

New laser vision correction offered locally

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

The next advancement in vision correction is being offered in Farmington Hills. Staff members at the TLC Eyecare & Laser Center on 12 Mile are excited about being among the first to offer a new technology that provides the most exact measurement possible of a person's eye. That information can then be transferred to a computer-guided laser to customize the specific vision correction needs of the patient, said Dr. Jeff Varanelli, regional clinical director at TLC. Varanelli and Joe Ferrari, ophthalmic technician, explained how the new computer equipment in the company's offices can capture the detail of a patient's eye and put it on a computer in three-dimensional view. The image shows the peaks and valleys of the cornea that can be reshaped by the laser to give the patient 20/20 and even sharper vision. Actually, Varanelli said, TLC's True Custom Lasik is a proven technique already utilized for the past two years at the company's Windsor office, where the advanced procedure is allowed. The machine and computer software that map the eye for doctors to study is available at the company's Farmington Hills office, but the procedure is awaiting approval from the Food and Drug Administration to be allowed in the U.S., which is expected soon. "This is taking it to the next level of refinement," Varanelli



Dr. Jeff Varanelli explains the benefits of new 3-D computer mapping of the eye to allow greater precision in Lasik surgery.

said. "This can help people who've previously had trouble with night glare and halo effects from typical Lasik surgery." By being the first in the area to offer the procedure, "We have a big head start on most others," he said. "In the next two to three years, this will be the standard," he said. Currently, the True Custom Lasik costs about \$200 more per eye than typical Lasik surgery. But the benefits, of even sharper vision and fewer side effects than traditional Lasik, are the key for people choosing it, Varanelli said.

Nicole Bowers, CEO of TLC Eyecare and Laser Centers, said the new procedure can also help people who were not candidates for the conventional Lasik in the past. Advance levels of measurement can correct areas of the cornea that previously weren't possible. Therese Gardner of Troy had the advanced procedure done last year in TLC's Windsor office. She said seeing the three-dimensional map of her eyes "was awesome." Her near-sightedness and astigmatism in one eye were corrected immediately after the procedure, she said.

"Everything was improved," she said. "I came out with 20/15 vision. It was pretty amazing." Gardner said she would "definitely recommend the advanced procedure to anyone thinking of laser eye correction. They educated me about it and made sure I was well informed," she said. "I totally felt confident in the procedure. For me, I had no problems." TLC Eyecare & Laser Center in Farmington Hills is part of a network of TLC centers. Call them at (800) 551-7347 or visit the company's Web site at www.tlccrnl.com.

BY SUE BUICK
STAFF WRITER

Republican Club endorses Goshorn in board race

The Farmington Area Republican Club has endorsed John Goshorn for Farmington Public School Board in the Monday, June 9 election. One, four-year seat is open, because Board President Linda Enberg decided not to run for re-election. This is Goshorn's second bid for school board. He last ran in 2001. Goshorn, 54, is a commercial business manager for Ford. "I have lived and been educated in many places around the world and I want to introduce the concept of adopting the best practices of other institutions to the Farmington School District," said Goshorn in a press release. FARC President Kenneth Massey was supportive of Goshorn. "Our board members are very comfortable with this decision to endorse," Massey said. "We had considered eschewing endorsements in elections, but when a candidate of Mr. Goshorn's caliber runs we feel it appropriate to support him. John is the best qualified candidate and he will make an excellent addition to the Farmington School Board." Goshorn, 54, and a Farmington Hills resident, graduated from West Point with a degree in engineering and later earned a master's degree in business from Boston University. He is married to Regina. They have two sons who graduated from North Farmington High School. Andy is a 2001

graduate of the Coast Guard Academy. Daniel will be entering his junior year at the University of Michigan this fall. FARC has more than 240 members. "Our members are primarily GOP voters and grassroots activists," said member Chris Cummins. Cummins and fellow FARC members Mike Leads and Valerie Knol recently led the May 7 candidate forum which is being replayed on cable Channel 8 until the election. Goshorn will run against Cheryl Swalm, a co-owner of Falcon Stamping, in Howell and Karen Bolsen, co-chair of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Council. Both are Farmington Hills residents. In a prepared statement, FARC expressed a belief all three candidates have something to offer and encourage Farmington-area residents to watch the debates and hear for themselves what is being said. "Goshorn knows many of us here in the community," the statement said. "To our members, he has talked about working across ideologies to build a consensus. Furthermore, he has impressed us with his knowledge of educational issues, and his commitment to help the Farmington Schools provide their students with an excellent education. We also feel he represents a comfortable middle ground in this election."

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Carnegie course offered for teens and young adults

A Dale Carnegie course for teens and adults will be held in Farmington Hills from 6-10 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27.

The course is designed to prepare young people for the real world. It will help them build self-esteem and confidence, develop a positive atti-

tude, communicate more effectively, deal with stress and create personal and academic goals, among other things. For more information about

this free introductory session, contact instructor Kathy Tosolan, (248) 478-5318 or kathy_tosolan@dalecarnegie.com

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