

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

May 2012

vol. 44 #2

STRATHMORE BEL-PRE 31st Annual Yard Sale

It's Yard Sale time! It's a fun and easy way to turn your clutter into cash, to meet your neighbors, and to support your community!

We take care of all the advertising and bring a large pool of potential buyers to you.

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WHEN: Saturday, June 2nd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (rain date, Saturday, June 9th)

WHERE: BPRA pool parking lot (on Bethpage Lane)

GATES OPEN FOR SET UP AT 8:30 am

If you have paid your membership dues to the Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association, you will receive a \$2.00 member discount off the registration fee of \$12.00 per space.

TO REGISTER: Fill out and return the registration form below, along with a check for the registration fee. Tables (including 2 chairs) are available for rent for an additional \$5.00 on a first-come, first-serve basis. Numbers are limited, so reserve early.

At-the-door registration will be accepted as space permits. The fee will be \$15.00.

Call Linda Bea for additional information: (301) 460-0497.

YARD SALE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE/EMAIL: _____

Number of Spaces:

Civic Assn members - \$10.00 per space: \$ _____

Non-members - \$12.00 per space: \$ _____

Number of tables - \$ 5.00 each: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to 'SBPCA' and mail to:

P.O. Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20916

THE BUGLE

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Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA)

P.O. Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20906

e-mail: Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org

Web site: www.strathmore-belpre.org

Annual SBPCA membership: \$15.00

The SBPCA is a voluntary association, funded by membership dues, that represents our community to County Government and various other groups such as the Montgomery County Civic Federation. The SBPCA also publishes **The Bugle** and organizes the annual Yard Sale and 4th of July festivities. 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. The Civic Association's annual meeting is in November just before the BPRA annual meeting.

Civic Association Officers

President: Nancy Bechtol 301 871-3679
Vice President: Bill Hammond 301 871-5074
Treasurer: John Bogasky 301 460-1604

Secretary: Linda Bea 301 460-0497
Webmasters: Bill Hammond 301 871-5074
Adam Shepard 727 871-0393

Civic Association Directors

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

Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA)

The Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) is the homeowner's association for the Strathmore Bel Pre properties. Your annual assessment is paid to the BPRA to pay for your pool, tennis courts, volleyball, playground, picnic area, bath house, snack bar and pavilion open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. BPRA Board meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 pm at Bel Pre Elementary School and during summer months at the Pool Pavilion. The BPRA's annual meeting is in November.

Bel Pre Recreation Association Officers

President: Ed Frantz 301 603-8055
Vice President: Karen Potocki 609 947-1256
Treasurer: Keith Yockelson 301 460-8555
Secretary: Dan Keating 301 603-8162

ed_frantz@comcast.net
karenpotocki@yahoo.com
number1pools@verizon.net
dtkeats@gmail.com

Bel Pre Recreation Association Trustees/Directors

Robert Bowser 301 460-3444 r.bowser@verizon.net
Dan Entwisle 301 871-9363 twisles@msn.com
Sue Hoye 301 603-9559 sue@hoyes.org

Paulette Ladas 301 674-7742 pauletteladas@remax.net
Lou Ann Rector 301 603-8805 louann.rector@fsis.usda.gov
Anthony Wormack 202 468-3565 awwormack@gmail.com

Bel Pre Recreation Association Volunteers

Admin Asst: Brenda Henry 301 871-6298

Pavilion Usage: Louisa Hoar 301 871-2954

The President's Corner

- by Nancy Bechtol, President SBPCA

Happy Spring!

I hope that you enjoy this edition of our Bugle. It is packed with important information about upcoming events in our neighborhood which need your support and attention.

This photo shows the construction of our new staircase at the Rippling Brook Drive entrance to the Matthew Henson Nature Trail. This entrance used to be really dangerous, but will be much improved with the completion of these stairs.

Marilyn Biviano and Arlene Thorne are to be commended for their efforts in getting these stairs built. They wrote numerous letters to our community leaders, pushing for this new improved entrance. They knew something needed to be done, and they just kept pushing these leaders until the project was complete. Everyone now will benefit from their vision and persistence.



Please consider supporting the Yard Sale on June 2, 2012 at the Pool parking lot with a sales table, or to shop, or simply to meet your neighbors after being separated by the winter. We hope to see you there.

Please remember to sign up for the July 4th festivities planning meeting! Your input and efforts make this a highlight of our summer.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the Matthew Henson trail, at the pool this summer, and, of course, at the Yard Sale in June!

Andrea J. Lev

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- ◆ Caregiver support and counseling

Gleanings From Meetings + More

-by Max Bronstein

February Meetings

Civic Federation—

The guest speaker for February was Edward Blansitt, the county's Inspector General. He has a staff of 5. This office is to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in the County. One item being addressed currently concerns non-resident students in MCPS who are not paying tuition. A citizen advisory group is being formed to assist his office. His office telephone # is: 240 777 8241 & email: Edward.blansitt@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Taxpayers' League –

The February meeting had County Director of Planning, Rollin Stanley, as its guest. Mr. Stanley presented his philosophy and plans for the county's future. He feels the county should have a number of urban islands located primarily along the various stations of the Metro system. The "islands" of his vision are partially self-contained communities with tall residential/commercial buildings, vertical parking above or below ground, retail, offices, parks, walkable/bikeable paths etc. Current examples of this philosophy are the plans for White Flint, as well as the Safeway site in Wheaton.

-- Continued on page 6 --

Found out from the listserve...

--by Chris Swan

Kohls is coming to the Northgate Shopping Center, replacing the SuperFresh.

Are you a member of the listserv?

The SBPcivic listserve is open to all Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association members. If you are a Civic Association member who has not yet joined the listserv, the easiest way to join is to send an email to johnbogasky@hotmail.com. Please include your name and street address so your Civic Association membership can be confirmed.

It is an easy way to keep up with the latest community news.

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THE DOLPHINS

-by Claire Pak

Memorial Day is right around the corner! The Dolphins are getting ready for another great SBP summer.

Retiring Board Members

First, we'd like to extend a big thank-you to our exiting board members.

Andrew and Paulette Ladas, who served the team for many years as A and B Meet Managers, retired from service after their daughter Joanna's graduation from the team. Their hard work and dedication were apparent in every meet. The swim team now has established procedures and routines thanks to their efforts.

Scott McNamee served as Vice President for two years, doing everything from delivering dinner for the Awards Banquet, to hunting down a missing starter five minutes before the Jelly Bean Meet was scheduled to start. Maribel Pinero spent 5 years as the Dolphins Treasurer, and her tireless work and meticulous recordkeeping have left the team in very good financial health. The team and the community owe a debt of gratitude to Andrew, Paulette, Maribel, and Scott for their selfless dedication to our neighborhood and our children.

Funds Needed

Please watch your mail this spring for our annual fundraising mailer. Our 2011 fundraiser was a great success thanks to your generosity. We sincerely hope that you'll consider supporting us again this year. Your contributions allow us to offer our community's children an opportunity to learn and compete in a great sport, to make lifelong friendships, and to have fun! The team's existence also helps to build and strengthen the relationships among team families that make our community such a wonderful place to live.

-- Continued on page 7--



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Gleanings (continued from page 4)

Mr. Stanley felt that the main shortcoming of Montgomery County's land use planning over the years was the failure to provide anywhere near the amount of necessary mass-transit. This writer asked him if the absence of that mass-transit would stop developments of the type envisioned from being built, and Mr. Stanley agreed. It should be noted that Mr. Stanley resigned from the Planning Board, in April, two months after this meeting was held. Will this mean changes in the Planning Board's philosophy?

March Meetings

Civic Federation –

In March, the Federation received a briefing from the County Executive's Transit Task Force. Their year-long mission has been to determine and present the methods to achieve a county-wide comprehensive rapid transit system. The Task Force has created proposed routes with various types of vehicles, but is well aware of the problems facing such a system, including the huge costs and location difficulties. The cost to construct is \$20-\$30 million per mile, with \$1.1 million per mile each year to support the system including drivers, vehicles, and overall maintenance. Also mentioned was the cost to build light rail, at \$120 million per mile. Wow! I'm getting nosebleed from the numbers.

An additional challenge is to plan routes that help the most in the face of current traffic congestion. The rapid transit stem should be planned to interact with Ride On and Metrobus, and maximize the efficiencies of movement.

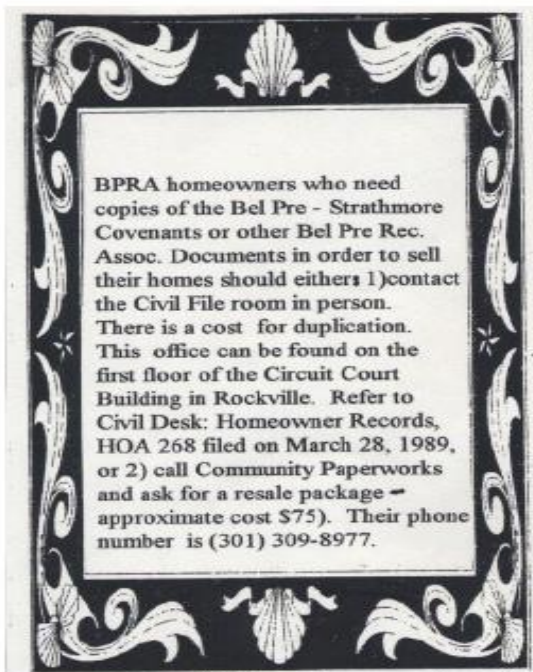
-- Continued on page 8 --

One of the original logos for our subdivision –



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Dolphins (continued from page 5)

Current Swim Team Board Members

If you'd like information about the team and how to participate next summer, please feel free to contact any member of the Board.

Greg Miller	President	winstonhen@aol.com
Mike Bearman	Vice-President	mbearman@vecna.com
Claire Pak	Secretary	cdaltonpak@yahoo.com
Alvaro Duran	Treasurer	justalvaro@gmail.com
Renee Yockelson	A Meet Manager	yocks@verizon.net
Marta Ferman	B Meet Manager	ferman2@verizon.net

Please watch future issues of The Bugle for more information about how to join the team, and for a calendar of Dolphins events, many of which are open to the entire community.

We look forward to seeing you at the pool!

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

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Gleanings (continued from page 3)

March Meetings

Mid-County Citizen's Advisory Board –

The March meeting featured a presentation by Fire Chief Richard Bowers. He spoke about the new Station 18 fire house, due to be built just north of Glenallen Avenue, on the west side of Georgia Avenue. Still to be finalized are the majority of the elements of building this station: the plans for purchasing the land, the final station house design, the equipment to be housed there, and when construction will begin and end. The construction of the nearby grade-separation is intertwined with the building of the fire house.

Miscellaneous Notes of Interest

State Legislature

Keep your attention on issues and legislation being considered in Annapolis. They include: new/increased taxes; shifting partial responsibility for public school pensions to the counties from the State government to the County governments; and whether to allow soliciting funds by people in the streets.

Barrie School

The Barrie School has received an approval from the Board of Appeals to replace several buildings with new and improved structures and also replace a sports field with a larger, better one.

McDonald's at Plaza Mercado

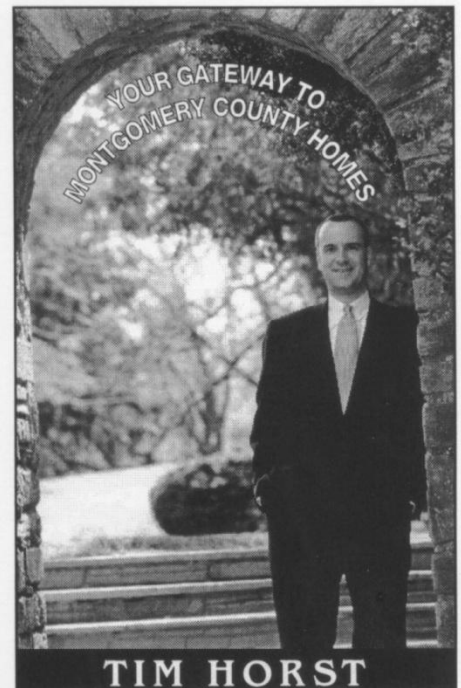
The McDonald's in Mercado has received approval to replace the present restaurant with one slightly larger and more modern. The play area out front will not be part of the new plan.

Privacy World

The Privacy World hearings have not concluded. A decision by the County Council may not be forthcoming for several months.

**I have served the
Strathmore at Bel Pre
neighborhood for
over 26 years.**

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let it work for you.***



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Aspen Hill Library News

-by Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot



Spring Book Sale– May 19, 2012 10 am to 3 pm

The Spring Book Sale will be Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 10 am to 3 pm, at the Library. In addition to over 10,000 books, this sale will also feature hundreds of vinyl LPs, and DVDs, CDs, and puzzles. The books are organized into over 30 subjects, including large selections of History & Politics; and Science Fiction. Most books cost 50¢ and \$1. Proceeds from the book sales are used to purchase books, programming, supplies, and equipment for the Aspen Hill Library.

Book Donations Needed

If you would like to donate used books, CDs, records, or puzzles for the book sale, e-mail the Friends at aspenhill@folmc.org or call us at (301) 871-1113. The Aspen Hill Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations are tax deductible.

Caribbean-American Heritage Celebration – June 16, 2012

The fourth annual Caribbean-American Heritage Celebration will be held at the Aspen Hill Library on Saturday, June 16th, from 1:30 pm to 4 pm. Good music, fun food, and dancing.

Summer Reading 2012 – Dream Big: Read

The theme for Summer Reading 2012 is Dream Big: Read. Special Summer Reading programs will be held at the Library in the Community Room. The schedule so far:

June 14	2 pm	Reptiles Alive
July 10	2 pm	Kaydee Puppets
July 26	11 am	Montgomery Agricultural Fair -- Farm Animals at the Library
August 8	3 pm	Groovy Nate

More programs are being planned. For the latest programs, visit the Library or go to <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Libraries/branchinfo/ah.asp>.

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 echabot@usa.net.

50 Plus Club News

-by Maurice Potosky

The 50 Plus Club continues its activities. We are meeting monthly at various members' homes. Our meetings normally include socialization, discussion of community affairs, and planning of activities for the late spring, summer and early fall. The March meeting was at the home of Elizabeth Thornby. Our summer meetings traditionally take place in the pool pavilion.

On Wednesday, March 14, we attended Toby's Dinner Theater to see their production of "The King and I". The show is preceded by a lavish buffet, with doors opening at 6:00 PM. We enjoyed the Hexagon Players production of "I Get No Kick from Campaign on March 22.

We plan to see the next Toby's show, "The Wizard of Oz," on June 6.

For further information on our activities, please contact Charlotte Potosky at 301-460-9008



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Be prepared... What About Homeowners Insurance?

Flood Coverage - Most policies cover water damage that occurs from above the ground, such as roof leakage, storm water pushed through window voids, and burst plumbing. Water that rises or seeps into a basement from the ground is considered a flood and is not insured. If you are concerned about ground water seepage & damage, you need a separate flood insurance policy.

Who Has a C.L.U.E.? In recent years, insurance companies have shared claim information with each other. The C.L.U.E. report is a standardized itemization of claims and, often, inquiries that a homeowner has made. If there have been too many calls or claims, the buyer of that home may be denied a new insurance policy or may be quoted an outrageously high price. This has become a serious problem for some sellers, who called their insurance companies every time there was a covered problem and find themselves unable to find a buyer who can start a new insurance policy (required by all lenders). A savvy homeowner, in order to keep his policy intact and to have an acceptable C.L.U.E. report, will only make an inquiry or claim for major losses.

Deductibles - Since only large losses might be claimed, it may be economical to raise the deductible on your current policy to lower the annual premium.

Insurance When Selling - You should call your insurance company to let them know that you are putting your home on the market to be sure you are properly covered. After the sale, keep your policy in effect for a week or so until the buyer's deed has been recorded with the County.

Consult Your Insurance Agent - For insurance information, your agent has definitive answers. Long & Foster Insurance Agency can provide information and competitive quotes. Contact them at www.longandfoster.insurance.com



Thinking of Selling
or Buying? Call:
Lilla Hammond,
Realtor MD & DC
301-468-0606 Office
301-518-7818 Cell
lilla@longandfoster.com
Website:Lillahammond.com



You are Invited to a planning meeting

-by Lilla Hammond

Please come and help us plan the highlight of the summer, your community's very own July 4th celebration!



Strathmore Bel Pre Community 2012 July 4th Celebration Committee

Planning Meeting

May 15th, 2012 7 pm to 8:30pm

At the Layhill Center – Genesis

3227 Bel Pre Road

Activities to be planned include: our July 4th Celebration parade; entertainment for family & friends; field games; and our scrumptious evening picnic.

Any and all help is welcomed!

If you will attend this meeting, please email **Joe Story at Joestory@mac.com**, You can also contact **Marilyn Biviano at 301-460-0159** or email her at **biviano@verizon.net**.

Please check our Strathmore Bel Pre community website at www.strathmore-belpre.org for more information . Updates will be posted as they are available.

Thanks!!!

Bugle Advertisements

The Bugle is the best advertising opportunity in town!
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Contact Harry Klapper on 301-460-9645 or at hjksbk@msn.com.