

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

Fall 2009

Issue: 09.03

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Nancy Bechtol, President SBPCA

What a fabulous summer we have all had in our wonderful neighborhood. I am sorry to see the summer go, but look forward to the crispness of the fall season. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Board for their hard work in organizing our summer programs which beginning with the Yard Sale on May 30th at the pool and ending with all of the fun activities on the 4th of July. These events take a lot of organization, and each and every board member (as well as many volunteers from the community) all pitch in to make them happen. We encourage everyone to get involved in their community, and helping with these events is always welcomed. I would like to thank Lilla Hammond and Harry Klapper for organizing the 4th of July events this year as these events would not have happened without their leadership.

We are preparing for the upcoming community meeting on the 19th of November and hope everyone will come to support the elections and to hear what is happening in our neighborhood. We plan to distribute our newly updated 2009 Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association Directory at this meeting. If you have not paid your Civic Association membership dues this summer, please do get them in. We use these membership forms to check and correct information for this directory, so it is very important that you submit your membership to ensure our Directory is as accurate as it can be. The new Directory is being organized and produced by Linda Bea, our recording secretary, and she has volunteered for many editions of this Directory over the years. We cannot thank her enough for all she does on the Board as our Recording Secretary.

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2009 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The annual membership drive is coming to a close.

If you haven't already done so, please join the Civic Association
by sending in your dues and updated information.

Membership dues - \$15.00

Membership and Directory - \$20.00

Directory only - \$10.00

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Bea @ 301-460-0497

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

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

Annual Meeting

November 19th at Bel Pre Elementary School. The Civic Association meeting is from 7:00 to 7:30, and the Recreation Association meeting starts immediately thereafter.

Alert Rockville

This alert system is administered by the City of Rockville's Office of Emergency Management.

The City of Rockville uses Alert Rockville to immediately contact you during a major crisis or emergency. Alert Rockville will deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on all your devices at once:

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When an incident or emergency occurs, authorized senders will instantly notify you using Alert Rockville, which is your personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact and other important information.

While signing up for Alert Rockville is free of charge, your wireless carrier may charge you a fee to receive text messages. Please check the FAQ link, and your wireless service agreement, to review your carrier's pricing plan.

The City of Rockville's Office of Emergency Management reserves the right to restrict at any time the usage of this alert system to Rockville residents and commuters.

Please login to manage your account, or click new user to set up your account.
<https://alert.rockvillemd.gov/index.php?CCheck=1>

Gleanings from Meetings

by Max Bronstein

The Montgomery County Civic Federation's meeting in June focused on what many consider to be one of the most important matters that our County deals with, namely the Growth Policy recommendations. The Policy stays in effect for two years and its purpose is to ensure that infrastructure is available to support growth in housing, population, new businesses, and added commercial space. Infrastructure refers to roads, schools, transit, police & fire services, parks, air & water quality, and County finances. We are confident that all our readers feel that all the items mentioned in the last sentence are in great condition. If you disagree, get involved and communicate your comments to the County Council by emailing its president:

councilmember.Andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov. Also, if you wish to get further information about the Growth Policy go to:

www.montgomeryplanning.org/research/growth_policy/index.shtm.

Please understand that it is a broad and complex matter that vitally affects every County resident's quality of life. Having at least read about it you will be the smartest kid on the block, except perhaps for your spouse. What is before the Council now is the Policy recommended by the Planning Department & the Planning Board. The Council votes on their version November 15, 2009.

The September meeting (no meetings July/August) was also about the Growth Policy but centered about the Federation's positions and suggestions for the Growth Policy. Their agreed upon recommendations will go to the Council in written form. There will be a public hearing on the matter before the County Council scheduled for the evening of September 22nd. Many representatives of the various County civic associations will be testifying, including this writer on behalf of our community. Each speaker is allotted 3 minutes, far too little time to properly discuss the subject. Consequently, most who testify, as well as many others, will be submitting lengthy texts to more fully cover the material.

Glenmont Metrocentre/Privacy World: This matter has been on hold since August 22, 2008 and no new hearings have been scheduled.

Poplar Run/Indian Spring: This matter is still in the land preparation phase. A sign near the entrance refers to orders to be accepted in 2010. We had previously reported that models would be available in late 2011. The project can only be developed to a certain point unless the traffic snarl at Georgia & Randolph is solved. The County & State are providing the funding for an underpass of Randolph under Georgia. That root of all evil, money, is scheduled to be forthcoming from the State for construction of that grade separation around 2015. We sincerely hope that every member of our community is alive and well for the opening of that underpass. Amen & hallelujah!

Stay Tuned for More Notes from The Bugle!

BPRA NEWS

BPRA President's Message

by Dan Keating

Dear Neighbors,

Happy Fall. I hope you had a good summer and are looking forward to holidays.

Of course I want to join the voices reminding you to come to the annual meeting on November 19th at Bel Pre Elementary School. The Civic Association meeting is from 7:00 to 7:30, and the Recreation Association meeting starts immediately after that. We've sent out a couple mailings with our agenda, the candidates for open seats and the budget for the upcoming year. We are eager to hear your thoughts.

We've had a very busy year on the board. We were excited to have the main swimming pool resurfaced with new plaster and beautiful new tiles. The wonderful job was done by members of the Association, Renee and Keith Yockelson's #1 Pools. They were the low bidder on the job. Arnie Hoffman also brightened our lives by putting new energy-efficient bulbs into the big fixtures around the pool.

We also replaced the aging roof on the pavilion, had the metal fences painted and mended cracks on the tennis courts. We hope next year to fix the rusted eyesore fence around the tennis courts, add more picnic tables in the grass and level the volleyball court. We also need to upgrade our security cameras because of trespassers and vandals.

The board has spent a large portion of its time discussing enforcement of residential covenants. Since construction of the neighborhood by Levitt, the board has sometimes mediated issues concerning covenants but there is no record of the board ever taking enforcement action over residential covenants. In response to a suit against the BPRA, the county ruled in 1998 that the board was not compelled to enforce covenants. By order of the county, the Board surveyed the neighborhood at that time, and the vote was 8 to 1 against enforcement.

(continued on page 9)

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.

July 4th Events

By Lilla Hammond, Past President, SBPCA

Strathmore Bel Pre community celebrated this July Fourth in a grand way. It was our community's opportunity to come together to remember and pay tribute both to our country's history and to those who have served to preserve our freedom as Americans. This year we had a great turnout, kicking the events off with the parade starting at 1 p.m. and ending with the community picnic at the pool pavilion.

Around 12:15pm registration began for those who wanted to march in the parade. Parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends came out to show their support. They arrived with children decked out in colorful red, white and blue costumes, in strollers and riding decorated bikes and wagons.

The Paraders: Jonathan Hosh, Anna Hosh, Daniel Hudson, Liesl Feinman, Campbell Scofield, Emory Scofield, Cassie Litchfield, Isabelle Litchfield, Nico D'Orazio, Joey Moeller, Lucas Moeller, Sarah Staggs, Erik Staggs, Jacob Rabin, Alexa Rabin, Hope Vantuyle, Aaron Vantuyle, Mark Vantuyle, Daniel Landry, Lily Brown, Jason Lenett, Sabrina Lennertt, Isabel Duran, Peyton Bergeron, Lily Bergeron, John Purdy, Claire Purdy, David Dorsey, Grace MacFarland, Hannah MacFarland and Emily Frantz.

Around Noon, the crew from Kensington Volunteer Fire Department Station 25 arrived with a large hook and ladder unit, a standard fire truck, and an emergency unit. This gave everyone time to visit with the fire and emergency personnel who talked about their vehicles and explained their roles as emergency responders. Then, at 1 p.m., Reuben Lev, past President of the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association, led the parade through the neighborhood. Neighbors lined up along the parade route and played music that fueled the enthusiasm and patriotic spirit of all who were there. It was a great success!

We thank all the parents, grandparents, families and friends who took the time to bring their children and friends to the parade. We are most grateful for the efforts and participation of the crew of Kensington Volunteer Fire Department Station 25.

July 4th Volunteers:

The Parade: Reuben and Marilyn Lev, Dan Thomas, Max and Susan Bronstein, and Bill Hammond.

The Magician: Harry Klapper was in charge of the entertainment. Michael Chamberlain, the magician from last year, did a great job entertaining children and the adults during his entire performance of magic tricks.

The Children's Field Games: Our hats off to Steve Jennison who

organized the games and recruited volunteers for this important event. The children had a great time!

The Picnic: Harry Klapper led an excellent team, accomplishing everything from ordering the food to setting up the pavilion's tables, chairs and decorations. Essential help was provided by Linda and Charlie Bea, Dan Thomas, John Bogasky, Elizabeth Wesley and Ruth and Bob Wolpert -- in addition to all the wonderful servers and picnickers!

In addition to the above individuals, there are always others to whom we owe thanks for the wonderful success of our community celebration. Although we have been unable to list all participants and volunteers, you know who you are ☺, and we thank you all for helping to make the day such a great success!!

The President's Corner

(cont. From page 1)

Please consider joining us for any of our upcoming meetings, held on the last Tuesday of each month at the Genesis HealthCare Layhill Center at 3227 Bel Pre Road (right by the speed cameras) at 7:30pm. We welcome your ideas and concerns and hope you will join us in the future.

I wish everyone a wonderful fall season. Please try to get out on our new community hiking trail and do some walking, running or bicycling. It is an absolutely beautiful trail of boardwalk and asphalt paths which wind you through our local forest and meadows. You will not be disappointed with what you see, and I guarantee, you will meet some new neighbors.

50 Plus Club News

By Charlotte Potosky

The 50+ Club completed its series of summer dinner meetings at the SBP pool and pavilion with food, dessert, and fellowship. Two of our four meetings were weather constrained (wind, rain, and thunder) and were moved to homes in the area. We thank Michael and Rickie Weiser and Max and Susan Bronstein for graciously providing their homes for the meetings. Our first Fall meeting will be at the home of Maurice and Charlotte Potosky on Wednesday, October 14.

The Club will be traveling to Toby's Dinner Theatre in Baltimore on Sunday, October 25th for the matinee performance of *Aida*. Anyone interested in joining us, or curious about the 50+ Club, please contact Charlotte Potosky at 301-460-9008.

A Special Note for Adult Caregivers

By Marilyn Lev

Attention Caregivers: A reliable public service solution to locate and rescue persons of any age who may wander off or become lost could be available on a no-charge basis through the Montgomery County Police "Project Lifesaver". For further information, please contact Police Officer Laurie Reyes at phone/Fax 301-840-2788 or via email at laurie.reyes@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Our thanks to Mr. Ray Ramsey of our community for providing this information.

Neighborhood Safety Concerns & Neighborhood Watch

by Marjorie Leonard

I recently contacted the Maryland National Capital Park Police concerning a few issues my neighbors and I have been dealing with here on the 3400 block of Beret Lane. Many of us have experienced trespassers on our property and have noticed a tremendous increase in people using our street as a shortcut through the neighborhood. While it is completely lawful for both residents and non-residents to utilize our street, it is not lawful for them to trespass on our private property. Neighbors living on our block might be aware of "Beret Local Park", a small wooded area with a brook and a footpath that leads from Georgia Avenue through to our street. This park falls under the jurisdiction of the Park Police.

In addition to referencing the trespassing problem, I had inquired if starting a Neighborhood Watch would be a beneficial tool in helping our community to become proactive in maintaining the safety of our neighborhood. I received the following response via email:

"My name is Tony DeVaul and I am one of the Patrol Commanders with the Maryland National Capital Park Police. Sgt. McNeill forwarded your email regarding crime concerns in your neighborhood and Beret Local Park. Our department has police jurisdiction in the wooded area you mention in your email, also known as Beret Local Park.

Reference the activity in the park, the park is open to the public during daylight hours and can be used as a cut through from one part of the neighborhood to the other. This does not give anyone the permission to utilize your private yard as a cut through. I would suggest that when this occurs that you contact the Montgomery County Police to respond. Although the perpetrators may be gone prior to the police arriving it will help establish a pattern of a problem for them and may lead to increased resources to address the problem. I have forwarded your email to the command staff of the MCP Fourth District, which covers your area so they are aware of the issues/problems. Reference the park activity, the park is closed from sunset to sunrise and no one is allowed to be on the property at that time. I would suggest that you call our dispatch center at 301-949-3010, should you or you neighbors see anyone in the park after hours or any illegal activity in the park during daytime hours. Our department already has a directed patrol (direction to have all beat officers pay special attention to the park and check it frequently) and have been working with our maintenance division to remove some debris from the more remote area of the park.

I think it is a very good idea to start a neighborhood watch and utilize the strength of all your neighbors to address this issue. If you would like I could have one of our community services officers give you direction on how to start up a program.

(continued on next page)

Neighborhood Safety Concerns & Neighborhood Watch

(continued from previous page)

As stated earlier, if your or any of your neighbors see any after hours trespassers or any illegal activity in the park during normal hours, please contact our dispatch center at 301-949-3010. Also feel free to contact me (info below) or the other Patrol Commander, Lt. Karen Petrarca, 240-876-6669, email, Karen.petrarca@montgomeryparks.org directly for any not in progress issue. We look forward to working with you to make your address your issues and make sure your neighborhood and local park are safe and free of crime."

Lieutenant Antonio DeVaul
Field Operations Section
Commander- Day Shift Patrol Operations/Community Services/Ranger Program
Maryland National Capital Park Police- Montgomery County Division
12751 Layhill Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20906
Office: 301.929.2731/Cell: 240.417.7993
Email: antonio.devaul@mncppc-mc.org
www.parkpolice.net

Based on Lieutenant DeVaul's response, I have been moving forward with plans to develop a Neighborhood Watch Program. Please visit the following web pages to learn more about the program:

www.usaonwatch.org

www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Community/Neighborhood_Watch_How_To_Start

If you are interested in establishing a Neighborhood Watch program for your street, please contact me at mleonard70@yahoo.com.

BPRA President's Message

(Continued from page 5)

Nevertheless, there have been continued calls for enforcement. The board spent \$7,500 getting legal advice this year on what it could and could not do. In January, the board created a committee to evaluate the covenants written in the 1960s to see which are still relevant and which may be unenforceable because there are already too many violations throughout the neighborhood. The committee was to try creating a list of covenants that the neighborhood would support, creating rules for handling complaints and enforcement, and determining who would do the work, what due process would be followed and associated costs. The committee sought volunteers in the Spring Bugle, but did not receive any.

Early this year, one association family asked the board to force their neighbor to cut or remove trees that they said were violating the 42-inch limit on fences and living fences. In a vote in June, the board declined to take action. The association family filed suit with the county's oversight board in July. The suit seeks to force the board to enforce the fence height rule. The Association is defending against the suit.

I hope we can have a thoughtful discussion about covenant enforcement at the annual meeting. Please come out and let your voice be heard.

Library News

by Chris Swan

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

- Saturday, October 17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Aspen Hill Community Festival - with fun stuff for the whole family (including face painting, crafts, puppets, bag pipers, fire engines, and much more) - also serious stuff for adults (like the County Department of Environmental Protection's storm water management plans for the Library)

- Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.

Jazz concert featuring the trio JazWorks

- Saturday, November 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Used Book Sale

hardbacks \$1; paperbacks 50¢; children's books half price; romance paperbacks 25¢; 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.

All of these programs are being sponsored by the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library. For more information, contact Chris Swan at (301) 871-1113.

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

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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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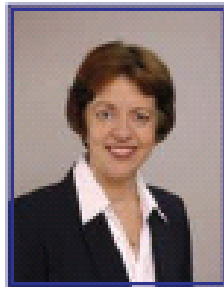




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Sept. 28.....Yom Kippur No School
Oct. 2.....Early Release K-12
Oct. 16.....MSTA Convention No School
Nov. 2.....Professional Day, No School
Nov. 11.....Parent Conferences, Report Cards, Early Release K-8
Nov. 12.....Parent Conferences, Early Release 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

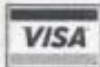
Jan. 1.....Holiday—New Year's Day
Jan. 18.....Holiday—Martin L. King Jr., Day
Jan. 25.....Professional Day, No School
Feb. 3.....Report Cards
Feb. 15.....Holiday—Presidents' Day, No School
Feb. 26.....Early Release K-12
Mar. 29-April 1.....Spring Break, No School
Apr. 2, 5.....Holiday, Easter
Apr. 6.....Professional 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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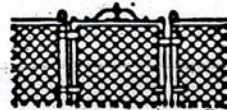
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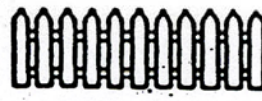
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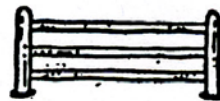
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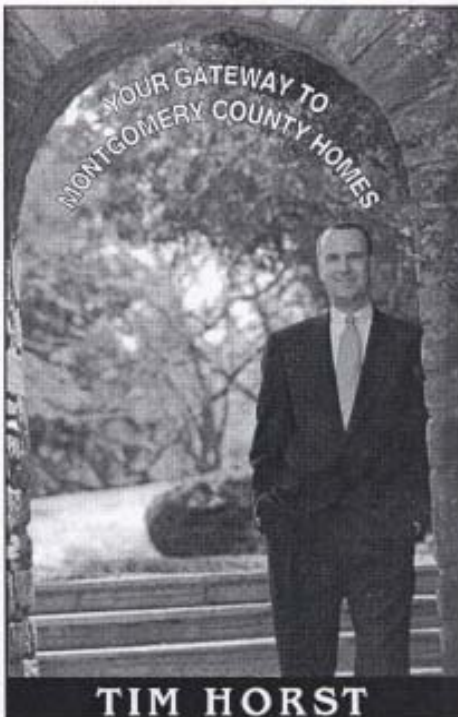
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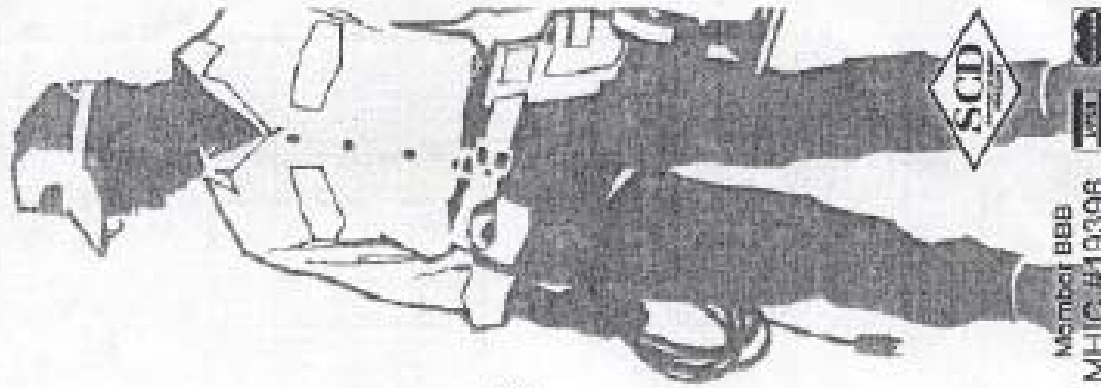
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