

North Farmington High School graduate makes Capitol gain

BY BUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Suzanne Miller Allen, who first embraced politics as a North Farmington High School roundtable representative, now has an office in the state capital.

Allen, who graduated from North Farmington High School in 1983, was recently named director of administration by House Speaker Rep. Paul Hillemonds, R-Ill.

Hillemonds recently announced that his two top leadership positions would be awarded to two women.

Allen will administer the state House budget and work with the House business offices. She will also work with the representative office staff on administration and personnel matters. She'll be in charge of appointments.

Allen began her legislative service in 1989 as an aide to state Sen. Dick Posthumus, R-Alto. She served as committee clerk to the Commerce and Technology committee and served as director of district affairs.

Early on, Allen, who participated in the Farmington Founders Festival committee, transformed a hobby into a vocation. Allen said she also ran council member



Suzanne Miller Allen: in early 1980s

Jon Grant's first campaign for council.

"Politics is a unique way to help a lot of people," Allen said. "There's a lot of good people in politics. I think sometimes there is an anti-government bias. There really are a lot of good people in politics."

Allen served as a campaign manager for state Sen. George McManus, R-Traverse City, in 1990 and served on Gov. John Engler's transition team for the De-

partment of Commerce and Michigan Inaugural Committee. She worked for the Chrysler Corp. In 1991, Allen joined Hillemonds' staff as an administrative assistant and recently served as deputy executive director.

Allen earned a master's degree in public relations from Michigan State University in 1992 and also holds a master's degree in labor relations from Wayne State University. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Wayne State University.

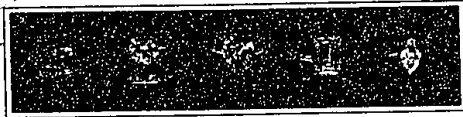
Both Judith Barton, the other appointee, and Allen are active in the community and political affairs. Allen served as the third vice chairwoman of the Michigan Republican Party. She also served as a delegate to the 1988 Republican National Convention.

Allen's parents, Dale and Claire Miller, still live in Farmington Hills after 24 years.

Suzanne and her husband, Jason, have a commuter marriage. Jason is a Grand Traverse county commissioner who must reside in the area. He works for the family-owned The Captain's Quarters, a clothing store.

"I always say that my husband and house are in Traverse City," Allen said.

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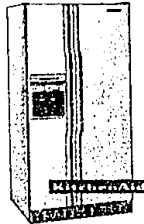
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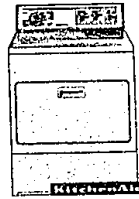
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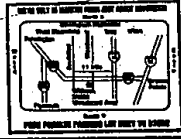
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