

Hills history tidbits to know, share

Think you know a lot about Farmington Hills history?

As the city celebrates its 25th birthday, the Farmington Hills Historical Commission wants to help you learn even more about the community and its past.

Members gathered important and interesting facts for community trivia/history contest, with several lists of questions and answers that have been published in the Farmington Observer.

We've taken the liberty of putting together excerpts of the four question and answer lists to reveal some interesting trivia and important facts about the city of Farmington Hills and its history:

■ Farmington Township and the villages of Quakertown and Woodcreek Farms became the city of Farmington Hills. It became official with the adoption of the charter on May 4, 1973. The city of Farmington voted not to join the other three.

■ The cost of mailing a first class letter in 1973 – when Farmington Hills became a city – was 8 cents.

■ The first mayor of Farmington Hills was Robert McConnell. Since then, 19 others have been mayor: Fred Lichtman, Earl C. Oppertausen, D. Keith Deacon, Joan Dudley, Jan Dolan, Jody Soronen, Donn Wolf, Jack Burwell, Frederick Hughes, Charles Williams, Joe

Alkateeb, Ben Marks, Terry Sever, Jean Fox, Aldo Vagnozzi, Jon Grant, Nancy Bates, Larry Lichtman and Joanne Smith. Fred and Larry Lichtman were father and son mayors.

■ The Indians used the Farmington area mostly for hunting. Three Indian Trails in the Farmington area were the Shiawassee, the Grand River, and the Orchard Lake trails.

■ Farmington Hills covers 33.4 square miles.

■ Farmington founder Arthur Power built his first log house near the corner of 11 Mile and Power Roads. Arthur Power crossed Canada to reach Michigan. His son, Nathan Power, was Farmington's first schoolmaster.

■ Botsford Inn was built in 1836, opened officially as an inn in 1844, named Botsford Inn in 1860.

■ Members of the Anhut family owned Botsford from 1951 to 1993.

■ Fred M. Warner was the only Michigan Governor from Farmington. He won three terms – the first one to do so. Former mayor, Jean Fox, wrote a very comprehensive book about him.

■ The famous landmark at Farmington and 13 Mile roads was a huge tree right in the middle of the intersection, which cars went around for years.

■ "City of Tradition and Progress" is the motto of the City of Farmington Hills.

Happy

25th

ANNIVERSARY!

Farmington Hills



Robert Rock, Pres.

Bruce Lantto, Mgr.

Glenn Schafer, Dir.

Paul Potti, Dir.

We too, celebrate an anniversary in 1998.

Thayer-Rock Funeral Home 65 years young. We have seen the changes, improvements and tremendous growth over these years, just as you have. And, just like you, SERVICE is what keeps us growing.

Happy Anniversary Farmington Hills!

THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME

33603 Grand River Avenue Farmington, Michigan 48335

248...474.4131