



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

May 2016

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 01 Rental
- 06 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 07 Saturday Mother's Day Brunch 11 am - 1 pm (\$8)
Reserve by Tuesday, May 3
- 08 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12noon - 2 pm
- 11 Rental
- 11 Wed. Joint Board Mtg. 6:30 pm
- 12 FCA Bakers
- 14 Rental
- 15 Rental
- 15 Sunday FASM Concert 4 pm \$10 (\$5 ages 5-11)
- 18 Rental
- 20 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 22 Sunday Scholarship Reception 2 - 5 pm
- 22 Sunday Suomi Koulu 12noon - 2 pm
- 25 Rental
- 28 Rental
- 29 Rentals

No Open House or Monthly Luncheon in May

JUNE

- 03 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 05 Rental
- 08 Rental
- 09 Rental
- 10 Rental
- 11 Rental
- 12 Finnish Film 2 - 4 pm
- 12 Rental
- 15 Rental
- 15 FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 17 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 22 Rental
- 25 Rental
- 26 Sunday Open House 1 - 4 pm

No Monthly Luncheon June, July, August



Weekly Events

- Finnish American Singers
Mondays 7 pm
- Library
Open Monday 10 am-2 pm
- Nikkarin Talo
Mondays 9 am
- Finlandia Garden Club
Mondays 9 am

Monthly Events

- Finnish Conversation
1st Friday of the month 10 am
- Sunday Brunch
Second Sunday of the month
12-1:30 pm
- Book Club
Last Monday of the month 1 pm
- Luncheon
Last Wednesday of the month Noon
- Open House
Last Sunday of the month 1-4 pm

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Our yearly trip to Finnish Lapland was wonderful. The Pallas National Park never disappoints us with its beautiful scenery, excellent ski trails, peaceful, quiet atmosphere and spending time with good old friends and getting a lot of exercise along the way..... and now back to the U.S. and to the midst of the presidential elections.... what a contrast!

At the Finnish Center we are buzzing with activity. We have broken records in rentals during the first quarter. We have just had a very successful flea market, the gift shop is being remodeled and Vappu is just around the corner. This year we will have a Mother's Day Brunch on Saturday, May 7th instead of the Potluck on Mother's Day.

We also had the volunteer appreciation luncheon recently. Katri Ervamaa, our member and Tuomas Juutilainen, a Finnish pianist gave a delightful performance of Finnish music. Suomi Koulu students gave a recital of poems in Finnish that they had practiced with their teacher Maija Frisorger at Suomi Koulu. It was nice to see so many faces and to be able to express our gratitude for volunteer efforts in person. So many people volunteer their time at the center. Again, I want to thank all and everyone who has given their valuable time to benefit the Finnish Center. We really value everybody's input in keeping the center in operation. I personally feel that this is the least we can do to honor our founding members who made this Center a reality fifty years ago.

We are planning several activities to celebrate this remarkable 50th Anniversary milestone. The first one being Finnish Folk Arts Day in September followed by Finnish Food Weekend October 15 & 16 featuring Food Workshop by Beatrice Ojakangas, and culminating in a Grand Ball. Details are still being worked out. Please check the calendar for these upcoming events.



It is very exciting to report that the adult Finnish language classes got a good start in February. We have had many students diving into our difficult language with the help of a wonderful teacher Leena Mari Bowers. The classes will end at the end of April but will continue again in the fall. Please check the calendar and emails for the start of the classes in the Fall.

Hope to see you at the Finnish center! As always if you have any questions you can call me at (248) 478-6939 or my cell: (734) 834-6085.

Mia Lamminen
Chairman

35200 W. Eight Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI
48335-5108
Tel: (248) 478-6939
Fax: (248) 478-5671
finnishcenter@gmail.com
www.finnishcenter.org

Officers

Mia Lamminen, Chairman
Roger Wanttaja, Vice Chairman
Robert Waissi, Secretary
Marlene Ruuskanen, Treasurer

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Lila Ball, Mia Lamminen,
Margaret Laurila

2 Year

Olli Lamminen, Henrikki Pantsar,
Marlene Ruuskanen

3 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Robert Waissi,
Roger Wanttaja

Alternates

#1 Carol Tudball
#2 Lois Makee
#3 Wayne Walli

Financial Review

Fran Fadie, Eunice Gould,
Sarah Wiideman

Committee Chairpersons

Building & Grounds

Roger Wanttaja

Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

Katri Ervamaa

Finance

Olli Lamminen

Gift Shop

Mary O'Brien

Mailing

Alice Manley

Membership

Anu Pantsar

Publicity & Publications

Fran Fadie

Social

Lila Ball

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORPORATION

Paul C. Hendrickson, Chairman

Tapiola Village

Laura Fultz, Manager
(248) 471-3802

Tapiola@ameritech.net

Freedom Square

Theresa Show, Manager
(248) 442-7250

www.fcaseniorhousing.org



FROM THE LIBRARY



Many of us have roots in the Upper Peninsula and are familiar with its many tourist destinations. There are many restaurants which open for the summer and successfully manage the busy time. A few years ago, a competition with a three-berry pie made the best available, advertised, and easy to find.

The Hanka Homestead Finnish Farm Museum, by its very nature is not easy to find. Signage is adequate but only gives directions. Visitors are often surprised after making a few wrong turns, at how memorable and adventurous the journey has become.

L'Anse or Baraga is not hard to find. Follow US 41 to the north and watch for the Arnheim road about 10 miles north of Baraga. Turn west and pass some railroad tracks, a marsh, and a huge dairy farm, no longer productive, follow the Sturgeon River to reach a gentle slope of a hill and you are in Askel. A landmark fire tower directs you to the farm. A gravel road passes the tower which comes to the woodsy Hanka Road. You are now transported into 1920. Shortly the trail turns left and less than a mile takes you down to the clearing where a cluster of farm buildings can be seen to the southeast.

The modern life style is completely absent. It is an example of "less is more." A rare experience of simplicity and a feeling of time standing still slows everyone down. You must take the time to realize where you are to take in the natural scene.

The Hanka family traveled a different route to homestead this isolated spot. The oldest child, Mari, applied for the 80 acres available as a land grant. This was 1896 when she was a 20 years old. They left Misery Bay where her dad Herman had given up a first attempt. Miina, the mother, was said to insist she needed neighbors and access to the schools.

Why have we cited 1920? The family was all together then and a productive part of a successfully established settlement of Askel. Herman and Miina, and children: Mari, Nicholai, Lydia and Jalmer, made up the original family group. Mari signed for the grant as a "single girl living with her father." A married woman could not own property then. Mari did not want to jeopardize her parents' last chance for a home of their own. Mari had her son Arvo of out wedlock in 1899.

In 1920 Nicholai and Jalmer took every opportunity for outside employment. Mari cooked in the lumber camp during the season and cared for mothers and newborns. Lydia was said to be shy and preferred to stay home with her parents. The Askel school was available to Jalmer and Lydia who was remembered as being a good student.

In 1921 Mari died from breast cancer. Nicholai died in 1923 from blood poisoning "caused by an abscessed tooth." Grandson Arno married Senia Heikkinen from Askel, and moved to his own place nearby in 1924.

Due to Nicholai's death the farm ceased to improve. Jalmer took care of everything but did not change with the times as Nick might have done. Jalmer fixed cars and bicycles, made boats, built saunas, and made cabinets. He was pleasant and liked to talk. He was still remembered by Arno's family and many of the Askel people. Don Laitila, now deceased, was the first local board member for the saving and restoration of the farm. He had the last pair of skies Jalmer made. Don said he paid \$3.00 for the wood.

Jalmer died in 1966 when the farm was left vacant until 1980, when it was "found" by a restoration architect and the "saving" of the farm began.

(continued on page 4)

Library (continued)

The museum was first granted money from the Suomen Silta Magazine (Suomi Bridge), the appropriations committee of the State of Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Council for the Humanities. It has been staffed by volunteers with occasional support from the Green Thumb and Summer Youth programs.

“Askel Means Step” by Gene Meier was written in the beginning telling the story of the Askel Settlement and Hanka Homestead. It contains a humorous account of Gene and Tad Van Valin (restoration carpenter) living for ten weeks at the Hanka House along with the rodents and mosquitos. We have it in the library.

Ruth M. Ojala, Library Volunteer

Below: Layout of the
Hanka Homestead Summer 1920



Above: The photo shows the “people buildings”, sauna on left, milk-house, root cellar, granary and main house. The black-smith shop (not shown) sits behind the sauna.

Animal buildings (not in photo) include stable, hen house, cow barn, hay barn with woodshed and workshop attached.

FLEA MARKET THANKS

We would like to thank all the many volunteers, vendors, customers, lunch crew, bake sale donations, pulla and pasty makers. We couldn't have done it without you.

Congratulations to Joan Newman who won a free 8' table for the fall flea market.

Margaret Laurila
Denise Book



MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Elvira Kortesoja (3/7/16)** donations have been made by Joan & Ed Lepola, Linda Kortesoja Klenczar and Charlotte Lytikainen.



When making a memorial donation, you may direct it toward a specific fund. The funds available are: FCA General Fund, Library, Scholarship, Hoijakat Folk Dancers, Drama Club, Finn Weavers, Garden Club, Happiness Fund, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers. If a donation is undesignated, it goes to the General Fund for expenses of the Center.

Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: **FCA, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335.**

Also include all names of donors. If the deceased is a non-member of the FCA please include city and state of residence.

You may also direct your donation toward the Senior Housing, but then your check must be made out to FCA Senior Housing Corp.

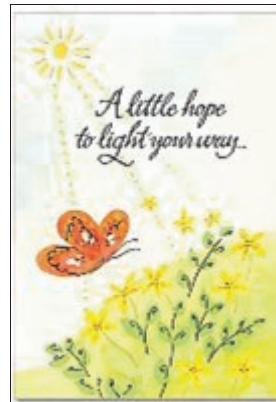
Please include full name, address, and date of death of the deceased as well as the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgement card is to be mailed.

GET WELL, THINKING OF YOU

Sending get-well cards, thinking-of-you cards and words-of-encouragement cards to FCA members.

Please notify me if you think someone might need warm and thoughtful wishes from the friends at the FCA. Send or call your card requests to the attention of the "Sunshine Lady" at the FCA.

Thank you,
Eunice Potti Gould



Happiness is the wonderful friends who sent me beautiful cards and notes during my illness. I really appreciate all of them.

And many thanks to Chef Mike for the wonderful soup he sent. It was the first good food I really enjoyed after getting sick in November.

Thanks to all of you.

Pearl Wanttaja

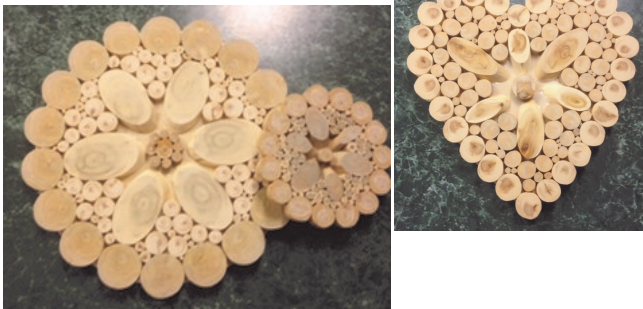


APRIL GIFT SHOP



The walls are painted, the pictures are hung on the wall, the dishes displayed and candy items are again in place. The update was a challenge but well worth it. Now we need you to come and see the new look. There are many beautiful items for sale and I will be ordering new products soon, so please drop in. Also available are new Marimekko items for you to check out.

The **May special** is Finnish juniper/birch wood trivets at discounted prices. Trivets are available in several shapes and sizes. Round trivets are 4.5", 6", 7" and 9.25". The heart trivet is approximately 7". Each has variations in color due to the grain of the wood.



A huge thank you to Amy Lowell, Sherrill Tedford, Terry and Lila Ball, Kati Kataja, Maija, and Kenny. I am so grateful for all your help.

Grand Re-Opening: May 11, 13, and 15. It promises to be a fun event. You will want to stop by for a chance to win a special door prize!

Mary O'Brien

MAY IN THE GARDENS

It's May and after the unusual cold start to April everything is blooming nicely in the gardens. We are all out busy pruning, weeding, dividing, and trying to enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells. Work is underway in the West Gardens on elimination of another garden. A few more edgers are available due to this.

Repairs were made in April to the greenhouse and we will soon be starting our annuals. We removed several pots and barrels along the walkway so we will be purchasing fewer geraniums this year as our funds are severely limited.

May is also the start of the outdoor vegetable gardening season and we will again have vegetable plots for rent. The larger plots are \$25 and the smaller 4x4 beds are \$20. (If you rent a vegetable garden you also have access to our summer and fall blooming raspberries). Contracts are in the woodshop. Please see either Gayle Gullen or David Sharpe. Checks are made out to the FCA.

If you see cars near the woodshop on Monday morning, please drop by and join us in our projects, to chat, or have a cup of coffee.

If you have any questions or comments, or items to donate, please contact me at (734) 546-5190 or by email at gaylegullen@hotmail.com

Gayle Gullen
Finlandia Garden Club President



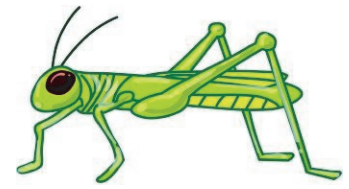
ST. URHO'S DAY CELEBRATION



Frank Gottberg & the new king - Mike Wuelski

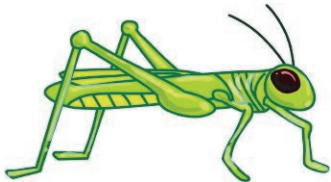


Ilene Yanke covers her ears while playing "Stomp the Grapes".



FinnFolk keep the party lively with music.

The buffet looks delicious.



A little game of "Hot Pasty"



CULINARY GOLD

Dear Paul and the 'esteemed' Pasty artisans who create the finite best!

Four years ago, we went on a pasty eating quest from Marquette to Houghton, Hancock and Ironwood areas to find the quintessential Michigan Pasty. There are many good, many very good, but the Finish Cultural Center creates the best there is to offer. There's a certain magic in the hand work and caring about the precious detail; it takes Finnish hands and minds to turn out such a cultural masterpiece.

When we were kids on vacation to our home city, Ironwood, we would wait for the pasties to come out of the oven at Carlsons 'Super' Market. The women bakers, who only spoke in Finnish, were in starched aprons and artisans caps. They all had a very diplomatic walk as they brought out the potato breads, bakery items and put them on the tray racks for patrons to buy. That's all gone now, but the memories are vivid.

Enter, 2016 and to walk into the Finnish Cultural Center; smell the aromas of perfection. Paul and crew, it doesn't get any better.

*Thank you for caring!
Richard, Roger and Zach Engström*



SCHORLARSHIP RECEPTION

Sunday, May 22
2 - 5 pm

Students who are receiving scholarships this year from the FCA Scholarship Committee will be honored at this yearly reception.

Members are welcome to attend.

POKER NIGHT ALL STARS NOTICE

Poker Night volunteers are needed for the following dates, June 30 to July 3rd and July 28 to July 31st. The times are 11:00 am to 6:30 pm.

No card playing experience is needed. Any new volunteers will be teamed up with two other, more experienced volunteers. This is a fund raiser for the FCA. Call or email me, please.

Gene Belttari
Phone (734) 416-8644
E mail ebelttari@wowway.com



Finnish American Singers of Michigan Present

It's a Grand Night For Singing

Featuring:
Finnish Favorites,
the music of
Rodgers & Hammerstein,
Irving Berlin, John Rutter
and others

Sunday, May 15, 2016
4 pm



Adults (over 12
years old) \$10
Youth (5-12 years old) \$5
Under 5 years old - free

Price includes the luncheon that follows

SENIOR HOUSING

Results of a comprehensive market study of Tapiola I & II has been completed and presented to the FCASHC board of trustees by Berkadia, a commercial real estate corporation. The summary of the study provides professional analysis of value, financials, comparable values of regional Senior Housing communities along with comparative options for new financing. The outlook and valuations of Tapiola I & II are very positive.

To reiterate from the April newsletter - the Tapiola I mortgage with MSHDA (Michigan State Housing Development Authority) will be paid off in June of this year and this combined with early payoffs to MSHDA and the limited partnerships (the dissolution of) for Tapiola II, all obligations to partners and restrictions imposed by MSHDA will be eliminated. At that time, the Senior Housing Corporation will have the ability to secure a new mortgage to finance renovation of both Tapiola I & II. On March 20, the board of trustees made a decision to move forward with plans to renovate and to explore options for a new mortgage.

After reviewing proposals of four architects, the board of trustees has unanimously voted to contract Carl Hueter, a highly experienced and accomplished architect of Ann Arbor, to begin a Phase I of planning for rehabilitation and renovation of both Tapiola I & II. This discovery and planning phase will go through the summer – results and recommendations are expected to be presented to the board in August or September.

Given architect Hueter's accomplishments, expectations for the needed improvements and renovations to Tapiola I & II – are high.

Sarah Wiideman



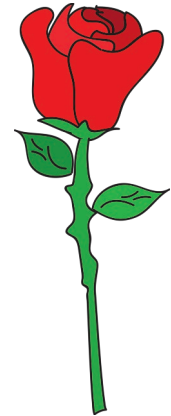
MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Saturday, May 7
11 am - 1 pm

This special Mother's Day Brunch will replace the May Monthly Luncheon. Contact the FCA to make reservations by Tuesday, May 3. Cost is \$8.

Menu includes:

- Waffles
- Sausage
- Egg and Ham Casserole
- Redskin Potatoes
- Chicken Salad
- Fruit Bowl
- Beverages
- Dessert Table



Door prizes, too!

HELP WANTED

The FCA is looking for someone to assist in the accounting department on a part-time basis. If you think you could help out please contact the Center.



Even a small star
shines in the
darkness.

- Finnish Proverb -



FINLAND TODAY



First, it's been 78 years since the Finnish "baby box" was first introduced in 1938. At the beginning the maternity box was only available to low income families, but that was changed in 1949 when it became available to all Finnish expectant mothers. Now-a-days you get a choice of either 140 Euros or the box. About 95% of the mothers take the box because it's worth much more. What's in the box? Well, the box itself doubles as a crib, and with it of course is the mattress and the mattress cover, sheets, blankets, a quilt, and a sleeping bag. Also in the box are items such as a snowsuit, hat, insulated mittens, booties, a light hooded suit, knitted coveralls, socks, mittens, knitted overalls, bodysuits, romper suits, leggings in unisex colors and patterns. Included there are items such as a hooded bath towel, nail scissors, hairbrush, toothbrush, bath thermometer, baby cream, washcloth, cloth diapers, photo album, and a teething toy. For the mom, bra pads. For the dad, condoms.

It's been said that the reason for the dramatic drop in Finland's infant mortality rate from the 1940 to the present has been that all the Finnish mothers received the "baby Box". In 1940, the infant mortality rate per 1,000 births was about 88, and by 1945 it had dropped to about 65. By 1950, it had dropped to about 35, and in 1960 it was about 20, in 1970 it was about 14, in 1980 it was about 8, in 1990 it was about 6, in 2000 it was about 3, and in 2010 it was about 2.

Whenever two companies merge, you know that there are going to be some job losses. And if the merger is between companies from two different countries, watch-out, there is going to be a battle. In this case the merger was between Nokia of Finland and Alcatel-Lucent of France. And in this case France won. Nokia is laying-off 1,300 people in Finland, and 400 people in France, but Nokia also promised to create 500 new jobs in France. Before the merger, Nokia had 6,700 workers in Finland, and Alcatel-Lucent had 4,200 workers in France. Alcatel-Lucent was born in 2006 when the French Alcatel and the U.S. Lucent merged.

The Finnish Refugee Council gave out the "Refugees of the Year" awards to a woman from Rwanda and a Kurdish man from Turkey. The Refugee Woman of the Year award went to Rita Kostama, who came to Finland in 1998. She earned a business degree in Finland and founded a small accounting firm. She also works in a grocery store in Jarvenpaa, in northern Finland. Kostama also takes part in international activities of the local Lutheran church and works as a volunteer for the Finnish Refugee Council. The Refugee Man of the Year award went to Ali Giray. After receiving his B.A. degree, Giray set up a restaurant in Joensuu, in western Finland. He also runs an interpretation center. His businesses employ hundreds of people, including immigrants and native Finns. Kostama and Giray were selected as Refugees of the Year, because they have been actively involved in the Finnish society, says the Finnish Refugee Council.

Finland is the leader in the first "Nanny State Index", which is an initiative of the European Policy Information Center (EPICENTER). The index ranks the EU's 28 member countries to identify the WORST places to eat, drink, and to smoke tobacco and e-cigarettes. Number two on the index list was Sweden, No. 3 was U.K., 4th was Ireland, and in 5th place was Hungary.

The seventh annual International Pillow Fight Day was held in over 100 cities around the world on Saturday, April 2nd, and for the first time, three Finnish cities, Kuopio, Lappenranta and Helsinki, took part in the event. In Helsinki, it was held in the Teurastamo area. Hundreds of people took part in the event, with pillows swinging and feathers flying. Taking part in the event were kids, teenagers, young adults and parents.

(continued on page 11)

Finland Today (continued from page 10)

And finally, Hilma and Heikki are "getting up there in the years", when one day Hilma decides to make some pasties.

Hilma: How's the pasty?

Heikki: Excellent!

Hilma: I read somewhere that by the age of 60, most people have lost half of their taste buds.

Heikki: Really? I thought that your cooking was just getting better.

Thanks, Carol Van Eaton

Markku Ketola
marketola@yahoo.com



FCA BAKERS

On March 3rd, we were so pleased to have 10 bakers come to bake pulla! We finished early with so many volunteers helping. Bakers were Dee Aebersold, Hannah Carlson, Tobe Line, Char Lytikainen, Betty Taipalus, Barb Whitty, Lorraine Hannah, Cynthia & Fred Page and Ilene Yanke. Ilene made the usual pan of cinnamon rolls for the March Brunch.

Come and join us Thursday, May 12th for the fun. No baking experience necessary.

Ilene Yanke



ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINE:	DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY ISSUE IS MAY 5TH
EDITOR CONTACT INFO:	PAUL RAJALA
LAYOUT AND DESIGN:	NANCY RAJALA
E-MAIL:	nrajala@comcast.net

FCA NEWS ADVERTISING RATES & SPECIFICATIONS

FCA News is published 11 times annually (June-July issue is combined) by and for members of Finnish Center Association. Circulation is about 1,000 of your fellow FCA members, and others, per issue.

Deadline/payment for ad is the 5th of the month preceding publication.

Column (ad) width is 2-1/4" for rates quoted below. Other sizes quoted on request.

Rates for a camera-ready, black & white ad, per three month period:

3 month rate 1" ad - \$30.00. 1.5" ad - \$45.00 2" ad - \$60.00

Pay for full year 1" ad - \$100.00. 1.5" ad - \$150.00 2" ad - \$200.00

Photos: B&W photo ads incur a one-time charge of \$25.00 payable at first insertion.

READ THE FCA NEWSLETTER ONLINE

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



35200 W. Eight Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5208

Prsrt STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Farmington, MI
Permit NO 250

Current Resident or

FCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR ____ RENEWAL

Date _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

Applicant _____

Applicant/Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip code _____

Signature _____ Are you of Finnish descent? _____

- Annual membership, single, one vote \$50.00
- Annual membership, senior* or youth*, one vote \$25.00
- *Senior, over 65 years, youth under 30 years of age
- Annual membership, couple, two votes \$100.00
- Annual membership, family, one vote \$75.00
- Life membership, one vote \$500.00
- Life membership, senior, one vote (see membership for details)

Amount enclosed _____
Please make check payable to FCA and send to Finnish Center Association,
Membership, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108
Recommended by: _____

Visit us on “Finnish Center and Hall” Facebook page and “like” us to get the latest updates!



FCA Senior Living

One and two bedroom rentals
Convenient, safe and affordable in highly desirable Farmington Hills, MI

Contact us at:
Tapiola Village (248) 471-3802
Freedom Square (248) 442-7250
www.fcaseniorhousing.org



THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME

33603 Grand River,
Farmington, MI
(248) 474-4131
Paul N. Potti, Director