

Giving thanks



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Celebrate: Trevor Kriakoza and Alexandra Lawley, both second-grade students at St. Fabian Catholic School, are learning how early Thanksgiving were celebrated with a traditional turkey feast.

Ethics

Does committee need to exist?

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Before the city of Farmington Hills convenes an ethics committee meeting, officials will have to decide whether the panel still even exists.

They'll also have to track down some of the members, which included a resident who is now an Oakland County Circuit Court judge.

The ethics issue arose after a published report quoted a Hills resident and committee member saying the group would meet and talk about the relationship between outside contractors and elected officials.

Terry Sever working as a consultant for a developer while still on city council has rekindled interest in the issue. Sever resigned from council Nov. 9 after winning the 19th District Oakland County Commission seat.

Phoenix Land Development

had Sever work on its bid to develop city-owned Eleven Pines property next to San Marino Golf Course. However, Phoenix withdrew from consideration due to concerns raised by Sever's involvement.

The ethics committee went out of existence several years ago. Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said. No such body is on the city's list of active boards or commissions, either.

Vagnozzi asked the city clerk to see if the group formally dissolved. And it did — on Feb. 10, 1996, it was done away with by city council action.

If it had not been dissolved, the mayor would ask that city council be able to approve its reactivation.

"My feeling is we've discussed and rediscussed this issue enough," Vagnozzi said. "It's time to move on. Especially since the contractor pulled out. Everyone has had their say."

"Terry Sever deserves the

HILLS COUNCIL

opportunity to close out the matter and begin his work as county commissioner."

Hills city council named an ethics committee in 1991, which included seven residents and four ex-officio members. Hills Councilman Jon Grant, City Attorney John Donohue, City Manager Bill Costick and Vagnozzi were on the panel.

Residents included Gian Petrak, Jack McDonald, Michael Shippee, Paul Blizman, Ron Oliverio and Alnn Yost. Their charge was to review the city code of ethics adopted in 1989.

Paul Blizman, who is on the planning commission, said he's unaware of any plans to reconstitute the committee.

Vagnozzi is not ruling out such a discussion in the future. Now is not the time, he said. He also wrote a memo to city council expressing his views.

'Slice of Life' helps children

Keith Supian, Van Dyke restaurant chef, will be at Borders Books and Music, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30, to autograph "A Slice of Life," a new regional cookbook.

Proceeds from the cookbook

benefit children with arthritis.

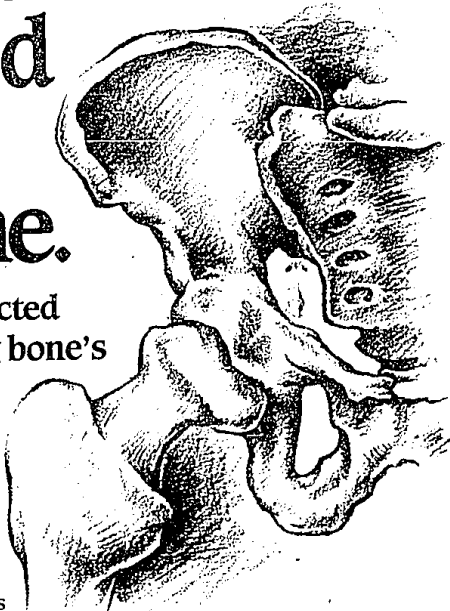
The cookbook boasts 340 recipes, including well-known dishes from the chefs of the Whitney, Lark and Grand Hotel. The books is available for \$12.95.

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