

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

Winter 2010

Issue: 10.01

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Nancy Bechtol, President SBPCA

February 1, 2010

Welcome to our winter edition of the Bugle. If you are reading this, most likely our community volunteers were able to plow through the snow to deliver this edition to your mailbox or front door. What a winter this has been, so I am sure this delivery was no easy task! I enjoyed seeing many of you at our November 19, 2009 annual Civic Association and Recreation Association meeting at Bel Pre Elementary School. We had a large turnout which was wonderful. During the Civic Association portion of the meeting we introduced Officer Hidayat from the Montgomery County police and he spoke about Neighborhood Watch programs in the county. He encouraged us to update our Watch program in our community. We also had a Park Police Officer speak from MNCPPC about bike trail safety. Both presentations were most informative, and we are hoping some of our neighbors will volunteer to update their street's Neighborhood Watch programs this coming year.

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We re-elected several board members at the meeting this Fall to another three year term to include Lilla Hammond, Marilyn Lev, Elliot Chabot, and Chris Swan. These four board members have served our community for many years now, and agreed to continue in this role. Our new Secretary is Linda Bea and Treasurer is John Bogasky. Both have been very active in our community for years too, and we look forward to continuing to work with them over the course of the next several years. I am not sure what the Board would do without these volunteers who have been dedicated to the Civic Association and its work all these years.

Everyone who ordered a Neighborhood Directory should have received it by now. We delivered 206 directories throughout the neighborhood. We have received membership dues from 270 households so far, which represents close to 35% of our community. We hope that more will still send in their dues to help support the good work your Civic Association does for our community. These dues help orchestrate the Memorial Day yard sale, our 4th of July parade and picnic, the Directory, the Bugle just to mention our major projects. These membership dues are the best deal in town! Please consider joining your neighborhood association, it is only as good as its members and volunteers.

Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA)

P.O. Box 6836

Silver Spring, MD 20916

e-mail: Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org

Web site: www.strathmore-belpre.org

Annual SBPCA membership: \$15.00

**[NOTE: Your Civic Association is separate from
the Recreation Association]**

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

Civic Association Officers

President:	Nancy Bechtol	301 871-3679
Vice President:	Bill Hammond	301 871-5074
Treasurer:	John Bogasky	301 460-1604
Recording Sec.:	Linda Bea	301 460-0497
Past President:	Reuben Lev	301 460-1048

Civic Association Board of Directors

Charlie Bea	301 460-0497	Harry Klapper	301 460-9645
Max Bronstein	301 460-3117	Marilyn Lev	301 460-1048
Elliot Chabot	301 871-1113	Dan Thomas	301 871-2624
Frank Corrigan	301 460-1011	Maurice Potosky	301 460-9008
Ron Daub	301 460-0929	Chris Swan	301 871-1113
Lilla Hammond	301 871-5074	Arlene Thorne	301 871-5013

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association

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Send information for The Bugle to: blev@his.com or to 2701 Bellmawr Court by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Board Meetings

The Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association Board
meets every third Tuesday
from 7:30 to 9:00 in the Genesis Center Nursing
Home located on Bel Pre Rd.
Strathmore residents are welcome to attend.

Local Streetlights

Have you noticed any of our street lights not functioning. You can report a malfunctioning street light to the County for repair. Simply go to <http://gis.montgomerycountymd.gov/ims/lights/submitform.htm> to complete and submit the form.

Gleanings from Meetings

- by Max Bronstein

The October program of the Montgomery County Civic Federation was conducted by Police Chief Tom Manger. The Chief, who has been in that position for 6 years, pointed out that while our overall crime rate was down, there are still some areas with above average numbers. He was not happy that sentences imposed in Maryland are the country's most lenient. Another interesting statistic we received was that while nationally the average was 2.5 officers per 1000, in our county the figure is 1.2 officers per 1000. Not enough dough for mo'.

The November meeting was highlighted by a discussion of the Maryland Public Service Commission conducted by its executive director, Gregory Carmean. The Commission was established in 1910 and its five commissioners are appointed by the governor with approval by the Senate. It regulates public utilities such as gas, electric, phone, taxis, and railroads. It does not regulate WSSC, which is separately regulated by state laws. The public is represented by a Peoples Council in hearings before the PSC.

The December meeting about our county libraries was led by its director, Ms. Parker Hamilton, and also Ann Dorough, President of Friends of the Library. We learned that our 21 branch library system ranks in the top 10 in the country. Also, that 11.8 million books were checked out in fiscal '09 and we have 740,000 card holders. Whole "lotta" reading going on!

At the January meeting we learned about 2 communities that have programs for assisting seniors to "age in place". One was Burning Tree Village, which has a network of volunteers available to help elderly neighbors in many ways. Their help ranges from doing small household chores to recommending contractors, plus giving transportation assistance, etc. The other community was Bannockburn, which has a program of "Neighbors Assisting Neighbors". They have a system of block captains and while they mainly help seniors, they describe their program as ageless, referring to the help they render to all ages such as tutoring and aid to handicapped individuals. It was a very heartwarming session.

Beginning on October 1st, a number of individuals from our community as well as from Leisure World called on 6 members of the Montgomery County Council to make them aware of our positions regarding the Growth Policy then being considered by the Council. Those from Strathmore Bel Pre included Charles Bea, Frank Corrigan, Marilyn & Reuben Lev, and Susan & Max Bronstein. Harry Cohen & Jay Harding, residents of Leisure World, joined in our visits. It is interesting to note that only 3 of 11 items by the Planning Board were passed by the Council.

In early November our Metro system held a budget forum at Kennedy High. Attendees learned then of the massive budget deficits facing the system. Since that time, the federal government has promised money that must be matched by Maryland, DC, and Virginia. However, the Metro budget shortfall is so large that major service cuts are still planned. Additionally, Metro's safety issues remain unresolved. Is it any wonder that 85% of county travel is by auto?

(cont. on page 8, see Gleanings)

BPRA NEWS

Dolphins 2009 Recap

by Claire Pak with Terry Kominski

Swim season is coming! It's cold and dreary now, but in just a few short months the sun will shine, the water will beckon, and the Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins will take to the pool for another season of practice, early morning meets, pasta parties and jellybeans.

The Dolphins' 2009 season began at the end of May, amid temperatures only slightly warmer than we're enjoying right now. The cold water did not deter our swimmers, who jumped in fearlessly and (mostly) cheerfully for the first day of practice. Weather was a factor for much of the early season; during our first meet against Theresa Banks, heavy rain caused an unusual four-day delay and Theresa Banks had to (very graciously) return the following Wednesday to defeat the Dolphins in a hard-fought two-part meet.

We finished 1-4 in the extremely competitive A division, losing close meets against Theresa Banks, MVP, Belair Bath and Tennis and archrival Takoma Park, and bringing home an away victory against the Wahoos of West Laurel.

The won-loss record doesn't tell the whole story, though. A league record was set by Andrew McGehee, who swam the 100-meter IM in 53.93 seconds, one of the most exciting races of the season (Andrew also broke a number of long-standing team records). Our unstoppable girls' relay team dominated at both Divisionals and All-Stars. Every member of our developmental team (including the 4-year-olds) made it across the pool in at least one meet thanks to the efforts of developmental coaches Joanna Ladas and Julie Pinero, who were aided by the motivating power of Airheads. The rest of our nearly 90 swimmers, ages 4 to 18, reached new levels of success thanks to dedicated coaches Terry Kominski and assistant Sarah Bechtol.

The annual mid-season fundraising Swim-a-Thon was a great success. Collin Dobbins ruled the pool for a second straight year, swimming an amazing 11 miles, and members of the Miller family swam a combined 14 miles. At the Dolphin Dance, community families gathered under the pavilion to get down with their bad selves with the help of a fabulous dance mix created by Laura McGehee and a setting beautifully decorated by Sarah Staggs. The traditional Jelly Bean Meet, open to all children 8 and under whether or not they swim for the team, was a highlight of the summer. Swimmers as young as 2 years old participated, some helped across the pool by their parents, while Dolphin team members from the 9-14 age group served as timers and deck officials. All participants earned ribbons and jelly beans. We hosted the "A" Division Championships very successfully thanks to Meet Managers Andrew and Paulette Ladas and the many volunteers who assisted with setup, cleanup and fundraising sales. Maggie Ruppert and Laura Miller raised over \$1,000 for the team that day with the most successful bake sale of the summer. (cont. on page 9, see BPRA)

Recreational Association Officers

President:	Dan Keating	301-603-8162
Vice President:	Edward Frantz	301-603-8055
Treasurer:	Gladstone James	301-384-6535
Secretary:	Gordon Klang	301-460-0367
Administrative Assistant:	Brenda Henry	301-871-6298
Pavilion Usage:	Louisa Hoar	301-871-2954

Recreational Association Trustees

John Adamo	301-460-3275
Sue Hoyer	301-603-9559
Arthur Meister	301-438-7869
Lou Ann Rector	301-603-8805

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

Saving Money While Saving the Planet

Wind Power comes to Strathmore Bel Pre

By John Bogasky

In these trying economic times, any idea that can save money is needed and welcomed. Last Fall, I found some savings from a surprising source – wind power for my home's electricity!

Now, you won't find any windmills in my yard. Instead, I changed my electricity generation provider from PEPCO to Clean Currents. I still receive one bill from PEPCO and PEPCO still distributes power to my home. The bill just looks a bit different since Clean Currents has replaced PEPCO as my electricity generation provider.

I'm happy that shifting to wind power is reducing my family's carbon footprint and helping avert climate change, but my higher motivation was financial. Wind power from Clean Currents was cheaper than coal/nuclear power from PEPCO.

Clean Currents currently charges a flat rate of 11.8¢ per kilowatt hour (¢/KWH) for a two year 100% wind power contract. PEPCO generation rates currently range from 11.16¢/KWH to 13.95¢/KWH depending on season and time of day. The highest rate applied at peak times in summer when my electricity usage was the highest. When I analyzed my home's electricity usage over a full year, wind power was at least 3% cheaper. The Clean Currents rate is also a 2-year fixed rate while PEPCO's rates will probably climb over the next two years.

Saving money and saving the planet seemed like a no-brainer to me. The process to change electricity generators was easy and the service has been trouble-free for several months. Except for my electric bill, nothing has really changed.

Clean Currents is based in Rockville. Their service called "*Wind Power for Home*" is a new carbon-neutral electricity option for people in the Maryland and Washington, DC area. *Wind Power for Home* combines standard electricity from the Mid-Atlantic grid (the PJM grid) with Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs" or "green tags") from wind power farms situated across the United States, bundled together and supplied by Washington Gas Energy Services. (WGES will appear on your PEPCO bill as your electricity generation provider). This bundled wind energy product helps fight global warming by offsetting the carbon emissions from your electricity use with clean, renewable wind power.

The Strathmore Bel Pre

Green Neighborhood Effect Challenge

Clean Currents has challenged the entire Strathmore Bel Pre community to switch to clean power. It's called the Green Neighborhood Effect Challenge! For each household that enrolls between now and the end of March, they will give \$10 to the SBP Civic Association to do a greening project of our choice. Whether we do a tree planting, replace common area lights with energy efficient lights, or start an organic community garden - they want to help us green our community as a thank you for greening our electricity and saving money. Special prizes will be given for the highest number of sign-ups within a community, the highest percentage of sign-ups and the most innovative green project. Save the planet, help our community and save money – where else do you get this kind of offer! (cont. on page 10, see Wind Power)



Library News

By: Chris Swan

The following events are planned at the Aspen Hill Library (4407 Aspen Hill Road):

Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 6, 2010

Aspen Hill Friends of the Library

Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee

Please join us Saturday, March 6, 2010 for a lively morning! The Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee will meet at 10 a.m., followed by the Aspen Hill Friends Annual General Membership meeting at 11 a.m. Learn about upcoming activities, hear the state of the Aspen Hill Friends, as well as Library Advisory Committee concerns and plans -- including how County budget cuts affect the Aspen Hill Library, the County Library administration's new policy on programming in the libraries, and the planned stormwater management remediation project for the Aspen Hill Library.

Noon brings box lunches, and our guest speaker, Bob Chartrand. Mr. Chartrand will speak on "Politicians in Our Time: Characters, Challenges, and Conundrums". Mr. Chartrand (author of Computers and Political Campaigning), a past president of the Friends of the Library of Collier County, of Naples, Florida, currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Montgomery County Friends of the Library.

You are welcome to attend any or all events. Lunch, however, requires a reservation and \$5. Send your reservation to Friends of the Aspen Hill Library, % Chris Swan, 3501 Beret Lane, Aspen Hill, MD 20906; or call me at (301) 871-1113, or send an e-mail to cswan@usa.net. Reservations are due by February 27, 2010.

Book Sale, Saturday, April 24, 2010

The Aspen Hill Friends Spring Book Sale will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hardbacks \$1; paperbacks 50¢; children's books half price; DVDs, CDs, and tapes \$1. Lots of categories, including mystery; sci fi; espionage, fiction; westerns; romance; general fiction; children's and young adult books; history, politics, and biography; sports; collectibles; planes, trains, and automobiles; humor; poetry, theater, photography, and art; cookbooks; travel; crafts; do-it-yourself; animals, pets, and nature; health and nutrition; parenting; business, economics, and law; military history; general non-fiction; graphic novels; and large type books. GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PICK UP SOME GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS. All of the proceeds from the sale go to help our library.

Donations are gladly accepted.

Interested in helping out at the book sale? Have questions about it? Contact me at (301) 871-1113 or cswan@usa.net. And, of course, come to the book sale! Shop, enjoy, visit with your neighbors, make friends, and, best of all, contribute to the library and to yourself.

Caribbean-American Cultural Heritage event

Coming in June - be on the lookout for it.

Neighborhood Alert

By Arlene Thorne

Please be advised that there has been a noticeable increase in the number of crimes and attempted crimes in our neighborhood. The good news is that no one has been hurt. The bad news is that property has been stolen as a result of break-ins involving both cars and houses. Please stay alert, keep your house doors locked, and close the doors to your garages.

Report all suspicious activity to the County Police at 911 for emergencies and 301-279-8000 for non-emergencies. Should you see suspicious activity on the Matthew Henson Trail, please call the Park Police at 301-949-3010 for emergencies and 301-949-8010 for non-emergencies.

Gleanings

(continued from page 4)

A meeting was held by the Planning Department to discuss ideas for streamlining "Development Review," the process developers experience in order to receive approval for planned projects. More meetings are planned on this subject. Suffice it to say, I and other representatives of civic organizations will be guarding the public's interests in regard to this subject.

Another interesting meeting was that of the Montgomery Taxpayers League. For some time the League has been pointing out that with 80% of the County's budget dedicated to paying salaries and benefits, excessive raises and over-generous benefits are unsustainable. In some jurisdictions those unsustainable policies have led to bankruptcy. A word to those who should be wise.

The final meeting to be covered in this article was with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. Various groups were invited to meet with the department's Director, Assistant Director, and a consultant, in order to offer input on a new transportation test to be used in the development approval process. The consultant's report is due to the County Executive by March 31, 2010.

Whew! I am about meetinged out!

Stay tuned for more notes from The Bugle!

50 Plus Club News

By Maury Potosky

The 50 Plus Club continues its activities. In December we had our monthly meeting at the home of Bob and Arlene Wiseth, who set up their annual holiday display of a miniature town at the holiday season.. In February we met at the home of Iris Hyman for our monthly meeting when we started planning our activities for the Spring.

During February we are going to Toby's Dinner Theater to see "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change". In March we will be going to see the Hexagon Player's performance of "Dancing With The Czars". We will be viewing this political satire, comedy, and musical at the new venue for the Players, at the Montgomery College Center for the Performing Arts in Silver Spring.

For information about the 50 Plus Club contact Charlotte Potosky at 301-460-9008.

BPRA

(cont. from page 5)

The annual Awards Banquet, planned and executed flawlessly by Tremel Faison, was the team's final gathering and celebration of the summer. After a delicious dinner and the traditional buddy gift exchange, everyone took their seats to see their children and friends recognized for a summer of dedicated hard work. Individual trophies were awarded in each age group (8 and under, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14 and 15-18) to the boy and girl who contributed the most points for the team in regular season competition; the trophies were awarded as follows:

8 & under

- 1) Josh Bearman / Olivia Miller
- 2) Bill Spencer / Carrie Hill
- 3) Chinham Nguyen / Nadira Roberts

9-10

- 1) Emerson Miller / Morgan Hill
- 2) Caelin Hoyer / Rebecca Wesley
- 3) Evan Bearman / Lamdan Nguyen

11-12

- 1) Trent Frizzell / Emma Bearman
- 2) Jared Machlin / Gabriell Maupin
- 3) Winston Miller / Kayla Geary

13-14

- 1) Nick Wesley / Lilian Miller
- 2) Collin Dobbins / Ivana Olivares
- 3) Cameron Ware / Cara Sanneman

15-18

- 1) Andrew McGehee / Joanna Ladas
- 2) Matt Wesley / Laura McGehee
- 3) Reed Brown / Julie Pinero

Additional trophies were presented in special categories to the following swimmers:

Hardest Working - Beginner: Junior Kim; Novice: Charlotte McNamee; Junior: Adrian Roberts; Senior: Brandon Harris.

Most Improved - 8 & under: Dale Gotcher; 9-10: Emily Frantz; 11-12: Kayla Geary; 13-14: Jake Stocky; 15-18: Grace Kessler.

Most Spirited - Laura McGehee, Matt Wesley

Most Dependable - Kayla Geary, Bayani Spencer

"B" Swimmers of the Year - Jake Stocky, Riley Geary & Laura Entwisle (tie)

Swimmers of the Year - Nick Wesley & Andrew McGehee (tie), Lilan Miller

Most Valuable Dolphin - Andy Kebede

Graduating Seniors - Andy Kebede, Andrew McGehee

Team Records - Andrew McGehee (15-18): 100 meter freestyle (53.63) 50 meter breaststroke (30.98), 100 meter IM (1:00.06)

League Record - Andrew McGehee (15-18): 100 yard IM (53.93)

All Dolphins swimmers and families extend their thanks to Paul Stagnitto and Ellen Wesley, who finished their two-year terms as President and Vice-President, respectively. Paul and Ellen worked incredibly hard, and were always selfless, graceful and good-humored. We are all also grateful to John Kominski, Dolphin parent emeritus and Team Historian, for his unfailing dedication and generosity to the team. At the officers' election, Greg Miller was elected President, and Scott McNamee was elected Vice President; they will serve for 2010 and 2011. The other board members and officers (Maribel Pinero, Treasurer; Claire Pak, Secretary; Andrew and Paulette Ladas, "A" and "B" Meet Managers) will continue in their positions for the next two seasons.

All SBP children up to age 18 are welcome and encouraged to join the Dolphins! If you are new to the community or if you've wondered about the team, please feel free to contact me (cdaltonpak@yahoo.com) or Head Coach Terry Kominski (mermade1967@aol.com). Once I have your email address, I will include you on the distribution list for pre-season communication, so you'll be informed of upcoming events. See you at the pool!

Safety Reminder

By Brian Lev (with thanks to the Paks)

The Montgomery County Police Department recently investigated several crimes in the neighborhood, including burglaries on Birchtree Lane and Beaverwood Lane and a number of car break-ins. While we might think the cold, ice and snow would cut down on such events, the truth is that we need to always be sure our homes' doors and windows are securely closed and locked and alarms are activated, and that our vehicles are securely locked with valuables out of sight and keys safely in our pockets. A few moments of extra care can go a long way to keeping our families (and our belongings) safe and sound.

Wind Power

(Continued from page 6)



Sign Up for Your Savings!

All you need to do to switch to wind power is to go to www.CleanCurrents.com. Click on the "Wind Power For Home" link to sign up. You will need your Pepco account number. You can get this from your Pepco monthly statement or call Pepco at 202-833-7500. When you sign up, be sure to enter "Strathmore Bel Pre" in the box labeled "Where did you hear about us" so that our community can get credit for your signup. Sign up right away and especially before the June 30, 2010 deadline for the Green Neighborhood Effect challenge. Thanks in advance from your Civic Association.

THE TRADING POST

Free (non-commercial) ads are available to all Strathmore Bel-Pre residents in the **Trading Post**. Ads are published at no cost. Send your advertisement to crbea232@yahoo.com

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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.

For all your real estate needs: sales, purchases, retirement communities, condominiums, relocation and financing info...

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2009

Sept. 28.....Yom Kippur No School
Oct. 2.....Early Release K-12
Oct. 16.....MSTA Convention No School
Nov. 2.....Professional Day, No School
Nov. 11.....Parent Conferences, Report Cards, Early Release K-8
Nov. 12.....Parent Conferences, Early Release K-8
Nov. 25.....Early Release K-12, Interim/Planning
Nov. 26-27.....Holiday—Thanksgiving
Dec. 24 & 25.....Holiday—Christmas
Dec. 28-31.....Winter Break

2010

Jan. 1.....Holiday-New Year's Day
Jan. 18.....Holiday-Martin L. King Jr., Day
Jan. 25.....Professional Day, No School
Feb. 3.....Report Cards
Feb. 15.....Holiday-Presidents' Day, No School
Feb. 26.....Early Release K-12
Mar. 29-April 1.....Spring Break, No School
Apr. 2, 5.....Holiday, Easter
Apr. 6.....Professional Day No School
Apr. 14.....Report Cards
May 31.....Holiday-Memorial Day No School
Jun. 16.....Last Day of School, Students dismissed after Lunch
Jun. 23.....Report Cards Mailed

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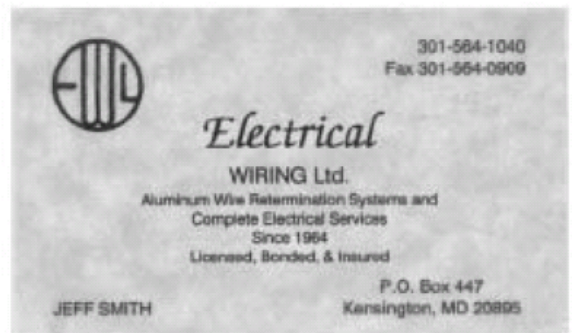
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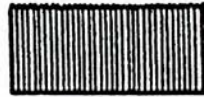
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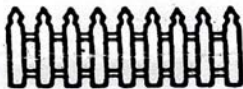
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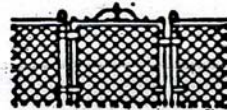
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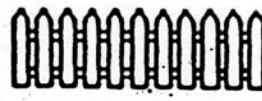
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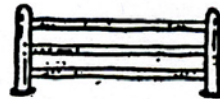
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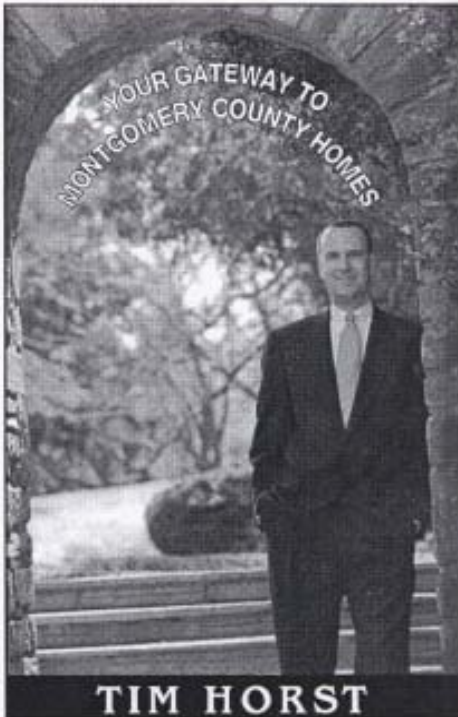
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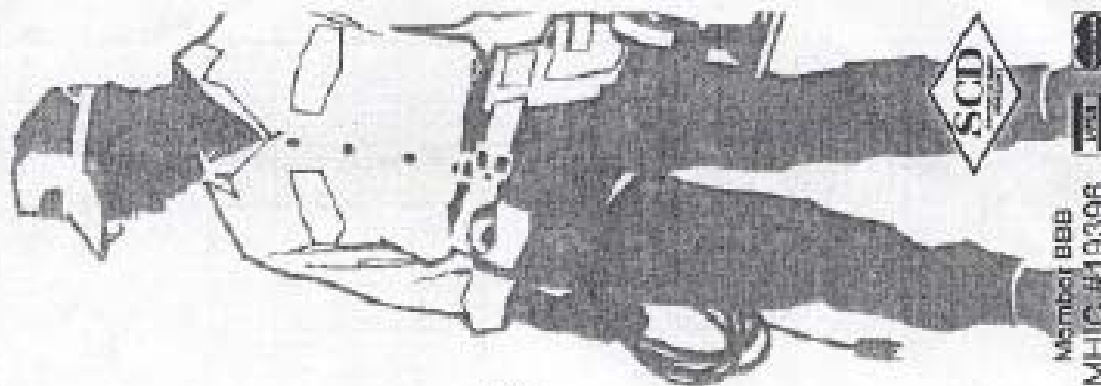
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