

Watch Festival parade on Saturday 10 a.m.

# Farmington Observer

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## Woman veep assessed by local pols

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

SAN FRANCISCO — To many, a woman on the Democratic ticket was cause for cheers.

But what do Michigan delegates to the Democratic National Convention say about U.S. Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, the third-term lawmaker from Queens who is to be Walter Mondale's vice presidential running mate?

Several area representatives who worked with Ferraro on congressional committees offered their assessments of her.

"She's kind of independent. Not a doctrinaire liberal," answered Rep. Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, whose sprawling 14th Congressional District includes part of Troy.

"Hard-headed common sense," was the description offered by U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Levin, in his first term in Washington, served with Ferraro on a committee which produced a pair of books on House Democratic policy. "It was heavily relied on by congressional candidates," he said.

"Bright. Peppy. Imaginative. Sensible. She has a sense of commitment based on day-to-day realities."

"There wasn't a lot of theory in her life. It's day-to-day practicality," Levin said.

Hertel is impressed by her efficiency.

"She's done a lot of work on senior citizens problems," said Hertel, who served with her on the Select Committee on Aging.



"She's very nice, very well organized, very much to the point. She's not a speechmaker. She's an inside player. She's very efficient in how she uses her energy."

Hertel said the Mondale staff contacted him last month on potential running mates. He gave them the names of Geraldine Ferraro and Rep. Lindy Boggs of Louisiana.

Hertel was also impressed by how Ferraro took the pressure of publicity during the weeks her name was under consideration by Mondale.

"It was an intense period. She held up well. I asked her in the cloakroom, 'Isn't it a lot of pressure?'"

"She said, 'I love every minute of it.'"

Hertel credits her with being able to change her mind quickly when she has been wrong, before the results can be embarrassing.

One example came when she chaired the platform committee and suggested that the campaign document be so bland that it need not include the Equal Rights Amendment. The second came

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### Our Festival Queen

Mary Christine Porter has been named the 1984 Farmington Founders' Festival Scholarship Pageant winner. Competing last evening at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills, the 5-4 inch

brunette beat out eight other contestants. The daughter of Helen Porter of Farmington Hills, she will compete for the Miss Michigan title later this year.

RANDY DONST/Staff Photographer

## Student decline persists

By Joan Adamczak  
staff writer

Farmington school district's enrollment for 1984-85 is expected to decrease by about 332 students, says school district superintendent Lewis Schulman in his annual year-end report.

"The decline in student enrollment, which has been all pervasive statewide, continues," Schulman said in his report. The district's enrollment for 1983-84 of 10,528 pupils was a reduction of 340 students from 1982-83, according to the report, which also says expected enrollment for 1984-85 is 10,196.

"Lower birth rates, plus out-of-state exodus, are the major reasons for the decline," Schulman explained.

A modest increase in elementary school enrollment is anticipated, with the majority of the student loss taking place in the secondary schools, he said.

OUT OF 28 school districts in Oakland County, Farmington's is the third largest, with a state equalized valuation of \$1,555,000,000 or \$104,034 per child, the report said.

The district ranks fifth with annual expenses per child of \$3,583 according to the report, and the millage rate of 33.7 mills is 33th of the 28 school districts.

"District funds for education, for the most part, continue to come from the local taxpayers," said Schulman in the report.

"While the state of Michigan has increased its allocation of state aid for education, very little of that increase has accrued to the Farmington district," he said.

State-aid revenues make up less than 3 percent of the district's budget, "and little change is expected for the coming year."

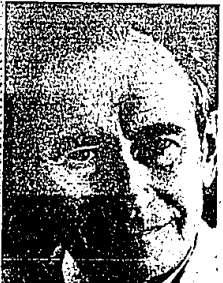
"Our school system's source of sup-

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## School chief keeps humor in face of heart surgery

By Tom Baer  
staff writer

Lewis Schulman, superintendent of the Farmington Public Schools, wasn't



Lewis Schulman

afraid to crack a joke or two a couple of days before he was scheduled to undergo coronary bypass surgery at Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital.

The 64-year-old Schulman, Farmington's superintendent for eight years, was recuperating after the triple bypass operation yesterday morning. Surgery had been scheduled for July 10, but was postponed because he failed a blood-clotting test.

"I failed the test," said Schulman with a laugh last Monday. "Guess that shows a failure of the Farmington schools to prepare me properly."

Schulman follows his wife, Regene, to the operating table. She had open-heart surgery back in November.

"Now people are saying that I'm terribly jealous and that's why I'm going in," Schulman joked.

All joking aside, Schulman became concerned about his health several weeks ago when he became tired and developed severe chest pains after doing anything strenuous.

"Looking back, every time I exerted myself, I had terrible chest pains," he

*"I've enjoyed my job and I've enjoyed working in Farmington. It's been a source of great pleasure."*

— Lewis Schulman  
Superintendent of schools

said. "I thought it had to do with just getting older, but I guess it was really angina."

Explaining his problem, Schulman said, "I have three arteries which are almost totally blocked. They recommend strongly that I have the surgery immediately."

"I've elected to have surgery because, as I understand it, these are the three main arteries."

DR. HOWARD Rosman, a cardiologist who knows of Schulman's case, gave the following explanation of the coronary bypass operation.

"It's basically an operation where vessels that supply the heart with blood have become blocked and are bypassed. To bypass these blocked vessels, sometimes they use an artery from the chest wall itself, and also they take veins from the legs."

"You can almost envision it as a tube with blockage in it. They take another vessel and link it up beyond the blockage of the tube so that blood can flow freely. The purpose of the surgery is to enable blood to flow freely to the heart muscle, whereas now it can't flow as freely."

The operation has become common

over the last several years, although "nothing's routine" in medicine, Rosman said.

"It's an operation that's performed quite regularly in the United States," he said. "I'd estimate as a rough number perhaps 100,000 cases a year. We do a fair number here at Ford Hospital. It's not a rare surgery."

THE SURGERY, which took about four hours, was done by Dr. Donald McGilligan of the Henry Ford staff.

Schulman said he'd be back at work

as soon as possible. "It'll be fine," he said. "I'm very confident."

Rosman shared Schulman's optimism.

"With the combination of successful surgery and diet and medical treatment, I'm very hopeful that he'll do beautifully. I'm hoping that he'll be 100 percent."

Graham Lewis, who is in charge of the district's special-education program, has been named acting superintendent by the Farmington Board of Education.

## School policy spawns interest in academics

By Joan Adamczak  
staff writer

An increase in graduation requirements has resulted in an upswing in the number of students enrolling in academic classes, according to the annual year-end report released by the superintendent's office.

Graduation requirements were boosted to 31 credits for students in grades 9-12 four years ago, says Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Lyn Nutter.

The result has been an increase in the number of students electing to enroll in academic classes rather than study halls.

ELIMINATING STUDY HALL for ninth graders and requiring the student take at least one academic class in each of the four years of high school, says Nutter, has resulted in an overall heavy emphasis on academics and the previous heavy bias very negative of the school," said Nutter.

Student course elections have increased from 8.6 courses per student to 8.7 courses per student, leaving three-tenths of the total student population not enrolled in a discipline academic school day, according to the report.

Previously, 1,000 students, only three are planning to take study hall, says Nutter.

Mathematics enrollment increased from 80 percent of the high school student body in 1983-84, to 85 percent this year, says the report.

Science enrollment has remained stable at 78 percent of the student body.

At least 70 percent of the district's graduates have completed at least two years of science according to the report.

The district enrolled 1,619 students in foreign languages in 1983, compared to 1,561 last year, says the report.

"More emphasis across the district on foreign languages has resulted in this increase," said Nutter.

"Our foreign language department

### oral quarrel

## Wanted: Advice for delegate-priest

A Michigan priest, the Rev. Robert Williams, lost permission to perform his religious duties last week when the Detroit archbishop said that his activity as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention violated canon law. The law, put into effect last November, generally bars clergy from political activity.

the clergy over the disagreement. Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

What advice would you give Father Williams in his time of trouble with his church superiors?

To answer this question, call 477-5555 anytime before 1 p.m. on Friday, July 20. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

Williams, now a member of the Gary Hart caucus at the San Francisco convention, said he may leave

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