

# High school grads get ready for ceremony and celebration

By MARY GNIEWEK  
It's cap-and-gown time again.

Seniors will, between stifled ceremonial yawns, march to center stage to claim the proverbial sheepskins that will declare them high school graduates.

About 1,531 students in the Farmington school district will have their big moment in ceremonies tomorrow and next week.

Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills will lead the parade at Meadowbrook on the Oakland University campus tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. The last class of the 70s is breaking school tradition — its 291 grads will be the first batch to hold commencement of the school grounds.

"It's been coming for a long time. The girls voted for it at the end of their

junior year," said Lynn Akerman, one of two senior advisors.

But tradition will hold in dress. The young women will wear long white gowns and carry a dozen red roses.

"It's quite a spectacle, as you can imagine," said Ms. Akerman. In another break with the past, instead of singing a class song, each senior has selected a short philosophical quote to be read by someone off stage as she receives her diploma.

HELEN MILLIKEN, wife of the governor and proponent of the Equal Rights Amendment, will address the class.

This year, Mercy has 16 valedictorians (students with perfect 4 point grade averages for four years) and 8 salutatorians (3.9 averages).

"They aren't going to speak at graduation," Ms. Akerman said. "The valedictorians chose a spokesperson and she addressed the honors convocation."

Harrison High will be first of the district's three public high schools to graduate. Ceremonies for Harrison's 375 grads are set for 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 12, at Ford Auditorium in Detroit.

Highlights of the ceremony will include graduating twins Kristina and Regina Bultman singing the "Theme from Mahogany," the class song.

Class president Mark Diekman will address the seniors before they receive their diplomas.

Topping off the musical part of the program will be the Harrison choir singing "Time of Your Life" and "Old Irish Blessing," conducted by Paul

Barber. The recessional will be the "War March of Priests" by Mendelssohn performed by the symphonic band.

North Farmington seniors will proceed Harrison the following night (same time, same place).

The Northern Lights will sing "Go Lovely Rose" and class president Donald Treglow will talk to his fellow seniors (approximately 390 of them).

FARMINGTON HIGH has the largest graduating class — 476 students. They will be led in prayer Thursday night at Ford by Fr. Kean D. Cronin, of Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

The TwelveTones will sing "We've Only Just Begun," the class song, and class president Carin Noble will address the seniors.

## Obituaries

### CLARE J. GRACE

Mr. Grace, 86, of Northville, died May 26 in White Hall Convalescent Home.

A former Farmington resident, Mr. Grace was a retired sales agent for Northville Sand and Gravel. He was a member of Farmington Lodge 151 F&AM and a life member of Farmington Elks Lodge 1986.

Survivors include: wife, Viola; son, Gerald; three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Services were conducted on May 29 at Ross Northrop & Son, Northville, by

Rev. John Mishler. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery.

FLORENCE MYRTLE RAMSEY  
Mrs. Ramsey, 74, of Farmington died May 30 in the Middlebelt Nursing Center of Livonia.

Survivors include: daughter, Mrs. Ann Rose; brother, William Rose; three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Services were conducted at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home of Farmington on June 1 by Rev. William G. Wager of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Burial was at Glen Eden Me-

morial Cemetery.

ELEANOR E. BRADLEY  
Mrs. Bradley, 66, of Farmington died in Sinal Hospital in Detroit May 31.

Survivors include: husband, Raymond E.; mother-in-law, Hazel Allomong; sister, Genevieve Roberts of Florida.

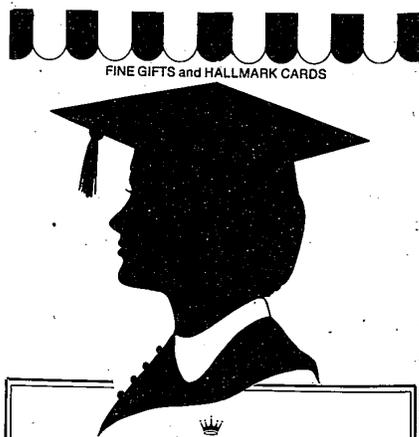
Services were conducted at the Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi on June 4. Rev. Richard J. Henderson of the Faith Community United Presbyterian Church officiated. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery in Livonia.

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