



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **City Council Approves Architectural Firm for New Senior Activity Center at Costick Property Location**

*Phased design and planning process begins for long anticipated free-standing facility.*

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich., (May 4, 2026) – Following a comprehensive proposal process and unanimous consensus among a multi-department review committee, the City of Farmington Hills announces approval by City Council in the selection of Neumann Smith Architects to support site evaluation, architectural and engineering services for a new activities center on the grounds of the Costick Center. The contract, not to exceed \$1.77 million, marks a major milestone toward enhancing the City’s existing range of community programs and services for community members.

Neumann Smith Architects is a full-service architectural and engineering firm. Their portfolio is extensive and includes work with the City of Oak Park, Washtenaw County and the City of Midland on community center projects. The firm has also assembled a team of subconsultants to provide specialized services, including IMEG (MEP and technology), Spalding DeDecker (civil engineering), Ruby + Associates (structural engineering), Grissim Metz Andriese Associates (landscape architecture), Water Technology, Inc. (aquatic consulting) and JS2 (food service consulting) to support the Farmington Hills project.

“After carefully reexamining all of the variables and listening closely to the voices of our community, it became clear that we needed to choose the option that allows us to move forward with the greatest urgency toward opening a new center that our residents both want and deserve,” says Mayor Theresa Rich. “As we look ahead, we will engage community members on how this investment may be funded, including options not previously considered such as planned giving opportunities and naming rights which could help reduce our reliance on traditional funding mechanisms like taxes or millages.”

Under a phased contract, Neumann Smith Architects will guide the project through several key stages, including:

- **Site Evaluation** - Conducting research, gathering additional data and assessing the existing site conditions.
- **Master Plan Development** - Establishing the overall vision and framework for the new facility.
- **Schematic Design and Design Development** - Creating conceptual layouts and refining them into detailed design documents that meet all applicable codes and standards.
- **Construction Documents Preparation** - Producing the technical drawings and specifications required for construction.

- **Construction Administration** - Supporting the City throughout the construction process, ensuring clear communication among all stakeholders, monitoring progress and providing as-built drawings and warranty documentation upon project completion.

Work by the firm will begin immediately with site evaluation and data collection. The existing Costick Center will remain open. The City will continue to share updates as the project progresses.

For more information, visit [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com).

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#### **About the City of Farmington Hills**

The City of Farmington Hills is a place where everyone is welcome. Founded in 1973, it is one of the largest communities in Oakland County. Farmington Hills is home to more than 83,000 residents who speak more than 60 languages, and more than 75 Fortune 500 businesses, including multinational corporations like Nissan and Bosch. The City is routinely recognized as one of the safest cities of its size and is known for its extensive amenities, including over 600 acres of parks, 90 athletic fields, six miles of hiking and walking trails, the Farmington Hills Golf Club, and an Ice Arena. Farmington Hills is also home to The Hawk, an award-winning, approximately 270,000-square-foot recreation and arts venue, which includes The Hawk Theatre and The Hawk Makerspace. For more information, visit [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com).

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**Note for reporters:** *Although the Cities of Farmington Hills and Farmington share similar names and are both communities in Oakland County, they are two distinct and separate cities. Farmington Hills is the larger of the two, both in population and size. Farmington is a historic city with its own unique governance and community. Please be sure to differentiate between the two cities in your reporting to avoid confusion.*