

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

Late Fall 2006

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

Of the Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA) and the Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA)

WHERE: Bel Pre Elementary School, Rippling Brook Dr.

WHEN: Thursday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m.

WHY: To discuss important community issues and elect Board members to both the SBPCA and BPRA.

The strength of our community depends upon the active involvement of our residents. So please come out and let your voice be heard.

Directory:

Mark Your Calendar.....	1
Prescription Discount Cards.....	1
SBPCA Board.....	2
President's Corner.....	3
Linda Bea	
BPRA News.....	4
Ed Frantz	
Community Developments.....	5
School News.....	6
Scouting for Food.....	6
50 Plus Club News.....	7
Trading Post.....	8

Free Prescription Discount Cards to County Residents

Montgomery County residents who do not have prescription drug coverage can use the Montgomery County Rx prescription drug discount cards when filling prescriptions. The Montgomery Rx program provides FREE prescription discount cards to County residents. The cards are easy to use and offer average savings of 20% off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs. Since the program began, County residents have saved more than \$2.6 million on the price of prescription drugs.

The cards may be used by all County residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage, and are accepted at more than 120 pharmacies in Montgomery County.

Residents can find the FREE cards at all County libraries, regional service centers and at participating pharmacies throughout Montgomery County. For more information go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov and click on Montgomery Rx or call 240-777-1245.

Strathmore-Bel Pre Civil Association (SBPCA)

P.O. Box 6836
Silver Spring, MD 20916

E-Mail:Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org

The Civic Association web site www.strathmore-belpre.org

Annual SBPCA membership: \$12.00

Civic Association Officers

President:	Linda Bea	301-460-0497
1 st Vice President	Lilla Hammond	301-871-5074
2 nd Vice President	Reuben Lev	301-460-1048
Treasurer	Charlie Bea	301-460-0497
Recording Sect.	Dawn Greeley	301-603-8055

The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Genesis Center on Layhill Road.

Civic Association Board of Directors

Max Bronstein	301-460-3117	Maurice Potosky	301-460-9008
Elliot Chabot	301-871-1113	Dan Thomas	301-871-2624
Ron Daub	301-460-0929	Arlene Thorne	301-871-5013
Bill Hammond	301-871-5074	Harry Klapper	301-460-9645

The Bugle

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Editor:	Dawn Greeley	301-603-8055
Layout:	Sue Hoyer	301-603-9559
Advertising:	Harry Klapper	301-460-9645
Circulation:	North-side: Louisa Hoar	301-871-2954
	South-side: Dan Mann	301-460-3330

Send information for the *Bugle* to: dgreeley8055@comcast.net or to 13422 Rippling Brook Drive by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

The President's Corner

By Linda Bea,
President, SBPCA Board of Directors

Dear Neighbors,

During this election season, the Civic Association has tried to provide information to help keep you informed of some of the issues and candidates running in our area. We co-sponsored a Candidates' Forum featuring the candidates for the Maryland House of Delegates, as well as the School Board Candidates' Forum. We have links to voter information on the website. Voting is our right and our obligation. Please exercise your right to vote this season.

Locally within our community we are also having elections. The annual meeting is scheduled for November 16. The Civic Association will be providing an update of our activities over the past year and will be presenting our 2006 Slate.

The Civic Association is separate and distinct from the Recreational Association, which maintains recreational facilities and monitors the covenants of the community. Membership to the BPRA is maintained through your annual pool assessment.

The Civic Association is an independent organization with very different objectives and goals. The Civic Association represents you and the community on a number of activities and issues with a goal toward improving the quality of life in our community and the neighboring area. We monitor and participate in zoning issues and development projects that could affect our neighborhood. We represent our community in larger associations. We sponsor events during the year to build community spirit, such as the yard sale and July 4th activities. Membership to the Civic Association is voluntary and on an annual basis.

The Board members and Officers of the Civic Association serve a three-year term. The Slate is presented and approved during the annual meeting. This year we have three openings for the Board. No officer positions are expiring. The 2006 Slate is as follows:

Candidate	Position	Term
Elliot Chabot	Board	2006-2009
Open	Board	2006-2009
Open	Board	2006-2009

If you would like to serve on the Civic Association, or know or someone you would like to nominate, please contact a Board member. Joining the Civic Association is a great way to meet new friends and participate in our community.

Thank you,
Linda Bea

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

The Civic Association web site www.strathmore-belpre.org is loaded with valuable news and information about our community, county and state. You can see and download photos from the July 4th Parade and picnic, get the latest Dolphins news (as well as a history of the team), or view back issues of the Bugle. You can also easily access links to various County Agencies, Schools and resources that can help you with everything from reporting a broken streetlight to trash pick up. There are also helpful tips on public health/safety and emergency preparedness. So check it out!

BPRA News

Dear Neighbors,

Fall is here and it is turning out to be a busy season for The Association's Board. In late September, the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") audited the Association's federal tax returns for the two most recent tax years. This audit was triggered by a letter from one of our community members. After several days of meetings and discussions between Association officers and an IRS Auditor, the Auditor reaffirmed the Association's tax exemption and reconfirmed that the Association has been relying on the correct IRS code section to support that tax-exempt status. Given the social and recreational nature of our tax exemption, the auditor recommended that we focus more of our efforts and resources on social and recreational activities for the community. This recommendation struck me as particularly ironic given the recent disagreements over using Association funds to support the swim team. The Auditor did find that, given the particular code section our exemption falls under, the Association needed to file adjusted tax returns for the past two years and pay tax on guest fees received and bank interest earned in excess of \$1,000 per year. The Board has made those adjusted filings and paid approximately \$2,000 in total to the IRS to cover all taxes owed for those two years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brenda Henry and John Adamo for all of their time and effort in working with the IRS to settle this issue.

As for normal business, the metal fence surrounding the children's swimming pool has been repainted. In addition, The Board has been hard at work preparing for much-needed plumbing and electrical work inside the bathhouse. We have collected estimates and expect to have plumbing and electrical contractors selected and starting work within the next few weeks. Once that work has been completed, The Board expects to have paint and carpentry work performed so that all bathhouse renovations will be completed well before swim season starts next May.

We will discuss all of these (and other) issues in more detail at the Association's Annual Meeting, which will be held at Bel Pre Elementary School at 7:00 on Thursday, November 16th. Election of Board members will also be held at this meeting, so please come out and vote. For those of you who cannot make it, I hope you all have wonderful fall and holiday seasons. And please remember that the Association's Board meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 at the Bel Pre Elementary School library, and the Pool Pavilion during summer months.

Cheers!

Ed Frantz, President
Bel Pre Recreational Association

Recreational Association Officers

President:	Edward Frantz	301-603-8055
Vice President:	Dan Keating	301-603-8162
Treasurer:	John Adamo	301-460-3275
Secretary:	Chris Swan	301-871-1113
Administrative Assistant:	Brenda Henry	301-871-6298
Pavilion Usage:	Louisa Hoar	301-871-2954

Recreational Association Trustees

John Bogasky	301-460-1604
Ted Bechtol	301-871-3679
Lou Ann Rector	301-603-8805
Paulette Ladas	301-460-4740

Board Meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month, 7:30 at Bel Pre Elementary School and during summer months at the Pool Pavilion

Community Developments

GLEANINGS from MEETINGS

By Max Bronstein

Montgomery County Civic Federation: The September meeting heard a presentation on affordable housing by John Carter of Park & Planning and Joy Flood of the Housing Opportunities Commission. MPDUs (moderately priced dwelling units) are a large part of this program which has been ongoing for 31 years. Of the 8,527 sale units created, 1,800 remain, and of the 3,520 original rental units, 1,150 remain. New laws keep sale units in the program for 30 years, and rental units for 99 years. Also discussed was the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program for very low income sectors. This is a Federal program which is 27 years old. It is administered by the Housing Opportunities Commission, funded primarily by the Federal Government, with a small contribution from the County. Other programs include: Personal Living Quarters; Workforce Housing; and Accessory Apartments.

Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board: The Montgomery County Cable Office was the main topic at the September meeting. The Board learned that this office administers and negotiates services as well as handling complaints from customers. There are presently two franchisees, Comcast and RCN. The Cable Office is currently reviewing Verizon's application for a franchise. On another subject, an interesting statistic came from the Brookings Institute. It was that Wheaton-Glenmont had a 39.6% foreign born population and Aspen Hill's number was 30.5%. Also discussed was a proposal by Metro for a joint development over the Forest Glen Kiss & Ride lot. However, the Development Policy Office feels they need to slow down development there until an all-encompassing study of the ICC's effect on traffic in surrounding communities is complete. Hmm, wonder why that wasn't considered for the Indian Spring development?

Office of Zoning & Administrative Hearings: The Hearing Examiner's decision on the Kirby/Vedanta development at Homecrest & Bel Pre was published recently. The decision went along with the developer's most recent plan. This decision still must be approved by the County Council. The layout will place 14 single family homes on the western portion along with 6 MPDU's configured in 2 structures of 3 townhouses each. The center area is the location for Vedanta's 6,500 square foot worship center, which will adjoin their current buildings. In the northeast corner will be 6 single family homes located along a northern road which will traverse the entire length of the development. A group of 12 units set up as 6 duplexes will be located to the west of the Moose Lodge and toward Bel Pre Road. We are estimating the

single family homes will be priced in the \$750,000 range. The current plan represents a tremendous improvement over the one that was initially proposed two years ago. The original plan called for construction of 128 dwelling units, including 101 apartments along Homecrest Road. Input and testimony from neighbors and nearby communities, including our own, has had a significant impact on this project. We were successful in altering this development largely because in zoning cases, there is the opportunity for sworn testimony, rebuttal and cross-examination, as well as testimony before a hearing examiner, before the final decision is reached by the County Council. We are currently working to make sure that the same procedures are followed with regard to the review process for large developments.

Indian Spring/Poplar Run Development: Hearings took place on September 7, 14, & 21. Our community urged the Planning Board to coordinate construction with the completion of the underpass at Randolph Road under Georgia Ave. The decision handed down by the Planning Board, however, will allow the developer to make payments in conjunction with certain stages of the development. The total payment is based on the amount of traffic the development will generate. The money paid by the developer will go toward a portion of the cost of the underpass. If the underpass is not funded in a timely manner, then the funds will go toward the cost of adding lanes on Georgia Avenue. We voiced objections to the latter action, since when the underpass is built the lanes added will be torn out, leading to unnecessary traffic interruptions and additional costs to taxpayers. Other aspects of the decision were in line with our requests, including the extension of Tivoli Lake Boulevard and Foggy Glen Drive which will ease traffic flow onto Layhill Road. A school site reservation was also made part of the plan. While I have doubts about the wisdom of parts of this decision, as you may have heard this elsewhere, but it's not over until a fully built person sings!

Park & Planning Hearing on Procedures for Development Review: This very enjoyable hearing, which was sparsely attended (during a heavy storm) by myself, several members of other communities, and 10 lawyers, focused on ways to improve the hearing process. Most of the participants made very similar suggestions which speaks to the premise that there is much room for improvement. This is still a work in progress so there may be other hearings and or requests for written input. Wow, there were a lot of gleanings, so, stay tuned for more notes from the Bugle!

SCHOOL NEWS

SAT Dates and Deadlines 2006/07:

<u>Test date</u>	<u>Deadline for registration</u>
10/14/06	9/12/06
11/04/06	9/29/06
12/2/06	11/1/06
1/27/07	12/20/06
3/10/07	2/2/07
5/5/07	3/29/07
6/2/07	4/27/07

The website for registering is
www.collegeboard.com

MCPS Call Center

Do you have a question about the Montgomery County Public School system? The MCPS Call Center is your one-stop resource for accurate and timely answers to questions about school operations, programs and other general school system information. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, and provides answers in English and Spanish. The Call Center can also assist callers speaking other languages

such as Cambodian, Chinese, French, Korean and Vietnamese, and is accessible to individuals with disabilities via the relay system.

The number is 301-309-MCPS (6277).

MCPS Quicknotes

Quicknotes is your on-line source for information about Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). Available in six languages, Quicknotes will provide you with up-to-date news and information about the school system through the convenience of e-mail.

Quicknotes offers subscribers the following options:

- **Monthly E-mail Newsletter** – containing the latest, important information about MCPS.
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- **Topics of Interest** – news updates on topics in your areas of interest.

Sign up by visiting: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/quicknotes/>

Scouting for Food to be Held First Two Saturday's in November

Once again, the Boy Scouts in our National Capital Area Council will hit the streets nearly 70,000 strong in support of Scouting for Food. The mission of the project is to have Scouts participate in the collection of food items to be given to needy people and families within our communities. WUSA TV Channel 9 news and Safeway grocery stores are our partners in this effort.

In our own neighborhood, Boy Scout Troop 763 will once again be putting the white plastic Scouting for Food bags on everyone's front door on Saturday morning, November 4, 2006. We will return the following Saturday, November 11, 2006 (Veterans' Day), starting at 10 am, to collect the filled bags. Last year, for the first time, we collected more than 100 bags of canned and boxed food from our neighborhood! All of the food we collect will go to the Capital Area Food Bank. Scouting for Food collects approximately half of all food donated to the Capital Area Food Bank. Overall in the National Capital Area, the Boy Scouts last year collected nearly 1 million pounds of food - we hope to top 1 million pounds this year.

For questions on Scouting for Food, or if you are interested in joining Boy Scout Troop 763, please contact William Totten at telephone # (301) 871-3388 or e-mail wandst@juno.com.

50 + Club News

The 50+ Club has completed its summer program of dinner meetings at the pavilion of the swimming pool. We thank the BPRA and the swimming pool staff for its assistance in making our meetings a success, and thanks to the SBPCA for the use of the new folding tables and chairs. The Club will begin the post-summer season with its first meeting on Wednesday, November 15, at the home of Iris and Ellis Hyman. During this season, meetings will be held monthly at members' homes.

Our activities for the fall include a trip to the O Street Mansion for brunch and tour of the facilities on September 18. On October 6, we will attend Toby's Dinner Theater for "Kiss Me Kate" and on December 6 for the musical version of "Miracle on 34th Street". While the O Street Mansion and October theater party will have occurred by this *Bugle* publication, there will be an opportunity to sign up for the December show. When Toby's announces the 2007 season and we have their dates, we will announce the schedule in a forthcoming issue of the *Bugle*.

We have signed up for a White House tour for the Christmas season, but that date will come at the last minute. If possible we will put in on the Strathmore-Bel Pre website.

We are sad to inform everyone that member Shirley James passed away the week of September 13 from cancer.

For members of the community who wish additional information about the 50+ Club and its activities, please contact Charlotte Potosky at 301-460-9008.

Maurice and Charlotte Potosky

Wishing All A Happy and Safe Fall Season



The Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

The Trading Post



For Sale: Fireplace Glass Doors -- \$50.00. Used fireplace glass doors with a mesh screen. The frame is a brass finish, size 44 & 1/2 inches high X 28 & 1/2 inches wide. The glass doors are bifold with a beveled glass design to them. This item comes from a masonry fireplace. Please call (301) 603-8233 and leave a message.

For Sale: Entertainment Unit -- \$1,000. Three section, white-washed pine entertainment unit with cathedral doors. 107 inches wide by 78 inches tall. Excellent Condition. Call John or Sally at (301) 871-7386.

For Sale: Speakers -- \$50 or best offer. Advent Legacy oak-trimmed stereo speakers, 28 X 15. Call John or Sally (303) 871-7386.

For Sale: Closet Doors - Best offer. Two, brand new, folding closet doors. Brass and beautiful. CUSTOM MADE FOR THE ENIDCOTT DRESSING ROOM, they are heavy with top track, so they don't fall off the track One glass mirror cracked, easily replaced. Call (301) 460-1979 or e-mail Kesslermle@aol.com.

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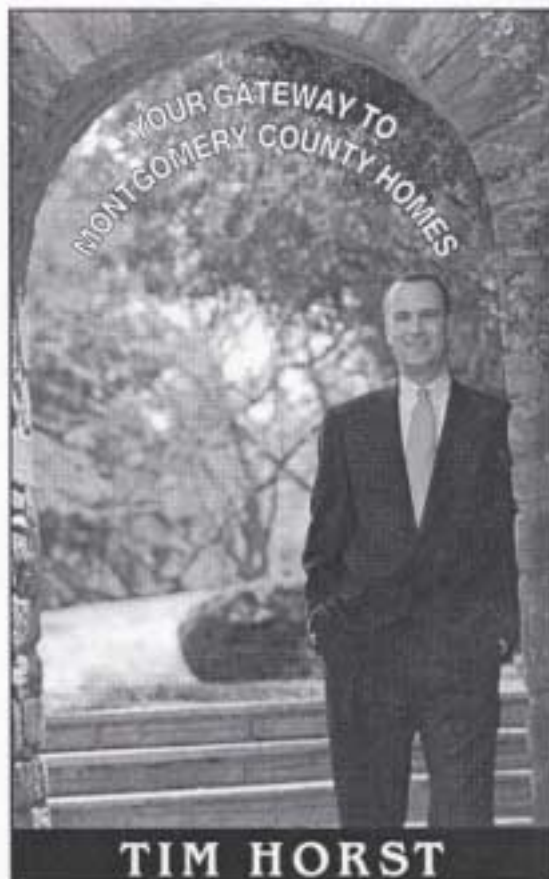
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2006-2007 MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR



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2006

Aug. 28.....	First Day of School
Sept. 4.....	Holiday-Labor Day
Sept. 12.....	Holiday-Gubernatorial Primary
Sept. 27.....	Early Release
Oct. 2.....	Yom Kippur No School
Oct. 20.....	MSTA Convention No School
Nov. 1.....	Professional Day No School
Nov. 7.....	General Election Day No School
Nov. 9.....	Parent Conferences Early Release K-8
Nov. 10.....	Report Cards Early Release K-8
Nov. 23-24.....	Holiday—Thanksgiving
Dec. 25.....	Holiday-Christmas
Dec. 26-29.....	Winter Break

2007

Jan. 1.....	Holiday-New Years Day
Jan. 15.....	Holiday-Martin L. King Jr., Day
Jan. 22.....	Professional Day No School
Feb. 19.....	Holiday-Presidents' Day
Feb. 27.....	Early Release Day K-12
Mar. 27.....	Professional Day No School
Apr. 2-5.....	Spring Break
Apr. 6 & 9.....	Holiday-Easter & Passover
May 28.....	Holiday-Memorial Day
Jun. 14.....	Last Day of School-Early Release

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ELECTRONICALLY?**

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BPRA homeowners who need copies of the Bel Pre - Strathmore Covenants or other Bel Pre Rec. Assoc. Documents in order to sell their homes should either: 1) contact the Civil File room in person. There is a cost for duplication. This office can be found on the first floor of the Circuit Court Building in Rockville. Refer to Civil Desk: Homeowner Records, HOA 268 filed on March 28, 1989, or 2) call Community Paperworks and ask for a resale package - approximate cost \$75). Their phone number is (301) 309-8977.

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