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VOL. 1 - No. 10

A PUBLICATION OF THE STRATHMORE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

AUGUST, 1964

## GENERAL MEETING

Sept. 9th 8:30 p.m.

REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

GARDEN TALK

## FIRST AID SQUAD FUND DRIVE ENDS

The annual fund drive of the Matawan Township First Aid and Rescue Squad will come to a close at the end of August. Uniformed members of the squad began collecting the coin cards on the 15th of August, that were left at homes during the month of June. Collection will continue for 14 days or until whatever date is necessary to complete the job. If no one is at home at the time they call at your home a notice will be left requesting you to mail your coin card or check.

The proceeds of the drive are to go for the operations of the squad during the next year, help expand the facilities at Cliffwood and to strat work on a permanent structure in the Strathmore area. The building in Strathmore was made possible when the State law was changed on the 21st of June, 1964. The new law permits a municipality to deed land to a First Aid Squad, and this was done by the Township Committee on the 3rd of August. The land that has been deeded to the squad is part of the area Levitt and Sons gave to the Fire Company on Church and Lloyd Road.

Remember, starting August 15th, look for a uniformed member of the First Aid Squad to call at your home for the purpose of collecting your coin card.

## Women Voters To Meet

The Matawan Provisional League of Women Voters will hold its first general meeting on September 10, at 8:30 p.m., at the Matawan Regional High School Cafeteria.

The meeting will be highlighted by a panel discussion on our State study item, Education in New Jersey.

All interested women are urged to attend.

## PLANNING BOARD APPROVES APARTMENTS

The Planning Board has approved plans of the "Strathmore Gardens" garden apartments to be built on South Atlantic Avenue just north of Route 34, between the Cambridge and Brookview park sections. The preliminary approval was given over the absent objections of neighboring Brookview Park residents who arrived at the Planning Board meeting after the public hearing was over and the vote finalized.

The Planning Board however must be commended for the conditions imposed on the builder at the final hearing. The conditions which are aimed at lessening the safety hazards imposed on neighboring property owners are; first, that a chain link fence must be built on South Atlantic Avenue approximately 700 feet long, and second, that a chain link fence must be built along the property lines where the garden apartments border existing residential property. The fence along the property line is in addition to evergreen shrubs, a minimum of five feet high which are required by the zoning regulations. The fences were imposed because of the vehemently expressed concern of Strathmore residents for the safety of their children.

This site has been in dispute for the past year. The first change occurred when the Township re-zoned the area from residential to commercial. This action taken prior to the completion of Cambridge Park, slipped through without opposition. Civic Association representatives present at the public hearing when this was done did not oppose the re-zoning because they understood that the proposed commercial zone was only an extension along the same line as Levitt's shopping center which is roughly 600 feet deep. This error resulted from the description of the area in all the legal papers only by lot numbers. No maps of the area were shown at the hearing. The answers to various questions which were asked by the association at the hearing did not explain the true extent of the area affected which is 1200 feet deep from Route 34. Prior to the meeting Zoning Committee members had tried to get from Levitt the names of people who had contracted for

the Brookview homes which backed up on South Atlantic Ave., but this information was refused them. The Levitt Co. which knew of the re-zoning did not oppose it.

Late last year the area was again up for re-zoning when the owners requested a change for garden apartments. At that time the true scope of the area involved was uncovered by the association and we argued strongly against either garden apartments or commercial use for the site. In spite of our efforts garden apartment use was approved.

When the present Township administration took over in January of this year they sought a clarification from E. Eugene Oross, the Township Master Planning Consultant on his recommendation regarding the site. On the basis of a tentative negative opinion from Oross, an ordinance voiding the Garden Apartment Zone was introduced. A lengthy and heated public hearing which was strongly salted with classic politics was held. All sides contended that Oross's letter supported their positions. The outcome was that the Township ordered a special study of the site by Oross and the property owner agreed not to do anything until the special study was completed.

After several months delay a report favoring garden apartments was presented by Oross and almost as an anticlimax the issue was resolved with all the association's arguments voided and the owner free to proceed with his plans. In the whole process it is interesting to note the flexibility of Oross's opinion which seemed to shift yes - no - yes.

Since like them or not, we are going to have apartments in the Strathmore area, it is fortunate that Matawan Township has one of the best apartment control ordinances in the Bayshore area. We hope that strict control and application of the ordinance will ensure the least possible intrusion on the residential area. The most serious problem facing us now is the construction work itself. Parents will have to keep children away from the site during construction and local authorities will have to be sure that the builder maintains the site so as to prevent accidents to any children who do stray in.



## State Says "Yes" To Route 34 Signal

The State Highway Department has announced that it will install a traffic light on Llyod Road at Route 34. The light, which they say will be installed after Labor Day, will be a particular help to residents in the southerly sections and to the school children who will begin using the intersection soon.

Safety in the area will be improved at the same time the 35 MPH speed zone now in effect on Route 34 in the Borough is extended east of Lloyd Road. This will be especially important when the Strathmore shopping center opens producing greatly increased traffic entering and leaving the highway at that section.

The Civic Association would like to thank those who worked to collect signatures on the lphr which were circulated, although as it turned out not needed, and to all those who followed the request in the July Observer to write individual letters has more effect than many signatures on printed petitions. The speed which the department displayed in finding a way to overcome the potential hazards produced by a light shows that public action is effective.

### ORT To Hold Tea

The Matawan chapter of the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training will hold a tea at the home of Mrs. Robert Zell, 108 Cambridge Dr., 566 - 9319 on Monday evening, August 31, 1964 at 8:30 p.m. Hostesses will be Anne Kurz, Natalie Sonnentlick and Judy Totakman.

ORT is dedicated to the task of helping thousands of youngsters throughout the world to achieve better economic stability through rehabilitation and training.

A movie will be shown followed by a guest speaker.

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## Public Knowledge vs. Township Action

By H. J. PARKER

Several flaws in the local ordinances and the practice of official boards permits action of the township without full public awareness of what is happening. A major example of this occurred when Brookview Park residents attended a recent special Planning Board meeting in order to object to the "Strathmore Gardens" garden apartment project on Atlantic Ave., only to find that the hearing was already over and the matter closed. They appeared shortly after 8:00 p.m. which is the normal starting time for all planning board meetings, but that meeting had started at 7:30. The majority of Strathmore men work in New York City and it is a severe hardship for them to attend any meeting earlier than 8:00 p.m.

They were further wronged because they had not received personal notice of the hearing. The law (both state and local ordinance) requires that all property owners within 200 feet must be given notice of such public hearings. The flaw in this regulation is that it sets the township tax maps as the source of the owners names. The tax maps are not up to date and the Brookview lots and some other Strathmore areas are still shown under Levitt ownership.

The third hardship imposed on the objectors was that the official public notice of the hearing was printed in the Perth Amboy Evening News, all normal official notices are published in the Matawan Journal.

In spite of all this the action of the Planning Board was legally correct. We do not think that the Planning Board was attempting to push this through or tryig to deceive the objectors. The Brookview residents had presented their objections at a previous meeting and were heard again after their late arrival. There can be no dispute, however, over the fact that the intent of the law, namely full public notice and a proper public hearing was denied. Whether a proper public hearing would have changed the outcome does not matter; the Brookview residents were denied those rights which the law intended them to have.

The letter of the law must not be used to deny its intent. The instance cited above is the most recent example, but it is not the only time this has happened.

We recommend that the following procedures be adopted either by ordinance or by resolution of the Township Committee.

1. No public hearings or public meetings of any township body be called earlier than 8:00 p.m.
2. All public notices be printed in the Matawan Journal (even when they are also published in the other papers for time limit reasons.)
3. Anyone actually living within the legal distance be notified even if their name does not appear on the tax maps (this could be done either by mail or by personal notice.)

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**REGISTER TO VOTE**

New residents must register if they want to vote in this November's election. The National, State, and local contests are all important this year. In addition to the election, local residents will vote on the changes in our town government which have been recommended by the Charter Study Commission elected by the voters last year.

To facilitate registration, special times have been established. You may register at the Strathmore school any Wednesday evening until 9:00 p.m. or at the Municipal building on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, in addition to any weekday during regular office hours. The registration books will close September 24th so you must register before then.

You will be eligible to vote if you have lived in New Jersey for six months (if you moved in on or before May 3rd) and if you have lived in this county for 45 days.

We urge you to register now even if you are not eligible to vote in this election so that you will be able to vote in the school election in February.

**Charter Study Report Submitted Aug. 3**

The Matawan Township Charter Study Commission submitted its report to the Township Committee on August 3. In their report they recommend that Matawan Township change its form of government from the Township Committee to Council-Manager Plan E, one of the forms available under the Optional Municipal Charter Law.

The Council-Manager Plan E form in brief is setup as follows: Elections are on a partisen basis, as they are at present. This means that candidates run first in party primaries in April and then the final election is held in November where the candidates run under party labels. Incidentally, there is a provision for nomination by petition for independent candidates in this form, similiar to the way in which the two independent candidates were nominated in Matawan Township in 1963.

All councilmen, and there are seven as compared to the five township committeemen, run at large representing the township as a whole rather than any particular districts. The terms are 4 years with 4 councilmen running at one election and the remaining 3 running 2 years later. In the initial election councilme will be elected and they will draw lots three for 4 year terms and four for 2 year terms.

The council once elected serves as the legislative body of the Township. They

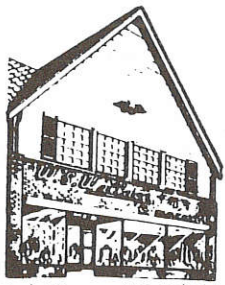
hire a professional manager who is the chief administrative officer and is in charge of carrying out the policy of the council and in general running the township.

The timetable for the proposed charter change is as follows:

- Nov. 3, 1964 — Referendum on adoption of a new form of government.
- Apr. 20, 1965 — Political party primary election of candidates for the new council.
- Nov. 2, 1965 — Election of new council.
- Jan. 1, 1966 — Effective date of new charter.

The Civic Association has a Charter Study Committee whose function was to attend all public hearings of the Charter Study Commission, carry out some investigation on their own, and ultimately report to the general membership of the Association their views as to whether the Charter Commissions report should be endorsed or rejected by the membership.

The committee will make its report and recommendation of the September meeting at which time an expanded presentation on the Charter Commissions report, including answering of questions will occur. Be sure to attend this meeting as this subject is vital to all residents of Matawan Township.



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# Group Studies Transportation

Transportation, like water and air and many other things, is something we more or less take for granted. We do not stop to think how it happens that there is a train or a bus operating when we want to go somewhere.

The Strathmore Civic Association has a group of transportation mechanics now at work trying to solve the present transportation problems and to prepare for those yet to come. The problem is your concern as well as that of your Committee of transportation mechanics.

We all have transportation problems of one kind or another and to hear the people talk on trains, buses and at stations we all have the solution. We all know what the other fellow should do and we all could do it better than the present operators or managers.

At a recent Township meeting the Mayor estimated that 95% of the town's wage earners work outside the area. We can assume that when you purchased your home you inquired about transportation facilities. You may have been told about relocation of the railroad station or about frequent non-stop bus service or easy access to state highways, which no doubt had a bearing on your locating here. Are the reasons valid now or do we find them lacking. Have we, in fact

found other problems or created new ones such as the lack of free parking at the existing rail station, the bus-commuters parking their cars on local streets, etc.

An appeal is being made for you to be concerned with our transportation problems so that we do not become a community caught in a strangulation of auto traffic or left without decent and convenient mass transit facilities. It is time to stop complaining to the passenger in the next seat or to our wives and to start thinking seriously about the problem. Not wishful thinking, no pie in the sky solutions, but a rational approach which will help now.

In the next issue of the Observer there will be a questionnaire which everyone is urged to fill out and return. We ask you to give us the information which we need to make an accurate analysis of conditions and at the same time let us know your suggestions and gripes. After we boil them all down perhaps we can find ways to make your coming and going easier. Tomorrow should be a better day than today as far as transportation is concerned and our community a better place to live in when complete. Our recommendations and survey results will be given to the study group set up by the Township for their official action and hopeful implementation.

## BLOOD BANK PROPOSED

An area wide effort is starting to establish a walking blood bank. The idea of this program is to obtain a master list of all area residents who have rare blood types and who would be willing to give blood in case of emergency. The area to be covered includes Matawan Township and Borough, Raritan, Keyport and Holmdel.

The incentive for this effort was provided when a resident in Holmdel faced an emergency and required transfusions of six pints of O negative blood, one of the rare types. The hospital in which she was being treated contacted all regular sources and was able to obtain only three pints. The emergency was not solved until local appeals by the two Strathmore Jewish congregations, Temple Beth-El and Temple Shalom, located donors who went immediately to the hospital and provided the life saving blood.

The work done by these groups can not be praised enough.

The next time an emergency of this type arises we must not be caught unprepared. The Civic Association will cooperate with all local organizations in gathering the information necessary to set up the master lists. We appeal to all who have a rare blood type to register for this purpose.

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# Hospital Auxiliary Pledges Funds

The Matawan Township Auxiliary of the Bayshore Community Hospital pledged \$3000 in the next three years to the new hospital which will be built on Beers St., Holmdel. Mrs. Seymour H. Shore presided at the regular monthly meeting held at the Oak Shades Fire House on August 4th.

Nominations for the nominating committee were held. Elected from the floor were Mrs. Robert Taylor, Mrs. Robert Weiser and Mrs. Joseph Altier. Two members of the present temporary executive board also were elected to the nominating committee, Mrs. James D. Edwards, temporary co-chairman, and Mrs. Myndert Bonnema, temporary co-chairman of the membership committee.

Mrs. Shore announced the offices and standing committees to be filled and urged that anyone interested in candidacy submit her name to the nominating committee. To be elected are the president; first vice president who also serves as chairman of the ways and means committee; second vice president who also serves as chairman of the volunteer services; corresponding secretary who also is the parliamentarian; recording secretary; treasurer; and chairmen of the hospitality, publicity, membership, and program committees.

## Water Company Purchase

The Township has taken the initial steps to acquire the Strathmore Water Co. Mr. Traphagen and Mr. Downey have been appointed together with Dick Schwartz, Township attorney to negotiate the purchase of the Company from the Levitt firm.

If they can successfully negotiate the purchase at a reasonable price, Strathmore residents may expect a reduction in their rates before next summers watering season.

If the price set by Levitt is too high, the Township will have to start proceedings to condemn the property with the price then to be set by the courts. In that event it may be close to a year or even more (with appeals etc.) before we can expect any rate reduction.

Dr. Seymour H. Shore, Lloyd Rd., Strathmore, was the guest speaker. He discussed "What To Do Until The Psychiatrist Comes."

An executive board meeting of the temporary officers was held on August 18th at the home of Mrs. Myndert Bonnema at 1461 Sunset Way, Cliffwood Beach.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday evening, September 1st at 8:30 p.m. at the Cliffwood School. The Nominating Committee will submit a slate of candidates and additional nominations may be made from the floor at this meeting. Ten days before the election meeting in October a complete list of nominees will be sent to each member.

## Dime Savings Bank Refunding Escrow Account Surplus

Many Strathmore home owners can obtain substantial refunds from their mortgage tax escrow accounts. The Dime Savings Bank of Brooklyn which holds virtually all home mortgages in Strathmore has established a policy of refunding the excess balances which have built up in the escrow accounts. The amount of the refund depends upon the number of payments made and the difference in each case between the bank's estimate and the actual tax bills. The refund will be granted only upon request. Letters requesting the refund may be sent to the attention of Mr. J. Boylan at the bank's main office. One Andover Park resident received a \$150 refund. Residents of the newer sections will not be given any refund at this time.

Two important points to consider when deciding whether to apply for the refund are, first, that the bank does not pay interest on the escrow accounts and second, that if property taxes go up any funds in the account will serve as a buffer and possibly delay or at least ease any mortgage payment increases.

## Education Committee Plans Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is on Tuesday, September 22nd at the Strathmore Elementary School, 8:30 p.m. All are welcome.

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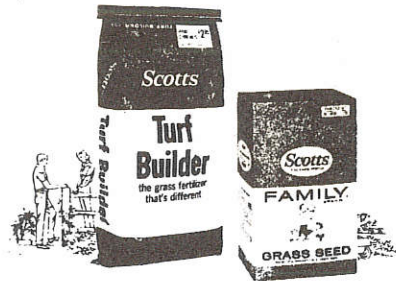
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# Elementary Schools Study Language Use

The Superintendent of Schools advised at a recent meeting of the Board of Education that a study is under way to consider the feasibility and desirability of teaching a foreign language from the first grade on.

The direct method of teaching foreign languages was first proposed by Denmark's Jespersen in 1886 at the Philological Congress in conjunction with studies made by educators from Sweden and Norway. What is this method that enables so many Scandinavians to speak, read and write English so well?

1. Avoid translation.
2. Introduction of vocabulary and idiom through pictorial illustrations; through the context of a known social situation and eventually through definitions in the language itself.
3. Grammar is learned later — not as a set of rules — but as a set of descriptions of what the child already does.
4. The patterns that make up the language are learned individually through use in repeating statements, then answering questions, then asking questions (of Students as well as teachers) then telling one's own story or rephrasing in one's own words a story already told.

## 15% ISSUE

The "motion to dismiss" filed by Levitt's attorneys in this case which was originally scheduled for August 5th was delayed until August 20th. The delay came at the request of Mr. O'Hagen who is the Township's attorney in this case. Because of our publication deadline we are unable to report on the result of the hearing.

For those not familiar with this issue the Civic Association has brought suit against Levitt and the Township in order to force Levitt to provide additional land for recreational use in Strathmore. Levitt was required by the "Planned Community Ordinance" to set aside 15% of the total area of Strathmore for Religious, recreational, municipal, use or community service or general open areas. Levitt claims to have fulfilled this requirement by adding drainage rights of way, the Bath and Tennis club, the shopping center, the water company, etc., to his total of acreage set aside. As it stands now only about 14.3 acres of useable land is available in Strathmore for recreational use, this amounts to 1.85% of the total area.

### 5. Speak and think the language.

Today about 4% of the elementary schools in the U.S. have adopted this direct method of teaching a language. Of course, there are many problems to be ironed out before such a program can start. For example: the availability of trained personnel; the availability of teaching aids and above all, the choice of THE language itself.

## Membership Drive Underway

Now that the last of the new residents have moved in, the Civic Association's membership committee has launched a campaign for new members. It is the committee's hope to obtain 90% membership before the first fall meeting of the Civic Association.

All non-members and some present members have been sent application forms and a letter from the president putting forth what the association is doing and asking their support by joining now. Present members are asked to complete the application form and return it as it will be used to compile a membership survey. As to non-members, your Civic Association dues are the best investment you can make in your new community. Please help us to help you by joining now.

## B'rith Lodge Proposed

A Strathmore Lodge of the B'nai B'rith was proposed at a meeting held at the Matawan Township First Aid Building.

Ten prospective members and members of other Lodges attended the meeting which was presided over by Ruby Ritz, President of the Hillside, N. J. Lodge.

A steering committee was formed to prepare a membership drive. All interested persons should contact Earle Silverman 566-8570, who was appointed temporary Secretary.

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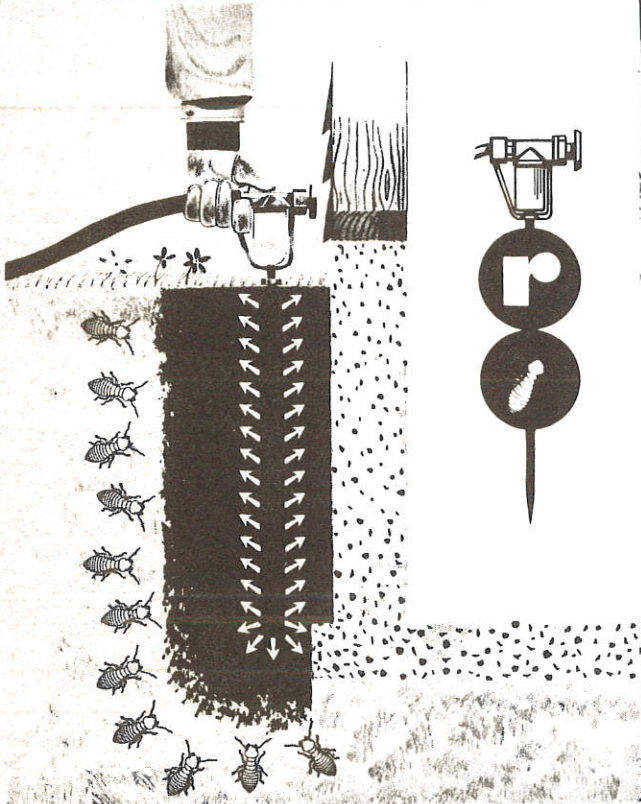
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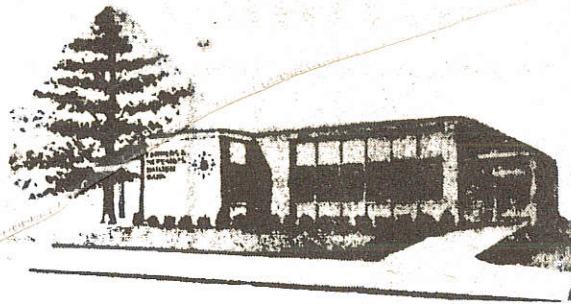
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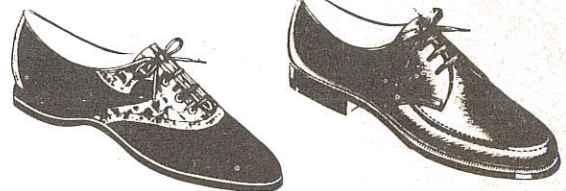
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