

Dick Osgood Leading Farmington Tax Protest

FARMINGTON before the Farmington Township Review Board on property assessments last week. A delegation from Franklin Knolls subdivision appeared.

with letters of complaint from 116 homeowners. Appearing were four members of the subdivision's board of directors. Dick Osgood, disc jockey and president of the Franklin Knolls association, said the 116 letters were significant because there were only about 150 homes in the subdivision.

BUT THE LETTERS did not sway the review board much because the delegation did not make any headway with their appeal. "It is appalling as to the inequity in the way assessed valuations are set up," says Osgood. "Our subdivision as a whole was right at par, or 50% of cash value."

"But we showed the board a random selection of 15-20 home transactions taken from real estate sales files attempting to prove the inequity in assessing. Newer homes are being raised much more slowly than older homes in Franklin Knolls, Osgood says. As an example, he pointed to a home sold for \$64,000 in Colony Park which was assessed at only \$21,000—or \$11,000 below 50% of cash value.

"We showed the board many examples where the assessed valuations of homes were below half the price the homes built for but it didn't faze them. REVIEW BOARD members, Osgood said, took the attitude that two wrongs don't make a right and promised the assess-

ment would be making changes in the other subdivisions. "They also passed the buck and told us to go to the school board and ask for the millage rate to be reduced."

"Yet, even if the millage rate is reduced, the inequity will remain the same because the township is not assessing all properties at 50% of market value. "The schools could reduce the millage rate, but as long as there are inequities in assessing, there will always be homeowners paying a greater share of taxes than others."

"They didn't seem to understand that," said Osgood. Osgood told the Farmington Enterprise & Observer that the Franklin Knolls board of directors will be meeting soon to consider the possibility of appealing to the State Tax Commission. He added it is very probable that Franklin Knolls will join with the taxation committee formed by the Franklin Ravines subdivision.

Oakland County GOP Chairman Leaves Office

BIRMINGHAM

Oakland County Republican Chairman James E. Defebaugh recently submitted his resignation to the executive committee. Defebaugh has decided to run for state representative in the 6th District. Rep. William Hampton, incumbent, has decided not to seek re-election.

Indicating his plans to run for Hampton's seat is in conflict with the duties of county chairman, he vacated the office he has held since January 1969. Robert Webster, Birmingham attorney, has been nominated by the executive committee to succeed Defebaugh. Webster's name will be submitted to the county committee March 24.

Webster now serves the Republicans as 18th Congressional District Organization Chairman.



GIFT — Newly-organized Explorer Post 223 of Farmington has received first aid equipment from the women's auxiliary of Zieger-Botsford Hospital. Dr. Paul D. Lepor (left), the post advisor, looks on as Mrs. David P. Lucid, auxiliary president, presents the check for the equipment to Explorer President Gary Roberson.

City Supports Tax Protestors

FARMINGTON The City of Farmington's administration has responded favorably to a number of resolutions urging governments to reduce millage levies to offset rising property assessments. City Manager John Dinan thinks it's a good idea and reminds city homeowners that the city has done just that since 1968.

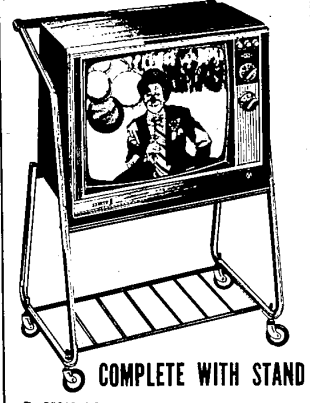
THE OAKLAND COUNTY Board of Supervisors has circulated copy of a resolution urging all governmental units in the county to consider reducing tax millage rates in light of rising assessments.

Earlier, Farmington Township trustees passed a resolution urging the Farmington Board of Education to make every effort to reduce the school millage rate. Also, a taxpayers association formed by the Franklin Ravines subdivision has passed a resolution urging the local school board to lower school millage. Dinan reminds city residents also that the City of Farmington was one of the first governmental units to go on record as opposing the present taxation method when the council passed a resolution of protest on April 21, 1969.

The city reduced its tax rate by one mill (\$1 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) in 1968, by another mill in 1969 for a tax

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Cub Pack 231 Plans Annual Pinewood Derby

The annual Pinewood Derby of Cub Scout Pack 231 of Larkshire Elementary School will be March 20 at the school beginning at 7:30 p.m. The father-son project pits the scouts' wooden cars against each other in races. Also planned for the spring is a candy sale. At the recent blue and gold banquet, Cubmaster Ceri Dando presented awards to the following scouts:

Bobcats Dale Frye and Jeff Kinjorski; wolves Larry Mendelson, Scott Gardner, Ronnie Whitehead, Joe Brown and Tearl Powell; bears Dana Rounds, John Crawford, Michael Lickey and Bill Neil; Weibloes Dean Schultz, Rick King, Vincent Pylar, Daniel Booker, Robert Devine, Tom Cialo, Rick Seelye, Tom Murphy, Robert Bruce, Tom Crawford, Mark Bertrand, Robert Leonard and David Anderson.

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