

# The Bugle

*Published by the Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association*

*Summer 2009*

*Issue: 09.03*

## ***JOIN US FOR THE JULY 4<sup>th</sup> PARADE AND PICNIC!***

Spend this 4<sup>th</sup> of July with your friends and neighbors at our beautiful community pool! Your Civic Association has once again organized a full day of events and activities promising relaxation, food and fun for your entire family. As always, **volunteers** are needed to help out with the day's events. Please call Harry Klapper on (301) 460-9645 to volunteer.

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **COMMUNITY PARADE (Strathmore Elementary School @ 12:30)**

Registration for paraders will begin at 12:30 and the parade will begin 1:00. The parade will begin at the school and paraders will head up Beaverwood Lane to the north end of Birchtree Lane, then down the footpath to the pool pavilion. Community members of all ages are invited to participate. All registered paraders will receive a prize.

#### **FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT (Pool Pavilion @ 1:30)**

The Civic Association will once again provide entertaining fun targeted toward the younger members of our community but will also be fun for all.

#### **FIELD DAY EVENTS (Pool Grounds @ 3:00 – 4:00)**

The field day team is planning fun for the whole family! Don't miss it!

#### **COMMUNITY PICNIC (Pool Pavilion @ 5:30)**

The community picnic will again feature **Memphis style BBQ from Red, Hot & Blue**. The menu will include various BBQ meats, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, drinks and assorted deserts.

**ADVANCED REGISTRATION for the picnic is strongly recommended.** This will allow the committee to accurately determine how much food to purchase. The committee will order only a limited number of walk-up portions. Walk-ups will be admitted on a first-come first served basis until the walk-up portions are gone. So, don't take a chance, register in advance.

**ADMISSION** for advanced registration is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12 years of age.

The admission for walk-ups will be \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children under 12 years of age, while portions are available.

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### **July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic Registration / Volunteer Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults @ \$10.00 each

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Children under 12 @ \$5.00 each

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION I will ...**

\_\_\_ Set Up & Clean Up      \_\_\_ Serve Food      \_\_\_ Bring a Dessert

\_\_\_ Help with Field Day Activities      \_\_\_ Help with Parade Registration

Send this form, along with your payment, postmarked by June 26<sup>th</sup> to: SBPCA P.O. Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20916

# **Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA)**

**P.O. Box 6836**

**Silver Spring, MD 20916**

**e-mail: [Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org](mailto:Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org)**

**Web site: [www.strathmore-belpre.org](http://www.strathmore-belpre.org)**

**Annual SBPCA membership: \$15.00**

The SBPCA Board of Directors meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Genesis Center Nursing Home on 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:	Dan Thomas	301-871-2624
Recording Sec.:	Linda Bea	301-460-0497

## **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	Reuben Lev	301 460-1048
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**

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Layout:	Charlie Bea	301-460-0497
Advertising:	Harry Klapper	301 460-9645
Circulation:	North-side: Louisa Hoar	301 871-2945
	South-side: Dan Mann	301 460-3330

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

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**By: Nancy Bechtol, President  
Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association Board of Directors**

Dear Strathmore-Bel Pre Neighbor,

It was about one year ago that I decided to start attending the monthly Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association meetings at the Genesis Healthcare/Layhill Center on Bel Pre Road. I was warmly welcomed in at this first meeting and greeted by a group of volunteers who have served our community for a very long time. I quickly became aware of how dedicated this group is to bettering our community and was determined to do my share to help. These board members have been involved in every position on the board, in some cases for more than a decade, and have volunteered to serve us continuously for decades.

I am in awe at all they have accomplished with so few to help over all these years. I decided to accept the position of President, taking over for Reuben Lev, and his very resourceful and helpful wife Marilyn Lev. Reuben's service as President was outstanding and kept the Civic Association moving forward throughout his term. Charlie Bea has also stepped down as Treasurer, after dedicating himself to our Association budget for over 10 years, and turned the reins over to Dan Thomas. Charlie did an outstanding job keeping track of each and every check that came in or out of our Association. His tracking of our finances, managing our investments, our mail, and paying our bills over such a long period of time is truly amazing dedication.

Dawn Greeley, our Bugle manager and editor has to step down, as does our layout person Sue Hoyer. These two women have done an outstanding job for our community over the years. Dawn has served for eight years and Sue for three. The position of editor will now be filled by Brian Lev and Charlie Bea has volunteered to produce and do the layout for The Bugle.

We always need help on this Board, and we would like to welcome anyone who would like to help to come to our upcoming Board meetings. We meet the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Genesis Healthcare Center on Bel Pre Road. I promise you a warm welcome.

## GLEANINGS from MEETINGS

by Max Bronstein

Montgomery County Civic Federation: The April meeting was the annually scheduled coverage of the County budget. Panelists were Joe Beach, Director of the Office of Management & Budget; Jennifer Barret, Director of the Finance Department; Duchy Trachtenberg, Chair of the Council's Management & Fiscal Policy Committee; and Dr. Marshall Spatz, Director of Management & Planning for the school system. Items of interest that were discussed: The budget gap of the county for the fiscal year beginning July 1 was estimated at \$615 million; the county's unemployment rate stood at 5.1%; the County Executive proposes a budget but the Council has the final decision as to expenditures; the county employees who are under a defined benefit retirement plan are guaranteed a 7-1/4% return; the County will seek a waiver of the maintenance of effort policy as to school spending. The term "maintenance of effort" refers to the state law that counties must devote the same percentage level of funding to their school system as in the past in order to get the level of money from the state for MCPS that is due the county. If the county had succeeded in getting the state to grant the waiver, the county could have diverted funds slated for MCPS and used them for other county expenditures. The amount involved is currently estimated at \$80 million. The State Board of Education denied Montgomery's request, which means the county must deal with the \$80 million shortfall.

The May meeting featured a presentation regarding the poor condition of the Chesapeake Bay and its causes and solutions. The speaker was Bill Matuszeski, director of EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program from 1991 to 2001. As background, the bay is an estuary, meaning it's where salt water meets fresh water, plus "our" bay is the world's second largest, with #1 being located in Siberia, but who wants to swim there? Also interesting is that with an average depth of 6 feet, the bay is relatively shallow. Eighteen million people live in its watershed which includes parts of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, DC, Pennsylvania, and New York. Among the changes suggested to improve the bay's condition is better control of storm water runoff, a decrease in the use of various chemicals which are part of substances that get into water which in turn travels to the bay, plus a decrease in the amount of poultry waste which finds its way to the bay. The speaker suggested that homeowners plan to replace driveways and walkways with pervious materials in the future so that rainwater is absorbed into the soil rather than quickly running into the sewer system and waterways that feed into the bay. Another thing we learned was that Master Plan changes were proposed by our Planning Department and Planning Board that would result in an additional 31,000 dwelling units in the I-270 and 355 corridors (homes, condos & apartments) in addition to those

existing and those in the approved but unbuilt stage. This would add 110,000 more jobs in those areas, bearing in mind that the county normally allots 1.5 jobs per housing unit. In the opinion of many who value a better of quality of life for the residents of our county, their plans are far out of balance. With a county population of 952,000, we have too much congestion on our insufficient roads (the ICC notwithstanding), a shortage of school space (any portable classrooms at your area schools?), a police shortage (only 465 officers per shift in a 500 square mile county), far too many water main breaks (a real river on River Road), problems with our fire service due to a shortage of stations, plus the fact that approximately 45% of our firefighters are volunteers -- without them we'd be paying far more in remuneration, and the realization that more and denser growth has never been accompanied by sufficient and timely supporting infrastructure, namely all the elements mentioned above.

We welcome comments and letters to the Bugle's editors on all these issues.

**Mid-County Citizen's Advisory Board:** The April meeting was highlighted by a briefing given by Michael Donahue on the subject of fire code enforcement. Major issues mentioned were the large number of deaths in fires suffered by senior citizens; fire code enforcement in commercial properties; and problems arising due to overcrowding in dwellings. Regulations limit the number of unrelated individuals who may occupy a dwelling to five. For related individuals, there is no limit.

**Glenmont Metrocentre/Privacy World:** On August 22, 2008, attorneys for the developer asked that the case be postponed. As of this writing, no new hearing date has been set. Many of you will recall that the plan requested a zoning change to allow 1550 residences at this location to replace about 350 apartments currently in use there. Many neighboring communities, as well as this writer, opposed the volume and scope of the plan. The Hearing Examiner asked the applicant to prove in any upcoming hearings, if and when scheduled, that their development would not add to the traffic congestion in the area.

**Poplar Run/Indian Spring Development:** It was learned from Mike Lemon, project manager for Winchester Homes, that current plans are for models to be available in early 2011 for viewing by prospective purchasers. Currently, work is proceeding to prepare the land for underground utilities, water treatment facilities, and roads. Winchester Homes is a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser and is able to take advantage of that firm's large financial resources.

Stay tuned for more notes from the Bugle.

# BPRA NEWS

## BPRA President's Message

By Dan Keating

### Dear Neighbors,

I hope everyone had a good winter holiday season and no one suffered frostbite out on the National Mall Jan. 20.

The Bel Pre Recreation Association had its annual meeting Nov. 21 at Bel Pre Elementary School. We had a quorum of neighbors participating. In our annual election of officers for the board, we were again blessed to have more volunteers willing to serve than openings. We had four candidates for three openings. Board members John Adamo and myself were reelected. New member Arthur Meister was elected to the board. The board expresses its great appreciation to Chris Swan for her service as Secretary on the board.

Also on the annual meeting ballot was a proposal for updating the association's bylaws. The bylaws define basic elements of how the board is elected and what responsibilities it has for handling the annual assessment. A Governing Documents Review Committee had served for two years poring over the existing documents, in which they found several outdated or inconsistent elements. The proposed changes would not alter how anything is done in our neighborhood. The changes were all corrections of wording inconsistencies or modernization of items originally written in the 1960s. For instance, the existing bylaws have contradictory deadlines for the notices to be sent out of the annual meeting. The proposed changes fixed that kind of error. Another proposed fix was a requirement that BPRA funds be protected by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., an important measure in the current atmosphere. A majority of people voted in favor of the bylaw changes, but they failed to gain the two-thirds majority needed for approval. The Governing Documents Review Committee and board had only finished updating the proposed changes shortly before the meeting, so we didn't have time to adequately explain what was going on. We hope that we have time this year to explain to a wider proportion of the community the value of making the bylaws consistent and up-to-date, and to satisfy any curiosities about the changes.

In our first meeting after the election, the board organized itself with a group of new officers: Gladston James agreed to serve as Treasurer, Gordon Klang as Secretary, Dan Keating as President and Ed Frantz as Vice President.

Please note that the phone numbers for all of the board members are listed on this page. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions or issues with which we can help. You can also email me at [dteats@gmail.com](mailto:dteats@gmail.com).

We have some exciting news about the pool. We are having the main pool resurfaced this year with new plaster and tiles. Swimmers have noticed over the past summer or two that the surface was getting rough. It had been 10 years since that last whitecoating. The low bidder and best qualified bidder for the project was #1 Pools, owned by BPRA members Keith and Renee Yockelson. They will be starting soon and finished before the pool opens on Memorial Day. The new tiles will be non-skid along the racing lanes and also bring a new color scheme to the pool.

The BPRA meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month. We're at Bel Pre school library during the winter, spring and fall, and at the pool pavilion over the summer. Please feel free to join us.

### 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.

## **50 Plus Club News**

**By:** Maurice Potosky

The Strathmore-Bel Pre 50 Plus Club has continued its activities over the first half of 2009. In addition to monthly social meetings, we have attended shows at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, Hexagon in DC, and performances at the F. Scott Fitzgerald theater in Rockville.

In the coming months we will be holding our monthly meetings at the Swim Club pavilion. These will be dinner meetings with the dinner makings provided by the membership. The first scheduled dates are Wednesdays, May 27 and June 24 with dates to follow in July and August. In addition we will be going to Toby's on July 15 to see "Oklahoma" and in October to see "Sweeney Todd". We are also planning for the Dupont Circle-Kalorama museum walk this summer as well as other activities.

For further information call Charlotte Potosky at 301-460-9008.

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### **COMMITTEE FORMED TO STUDY COVENANTS**

The BPRA has formed a committee to examine the current status of adherence to covenants and determine which of the current covenants are valuable and viable. The committee will review the current practices and conformance to the community's published covenants and determine an appropriate updating plan. We currently have three Board members who have volunteered for the committee and two community members. No action can be taken to change covenants without broad acceptance of the changes by the community; we ask you to consider participation in this study as a further means of assuring that we have broad input before making recommendations for change. Please call Gordon Klang at (301) 460-0367 if you can volunteer to help us with this project.

## PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR TRASH IN CANS WITH LIDS

There is significant overlap between SBP Covenants and County code requirements. Many of these overlapping concerns deal with protecting the environment in which we live. Please note that the Covenant and County code rules concerning disposing of trash in containers has not been followed by some in our community. Residents have noticed a return of the crows and have also noted foxes and other wild animals in the area. There are good reasons for Code and Covenant restrictions dealing with disposal of trash. Birds and animals can create a mess when residents simply put out trash in unprotected bags. The situation can also lead to disease. Please be aware that violations of the rules concerning proper disposal of trash can be subject to fine by the County; any individual homeowner has the right to report violations to County officials. Reports can be done anonymously.

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## US PUBLIC SERVICE ACADEMY NEEDS YOUR HELP

I recently joined the Youth Advisory Council for the state of Maryland to support the United States Public Service Academy and, as such, I am trying to recruit support. The Academy would be a civilian counterpart to the U.S. military academies, such as West Point. Students would be selected based on their credentials and would need congressional nominations, as with the other academies. They would then go on to study at a campus in Washington, D.C., in a field related to public service. During the summers between academic years, the students would gain valuable experience in internships in the government and military and would also receive emergency medical training. After their graduation, students would be required to perform a minimum of five years of public service at the local, state, or national levels of the government, or in some capacity defined at the Academy to be in support of the nation. The academics would be rigorous and comparable to that of a federal military academy or an Ivy League institution. The education would be free, with a laptop and uniform provided, in addition to many other perks, in exchange for the student's agreement to participate for all 4 years of education and the subsequent service.

I ask you to support the Academy by talking to others about this movement and by forwarding this information. There are several ways to do this:

- Visit [www.uspublicserviceacademy.org](http://www.uspublicserviceacademy.org) and look around on the site.
- Discuss this with your children if they are interested in working in politics or in the government one day. They can visit <http://uspublicserviceacademy.org/nyc/> to learn more about joining the Youth Advisory Council. There are several students from various schools in MCPS on the Maryland YAC with me, and they contribute about an hour every week or two to the effort.
- Sign the petition to Congress to get on board with the idea of the USPSA:  
<http://uspublicserviceacademy.org/take-action/student-petition/>
- Contact your senators and representatives in Congress and urge them to support the U.S. Public Service Academy Act, which was introduced in a previous Congress and will be reintroduced shortly.
- Volunteer your time and expertise. Our volunteers help by winning endorsements, conducting research, hosting events, setting up presentations, and doing many other essential activities. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris Myers Asch at [asch@uspublicserviceacademy.org](mailto:asch@uspublicserviceacademy.org). I can be reached at [csjennnis@syr.edu](mailto:csjennnis@syr.edu) if you'd like to discuss this at all, or at my cell phone, (301) 538-5705.

Thanks for your help!

Respectfully,  
Chris Jennison

# 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 [blev@his.com](mailto:blev@his.com)

Hi, my son is going to kindergarten at Bel Pre Elementary school this fall and we would love to meet people and make friends before school starts. If you are interested in a summer playgroup, please contact Jackie at [jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com](mailto:jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com) or at 301-603-7387." Many thanks, and I would appreciate a quick reply message so that I know you got my email.  
Jackie Moeller

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BPPA 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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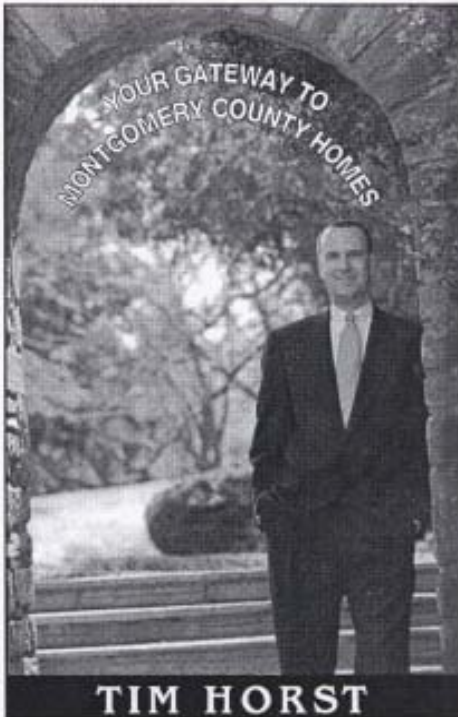
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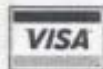
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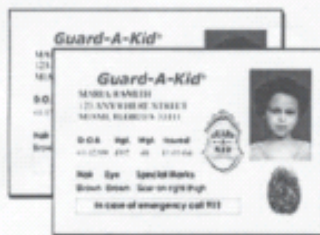
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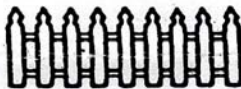
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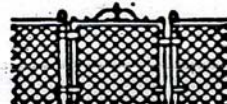
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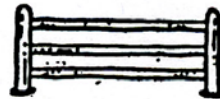
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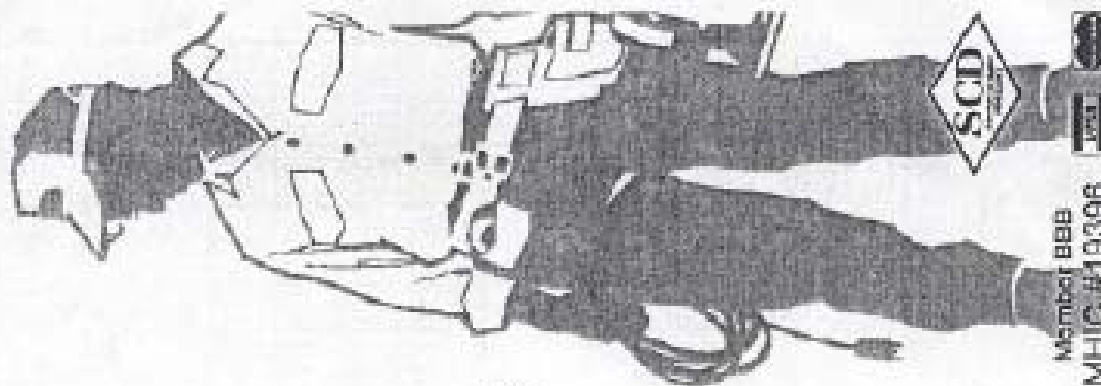
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