

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

May 2014

www.strathmore-belpre.org



vol. 46 #2

STRATHMORE BEL-PRE 33rd Annual Yard Sale

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

This sale is advertised in many places, from Craig's List, to the *Gazette*, and our listserv!

WHEN: Saturday, May 31st from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
(Rain Date, Saturday, June 7th)

WHERE: BPCA pool parking lot, on Bethpage Lane
GATES OPEN FOR SET UP AT 8:30 am

Your membership in the Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association gives you \$2.00 off the Yard Sale 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 with 2 chairs are available for rent for an additional \$5.00 on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaces are limited, so please 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: \$ _____

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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*, 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

Sharon Adamo	301 443-3972	Frank Corrigan	301 460-1011	Maurice Potosky	301 460-9008
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	Rita Vaught	206 406-2871

Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA)

The Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) is the homeowner's association for the Strathmore Bel Pre properties. The BPRA runs our community's pool, tennis courts, volleyball, playground, picnic area, bath house, snack bar and pavilion, which are open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. BPRA Board & committee meetings are announced at <http://strathmore-belpre/bpra>. The Board normally meets at 7:30 pm monthly. Current 2014 schedule: May 10 (11 a.m.), May 22, June 25, July 23 & Aug 27 at the Pool Pavilion. Sept 22, Oct 27, & Dec 3 at a location to be determined. The Nov 20 annual meeting will be held at Bel Pre Elementary School.

Bel Pre Recreational Association Board of Trustees

Elliot Chabot (President)	(301) 871-1113	echabot@usa.net
Kim Watters (Vice President)	(301) 460-0054	kimwatters@live.com
Robert T. Bowser (Treasurer)	(301) 460-3444	r.tbowser@verizon.net
Dan Keating (Secretary)	(301) 603-8162	dtkeats@gmail.com
Adam Shepard (Webmaster)	(301) 603-8162	awshepard@gmail.com
Paulette Ladas	(301) 674-7742	pauletteladas@remax.net
Greg Miller	(301) 871-9412	winstonhen@aol.com
Kye Pak	(301) 460-4388	kye_pak@msn.com
Anthony W. Wormack	(202) 468-3565	awwormack@gmail.com

Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

Brenda Henry (Administrative Assistant)	(301) 871-6298
Louisa Hoar (Pavilion reservations, tennis court keys & pool passes)	(301) 871-2954

The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association



Adam Shepard

I was fortunate enough to welcome two new Board members to our Board last issue, and just that fast, I have the very sad news that one of our current Board members, ADAM SHEPARD, is moving soon to Seattle, Washington. He hopes to return to our neighborhood one day, but for now we will again be short a Board member. ADAM has been instrumental in upgrading and building our current website. His talent with all things IT was apparent early on. So very quickly he became the go-to IT person. He was also the Board member with the idea to create a movie night on the pool grounds last summer. ADAM did all the work to make that happen. He partnered with CHRIS SWAN who was responsible for managing and organizing our music nights, and the two of them created our Entertainment Series. ADAM is searching for someone to replace him to take over the website duties. We also would like to replace his Board seat with someone interested in continuing to assist Chris with our Entertainment Series. We will miss ADAM greatly, and we cannot thank him enough for all he has contributed to our community!

A Challenge for YOU

JOHN BOGASKY launched a fundraising challenge to help raise the money needed to support our Entertainment Series. So far he has raised over \$1,700 thanks to major sponsors such as LILLA HAMMOND, PAULETTE LADAS and TIM HORST. They have supported our neighborhood for years, and continue to do so when asked. We all owe them our great appreciation! If you are interested in helping to support our entertainment series with a donation, please contact JOHN BOGASKY directly. He serves as our Board Treasurer, and he will be delighted to hear from you. More information about the Entertainment Series can be found on page 9.

Yard Sale

We will kick off Summer 2014 with our Community Yard Sale on May 31st at the pool, starting at 9 a.m. Please register for a table and come to sell your items, come to shop, come to see your neighbors and friends. We would love to see you that morning!

Movie Night

Our first movie night also will be that evening, May 31st, at 8 pm. Please come and bring the entire family. It is so much fun to sit outdoors and watch a great movie on the big screen under a starry sky! This day promises to be a great May day to get reacquainted with your neighbors after the long winter we have all endured. I look forward to seeing everyone on the 31st of May.

Website Assistance Needed!

by Adam Shepard

Calling all volunteers! Are you interested in writing, photography, or simple website administration? The Civic Association is looking for new members to help maintain our website. 2014 is off to a great start and we have some fantastic content, so we want to keep the contributions coming. **All ages and skill levels are welcome.** A tutorial for new co-webmasters will be held in the coming weeks. For more information or to help out, please email ADAM SHEPARD at awshepard@gmail.com.

Gleanings From Meetings + More

by Frank Corrigan

Taxpayers League – March 27, 2014 – New Zoning Code

FRANCOISE CARRIER, Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, met with the Taxpayers League. Her presentation was entitled “Are We Truly Planning for the Future of Montgomery County?”

The new County Zoning Ordinance, adopted March 4, goes into effect October 30, 2014.

MS. CARRIER essentially conducted a seminar regarding the work of the Planning Board. Her four year term ends on June 14, 2014, and she is not seeking another term. The *Washington Post* had an article in its Friday April 11, 2014 Metro section, “19 are Scrambling to Chair Planning Board in Montgomery”, as the deadline to apply for her position closed April 7, 2014.

MS. CARRIER noted that

- the County has become more diverse
- 1/3 of its land was devoted to the Agricultural Reserve (93,000 acres)
- the current plan at 1200 pages is too unwieldy and ambiguous
- the plan no longer reflects the County’s situation which is more than “suburban”
- churches can be located anywhere with water and sewer connections
- if the Master Plan approves, a neighborhood can be changed
- Rockville is responsible exclusively for its zoning.

She indicated that “more neighborhood protections” need to be integrated with new uses, such as urban agriculture (farming anywhere), to add a more pedestrian focus, and away from “single use” zoning.

New Flexible Zones – Commercial/Residential

Three CR (commercial/residential) zones – employment, suburban and industrial – are expected to provide more flexibility, e.g. a restaurant in residential areas. No longer will exclusively residential areas exist, due to the need for amenities like shopping centers. MS. CARRIER mentioned that “mixed use” is intended to increase activity, traffic, amenities. Areas that are slated to receive a zoning change will receive a letter.

MS. CARRIER noted that flexibility makes sense to builders. If metro stations are nearby, more “congestion” will be encouraged and supported. Considerable discussion ensued relating to Montgomery County’s “progressive” philosophy underlying efforts to accommodate greater diversity, flexibility and amenities.

White Flint is the first example of a combined commercial/residential zoning. The difference will be the mixed use C/R (commercial and residential) on the same property. Ms. Carrier indicated that developers could receive “extra” zoning exceptions or variances if they provided gold plated additions like storm water management. Another concept mentioned was FAR (floor area ratio – floor to land – height) with 250 feet allowed at White Flint and 300 feet in Bethesda. Downtown Bethesda was referred to as “defining mixed use”.

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The Bugle May 2014

Bel Pre Recreational News

by Elliot Chabot, President Bel Pre Recreational Association

Opening Day

Our community pool (13920 Bethpage Lane) is scheduled to open on Saturday, May 24. Come and have great time on the 24th and throughout the summer!

Pool hours are currently:

During the public school year:

Monday-Thursday	2:00-8:00
Friday	2:00-9:00
Saturday	noon-9:00
Sunday	noon-8:00

Once the public school year has ended:

Every day	noon-9:00
-----------	-----------



Any changes to the hours will be announced at the pool and at the Strathmore-BelPre.Org website.

Volunteers

New Positions

Congratulations to BOB BOWSER who was recently elected as the Recreational Association's new Treasurer, and to GREG MILLER who was recently elected to a seat on the Board of Trustees. BOB comes to us after 23 years as a scientist/administrator with the National Cancer Institute and 2 years on the BPRA Board. GREG is an internationally recognized musician (hornist), currently serves on the faculties of the University of Maryland and Lynn University (Boca Raton), has been President of our swim team since 2010, and can often be seen working behind the snack bar at the pool.

Vacant Trustee Seat

Elsewhere in this issue of *The Bugle*, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association President NANCY BECHTOL announced that ADAM SHEPARD will soon be moving to Seattle. In addition to serving on the Civic Association Board, being one of the driving forces behind the Summer Entertainment Series, and serving as serving as a webmaster for both the Civic Association and the Recreational Association, Adam has also been serving as a member of the Recreational Association's Board of Trustees. The Board is tentatively scheduled to try to fill Adam's Trustee position (how do you fill those shoes???) at its June 25 meeting. If you have in interest in applying, please contact me at echabot@usa.net or at (301) 871-1113. The deadline for applications is Friday, June 20, 2014.

Join a Committee and Have Some Fun

In the last issue of *The Bugle* I mentioned that the Recreational Association had created 4 new committees:

- Entertainment and Recreation Committee
- Neighborhood Dispute Resolution Committee
- Finance Committee
- Governing Documents Committee

We are still need volunteers for those committees. If you have an interest, please get in touch with me at echabot@usa.net or at (301) 871-1113.

– Continued on page 6 –

Some BPRA activities since the last issue of *The Bugle* are:

Pool Maintenance and Landscaping

- Ponte Mellor Architects, Ltd. have submitted their preliminary recommendations for a 10-year capitol projects and maintenance plan for the BPRA. The final version is scheduled to arrive by June 1 and will be published on our website.
- Georgetown Aquatics has been contracted to replace the baby pool motor, repair the skimmer in the main pool, and to bring the pool's automated external defibrillator (AED) up to current state requirements.
 - Thanks to DAN KEATING for coordinating Ponte Mellor Architects and Georgetown Aquatics contracts.
- Kollins Landscaping has been contracted to provide landscaping services for the pool. This will be their first year with us.
- Fairways has been contracted to fertilize the lawn on the pool property. This is the first time that this has been done in several years.
- Professional Painting has been hired to paint the metal fence around the baby pool.
 - Thanks to PAULETTE LADAS for coordinating the Kollins Landscaping, Fairways, and Professional Painting contracts.

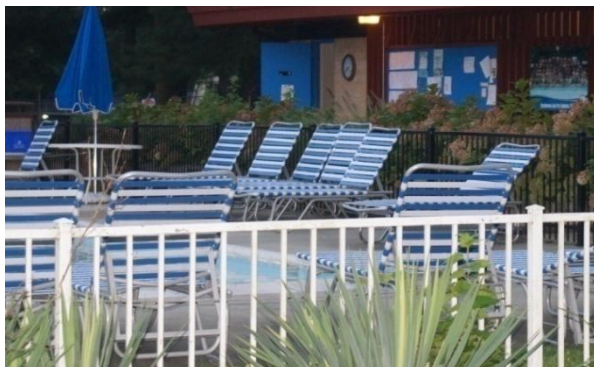
Security and Lighting

- ITS Solutions has been contracted to replace the pool's security system. The current system was installed in 2007.
 - Thanks to KYE PAK for coordinating the new contract.
- Work continues on finalizing requirements for an upgrade of the parking lot lighting.
 - Thanks to KIM WATERS for coordinating this effort.

Recreation and Website

- Expansion of support for the summer entertainment series at the pool - which will include 2 movie nights and 2 live music nights this summer. Dates are listed on page 9 of this issue of *The Bugle*.
 - Thanks to ADAM SHEPARD, CHRIS SWAN, and the Civic Association for their leadership in providing this wonderful service. And a special thank you to JOHN BOGASKY for putting this series on a strong financial footing.
- The BPRA website (<http://strathmore-belpre.org/bpra/>) has been expanded to include documents concerning recent litigation involving the Association.
 - Thanks again to ADAM SHEPARD for serving as the BPRA's webmaster.

– Continued on page 17 –



Taxpayers League – Zoning Presentation

Rapid Transit

A Countywide Transit Corridors functional Master Plan was adopted November 2013. There will be ten corridors plus a corridor cities transitway. It will be a 102 mile network with 79% dedicated lanes. Additional rights-of-ways may be needed to accommodate dedicated lanes, pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Determinations regarding corridor treatment will be made during project planning. There will be 116 stations with 24 bicycle/pedestrian priority areas near rail stations or the Rapid Transit System transfer stations.



Recommended Bus Rapid Transit corridors are:

Georgia Avenue North	North Bethesda Transitway
Georgia Avenue South	Randolph Road
MD 355 North	University Boulevard
MD 355 South	Columbia Pike (US Route 29)
New Hampshire Avenue	Veirs Mill Road

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GETTING CONTROL OF YOUR PAPER FLOW..A FEW TIPS!

Is your desk or counter top attracting papers? Sometimes the paper piles can seem uncontrollable. Here are a few tips from Elizabeth Mayhew of *Real Simple* magazine:

Establish a system for organizing mail: 1) Designate an in-box for the mail - big enough to hold a week's worth of papers, but no more, so you can't let things pile up. 2) Deal with mail when you get it. Throw away junk mail before taking your coat off. Put catalogs and magazines in a separate basket to go through later and put mail in your in-box. 3) Keep a large wastebasket near your in-box. Getting rid of bulk makes the paper you have to deal with less intimidating. 4) Pick a regular time to sort through your in-box. Whether it's one hour a week, or a couple minutes a day, pick a schedule that fits your lifestyle and stick to it.

Types of mail: 1) Invitations - decide quickly if you will attend, mark invitation once you have replied, put the invitation in a visible place, put the date in your calendar right away and toss the invitation after the event. 2) Bills—use a portable filing system. Keep everything you need together: checkbook, stamps, and a pen in your organizer. Choose a labeling system that works for you. Pay the bills daily or use a weekly system. Once bills are paid, move them to a file cabinet or storage box.

Stop junk mail: 1) The Credit Reporting Industry Pre-Screening Opt-Out hotline (888-567-8688) removes your contact information from four major credit bureau lists for pre-approved credit card solicitations. 2) Contact your bank and credit-card companies to make sure your name is removed from shared mailing lists.



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Gleanings (Continued from page 7)

Aspen Hill Minor Master Plan Amendment

On April 1, 2014, the County Planning Staff and Transportation Planners held a second community meeting to discuss the “Minor Master Plan Amendment” process for the 14-acre former Vitro site in Aspen Hill, owned by Lee Development. Topics included: demographics; community input; traffic impact; environmental conditions; market trends relating to offices, retail and housing. While the Georgia Avenue/Connecticut Avenue area is a center of economic activity, “office use” does not satisfy market trends to the same degree as retail and housing.



Impact

In considering the impact on the area’s residents and the community at large, concerns about changes that might adversely affect an area with a lower median income (compared to the County in general) and one with 22% of its residents over age 65 (compared to the County-wide average of 12.2%) were mentioned. Concerns also included land use, environmental impact (wetlands, environmental buffers, hazardous materials mitigation) and whether the project warranted accelerated treatment.

Some participants speculated about the “minor amendments entitled to advance ahead of the 2015 Master Plan reconsideration”. The County representatives noted that while the Master Plan was slated for reconsideration in 2015, it might take several years to complete.

Traffic was viewed as a particularly important concern. Community participants expressed strong reservations about change of focus in light of the extraordinary traffic on Aspen Hill Road. One participant said it was impossible to exit her side street onto Aspen Hill Road after 7:20 am because of the stream of cars and school buses.

Market Options

Planning staff described problems with the present building because it is obsolete and doesn’t meet code. Development costs may be higher than normal to prepare the site for a new use, or to demolish the present building. Market options include an office, retail or housing possibilities. According to the County representatives, since BAE/Vitro vacated the site, finding a suitable office tenant has been difficult because the demand for office space has been declining regionally. One community participant inquired as to why Park and Planning was attempting to solve an owner’s problem.

A retail analysis assumed that a big box renter would be suitable. Such a store would be compatible with the surrounding land use, and a major retailer has shown interest in locating there (Walmart). The planning staff queried the community regarding the type of retail possibilities they envisioned for the site. Options such as a retail supercenter, a neighborhood shopping center or a general merchandise store as anchor tenants were suggested. Additional possibilities mentioned for community consideration were residential units, townhouses and multi-family units.

For additional information: www.mnppc.org.

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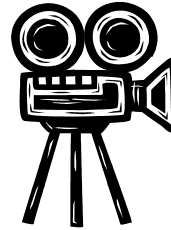
2014 Summer Entertainment!

by John Bogasky, Chris Swan, and Adam Shepard

4 events - two movies and two concerts - are set for the 2014 Summer Entertainment Series! Each event is on a Saturday night at the Pool Pavilion and grounds, and is open to all Civic and Recreational Association members and their guests!

For the movies, tentatively we have chosen:

- **Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events**
- **Percy Jackson and the Olympians**



Your challenge:

Support 2014 Summer Entertainment

In order to make this a new STRATHMORE BEL PRE tradition, we will need additional financial support from the community.

We have a great start! Each of our lead sponsors, LILLA HAMMOND of Long & Foster, PAULETTE LADAS of RE/MAX and TIM HORST of Long & Foster have already pledged at the SBP Superstar level. Civic Association Board individual members have committed an additional \$200, and the Recreational Association has committed \$250. **We, however, need your support to fully fund our planned events.**

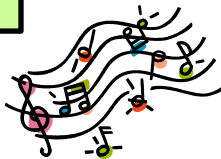
2014 Summer Entertainment Series

5/31 – the Summer Kickoff with a Movie
6/21 – Saturday night with a Concert
7/19 – Saturday night at the Movies
8/16 – Saturday night with a Concert

Save the dates!!

Level	Amount
SBP Superstar	\$500
Community Champion	\$250
Oscar Winner	\$100
Band Leader	\$25
Super Fan	\$10

You can be a BAND LEADER! A SUPER FAN?
How about an OSCAR WINNER? **The perfect gift for your 2014 Summer!**



Please contact Civic Association Treasurer JOHN BOGASKY at johnbogasky@hotmail.com to make your donations! With your support, we can create a new community tradition that takes advantage of our beautiful pool facilities, is fun for everyone, and brings our community together!

County Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

Libraries

During the recession, the Department of Libraries was subjected to some of the deepest reductions in County government, some 26% between Fiscal Year 2007 and FY 2012. The FY 13 and FY14 budgets have resulted in some re-building of the budget allocations as is reflected in the open hours, the materials available and the staffing. This spring renovated libraries in Gaithersburg and Olney opened, and this Fall the new Silver Spring Library will be opening. Also, the Aspen Hill Library and 10 other libraries will have increased hours of service.



Housing

In addressing a priority of his for the past eight years, MR. LEGGETT has brought the County's total investment in affordable housing to almost \$320 million. The various efforts have made housing available and affordable to 9,000 families in the County.

For an overview of the FY 15 Operating Budget, see the County Council's website at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council.

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Think Pool, Think Dolphins!

by Claire Pak

The Dolphins new season is just around the corner. By the time you receive your Spring *Bugle*, Memorial Day will be just weeks away!

Our first 2014 league meeting took place on April 10, and division assignments were released. The Dolphins remain a high seed in the very competitive B Division. We're coming for you, Adelphi! The Dolphins look forward to a fun and competitive season of Saturday meets, early morning practices, Friday Pasta Parties, all with Dolphins spirit!



Join the Dolphins

If you've thought about signing your children up for the team, but you're not sure what it involves, we invite you to contact any member of the board to learn more about the team. There's nothing like a Dolphins summer--many of our team parents will tell you that they signed their children up to keep them busy, and then found that the team offers so much more than a fun and healthy summer activity. Many team members and their families have formed strong and lasting friendships which never might have developed without the swim team. We'd love for more of our neighborhood families to enjoy the same experience!

Donations Needed

Our annual mailing will be sent in a few weeks. We remain very grateful for your continued financial support. While much of the team's operating budget is funded by team families through registration fees and fundraising, we need additional contributions to cover unexpected/larger expenses. For example, last summer, we purchased a new lane rope reel (over \$1,000), and this year, we will need to purchase an upgrade of HyTek's Meet Manager software. Your generous donations make it possible for us to keep the team's equipment and technology up to date, without negatively affecting our ability to meet day-to-day operating costs.



Board member contact information

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

Terry Kominski Head Coach

Hear All About it – Dolphin News

Finally, we'd love to keep in touch with you during the summer. I send frequent emails filled with team news during the summer, and if you'd like to receive updates, just send me an email and I'll add you to our distribution list. You can also bookmark our website: <http://sbpdolphins.org/>. Of course, our calendar will be in the Summer *Bugle*!

We're counting the days until Memorial Day and we hope you are, too.

We'll see you at the pool!

The Bugle May 2014

50 Plus Club Meetings

by Maury Potosky

The 50 Plus Club of Strathmore-Bel Pre will begin its Summer meeting schedule on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, at 6 PM, at the Strathmore Pool Pavilion. All members bring their own dinners, and also desserts to be shared among the group.

For Summer 2014, the tentative meeting schedule includes June 25, July 23, and August 20, subject to pavilion availability. During the summer we also are planning to see *Pirates of Penzance* at Toby's Dinner Theater, at a date to be determined.

This past season we saw *Spamalot* at Toby's and had a meeting at the home of the Kesslers.

If any residents of Strathmore-Bel Pre wish to join us for our meetings and other activities please contact CHARLOTTE POTOSKY at 301-460-9008 or by email at maury3505@aol.com. We enjoy meeting new people in our community!

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Montgomery County Civic Federation Meeting – April 14, 2014
County Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

JENNIFER HUGHES, Director, Office of Management and Budget (County Executive's Office) and STEPHEN B. FARBER, Staff Director (Office of the County Council) discussed the 2015 County Budget. Ms. HUGHES stated that County Executive Ike Leggett was re-focusing on basics and attempting to slow the budget's growth, by holding the budget increase to 4%.

As an example, Mr. Leggett is proposing to **reduce County property taxes** as follows:

	2014	2015
Average Assessment	\$ 443,591	\$ 448,118
Property Tax Rate	\$ 1.010	\$ 0.996
Tax Credit	\$ 692	\$ 692
Estimated Tax Bill	\$ 3,788	\$ 3,771

This represents a decrease of \$0.45%.

County Employee Health Benefits

MR. FARBER noted the 2015 budget provides for pre-funding retirement health benefits for all four agencies. "The revised tax supported target of \$100.6 million is \$81.8 million less than projected in the approved FY 14-19 Fiscal Plan last June, and \$33.7 million less than projected in the December Fiscal Plan update." A new approach to providing prescription drug coverage for Medicare-eligible retirees enabled the County to achieve this saving.

The **fuel/energy tax** continues. It was originally approved for Fiscal Year 2012, and extended with a 10% reduction proposed by the County Council in both Fiscal year 2013 and 2014.

Montgomery County Schools

Montgomery County Public Schools gained the most with a 3.8% increase over FY14. The County Executive recommends a tax supported budget of \$2.1641 billion, an increase of \$79.8 million. "The State's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement which mandates the same level of County funding year over year adjusted for changes in enrollment is \$1.4390 billion in FY 15, an increase of \$25.3 million from FY 14." The State's requirement for teacher pension costs, which must be added to the MOE, is \$37.8 million in FY 15, up \$3.3 million from FY 14. The Board of Education requested \$51.7 million in County funds above the MOE; the Executive recommends \$26.0 million.

Police

An increase of more than 100 police officers is projected to cover County special needs.

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Gleanings (Continued from page 13)

Meeting with County Executive Leggett – April 15, 2014

A small group of representatives from Layhill, Glenmont, Clarksburg and Strathmore Bel Pre met with COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEGGETT. In his opening remarks, MR. LEGGETT observed that, as we come out of the recession, the County is in a relatively good position with a budget of approximately \$5 billion and a considerable reserve.

The Wynne Case

He described a potential problem/issue for the County dependent upon the outcome of a tax credit case.

Comptroller v Wynne stems from the Maryland tax code provision giving a **Maryland state tax credit** for other state's income taxes paid, but not for a Maryland County income tax payment. In January 2013, the Maryland Court of Appeals ruled that failure to allow a credit for county income taxes paid discriminates against interstate commerce and violates the Commerce Clause of the Federal Constitution. Maryland appealed this ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. Enforcement of the State Court ruling has been stayed pending action by the U.S. Supreme Court – whether they take the case, and if yes, the final ruling. At this point, the fiscal impact cannot be predicted. The outcome could range from no cost to \$150 million from past claims and \$25 million on an annual basis.

Eastern Side of the County

MR. LEGGETT pointed out that there has been a significant lack of transit, library and recreation center resources in the eastern side of the County. The energy tax and its impact on condominium unit owners was raised in the context of fees and their relationship to financial struggles in condominiums and town houses in the eastern side of the County.

Condominium Units

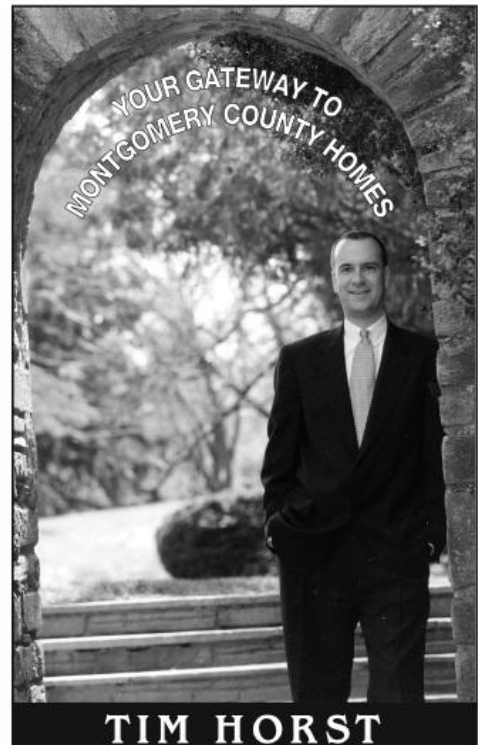
An on-going problem exists with condominium units in bankruptcy, reducing the value of other units and/or potentially driving entire condominium properties into foreclosure.

Clarksburg

He shared the concern of a participant who was highlighting the transportation, roads and other amenities still unrealized in Clarksburg. It was mentioned that a bus trip from Clarksburg to Shady Grove Metro required 28 minutes or more.

**I have served the
Strathmore at Bel Pre
neighborhood for
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News from Georgian Forest's Neck of the Woods

by Megan Virga



The Georgian Forest Grizzlies are enjoying a lively spring! After suffering through a long winter of indoor recess, our students are thrilled to be back outside. With the school's renovation complete, our outdoor play space is vastly improved. Twice the amount of blacktop space and brand new playgrounds means that recess is more fun than ever.



View of the new blacktop outside new wing of our school.

Grizzly Pride

Our young students are proud of their school, and it shows. I'm pleased to report that the student leaders of our Student Government Association recently organized a School Beautification effort to celebrate Earth Day.

Every class helped to pick up trash, clear our woods of downed tree limbs and debris, spread mulch, and plant flowers. Many thanks to the parents and community members who supported this effort with donations of supplies and elbow grease!

Year End Events

As the school year winds down, we would like to invite our neighbors to participate in some of our year-end events

CAREER DAY – FRIDAY, MAY 30th

Presenters needed...please come and share your profession with our students! Contact school counselor Jasmine Evans for details at Jasmine_A_Evans@mcpsmd.org.

SUMMER READING BOOK FAIR

June 10th-12th

Stock up on books for summer reading at our Buy-One-Get-One Book Fair!

Last but not least, we hope to have a few more Spirit Nights in the coming months – watch the Civic Association listserv for further details.

Kindergarten Orientation

May 15th and 16th

10 am – 2:30 pm

Do you have a little one scheduled to enter Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year? Be sure to register for Kindergarten Orientation! This is an ideal opportunity for families to meet Georgian Forest teachers and staff, tour the school, and get a glimpse of Kindergarten life.

**For more information please call
301-460-2170**

We hope to see you in our neck of the woods! <https://sites.google.com/site/gfespta/>

Sincerely, the Georgian Forest ES PTA

Library News

by Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot



Film Festival!

New this year, the Friends are running a Film Festival. Films will be shown on June 23rd and July 28th. Films begin at 7:30.

Come and watch **Red Tails**, about the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II on June 23rd.

Evil Under the Sun, a David Suchet performance of Agatha Christie's Hercules Poirot will be shown on July 28th.



Spring Book Sale – May 17

The Spring Book Sale will be Saturday, May 17, 2013, from 10 am to 3 pm, at the Library. In addition to over 10,000 books, the sale has DVDs, CDs, and puzzles. The books are organized into over 30 subjects, including a large selection of History & Politics; and Science Fiction.

Proceeds from the book sales are used to purchase books, programming, supplies, and equipment for the Aspen Hill Library.

Book Donations Needed for the Book Sale

If you would like to donate used books, CDs, or puzzles for the book sale, contact the Friends at aspenhill@folmc.org or call (301) 871-1113. The Aspen Hill Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations are tax deductible. We need all kinds of gently used books, especially fiction!

Caribbean-American Heritage Celebration

Save the Date!!

The sixth annual Caribbean-American Heritage Celebration will be held at the Aspen Hill Library on Saturday, June 7th, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Good music, dancing, fun times, and more!



Current Litigation

As we go to press, the Bel Pre Recreational Association is the defendant in two law suits. The full text of relevant documents should be available at <http://strathmore-belpre.org/bpra-legal-proceedings/>.

Henry v. Guirand (Case 2325, Maryland Court of Special Appeals). A suit among other things to compel the BPRA to take actions against the "growing fence" at 14017 Breeze Hill Lane. There has not been a change in status since the last issue of *The Bugle*. In January, the Court ruled in favor of the BPRA (i.e., dismissed the BPRA portion of the suit). In February the plaintiffs asked the court to reconsider its decision.

Guirand v. Bel Pre Recreational Association, Inc. (Case 383580, Montgomery County Circuit Court). A suit to enjoin the BPRA from taking actions against the fence at 3200 Bustleton Lane. Last February, the BPRA filed a motion in February to dismiss. On March 26, the Court rejected the BPRA's motion. On April 8, the BPRA filed its response to the allegations contained in the original suit.



Cub Scout Pack 763

By Jackie Fairy-Moeller

Pack 763 worked with the Neighbors of the Northwest Branch (a local environmental group) to clean-up the Matthew Hensen Trail and behind Bel Pre Elementary School at the neighborhood trash clean-up this April. The boys collected 20 bags of trash, a few bags of recyclables, 2 old bikes, a pallet, and most exciting of all, a locked portable safe found under the boardwalk and delivered to the Park Police.

Join Cub Scouts Pack 763

If you are interested in joining our pack, please come to our meetings at the St. Mary Magdelene Church on Aspen Hill Road (that's the church in between Giant and the pet cemetery, facing Michael's). We meet every 1st, 3rd and 5th (if there is one) Wednesday of the month at 7 pm during the school year. For more information, contact Cubmaster BILL TOTTON at wandst@juno.com or JACKIE FARY-MOELLER at jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com.

Above: cub-master Bill Totten with (from left to right) Barney Bulldog, Christian Martin, Jahmoore Long, Jaden Somers, Nathan Tea, Joey Moeller, Lucas Moeller, Michael Fernandes, and Graham Wick.



On left: Lucas Moeller working hard with Joey Moeller and Michael Fernandes behind him.

On right: Jahmoore Long and Nathan Tea behind Bel Pre School

DON'T MISS THE JULY 4TH PARADE AND CELEBRATION!!

Join the Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association in celebrating July 4th with our annual community parade and entertainment for kids and their families. The Civic Association has once again organized activities promising relaxation and fun for the entire family.

Planning Meeting – May 31st at the Pool Pavilion 1 pm Please Come and Join Us!

Please join us at 1 pm for a 30 minute meeting, on Saturday, May 31st, 2014. Come for the Yard Sale in the pool parking lot and stay for the meeting!

July 4th Schedule Of Events

Community parade

Registration of Paraders: NOON at Strathmore Elementary School.

Parade begins at 12:30 pm

Individuals and groups of all ages are invited to take part. All registered participants will receive a July 4th parade prize. The parade begins at Strathmore Elementary and heads up Beaverwood Lane to the north end of Birchtree Lane, then down the footpath to the Pool Pavilion. Montgomery County Fire Department Station 25 has agreed to lead the parade!



Children's Entertainment

TOM LILLY 1 pm at the Pool Pavilion

Mr. Lilly, a well-known and popular professional entertainer will perform his comedy-magic show to delight all ages beginning at 1pm.

Field Day Events

Pool Grounds, 2:30-3:30pm.

Fun and games for all ages begin at 2:30pm. Try your hand at the water-balloon toss, sack race, three-legged race and more.

Do Volunteer For Our Community's July 4th Celebration!!

Help us make July 4th a special day, and a great celebration for our community!! Remember our first planning session – 30 minutes only – at the pool pavilion on May 31st, just after the Yard Sale. We look forward to seeing you. Thanks!

To volunteer or for more information, contact: LILLA HAMMOND at lilla@Inf.com or 301-518-7818;
HARRY KLAPPER at hjksbk@msn.com or 301-460-0159

