

# Middlebelt will remain closed through October

Middlebelt Road between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills remains closed as a result of a sanitary sewer-related problem located between Highmeadow Road and Wellington Drive.

It is anticipated that repairs will continue through October.

Equipment and materials will be delivered and intensive work will be ongoing at the site. In order to expedite the repairs, it will be necessary to have lights and crews working at all hours.

Well drilling will cause a temporary discoloration of the Pebble Creek in this area, according to officials. There will be inconvenience and noise during the repairs.

For safety reasons, crews are asking residents to stay away from the site.

According to the Oakland County Water Resource

Commissioner's Office, who is in charge of the repair, the problem was caused by a joint failure where two pipes connect in the underground sanitary sewer that runs 35 feet beneath Middlebelt Road.

The separation of the pipes allowed soil to enter the system, which then weakened the structure of the road and resulted in a sinkhole.

The 50-year-old underground pipeline, which is owned by the Water Resources Commissioner's Office, serves an estimated 70,000 people in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Orchard Lake, and Keego Harbor.

Contractors are currently working to prepare the site for excavation to determine the cause and extent of the pipe separation and the best way to fix it.

The damaged area is now being isolated and a bypass system is being maintained so that no customers will lose service.

Middlebelt Road will remain closed while work on the damaged pipe is under way. Detour route signage is posted. In order to prevent cut-through traffic in the Holly Hills Subdivision and to allow the various contractors room to work, Highmeadow has been closed at Middlebelt. Residents in that subdivision will have to confine their access to the south. Wellington Drive at Middlebelt on the east is also closed to allow for the sewer bypass pipes. Emergency access is being maintained.

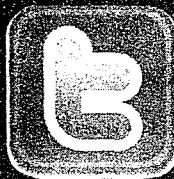
For further information, go to the Farmington Hills website at [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) or call the Division of Public Works at (248) 871-2850.



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Middlebelt will be closed between 12 Mile and 13 Mile for at least two weeks while a county sanitary sewer line is dug up and repaired.

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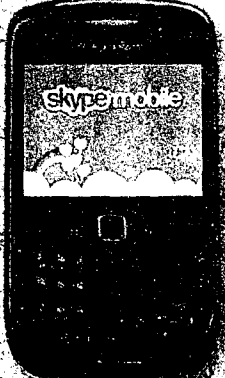
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