Vargovick carries on DDA tradition

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Daniel Vargovick, who has owned Dubin Optometric in downtown Farmington for three years, was appointed to a four-year term on the Farmington Downtown Development Authority Monday.

The vote was 3-1 with Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell casting a nay vote without explanation.

The success of the downtown area is not only critical to my business, but also important to me personally, as my children are educated at Our Lady of Sorrows and we frequent the shops and restaurants downtown," Vargovick

wrote in his March 21 application. "I would be pleased to support continued improvements to our town through this position on the DDA."

Vargovick said Tuesday he's pleased to

continue a tradition of service. Susan Dubin, a former manager with the optometric clinic, once served on the DDA, he said.

He received recommendations from both Dubin and Linda Batzloff, who owns Farmington Florists.

"I want to give back to the community," Vargovick said. "We have a long history here."

Vargovick said he has successfully maintained the practice with the same exceptional customer care the Dubins started 30 years ago.

"I am very proud of the clinical and personal service we provide at Dubin," Vargovick said. "I also have many personal and business contacts in the area and feel comfortable that I can represent not only my views but those of the people I would represent."

As a business owner, Vargovick said he hones his business and people skills daily.

"But I also have strong team skills," he

PLEASE SEE VARGOVICK, A9



Dan Vargovick

## Officials approve Classic Car Show

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington City Council Monday approved plans for another Classic Car Show, now in its fourth year.

The event will be held, as usual, in the municipal parking lot on Farmington Road between State and Liberty streets. However, council members decided to wait before approving special cruise nights May 21, June 18, Aug. 13 and the grand finale Sept. 10.

Sponsors Roger Ratkowski of The Pasta Stop and Dennis Page, owner of Page's Restaurant, were not

"There is no other city in this state which has a car show for 20 consecutive weeks, May through September."

Bill Lavery  
owner, Magic Brain

present for the discussion.

However, neighboring business owners were on hand to ask that the event be moved.

Bill Lavery, owner of Magic Brain on Farmington Road, presented a petition from Farmington merchants

asking the car show be held in the lot behind the Metro Bank building at 32206 Grand River in the downtown Farmington Business Center.

"This parking facility is larger and would also prevent any city streets from having to be closed," petitioners said.

Lavery said he isn't opposed to the car show and thought the different location would serve more businesses.

"Instead of two or three businesses benefiting from this show, at least 24 businesses would benefit," Lavery said. "It would be much more visible for people going by at

PLEASE SEE SHOW, A9

## Church's 'Superstar' involves youth, adults

BY JOHN HUBBARD  
STAFF WRITER

A small but dedicated group of young people and adults will bring the music of *Jesus Christ Superstar* into the 21st century April 11 and 12, at Salem United Church of Christ.

As actors and musicians gathered

at the church Saturday for rehearsal, director David Peramle set up a classic Hammond organ he brought to the church specifically for the performance. The church's Sunday morning organist, he brought the idea for the show to an activities planning meeting last year.

"David had really been wanting

to do something like this," said youth coordinator Sue Nickels. "When he came to the planning meeting, the kids said, 'We can do this.'"

The youth group is small, with 11 active senior high and nine junior high members. But their enthusi-

PLEASE SEE MUSICAL, A8



David Peramle directs the cast of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

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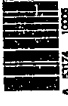
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**LOOKING AHEAD**  
Easter Sunday's Taste section spotlights chocolate Easter bunnies and offers suggestions for celebrating the holiday.



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