

# Skyrocketing '68 Assessments Hit Township Property Owners

By FRED DeLANO

The 1968 assessment bomb is due to explode among Farmington Township's 18,000 property owners before this week ends, and with increases ranging as high as 200 per cent, the reverberations are expected to be loud and pointed.

Township Assessor Robert Romer has been faced with two mandates:

- (1) An order from the Oakland County Equalization Board to boost the township's total equalized valuation at least 20 per cent.
- (2) The Michigan constitutional requirement that all property be assessed at 50 per cent of true cash value.

In relation to the second, Romer has said that 1967 assessments were at 23 per cent of market value.

**THIS LEFT** the so-called tax factor at 2.01, meaning that the tax rate per \$1,000 valuation had to be multiplied by this figure to find the total taxes due on any parcel.

At a true 50 per cent of cash value, the township's tax factor would be 1.0 and the 1968 tax bill per parcel would be in exact ratio to the valuation per \$1,000 assessed.

Romer's staff started mailing individual notices to all 18,000 township property holders Tuesday, informing each of the new 1968 assessed value on the parcel in question.

Romer accommodated the writer of this article by getting from the records the assessment figures on my own property as a case in point to show how valuations have changed.

My assessment is more than two and one-half times what it was in 1967.

**ASSESSMENTS** cannot be translated into December tax statements, however, until the 1968 millage levies are made by the county, township and school system.

At the same time, it is an accepted rule that unless the total tax rate is reduced in the same proportion that valuation is increased the resultant yearly taxes are bound to go up. The only question in this case is, "How much?"

Romer stated that any property owner wishing personal information as to how his new assessment was determined may obtain this by checking with the assessor's office in the township hall any time through the rest of February.

This is a parallel to the city of Farmington's current Assessor's Review Week procedure.

Those who wish to carry their protests to the point of official appeal may appear before the township Board of Review March 5, 11 or 12. Tax rolls will become final on the latter date and then will be forwarded to the county as the basis of all 1968 billing.



**IT'S TAXPAYERS' QUIZ TIME** — Andrew H. Batchelder, (left) one of some 3,000 Farmington property owners, is shown getting an explanation from William Brinkman of the city's assessing staff on how his 1968 property valuation figure was determined.

## FEA, School Trustees Select Negotiators

Lineups for the two negotiating teams which will hammer out a new 1968-69 contract for Farmington school teachers were named this week by the Farmington Education Association and Board of Education.

Chairing the teachers' first-line foursome will be Robert Newhauser, vice-president of the F.E.A., and a science teacher at Farmington High School. His counterpart, as chairman of the administration forces, will be Martinus Van Ameyde, assistant superintendent in charge of instruction.

**THE FIRST MOVE** will come

late in February when the F.E.A. submits its written proposals for contract revisions, including salary and fringe benefit demands.

Across-the-table talks will start in March, and from every corner have come predictions that this year's negotiations will be completed without a scorching war.

Serving with Newhauser as teacher representatives will be Roger Allen, of East Junior High; Mrs. Marvel Eberly, of 10 Mile Elementary, and Miss Grace Campbell, representing the special service staff.

Van Ameyde's team will include LeRoy Bartman, personnel director; Joseph Nicla, director of secondary education, and Al Lanigan, principal of Larkshire Elementary.

Mrs. Sharon Mahler, of Cloverdale, who is president of the F.E.A., will be available for counsel with the teachers' unit, as will William Klopp, executive secretary.

In the same sense, Dr. Roderick J. Smith, superintendent of schools, will avail his knowledge as an arbiter to aid in brokering about a new master agreement.

## Residents Spurn Joining WHAR In Road Effort

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

Residents of an area of Farmington Township that has been fighting road problems for years decided Monday night not to join forces with WHAR, county-wide test group.

Chaired by Wes Smith, 20917 Cass, who announced at the off-set that the former OEO-sponsored Citizens Advisory Council was now to be known as the Farmington Township WHAR group with the single objective of improving area roads, the 50-60 persons at the meeting debated for a couple of hours about joining WHAR.

**CONSENSUS** seemed to be that joining a county-wide organization would be like setting up another County Board of Supervisors, which most of the present felt has become a road commission in its pocket.

And the county road commission is whom they blame for the deplorable condition of the roads in the southern part of the township.

Impetus to Farmington Township residents going it alone came in part from some remarks made to the group by

expected to be distributed on a fair and equitable basis.

When asked if he would advise joining the WHAR group, Perلمان said, "Selfishly, I'd go it alone."

**ON CONSTITUTIONAL** WHILE AGREEING to not join WHAR immediately, the majority of residents at the meeting voted to see excerpts of WHAR's stated long range and short range goals in a petition which would be submitted to a suit instituted in federal court to give equal rights to the residents of Farmington Township.

"The courts," he went on, "can employ a writ of mandamus action commanding correction in a local court. It's never been done with roads in Michigan, but the court could act."

Perلمان did admit, however, "What the county road authorities refuse to do, the courts are loathe to make them do. The county commission is a quasi-official body which acts at its own discretion."

Perلمان also offered his opinion that federal funds granted to road commissions are

## Township Trustees Relash Area Study

The much debated area study came under discussion again Monday night during the meeting of the Farmington Township Board.

At issue was Trustee Thomas Nolan's request that the township issue the study committee a \$500 check as its portion of the first payment.

The township agreed to participate in the area study, but stipulated that a contract be approved by the board before any funds were allocated.

Nolan told the board that the Michigan State University personnel who will conduct the

study were soliciting ideas from each of the four governmental units about what should be included in the study.

The problem arose when Trustee Earl Oppenhaner asserted that the study was not to contain any information which would help the city make a case for annexation of a portion of the township.

Nolan asserted that he didn't think that this was the intention of the MSU group, but the board refused to vote the funds until it saw a formal contract prepared by MSU with this stipulation.

## Hall, Dinan To Plan City-Township Confab

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

With a collective eye on their calendar, Farmington Township Trustees agreed Monday to the city proposal for a meeting between the city council and the township trustees.

The township board authorized Supervisor Curtis H. Hall to make arrangements with City Manager John Dinan for one meeting.

In the original proposal adopted by the city council a regular schedule of quarterly meetings was suggested.

The trustees hastened to add, however, that they were not opposed to meeting with the council members but did express some doubts as to whether or not meetings between the five council members, the city manager, and the seven members of the township board might not be "unwieldy."

The trustees were all agreed that they would not relish attending a series of meetings which might not be productive.

**TRUSTEE PETER KLOPP**, who termed the proposal "an excellent idea," noted however, "let's not load this with so many negative feelings that it won't work."

Hall replied that "the fact that we are willing to meet should be an indication of our good faith."

Trustee Thomas Nolan agreed and added that "at this time such meetings might serve a very useful purpose." Nolan, however, observed that perhaps sub-committees might be a more efficient means of exchanging ideas.

## King-Size Project Goes To Planners

A preliminary review of a request to rezone 320 acres at 12 Mile and Drake Rds, to accommodate a subdivision of at least 3,000 persons will highlight the Feb. 15 meeting of the Farmington Township Planning Commission.

Representatives of the William J. Pulte Co. will appear before the commission in the township hall to give a detailed account of a plan to convert the acreage into a shopping center and golf course surrounded by single family dwell-

ings, town houses and apartment units.

The entire sector lies on the north side of 12 Mile Rd., running one-half mile both east and west from Drake Rd. It is presently zoned for single family homes only, and the project is dependent upon approval of the rezoning request.

If preliminary acceptance is indicated by the commission Thursday, a public hearing will be scheduled before any positive action is taken.



**INDUSTRIOUS BLUEBIRDS** — These seven youngsters, all members of the Farmington Bluebirds, an introductory organization to the Campfire Girls, are shown as they tediously prepared valentine favors to donate to Children's Hospital patients. From left to right, they are Cynthia Caesar, Paula Raymond, Melissa Bolsius, Dorothy Van Camp, Barbara Hamel, Vicki Wilkinson and Tammy Maidment.

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**REDFORD** — South Redford Schools Board of Education declared its support of high school administrative policy allowing the principal to decide whether speakers secured by clubs and classes could appear. The Thurston current events club, backed by an American Civil Liberties Union representative, had appealed for freedom of choice constrained only by threat to physical safety.

**REDFORD** — State Rep. Leonard Walton (D - Detroit) pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of "impaired driving" and paid a \$50 fine in justice court. Arrested on a charge of drunken driving Nov. 14, he had recently forfeited his license for 90 days after losing an appeal for excuse from the state Impaired Consent Law "breathalyzer" test.

**PLYMOUTH** — Police Chief Robert Corington, who also serves as chairman of the Police Chiefs in the Tactical Mobile Unit, reports that the chiefs will ask that local officers take control of activities in any riot action in the future. The request will be made at a meeting on Feb. 20.

**PLYMOUTH** — To make the best economic use of land in the central business district, the Plymouth City Commission is studying a suggestion to permit combination commercial-apartment classifications in the new zoning ordinance.

**GARDEN CITY** — The City Council Monday approved the lowest of three bids for its garbage and rubbish collection service at nearly double the current rate. The contractor, Painter and Ruthenberg, submitted the low bid of \$1.35 per unit per month, starting April 1. Local residents and merchants now pay 70 cents per unit per month.

**WESTLAND** — Cpl. Edward Bova, a 19-year-old soldier who lived most of his life in the community, was killed last week in South Vietnam during the major offensive staged by the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong.

**WESTLAND** — A liquor license was approved for a Howard Johnson restaurant and tavern, part of a nearly \$2,500,000 development. When completed, the development will include a five-story, 125-unit motel on Cowan and Wayne Rds.

**LIVONIA** — Mayor Harvey W. Moelke said the gun instruction school he has directed the Police Department to organize is designed to promote gun safety and not to promote the purchase of weapons by citizens.

**LIVONIA** — Plans are underway to use a state law authorizing contracts for bus service to bypass a court ruling and the Michigan Public Service Commission to obtain DSR routes for Livonia.

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### up coming

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