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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Millennium: Be a part of a very special first edition of Jan. 1, 2000, by placing your photo and message in your hometown Observer. See page A6 for details.

SPORTS

Hawks go for gold: Farmington Harrison will try to win a record-tying 10th state championship in football Saturday at the Silverdome. /C1

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Owners clean up

■ About 60 properties have been inspected since the city started a cleanup program in August 1998. Of those, 21 were cited.

BY TIM SMITH
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Most Farmington commercial property owners cited since August 1998 for violating code enforcement ordinances apparently are cleaning up their act.

Kevin Gushman, public services department director, last week updated the city council on an inspections program targeting property owners in the east end of Farmington. It is the first phase of a program that eventually will cover the entire city.

According to Gushman, approximately 60 properties were inspected since the effort began in August 1998. Of those, 21 were cited — mostly for violations pertaining to the upkeep and appearance of buildings and surround-

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ing grounds. Almost all attended to matters without resistance.

"We really required no court action or court fines as a result of us contacting property owners," Gushman said. "The (property owners) have complied and continue to be proactive."

Gushman, however, noted two exceptions. Violations issued against the property owners of the former Hong Kong Restaurant and Wash Hut were not dealt with; both cases are expected to be on the December docket in 47th District Court, he said.

The restaurant and Laundromat, which had been located next to each other on the northeast corner of Grand

Please see CLEAN UP, A7

Ribbons symbolize MADD campaign

BY TIM SMITH
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Red ribbons soon will be blanketing the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills to signify the start of Mothers Against Drunk Driving's 14th annual "The One On For Safety" campaign.

From now through Jan. 1, 2000, the symbolic red ribbons will be attached to police and fire vehicles and made available to the general public at the police stations in each city.

More importantly, say police officials, the more that people see the red ribbons the more they will be aware that drinking and driving will not be tolerated.

Kicking off the "The One On For Safety" campaign was a press conference Tuesday at the Oakland County Commission office in Pontiac.

"It makes everyone aware and that's one of the biggest things," said Michael Wiggins, deputy director of the Farmington Public Safety Department. "They need to be reminded."

Please see RIBBONS, A4



Zachary Cichon, Darius Davis, Bailey Forrest, Zachary Franklin, Jackie Gilme, Jonathan Grathoff, Danielle Irwin, Yvonne Koenig, Jamie LeBlanc, Ronnie Lee, Shelby Luark, Devin Martin

TURKEY TALES FROM TOTS

Kids lend a helping hand on how to prepare Thanksgiving dinner

STORY BY DIANE GALE • PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

We can all be grateful for at least one thing this Thanksgiving — that the first-grade students at William Grace Elementary School aren't preparing our meals.

The gastronomical expertise of these budding chefs is enough to make most of us throw in our napkins and take cover.

Zachary Cichon's plan starts out reasonably enough when he suggests that the turkey be cooked for 30 minutes. "Then put it in the oven for 40 seconds," said Cichon who recommends adding baking soda, salad, French dressing and salt.

Darius Davis also took a few minutes away from Kathy Sedgway's classroom to share his Thanksgiving culinary tips. His menu would include, a turkey, greens, salad and salad dressing. And for dessert he would serve ice cream, chips and donuts.

"I would put shrimp around the turkey," he said. "Put it in the oven for about six minutes. Then put pepper on it."

Cedric Smith, 6, explains that this Thanksgiving he's having chicken.

"I eat it after it's cooked," he said. "You buy the chicken from the store. You cook it in the oven. My mom cooks it 22 seconds... I mean minutes. When it's done I put salt and pepper on it. My dad cuts it up and eats it again."

Extending his arms to either side, Smith added: "And BOOM it's eating time."

Nikolin Biza, 6, said that the first step is getting the turkey from the farmer.

"Then you cook the turkey," he

said. "Then you eat it. And you put in apples, potatoes and broccoli."

Jamie LeBlanc is thinking about a rice and chicken menu with "potatoes on the side." And don't forget to put flour on the chicken, LeBlanc added.

Danielle Irwin is out to please her guests. "My dad likes salt and pepper," she explained.

Yvonne Koenig said her recipe for stuffing is the "regular" variety. "The recipe is to cook the turkey plain and 'cook' it for five minutes.

Devin Martin doesn't avert the details and doesn't have to worry about staying true to old family recipes. "Get the stuffing from the store," Martin said.

Bailey Forrest was on a roll when she explained that she would serve pumpkin pie and turkey. But she lost points when she described how she would put the stuffing on top of the turkey to cook.

Salad and ham is the food of choice for Jackie Gilme. The only problem is that she plans to get her ham from chickens. Her fool proof technique for mashed potatoes is to "smash them." As for the turkey, she said, first you have to buy it, cook it

two minutes and add stuffing.

Ronnie Lee is going to fry his turkey.

And Ashley Piper wants chicken, cooked for three minutes at 15 degrees. She rounds out the balanced meal with cucumbers and carrots. Adrian Williams has the same quick and easy plan. But she recommends cooking the turkey at 5 degrees for 30 minutes. Her side dishes include vegetables, ribs and corn.

Zachary Franklin throws tradition to the wind. He doesn't like turkey and that's reason enough not to serve the poultry.

"I would have some carrots," Franklin said. "And a bunch of vegetables — green apples and I would also eat 10 carrots and 10 cucumbers. And tomatoes, but no onions. There would be one more thing I would want — that's pizza. And that's everything."

Jonathan Grathoff wants roast beef, vegetables and butterscotch pudding.

When asked for her holiday secrets, Emily Watt said she would serve turkey.

But when pressed about her preparation ideas, she threw up her arms and said: "I don't know how. I don't know how."

When it comes to cleanliness Shelby Luark's kitchen would get the prize, even though her guests would likely end up with salmonella anyway.

"I would first wash (the turkey) off," she said. "Then I would put it in the oven for 10 minutes."

She would stuff it with meat and serve plain peanut butter sandwiches, which might be the safest choice for anyone eating the meals dreamed up by these young chefs.



Ashley Piper, Nikolin Biza, Cedric Smith, Gavin Sullivan, Emily Watt, Adrian Williams

Longtime cable TV chief bows out of job

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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The man who presided over the area's first cable TV hook-up has been reshuffled out of a job.

Tom Bjorklund, 46, resigned as Time Warner regional vice-president Tuesday in what he termed a company reorganization. Time Warner is the cable provider for Livonia as well as Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Bjorklund, a Livonia resident, had been with Time Warner and its predecessor Metrovision for nearly 20 years.

■ 'We certainly didn't have an easy time dealing with Metrovision or Time Warner.'

Aldo Vagnozzi
—Former Farmington Hills mayor

"They decided they were going to reorganize and there wasn't a position there for me," Bjorklund said. "Life goes on and I'm looking forward to other things."

"It's fine. I've enjoyed working there for 20 years. There's a lot of great people still working there."

His departure is not tied to protracted franchising negotiations, Bjorklund said.

In Livonia, city officials had been negotiating with Time Warner and Ameritech. Speculation is that Time Warner was waiting the outcome of Ameritech negotiations before ham-

pering out their own deal.

However, Ameritech has since said it's no longer interested in coming into Livonia.

In Farmington Hills and Farmington, Bjorklund became a focal point for criticism directed at the cable company. He had a number of disagreements with the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission, particularly with former trustee Aldo Vagnozzi, a critic of the companies at which Bjorklund worked.

"We certainly didn't have an easy time dealing with Metrovision or Time

Please see CABLE, A4

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