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Fifteen Cents

Formula hurts district

Schools facing year short of state aid

By CAROL HASKIN

The Farmington School District will be making do with \$121,000 less in state aid than originally expected.

The loss in anticipated revenue is the result of a 0.6 per cent across-the-board cut in state aid to education ap-

proved Aug. 14 by the Michigan legislature.

"I am aware that the state is in difficulty and has to reduce its budget," Supt. Marian Van Arneyde said, "but I am disappointed in the loss to Farmington schools. However, it is better to know it now than to have it happen unexpectedly later in the year."

State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington) said that the 0.6 per cent cut will be applied to the total revenue generated by the school district rather than solely to the amount generated by state aid.

School districts, such as Farmington, which receive the largest portion of their revenue through millage

will lose a higher percentage of their state aid than those districts in which state funds are a primary source of revenue, although the dollar loss will be the same in "real terms."

BROTHERTON SAID the cut was a last minute gesture on the floor of the House "to bring the school aid bill in line with available revenues."

The cut was applied to a school aid formula, the fourth to be proposed this year, that had been released to Michigan schools earlier in the session. That formula, in turn, marked a reduction from one released by the governor's office last winter. At that time, school district Business Manager William Prisk said, the governor's office assured school districts they would receive "no less than stated in the governor's proposal."

In Farmington, the cut will come from state general aid. In districts such as Southfield which receive no general aid, the 0.6 per cent will come from categorical aid—the state funds given for special projects in the district.

"Some school districts really got hurt by the bill and Farmington was one of them," Brotherton said. "By the time we had realized what we had done, there was no time to do anything about it if we were to have a school aid bill at all."

AT THE TIME the bill was voted on, Brotherton said, many legislators were confused about where the cut was to be made. He said many, like himself, probably voted for the bill because they thought the 0.6 per cent reduction was to be applied only to the state aid rather than to the total revenue

"We will come close to keeping our promises to the voters of Farmington."

— William Prisk

generated by the school district. He said the bill did have one positive point.

"The only thing I can say about it that is good is at least this time they did something they have not done in the past—they have been honest. They came up with an amount of money the school district could expect to get in one year. Last year they deliberately overestimated."

Education wasn't the only victim of state belt-tightening. Brotherton said the same 0.6 per cent cut was applied to almost every item in the state budget in the hope that a realistic economic outlook for the coming year would result.

The representative wasn't making any promises, however. "I can't say if it will hold because it's a tight budget and if the economy doesn't improve in the next six months, like the state economic forecasters are predicting, then we might have more cuts."

SCHOOL BOARD Member Emma Makinen said the loss was disappointing but not critical to the school district.

"It adds up to something less than expected," she said, "but no one is taking money away from us. Certainly \$121,000 is a significant amount. That's salaries for 10 beginning teachers, a lot of books we could buy, a lot of things we could repair, but I don't think the school district will collapse because of it."

Now that the new aid formula has

been formally adopted the district will be able to draw up a firm budget. Mrs. Makinen said she expects the budget to be completed within the next month.

Prisk, who will be drawing up the budget, said he did not yet know from which areas the \$121,000 would be trimmed.

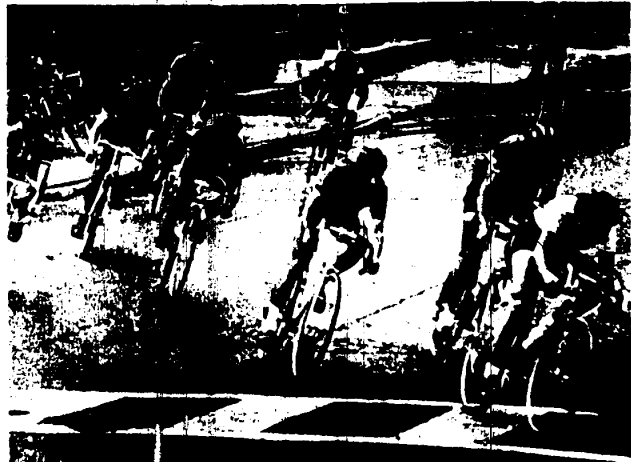
"THE BUDGET will have to be revised to make up the loss," he said, "but I can't be specific about where it will be because there also will be other revisions that will have to be made."

One revision will be in heating fuel and utilities costs. These costs increased by more than 50 per cent from 1974 to 1975 and are expected to increase by another 15 to 25 per cent compared to last year.

Prisk said the district had anticipated less state revenue this year, even before the 0.6 per cent cut, because it has fewer students and a higher state equalized value.

Combining increased costs with the loss in state revenue, Brotherton said Farmington voters may be disgruntled to find their recently-voted millage increase will not go as far as they had hoped.

Prisk, however, remains optimistic. "I believe we will come very close to keeping our promises to the voters of Farmington," he said. "There will have to be some changes, but we will come very close. However, I can't say about next year."



Street race biking is becoming more and more popular in Farmington. Randy Blum and

Bill Corliss have a route all figured out. (Staff photo by Corinne Abatti)

Why bikers enjoy the challenge of amateur street sprint race

By FELICA KOBYLANSKI

The sport of bicycling is growing up. "It's becoming more than just a plaything for kids," says biking enthusiast Randy Blum. "In the last year, the number of licensed racers has doubled. People are showing a greater interest in the sport."

Blum and his friend Bill Corliss organized a racing club at Farmington and about 14 people joined. Blum says, "We were the managers, mechanics and trainers," he added with a grin.

The group competed against cyclists from area high schools each week during the spring months.

"There were three events," explains Blum. "The sprint race, which is one mile long; the time trials, which are one or two miles against the clock; and the criterium, a 20 to 25 mile race."

Most races in the area are sanctioned by the Amateur Bicycle League of America (ABLA). In order

to compete in their events a cyclist must join the organization and get a license, which costs \$6.

Blum suggests that the prospective racer join a club that sponsors training sessions. "It takes a hell of a lot of training to be a good racer. The competition is getting very stiff."

Corliss has a different view of what the potential racer can achieve. "Anybody with a good, middle range, 10-speed bike who puts in time and effort could be really good because there's little competition," he says. "Especially for the girls—the competition for girls is just about nonexistent."

Even though more people are becoming active in the sport, the competition here doesn't compare to that in Europe. "The problem with bicycling is that it's never publicized," says Blum. "The racers don't seem to care. To get the public interested they have to let people know that they're there."

"I don't think Americans consider it from the competition aspect," he says. "Most people are just interested in riding around the subdivision."

However, Blum thinks that there is a lot of talent coming up. "By 1980 we'll have a very good, if not the best, team in the Olympics."

Blum and Corliss, both of whom work at the Smith Bicycle Center in Farmington Hills, plan to organize a bike race to be held in early September.

"We're going to try and set up a (Continued on page 3A)

Hillsman vies for GOP youth

By CORINNE ABATT

The Oakland County Republicans are making a strong pitch to get the youngest voters involved in party activities and have chosen a bright, energetic young man, Ron Kitlas of Farmington Hills, for the important volunteer position.

Kitlas, a fast-talking 21-year-old, 1975 Magna Cum Laude University of Detroit graduate with a major in political science, says of his 20 hour a week volunteer job, "It's something I really enjoy."

His enthusiasm is infectious and began in his junior year in college when he took a workshop course in politics.

"It was team taught by Jerry Roe, executive director of the Michigan Republican Party and Jerry Dunn, University of Michigan Board of Regents and former Democratic congressman. The requirements were to get active in politics and I loved it."

THE COURSE caught on. Kitlas worked on the Michigan for Milliken campaign, took pictures of President Ford when he came to support the Governor and chattered industrialist Max Fisher at inauguration time.

On Sept. 20-21, he will attend the Republican Leaders Conference at Black Mountain, N.C.

Meeting Max Fisher was really exciting. He's just an incredibly nice man.

Fisher was master of ceremonies at the Milliken inaugural.

Speaking of the Governor, Kitlas says, "I think he's a man who will



RON KITLAS

think for himself and doesn't go for big business."

With this pleasant taste of politics, Kitlas is ready to share the excitement with more young people.

"Neither party has made much of an effort to get the young voters—they've just been kind of floating around."

"The Young Republicans are a strong group, but points out they are different in make-up and economic status from the ones he hopes to organize."

"The Young Republicans are, I would say, mostly 35 and over, young professionals with money to spend. We plan to scale our activities for the

younger group and be more budget-minded."

HE EMPHASIZES that programs will be socially-oriented—short trips, parties and possibly a speaker series.

"Being a member of the Youth Forum doesn't mean they will have to be involved in politics—campaigning, soliciting contributions and putting on bumper stickers—that sort of thing. It will be more opening the door for political activity."

To find the 18-year-old voters who up until now have been asked to do little more than lick envelopes, Kitlas has already done one mailing using high school year books, school directories and studies which do senior pictures.

A second mailing will be ready shortly, by the meantime, he is contacting political science teachers offering speakers and films and preparing a non-partisan booklet for high school distribution. It explains how to get involved in politics, what a precinct delegate does and how the parties are organized.

In addition to a long-standing interest in photography, Kitlas was active at U of D in debate, student government and the yearbook.

Saying he hopes to cross the bridge in some ways that the Republicans are a party of 30-year-old men, he says something like a school campaign. "I like the Republican philosophy that government should not be big and bureaucratic. They look for leadership at the local levels. I think this is the basic theme we want to bring to young people."



Helping out in teaching Farmington youngsters the fine points of hockey is Mike Buccell, a volunteer coach and University of Michigan goalie. To see how hockey fares in Farmington turn to page 3A. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Early deadlines for holiday

Next week's regular biweekly edition of the Observer & Eccentric will be published on Tuesday Sept. 2, to allow our employees to enjoy the Labor Day weekend.

Classified advertising deadlines will remain the same—Friday at 5:30 p.m.—however, deadlines for news items and retail advertising material for the Sept. 2 edition have been changed to Thursday, Aug. 28.

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SPECIAL ATTENTION

Due to the Labor Day weekend, your carrier will be stopping by a few days earlier this month. Please be ready for him, and don't forget to ask for a receipt. It's worth its face value toward an Observer & Eccentric Classified ad.