

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

Spring 2008

HUGE COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Spring is here, and that means it's time again for the annual Strathmore-Bel Pre community yard sale. It's a fun and easy way to turn that unwanted clutter into cash. We take care of all the advertising, and bring a large pool of potential buyers to you. It is also the perfect place to find needed items for your home at great prices.

WHEN: Saturday, May 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (rain date, Saturday June 7th)

WHERE: BPRA pool parking lot (on Bethpage Lane).

TO REGISTER: Fill out and return the registration form in this issue, along with a check for the registration fee of \$10.00 per household. Tables (including two chairs) will be available FREE OF CHARGE while they last. Numbers are limited so we recommend that you request a table when you register.

Proceeds from registration fees will help fund Civic Association events and services (like the July 4th parade and picnic). The Civic Association will also be donating HALF OF ALL PROCEEDS TO THE DOLPHINS SWIM TEAM – GO DOLPHINS!

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YARD SALE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE/EMAIL: _____

of Spaces (\$10 per family): _____ I would like a Table _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Make checks payable to SBPCA and mail to: P.O.Box 6836, Silver Spring, Md 20916.

Strathmore-Bel Pre Civil Association (SBPCA)

P.O. Box 6836
Silver Spring, MD 20916

[E-Mail:Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org](mailto:Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org)

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

Annual SBPCA membership: \$12.00

The SBPCA Board of Directors meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Genesis Center Nursing Home on Layhill Road. All meetings are open to the public.

Civic Association Officers

President:	Reuben Lev	301-460-1048
Vice President:	Bill Hammond	301-871-5074
Treasurer	Charlie Bea	301-460-0497
Recording Sect.	Dawn Greeley	301-603-8055

Civic Association Board of Directors

Linda Bea	301-460-0497	Maurice Potosky	301-460-9008
Max Bronstein	301-460-3117	Dan Thomas	301-871-2624
Elliot Chabot	301-871-1113	Arlene Thorne	301-871-5013
Ron Daub	301-460-0929	Harry Klapper	301-460-9645
Lilla Hammond	301-871-5074	Marilyn Lev	301-460-1048
Chris Swan	301-871-1113		

The Bugle

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**By Reuben Lev, President
Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association Board of Directors**

Dear Strathmore-Bel Pre Neighbor,

It's that time of year again to think about our Community Yard Sale, and also, our July 4th festivities (volunteers needed!!).

Please note that this year's Yard Sale will be May 31st, NOT Memorial Day weekend-a change from previous years.

Our Civic Association-yours and this Board's-deals with issues and concerns that impact our community from outside the community. For example, we have been involved regarding the Henson Trail and the ICC. Our Board members continue to be involved in questioning, debating, and bringing to the Community's attention issues that impact us due to the continuing growth of development around and nearby with the resultant negative impact on traffic, school crowding, availability of health facilities, etc.

Please remember, we are all volunteers. Like yourselves, we all have demands on our precious, personal time. However, we all take pride in our lovely and friendly community. If you are aware of a matter affecting all of us, do bring it to our attention...but also, please help by volunteering to share in our community's response to those concerns and issues.

Dangers of Overcrowded Houses

By Max Bronstein

A recent address to the Montgomery County Civic Federation by county Fire Chief Tom Carr revealed some very alarming information about the perils inherent in overcrowded residences.

In our own community there are obvious examples of homes containing far too many residents. Scattered about in Strathmore-Bel Pre are locations with a large number of vehicles including work trucks and the like, parked in driveways and on the street in front of the homes. This writer has seen situations where the garage held 2 vehicles, 4 more were parked in the driveway, and 1 or 2 more were parked on the street in front of the home. Residents in other parts of our neighborhood have mentioned like observations. These homes that obviously house too many residents are not only in possible violation of county housing codes, they are dangerous for their residents.

Fire Chief Tom Carr related experiences where basement spaces were rented and their residents utilized hot plates for cooking, often attached to electric power by unsafe extension cords. In addition to the fire hazards caused by the latter, many tenants typically locked their various spaces. If a fire occurred, responding firefighters were slowed down by having to break through the secured spaces. Chief Carr related that a recent fire in the Muncaster Mill area resulted in 5 fatalities among those who could not exit the lower level quickly enough. While this is an extreme example, another fire in a nearby community disclosed that the residence housed 16 individuals. When we bear in mind that fires may spread to adjacent homes, overcrowded residences pose a risk to the entire neighborhood.

In addition to the fire hazards, excessive vehicles on our streets pose additional problems. Picture overflow vehicles parked on both sides of a narrow street, near a curve or bend in the road. This type of situation could well be a serious challenge for emergency vehicles, school buses, and vehicles in general, particularly in bad weather.

Our main purpose for writing this article is to alert residents in overcrowded homes to the dangers which they are exposing themselves and others to.

BPRA News

BPRA President's Message By Ed Frantz

Dear Neighbors,

We are rapidly approaching the opening of the summer swim season and the Recreational Association's Board is keeping very busy making sure that the pool is ready to open. We have been going through and acting on a pre-opening checklist of needed maintenance items. The largest items include a fresh white coating for the bottom of the baby pool. This measure will ensure that the pool passes County inspection and will provide a smoother surface that not be as rough on small feet as it has been in the past few seasons. The main pool is also being outfitted with a new mechanical chair and a new diving board.

The Board bid out our pool management contract this spring (as the existing management contract had expired). We received three sets of bids and the Board is now (at the time I am writing this) finalizing a new contract. Georgetown Aquatics, the winning bidder, was not only the lowest priced bidder, but also the bidder that the Association knows best as Georgetown has been our pool management company for the past several years. We look forward to continuing to work with our pool manager to ensure that all of our Members who use the pool facilities do so safely and enjoyably.

Please remember that the Board holds regular monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Bel Pre Elementary School library from September through April, and at the pool pavilion from May through August. All of these meetings are open to every member and we welcome community participation!

Cheers!

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

Sue Hoye	301-603-9559
Gladstone James	301-384-6535
Gordon Klang	301-460-0367
Lou Ann Rector	301-603-8805
Board Meetings are held the 4 th Monday of each month, 7:30 at Bel Pre Elementary School and during summer months at the Pool Pavilion	

Golf Tournament to Benefit Kennedy High School

The John F. Kennedy High School Educational Foundation would like announce the First Annual Cavalier Classic Golf Tournament. Proceeds of the tournament will benefit the JFK High School Educational Foundation. Prizes will be many and varied!

Date: Friday, October 17th

Time: Shotgun Start at 9:00am

Location: Hampshire Greens Golf Course

Cost: \$150 per person, \$500 per foursome

Registration cost includes green fees, cart, lunch, and tournament T-shirt. To Register online, go to: www.CavalierClassic.com. For more information contact info@CavalierClassic.com : Richard Glover, Tournament Director - 240-299-7188 Richard_Glover@yahoo.com. Other Contacts - Larry Eiser (President of the Board) L_Eiser@hotmail.com or Greg Bowman (Academy Coordinator) at Gregory_H_Bowman@mcpsmd.org

Community Developments

GLEANINGS from MEETINGS

By Max Bronstein

Montgomery County Civic Federation: The February meeting featured a discussion of the Base Realignment & Closure Program or BRAC. This Defense Department program will affect our county as the Walter Reed Army Medical Center will close and its personnel, patients, visitors and activities will be transferred to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. As we all know, the Center is across from N.I.H. on Wisconsin Ave./Rockville Pike. Despite the traffic mess this relocation will cause, the Navy Department maintains that the Federal Government is not obligated to help alleviate the traffic problems caused by its action. Since that February meeting, some Federal funding has been discussed.

Also discussed was the plight of a number of Sandy Spring residents who were denied building permits for remodeling or replacing homes. They live along a private road known as Farm Road, which has mysteriously disappeared from the records of the MNCPPC, and the latter has refused to issue permits as the residents "have no street address".

The March meeting featured an informative address by Fire Chief Tom Carr. According to Carr, 105,000 calls are handled annually, of which about 20,000 are fire calls, and about 80,000 are emergency medical calls. Of the 20,000 fire calls, only about 1,000 require the use of water to put out the fire. There were 13 fire deaths in 2007, of which 11 were seniors. More about his remarks is mentioned in the article on overcrowded houses.

Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board: The January meeting hosted Scott Gutschick from Montgomery County's Fire and Rescue Services. His remarks covered the following points. Station 25 at Bel Pre & Connecticut services Leisure World and has the area's highest number of calls. Coming projects include an addition to Station 25; relocating Station 18 from Georgia & Randolph about 2 blocks north on Georgia Ave.; moving the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad to Georgia & Arcola; and a renovation and addition to Station 21 at Veirs Mill & Parkland.

In February the Board heard a report by Councilmember Nancy Floreen. The main challenge foreseen was an anticipated large budget shortfall which currently is about \$300 million.

The meeting of March 18th featured a presentation by Rick Dimont from the county's Division of

Solid Waste Services who briefed the Board about hazardous waste disposal. Also, Fred Boyd, Senior Planner from MNCPPC's planning staff told the meeting about a limited Master plan amendment for a property at Georgia Ave. & Blueridge Ave. The BB&T Building is on that corner. The building is in a commercial zone, but its parking lot is not. The amendment to add the parking lot area into the commercial zone, if approved, would allow for a "planned development" there, including retail and residential units on that enlarged commercial property. There have been discussions wherein the Safeway at Georgia & Reedie would move and place a new store at the Blueridge location. That would in turn allow for a large new development at Georgia & Reedie. (Mom, are we at total gridlock yet?) The matter may be before the Planning Board on May 8th.

County Council Budget Hearings: A very interesting hearing took place on April 10th. There were 29 people listed to speak, all of whom received 3 minutes for their remarks, and the great majority represented organizations. All of the speakers, except for 3 or so, asked for more funds, or that their funding not be cut. Marvin Weinman, from the Montgomery County Taxpayer's League, and Chuck Lapinski representing the Montgomery County Civic Federation, were the only ones there advocating in favor of fiscal prudence and representing all of the taxpayers. The latter 2 individuals have been speaking out for YEARS, all the while pointing out that overly generous pay and benefits packages would compound and the county would find itself struggling to maintain our services and infrastructure, without severe increases in taxation on property and income. Now the chickens have come home to roost. I was there for most of the session and heard. The most telling moments of Mr. Weinman's excellent testimony came when he was questioned by 4 members of the council. The dialogue with the council members spanned about 10 minutes. A treasured moment came when many cheers burst forth from the audience as Mr. Weinman alluded to a line spoken by Jack Nicholson in the movie "A Few Good Men". The line was "You Can't Handle the Truth". Now, Mr. Weinman only referred to the words and did not utter them. However, the message was clear. Many members of the council seemed to be unable to face the fact that past poor decisions by the council are a major factor underlying our county's budget problems.

Stay tuned for more notes from *The Bugle!*

Dolphins Swim Team News

CALLING ALL KIDS: The Strathmore-Bel Pre Dolphins swim team invites members of the community between the ages of 5 and 18 to join the swim team and enjoy the teamwork, comradeship and competition this summer. The team will start up right after the pool opens on Labor Day Weekend.

MARK YOU CALENDARS:

-Sunday, May 18th – **Car wash** to benefit the Dolphins at Sandy Spring Bank (corner of Layhill Road) from 1:00 -3:00.

-Tuesday May 27th is the **first meeting for swimmers beginning at 4:00 pm.**

-Friday, May 30th is the **first parent's meeting at the pool pavilion at 6:00 pm.**

-Friday, June 13th swim team hosts an **ice cream social** for the entire community at the pool pavilion at 6:30 pm.
ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS WELCOME

to come out to enjoy the treats and join neighbors in celebrating the beginning of summer.

SWIM MEETS: The first swim meet will be Saturday morning June 14, an intra-squad event called the Blue-White meet. The regular meets against other swim teams will be the next five Saturday mornings. The PrinceMont Swim League schedule has not yet been released to show which weekends will be home meets or away meets.

For more information regarding swim team membership or events, contact: Paul Stagnito (301) 871-6474 or Ellen Wesley (301) 460-7440.

The Swim Team would like to thank all the community members who have responded to our annual fundraising appeal. You can still send in contributions using the letters dropped off at your home or with this attached certificate in *The Bugle*. We'll see you at the pool this summer!

2008 Membership Form

Please mail to: Maribel Pinero, Treasurer
SBP Swim Team Association, Inc.
14001 Blazer Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20906



Strathmore Bel Pre Swim Team Association, Inc.

☐ Yes, I want to help the SBP Dolphins continue to serve our community's children by becoming an association member! Make me a member at this level:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 White Ribbon | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Bronze Medal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Red Ribbon | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Silver Medal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Blue Ribbon | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000+ Gold Medal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ | <i>Friend of the Dolphins</i> |

Name: _____

☐ Alumni Member: Check here if you are a former swimmer or a relative of a former swimmer

Address: _____

☐ Yes, please add my email address to the Dolphins mailing list

E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to the SBP Swim Team Association, Inc.

☐ I wish to remain anonymous

50+ Club News

The 50 Plus Club at Strathmore-Bel Pre will be entering its summer season of activities. The monthly meetings will be poolside, under the pavilion, at the Recreation Association pool on Wednesdays, May 28, June 25, July 23, and August 27. The meetings begin at 6 PM and include dinner supplied by the members of the Club. We enjoy an evening of camaraderie as we plan additional activities and discuss issues of community interest. We closed out the Spring meeting season with a meeting at the home of Victor and Betty Granatstein. All that attended had a grand time. We also saw "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at Toby's, at the end of April.

Planned new activities include a trip to Toby's Dinner Theater on August 20 to experience the show "All Shook Up", the story of "Twelfth Night" set to the music of Elvis Presley. In planning is the annual Dupont Circle-Kalorama Museum Walk scheduled for Sunday, June 8. The walk includes free admission to six museums in the Dupont Circle area, including the Phillips, the Textile Museum, and Woodrow Wilson House.

For further information about our activities, please call Charlotte Potosky at 301-460-9008.

Charlotte Potosky

BEING NEIGHBORLY ON THE HENSON TRAIL

As the weather warms up, more and more people are out enjoying the lovely new Matthew Henson trail that now graces our neighborhood. Since the Civic Association has recently heard some complaints about trail users cutting through the backyards of adjacent houses to access the trail, we would like to issue this friendly reminder and request: if you use the trail, please enter at officially designated spots and respect the privacy and property of your neighbors living along the trail route. In addition, the Henson Greenway is home to many "watch listed" endangered plants. To help protect the unique habitats that surround the trail we would also ask that you please stay on the designated path when you use the trail.

Bugle readers are no doubt aware of the reservations the Civil Association expressed regarding construction of the trail. Now that the trail exists, it is our sincere hope that it will become an amenity that will add value to our homes and provide an opportunity for strengthening the bonds of community between us. Board members have been in constant contact with Park officials to ensure that construction debris is promptly removed from the trail, that plant and animal species within the Greenway are minimally threatened, and that the trail is properly patrolled by Park Police. Public officials can only do so much, however, and as community residents WE are largely the ones with the power to ensure that the trail will be an asset that benefits the entire community. So let us all please be considerate of our neighbors, respectful of our environment and diligent about reporting any misuse or abuse of the trail to the proper park authorities.

"In Progress" and Non-Emergency Calls: 301-949-3010

Emergency Calls: 301-949-8010

Day Shift Patrol Commander (8 am – 4 pm) Lt. Harvey Baker

Office: 301-929-2729, Cell: 240-876-6361

Email: harvey.baker@mncppc-mc.org

Evening Shift Patrol Commander (4 pm – 12 midnight) Lt. David McClintock

Office: 301-929-2753, Cell: 240-876-6759

Email: david.mcclintock@mncppc-mc.org

Midnight Shift Patrol Commander (12 midnight – 8 am) Lt. Antonio DeVaul

Office: 301-929-2731, Cell: 240-417-7993

Email: antonio.devaul@mncppc-mc.org

The Trading Post

FOR SALE: TREADMILL Like new PRO-Form 775EKG treadmill for sale. \$395. Please call Al or Lee at 301-460 0996

VACATION RENTAL: We'd love to share our Canaan Valley home with neighbors who enjoy natural beauty and outdoor recreation. Our secluded 3 bedroom house with hot tub sits on a small lake with a view of the mountains and offers direct access to a national wildlife refuge and Dolly Sods wilderness. It is about a 4 hour drive from here through beautiful countryside. No pets or smokers. Call John or Sally at 301 871 7386 or email jldeupree@gmail.com for availability and rates.

WALKING GROUP: Stay At Home Mom's. Would you like to join in a Spring/ Summer Walking Group? A great opportunity to make new friends and have little play dates too. Contact Carla @ 301-871-8833.

FOR SALE: FIREPLACE DOORS. Brass with glass bi-fold doors. Excellent condition. Best Offer. Call (303) 603-8055, Dawn or Ed.

FOR SALE: MICROWAVE OVEN. White, Magic Chef , 990W microwave. Excellent Condition. Best Offer. Call (303) 603-8055, Dawn or Ed.

PET SITTING: Need a Petsitter? Call Alex at 301-871-7014. Experienced. References. Available 7 days a week.

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I know the neighborhood; I have
lived here for many years



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301-537-4432

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301-468-1600



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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.

Strathmore Bel Pre Community ... 2007 Market Review!

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Average Sale Price	\$370,175	\$435,563	\$525,455	\$520,894	\$518,493
Lowest Sale Price	\$315,000	\$385,000	\$429,500	\$460,000	\$410,000
Highest Sale Price	\$450,000	\$500,000	\$639,000	\$699,999	\$665,000
Average # of Days on Mkt.	27	22	16	68	75
Sales per Year	36	33	28	26	15

If you are thinking of buying or selling, or would like additional information, please call ...



Lilla Hammond, CRS, GRI
Long and Foster Real Estate, Inc.
6000 Executive Boulevard, North Bethesda, MD 20852
C. 301-518-7818 O. 301-468-0606

*If your property is already listed, this is not a solicitation for your listing.
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