

The Bugle



Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

June 2013

vol. 45 #3

DON'T MISS THE JULY 4TH Celebration !

Come and Celebrate July 4th! Join in with our annual community parade, followed by magic and field games, all at our community pool. Fun activities for the entire family, all sponsored by your Civic Association.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OUR COMMUNITY PARADE

Strathmore Elementary School – 12 NOON

Registration at Noon

Parade at 12:30pm



You and your family, your relatives, your community groups – y'all are encouraged to join in! All registered participants will receive a July 4th parade prize. The parade begins at Strathmore Elementary, heads up Beaverwood Lane to the north end of Birchtree Lane, then down Birchtree, and turns onto the footpath to go to the Pool Pavilion.

Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Station 25 leads the parade, but does not go on the footpath!

One Step MagiCompany – Tom Lilly, MAGICIAN

Pool Pavilion – 1:00 to 2:30 pm

Tom Lilly combines magic, juggling, fire-eating, and balloonacy. With audience participation, he will keep you laughing and wondering... After the show, he will create balloon animals.

FIELD GAMES

Pool Grounds – 2:30 to 3:30 pm

The field fun and games begins at 2:30 pm. Try your hand at the water-balloon toss, sack race, three-legged race, and more. You can participate, whatever your age – senior, tween, junior, baby! Come out and enjoy!

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To Volunteer to help with the July 4th Celebration, please contact:

Joe Story	301-460-0230	Email: joestory@mac.com
Lilla Hammond	301-518-7818	Email: lilla@Inf.com
Harry Klapper	301-460-0159	Email: hjksbk@msn.com



The volunteer form can be found on page 16



THE BUGLE

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association Since 1969

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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 groups such as the Montgomery County Civic Federation. The SBPCA also publishes *The Bugle*, 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 Mid County Community Recreation Center on Queensguard 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	Secretary:	Linda Bea	301 460-0497
Vice President:	Bill Hammond	301 871-5074	Webmasters:	Bill Hammond	301 871-5074
Treasurer:	John Bogasky	301 460-1604		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 Strathmore Bel Pre properties. Your BPRA annual assessment pays for your pool, tennis courts, volleyball, playground, picnic area, bath house, snack bar and pavilion; open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. BPRA Board Meetings are held during the summer months at the Pool Pavilion, on the 4th Monday at 7:30 pm, and in September and October at Strathmore Elementary School on the 4th Thursday, at 7:30 pm. The annual meeting is in November at Strathmore Elementary.

Bel Pre Recreation Association Officers

President:	Dan Keating	301 603-8162	dtkeats@gmail.com
Vice President:	Karen Potocki	609 947-1256	karenpotocki@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Ed Frantz	301 603-8055	ed_frantz@comcast.net
Secretary:	Paulette Ladas	301 674-7742	pauletteladas@remax.net

Bel Pre Recreation Association Trustees/Directors

Robert Bowser	301 460-3444	r.bowser@verizon.net	Kim Watters	301 460-0054	kimwatters@live.com
Dan Entwisle	301-871-9363	twisles@msn.com			
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
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The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol, President SBPCA

We hope that many of you had a chance to attend our community Yard Sale in the pool parking lot in June. It was our first Civic Association event of the season and was most successful. For the first time in a very long time we had a community Brownie Troop (Troop 6503) assist by arranging for two charities to come after the Yard Sale to pick up donations that went unsold. They also managed a refreshments table. It was a sheer delight having the troop attend this event and see these young children interacting with all of our neighbors in such a professional way. They were a huge hit and such a wonderful addition to the Yard Sale this year.

We are already planning our next event, the 4th of July parade followed by Tom Lilly, of One Step MagiCompany, and then field games at the pool. It will be exciting to see Tom Lilly, since he is new to our event, although he is well known in the area. Please let either Lilla Hammond, Joe Story, or Harry Klapper know if you can assist with the planning and/or staffing the actual events that day. They need more volunteers!!! These events are a tradition in our neighborhood and if you have never attended, please consider doing so this year.

Dogs?

I have received several phone calls the past few months concerning the need for neighbors to remember to pick up after their dogs when walking them through the neighborhood. Several complaints have also come in related to the noise of dogs who bark continuously. Having raised two little Terriers in our home for the past 20 years, I can personally relate to these two complaints. I often worried about how our neighbors were standing our two little frisky terriers, with all of their barking! Please do all you can to be considerate of your neighbors if you are a dog owner. Not everyone has the same level of tolerance and patience for pets. It is also a county law to pick up after your pet when walking them, and to keep them on a leash.

I hope everyone has a fabulous summer and enjoys spending time with their families and friends while enjoying our wonderful neighborhood and our excellent recreational facilities. This is always such a wonderful time of year. I look forward to seeing everyone at the pool or on the trail, or just walking through the neighborhood!



Gleanings From Meetings + More

by Frank Corrigan

Montgomery County Taxpayers League Meeting – April Meeting

On April 25th, the Taxpayers League meeting featured David Dise, Director of Montgomery County's Department of General Services. The County General Services Department is responsible for a combination of public works and transportation.

Silver Spring Transit Center

The Silver Spring Transit Center is being built on Metro property by Montgomery County. It is intended to connect the subway system, the railroads, and a proposed bus- rapid transit system, and will be operated and maintained by Metro once it was completed.

The 1999 initial proposal for the Transit Center had an estimated cost of \$35 million. Development for the current design, completely different from the 1999 plans, began in 2006-2007. An award of \$66.5 million was made to Foulger-Pratt in 2009, concluding a bidding competition in which two bids were received, Clark and Foulger-Pratt. More recent cost estimates have risen to a total of \$109 million, with the most current estimates projected to be \$120 million or more.

Factors contributing to the 1999 cost proposal being such a substantial underestimate were:

- The borings encountered more rock than anticipated
- Duct work for Pepco conduits had to be re-located and had to be deeper
- Huge challenges in re-locating water and sewer lines
- Telephone and fiber optic lines that had to be accommodated.

– Continued on page 6 –

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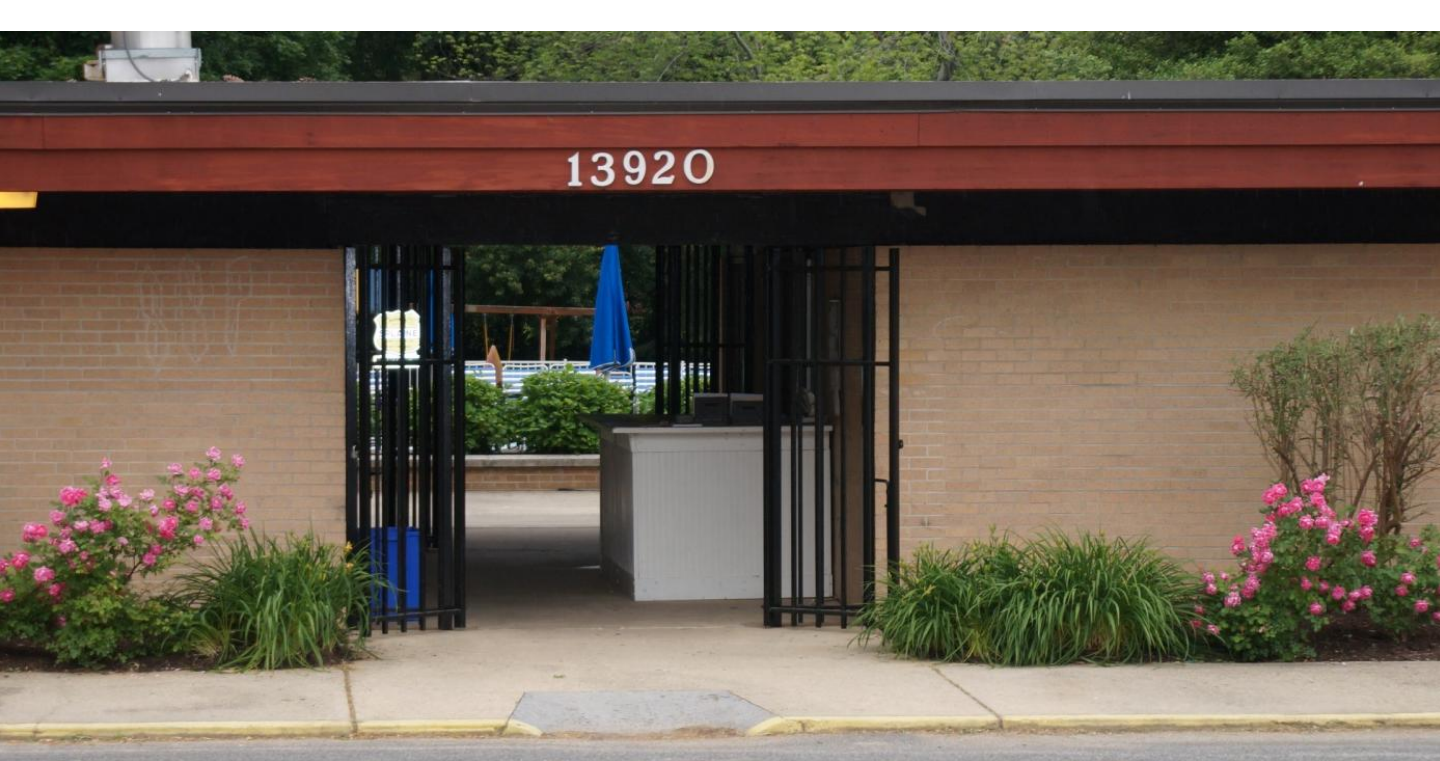
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Bel Pre Strathmore Recreational Association News

by Dan Keating

We are excited to have our community recreational properties open again. Tennis courts surfaces have been treated, the volleyball court has been leveled, the bathrooms have been painted, fences have been repaired, the grass is cut, the pools are ready, and the entryways have been power-washed. We are grateful to have such nice assets. We are looking to upgrade the basketball court surface.

New Board Meeting Place and Time

One thing that is changing is our board meeting location for the months when the pool isn't open. Traditionally we meet on the fourth Monday of every month at Bel Pre Elementary School in the non-summer months, and at the pool property over the summer months. With the Bel Pre Elementary School being rebuilt [see Spring 2013 Bugle, ed. note], the non-pool meetings are being moved to the Strathmore Elementary School. Because Strathmore is not available on Monday, our meetings are moving to the fourth Thursday of the month for the 2013 September and October meetings. The Annual meeting this year also will be held at Strathmore Elementary School.

New Board Members Wanted

The members of the BPRA Board are elected to three-year terms at the Annual Meetings. We gather names over the summer of people willing to run as candidates to serve on the Board. If you are interested in serving, please feel free to contact me or any other Board member listed on page two of *The Bugle*.

Have a great summer. See you at the Pool!

Gleanings (continued from page 4)

The Silver Spring Transit Center project is not completed and is behind schedule. The County is looking at faults/flaws in several areas:

- 1) How and where was the concrete cured? Water and air affects cure time and may weaken the concrete.
- 2) The concrete is not of sufficient strength
- 3) Problems with rebar and post tensioning cable (9 strands of wire)
- 4) The concrete is over or under tensioning requirements
- 5) The concrete was supposed to be 10 inches thick – some is 8 or 8.5 inches thick
- 6) Quality of the concrete is inadequate and is an uneven mix
- 7) Contractor or engineers may have over- or under-designed the facility

For several years Robert B. Balter has provided inspections and materials testing oversight for the project. Mr. Dise noted that KCE Structural Engineers also provided oversight for this project. He indicated that his office had received 1400 Requests-For-Information from Foulger-Pratt on this project. In contrast, a typical project usually involves several hundred or fewer. He said the Transit Center's completion date was supposed to have been a year and a half ago. His focus now is on getting it done safely with appropriate durability, etc. The Transit Center was projected to have a 50 year life, but current estimates anticipate only a 12 year life.

No Federal money was involved in the Silver Spring Transit Center project. The County did receive a \$4 million grant from the State of Maryland. All the other funding is from Montgomery County.

In response to a question regarding whether or not Fachina, the concrete company, utilized union or non-union employees, and whether they are equally qualified in terms of training and experience, Mr. Dise did not think they used union employees. He noted that they are a nationally known and respected firm.

– Continued on page 10 –



Seen in our neighborhood over Memorial Day weekend!

Photo Contest 2013

by Adam Shepard

Welcome to our first ever photo contest! We're gathering photo submissions from the neighborhood to be featured on our website to help spruce it up. Winners of the contest are eligible to receive prizes, and their photos may be featured at an upcoming SBPCA event, as well as published in *The Bugle*.

The Rules:

1. To enter, please email your photo to awshepard@gmail.com by July 15th, 2013.
2. Photos must be at least 940 pixels wide by 410 pixels high, and should be in JPG, PNG, or GIF format.
3. Entries will be posted on the Civic Association website, for community viewing.
4. Winning entries will be chosen by the SBPCA Board, with the following prizes:
 - a) Grand Prize \$100
 - b) Second Prize \$ 50
 - c) Third Prize \$ 25
 - d) Honorable Mention (2) \$ 10
5. More than one photo per person may be submitted for consideration, but only one prize may be won per person.
6. All submissions become property of the Civic Association, which may use them on the website and in *The Bugle*.



Swimming in cold water!



The pirate ship awaits
new privateers



Re-Zoning Notices

by Max Bronstein

Notices have been received in the neighborhood of a zoning change for Strathmore Bel Pre homes north of Hewitt Avenue, going from R-150 to R-200. This change has been recommended by the Planning Board, but is subject to approval by the County Council.

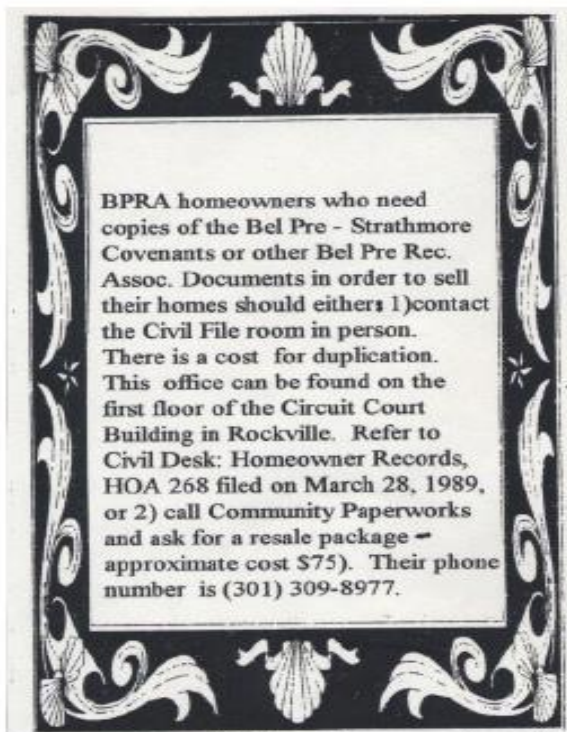
The re-zoning changes come about as a result of a zoning code re-write that has been ongoing for a few years. Part of the reason for the change is to reduce the number of zones. Averaging the zones is also behind the change. The change from R-150 to R-200 should have very, very little practical effect.

- R-150 = 15,000 sq. foot lot average
- R-200 = 20,000 sq. foot lot average

Our neighboring community, Layhill Village, has always been zoned R-200 and is a fully built out residential community similar to Strathmore Bel Pre. Since both communities are fully built out, do not expect any changes as to what is allowed to be built within these residential areas.

Another item about the future zoning will be the ability to raise certain small animals, housed 100 feet from a human dwelling. Allowed are up to 8 of: chickens (no roosters), ducks, rabbits, miniature goats, & bees. A rumor we are attempting to trace down, about the possibility of crossing large bees with miniature goats in order to produce sweet goat's milk. Anyone know more about this?

A public hearing before the County Council will be held on June 11, 2013. More information is available at: www.zoningmontgomery.org



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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Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins Swim Meet Schedule – Summer 2013



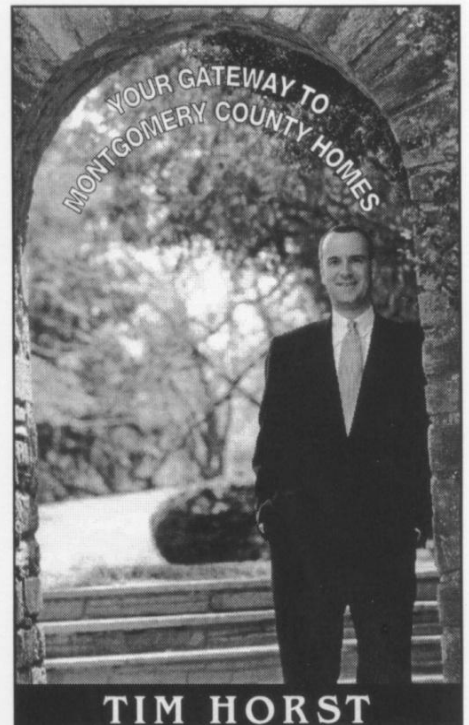
June 8	Blue-White Meet, 8:30 am
June 15	At Home v Westlake Village
June 19	B Meet at Manor Woods
June 22	At Home v MVP Dolphins
June 26	B Meet, Home v Wheaton Woods
June 29	Away at Greenbelt Municipal Pool
July 2	B Meet, at West Laurel Swim Club
July 4	Memorial Meet, 9 am
July 6	Away at Adelphi Recreation
July 10	B Meet, at Middlebridge
July 13	Away at Russet Swim Team
July 17	Jelly Bean Meet, 6:30 pm
July 20	At home – Divisionals Meet
July 27	Away -- All Stars

at Whitehall Pool and Tennis Club

Come and root for your friends and neighbors!
Find out more at <http://sbpdolphins.org/>.

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

*The experience is there...
let it work for you.*



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Gleanings (continued from page 6)

The County's Inspector General was looking into the Silver Spring Transit Center project, but no action has been taken yet. The Department of General Services is supervising 15 other projects at present. All are proceeding on schedule, with the exception of the Gaithersburg Library, which is delayed due to the required storm water system changes.

Two other Department of General Services projects were referenced in closing. They are both \$80 million projects – one for Fleet Management (dump trucks, trailers and snow plows) and another for the Judiciary Center. Design work takes about 10% of the ultimate project cost.

Interestingly, on April 26th, *The Washington Post* featured an article concerning the problems associated with the Transit Center. The article noted that Metro (property owner of the land where the Transit Center is being built) sent a letter on April 14th disavowing the project and indicating that Metro would not operate or maintain the Transit Center as their original agreement with the County provided. An e-mail from Max Bronstein (Civic Association Board and Taxpayers League member) to Mr. Dise elicited an explanation that he considered Metro's letter to be a reflection of a negotiating position, rather than a fait accompli. No doubt there will be more interesting and potentially puzzling developments pertaining to the Transit Center before it is completed and used by the public.

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Burglaries in Strathmore Bel-Pre

by Kye S. Pak

On May 26, 3 juveniles were arrested in an attempted burglary into a home located in the Bel Pre Strathmore neighborhood. The juveniles, ranging from age 13 to 15, saw a home on Beaverwood Lane that was dark, and it appeared that nobody was home. They knocked on the door with no answer. The homeowner was inside but did not answer the door. Immediately thereafter the juveniles went around back and attempted to break into a window. The homeowner startled them and they ran out. They were not deterred, but attempted to break into another pitch-black home, via a rear window. The police arrived on the scene and the juveniles were arrested. The juveniles were also involved in 2 separate larcenies from vehicles – from unlocked cars in the area.

Some things to keep in mind:

1. Be mindful of unknown people knocking on your doors and asking what I consider stupid questions: directions, names of people who don't live there, mow your grass (when your lawn is already cut), shovel snow (no snow shovel), rake leaves (no rake), carrying backpacks, but no other solicitation, cars backed in the driveway. Also be mindful of youths and persons walking aimlessly with no sense of direction, looking directly at homes, etc... You get the idea.
2. If you decide not to answer your door, then please watch the person leave your property. If they go directly into the backyard or your neighbors, call 911.
3. Call the non-emergency number for all others – 301-279-8000.

Note: The juveniles specifically told me that they targeted the homes because there were no lights on, and they appeared to be empty. Please have porch lights on. If you have an extra car, park it in the driveway or on the street. Please lock all doors and cars.



This peacock was spotted in our neighborhood early in May.

50 Plus Club News

By Maury Potsky

The Strathmore-Bel Pre 50 Plus Club started its summer meetings at the swimming pool pavilion on Wednesday, May 29th. The tentative dates for the other summer meetings at the Pool: July 10, August 7, and August 28.

Our meetings start at 6 PM. Members should bring their own dinner, as well as a dessert or snack to share with other members. Members will be called prior to the meetings to elicit what they will bring. If you are a resident at Strathmore and would like to join us for our meetings, but are not yet an official member of the 50 Plus club, please call Charlotte Potosky at 301-460-9008.

The club will be attending Toby's dinner theater on June 19 to see **In the Heights**, a musical about the Washington Heights, NY Latino community. Near the end of the summer we expect to have a trip to Toby's to see **Les Miserables**. If you would like to be informed about the schedule, please contact Charlotte to be placed on our mailing list.



*And, when you're ready
to make your move....
please call Lilla!*



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Music, Movies, and More ... Free Fun at the Pool Pavilion

by Chris Swan and Adam Shepard

Save these evenings – June 22, July 20, August 3, & August 24 – for your date with the pool.

The Civic Association is putting on a series of movies and concerts at the pool pavilion this summer. You, your family, and your friends are invited to watch great movies, or listen to fun music on those nights.

Have a preference on the kind of music that should be performed? Want to tell us about the movies we've just got to show? Let us know – but do it quickly, as we need to finalize the performance schedule. Sent an e-mail to Adam at awshepard@gmail.com or leave Chris a message at (301) 871-1113.

Watch the listserve, the Civic Association website, and the pool bulletin board for the latest news about these events. And then, come out to watch, listen, eat, visit with your neighbors and friends, and enjoy!

Website Changes

by Adam Shepard

The Civic Association website has undergone some recent upgrades to make it more useable and friendly! You now can see recent posts, upcoming events, and an archive of Bugle issues.


One section is dedicated to the Recreational Association, where you can find information about the BPRA and its governing documents.

Thanks to your visits, we've seen an 50% increase in web traffic every year.

If you or your families would like any articles or writings to be featured on the website, please contact Adam Shepard (awshepard@gmail.com) or Bill Hammond (vze4bdqr@verizon.net). Don't forget about the photo contest too - your photo could be featured as the homepage banner!

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Aspen Hill Library News

by Chris Swan



Caribbean-American Heritage Celebration – June 15, 2013 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

The fifth annual Caribbean-American Heritage Celebration will be held at the Aspen Hill Library on Saturday, June 15th, from 1:30 pm to 4 pm. Lennard Jack and Fusion and the dance troupe, White House Studios *featuring* Caribbean Dance Traditions, will be performing. In addition to the good music and dancing, you can enjoy yummy Caribbean food from Nice 'n Spicy Jamaican Restaurant. Bring the whole family for a lovely summer afternoon of entertainment!



Lennard Jack and Fusion will
be at the Library June 15th.

Summer Reading 2013 – Dig Into Reading

Special Summer Reading programs will be held at the Library in the Community Room.:

June 18	11 am	Maryland Zoo – Living Places, Living Planet
June 25	11 am	Maryland Science Center – Hey Try This
July 11	2 pm	Baltimore Aquarium – Marshland Mystery
July 13	4 pm	How to Draw Superheroes
July 20	3 pm	Montgomery Agricultural Fair – Farm Animals at the Library
July 22	4 pm	Music in Me
July 23	2 pm	Uno, Dos, Tres, Con Andres
July 30	2 pm	Rainbow Company – Treasure Island

For the latest program listings, visit the Library or go to

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Libraries/branchinfo/ah.asp>.

--continued on page 15 --

Aspen Hill Library News (continued from page 15)

Library Survey

What kind of programs for adults would you like to see at the Aspen Hill Library? Even if you never visit the library, this survey is for you!

The library is asking folks in the community to fill out a short survey to find out what programs they want, and what days and times are best for the programs. What programs would get you to the Library, or increase your visits? Just drop by the Aspen Hill Library when they are open and fill out the survey. Alternatively, visit the Civic Association website, download the form, and send it to the Library.

Movie Nights at the Library?

Are there movies you love to talk about? Movies that stir up interesting questions in your mind? Are you in search of an audience to talk about them? The Library needs volunteers who are willing to lead movie night discussions. All kinds of movies are available for discussion, from the classics, to foreign films, to animated films.

Being a movie night facilitator is easy! Simply be an official Library volunteer, and coordinate the movie choice and the dates and time with the Librarians. Then show up, watch the movie, and lead the post-movie discussion. The Library will serve light refreshments, thanks to the Aspen Hill Friends.



The Aspen Hill Library in June.

Book (& CD) Donations always are accepted by the Friends, but not at the Library

If you would like to donate used books, CDs, DVDs for the Aspen Hill Friends of the Library Book Sales, 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. Please do not bring donations to the library, as staff are not able to accept them. Just contact the Aspen Hill Friends, thanks...

Strathmore Bel-Pre – 2013 July 4th Celebration!!

The Strathmore
Bel Pre Community
likes to celebrate
July 4th!

The Celebration
team needs your
help! Are you able
to help us out this
year? Any and all
efforts are needed.

THANKS!



Please volunteer to make
our community's July 4th
Celebration special **this**
year by selecting from the
list below.

We need your ideas and
talents!

- ☐ Parade Committee
- ☐ Entertainment
- ☐ Decorations, Signs
- ☐ Field Games

Help Our Community Celebrate July 4th – 2013!

YES! I would like to help with the Strathmore Bel-Pre July 4th Celebration.

NAME _____

PHONE/E-MAIL _____

_____ **PARADE**Volunteers needed 11:30 - 1:00 pm
_____ **ENTERTAINMENT**.....Volunteers needed 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
_____ **DECORATIONS & SIGNS**....Volunteers needed before July 4th
_____ **FIELD GAMES**.....Volunteers needed before July 4th
.....and 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

There will be a planning meeting at the pool pavilion in June.

TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT:

Joe Story	301-460-0230	Email: joestory@mac.com
Lilla Hammond	301-518-7818	Email: lilla@Inf.com
Harry Klapper	301-460-0159	Email: hjksbk@msn.com

OR MAIL this form to:

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION COMMITTEE
Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association
P.O. Box 6838
Silver Spring, Maryland 20916

THANKS VERY MUCH!

THE JULY 4TH CELEBRATION TEAM