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# FARMINGTON Observer

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## Everybody's family

Former navy cook turned chef tells what it's like to be away during the holidays. Taste, B1



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# Kennedy Center honors school arts

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced this week that the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education was chosen to receive the 15th annual Kennedy Center Alliance for

Arts Education Network and National School Boards Association Award.

The board was singled out for its outstanding support of high-quality arts education.

School boards were nominated by KCAEN state Alliances for Arts Education and state

school board associations.

The award was presented on April 8 at the National School Board Association's annual conference in San Francisco, Calif.

Farmington school board members Frank Reid and Priscilla Brouillette attended and received the award.

## 'WONDERFUL TESTAMENT'

"For the board of education to be recognized that way is a wonderful testament of their support of education in general and the arts in particular," said Paul Barber, director of fine arts. "I feel so happy for them. They are dedicated people."

They try very hard to find the best things for children in a variety of arenas. I am just delighted for them. I am so tickled."

Barber said Brouillette called him Wednesday morning. "She said there were close to 5,000

PLEASE SEE SCHOOL, A10

## OUR TOWNS

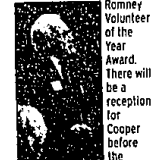
**Giant egg raffle**  
Anna's Cafe & Baskets in downtown Farmington is selling raffle tickets for an Italian imported giant chocolate Easter Egg. The raffle



will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 19. Raffle tickets are \$1 each and also available at Lynn's Gifts & Glamour, Celtic Shamrock, Spare Parts and Luigi's Restaurant. Proceeds will benefit the Merchant's Association of Farmington.

## Cooper honored

The Farmington Hills/Farmington Commission on Children Youth and Families announced that Gerson L. Cooper, president and CEO of Botsford Health Care Continuum, is this year's recipient of the George



Tommy Volunteer of the Year Award. There will be a reception for Cooper before the award presentation at 6:45 p.m. April 21 at the Farmington Hills City Hall, on the corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake, before the city council's regular meeting.

## Trip on again

Clarenceville school officials have decided to allow the annual Middle School trip to Washington, D.C. to go on as planned in May, despite a state of high alert nationwide. Supl. Cheryl Teach said officials have been watching the world and national situation all year and feel it will be safe for students to travel.

Teacher Dave Lengel said 8th graders will follow the same itinerary for the week-long trip, which includes stops at a number of locations to give them a taste of what the city has to offer.

"There are no special closures that will affect us," he said, adding the National Archives have been closed for several years due to restoration efforts and the White House has almost always been closed to tours.

Students will watch U.S. Senate action from the gallery and visit several museums.

Lengel said while the list of sites is still in the idea is to pick their interest so they will want to go back - and the tour has accomplished that in past years.



Erick Chamberlain and Autumn Kyles learn some of the subtleties of fur trading from Voyageur Sam Bohl and Redcoast Brian Dunn.

# State's past comes alive at Hillside

BY JONI HUBBARD  
STAFF WRITER

The smell of smoke hung in the air at Hillside Elementary School's media center Tuesday, evidence of an interesting lesson taught to fourth-grade classes that day.

Re-enactors from Mackinac State Historic Parks visited the school as part of a statewide educational outreach program. Brian Dunn and Sam Bohl played a British Redcoat and French voyageur, respectively, bringing hands-on lessons that fit in with the emphasis on state history at the fourth-grade level.

"We go to schools close to Mackinac first, and then we take weeklong trips," explained Dunn, who has been hired as a full-time maintenance person with Mackinac State Historic Parks. Hillside students sat quietly,

PLEASE SEE HILLSIDE, A9

# Downtown businesses seek parking solutions

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

An apparent downtown parking crunch that arrived with the opening of John Cowley & Sons pub will be the topic at the 7:30 p.m. April 17 traffic and safety board meeting at the Farmington City Hall.

Board members will learn more about parking in the area from Farmington Road to Warner Streets. Grand River businessmen Mike Nowak of Legato, a hair salon, and a representative of John Cowley & Sons are expected to speak, and public comments will be welcome.

"We're here to listen," said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

Farmington City Manager Vincent Pette mailed letters to downtown business owners April 8 to inform them the issue is being reviewed and would come before the traffic and safety board. The pub, a two-story Irish bar and restaurant, opened in March and offers valet parking in lieu of additionally built parking spaces. In an agreement reached with city

PLEASE SEE PARKING, A10

# Expert advises removing, treating ash trees

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington area residents with relatively healthy ash trees are being encouraged to use an insecticide on the trees this month, as the threat of the Emerald Ash Borer continues.

Local and state officials' efforts last fall to treat infected trees appear ineffective in fighting the Asian beetle that feeds on the inside of the trees, cutting off nutrients to branches, thus killing the tree.

David Roberts, Ph.D., horticultural specialist with the Michigan State University's Extension Center, has been focusing on the issue for the past few years.

He said efforts to save certain trees last fall with injections of insecticides do not

appear to be working as hoped.

Part of the reason was the late application of the insecticides and also some trees had too much foliage damage from the pest, he said.

However, Roberts noted, trees with less than 20 percent foliage damage from last season may still have a fighting chance to stop from being destroyed this year.

"We are recommending

they need to get (insecticides) on much earlier," Roberts said Thursday.

There are two methods, one where the insecticide is soaked into the tree's roots.

"In 30-60 days it will taken up by the tree," he said. "By late May or June the insecticide may kill the beetle."

The other method is injecting an insecticide into the

PLEASE SEE TREES, A4

# Masons let kids see piece of history

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

How do you protect a book that is so valuable that it's impossible to estimate its value or even insure it?

Just ask the Livonia police. The department had the responsibility of locking up - as in a vault - the Bible that was used to issue the oath of office to George Washington at the nation's very first inaugural ceremony on April 30, 1789.

Accompanied by four members of the St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 1, the Bible was in western Wayne County last week as part of the 50th anniversary of the

Garden City Builders Masonic Lodge No. 587.

"We take it where it can reach a lot of children," said Piers Vaughan, the assistant grand lecturer of St. John's Lodge. "We try to present it as a historical piece because of the separation of church and state issue."

During its visit, the Masons displayed the Bible at Memorial, Farmington, Douglas and Lathrup Elementary Schools in Garden City and Schoolcraft College and Clarenceville Middle schools in Livonia Thursday and Friday.

There was also a public viewing on Saturday at the Garden City Masonic Lodge.

"It's really an honor to travel around Garden City with that Bible," said Patrick Bass, worshipful master of the Garden City lodge, after a presentation to third-, fourth- and fifth-graders at Lathrup.

"We're very fortunate to have it come to Garden City. I don't know how it affected the children, but it may direct them into a certain profession."

The Bible is almost 240 years old and was made in London by the printers for the King of England. The King James version, it contains 103 steel engravings

PLEASE SEE HISTORY, A3

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**LOOKING AHEAD**  
Creative growth  
In Thursday's At Home section:  
John and Gail Allen expanded  
on their creative talents adding  
onto their home.



**Did you miss the deadline for Thursday's Classifieds?**  
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