Finnish Center Association



FCA News

May 2018

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 01 Rental
- 02 Wednesday Asahi Exercise Program 11 am
- 04 Friday Night Buffet 5 8 pm
- 05 Saturday Piirakka Workshop 11 am 2 pm
- 05 Saturday Vappu Party 5 pm 12 am
- 06 Sunday Finnish American Singers Concert 4 pm
- 09 Wednesday Asahi Exercise Program 11 am
- 09 Rental
- 09 Wednesday FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 11 Friday PasiCats present 101 years of Finnish Music 7 pm
- 12 Rental
- 16 19 Rental
- 18 Friday Night Buffet 5 8 pm
- 20 Sunday Scholarship Reception 2 pm
- 21 Monday Spring Luncheon & FCA Gardens Presentation 12 noon
- 23 Rental
- 25 Friday Closed for Memorial Day Weekend
- 27 Sunday No open house
- 28 Monday Closed for Memorial Day Weekend

JUNE

- 01 Friday Night Buffet 5 8pm
- 01 Friday Novi Band 7 8pm
- 09 Rental
- 13 Wednesday Strawberry Social 2 4pm
- 13 Wednesday FCA Joint Board Mtg. 6:30 pm
- 16 Rental
- 23 Rental
- 24 Sunday Open House 1 4pm
- 29 Rental
- 30 Rental



Weekly Events

Finnish American Singers

Monday 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

Book Club

Last Monday of the month 1 pm

Luncheon

Last Wednesday of the month

12 noon

Open House

Last Sunday of the month 1-4 pm

Reservations are recommended for all events.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

We just returned from our annual ski trip to Finnish Lapland. This year Lapland was just like Northern Ontario and UP – there was and still is more snow on ground than in forty years. Heavy snow is good for tourism and good for skiing. This year was also the year of tykky-lumi. This happens every third year or so. Tykky-lumi means slowly accumulating snow building up on trees. This is only possible in those winters that experience no heavy wind.

Today's skiing is made much easier and faster by the new ski technology that eliminated waxing – it is called skin-skis. The kick portion in the center of the ski has small hairs that slide one way and not other way. Skin skis remind us of the ancient Finnish skis – one ski (lyly) was for sliding and other (lykky) was for the kick. Lykky had a reindeer skin attached to the bottom of the ski. As far as the ski technology is concerned – we are back at home again.

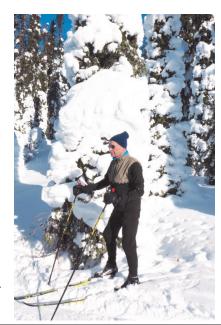
Finland was also all excited about the president's little boy, who was baptized just a few weeks ago. It also seems like the very popular President Niinisto and his family are the royals of Finland. The newborn's name, Aaro Veli Väinämö, is expected to start a new trend in boys' names in Finland.

Finnish Center had a very successful fundraiser at poker, thank you to all tireless volunteers who made it a success. We will have four poker sessions this year – each one consisting of three or four evenings. These poker nights are tough on our volunteers but absolutely crucial for our financial well-being. They can bring in nearly half of the earning we make each year from our annual rentals.

Spring is definitely in the air at least based on the planned activities. Celebration of Spring, our annual Vappu Party, is scheduled for May 5, 2018 at 5 pm. This is a fun event for the whole family. You are welcome to bring friends as well. Look for the ad elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please check the calendar for other cultural and social events coming up. As usual, if you have any questions, ideas or want to volunteer, please let us know by calling (248) 478-6939 or my cell: (734) 834-6085.

Mia Lamminen Chairman



Tykky-snow with a young Finnish Skier

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

Mia Lamminen, Chairman Roger Wanttaja, Vice Chairman Linda Poirier, Secretary Marlene Russkanen, Treasurer

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Cynthia Haffey, Roger Wanttaja, Robert Waissi

2 Year

Mia Lamminen, James Lee, Mary O'Brien

3 Year

Irene Lamanen, Linda Poirier, Ilona Takakura

Alternates

#1 Paul Rajala #2 Carol Tudball #3 Mike Fadie

Financial Review

Nancy Lee Maria Lena Kuhn Gene Belttari

Committee Chairpersons Building & Grounds Roger Wanttaja Cultural Yvonne Lockwood Education

Katri Ervamaa **Finance**

Olli Lamminen Gift Shop

Mary O'Brien Mailing

Alice Manley Membership

Fran Fadie **Publicity & Publications**

Fran Fadie Social Mary O'Brien

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING **CORPORATION**

Cynthia Haffey, Chairman

Tapiola Village Laura Fultz, Manager (248) 471-3802 tapiola@ameritech.net

Freedom Square Theresa Show, Manager (248) 442-7250 freedom.square@yahoo.com

HAPPINESS FUND

Did you know you can also request a happiness greeting? New baby, special anniversary, significant achievement and more.

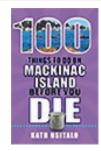






FCA member Kath Usitalo has a new book!

100 THINGS TO DO ON MACKINAC ISLAND BEFORE YOU DIE



follows her popular book 100 THINGS TO DO IN THE UPPER PENINSULA

Find them at the FCA Gift Shop and learn more at GreatLakesGazette.com



FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

May 4 & 18 5-8 pm

FinnFolk plays during dinner!





VAPPU PARTY

CELEBRATION OF SPRING

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018 5 PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT

at
FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER
35200 West Eight Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI



FUN PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN ADMISSION \$15.00 STUDENTS and SENIORS \$5.00 CHILDREN FREE

POTLUCK

A-M: BRING AN APPETIZER OR SALAD
N-Z: BRING DESERT
MAIN COURSE PROVIDED
CASH BAR
Bring the whole family
Bring a friend



If you are not a member of FCA yet, now is a good time to join, applications available at the Center.



FROM THE LIBRARY



Some Finland travel tips:

Every town in Finland has a tourist bureau. It will have a lower case "i" in a round green background on the front of the building. Be sure to take advantage of it. They can tell you everything you want to know, provide maps, and more. Their service is free. They all speak English. Most towns have city tours. They are not very expensive and are really worthwhile. BE SURE TO TAKE THE HELSINKI TOUR.

Every town has a good supply of taxicabs which will take you anywhere you want to go, very reasonably. Always go to the first one in line. If you are going to an address, have it written down in case the driver does not speak English.

One does not tip in a taxicab unless they handle your bags. One does not tip in a restaurant. The tip is added to the bill. One also does not tip in a beauty shop or barbershop.

Most towns have good local bus transportation, and Helsinki has the tram.

You do not receive your bill in a restaurant until you ask for it. If you are in a hurry, let the waiter know so they will have the bill ready when you ask for it. Otherwise, they are very slow.

Many rental cars in Finland are stick shift; specify which you want — stick or automatic. If you rent a car, a GPS is VERY useful — otherwise, addresses are hard to find. Rental companies have GPS's for rent. An American driver's license is good in Finland. They drive on the same side of the road as we do.

Churches, besides being a place to go for Sunday worship, are great tourist attractions. Many of them are very old and the art and architecture are interesting. They usually have a lot of beautiful carvings, paintings, etc. Notice that the pulpit always has a round roof over it. This is for acoustic purposes, a practice started before good sound systems existed. Be sure to visit the Temppeliaukio Church in Helsinki. Churches are open daily.

Some useful vocabulary: a restaurant is a *ravintola*; a *baari* is a place that serves soup, sandwiches and coffee; a *kahvila* serves coffee and pastries; a beauty shop is a *kampaamo*; an elevator is a *hissi*.

A good place to stop and eat is a gas station that has a restaurant included. They are usually called ABC, Neste or ST1.

A toilet is a *vessa*. Do not ask for a bathroom, as they will take you to the sauna, and do not ask for a restroom, as they will take you to the bedroom! In a public place, they will wonder why you want either of those! A toilet is often labeled WC for "water closet" as that's what it's really called but they mangle the English letters into *vessa*.

When you meet someone, ALWAYS shake hands. If the person doesn't know your name, give your first and last name. Even children have been taught to shake hands and usually expect it.

Never drop in on people unannounced, even relatives. Call or write ahead of time and make an appointment.

Most Finns are not huggers. Do not move to hug someone unless they make the first move. Most will just want to shake hands. When served coffee, you are expected to take one of everything served. Otherwise the implication is that you don't like what was served.

In many homes shoes are removed upon entering. Observe whether it is done when you visit and follow (continued on page 5)

Library (continued from page 4)

their custom.

EVERY hotel has a free generous breakfast. They never tell you that because they assume you know. Some will tell you where the breakfast will be served; if they don't mention it, ask.

This is difficult for Americans to observe, BUT you do not speak to anyone you do not know, such as people in a grocery line, or while standing in line for anything. Finns do not do it, and will think you are drunk, or at least odd, if you do, and will probably just ignore you, because for them it is uncomfortable.

Re: topics of conversation: Do not ask personal questions such as how many children someone has, questions about someone's family or job. (This is very important; they regard it as an invasion of privacy.) Good topics of conversation are sports, history, or sights and architecture of where you are visiting. It limits the conversation, but do wait to see what your conversation partner wants to talk about.

You will definitely need a telephone. Check to see whether your cell phone will work there. If not, you can rent one at the airport with a certain amount of time on it.

Their currency is euros. You pay a fee for money exchange. Do not change money just anywhere — different places charge different fees. It is best to get funds at an ATM. There are several ATM's at the airport in Helsinki and around town.

Credit cards like Master Card and Visa are accepted. The last time we were there they wouldn't take American Express. If you intend to use a credit card, call the card company before you go to let them know where you will be; otherwise they will think your card has been stolen. Credit card companies do charge a fee if the

card is used at a place that deals in other than dollars.

HYVÄÄ MATKAA!

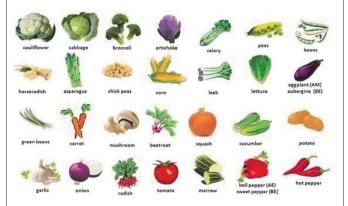
Lillian Lehto, Librarian



MAY IN THE GARDENS

May and the official start of gardening as we can truly plant this month. Vegetables and annuals can be planted late in the month after the threat of frost is past. We hear the calling of baby birds through out the gardens and it brings joy to our ears.

May is also the start of the outdoor vegetable gardening season and we will again have vegetable plots for rent. The larger plots are \$30 and the smaller 4x4 beds are \$25. Contracts are in the woodshop. Please see either Gayle Gullen or David Sharpe. Checks are made out to the FCA.



We have another Eagle Scout who is interested in doing a project for us, Ryan Falconer, from the same scout troop that has done our previous projects. Ryan is proposing to remove the stone in the West Wedding gardens, place down commercial weed cloth, raise the brick under the edging around the gardens and replace the stone over the weed cloth. This should reduce the number of weeds in the stone to almost zero.

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 gaylegullen@hotmail.com

Gayle Gullen Finlandia Garden Club President

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA life member **Raymond Wanttaja** (3/23/18) donations have been made by Elaine & Charles Lada, Connie & Clyde Hietikko, Pearl Wanttaja & family, Dee Aebersold, Christine & Mark Birac, Anonymous, Connie Kaufman, Viona E. Hakala, Marlene & Timo Ruuskanen, Tom Coffey, Neil Manley, Mia & Olli Lamminen, Lois Makee, Denise & Cortland Book, Louise Hartung, Luise & Norbert Leppanen, John Saetta, Randy Wanttaja, Kathy Hill and Maria Hill

In memory of FCA life member **Mollie Watt** (3/12/18) a donation has been made by Pearl Wanttaja.

In memory of FCA life member **Ruth Kaarlela** (1/8/18) donations have been made by Lois Makee and Louise Hartung.

In memory of FCA life member **Milda Mattila** (11/10/17) a donation has been made by Lois Makee.

In memory of FCA member **William Lockwood** (10/13/17) a donation has been made by Arnold Alanen.

The FCA would also like to extend condolences to the family and friends of:

FCA life member **Dorothy Bays** (4/17/18) **Keith Lahtinen** of Livonia, MI (2/18/18)

Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: FCA, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Donations received by the 5th of each month will be published in the next month's newsletter.

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, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers.

The family of the deceased may direct undesignated donations toward a specific fund (up to one year after date of death).

You may also direct your donation toward the Elders' Housing, but then your check <u>must</u> be made out to FCA Senior Housing Corp.

Please include full name (with middle initial), address, dates of death and birth of the deceased; also the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgement card is to be mailed.

If you know of a member, parent or child of a member who has passed away, please call the FCA at (248) 478-6939.



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



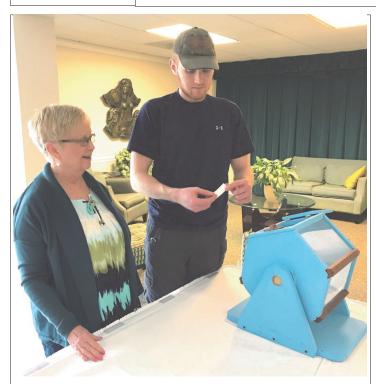




ASAHI HEALTH EXERCISES

May 2 & 9 11am - Free

An exercise program developed in Finland by a Finnish medical doctor along with other professionals. It is well suited for all ages. Everyone is welcome!



Mary O'Brien looks on as Austin Strobridge draws the winners for the two famous Toikka birds from the list of donors in our FCA fundraising drive. The two lucky winners were Gloria Leskinen and Yvonne Lockwood. Congratulations!

PIIRAKKA WORKSHOP

Finnish Center Saturday, May 5 11 am - 2pm \$25.00



The Cultural Committee is pleased to announce that the long awaited piirakka workshop is scheduled for May 5. Piirakka is a small oval-shaped "pie," rye-crusted with a creamy rice or a savory potato filling. It is originally Karelian but now eaten all over Finland and popular with Finnish Americans. This will be a hands-on session; participants will have an opportunity to make piirakka with Elina Simonen.



On April 7, the FCA Garden Club and friends, celebrated their annual garden party at the bi-monthly jazz program held at Shields Pizzeria in Southfield.



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."
Helen Keller

The Finnish-American Singers of Michigan Present This is My Country

Featuring: Songs from Finland Patriotic American Songs

Date: Sunday May 6, 2018

Time: 4:00pm

Price: Adults (over 12 yrs old) - \$10

Youth (5 – 12 yrs old) - \$5

Under 5 yrs old – free

Place: Finnish Cultural Center

35200 West Eight Mile Road (between Farmington and Newburgh Roads) Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335 248-478-6939

"THIS IS MY COUNTRY....."

In these days of political polarization, the previous short statement may be finished many ways:

- And I'm darn happy to be here...but what are YOU doing here?
- And I want it clean, so don't litter.
- Though I was born in another country, this is home now; but I also feel ties to the other nation
- •So I need to step up to the plate and defend it.
- •There's a lot wrong here, but also a whole bunch of good!
- And I'm thankful for the sacrifices made by others so that I can enjoy it.

Many of us have studied our family genealogy and know our ancestors emigrated from another country to the United States. Some readers here were born in another country, and feel ties because of their birth, or perhaps because they still have family there. Whatever the situation, most of us have made a choice to stay in the United States. The fact that we know varying amounts of details related to the history of the country and have a wide range of experiences here, influences our attitudes towards travel, food, government, holidays, tourist destinations, and even the weather!

The Finnish American Singers have been preparing for our spring concert, "This is my Country" to be performed at the FCA on Sunday, May 6th at 4 pm. Though the music is unabashedly sentimental at times, the only real "flag waving" music we are preparing is the familiar title song, This is my Country and The Star Spangled Banner, which always starts our concerts. Despite our familiarity with the chorus of the first song, many singers didn't recognize the verses. "What diff'rence if I hail from North or South, or from the East or West? My heart is filled with love for all of these." Insulated as we often are in our own communities, we forget how vast our country is, and how varied from border to border. Other songs in our concert remind us of other shared experiences. The Heavens Declare God's Glory states "... The hills and valleys sing His praise...The day shows forth his majesty..." Picture a sunrise in the Smoky Mountains, the lookout points around Lake Superior, the national parks in Colorado, the Rocky Mountains, or the deep gorge along the Columbia River in the Northwest. Our country has been through bitter wars and other tribulations based on the fact that we are human and often have trouble getting along with our "neighbors." Peace/Just Light One Candle reminds us that peace starts with each of us: "Peace I bring to you, my friends, a gift to you, so you can give to others too." Even the Baroque Spirit of Light by Handel reminds those of us faithful that, as a people and nation, we need guidance and protection: "Spirit of Light, show us the way. Keep us always safe from harm...be with us now..." During a time of war in the world, the 1942 song For Me and My Gal optimistically states, "And some time I'm goin' to build a little home for two or three or four or more....in Love land, for me and my gal." The plaintive Send Down the Rain recalls the debilitating Dust Bowl in the Plains states of the 1930s: "All the trees have withered, and the birds have flown away, and my shattered dreams have gone with the shiftin' sand."

Each song reminds us that, as Americans, despite our differences, despite war, drought, and broken dreams we need to be strong for ourselves, each other, and for our futures. *One Moment in Time* reminds us "I'm only one, but not alone. My finest day is yet unknown" and *The Best of Times* asserts "the best of times is now...live and love as hard as you know how..."

Our director, Hank Naasko, wrote the words and music to *Hymn to Finland*, with the Finnish translation provided by Lillian Lehto. This song embodies the sentiments felt toward Finland by its natives and by changing just one word could express the feelings of all Americans: "We sing to thee our homeland our voices raised on high, our people filled with courage who fought for their native land. To Finland sing, our voices ring a song of praise and adoration. Finland our native home land long may she stand."

Submitted by scribe, Katy Koskela

101 Years of Finnish Music

...musical journey through Finland's independence...

... popular songs from each decade...

...multimedia presentation...

... guest musicians...





Friday, May 11 @ 7:00 p.m.
Finnish Center Association Cultural Center
Farmington Hills

Tickets available at the door; \$5 for adults, Children under 12; Free Admission





Our Finnish Center Suomi Koulu School had a party to celebrate Easter on March 25. The children enjoyed decorating pussy willow branches and learning about Easter traditions in Finland. They had fun and did a beautiful job decorating them!

On the cold and icy spring day of April 15, some brave dancers came to learn some Finnish Folk Dancing! It was a fun time for all in the warm indoor Finnish Center! Happy Spring!







FINLAND TODAY



Finnish "reading dogs" help children learn and grow. Maarit Haapasaari brought the reading dog concept to Finland in 2011. Children who read to dogs experience a sense of fulfillment that boosts their self-esteem and encourages them to pick up books more readily in future. The reading activity can also help children to overcome a fear of dogs. A new concept to "write stories to read to the dogs", will promote writing and reading and creativity. In the town of Raisio a new business to "read to the cows", encourages the children get to go to the farms and read to the cows. How much fun would that be?

Helsinki Airport was voted by passenger as the best Airport in Northern Europe, receiving the" SKYTRAX World Airport Award". The award was based on 13.73 million airport surveys and completed by 100 nationalities at 500 airports. The evaluation included key performance indicators such as: check-in, arrivals, transfers, shopping, security and immigration, and gate departures. Currently the Helsinki Airport is in a 900 million-euro development. The future updated airport will be serving 30 million passengers annually.

"Restamax" Finnish restaurant business with over 130 restaurants, nightclubs and entertainment centers around Finland, will be expanding their business to Denmark. The founder Lasse Wiwe and Daniel Knuttel will work as partners for the subsidiary "Restamax Operations Denmark". The company is set out to acquire 90% of the popular Danish Cock's & Cows and the Bird Companies, which operates a total of 11 restaurants and bars in Copenhagen. The goal is to expand the restaurants into nightclub and entertainment restaurants and expand into other countries.

"Nordic Fit Mama" to help mothers to get back into shape and improve their health. Post-pregnancy issues in women's health and bodies are not widely discussed. Nordic Fit Mama wants to change that and help mothers find accurate information so that they will not injure their bodies by doing the wrong exercises. Nordic Fit Mama is an online service for mothers. Currently there are 5 courses in Finnish and English (pilot in Canada) created by Laaksonen and fellow maternal health professionals. The courses are fact-based guidance from trustworthy sources.

And finally,

Hilma: Do you want dinner?

Heikki: Sure! What are my choices?

Hilma: "Yes" or "No"

Thank you, Leena Floyd

Markku Ketola marketola@yahoo.com



GIFT SHOP

The gift shop has been getting in a lot of good Finnish candy lately. And you know, of course, that Finland has some of the best candy in the world! Many prefer the licorice, but my favorite is chocolate with hazelnuts. What is your favorite Finnish candy? Stop in and you're sure to find it!

We also have dishes, mugs, jams, snacks and hand cream among other items. We can special order any item that are not in stock.

May Special: 20% off any in stock shirt.

We will be open before and after the Vappu Party on May 5.

Mary O'Brien



FinnFest 2018 Tampere Finland June 24 - 29, 2018

Registration and festival details available online at: FinnFest 2018 – FinnFest

SOCIAL NEWS

Lots of things are coming for spring and summer at The Finnish Center!

May will feature a special Spring Luncheon with a surprise menu for your lunch. We will feature a Finnish dish, also there will be an presentation from David Sharpe on our extensive Finlandia Gardens. We are so fortunate to have such beautiful, award winning gardens!

Please join us on Monday, May 21, at 12 noon for lunch and the wonderful, informative presentation. We are honoring mothers at this luncheon.

Summer means strawberries and you can't live in Michigan without at least one strawberry treat for the season. Join us on Wednesday, June 13 at 2 pm, for strawberry shortcake. Bring your friends along and we promise a special day!

Mary O'Brien



ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINE: DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE IS MAY 5TH

EDITOR CONTACT INFO: PAUL RAJALA
LAYOUT AND DESIGN: NANCY RAJALA
E-MAIL: njrajala@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 500 of your fellow FCA members, and others, per issue, and unknown numbers online.

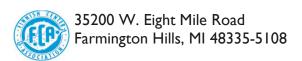
Deadline/payment for ad is the 5th of the month preceding publication.

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:

READ THE FCA NEWSLETTER ONLINE

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



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

Current Resident or

FCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWA	L
DatePhone:email:	
Applicant	
Applicant/Spouse	
Address	
CityStateZip code	
SignatureAre you of Finnish descent?	
 □ Annual membership, single, one vote □ Annual membership, senior* or youth*, one vote *Senior, over 65 years, youth under 30 years of age □ Annual membership, couple, two votes □ Annual membership, family, one vote □ Life membership, one vote □ 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 48335-51 Recommended by:	25.00 00.00 75.00 00.00

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

Freedom Square (248) 442-7250 www.fcaseniorhousing.org



THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME

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