

Media Advisory  
Event on Sept. 22, 2016  
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Contact: Thomas F. Coleman  
[tomcoleman@earthlink.net](mailto:tomcoleman@earthlink.net)  
(818) 482-4485

## **Book Event Mixes Ferndale's Past, Present, and Future**

Former and Current Residents and City Officials  
Gather for Release of *Growing Up in Ferndale*

Dozens of current and former residents of Ferndale will gather on the evening of Thursday, September 22, 2016 for the official release of *Growing Up in Ferndale* – a new book that shares “A Baby Boomer’s Memories of Life in Mid-Century Suburban Detroit.”

The book includes a micro view of life in Ferndale from the perspective of Tom Coleman as a child and teenager, as well as an older adult’s retrospective macro view of American society during that era – including challenging issues such as racism, antisemitism, homophobia, and political turmoil, in addition to the cultural and religious transformation that erupted during the 1960s.

Several members of the St. James High School Class of 1966 who are celebrating their 50 Year Class Reunion this week will attend the event. It was the reunion that inspired classmate Thomas F. Coleman to write a book about his experiences growing up in Ferndale. Mayor Dave Coulter will give representatives of the Class of 1966 a proclamation adopted by the Ferndale City Council commemorating the 50 Year Reunion.

Presentations by various speakers include reflections on the past as well as glimpses into the future. Coleman will discuss his relationship with Ferndale, then and now, and share lessons he learned while growing up in Ferndale – lessons from those who touched his life and influenced his future. Attorney Rudy Serra will discuss the evolution of the LGBT community in Ferndale over the years. Councilwoman Raylon Leaks-May will talk about the future of Ferndale as a more inclusive and diverse community.

After these formal presentations, guests will be invited to share their memories of and aspirations for Ferndale – a community that has been on a trajectory toward greater diversity for several decades.

Guests also include community activists, an official from the Ferndale Historical Society, local media, and members of the Coleman family who lived in Ferndale during the 1950s and 1960s.

Seating is limited, so anyone wishing to attend should make a reservation by noon on Tuesday, September 20, 2016. For reservations, contact the author by email at: [tomcoleman@earthlink.net](mailto:tomcoleman@earthlink.net) or call him at (818) 482-4485.

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