

MCCOTTER
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has been a gradual erosion in manufacturing in this country. We believe one of the first steps (in reversing the trend) is to have someone directly responsible for protecting and promoting manufacturing."

If McCotter's bill is adopted, the president would appoint the undersecretary, whose primary duties would include such things as helping develop policies that promote the expansion of the manufacturing sector and reviewing policies that may adversely impact the manufacturing industry.

"One of the things the undersecretary would be report to Congress every year with a 'State of Manufacturing' report," said David Woodruff, McCotter's deputy chief of staff

and legislative director. "The report" would be a road map for getting the manufacturing industry back moving forward."

That's why Knollenberg is supportive of the bill.

"Manufacturing is an important part of his district's economy," said press secretary Chris Close. "The plight manufacturing is in needs a voice in the Commerce Department. By establishing this position, that's what we hope to do."

Close said the new position isn't just another layer of government.

"The Commerce Department does represent manufacturers, but if there's no one there specifically to look out for their concerns, they can get swept under the rug," McCotter's legislation met with approval from the manufacturing representatives

attending his press conference.

Wes Smith, president of E&E Manufacturing in Plymouth, called the bill "a great first step for manufacturers in the United States."

"Manufacturing has been fleeing the country, and the economy has suffered for at least two years now," Smith said. "We need to focus on manufacturing, especially in this state ... 90 percent of manufacturing locations have fewer than 100 people, and they depend on buyers buying locally."

"We need to have a strong manufacturing voice," Smith added. "There are very few people in Washington who understand manufacturing."

According to Jim Zawacki of the Precision Metalforming Association, 45 percent of the gross domestic product, and 41

GRADES
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have the capacity and willingness to learn and the challenge is for the school district to unlock that potential.

QUESTIONS

"Students are often given grades A through E. How would you grade the school district as a whole?" Shiplee asked.

Goshorn gave the district a B+.

"Improving better communication of ideas and concepts could raise that grade, he said.

Swaim agreed with his grade assessment. She advocated always holding them at the administration office on Shiawassee.

Bolsen said the district is at an A+ and she'd like to take it to an A+.

Both Goshorn and Swaim favor rotating board meetings by holding them in schools once a month rather than always holding them at the administration office on Shiawassee.

Bolsen has criticized the cost, preferring to highlight a different school at each school board meeting in its present location. She also suggests having some board members attend PTA meetings.

Swaim encouraged everyone to read a June 2 Newsweek magazine article that talks about the debate over the SAT, a college entrance test, advanced placement classes and academic standards.

The article mentions an improvement of grades by students in instances regardless of socioeconomic level when students have been committed to achieve, she said.

"The more we challenge the students, the more we get out of them," Goshorn said.

Preparing graduates for the future means different things to different people, Bolsen said.

"It's important to include every student and not just focus on

AP students."

Shiplee also asked the candidates to grade the present school board and give two board decisions with which they disagreed.

Swaim ranked the board at a B-.

"They are not giving enough information to the community during the board meeting," she said.

She questioned the Section 102 Out of District Schools of Choice decision and the senior project discussion. She had wanted to see another year of consideration before implementing the open enrollment pilot.

Swaim would like the senior project idea taken completely off the table. Although an elective, it is still technically under consideration as a future requirement for graduation.

"Let it go," Swaim said.

Bolsen gave the board an A- and culled them an effective team.

"Rather than looking at our system as broken and what we disagree with, I don't look at things like that," Bolsen said.

She advocates constant improvement and analysis.

"Until we sit in the shoes of a school board member, we can't really assess what we would approve or not approve," Bolsen said.

Goshorn gives the board a grade in the B range, maybe not a B- but not an A either.

He questioned a board decision to give Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield a raise last year.

Goshorn would have liked to see the board provide a matrix of the other districts which showed the research they did and the salaries of other superintendents.

The superintendents didn't need to be identified by name but perhaps just using an alphabet letter to show the average salary.

Goshorn advocated more study of a land sale in Farmington Hills, which could have natted the district additional money. This issue was raised at a previous forum by Hills resident Mary Johnston.

"I'm a little bit gun-shy about pilot programs," Goshorn said.

"It's like saying, 'First grade was really a bummer for you but, hey, don't feel bad, it was only a pilot.'"

TAX
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bear market and a 15 percent increase in health care premiums and a 25 percent increase in pension contributions.

Because of this, the total budget is \$49,743,987, an increase from the estimated 2002/03 budget of

\$48,854,973, a \$889,014 increase.

The city's police department will be losing about five people from retirement and those positions will not be immediately replaced.

Brook said police patrols will remain the same, while participation in other police programs, such as the South Oakland Narcotics

Investigation unit, will be decreased.

"If revenues pick up, we have the flexibility to look at those positions (to be filled), but we're not optimistic," Brook said.

He said state shared revenues for the 2004/05 fiscal year will likely be even more than \$1 million less than predicted.

Capital improvements spending

will drop about \$1 million compared to this fiscal year as well. But plans to rebuild Fire Station No. 3 on Grand River will continue as planned and it's possible work could begin in the fall.

A public hearing and then approval of the proposed budget goes before the city council on June 16.

For more information on the following activities call the Farmington Hills Recreation Division at (248) 473-1800.

Sand Volleyball
Registration is now being taken for two, three and four person and co-ed sand volleyball teams.

In-Line Hockey League
King of the Hills In-Line Hockey League will begin its eight game/week season on June 16. Games will be played on weekday evenings at the Heritage park In-Line Hockey Rink in Farmington

Hills. Divisions range from 7-8 years of age to 17 and up. Individual player fee is \$55. Registration deadline is Friday, May 23.

Family Mini Camp
Bring the whole family for Family Mini Camp 5-9 p.m. Saturday, June 14. Create a craft, roast hot dogs over the fire, take a hike and eat a morsel around the fire. Cost is \$7 per person, adults and children. Pre-registration is required.

Tour de Hills
Take a scenic six-mile bike ride through the streets of

Farmington Hills 4-5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 7. The ride will start at Farmington Community School, with a safety clinic, and conclude at Heritage Park with a picnic - hot dogs, chips and pop will be served.

Participants must wear a safety helmet. The cost is \$9 per person. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Nature Discovery Wagon
Children ages 3-7 and a parent, grandparent or adult friend are invited to explore

the natural sights and sounds of Heritage Park 7-8:30 p.m. Saturday, June 7. A marshmallow roast will conclude the program. The cost is \$8 per person and pre-registration is required.

Friday Night Madness
Kids ages 6-12 can enjoy an evening of swimming, movies, food and organized games 7-11 p.m. Friday, May 16, June 20, July 25 and Aug. 22. You must pre-register by 4:30 p.m. the day before the event. The fee to participate is \$10 per person, per event.

Hmmmm... Should I keep it a secret or tell all my friends?

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