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# Strathmore

# OBSERVER

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MATAWAN NJ

Vol. I No. 4

A PUBLICATION OF THE STRATHMORE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY, 1964

## Court Fight Against Levitt Begins With Landslide Vote

THE BATTLE is met. The Association at a meeting of the General Membership voted to sue Levitt for recreational land needed by the community. With 200 members present, after lengthy discussion of the cost and merits of our case, less than 10 people voted against taking action as recommended by the special counsel retained for this matter.

A special fund is being set up to pay the costs of the action which will total \$3,250. This fund will be raised by door-to-door collections, which is expected to be completed this month. Everyone of the 1600 Strathmore homeowners will be asked to contribute.

It is unfortunate that we have been forced into this action. The name Levitt has in past years meant a complete development. In Strathmore-at-Matawan we have less than 2% (a minimum of 5% is generally recommended) usable recreation area and Levitt has yet to provide equipment. In all previous developments he has provided completely equipped recreation fields, swimming pools, etc., all free of direct cost to the homeowners or local government. In other developments he has set aside generous church sites; Strathmore has only two sites and his conditions regarding those are very exacting.

Our recourse to the courts is not dependent on Levitt's previous performance; it is solidly based on the planned community ordinance of Matawan Township. The legal requirement of the township that 15% of the area be set aside for specific non-residential uses has been flagrantly violated. Instead of 115 acres (15% of 762 acres) only 38 acres have been provided which meet the conditions of the ordinance. Included in the 38 acres is 25 acres of what Levitt's maps call "recreation sites" but if the sites are examined we see that only 14 acres could be used for recreation and then only if a great deal of earthwork and protective fencing were done.

We must claim the land Levitt has not provided.

When your neighbor knocks your support will be needed.

## Phyllis Sunshine Made Editor of Observer

We are pleased to announce that beginning with the March 1964 issue, the Observer and the Public Relations Committee will be headed up by Phyllis Sunshine, 58 Avondale Lane, phone 566 - 8883.

## How to Protect Your Home Against Burglars

While recent arrest of two teenagers may halt or slow down the wave of burglaries in Strathmore, this is not the time to relax our vigilance, for the nighttime or daytime sneak thief will always be with us.

At the last meeting of the Civic Association much enlightening advice on this subject was presented by Police Commissioner and Township Committeeman Chuck Dryden and by Captain Wallace, the senior operations officer of the Matawan Police Department.

It was acknowledged that if a burglar really wanted to enter a house, no amount of protective devices would stop him, but they will discourage him enough to try next door. Many burglars simply go through unlocked doors and windows — many people do forget.

Even during the day many burglars posing as workmen came right in through an unlocked garage door — the slanted handle is easy to spot from the street and a quick check usually finds out if anyone is at home. Once in the garage it is a simple matter, in the Rancher and Cape Cod to take out the hinge pins and walk right in to the kitchen. For this, we recommend replacing these hinges with cheap, "fixed pin" hinges by spot welding the present ones.

The door locks on all houses are very easy to jimmy and should be replaced by locks with separate spring latches and dead bolts, or, a separate, "dead bolt" lock should be added. By "dead bolt" we mean the kind that

*(Continued on Page 7)*

**MEETING NEWS**  
**Tuesday, February 25**  
**at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Matawan Regional High School**  
**WATER FLUORIDATION**  
**REPORT**  
**EVERYBODY WELCOME**

## TOWNSHIP STUDIES SURVEY CASE

Will your property be surveyed — free — by Levitt? This question will be answered by the Township Committee next month. The Association's special counsel, Robert Wood, presented our case to the Committee. Levitt's attorney, Wendell Smith, objected to the grievance, the hearing of the case, the procedure, the presentation of witnesses, the testimony of the witnesses, the questions asked, and, most important, to Jay Krivitsky's hearing the case.

Local law requires that the developer survey each lot — the only reason for voiding the requirement is hardship or impracticality. Mr. Wood in questioning the Planning Board members, proved that he had never voided the requirement (prior to the December action we are seeking to have reversed) and that those members voted to void the requirement did not believe it would be impractical or a hardship.

The lawyers for both sides must present written briefs supporting their case by March 5 after which the Township Committee will have to make its decision. We are confident that we are right and that the decision will be in our favor.

**THE STRATHMORE OBSERVER**

Published monthly by the  
Strathmore-At-Matawan  
Civic Association, Inc.,

Matawan, New Jersey

Robert J. Chesterman, President

Editorial Staff  
(Public Relations Committee)

S. Roger Dixon, Chairman

Norman Brenner	Eleanor Schafer
Martin T. Cox	Joseph P. Smith
Robert Laurence	John Mc Taggart
Wallace Steinberg	Phyllis Sunshine

## A Successful Community Effort: School Budget Passed

Dozens of people worked hundreds of hours "getting out the vote" for the recent school budget election. It was a great effort, and it showed our feelings about a good educational system for our children.

The budget passed, 924 to 492, and there are many to be thanked for their help. Some of you made telephone calls without even being asked — many of you, not on the Education Committee, joined in our drive actively. Members of the Committee contributed uncounted hours of time.

To all of them, and to the 924 supporting voters, we offer sincere thanks for helping with a substantial stride toward higher teachers' pay, better school facilities and necessary staff additions.

But, we cannot rest on our laurels. There is another job to be done right away. We must support a building program and turn out in even greater numbers at the polls this spring to vote in the referendum. To avoid long-term split sessions, over-crowded classrooms and drastic emergency measures, we must begin to start building new schools now!

The Matawan Regional Board of Education has high goals for our school system and it is up to us to support them with our vote. Good education is expensive, but well educated young Americans are priceless. The hard work of so many toward the budget acceptance proves that you care.

## Attention Advertisers

Deadline for all advertising and copy is the first of the month.

# Plays ∩ Pianists ∩ Paintings

Some of us in Strathmore know the secret, but many of us who have recently moved to this area from the big city are still in the dark. To those who were accustomed to the constantly visible evidence of culture all around them, it would seem that the Bayshore area is completely devoid of such pursuits.

But contrary to the visible evidence. Bayshore abounds in artistic endeavors and in the following few paragraphs we will attempt to shed some light on three completely wonderful organizations dedicated to provide us with food for our psyches.

You may sneer at amateur theatricals, but the Wagon Wheel Playhouse productions come close to professional standards. This group probably started in much the same way as our own Civic Association Show Group, but has expanded to welcome membership, for a nominal sum, from all interested in being part of the "Theatre". Members of the cast for each production are chosen through auditions according to their ability, and everyone else helps out in other ways.

Currently being presented is "Take Her She's Mine" on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:40, February 21, 22, 28 and 29. In production now is Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" for a March 12 opening, and an ambitious musical production of "Guys and Dolls" for the first three weeks in May.

The Wagon Wheel Playhouse is located on Chestnut Street, in Middletown, just off Route 35. For more information call 741 - 6073.

The Monmouth Arts Foundation, located in Red Bank (P. O. Box 453) concerns itself mainly with the professional and books much more varied fare. Well-known concert artists, chamber music recitals, art exhibits, and touring companies of Broadway shows. Among the artists who have recently appeared are Andres Segovia, John Ireland in "A Thousand Clowns," and coming in March, Robert Harris in "A Man for All Seasons." Watch the local papers for future plays and concerts or drop a line to the Monmouth Arts Foundation for more information. Call Bill Saltzman, 566 - 7152 for this season's ticket information.

If looking at bare walls is getting you down, a short trip to the Guild for Creative Arts will prove a delightful experience. This non-profit organization serves a dual purpose: first, to provide an exhibition place for the works of member artists, and second, to make these works available to us at a reasonable price. For those of us long on taste and short on cash, the Guild will rent the works on a monthly basis with the first six month's rent applicable to the purchase price. Beyond the first six months, payments can be stretched out over another year.

The gallery itself is also used for lectures, films and instruction as well as for art display, and is a very handsome little place. Classes are given in the various media, at not unreasonable prices, and one of our own, Barbara Gray, is giving children's courses right here. An instructor will be sent here for an adults' evening course if enough people are interested and if a place to meet can be found.

The Guild for Creative Art is open every day except Monday from 12 - 5 p.m. and all are welcome to browse. 602 Broad Street (Route 35) in Shrewsbury is the address — just a little way past Red Bank, on the right side of the road.

Come join the fun and get your artistic feet wet!

## YOUR LIFE COULD BE AT STAKE! CHECK YOUR FURNACE!

Some residents have been experiencing difficulties with their heating system due to downdrafts from the flue. The symptoms are an excessively hot laundry room and the odor of burnt gases. The problem seems to be confined to the 3 and 4-bedroom colonials and the new country clubbers with furnace in the laundry room. The cause of the problem is a strong wind but only when blowing from certain directions. You can check for this condition by holding a match under the black draft hood which is on top of the furnace. If the wind blows the match flame DOWN, then you have a downdraft problem.

Call the New Jersey Natural Gas Co., at 264 - 4114 and ask them to come and inspect your furnace WHILE THE DOWNDRAFT IS OCCURRING. If the inspector decides that you have a problem, he will attempt to notify Levitt and Sons from your house. If he can't reach them, he will ask you to call. Levitt and Sons has agreed to abide by the Gas Company's recommendation.

## KEEP GARDEN APARTMENTS OUT OF STRATHMORE

THE EFFORT to prevent garden apartments in Strathmore is an uphill battle. The Township Committee has acted to delay any development of the ten acre site on South Atlantic Avenue (between Brookview and Cambridge Parks) until the Township's Master Planner can make a thorough study of the site. The area is now zoned for both commercial and garden apartment. Of the two possibilities, garden apartments seem preferable although not desirable. The Master Planner, E. Eugene Oross, probably will recommend them as the lesser of two evils (and a possible good source of tax income for the Township.)

The Association will try to protect the neighboring homeowners from any development which would be detrimental to the value of their property as well as to the residential character of Strathmore. If garden apartments must come, the Township's controlling ordinance is a strong one which we hope will be effectively applied.

# Survey of Sports Activities Available in Strathmore

The Recreation Committee will hold its next meeting at the Strathmore school on Thursday, March 5.

Many people have informally suggested a variety of ideas for social events to members of the committee. Many of these suggestions have merit but help is needed to make them possible. All who are interested in improved recreation for the community are welcome to attend our meetings, to present their ideas and especially to offer their help.

Teenage recreation is an area we feel is in need of improvement. All parents are invited to work with us in developing a program for boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 17. Without your help, not much can be accomplished. Call Sue Bornstein at 566-7212 for information.

The production of the "Strathmore Players" is still scheduled for an opening night in May. Call Maureen Secor 566-7234 or Marty Blumenthal 566-8462.

The following people have made themselves available to answer questions concerning some of the athletic activities we have initiated:

Men's Basketball  
Tom Powers — 566-7912

Teenage Basketball (boys)  
Paul Esporin — 566-7036

Men's Touch Football  
Paul Esporin — 566-7036

Men's Softball (Sunday)  
Bob Feldman — 566-7526

Little League  
Ken Rupp — 566-2550

Bowling Leagues — Call Airport Plaza to obtain information concerning the Strathmore women's afternoon league, men's league or children's league.

A men's softball team for Saturday is now being formed. For information call Bill Secor 566-7234.

## BABE RUTH LEAGUE

Any adults interested in forming a Babe Ruth baseball team (for boys, ages 13 to 15) to represent Strathmore in the Bayshore Babe Ruth League contact Bill Secor (566-7234).

## LITTLE LEAGUE

Ken Rupp, President of the Matawan Township Little League, announced its affiliation with the official National Little League Organization in Williamsport, Pa.

Registration of all boys born between August 1, 1951 and July 31, 1955 for the purpose of playing Little League Baseball in 1964 were held on Friday evening, February 14.

Tentative plans are for a least 8 major league teams as well as minor and farm teams.

There is tremendous need for volunteers among the men of Matawan Township to serve as managers, coaches, and

umpires, and among all businessmen and fraternal organizations to financially support this extensive program by sponsorship. Additional information on sponsorship can be obtained from Ken Rupp, 50 Andover Lane (566-2250).

## Y. M. C. A.

On Route 520 in Marlboro, just a short drive away, is a place where you can skate when it freezes, ski, toboggan and sled when it snows, and warm up in front of an open fire afterwards.

When the weather is less cooperative, you can take inexpensive dancing lessons and art instruction in small groups or join a contract bridge group.

These and other activities are part of the expansion that is taking place at the YMCA Arrowhead Camp site, best known for its summer day camp.

Wilbur Van Lenten is in charge of the center, an extension of the Red Bank Community YMCA. He is especially interested in developing activities for Strathmore people and welcomes their suggestions and support.

If you could use a little help in organizing a recreational or athletic group, if you would be interested in having a father-son Indian Guide group or clubs for high schoolers, call Mr. Van Lenten at 946-4598. He can also tell you whether the pond is frozen.

# NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS!

**The U. S. Revenue Department is currently using new procedures and new "electronic brain" processing equipment to check more tax returns in 1964 than in past years. This makes it more than likely that YOUR return will be closely scrutinized.**

**This year your tax report MUST be accurate—OR IT CAN COST YOU MONEY!**

This is one time a Professional may **Save You More** than doing it yourself.

In the convenience of your home our consultant will accurately prepare your Federal Tax Return and insure you of all deductions you are entitled to claim.

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**trouble...**  
**TAXES!**

**GIVE US A CALL NOW!**  
**TAX ASSOCIATES**  
**566 - 8837**

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566-3007 SNO GO CO. of New Jersey 566-3007

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# MEMBERSHIP ZOOMS TO 1,600

The pace at which residents of Strathmore are joining the Civic Association has increased rapidly in recent weeks. Those of our neighbors who are unable to attend a regular monthly General Membership meeting, may lend their support and join the Civic Association by contacting the Membership Committee's Section Chief in their section of Strathmore:

	Exchange: 566	
Andover Park	— Ken Collins, 109 Andover Lane,	7157
Cambridge Park	— Dave Sutliff, 31 Cypress Lane,	8367
Deerfield Park	— Joan Mitchell, 32 Drexel Lane	3214
Fordham Park	— Ed Israel, 69 Fordham Dr.	0246
Ivy Hill I	— Mary Boe, 74 Idlewild Lane,	7447
Ivy Hill II	— Bob Davitt, 6 Incline Pl.	5315
Juniper Park	— Kathleen Bradshaw, 44 Juniper Pl.	2925
Northland Park	— Jim Ducatelli, 25 Noble Place,	6481
Oxford Park	— Ken Schaeffer, 51 Overlea Lane	7713

Our new neighbors in Waverly Park should contact the Committee Chairman Hans H. Froehlich at 39 Ayrmont Lane, 566 - 7770.

Residents interested in working with the Membership Committee are urgently needed in the Ivy Hill II section ( south of Ivy Hill Drive. ) They should call Bob Davitt ( 566 - 5315 ) or Hans Froehlich ( 566 - 7770 ).

All Civic Association members who joined prior to November 15, 1963 are now being contacted by mail to renew their membership for 1964. Their 1963 membership will expire on March 31, and only members having paid their 1964 dues of \$2.00 per household will be eligible to vote at the April election of new officers of the Civic Association.

## Attention: Civic Ass'n. Candidates

The Nominating Committee will consider candidates for officers of the Civic Association until the third week of March. Any members wishing to present themselves to the Committee are asked to contact Norm Brenner, 566 - 1963.

# Levittown Considers Name Change To Camelot

What's in a name? To some residents of Levittown, Pa., there is pride, sentiment and history. That's why they want a change.

Leaders of a civic group made up of residents of higher priced homes in the 17,130 - house community are seeking a new name for their "Levit-town." Their choice at this date is Camelot, the name of the legendary seat of King Arthur's court in England. Their hope: that a new name will be looked upon approvingly by area families, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and the rest of the world.

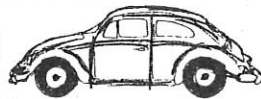
Many outsiders equate Levittown with "\$8,000 houses," said one proponent of the name change. His community council represents owners of homes ranging in price from \$17,000 to \$20,000. Improvements to a number of these homes hiked their value to as much as \$35,000. That is why about 52 per cent of the residents want to do away with the name Levittown.

Shortly after President John F. Kennedy's death, his wife, Jacqueline, said he enjoyed listening to music from the musical show "Camelot." His favorite lines were: "Don't let it be forgot, that once there was a spot, for one brief shining moment that was known as Camelot." According to another official of the name change movement, there has been a spontaneous groundswell in favor of Camelot since Mr. Kennedy's assassination.

Residents of Levittown, N. J., will officially change their community's name back to its original Willingboro Township on February 1. Last November's election decided that issue.

For the residents of Levittown, Pa., further study and survey work is ahead before they can hope to change the name of their 80,000 - population community. However, should they be successful, perhaps there also is some hope for those of us here who would like to believe that many things just could not be true. Particularly for those who have done much of this dreaming their first year in Strathmore.

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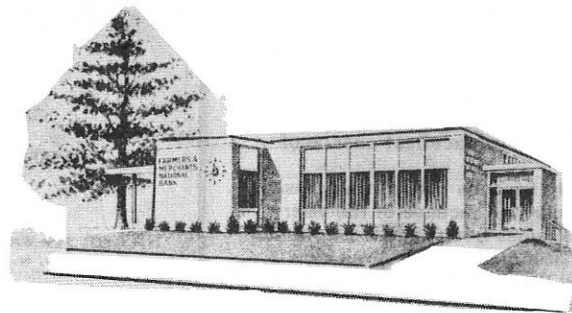


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MAIN STREET &  
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# Traffic Report Given to Township Committee

A traffic light at Route 34 and Lloyd Road and an emergency light on Lower Main Street at the Oak Shades firehouse were among the recommendations in a traffic report submitted to the Township Committee by the streets and safety committee of the Association. The report was prepared by Sheldon Pivnik, traffic engineer for the committee.

Among the other suggestions were three additional full stop signs for the intersections of Route 34 at Oxford Avenue, Cambridge Drive and Brookview Lane, 33 Yield Signs, 9 Dead-End Signs, a special warning for the cul-de-sac of Anton Place, a limit parking ordinance for doctors, dentists and other professional offices, a residential speed limit ordinance on Church Street, Line Road, Lloyd Road and Atlantic Avenue and additional lighting for Ivy Hill Drive and Lloyd Road.

The report also included an ordinance which would put a load limit to trucks of over four tons gross weight except for pick up and delivery of goods and materials from Jannarone Avenue to Fordam Drive on Lloyd Road. Another ordinance would provide the police department with the right to remove vehicles when there is a public emergency.

## WANTED CLERK-TYPIST

What — Part-time Clerk Typist  
 By — Strathmore Bath & Tennis Club  
 Needed — Own Typewriter  
 When — Now!

Qualifications — a. Typing ability  
 b. Filing  
 c. Familiarity with figures and billing.

Submit resume to: Mr. James Lynham  
 Secretary  
 52 Imbrook Lane  
 Matawan, N. J.

## FIREMEN

Only 10 men responded to last month's call for volunteer fireman — and many more are needed.

Persons joining now will probably serve with the present Matawan Township fire company until a Strathmore firehouse is built and equipped on the site set aside by Levitt and Sons.

Any one interested in serving in this capacity may contact Sheldon Pivnik at 566 - 8319.

## TOASTMASTER'S CLUB

In response to an article concerning the possible formation of a Toastmasters Club which appeared in the December issue of the STRATHMORE OBSERVER, a Toastmasters Club was formed. An enthusiastic group of Strathmorites recently met and organized the club. The second and fourth Wednesday of each month have tentatively been established as meeting nights.

There was a demonstration meeting on January 22 which showed the format by which the members will seek to build self-confidence, improve their speaking ability and receive leadership training.

Membership in the club is limited to forty. Membership must be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Anyone interested in joining or in learning more about Toastmasters training is urged to contact Frank Clement at 566 - 7867.

## JOIN A COMMITTEE

To those of you who feel that membership in the Civic Association is not enough and would like to take a more active part in our community works, the following standing committees are open for anyone to join. Call the listed committee chairmen or chairladies today for more information.

### EDUCATION

James R. Snyder, Jr. — 566 - 7284

### MEMBERSHIP

Hans H. Froelich — 566 - 7770

### PROPERTY and UTILITIES

Norton H. Berlin — 566 - 7545

### PUBLIC RELATIONS (OBSERVER)

Phyllis Sunshine — 566 - 8883

### RECREATION

Sue Bronstein — 566 - 7212

### STREETS and SAFETY

Robert G. Taylor — 566 - 7142

### TAXATION

### ZONING and PLANNING

Herbert J. Parker — 566 - 7647

## PARKING BAN AT CLUB?

At a recent Township Committee meeting, Mayor Traphagen asked Charles Dryden, police chairman, to survey Lloyd Road in connection with a no parking ban.

The action came after Robert G. Taylor, a trustee of the Strathmore Bath and Tennis Club, advised the mayor that club trustees will not permit public parking in the club's lot once the club has been transferred to them by Levitt. The club trustees can not allow continued parking because liability on the club would be too great.

Taylor also asked the mayor to have a study made of the possibility of a public parking lot for bus commuters in the general area. He suggested the possible temporary use of the firehouse site.

## SEE BAIRD MARIONETTES

The Strathmore Branch of the National Council of Jewish Women, in conjunction with the Greater Red Bank Section, will present the Baird Marionettes in "The World of Puppets" on Sunday afternoon, March 15th, at the Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School Theater.

For tickets and information, call Elissa Leffer, 566 - 8522.

## Protect Your Home

(Continued from Page 1)

won't lock unless you turn the key. In addition, a chain latch should always be used.

The lock on the sliding glass doors is easy to forget, especially if covered by draperies, but if a wooden or metal rod is placed on the inside track, the sliding door can't be opened even if unlocked.

When going away at night, always leave a light on somewhere in the house and in the garage. The cost is minimal and might save you a good deal more. An automatic timing device such as a clock-radio will turn a lamp on at night if you are going to be away all day.

If you will be away for more than 48 hours, notify the Matawan Police at 566 - 2057 or 566 - 2626. Give them your name and address, where you can be reached if necessary, and the dates you are leaving and returning. They will try to keep an eye on things, but be sure to call them as soon as you return. In addition to this, also stop newspaper and milk deliveries, and arrange for someone to collect your mail. If in the winter, try to arrange also for snow removal. Any sign that no one is at home is a sure invitation to the prowler.

If a burglar wakes you up, a noise made by you, such as a creaking bed or a thump on the wall will usually prompt him to leave much quicker than he came in. Don't try to confront him as he may be armed and may not hesitate to shoot. Call the police as soon after as possible.

Captain Wallace also spoke of a new training program for the "special" police on the Matawan Force, which will teach them required police techniques as well as proper police behavior. If successful with the Specials, the courses will be expanded to provide continuing knowledge of advanced police methods to our regular men on the Force.

## HELPERS NEEDED FOR STREET SURVEY

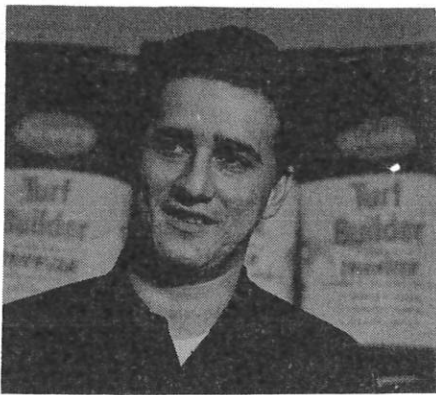
Philip Basso, construction engineer of the Streets and Safety Committee, has appealed for civil engineers or interested residents to join his survey committee.

Basso will make a survey of streets, curbs, sidewalks and grading. Anyone who would like to help may contact him at 566 - 3455.

## REGISTER NOW TO VOTE

In order to vote in the Primary, you must register by March 12th. You must have resided in the State for 6 months and in the Township for 40 days prior to April 21st. Register to exercise your right to vote as a citizen.

You may register every day at the Township Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. Special times for registration have been set up in the Strathmore Grammar School each Thursday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. through and including March 12.



(Tony) Scotts Lawn Counselor

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