

The Bugle



Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

March 2016

Volume 48 #1

Association Election Results



The November 19, 2015, annual general membership meetings of the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association and the Bel Pre Recreational Association included the election of the boards of both organizations. Board members serve on each board for staggered 3-year terms. Each year, 5 members are elected to the 15-member Civic Association Board and 3 members are elected to the 9-member Recreational Association Board, unless additional vacancies occur.

Civic Association

JOHN BOGASKY, LINDA BEA, ELLIOT CHABOT, LILLA HAMMOND, and CHRIS SWAN were re-elected by acclimation to the Civic Association Board.



Recreational Association

The Recreational Association election featured 3 candidates for 3 seats, an uncontested election, for the first time in many years! DAN KEATING, PAULETTE LADAS, and KIM WATTERS, outgoing Board members, did not run for re-election.

No quorum was reached at the November 19th meeting, which meant that the Recreational Association took reports, but did not conduct business or hold the election. At the next General Membership meeting on December 2nd, the quorum requirements were met. TED BECHTOL, PAUL SPELMAN, and ANDREW WRIGHT were elected to the Recreational Association Board.

The Board held a brief meeting following the General Membership meeting on December 2nd, and elected the following officers for 2016-17: President ELLIOT CHABOT, Vice President GREG MILLER, Treasurer LARRY VAUGHT, and Secretary PAUL SPELMAN.

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THE BUGLE

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association Since 1969

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North Circulation: Louisa Hoar	301 871-2954	South Circulation: Dan Mann	301 460-3330

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e-mail: Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org

Web site: www.strathmore-belpre.org

Annual SBPCA membership: \$18.00

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	Treasurer:	John Bogasky	301-460 1604
			Webmaster:	Chris Jennison	301-538-5705

Civic Association Directors

Elliot Chabot	301-871-1113	Harry Klapper	301 460-9645	Chris Swan	301-871-1113
Lilla Hammond	301-871-5074	Maurice Potosky	301 460-9008	Rita Vaught	206-406-2871

Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA)

The Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) is the homeowners association for most of the Strathmore at Bel Pre properties. The BPRA runs our community's pool, tennis courts, volleyball courts, playground, picnic area, bath house, snack bar, and pavilion, which generally are open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. BPRA Board & committee meetings are announced at <http://strathmore-belpre.org/bpra>. Board meetings are normally the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm (Bel Pre Elementary School, room 138, for December to April & October; Pool pavilion for May to September). The annual General Membership meeting is held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving Day at 7:30 pm, in the Bel Pre Elementary School multi-purpose room.

Bel Pre Recreational Association Board of Trustees

Elliot Chabot (President)	301-871-1113	echabot@usa.net
Greg Miller (Vice President)	301- 871-9412	winstonhen@aol.com
Larry Vaught (Treasurer)	240-558-3814	l.vaught@comcast.net
Paul Spelman (Secretary)	240-447-7758	pbspelly@gmail.com
Ted Bechtol	301-871-3679	tedbechtol@yahoo.com
Kye Pak	301- 460-4388	kye_pak@msn.com
Lou Ann Rector	301- 603-8805	louannphs@hotmail.com
Billy Ruppert	301-332-4901	billyruppert@gmail.com
Andy Wright	808-341-9088	ajw.uscg@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
Chris Jennison (Webmaster)	chris.s.jennison@gmail.com
Rita Vaught (Assistant Treasurer)	r.vaught@comcast.net

The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre
Civic Association



2015 Annual Membership Meeting – November 19th

We held an informative Annual Meeting on November 19th 2015 at the new Bel Pre Elementary School, with an agenda packed full, with great updates on what is happening in our neighborhood these days. Two employees from the WSSC attended and presented an update on their pipe replacement project in our neighborhood, one that still continues this winter and upcoming spring.

Several Board members, LILLA HAMMOND, LINDA BEA, JOHN BOGASKY, CHRIS SWAN and ELLIOT CHABOT were elected at the Annual Meeting for the Civic Association, for another term of office. I couldn't be more pleased that each of these dedicated Board members will continue to serve our community for yet another term. We simply could not run this organization without them!!

Farewell and Thanks!

We recognized former Civic Association Treasurer and past Bugle editor CHARLIE BEA, former Recreational Association President, former Civic Association and past Bugle Gleanings columnist FRANK CORRIGAN, and former Civic Association member, the original Gleanings columnist and general Civic Activist MAX BRONSTEIN for their years of service to SBPCA and Montgomery County.

MAX BRONSTEIN– Our Activist!



We were fortunate to have both Delegate BONNIE CULLISON and Senator ROGER MANNO attend our Annual Meeting. They presented MAX with a certificate of appreciation for his years of service from the State of Maryland. This was a lovely surprise for MAX, and a fitting tribute to his many years of service to our community and our county. MAX has attended countless meetings to learn about county and state government plans, and presented hours of testimony before county and state agencies and boards. His latest letter to the editor regarding the privatization of liquor sales was published in the *Washington Post* recently.

BONNIE lives in our neighborhood, and ROGER not far from here. They are more than glad, as are all of our state and county legislators, to assist you with your issues, and to keep you informed regarding legislation and plans.

General Town Hall and 2nd Recreational Association Membership Meeting – December 2nd

At our well-attended 2nd annual Town Hall meeting we hosted two employees from Washington Gas. They provided updates on future work in our neighborhood. Next, in a round robin format, a wide variety of questions and issues were raised and answered, covering items such as the new Aldi at Plaza Del Mercado, the tennis courts, the pool pump room, and our marvelous entertainment series.

- Continued on page 14 -

50 Plus Club Meetings

by Maury Potosky

The 50 Plus Club has scheduled a number of activities for 2016 beginning with the Toby's Dinner Theater production of **South Pacific** on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 6 pm. We will again be at Toby's in the Fall, for the production of **Sister Act** on September 14th.



The first 2016 meeting of the Club will be on Sunday April 20, at 2 pm, at the home of CARL and MARILYN KESSLER.

We want to thank SUSAN and MAX BRONSTEIN for hosting the last meeting on December 16th.

Following the April meeting, we will have our summer meetings at the pool, beginning after Memorial Day, when the pool opens.

Additional activities available for the Club include attending the Rockville Civic Center Fitzgerald Theater concerts and shows. We begin with the Victorian Lyric Opera Company production of Robin Hood in February, which is followed by the Rockville Concert Band performance on Sunday, March 20 at 3 pm. As soon as the Fitzgerald Theater schedule is published for May-July, we will plan those activities.

We invite residents of Strathmore-Bel Pre to join us in our activities. You can get information about our Club by calling 301-460-9008. We would love to have you join us!

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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Bel Pre Recreational News

by Elliot Chabot, President, Bel Pre Recreational Association

Congratulations and Thank You!

At the December 2, 2015 Bel Pre General Membership and Town Hall meeting, three members were elected to the Board of Trustees: TED BECHTOL, PAUL SPELMAN, AND ANDY WRIGHT.



Note: the BPRA November 19, 2015 Annual Meeting did not meet the quorum requirements, so no actions were taken. Reports were given, along with appreciation for the outgoing Board members.

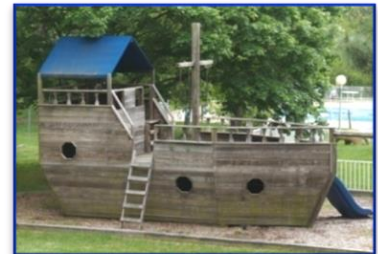
New Board Members

TED previously served as BPRA Vice President, and was a Board member from 1994 to 2006. TED is a horticulturist, and serves as the Superintendent of Grounds of the United States Capitol.

PAUL is an attorney with the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. Before becoming an attorney, PAUL was a TV, newspaper and radio news reporter.

ANDY is an engineer and holds the rank of Commander with the U.S. Coast Guard. ANDY is the Chief of Real Property and Planning in the Office of Civil Engineering, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters.

PAUL is the new Secretary of the BPRA. ANDY is the Chair of the BPRA's Long Term Planning Committee. TED oversees the contracts with the companies that provide landscaping, tree, and grass maintenance for our community's pool property on Bethpage Lane.



Outgoing Board Members

TED, PAUL, and ANDY succeeded three BPRA Board members who stepped down at the end of last year: DAN KEATING, PAULETTE LADAS, and KIM WATTERS. At the November 19th General Membership Meeting, each received a token of appreciation for their years of commitment and dedication.

DAN served as President of the BPRA for 4 years, as Vice President for 3 years, and as Secretary for 3 years. He was a Board member for 9 years, from November 2005 to November 2011 and again from November 2012 to November 2015.

KIM served as Vice President of the BPRA from December 2013 to November 2015, and as a Board member for 3 years.

Paulette served as a Secretary of the BPRA for 3 years, and for 11 years as a Board member, from November 2001 to November 2007 and again from November 2010 to November 2015.

All told, that's over 36 years of volunteer service to our community from the in-coming and out-going Board members! We are very fortunate to have such excellent, caring, and hard working folks in our community! Thank you!

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The Bugle March 2016

Cubs Scouts Pack 763

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

If it takes a village to raise a pack of Cub Scouts, then Strathmore Bel Pre is a great village to be in. I think the world has big problems with difficult solutions, but Scouting offers an opportunity for a young, small person to contribute in a concrete and meaningful way to the immediate community in which he lives. And that makes him feel good and gives him confidence to go after the next problem.



Scouts Food Drive Fall 2015

Pack leadership would like to thank you all for your generosity and thoughtfulness. The boys have a great time. They don't see it as work, as they love to go running up the driveways to see how many bags there are. When they are all in one place, the amount of bags looks impressive and they can be proud of their efforts. The scouts collected a total of 175 bags of food this year (about 30 more than last year) that were donated to Manna Food Center of Montgomery County. The food was transported to Manna, where it was unloaded by more scouts, organized and put on the shelves. This one day effort accounts for approximately 20% of Manna's food donations for the year.

Join the Scouts!

Both the Cub Scouts Pack and the Boy Scouts Troop hold their meetings at the St. Mary Magdelene Church on Aspen Hill Road. We meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm during the school year. For more information, contact Cubmaster BILL TOTEN at wandst@juno.com.

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2015 Summer Entertainment Series!

By John Bogasky

Movies and Concerts, all at the Pool!

The Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA) is planning 4 movies for this Summer. Every event is on a Saturday night at the Pool Pavilion. All Strathmore Bel Pre residents, families, and friends are invited. Be sure to mark your calendars today!



Our new screen and sound system set to play a movie!

2016 Concerts

Date to be Determined The Bubbas Return!

July 23 Motor Driven Band

Add these dates to your calendars now. You do not want to miss these concerts!

If you would like a Karaoke night at the Pool, contact a member of the Civic Association Board.

Financial Support

The 2015 Summer Entertainment Series is made possible in part with the support of our lead sponsors, LILLA HAMMOND of Long & Foster, PAULETTE LADAS of RE/MAX, TIM HORST of Long & Foster, and the Bel Pre Recreational Association.

For the Entertainment Series to continue, however, your financial support also is needed. See the next page for the details.

2016 Summer Movies so far ...



June 18th
How to Train
Your Dragon 2



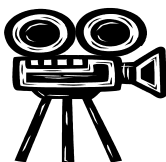
July 9th
Night at the
Museum:
Secret of the Tomb



September 3
Minions

4th Movie Being planned!

Save the dates!!



The Summer Entertainment Series Needs Your Support

by John Bogasky

The Summer Entertainment Series Needs Your Support!!!

SBP Superstar	\$500
Community Champion	\$250
Oscar Winner	\$100
Band Leader	\$50
Super Fan	\$10 to \$25

Donations Needed, please!

! We Need Your Support!

The SBPCA Summer Entertainment Series is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors. SBPCA dues contribute very little to their cost. We need your support to help cover the costs of licensing the movies, hiring performers, and maintaining our equipment.



All sponsors are recognized in the Bugle and on a banner displayed at Summer Entertainment Series events. You can be a **BAND LEADER!** A **SUPER FAN!** It's the perfect gift for your 2016 Summer!

If you can make a donation, please contact SBPCA Treasurer John Bogasky at johnbogasky@hotmail.com or contact any other SBPCA Board Member. With your support, we can help sustain this new SBP tradition that takes advantage of our beautiful pool facilities and is fun for all ages.



The SBPCA Thanks Our 2015 Summer Entertainment Sponsors!!

Lilla
Hammond



Paulette
Ladas



Tim
Horst



The Bel Pre Recreational Association

SBP Superstars

Oscar Winners

Adam Shepard

Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot

Ted & Nancy
Bechtol

John & Shelly
Bogasky

Maurice &
Charlotte Potosky

Larry & Rita
Vaught

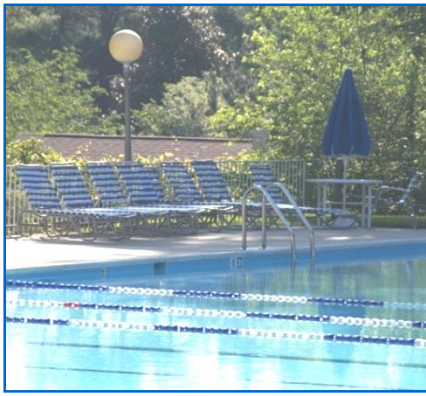
Kate Duchelle
& Doug Smith

Susan & Max
Bronstein

Band Leaders

Super Fans

And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association



Your Dolphins Summer

by Claire Pak

Right now, it's about 18 degrees outside and many, many days away from Memorial Day, which makes it the perfect time to start thinking summer—specifically, a Dolphins summer! The Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins is our community's neighborhood children's swim team.

40 Plus Years of Fun

The team has been competing for over 40 years and is open to all Strathmore Bel Pre community children ages 4 to 18. Swim team participation offers educational, fitness, and social benefits, for both children and families. Many of our teenage swimmers have been swimming together since age four or five, and they will remain friends long after their swimming days are over. Friendships among swimmers and parents have helped make Strathmore Bel Pre a close-knit, supportive, and friendly community. You even find a second generation of Dolphins swimmers in our neighborhood!

Dolphins Firsts

As current Dolphins families remember, 2015 was a year of firsts for the Dolphins. Online registration was introduced last summer, and with the help of generous private and business supporters, we were also proud to sponsor the First Annual Dolphin Dash, a certified 5K run/walk.

Join the Dolphins!

We would love to see more of our neighborhood children swimming with the Dolphins—the more, the merrier! Grandchildren can also join the team. We also offer sponsored memberships for swimmers who reside outside the community. Swimmers practice daily throughout June and July and compete in meets on Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings. Practices and swim meets are competitive, but FUN. Believe it or not, your children can join the team even if they can't swim yet. The Developmental group, where beginning swimmers receive one-on-one and group lessons, trains swimmers on water safety and basic technique, until they're ready to move on to the "big team."

For more information, please contact Coach TERRY KOMINSKI, or any member of our Board of Directors. We are happy to hear from you and to answer any questions about the swim team.

GREG MILLER	President	winstonhen@aol.com
MIKE BEARMAN	Vice-President	mbearman@vecna.com
CLAIRE PAK	Secretary	cdaltonpak@yahoo.com
RITA VAUGHT	Treasurer	raught@comcast.net
RENEE YOCKELSON	A Meet Manager	yocks@verizon.net
GERRY SHARP	B Meet Manager	gerry.p.sharp.mil@mail.mil
TERRY KOMINSKI	Head Coach	mermade1967@aol.com

Support the Dolphins

As always, we thank you for your support of the Dolphins. We are very grateful for your ongoing generosity and support. Please watch your mailbox later this year for our annual mailing!

We can't wait to see you at the pool!





Board inspection of the pump room.

Pump Room and Maintenance

This January, we received an engineering study from HA Associates concerning the pool pump room.

The 2014 study by Ponte Mellor Architects identified refurbishment of the pump room as the greatest maintenance need of the pool and ancillary facilities. The 2016 HA Associates report goes into greater detail as to what precisely needs to be done to maintain the pump room in safe and functional condition. The Association is now soliciting bids for the work.

Pool and Facility Maintenance

We also plan to have the following work done before the 2016 pool season starts:

- replace three of the concrete slabs that make up the deck on the Bethpage Lane side of the pool
- re-calk the concrete throughout the pool area
- replace the doors to the pump for the children's pool
- put new wood chips around the children's play equipment
- replace the pool's skimmer covers

Thanks to JOE MOELLER, GREG MILLER, and DAVE PURDY for their work on this effort.

- continued on page 11 -



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Summer Entertainment Series

Movies

Three movies have already been scheduled for the pool this summer:

- June 18 - How to Train Your Dragon 2
- July 9 - Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb
- September 3 - Minions

We're planning for a fourth movie – the date and movie to be determined.



Concerts

We're also planning two live music nights this summer featuring Strathmore Bel Pre musicians:

- Date to be determined - The Bubbas, featuring ELIZABETH and PHIL KOMINSKI
- July 23 - Motor Driven, featuring PAUL STAGNITTO

See the next issue of *The Bugle* for more details.

•Thanks to JOHN BOGASKY and CHRIS SWAN for making these summer events happen.



Pet Waste Station

In order to help keep Strathmore Bel Pre a cleaner place, the BPRA is planning to install a pet waste station near the driveway exit to the pool parking lot. The County Government is providing the station, as part of its Pet Waste Management Program, and will maintain it for a year at no expense to the community. After that, the BPRA will decide whether it wants to take responsibly for maintenance.

•Thanks to JACKIE FARY-MOELLER for coordinating this project.

Auditor's Report

DeLeon & Strang, the Association's accounting firm, has issued its final audit of the BPRA's financial records for the fiscal year ending February 28, 2015. The results of that audit (along with the audits for 2013 and 2014) and related documents are available at <http://strathmore-belpre.org/bpra-governing-documents/>, under the Budget and Maintenance heading.

The audit recommends that we:

1. move from cash accounting to accrual accounting and
2. commission a new replacement reserve study to assist the Board in determining what items need financial reserves, their estimated remaining useful lives and replacement costs, as well as to determine whether adequate funds are being set aside for future major repairs and replacements.

The Association converted its accounting from cash to accrual, effective March 1, 2015.

- Continued on page 17 -

THE BULLETIN BOARD – Updates from your neighborhood schools

By Claire Pak and Kathleen Hanrahan



NEWS FROM BEL PRE & STRATHMORE

Our Current Fundraiser is from Scott's Automotive, owned by Scott Folley, parent of two Montgomery County public school students. Mr. Folley will donate 10% of the cost of vehicle service or repair during the months of March and April 2016 to the Bel Pre Strathmore PTA.

Scott's Address is 11804 Coakley Circle, Rockville, 301-881-9429, www.scottsautospec.com.



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Harris Teeter Together in Education Program (www.harristeeter.com)

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

(continued from page 12)



NEWS FROM GEORGIAN FOREST

Book Drive

The Georgian Forest PTA and school are working together to gather books to give to students at various reading events throughout the year. Used books in very good condition and new books are welcome. Donations can be dropped off at the school during school hours or email the PTA infofespta@gmail.com for other arrangements.

Painless Fundraising

You can help the PTA raise funds - at no cost to you! Georgian Forest PTA participates in the Amazon Associates program that provides a means for sites to earn advertising fees. Start your shopping at the PTA website, click on the Amazon link at the top of the page and the PTA will earn a percentage of the sale. It is one extra step for you, but is significant in helping us raise funds to bring enriching programs to our students.

BOX TOPS are Welcome at all our Schools

Please collect box tops from General Mills products. Our schools receive 10 cents for each box top. Drop them off in the BoxTop box located in each school's front office.

For More Information

Georgian Forest ES PTA
School phone: 301-460-2170
PTA website: <http://gfespta.my-pta.org>

Bel Pre Strathmore PTA

Bel Pre: 301-460-2145 Strathmore: 301-460-2135
PTA website: <http://bps-pta.org/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123760599438/>

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*No one understands the magic of
Strathmore Bel Pre like a child.
And only an adult who experienced it
can articulate it's powerful influence.
THAT is what will sell your house.*



The President's Corner

(Continued from page 3)

Blizzard of 2016



I hope everyone fared well when dealing with the Blizzard in January. It was a beautiful snow to watch until it came time to venture out to deal with its removal! We appeared to get at least 2 feet of snow, so removal was no easy task.

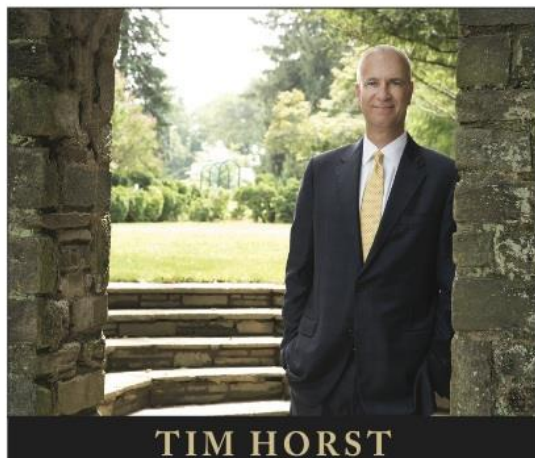
I was delighted to see neighbors helping neighbors, and my guess is that many of us met our neighbors for the very first time over that weekend. I know I did! Snow removal is always more fun with a group, then doing the task alone.

Our community listserv has never been busier for folks wondering when our next trash removal would take place, or when we would receive mail. I really enjoyed hearing about each street being plowed. When mistakes happened, with signs and mailboxes inadvertently hit by plow trucks, they were all rapidly fixed. We live in an amazing county and these service workers really did an amazing job tackling that snow storm.



I have served the
Strathmore at Bel Pre
neighborhood for
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County Library Renovations

by Elliot Chabot and Chris Swan

New Libraries??

The Library Administration and County Government have devised a new method to upgrade Libraries. Traditionally, Libraries were renovated every 20 to 30 years, at which point the Library was closed, generally demolished and a new Library built, at a cost of many millions, with the Library closed to the community for several years. Which Libraries received the renovation was a matter of much political maneuvering.



Libraries to be renovated

The Wheaton Library will be renovated. They've been grandfathered into the old process and will be getting a complete renovation. The entire Wheaton Library, along with the Wheaton Recreation Center next door to it, will be demolished and completely rebuilt. The 2 facilities will be rebuilt as 1 building. This currently is a \$76 million project. The Wheaton Library closed earlier this month

and is scheduled to re-open in summer of 2018, barring construction and funding issues.

Clarksburg, which currently has no Library, also is in the Capital Budget to receive a Library, but more than 6 years from now. Library renovations dropped from the Capitol Budget include Potomac and Davis.

Libraries to be refreshed – NOT renovated

The current County Government plans are to refresh Libraries rather than renovate/rebuild them. This decreases the funds being allocated in the Capitol Budget for Libraries – \$34 million in the FY13 capitol budget vs. \$20 million in the FY15 budget. Note that this effectively cut back on the funding of renovations for libraries. The County spent \$25 million on the new Gaithersburg Library and over \$69 million on the new Silver Spring Library. In contrast, a library getting a refresh will receive only \$800,000 to \$1 million of funding.

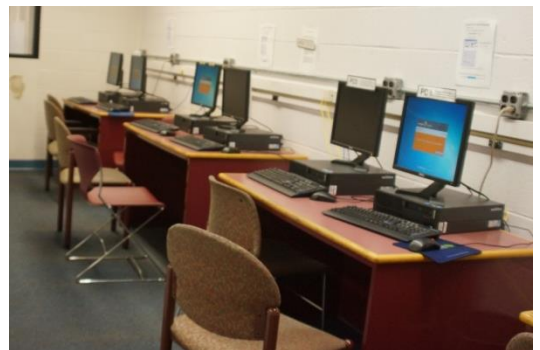
Refresh advantages

- More Libraries get something, rather than waiting for decades
- Faster, 2 to 3 Libraries get refreshed each year
- Libraries are closed for under a year, rather than for several years
- Cheaper

Disadvantages

- No major improvements to a Library
- Limited funds, allocated among the most critical and urgent Library needs
- No expansion of space – no additional rooms, no additional seating, no additional collections
- No new computers, no new maker-space facilities

- continued on page 16 -



This becomes small group study rooms

What is a Library Refresh?

A “library refresh”, identified as “Library Refurbishment” in the County’s Capital Budget, is the County Government’s new phrase for catching up on missed maintenance, bringing in new furniture, and upgrading technologies and other such equipment. The County Library System’s past practice has been to provide new furniture for a library only when a library is being renovated. Other than in a renovation year, libraries that needed replacement furniture got hand-me-downs from other libraries that are getting renovations. In recent years, Aspen Hill has received furniture from Germantown, Gaithersburg, and Silver Spring.

Libraries with refreshes

Twinbrook Library received its refresh, and (after 8½ months) reopened in January 2016. Kensington Park currently is being refreshed, and will re-open the end of March 2016. Aspen Hill, Davis, and Little Falls are now scheduled to close for their refreshes in early summer 2016.

Aspen Hill Library Refresh



Aspen Hill Circulation Desk.
This will become the single
information desk, for circulation
and for reference.

Tentative plans for the Aspen Hill Library refresh are:

- bathroom replacements, to be ADA compliant
- a new book drop, for returning books when the library is closed
- a second children’s room, created from the current media room
- a single information desk, consolidating all service desks
- better lighting, new paint, new furniture
- additional small study rooms, created from current computer room
- new flooring

The Aspen Hill refresh is not expected to include:

new computers, more physical floor space, new staff equipment or more space for backroom functions, more community rooms, a media lab, a maker-space facility, an outdoor Library area, or more parking.

Photo Contest 2015-16: Life In Strathmore Bel Pre

by Chris Swan

Our second photo contest! Simply take or collect your best photos of life in our community! Winners of the contest receive prizes with photos published in *The Bugle*, and featured on the Strathmore Bel Pre website.



The Rules:

1. To enter, please email your photo to: echabot@usa.net by May 31, 2016.

The end of the Extended Deadline!!!

1. Photos must be at least 940 pixels wide by 410 pixels high, and should be in JPG or PNG format.
2. Winning entries will be chosen by a panel of your neighbors, including GABI WRIGHT, certified photographer, and frequent contributor to *The Bugle*.
3. Prizes: First prize \$ 50 Second prize \$25 Third prize \$15 Honorable Mention \$10
4. More than one photo per person may be submitted, but only one prize may be won per person.
5. All submissions become property of the Civic Association, which may use them on the website and in *The Bugle*.

Auditors Report, continued

The auditors were satisfied with the replacement reserve 10-year study conducted by R.A. Ponte & Associates for the BPRA in 2002. They felt, however, that the 2014 Ponte Mellor Architects study for the BPRA was not sufficient because it did not estimate the remaining useful lives of major components of the pool facility and did not recommend replacement years for those components. We expect to commission a new reserve study this year.

- Thank you to LARRY VAUGHT and RITA VAUGHT for their work with our auditors and strengthening our internal financial controls. Also, thank you to ANDY WRIGHT for agreeing to chair the BPRA's Long Term Planning Committee, which will oversee the new replacement reserve study.



Current Litigation

Henry v. Guirand (Case 2325, Maryland Court of Special Appeals; Petition Docket 614, Maryland Court of Appeals). A suit to, among other things, compel the BRPA to take actions against a growing fence at 14017 Breeze Hill Lane. In November 2014, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals ruled to dismiss the BPRA portion of the suit. In February 2015, the Maryland Court of Appeals denied the plaintiffs' request to review the Court of

Special Appeals decision. In June 2015, the Court of Appeals denied the plaintiff's request that it clarify the November 2014 decision. In September 2015, the Court of Appeals denied the plaintiff's request to reconsider its decision not to review the November 2014 Court of Special Appeals decision.

Are you a new owner in the Bel Pre Recreational Association?

If you are, we'd like to hear from you! Please send your name and address to BPRA_Treasurer@comcast.net, or call us at 240-558-3814. We need to keep our records current, and we have information for you concerning the Recreational Association.

You are Needed for 2016 July 4th Planning Committee!

The July 4th Celebration planning is now in progress! Please contact us if you can assist with these activities.

July 4th Parade 11:30 am to 1 pm

Family Entertainment 1 to 2:30 pm

Field Games 2:30 to 3:30 pm Water-balloon toss, sack racing, coin toss games, and more!



If you would like to join in the fun, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact one of the following committee members:
 Bill Hammond: 301-509-4621 or w.m.hammond@verizon.net
 Harry Klapper: 301-460-9645 or hjksbk@msn.com
 Marilyn and Reuben Lev 301-460-1048

Thank you!

Your Strathmore Bel Pre July 4th Celebration Committee!

Aspen Hill Library News

by Chris Swan



LIBRARY MEETING DAY 2016 – APRIL 30TH

The Library Advisory Committee meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Library will be held in the Library's Community Room on April 30, 2016. The meetings will be followed by a lunch and speaker. Here's the schedule:

10:00 to 11:00 **Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee Meeting.**

Come and learn about the Advisory Committee and its work. All meetings are open to the public.

11:00 to Noon **Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library**

Reports will be given about activities and plans. Officers will be elected. Your chance to speak out.

Noon **Lunch**

Boxed lunches are \$12, \$7 for Friends members. RSVP lunch reservations to aspenhill@folmc.org.

12:45 **Speaker Robert Thomson, *Washington Post*, Dr. Gridlock Columnist**

Mr. Thomson joined *The Washington Post* in 1988 where he worked on the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia desks. In 1999, he became *The Post's* transportation editor, and in 2006, he became Dr. Gridlock. Come and hear his thoughts about our transportation systems, problems, and solutions.

Aspen Hill Library closes!

The Aspen Hill Library will close in June or July 2016 for its refresh, and plans to re-open in the Fall of 2016. Watch for the grand re-opening celebration.



Nearby Libraries Will Be Open

While Aspen Hill is closed, the Twinbrook, Olney, and Praisner Libraries will be open. The Wheaton Library will not be open, being closed until 2018 or so, while a new Library and Recreation Center combination are built.

Dolphin Dash – Memorial Day Morning, May 30



Plan now to participate in the second annual 5-K run and walk, sponsored by the Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins.

If you're not a runner, not to worry! You can walk the course, or you can volunteer—we'll need course marshals, registration helpers, water distributors, etc.

Save the date and watch for the registration announcement!