recreation news

Each week the Farmington Hills Parks & Recreation Department will present a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column. For fur-ther information regarding our pro-grams, contact our office at 474-

RECREATION CENTERS — We will be opening eight community play-ground sites beginning Monday, June 27, through Thursday, Aug. 4. Supervised activities will include games, sports activities, arts and crafts and special events. All activities will include boys and girls ages 6-13 (who must have completed first grade). The morning sites will be Forest, Kenbrook, Larkshire and Longacre and they will be open from 2:30 am. to noon. The afternoon sites will include Flanders, Grace, Woodcreek and Wooddale and they will be open from 1:3:30 pm. There is no fee for this activity.

A PICNIC PAC — Do you need addi-

A PIGNIC PAC — Do you need additional games for your plente or family reunion? We have voileyball, badminton, horseshoes, softball, frisbees and more included in our "plente pac." To reserve your pac, contact the Parks & Recreation office at least 48 hours in advance. A \$20 deposit is required. The fee is \$8 per weekend or \$5 per week-day rental.

SENIOR ADULT OPEN SWIM — The Farmington Hills Parks & Recreation senior adult scenter offers open swimming every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 3 pm. The pool is located at the Mercy Conference Center, adjacent to the senior adult activities center. Bring your own sult, towel and lock. Fee for swimming is 50 cents.

DAY CAMP — Our day camp is designed for children 6-12 years of age and provides both educational and recreational programs. Campers will be involved in animal study, insects, lishing, archery, field trips and more. The

camp is located at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus, Camp runs five days a week and the first ses-sion starts June 27. Fee is \$30.

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CAMP RAINBOW — Camp Rainbow is a summer day camp for all mentallyl and physically impaired individuals. The program operates from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and offers a wide variety of recreational activities. Daily activities will incorporate socialization skills, goos and fine motor coordination and self awareness. Additional activities will include swimming, field trips and overnight camping during specific sessions. The first session will begin Monday, July 18, and take place at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus. The camper registration fee is \$38 per person.

TENNIS LESSONS — Learn the basic fundamentals of the game or improve your existing skills. Classes with the control of the game of improve your existing skills. Classes with the control of the control

RECREATION OPEN SWIM — We will host open swim at North Farming-ton and Farmington High School pools on a Monday through Thursday basis beginning June 27. The pools will be open between 1 and 4 p.m. The fee is 75 cents for children and teens and \$1 for adults. You must be 38 Inches at the chin to swim alone or you must be accompanied by an adult.



This secluded, old, Spanish-type villa is becoming a more familiar sight to area residents as development is surrounding the once-lonely structure.

ROLEX Greenstone's

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Villa survives despite growth

By Janet Burke special writer

An Italian villa, rich with historical background, stands in a new Farmington Hills development as a daily reminder of the area's founder.

Quaker Hills, located northwest of II.
Mile and Farmington roads, is being built on the former estate of Count William Sarmiento.

llam Sarmiento.
"It is one of the area's great homes, but it was always shrouded in mystery," sald florist Lawrence Mayer, a longtime Farmington resident.
"As a child, I heard the rumor that a Russian princess lived there," Mayer sald. "And I remember some 40 years ago delivering flowers, but never getting past the guard at the front gate."

ting past the guard at the front gate."

A MEMBER of the Italian court,
Sarmlento built the villa 67 years ago
on the rolling wooded countryside.
Blueprints date the home to 1916, according to William Chorkey who has
owned the villa with his wife Allee for
the past 14 years.
"We understand that Mrs. Sarmiento
stayed here until the 1940s, when the
Lowell family bought it as a working
farm," Chorkey said. "In 1947, Reuben
and Ruth Allender moved in. We acquiered it from Mrs. Allender in 1988."
The Mediterranean-style villa, situated on 15 acres of what was once an
estate of at least 100 acres, is the focal
point of Quaker Hills.

Part of the land was sold in the 1950s to develop Rambie Hills, a subdivision that extends west from Farmington

Road.

The 53 lots in Quaker Hills average three-quarters of an acre each.

"The seclusion was one of the main reasons we were attracted to this land," said Ken Dabrowski, one parter in a group that's developing the proper-

ty.

Quaker Hills has no outlets to main roads, and none of the lots abut another

roads, and none of the lots abut another street.

"It is private and peaceful, yet is only minutes away from expressways and the extensive commercial, retail and recreational facilities the Farmington area offers," Dabrowski sald.

ington area offers," Dabrowski sald.

THE DEVELOPMENT was named after the founders of Farmington, according to Dabrowski.

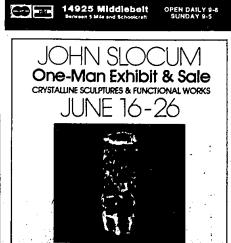
Fourteen of the 53 lots already have been built upon. The homes range from 2,600 to 7,500 square feet with finished prices beginning at \$225,000.

What do the Chorkeys think about having a neighborhood in what was once an enormous meadow in front of their home and grounds?

"We enjoyed that natural land for many years," Alice Chorkey sald. "When we first learned about it being developed, we had some concerns, but as things evolved, we got excited about the kind of homes being built, and are now very pleased.







SOMERSET MALL BIG BEAVER ROAD at COOLIDGE, TROY Sunday 12-5/Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-9/Other days 10-6

