


*Strathmore***OBSERVER**OCCUPANT
19 NOBLE PL
MATAWAN NJ

VOL. 1 — No. 14

A PUBLICATION OF THE STRATHMORE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER, 1964

What will the new
county transportation
study mean to
Strathmore commuters?

Association Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 13
Regional High School
8:30 p.m. sharp

**TRAPHAGEN SEEKS
FREEHOLDER SEAT**

Township Mayor Henry E. Traphagen told the Strathmore Observer in an interview this month that he is actively seeking the Democratic Party's nomination as Freeholder. Seeking the nomination is but a first step in Mr. Traphagen's plans, however, for he must attain the party's vote in a Primary that will be held early in 1965.

Traphagen is presently Township Mayor, a post he may vacate in January when the Township Committee has its organization meeting. The mayor said he has no intention of seeking the post of Township Manager when Matawan Township adopts the Council - Manager form of government in 1966.

In addition, the mayor is also the executive director of the Matawan Township Utilities Authority. The post was created by the Utilities Authority last month. They appointed Traphagen its director at a salary of \$10,000 per year for five years, making it the highest salaried post in the township. The members of the Utilities Authority voted unanimously (Traphagen abstaining from the voting) to award the job to the mayor. Traphagen will head a staff of 12 salaried employees.

The Utilities Authority embraces not only the Strathmore water and sewerage systems, but also the Cliffwood - Cliffwood Beach system — a complex involving about 5,500 customers, with assets and debts totaling about 5-1/2 million

**SCHOOL BUDGET EXPLAINED
TO COMMITTEE AT MEETING**

Board of Education Member Edward J. Ledford and Board Secretary Edward J. Scullion were guest speakers at the most recent meeting of the education committee, held at the Strathmore School.

Scullion told the group that final compilation of a budget is only a "mechanical" step. Ideas that are advocated throughout the are brought together in the budget. The aim of any budget is the educational program. Scullion praised the Civic Association education committee for having shown an interest in education and for having indicated to the board what kind of educational program is wanted for the children of the community.

He said the budget is prepared without any consideration to cost. Once all items are included, the board determines cost and tries to reduce it to a figure that residents can afford to pay.

Ledford pointed out that the curriculum is the cheapest item. He said it costs about \$8,000 to put a teacher in a

classroom, but it costs \$100,000 for the classroom. Family income and parental desire are factors in deciding on the curriculum. Children want more range to prepare for college, he said.

Ledford noted that the board, in preparing a budget, had to stay within a limit which the state would agree left the school district financially sound. He said the new school on Lloyd Road will be used to end the split sessions for the seventh and eighth grades now in the high school building.

John Skvarla, chairman of the tax committee, told the meeting that a study of the Matawan district with 25 other comparable districts showed the district was within 10 per cent. of the average cost per pupil. But he warned that, because of low ratables, the local board would find it difficult to keep costs in line.

The cost per pupil in the Matawan district was \$421 last year.

SHOPPING CENTER OPENS

Strathmore's off-again, on-again, much heralded shopping center on Route 34 opened this month with a 600-foot, 6-foot high stockade fence promised to its rear. Township Zoning Officer George F. Hausmann had refused to issue a certificate of occupancy until the fence had been installed to separate the center from adjoining Cambridge Park homes.

The Township Committee asked Levitt & Son, builder of the center, and was given a verbal promise, for the erection of the fence within 30 days. The certificate of occupancy issued, the first unit of the shopping center opened. The Acme Supermarket, with 19,000 square feet, is the center's largest unit. Later this month five more stores will open: a gift shop, a pharmacy, beauty salon, shoe store and a dry cleaner.

Frank Devino, local contractor and bowling operator, is completing work on a 40-lane bowling alley immediately adjacent.

When the \$4 million center is completed, sometime in 1965, it will contain 25 stores and will be one of Monmouth County's major highway shopping facilities.

**CLUB ELECTS;
OKs RULING**

Trustees for the Strathmore Bath and Tennis Club were elected for 1965 and a resolution forbidding the drinking of alcoholic beverages and on-premise dances was adopted at the annual membership meeting held at the Regional High School recently. The resolution also gave the club the right to conduct off-premise dances and the first was scheduled for Feb. 21 at the Step-Inn, Sayreville.

Elected to three-year terms on the board of trustees were: William J. Alingham, 116 Idolstone Lane; Raymond V. O'Brien, 94 Irongate Lane, and Robert G. Taylor, 109 Avondale Lane. Two-year terms were won by Robert J. Chesterman, 507 Line Road; Theodore A. Endresen, 13 Idol Place, and Leonard C. Green, 26 Ayrmont Lane.

Elected to one-year terms were: Frederick A. Almerino, 100 Avondale Lane; Edward I. Engel, 605 Line Road, and Thomas J. Powers, 108 Avondale Lane.

THE STRATHMORE OBSERVER

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Herbert J. Parker, Pres. 566-7647
David Sutliff, Vice Pres. 566-8367
Marilyn D. Brenner, Sec'y. 566-1963
Robert Beecher, Treas. 566-7787
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Editorial Staff

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EDITORIAL

We had thought that Grover Cleveland had put an end to the notorious "SPOILS SYSTEM" in American politics in the 1880s with the introduction of Civil Service.

Now we see the ugly spectre of the spoils system being raised in Matawan Township.

The expansion of the Sewer Authority and its acquisition of the Strathmore Water Company have brought administrative duties not previously present to the new Matawan Township Utilities Authority. Its appointment of one of its members to the post of Executive Director with a \$50,000 contract with all deliberate speed deserves to be explained to the insurers of the bonds which created the Authority.

We do not question the abilities of the individuals involved. We do question the morality and propriety of the method of action.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Taxation—John Skvarla	7224
Zoning—Arnold Rudley	8607
Education—Frank Gilbert	5720
Recreation—Carmine Caffera	8283
Streets & Safety—Sheldon Pivnick	8319
Membership—John Driscoll	8770
Property & Utilities— Steve Levine	7523
Public Information— Norman Brenner (Act. Chmn.)	1963

TEMPORARY COMMITTEE

United Fund Study—Jon White 7697

School Costs Up

The 1965-66 budget of the Regional Board of Education stands at \$3 million, an increase of \$500,000 from the present budget, with less than a month before it is introduced. The board's schedule calls for the budget to be formally introduced on January 4 with a public hearing on January 14, and voted upon by the voters on February 2.

Board member Edward J. Ledford, finance committee chairman, said there will definitely be an increase in the budget and taxes. There is no possible way of holding down costs, he said. He pointed out that almost \$2 million of the budget will go toward salaries, with the board meeting its promise of last year to bring all teachers to a guide based on a \$5,200 minimum.

The present budget is \$2,501,605. The proposals include the staff of the K-6 to be built on Ravine Drive. The school construction is being financed from a \$2,625,000 bond issue authorized by the voters.

Press Public Works

As Matawan Township's population explosion begins to level off, its growing pains become more acute. The township will complete a \$80,000 road and water system program in 1964.

Early next year additional improvements are planned in Cliffwood and in Strathmore. The program being finished includes a \$49,000 street surfacing job and \$30,000 for replacing old water mains. The 1965 program includes hardtop paving of streets torn up during the current sewer expansion program, repaving Van Brackle Road and the digging of a new well.

The new well will be put to use as a result of new sewer connections, American Can Co. needs and some 300 apartment units to be completed in 1965.

AID SQUAD ELECTS

Ralph Haspel, 10 West Prospect Ave., was elected president of the Matawan Township First Aid & Rescue Squad this month. He succeeds John McDougall.

Others elected were: Maxwell Karmel, vice president; Thomas Weldon, treasurer; Sheldon Pivnik, secretary; Frank Bertolis, captain; Joseph Kronowski and Lawrence Grey, assistant captains; Geo. Soyak and Paul Grossman, first lieutenants; Joseph Pnciello, second lieutenant; Elario Garito, engineer; Sheldon Pivnik, communications officer, and Burt Barnett, chaplain.

Trustees elected to serve were: Alfonso Cuomo, John McDougall, Joseph Kronowski, Hillard Gowa, Martin Smith, and Theodore Kritzman. The officers will be installed at a dinner to be held on January 16.

**BECOME ACTIVE ON A COMMITTEE
HELP IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNITY**

Letter to Editor

Editor,
Strathmore Observer
Matawan, N. J.

Dear Sir:

This letter is the result of your invitation "We Get Letters," on Page 5 of the November "Observer."

To the left of that pleasant invitation, on the same page, was a not-so-pleasant little story under the heading "Deed Survey." This bit of information advises us of those "Deed Restrictions" which are, according to the benign Mr. Ernest Hurwitz of Levitt & Sons, supposed to insure the property values, etc., of our community.

I wish to point out what these "restrictions," what any restrictions on free people, will probably do. In the first place, they are apparently intended to apply to most of us here in Strathmore because we came here from big city apartments and are, therefore, not really capable of taking care of our possessions without the use of regulations which would not apply to other Matawan Township residents who, presumably, are our betters in home ownership.

But, whatever the reason for these restrictions, and note that Levitt does not use this advantage in buying his houses as an advertising item, as soon as we face restrictions not enforced on other citizens in our community we become second-class home-owners. When these restrictions take on the force of legal discrimination on the statute books of the township, we become second-class citizens.

Is that supposed to increase our homes' resale values? Is that supposed to insure the property values of these homes? Certainly not! I suggest that any one of us trying to describe such "advantages" to a prospective home-buyer would lose that prospect with little delay. When I bought my home here I was not told of these restrictions by the Levitt salesman or by the benign Mr. Hurwitz. I found out about them when the checks were signed and delivered and I had no place else to go.

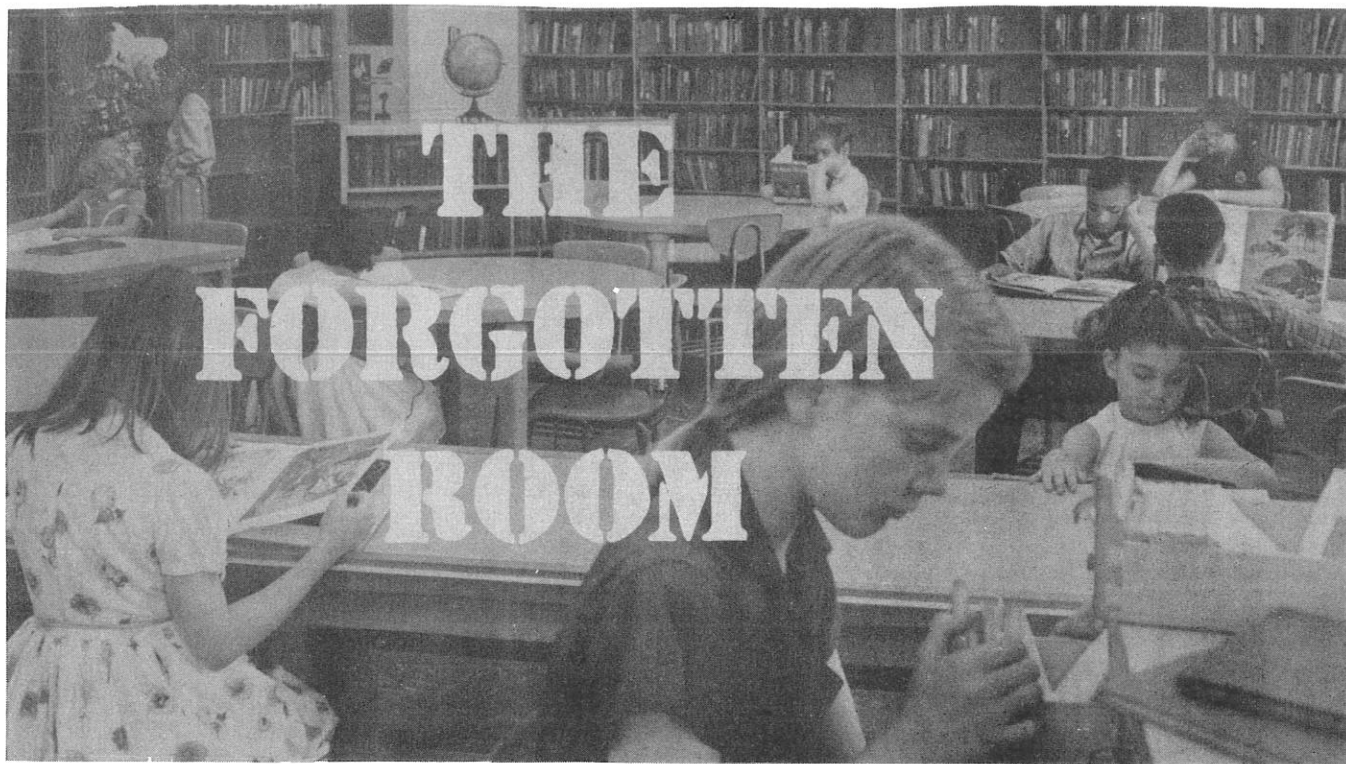
I submit the thought that we do not need restrictions not imposed on other township citizens. We do not need restrictions of any kind! We are free people in a country governed by laws for all its citizens, not by restrictions.

And, finally, I am appalled at the thought of our own Civic Association moving to place these monstrous things on the statute books of our town as a Zoning Ordinance! I can only assume you knew not of what you wrote when that item appeared on Page 5.

Yours very truly,
ALEXANDER SPEAR

THE RETURN OF THE POET

There once was a Water Authority
Who ruled by a vote of majority
Not much was debated
A new job was created
And filled . . . that's the end of the stority



Two-thirds of our elementary schools have no library. What you can do.

Experts say a child *needs* a library when he's learning to read. Here is how you can help your child's school get the library it needs.

GRADES one to six are the Age of the Question Mark. During these years, a child collects more answers than he will in any other period of his life.

Books are his best ally. *Yet more than sixty percent of our grade schools have no library.*

A few books on a windowsill are better than no books, but they are not a library. Neither is a bundle of books collected at random. And public library service is often inadequate or inaccessible.

Experts say the best answer is a central school library with a trained librarian. A person whose very special knowledge of books will support the good work done by teachers in the classroom.

The most important room

A good school library is the most important room a young reader passes through on the road to growing up.

Here he learns to *love* reading at the same time he's learning to read.

Here he solves schoolwork problems on his own. And here he experiences the thrill of *discovery*.

Quiz for parents

Does your child's school have a library?

If it does, are there enough books to go around? The American Library Association suggests ten library books per child. But the national average is less than six.

Is there a full-time librarian on the school staff? In many schools, mothers come in and lend a hand. But they need the advice of a professional librarian.

If you can't answer *yes* to all of these questions, there is work to be done.

How you can help

International Paper in cooperation with The American Library Association has prepared a *free kit*. Its purpose is to

help parents get the school library their children need. No matter how big or small the school may be.

The job demands enthusiasm *and* hard work. But isn't your child's progress worth the effort?

FOR I-P's FREE KIT—"How to get the school library your child needs"—or for *free reprints* of this advertisement, write to: Education Dept., Box 100, International Paper Co., 220 East 42nd St., N. Y., 10017.

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MATAWAN TOWNSHIP TAXES

With the school budget for 1965/1966 now in the final phase of preparation, the residents of the Regional School District are faced with the annual questions — What quality of education do we want — How much can we afford to pay? These are questions which must be considered by each individual.

The Tax Committee of the Civic Association has assembled information on other communities in order to provide background for these decisions. An attempt has also been made to forecast what the tax rate will be during the next few years. This forecast is subject to all the uncertainties of future events, but it is reasonable and should be considered along with other predictions.

In 1964 the Township tax rate was \$2.97 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation and was composed of the following:

	Tax Rate Per \$100 Dollars of Assessed Valuation
County Tax	\$0.49
School Tax	1.76
Local Tax	0.54
Veterans and Senior Citizens	
Allowance	0.09
Fire District Tax	0.09
	\$2.97

The Strathmore homes have a range of valuation from about 15 to 23 thousand dollars, with an annual tax bill of 450 to 700 dollars. Since school taxes make up 60 per cent of the tax bill, it is logical to look at this item in more detail.

To provide a comparison, the costs for 25 New Jersey school districts having about the same student enrollment as Matawan were reviewed. The data, including minor adjustments, are as follows:

	25 School Average	Matawan 1964/1965
Operating Expense (per pupil)	480	420
Dollar Ratables (per pupil)	29,000	16,000
Dollar School Debt (per \$100 Ratables)	300	600*
Equiv. Tax Rate (Operating Expense Only)	\$1.40	\$1.80

* Including new bond issue.

What do these figures mean? First, the amount spent per pupil by Matawan is somewhat lower than the average. If the 1965/1966 budget reaches 3 million dollars as forecast, the amount per pupil will increase only slightly because the enrollment is expected to be 10 per cent higher. Matawan's ability to pay as measured by the amount of Ratables per pupil is about 45 per cent below the

average. Thus, to spend the same amount per pupil, Matawan residents will have to pay a school tax about 80 per cent higher than these other communities. Finally, out school debt per \$100 Ratables, which also contributes to the tax rate, is about double the average.

What will the Township taxes be for the next few years? For 1965 we estimate they will increase by about 20¢ to a total of \$3.20 per \$100 valuation. This rate may be affected by the amount of the prior year's surplus which is used. However, the use of surplus funds is strictly a temporary aid. Beyond 1965, assuming only moderate increases in cost per pupil and in ratables, the tax rate is estimated to exceed \$4.00 per \$100 valuation by 1968.

For the typical Strathmore resident with a home valued at \$20,000, annual taxes will increase from \$600 in 1964 to between \$800 and \$900 in 1968 or a 30 to 50 per cent increase.

In summary, the Matawan Regional School District is spending less than the average spent by 25 like school districts. We are faced with the burden of very low ratables caused in no small measure by Strathmore with its low ratables per pupil. This means that four avenues are open to us if we want the Matawan schools to be the best in the county.

(Continued on Page 9)

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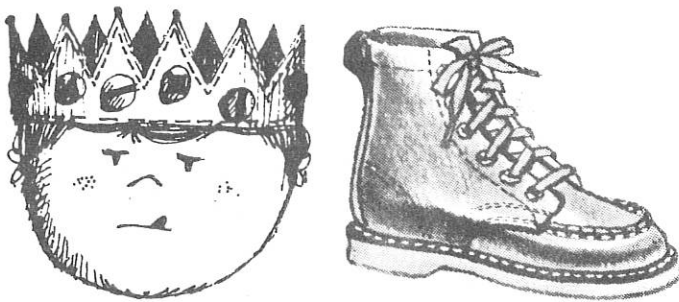
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LARRY WEISBERG, PROPRIETOR — A STRATHMORE RESIDENT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>ATTENTION — ORGANIZATIONS If you have not been included in this month's calendar; if the time or place of your regular meeting has been changed, or if you have a special event coming up in February — please notify The Observer before January 15.</p>			<h1>JAN CALE</h1>
<p>3</p>	<p>4 ROSARY - ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING ST. BENEDICT'S, BETHANY RD., 7:30 p.m. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BOARD OF DEACONESS, ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS, BAPTIST CHURCH, 7:30 p.m. VFW 4745 MEETING VFW HALL, CLIFFWOOD, 8:00 p.m. TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 8:00 p.m. KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS MEETING OAK SHADES FIREHOUSE, 8 p.m. WOMEN OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEETING AT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>5 MISSION FELLOWSHIP, CIRCLE 1 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 12:30 p.m. MASONIC LODGE 192 MASONIC TEMPLE, 8 p.m. FIRST AID SQUAD, 8 p.m. CLIFFWOOD FIRST AID BLDG. MATAWAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASS'N. GIRL SCOUTS MATAWAN HEALTH CENTER, 8:30 p.m. BAYSHORE HOSP., MAT. TWP. AUX. STRATHMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 8:30 ORT BOARD MEETING 10 FAITH LANE, 8:30 p.m. TEMPLE SHOLOM BOARD, 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>6 HARBOR C MUNICIPAL B JOINT MEETING STRA PTO AND MATAW MATAWAN REG. HIGH Regional and Cliff CARDINAL NEWMAN AMERICAN LEGIO REPUBLIC OAK SHADES FIR</p>
<p>10 SCHOOL OF MISSIONS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Evening EVERY SUNDAY THRU FEB. 14</p>	<p>11 HOLY NAME SOCIETY ST. BENEDICT'S, BETHANY RD., 7:30 p.m. BOARD OF HEALTH MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 8 p.m. LOCAL ASSISTANCE BOARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 8 p.m. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 8 p.m. TOASTMASTERS, 31 NORWOOD LA., 8:30</p>	<p>12 LADIES' AID SOCIETY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 1 p.m. EXECUTIVE BOARD, 8:30 p.m. STRATHMORE AT MATAWAN JEWISH CTR. SISTERHOOD BOARD MEETING TEMPLE SHOLOM, 8:30 p.m. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BOARD 29 NED DR., MARC WOODS, 8:30 p.m. CIVIC ASS'N. EDUCATION COMMITTEE STRATHMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 8:30 ORT MEETING STRATHMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 8:30</p>	<p>13 ORDER OF E MASONIC TE MISSION FELLO FIRST BAPTIST CIVIC ASS MATAWAN REG. HIGH STRATHMORE DEM AIRPORT PLAZA BO HADASSAH M 78 FORDHAM</p>
<p>17 FAMILY NIGHT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</p>	<p>18 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 8 p.m. VFW 4745, VFW HALL, 8 p.m. MISSION FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE 3 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 p.m. KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS OAK SHADES FIREHOUSE, 8:30 p.m. WOMEN'S MEETING TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>19 MASONIC LODGE 192, TEMPLE, 8 p.m. LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN STRATHMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 8 p.m. TEMPLE SHOLOM SISTERHOOD STRATHMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 8:30</p>	<p>20 TOWNSHIP PLA MUNICIPAL BU ANNUAL FIRST BAPTIST MATAWAN R HIGH SCHO CARDINAL NEWMAN AMERICAN LEGIO</p>
<p>24</p> <hr/> <p>31</p>	<p>25 RECREATION COMMISSION MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 8 p.m. BOARD OF DEACONS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 p.m. NAT'L. COUNCIL JEWISH WOMEN STRATHMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 8:30 TOASTMASTERS, 31 NORWOOD LA., 8:30 B'NAI B'RITH MEN MATAWAN REGIONAL HIGH, 8:30 FIRST AID SQUAD AUXILIARY, 8:30 p.m. CLIFFWOOD FIRST AID BLDG.</p>	<p>26 MUNICIPAL COJRT MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 8 p.m. COMMISSIONERS, CHINGARORA DIST. 127 RAVINE DR., 8 p.m. SISTERHOOD MEETING STRATHMORE - MATAWAN JEWISH CTR. VFW HALL, CLIFFWOOD, 8:30 p.m. LEAGUE WOMEN VOTERS MATAWAN REGIONAL HIGH, 8:30 p.m. JUNIOR CHAMBER COMMERCE MAGNOLIA INN, 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>27 ZONING BOARD, MU UTILITIES 30 NOBLE ORDER OF MASONIC T B'NAI B'R OAK SHADES FIR</p>

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>ARY DAR</p>		<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>SSION 8 p.m. RE ELEMENTARY AMMAR PTA COL, 8:15 p.m. PTAs invited ITS COLUMBUS 8:15 p.m. UB 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP MIDDLESEX RD. REC. CENTER, 8 p.m. VFW AUXILIARY, VFW HALL, 8 p.m. AMERICAN LEGION POST 176 POST HOME, 8 p.m. BOY SCOUTS, CHINGARORA DIST. COMM. SUN S&L ASS'N., AIRPORT PLAZA, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>STAR 8 p.m. CIRCLE 4 8 p.m. ON COL, 8:30 p.m. B ELECTION LANES, 8:30 HIP TEA 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>BOARD EDUCATION PUBLIC HEARING TO ANNOUNCE PLACE, 8 p.m. SHADE TREE COMMISSION MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 8 p.m. LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL 136 DEERFIELD LA., 8 p.m. JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MAGNOLIA INN, 8:30 p.m. SISTERHOOD BOARD MEETING, 8:30 p.m. STRATHMORE - MATAWAN JEWISH CENTER</p>	<p>15</p> <p>TEMPLE SHOLOM, LECTURE ON "EXECUTIVE JOB DISCRIMINATION" BY BERNARD STEIN, FOLLOWING SERVICES, STRATHMORE ELE- MENTARY SCHOOL, SERVICES—8:30, SPEAK- ER — 9:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>BOARD 8 p.m. G 8 p.m. H PTA p.m. TS COLUMBUS 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>MISSION FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE 2 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 2 p.m. AMERICAN LEGION POST 176, 8 p.m. GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP MIDDLESEX RD. REC. CENTER, 8 p.m. LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS 136 DEERFIELD LA., 8 p.m. VFW AUXILIARY, VFW HALL, 8 p.m. STRATHMORE - MATAWAN JEWISH CTR. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CLIFFWOOD FIRST AID BUILDING, 8:30</p>	<p>22</p> <p>INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN, AYELET CHAPTER BOWLING PARTY STRATHMORE BOWLING LANES, 8:30 p.m.</p>
<p>BLDG, 8 p.m. RITY p.m. STAR 8 p.m. MEN 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>TOWNSHIP COORDINATING COMM. MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 8 p.m. STRATHMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO CARD PARTY AND AUCTION STRATHMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 8:30 CARDINAL NEWMAN COLUMBIAN AUX. 54 LOWER MAIN ST., 8:15 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>TEMPLE SHOLOM DINNER - DANCE MOLLY PITCHER INN, 8:30 p.m.</p>



tough guys



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New Term Begins January 4

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566-1122

COUNCIL DELAYS LIBRARY FUNDS

The proposed 1965 budget of the Joint Library Board has been tabled by the Borough Council as another apportionment question looms in the background. The 1965 library budget is \$13,500 over 1964 figures. The township's share is \$23,345 and the borough's share is \$12,659. This is \$1.64 per capita in the two communities.

Mayor Edward E. Hyrne of Matawan Borough questioned the accuracy of the Township-Borough ratables in a letter to the Joint Library Board, of which he is a member. The board cited the township's ratables at \$63,141,000 and the borough's as \$32,834,000.

Mr. Hyrne said it appears that the cost apportionment may be based on ratables at the close of 1964, rather than current figures. Township Mayor Henry E. Traphagen pointed out that the Joint Library Board is required to submit its budget based on October 1 ratables, and these differ from the valuation figures of January 10, which are used to determine the township budget.

The library budget includes: \$18,240 for salaries; \$7,500 for books; \$900 for supplies; \$1,675 for maintenance; \$100 for travel; \$1,200 for rental of facilities; \$1,690 for repairs, and \$5,000 for capital improvements. The 1964 budget called for a \$14,433 contribution by the Township and \$9,261 from the Borough.

QUESTION SITE

The Township Planning Board suggested recently that the Joint Library Board and the Regional Board of Education hold talks on a possible library site adjacent to the High School.

Planning Board Chairman Leonard Morizio pointed out that Mayor Henry E. Traphagen and the Planning Board did not have a specific site in mind when they proposed part of the school land for the site.

The Joint Library Board has its consultant preparing recommendations for a new library. The consultant has viewed the general area of the high school and is taking the suggestion of the Township Planning Board under further study.

Both the Township and the Borough are undergoing study by Master Planning Consultants.

A subcommittee of the Education Committee of the Strathmore Civic Association is also studying the broad question of libraries and expects to report to the association membership in the near future.

**THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION WORKS
JOIN YOUR ASSOCIATION**

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ELECTION SET

The election of three members to the Regional Board of Education* will take place Tuesday, Feb. 2, school board secretary Edward J. Scullion reported. Scullion fixed the schedule for the election, which will see two residents of Matawan Borough and one resident of Matawan Township taking places on the board.

The terms of John J. Bradley, the current president, and Roy S. Matthews and Daniel F. J. Heany expire next year.

December 24 is listed as the final day non-registered voters may register if they are to vote in the election. Nominating petitions must be filed with the secretary to the board by Thursday, Dec. 24.

NURSERY SCHOOL ELECTS OFFICERS

Newly elected officers of the Red Oak Cooperative Nursery School are: Debbie Kurtz, President; Jacqueline Redpath, Vice President; Maxine Rode, Corresponding Secretary; Ann Kurz, Recording Secretary, and Judith Marquess, Treasurer.

Mrs. Kurtz announces that the group is now accepting Associate Members. Women whose children are of pre-nursery age who wish to become associated with Red Oak now may become Associate Members for a \$1.00 fee. This entitles them to receive the Nursery School Newsletter and to attend meetings, parent education sessions and other functions. Those interested may contact Judith Marquess, 566-8528.

Classes are held for three to five-year-olds at the Unitarian Church on West Front Street, Lincroft.

MATAWAN TAXES

(Continued from Page 1)

We must encourage a better ratable structure in the school district. This means attracting the right kind of industry in the right place.

We must spend our tax money wisely for things directly affecting education.

We must shoulder our personal fiscal responsibility in the payment of school tax.

We must encourage our state legislators to face up to their responsibilities to legislate more state aid for school districts. This can only come about by a broad-based tax. It should be recognized that the forecasts can be questioned, but if anything they are felt to be conservative.

There is every indication that in the preparation of the 1965-1966 school budget our school board recognizes the importance of getting maximum value from available funds.

**SEE HOW MATAWAN TICKS
ATTEND A TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING — HELD EVERY FIRST
AND THIRD MONDAY AT 8:00 P.M.**

Fox and Squirrels

A Fable

Once upon a time there was a fox named Hagen. Hagen lived in a forest, but this was a rather strange forest. In this forest there were a few other foxes, birds (mostly mocking birds), a few skunks, some hyenas, rabbits, and many squirrels.

Everyone was busy in this forest. The squirrels were busy gathering nuts in a forest across the river and hiding them in the grove of hollow trees in their part of the forest. The rabbits just played around and looked cute (they were dumb bunnies). The skunks ran around from one place to another, leaving their unmistakable perfume behind them. The hyenas just sat around and laughed. And the birds flew about and made sounds like hyenas.

In time Hagen and the other foxes got together with all the animals, and it was decided that the foxes should lead the forest and that Hagen should be Number One Fox. So the foxes ran the forest. Meanwhile, the squirrels went on gathering their nuts, the rabbits played around, the skunks spread their perfume, the hyenas laughed and the birds sounded like hyenas.

One day Hagen decided that he didn't need the other foxes to run things anymore . . . he could do it all by himself. So he dismissed the other foxes and made himself the head of all the forest committees. But many animals did not like the way things were going and they often complained among themselves. The foxes did not like the way things were going either; so they held lots of meetings, but no one knew what to do.

Finally, the squirrels decided that they were tired of giving Hagen six per cent of their nuts, even though it was only ten thousand nuts. And so they called a meeting of all the animals. The animals of the forest told the foxes that Hagen must go. The foxes decided that the only way to stop Hagen was to trap Hagen.

MORAL: YOU CAN TELL RABBITS WHERE TO PLAY; YOU CAN RESTRICT SKUNKS TO THEIR PART OF THE FOREST; YOU CAN STOP HYENAS FROM LAUGHING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD; AND YOU CAN PREVENT BIRDS FROM MOCKING HYENAS.

BUT DON'T TRY TO TAKE NUTS AWAY FROM SQUIRRELS!

WE GET LETTERS

It is the policy of The Observer to print letters to the editor when they are received. We welcome letters of interest to our readers. If you have something on your mind, a suggestion or a criticism on local affairs, write to:

**Editor,
Strathmore Observer
Post Office Box 100
Matawan, New Jersey**

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NAMES STUDY GROUP

A study group was named last month to begin a study of the curriculum in the Matawan Regional High School by the Civic Association's education committee. Named to the special study committee were Mrs. Estelle Laurence, Mrs. Sandy Grundfest and Mrs. Robert Weiser. The appointments were made by Frank Gilbert, chairman of the committee.

Gilbert said the committee would study the high school's vocational and college preparatory programs and the courses offered students who do not intend going to college. The study will begin at the ninth grade level and every teacher in the regional system will be asked for recommendations.

SCHOOL BUILDING STARTS

Site work for the new Lloyd Road K-8 Elementary School got underway this month as the Regional Board of Education closed title to the 39.3-acre tract. The Board paid \$82,488, the amount set by a Superior Court condemnation commission, and awarded a \$71,500 site preparation contract. The school board had offered \$30,000 for the property. The land owners, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Gaub of Bowntown, had asked \$117,000. The condemnation commission set a price of \$2,100 per acre.

FOOTPATH PLAN

A program to obtain easements for footpaths for school children along the heavily-traveled streets, was a temporary solution to a recurring problem proposed by the Township Committee recently. This step would alleviate future difficulty when a sidewalk program is instituted.

Streets mentioned are Cliffwood Ave., Church St. and Lloyd Rd.

Meanwhile, a Board of Education Committee will meet with the township committee to discuss solutions for the High School footpath from Deerfield Park. One proposal has been to divide the cost of fencing the footpath between the township committee and the Regional Board of Education.

New Hadassah Chapter

The first Hadassah chapter to be formed in Matawan was organized last month at a meeting in the home of Mrs. Bernard Hyman, 43 Deerfield La.

The chapter, still unnamed, will elect officers at a combined meeting and tea for prospective members on Wednesday evening, Jan. 13, at the home of Mrs. Nat Gold, 78 Fordham Dr. "Moving Day," a film showing the transfer of patients to the new Hadassah Medical Center in Israel, will be shown.

What happened to the traffic light on Route 34 at Lloyd Road?

CHARITY GROUP HAS MEETING

The first annual meeting of the John F. Kennedy Benevolent Association, Inc. was held on Monday, Dec. 14. The association was officially organized on Oct. 26, 1964, and is composed of the members of the JFK Centennial Lodge No. 100, Knights of Pythias.

President of the association is Larry Turk, Vice President Ben Dworkis, Treasurer Maurice Murray and Secretary Don Terres. Ronald Chuyen, Aaron Lane, Norman Posner and Sol Rosenstock are the members of the Board of Trustees.

LINE ROAD REPAIR WORK?

A meeting to discuss the possibility of state aid towards repairing Line Road is being arranged by the township engineer, Karl F. Heuser. The meeting with officials of the State Highway Department is a result of a report of \$3,456 in state aid for road work. Line Road is the border between Matawan Township and Raritan and Holmdel Townships. When work begins on the Lloyd Road railroad bridge, Line Road promises to be a heavily-traveled artery.

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ASK TOWNSHIP TO REDISTRIC

The Monmouth County Board of Elections has asked Matawan Township to redistrict its voters. In a letter to the Township Committee, the Board pointed to the Sixth District, the area south of Church St. between Lloyd and Line Rds. as the township's largest with 1,678 registered voters. The County Board wants this district divided and a new polling place obtained.

They listed the township's current registration as 6,778, including 692 in the First District, 874 in the Second, 951 in the Third, 526 in the Fourth, 1,091 in the Fifth, 1,678 in the Sixth and 966 in the Seventh.

The County Board ordered the change before February 15. There are indications all seven election districts will have their boundaries changed and more election districts added.

Matawan Township was created from a portion of Raritan Township on February 23, 1857. Its area of 5.3 square miles actually makes it the second smallest in the county. Shrewsbury Township, less than one square mile in area, is the smallest.

\$1,122,500 FOR BUILDING PLAN

A proposed five-year capital budget of \$1,122,500 was submitted by Matawan Township to the New Jersey Department of Local Government this month. The proposal calls for spending \$292,000 in 1965, \$370,000 in 1966, \$120,000 in 1967, 1968 and 1969 and \$100,000 in 1970.

The 1965 schedule calls for \$100,000 for an addition to the township hall on Lower Main Street, \$100,000 in road and street work, and \$22,500 as the township's share towards construction of the Lloyd Rd. railroad bridge. The 1966 schedule calls for the construction of the much-discussed Community Center at a cost of \$250,000.

The center would be financed by \$237,000 in general obligation bonds and \$12,500 from the capital account. The Township Committee did not specify any application for federal assistance for the proposed projects under the Community Facilities Act.

SEE HOW MATAWAN TICKS. ATTEND A TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING — HELD EVERY FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY AT 8:00. TOWN HALL, LOWER MAIN ST.

CARE FOR PETS

The headquarters of the Monmouth County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, located in Eatontown, is under the direction of William Sneddon and his wife, Blanche. Mr. Sneddon and his wife and a crew of five men work day and night maintaining a shelter for stray animals; finding homes for many, and aiding injured animals wherever they may be in the 538 square miles of Monmouth County.

The shelter is a haven for stray animals or animals whose owners no longer want nor care for them. The new shelter was completed in May, 1963.

A second responsibility of the society is the investigation of complaints of cruelty to animals. Mrs. Blanche Sneddon is the Monmouth County investigator for the SPCA and holds an appointment as a State Agent which gives her the power to prosecute criminal complaints under New Jersey's cruelty to animals law.

Another responsibility of the society, possibly the most important, especially to a child, is the adoption service. In 1963 over 1,500 animals were adopted through the society service. Mr. Sneddan said the most desired animals are puppies or kittens, and that it is difficult to place older animals. He said the society never permits the adoption of an animal even suspected of viciousness. The staff gives regular instructions to prospective pet owners on how to care for the animals they choose.

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