



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2024

CO-CHAIR CORNER

The Finnish Center Association (FCA) has much to celebrate. What a joy to congregate with fellow Finns and share the wonderful foods and traditions of Finland. Preserving culture and imparting its traditions and wisdom to the next generation are worthy endeavors. And we are doing it!

As we commence a membership campaign this year, please encourage your friends and family to join FCA. If each current member recruits just one new member to join, we would meet our goal of doubling our membership by 2026. As many members are getting older, we especially want to recruit the younger generations to support FCA and continue to make it an important part of their family's traditions.

FCA has a lot to offer: pasty and pulla making and sales, Scandinavian markets, music, library, gift shop, and many social opportunities. We celebrate all the major Finnish holidays, too, including Vappu, Juhannas, and Finnish Independence Day.

Please be sure to join us for our 50th anniversary celebration on September 14. The evening will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the cultural center building, honor generous donors to our ongoing capital campaign, and celebrate completion of our roof replacement. The evening will feature music, a lovely dinner, and other fun surprises. Please plan to attend and bring a friend. It is the people who are the heart of FCA.

Gratitude moves in two directions. It is being thankful and appreciative, but it is also a readiness to return the kindness. Giving back is part of the cycle.

With gratitude,

Roger Wanttaja and Christine Manninen
Co-chairs, Board of Trustees



Helena Hatten and Kathryn Hill packaging pasties



Irene Lamanen and Ilona Takakura at the Finnish Christmas Dinner



Roger Wanttaja cleaning up at the Adopt-A-Road event



Christine Manninen and Katy Koskela crimping pasties



Davis Sharpe receiving garden award

CALENDAR OF EVENT

AUGUST

Saturday, August 10	Outdoor Flea Market/Craft Show 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Sunday, August 11	Rental
Wednesday, August 14	Joint Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Thursday August 15	Restaurant Kickback Fundraiser 4-9 pm
Thursday, August 22	Rental
Friday, August 23	Rental
Saturday, August 24	Rental
Sunday, August 25	Rental

Reservations are recommended for all events.

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 2	Office Closed
Wednesday, September 4	FCA Bakers 9:30 am-5:00 pm
Friday, September 6	FCA Pasty Prep
Saturday, September 7	FCA Pasty Bake
Sunday, September 8	Meetup 1:00 pm
Wednesday, September 11	Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Saturday, September 14	Cultural Center 50th Anniversary 5:00 pm
Sunday, September 15	Rental
Sunday, September 15	Nordic Dance 2-5 pm
Friday, September 20	Rental
Saturday, September 21	Rental
Sunday, September 22	Rental
Tuesday, September 24	FinnWeavers 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Wednesday, September 25	FinnWeavers 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Thursday, September 26	FinnWeavers 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Friday, September 27	Friday Night Buffet 4:30-7:30 pm

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

Officers

Co-Chairs
Christine Manninen
Roger Wanttaja
Vice Chair, Kathryn Hill
Treasurer, Christina Lovgren
Asst. Treasurer, Mia Lamminen
Secretary, Sherrill Tedford

Board of Trustees

1 Year

Jerry Collins, Sherrill Tedford,
Christine Manninen

2 Year

Kathryn Hill, Ed O'Brien,
Janet Suomi

3 Year

Peggy Burns, Ramona Dixon,
Roger Wanttaja

Alternates

#1 Nancy Hanson
#2 Marilyn Clark
#3 Paul Rajala

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Nancy Lee
Joanne Ouellette

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Building & Grounds

Roger Wanttaja

Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

Finance

Mia Lamminen

Gift Shop

Janet Suomi

Mailing

Alice Manley

Membership

Sherrill Tedford

Publicity & Publications

Ed O'Brien

Social

Mary O'Brien

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

Hours of Operation

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
(248) 478-6939

thrivent

Kim Dwyer, FIC, RICP®, CLTC®

Financial Advisor

Generational Wealth Advisors
kim.dwyer@thrivent.com
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39500 Orchard Hill Place, Suite 170
Novi, MI 48375

Text 248-963-8258
19 Washington St
Monroe, MI 48161



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Instagram
@finnishcenterassocaiton





FCA Roof Fundraiser Karl's Cabin

FCA Roof Fundraiser
Karl's Cabin
6005 Gotfredson Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170
Thursday, August 15, 2024 4-9pm

Please support FCA raise funds for the new roof!

Please make **reservations** in advance to secure a table.

Reservations at Karl's Cabin call 734-455-8450



50th Anniversary Celebration of the Finnish Center Building

Dinner Menu

Salmon / Pork Tenderloin

Broccoli / asparagus

Salad - cucumber and pickled beets

Scalloped potatoes

Rolls / dessert

Saturday September 14, 2024

Starting at 5pm

Cost: \$25 / person

Music by Finn Folk and the Rockin' Rutabagas!

Please RSVP by phone 248-478-6939 or email finnishcenter@gmail.com

MEMORIALS

In memory of FCA member **Marlene Annette Johnson (6/3/24)** donations have been made by Sandra Gersky, Denise & Ron Borgman, Pauline Karttunen, Peggy & Robert Strong, Barbara Kemppainen, Lori J. & H. Ted Pall, Jr., Mary & Don Owsley and Ellie & Brian Johnson.

In memory of FCA member **Tuija Kaarine Lunsford (5/5/24)** a donation has been made by Evelyn Tapani-Rosenthal.

In memory of FCA life member **Markku Ketola (5/1/24)** donations have been made by Kathryn Hill and Luise & Norbert Leppanen.

In memory of life member **Eunice Potti Gould (5/2024)** a donation has been made by Luise & Norbert Leppanen.

In memory of life member **K. Wilhelmina Kauppila-Dowd (2001)** a donation has been made by Carolyn & Peter Dowd.

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

Charles Foletti (6/22/24)

FCA member **Glenn Mikko (3/23/24)**
FCA member **Helen Minichelli (2/2/24)**

When making a memorial donation, you may direct it toward a specific fund. The funds available are: FCA General Fund, Library, Scholarship, Nordic Heritage Folk Dancers, Drama Club, Finn Weavers, Garden Club, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers. If a donation is undesignated, it goes to the General Fund for expenses of the Finnish Center. The family of the deceased may direct undesignated donations toward a specific fund (up to one year after date of death).

Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: FCA, 35200 W. Eight Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Memorial donations can now be made online on our revised FCA website, finnishcenter.org

Please include full name, address, dates of death and birth of the deceased as well as the name and address

of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgment card is to be mailed.

If you know of a member, parent, or child of a member who is passed away, please contact the FCA.



CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE

Finnish Center Association has received a generous donation of two cemetery lots at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, 34205 Five Mile Road, Livonia MI 48154. The donation was made by Elizabeth Maki in memory of long time Finnish Center members Allie (her mother) and Emil Porkka. The lots are located in Garden of Hours, section 895, graves 1 & 2. Each grave can hold one full body burial along with two cremains or just 3 cremains per grave. If you are interested in purchasing them, please give a call to Finnish Center for more information. Telephone (248) 478-6939 or email: finnishcenter@gmail.com



The Finnish Center is currently looking for a Sunshine Lady. Here's how it works - Members contact the Finnish Center and the information gets forwarded to the Sunshine Lady, then the Sunshine Lady sends get-well cards, thinking-of-you cards, words-of-encouragement cards to whomever needs the sunshine.

Members donate cards and those cards get passed on to the Sunshine Lady.

If you are interested in volunteering for this small but important task please contact the Finnish Center Office (248) 478-6939.



GIFT SHOP

I have been interested in learning about the Moomin books written by Tove Jansson for children. Some of our visitors to the gift shop have read them and others have never heard of them. The books are about a community of trolls living in the magical Moominvalley, whose adventures illustrate themes including kindness, respect for nature, tolerance, friendship, and courage.

We have a line of Moomin gifts by Arabia, and more books will be ordered for the Scandinavian Market in November.

Here's a sample quote from Snufkin: "Stars are my favorite things. I always lie and look at them before I go to sleep and wonder who is on them and how one could get there. The sky looks so friendly with all those little eyes twinkling in it."

Another quote is from Moominpappa: "The world is full of great and wonderful things for those who are ready for them."

We have recently made available the following: Lingonberry Shampoo, Black Currant Shampoo, Lemon Glycerine Hand Cream, LOVI wooden floral centerpieces, Visapaja 4 tealight candle holder, Squeaky Cheese, Läkerol Cassis Black Currant and Läkerol Raspberry Licorice.

Janet Suomi
Gift Shop Chairperson



SUMMER NEWS FROM THE GARDENS

What an amazing summer we are having. The weather has been moderate with sufficient rain, making for a verdant environment. Our volunteers include a boy visiting from Albania who has been a daily assistant and who, with our other dedicated gardeners, has kept our center beautiful.

We continue to develop our garden areas and enjoy the presence of fauna that adds unexpected pleasure throughout the landscape. New flora is seen each season as gardens in different areas offer varied environments of light, moisture, and soil. Plants mysteriously find the locations they need.

Creating rich loam through the composting of organic matter is one of our most important functions. We collect coffee grounds from the FCA kitchen and a local coffee shop to add nitrogen which enriches the soil. One task in the gardens is the removal of over-ambitious flora which would wish to be everywhere. Of course, we also remove plants that have ended their useful time in our gardens.

A plan for a new bridge across the swale and a new roof for the garage will come to fruition if we are successful in our drive to raise funds for the FCA roof and other infrastructure. That of course will be up to all of us.

We are delighted to see increasing numbers of visitors using our gardens for strolling, reading, meeting, and enjoying their various areas of interest. Our Little Free Library, Children's Corner, various seating options, and meeting areas draw persons from many communities in our multi-cultural garden society.

We want to express our appreciation to you for your continuing donations of time and treasure to our gardens. We hope you will become a member of our garden family and experience the joy of nature at our unique cultural center.

David Sharpe

SOCIAL NEWS**OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET
& CRAFT SHOW
August 10, 2024**

Our summer outdoor flea market and craft sale will take place in the parking lot on August 10 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Vendors are needed, Please call the Finnish Center at (248) 478-6939 for an application or call Mary O'Brien at (248) 895-3231 for more information. In the event of rain we will be in the main hall. You will need to bring your own table.

Food by Michael's Touch of Class Catering will be available for purchase. No vendors will be accepted after 11:00 am on August 7.

**50TH ANNIVERSARY
September 14, 2024**

Celebrating 50 years in the Finnish Center Building. Festivities begin at 5:00 pm. There will be interesting stories and great food to celebrate this event. Music will be provided by FinnFolk and Rockin' Rutabagas. Look at the flyer in this newsletter for more details. Please join us for this special evening.

**LET'S GO TO THE MOVIE
October 13, 2024**

The movie presentation will be "*Pelkie: 100 years of Finnishness in Michigan's North Woods*". Please join us at 1:00 pm for a interesting afternoon. Refreshments will be served.

Mary O'Brien,
Social chair

SEPTEMBER PASTY BAKE

We have scheduled a pasty event for September 6 and 7. On Friday the 6th our crew will peel, dice, and portion the veggies and on Saturday the 7th we will conduct the assembling, baking, packaging, and selling.

The pasties will cost \$8.00 each. For orders of 12 or more the cost is \$7.50. It is highly advised that you pre-order at fcapasties@gmail.com. Include your name, phone number, and the number of pasties that you would like to pickup between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm on Saturday, September 7. There is limited freezer space available for storage, so any order that cannot be picked up on the 7th must be prepaid.

If you wish to volunteer to help with the process, please send an email to fcapasties@gmail.com, indicating when you will be available. I will contact you to coordinate a time and day. Note that volunteers receive a complimentary pasty!

Paul Rajala, pasty coordinator



The Finnish American Singers of Michigan (FASM) conductor, Alex Cave, is eager to have you join the singers when the group starts practicing for their December 1st Christmas concert. Practices start Monday, September 9th, 6 pm, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Rd, Livonia, Michigan.

Please contact Paul Rajala at the FCA office or choir president, Katy Koskela at kakoskela@hotmail.com if you have questions about the choir!

MEETUP RETURNS

Sunday, September 8
1:00 pm

Film:
*This Is My Childhood:
Finland at War*

<https://www.meetup.com/>

AUGUST DAYS

by Lenore Hetrick

The last of summer and the first of fall -
Together they stand in August Days.
The garden is bright with summer bloom,
And yet there creeps up the autumn haze.
You can look forward or look backwards
To a lovely summer you would recall,
But changing of the season has come -
The last of summer and the first of fall.



RAG RUG WEAVING CLASSES TO BEGIN

For those of you who have patiently waited for the above announcement, thank you! One of the missions of the Finnish Center is to keep the Finnish heritage alive and share what we learn and know with others. There have been requests for the FCA to teach various cultural classes and Rag Rug Weaving is among them.

Sandy Lampi Scheel will be the instructor and the barn loom that was donated several years ago will be used by the students. The class will consist of information sharing, demonstrations, discussions, hands-on projects as well as weaving. Students will be given a list of supplies they should bring when they register for the class. Also, students will be encouraged to bring a light lunch and a beverage of their choice. The FinnWeavers fund will cover transportation costs for the instructor as well as handouts and weaving supplies for each student. Sign up for the classes by contacting Sandy at (989) 245-2364 or email at sndscheel@gmail.com.

Two introductory sessions will be organized in 2024 for those wishing to learn about rag rugs. Dates are set for the “Crash and Burn Class”, September 24, 25, and 26 beginning at 10:00 a.m. This class is ideal for those who will be coming in from out-of-town or for those that are anxious to learn weaving quickly.

For others who would like to learn at a more relaxed pace we will schedule a class that will meet three times on days that are compatible with students’ calendars. If this is of interest to you, determine what days of the week would be most convenient for you and let Sandy know. You and the other students will agree on our class schedule.

If 2024 doesn’t work with your schedule, know that we will plan on having classes in 2025 and in years to come. We look forward to having you become an FCA FinnWeaver as you learn to weave.

NORDIC HERITAGE FOLK DANCE PRACTICE

The Nordic Heritage Folk Dance group welcomes both children and adults to come and learn basic steps like polka, waltz and schottische and simple-to-intermediate folk dances depending on the dancer. Our goal is to have fun while keeping the cultures of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden alive through folk dancing.

All practices begin at 2:00 pm with a ‘family-style’ practice where both children and adults learn folk dancing together for the first hour. We want to ensure folk dancing continues for generations. The next hour or longer is for adults where the folk dances can become more challenging depending on the participants. We hope to see you at one of our practices! We plan on practicing once a month except in the summer. Future dates will be announced later.

Sunday, September 15, 2024 2-5 pm
Location: To Be Determined

Sunday, October 20, 2024 2-5 pm
Location: Finnish Center Association

Sunday, November 3, 2024 2-5 pm
Location: Finnish Center Association



If you have any questions please email Glendene Thornbloom at gathorn4@gmail.com or the FCA at finnishcenter@gmail.com

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

We are most appreciative of these generous donors to our three-year capital campaign, which commenced in June 2023 and will conclude in June 2026. Donations to this campaign are financing major refurbishments to our beautiful cultural center including a new roof and much-needed repairs to the masonry and entryway. You can view progress in meeting our \$300,000 goal on a fundraising thermometer in the FCA lobby. Kiitos to all!

Kulta/Gold \$1,001-\$4,999

Gerald & Marja Norris
Carole Hardy

Perhe/Family \$1,000

Marlene Johnson
Max Lunsford

Hopea/Silver \$500-\$999

Margaret Halls
Virginia Miruzzi
Irene Lamanen
Eugene Belttari
Sandra Brandvold

Pronsi/Bronze \$100-\$499

James & Susan Marlowe
Jan Culbertson
Thrivent/Gretchen Marie Lempio
Anonymous Donor
James Frederick
PayPal Giving Fund
Jacqueline Szczepaniak
Mark Suokas
Norkap Lodge

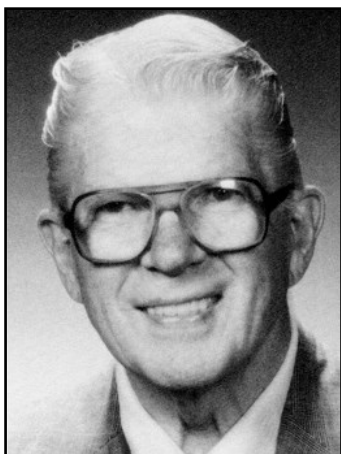
Jonene Eliasson

Gary Seppala
Peter Dowd
Danial Siivola
Tabb Wile
Linda Jacobs

Kittos/Thank You \$1-\$99

Kristine Copeland
Zoe Dixon
Eleanor Bradlin
Joanne Ouelette
Anonymous Donor
Michael Hill
Peggy Burns
Marianne Raisinen
Thrivent/Paul Rajala
Alice Manley
K.A. Hill
Anonymous Donor
Joan Lemke
Cathy Knowlton
Norbert Leppanen
Anonymous Donor
Mary O'Brien

April 1– June 30, 2024



**FCA First Chairman
February 1966 - January 1967**

NOAH POTTI

"...what we dream, what we think and believe is in the end of little consequence. The only thing of consequence is what we do ... Action!"

NEWSFLASH

The FCA library has had books checked out in the last few months by several people! Yes, this IS exciting news. To see folks interested in the books collected there and visiting the space was the intention when the library was established many years ago by Eva Koskamaki and reinforced when taken over by Lillian Lehto. Although this writer was not a member of the Center at that time, based on the contents of the collection, another goal seems to have been to collect and accept donations on almost anything relating to Finns in Michigan, the Upper Peninsula, and the United States, as well as pertaining to cultural issues in Finland itself. It was to be not only a resource for members but an archive of sorts. Books deemed "important" to have in the collection were seldom weeded (removed) once added, only leaving the shelves again except for inventory purposes.

To revitalize the collection, make it more viable and interesting for current members, as well as more likely to be used, slow but steady progress has been made at weeding out books that don't fit this mandate. Receiving permission from the board, this librarian has been processing books for months. It is a tedious process without the convenience of a digital catalog! It means for every book that is evaluated and removed, there are AT LEAST three catalog cards that need to be found in the small card catalog drawers and depending on the number of subject headings for an individual book, there might be as many as many as 15 cards pulled! Materials have been boxed to be taken to the Finnish American Historical Archive in Hancock, Michigan after conversations with the archivist there. Recently saved by Finlandia Foundation National when Finlandia University closed, this is one of the best locations to preserve materials that they do not have and would like, as well as offer suggestions to us about what we ought to keep. Some items have been sold, some given away, and others will be made available in future flea markets at the Center.

Many aspects are considered when determining whether to retain a book. Condition is a huge one. Just because a book is old (fiction from the 1930s) does not make it valuable! Veracity of information is key. A book from 1960 that provides statistics on national production in Finland but labels that information as "todays" should not be retained.

Generally, the internet is a far better source for current, general research of this type for our members. Children's books in Finnish teaching nursery rhymes or books in English sharing Finnish cultural stories with drawings from the 20s, may be of interest to someone who collects old books, but probably not to the parent or grandparent that wants to read to a grandchild and worries about brittle paper and yellowed pages falling out of the book.

Finding a book of interest has been facilitated by the small blue dots you can find on each book's spine. That indicates the text is in English or has English translations included. Books are shelved in Dewey Decimal order for non-fiction (both for adults and in the Juvenile collection) and alphabetically by author in fiction. There is a process to check out materials from the library, and it is an easy one! Each book has a check-out card in a pocket at the back of the book. Print the date, your name, and a phone number or email address on the card, remove it and place it in the small, labeled box on top of the card catalog drawers. There is no due date and no late fines! When you return the book(s), put it (them) in the larger box on top of the drawers and they will be checked back in later. After a fair amount of time has lapsed without returning the book(s), you will be contacted with a gentle reminder about returning them, so they don't get lost in the everyday shuffle at home. Easy peasy!

The library is not accepting ANY donations of books currently. If you are cleaning out personal library shelves or boxes tucked away, please donate those books to your local public library. Most libraries have ongoing or regularly scheduled book sales and would appreciate your donations. If you have any questions, please contact me through the Finnish Center or via email at kakoskela@hotmail.com.

Happy reading!

Katy Koskela
FCA Acting
Librarian



FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER TURNS 50 IN 2024 – PART 11

In the September 2023 issue of the FCA News we noted that our Cultural Center Building will be turning 50 in September of 2024. Previously we have listed the sponsors, patrons and businesses that provided the funding for the dedication ceremony on September 21, 1974. Many readers have asked what determined these different levels. Research into the archives indicates that sponsorship was for a donation of \$5, business names could be included for a donation of \$10, and \$25 was required for the patronage level. About \$2,000 was raised in 1974 for the dedication ceremony events. In today's dollars, that comes to more than \$13,000.

SELECTING THE CULTURAL CENTER SITE

Originally, in 1972, a location in Novi referred to as the "Kuusisto" property was selected for the proposed home of the Finnish Cultural Center. The address was 25100 Meadowbrook Road and it was on the east side between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue. There was a "new" convalescent home on the south property line, which is still there today.

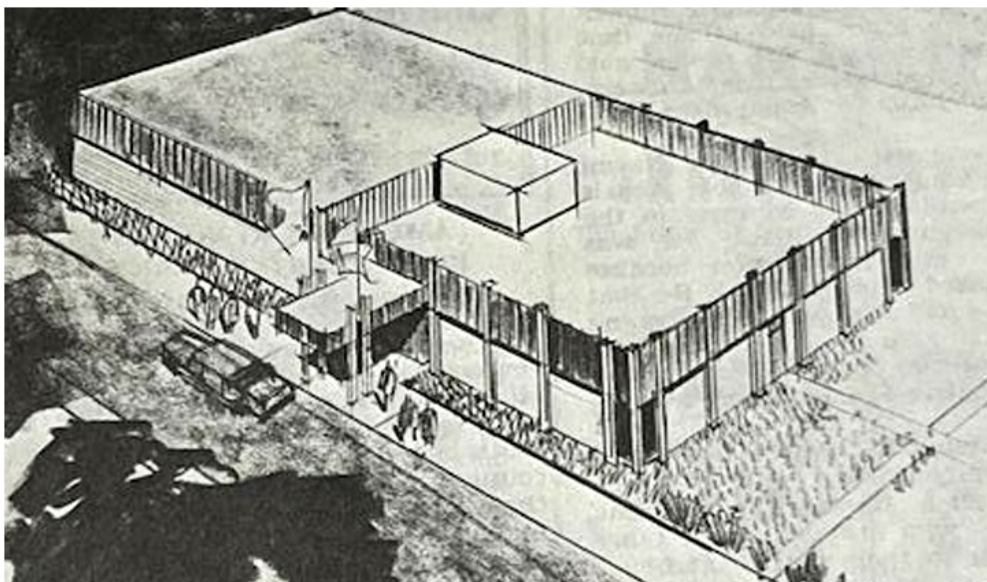
The FCA building and finance committees were attempting to purchase the western 10.3 acres of the Kuusisto property. There was an existing brick house, garage, shed and wood house comprising 2.6 acres on the easternmost portion of the property which ran alongside Bishop Creek. The owner apparently wanted to retain this portion of the overall site for his homestead.

The FCA portion had a marsh and creek along the north property line with a grade change of nearly 25 feet. However, the rest of the site was much flatter and suitable for construction of a building. There were wooded areas along the perimeter. The frontage along Meadowbrook Road was over 583 feet. For reasons not disclosed in the documents, the two parties could not come to an agreement on the purchase of the land, and today there is a subdivision at the location with Scarborough Lane being the entrance off Meadowbrook.

Eventually, a site was found in Farmington Township on Eight Mile Road. The land was zoned residential single family with the purpose of developing subdivisions as indicated in the master plan. The leaders of the FCA petitioned for a zoning change and it was granted. Over the objections of the township consultants, the planning commission voted yes to the zoning change and a home was found for the Finnish Cultural Center. Before the completion of the building in late 1974, the township had become the City of Farmington Hills.

Original thoughts for the Cultural Center included a restaurant and cocktail lounge, Finnish Saunas, a stage area and gaming rooms. On the site there were hopes for picnic and playground areas and eventually perhaps a pool. Although these amenities never materialized, the addition in 1979 that eventually provided us with the huge kitchen, lounge, dance floor and much needed storage gave us the wonderful building that we can now enjoy.

Paul Rajala





FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION
 35200 W. Eight Mile Road
 Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108



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

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



Follow FCA on Instagram
 @finnishcenterassociation



**THAYER-ROCK
 FUNERAL HOME**
 33603 Grand River,
 Farmington, MI
 (248) 474-4131
 Paul N. Potti, Director