

The Bugle



Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

October 2016

vol. 48 #4

It's Annual Meeting Time!
November 17

Bel Pre Elementary School

13801 Rippling Brook Drive

Civic Association Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Rec Association Meeting 7:30 p.m.



Please come! Meet your neighbors, hear about the work of the Associations this past year, and learn about their future plans.

You can cast your vote for your Civic and Recreational Association board members only at each of the annual meetings. Every vote is important, so do attend the meetings, learn the latest, and vote!

Civic Association Board Candidates

BILL HAMMOND

RITA VAUGHT

YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE

Recreational Board Candidates

ELLIOT CHABOT

CHRIS JENNISON

LOU ANN RECTOR

NIC REYES

MEGAN VIRGA

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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: \$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	Maurice Potosky	301 460-9008	Chris Swan	301-871-1113
Lilla Hammond	301-871-5074			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 are generally 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 161 or 138, for December to April & October to November; Pool pavilion for May to September). The annual General Membership meeting generally 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



Summer 2016 – Oh My!

Swim Team started us all off with their 2nd annual 5K run through the neighborhood. This run is a very successful fundraiser for the team, and it is a great event to kick off our summer. The Community Yard Sale, held at the pool, quickly followed. We had a great morning for both the shoppers and the sellers. We can't thank PAULETTE LADAS enough for her continued support in supplying our large dumpster each year for our Yard Sale. Like every year, that dumpster is overflowing when it is picked up!

Our 4th of July parade and magician were very successful this year thanks to the continued organization and planning by LILLA and BILL HAMMOND. They have organized our 4th of July events for over a decade now and deserve many thanks for their efforts to ensure that this tradition continues in our neighborhood.

We all know that our summer is in full swing as soon as the swim team is practicing and our Summer Entertainment Series begins with movies and music under the stars at the pool. All four movies and two musical evenings were a huge success. It was wonderful to catch up with neighbors at these events and just sit and relax watching the movie or listening to outstanding music. Both bands have musicians from our neighborhood and it is just amazing to see their talent on display. We live in a remarkable neighborhood!



HARRY KLAPPER

We lost a co-organizer of the parade, fellow Board member and longtime resident in our community this summer, when HARRY KLAPPER passed away. Harry always helped out with our 4th of July events, and also handled advertisements for the Bugle for many years. On behalf of the entire Board, I extend our warmest condolences to his wife SANDY and their entire family. We are all so very thankful for all of his years of service to our community, and miss him greatly.

←Harry at a July 4th event.

More Fun Needed: Please Join Us

Our summer and civic activities happen because of our fabulous SBPCA board. We are nine members strong at this time, and have several vacant positions we would love to fill. We would love to plan for even more activities each year, but we need a little more help. Everyone on the board has their niche and works hard at it. When we have a good sized board, we all can take turns so that no one person is over worked. This is very important because we are all very busy, active people, with limited time. We welcome anyone to join us at our meetings anytime. We meet in the Mid County Recreation Center off Layhill Rd. on the 4th Tuesday of most months (not December), from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. I am very willing to pick anyone up and bring you back home if night driving is a problem. Just let me know.

The work of the Board is very satisfying. We have so many plans and wishes for even more SBPCA sponsored activities. If we just had a couple more volunteers!!! Please attend one of our meetings, and I am positive you will see a very friendly, happy group of people who are helping to make our neighborhood a great place to live.

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Come Meet Your New Best Friend

by Vick Thomas

I am not a Crazy Cat Lady (yet), but I am passionate and compassionate about the animals (especially the cats) at the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC), the new county shelter. I spend every weekend hanging out with the over 100 cats, entertaining them – or letting them entertain me – and helping to get them adopted into great homes. It is a very rewarding experience. There is nothing better than when both cats (and dogs and rabbits) and humans find their new best friend.

Visit the new Animal Shelter, aka Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center

If you haven't yet visited, I urge you to come take a look. It is located at 7315 Muncaster Mill Road in Derwood, only about a 20 minute drive. The Shelter is bright and clean and filled with love and hope.

Finding Your Best Friend

The staff and volunteers truly care about each animal and try to make the best match for everyone in the family. Not every pet is right for every situation, but I truly believe there is someone for everyone. In August, a pair of thirteen-year-old cats who had been at the Shelter for eight months were adopted by a woman who had just lost her best friend a few weeks earlier. While kittens and puppies are cute, they are a lot of work. So adopting an older animal is sometimes the right choice. Mature animals are easier to care for, and more predictable in their behavior. MCPAW, the nonprofit partner of the Shelter, sponsors the fees for cats and dogs nine years and older, so there is no cost, besides love and the license, to adopters.

Adopting a bonded pair is also a rewarding experience that enhances the quality of life for the animals, as well as yours. And as always, black cats and dogs are the least likely to be adopted in Shelters – although holding a black cat is slimming and they go with every décor!

As we know, the animals come to the Shelter through no fault of their own. Some are picked up as strays, others are brought in because the circumstances of their family has changed – a new baby, allergies, new furniture, moving, family health, etc.



My current favorites are: ←LENA (10), a gorgeous medium haired tortie who greets everyone who stops by with snuggles and purrs.

SIMON → (14) is a handsome guy with penetrating green eyes who loves being petted and talked to. He has been known to play with catnip toys and string.



TIGER (10) always looks a little scruffy. He has lived with cats, dogs and kids.

Yet he is a gentle cat with a big heart. He has



Remember that adopting a pet from the shelter is economical. Shelter animals come spayed/neutered, vaccinated, tested, pre-owned and certified! But most of all, the karma, satisfaction and unconditional love you get from saving the life of a wonderful pet is priceless.

If you want to help the animals at the Shelter, they can always use donations of towels, blankets, sheets, and other supplies, as well as the donation of love and time. On October 25 from 6-8:30 pm at CRAVE in Montgomery Mall, MCPAW is holding a fun night out on behalf of the animals, with free appetizers and a silent auction.

I hope to see you there soon! If you have any questions, my email is vickiphomas@gmail.com.

All of the wonderful adoptable animals in the Shelter can be found here:

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices/adoption/>.

Bel Pre Recreational News

by Elliot Chabot

President, Bel Pre Recreational Association

Annual Meetings: November 17 and December 8 Please mark your calendars!

The annual general membership meetings of the Recreational Association and the Civic Association will be held on Thursday, November 17, at Bel Pre Elementary School, 13801 Rippling Brook Drive, in the school's multi-purpose room. Both groups will hold elections for seats on their governing boards.



The Civic Association will meet from 7 pm to 7:30 pm, followed immediately by the Recreational Association. Even if you're not currently a member of the Civic Association, I urge you to attend their annual meeting -- it's a great way to learn about many things effecting out community.

45th Recreational Association Annual Meeting

The Recreational Association meeting will be the BPRA's 45th Annual General Membership meeting. The first annual meeting was held on December 13, 1972, at Strathmore Elementary School. About 25 people attended the 1972 meeting, not enough for a quorum. We're hoping to get enough BPRA members at the 2016 meeting to have a quorum – since we hope to elect 3 Trustees and consider an amendment to the By-Laws, as well as receive the proposed annual budget and annual report.

At the start of the 7:30 November 17 meeting, each of the 5 candidates running for 3 seats on the Board of Trustees will have an opportunity to address the general membership. Once all of the candidates have had a chance to speak, the balloting will begin, since ballots may NOT be cast until all of the candidates have been given an opportunity to address the membership.



Town Hall Meeting

If we do not have a quorum, a continuation of the meeting will be held on Thursday, **December 8**, at 8 pm at the Bel Pre Elementary School multi-purpose room.

We will also be holding the 3rd annual Town Hall Meeting on December 8 either at 8 pm (if the November 17 meeting did have a quorum) or as soon as the continued BPRA meeting is over (if there was no quorum at the November 17 meeting).

So either way, mark you calendar for Thursday November 17 and Thursday December 8 for community-get-togethers at Bel Pre Elementary School.

Please – come to the annual meeting, hear the candidates, and vote.

Refreshments at the Annual Meeting?

➔ ➔ A suggestion has been made that we have **food** at the annual meeting. MAX and SUSAN BRONSTEIN have offered to donate \$100 against the cost of refreshments. Would anyone be willing to add to this by bring desserts or other non-perishable refreshments, suitable for our annual meeting? Please let me know. ⬅ ⬅

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Bel Pre Recreational News

(Continued from page 5)

Summer Entertainment Series

Thanks to the efforts of a growing number of volunteers and sponsors in our community, this summer's entertainment Series at the pool grew to 6 events – 4 movies and 2 live music nights. Thanks to the Civic Association for their leadership in establishing this program, which finished up its 4th season this summer.



Neighborhood Safety

This June, the pool pavilion was the site of a neighborhood safety security presentation by County Police. Present from the 4th District (the Glenmont Police Station) were the district's commander Capt. LAURA LANHAM, its Community Services Officer SHARIF HIDAYAT, and our own Detective KYE PAK. The program was sponsored by the Recreational Association, Civic Association, 50 Plus Club, and Dolphins Swim Team. About 40 members of the community were in attendance and lots of good information was exchanged. The Officers indicated that they would come return next summer, and felt that this could be an annual presentation.

The pavilion was also the venue this August of a meet-and-greet organized by the Bel Pre/Strathmore PTA to introduce to the community, DARA BROOKS, the new principal at Bel Pre Elementary School.

The pavilion is a great place for community events. If you might be interested in reserving it for an event for next year, contract LOUISA HOAR, our Pavilion Usage Coordinator at (301) 871-2954. LOUISA also is the person to call if you need a key to the tennis courts.

Plans for the Coming Year

Current plans are to resurface the basketball court with fencing around the court, before the 2017 pool seasons starts. The Association will be working with adjacent homeowners regarding the fencing and other security as part of the project. Thanks to GREG MILLER for taking the lead on this project.

Improvements to the pavilion are also in the works for the coming months. Thanks to JOE MOELLER for leading the effort to increase lighting in the pavilion, and to LOU ANN RECTOR for working on improving the rain gutters.

For longer term improvements, BILLY RUPPERT is leading the effort to bring us into the County's Rain Tax Rebate Program. We're looking to ANDY WRIGHT to lead the effort to develop our 5 Year Plan.



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Dolphins Keep Saum-Hilton Trophy!

by Claire Pak

It's the first real fall day of 2016, but the Dolphins always think summer, and 2016 was a memorable one. After a tough 2-3 regular season, the Dolphins fought to a stunning third place finish at the B Division championship on July 23. SBP swimmers and relay teams outperformed their seeding in 27 EVENTS, earning the team an amazing 60 ADDITIONAL POINTS, which pushed us from our fifth-place seed into third place, and another year in possession of the league's coveted Saum-Hilton Memorial Trophy.

As always, special thanks and congratulations go to Head Coach TERRY KOMINSKI and Assistant Coach LILAN MILLER. TERRY and LILAN work tirelessly to help all swimmers reach their fullest potential.

Congratulations also to our wonderful developmental coaching staff (KAYLA GEARY, WINSTON MILLER, and SARAH STAGGS), for helping so many of our littlest swimmers to overcome their fear of the water. Swimmers as young as 4 are competing in real meets, thanks to their patience and dedication.

SBP coaches Rule the Pool!



We held our annual awards banquet on Wednesday, July 29. Awards were presented to the top 3 high points swimmers in each age group, and coaches individual awards.



2016 Dolphins Winners

TOP Swimmers for each age group

8 & Under

Boys

(tie!) TYLER KOMINSKI
And CARSON SMITH
DAVID DORSEY

Girls

MAIA ANTONIO
CLAIRE PURDY
CAROLINE KENT

9-10

Boys

ERIK STAGGS
JOHN PURDY
LUCAS MOELLER

Girls

ERIN SANCHEZ
SARAH SIEGLE
ELAINE CANALES

11-12

Boys

IAN VIRGA
ASA VIRGA
AARON SIEGLE

Girls

DARYN LAM
LAUREN HILL
CAMILLE BEARMAN

13-14

Boys

CARSON TAYLOR
AIDAN PAK
LIAM TOBIN

Girls

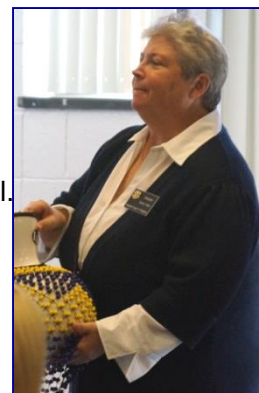
OLIVIA MILLER
MAYA KODGI
MELAK ARMSTRONG
AND ANGELA VAUGHT



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Annual Meeting – November 17th at 7 pm – Bel Pre Elementary Our State Legislators Present!

We are currently planning for a very informative Strathmore Bel Pre Community General Membership Meeting on November 17, 2016 at Bel Pre Elementary School. Please plan to attend, as it is a great way to meet neighbors and find out what the Civic and the Rec associations have worked on this past year. It is also when we elect our board members for the SBPCA and BPRA. Members of our State Legislative Delegation, including our neighbor, BONNIE CULLISON, will give a short presentation and answer your questions. I hope to see you there!



Delegate Bonnie Cullison

Town Hall Meeting December 8th at 8 pm –Bel Pre Elementary

Mark your calendars now to attend the 3rd annual Town Hall meeting, where lively discussions of all things Strathmore Bel Pre take place, in a round-robin question and answers format, with both the Civic and the Rec board members in attendance!.



50 Plus Club Meetings

by Charlotte Potosky

Summer Events

The 50 Plus Club completed its series of meetings at the BPRA pool pavilion during the summer. Following the last meeting, the group attended a showing of Sister Act at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia. It was a great show and dinner, enjoyed by all.

Fall Meetings

The Club is planning its fall meetings. The first meeting will be held on Sunday, November 6, at 2 pm at the home of Charlotte and Maury Potosky. The December meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11 at 2 pm, at the home of Carl and Marilyn Kessler.

Join Us!

We hope to see all our members at these meetings. We invite Strathmore at Bel Pre residents (those who receive *The Bugle*) to join us, and to join the 50 Plus Club. For more information contact Charlotte at 301-460-9008.



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July 4th 2016 Celebration – a Great Strathmore Bel Pre Event!!

by Reuben and Marilyn Lev; Bill Totten; Joe Fry;
Elizabeth Kominski; Bill and Lilla Hammond.

This year many community members came together to help celebrate this special day. We had a great turn-out for the parade from Strathmore Elementary School to the pool. Adding to the parade were Pack 763 and Troop 763 who led the paraders with their flag bearers.



Pre-Parade Ceremony

The ceremony was led by Troop 763 and their Scoutmaster JOE JENKINS, and by Pack 763 and their Cubmaster BILL TOTTON. Troop 763 raised the American flag on the school's flag pole and led the pledge of allegiance. BILL TOTTON then spoke about former Scout Leader ERIC WASHINGTON, by acknowledging his great leadership. ERIC passed away in March of this year. BILL's remarks were followed by a moment of silence. The ceremony was very inspiring to those of us who were present.

Registered Paraders: GEORGE GUNTER; LAYLA FORTUNE; SETH FORTUNE; JAMIR MILLER; MAIA ANTONIO; ELIN MANTEL; LEVI MANTEL; ELORA BREEDEN; XAVIER HUFFINE-WRIGHT; OLIVIA HUFFINE-WRIGHT; MIRIAM LEV; BILLY SPELMAN; JEREMY SPELMAN; JAMIE SPELMAN; MALACHI COPELAND; AUDREY COPELAND; ERIK STAGGS; DANIEL LANDRY; BRYNN BACHMER; DECLAN BACHMER; ZOE PHELPS; DARIUS GICHURU; GRACIE FORAKER; SAMANTHA FORAKER; AVA YOCKELSON; PIPER YOCKELSON; PANAYIOTI GEORGALLAS; JOHN PURDY; CLAIRE PURDY; BEN PURDY; MISCHA HICKMAN; JAHAIL LONG; WILLIAM HAMMOND; JACOB FIGUEREDO; SOPHIA FIGUEREDO; TERRELL MILLER; NYLA FORTUNE; BRIANNA BYRD; ROBERT BYRD; JULES JAFFE; ELLIOTT JAFFE; TETE NARH-MENSAH; NENE NARH-MENSAH; TEYE NARN-MENSAH; EAMON HOYE; JOEY MOELLER AND LUCAS MOELLER.



Volunteers

We are very grateful to our community for their support of the events on this special day. Parade set up and coordination: ELIZABETH KOMINSKI; REUBEN and MARILYN LEV; BILL HAMMOND; Cub Scout Master BILL TOTTON; Scout Master JOE JENKINS; Assistant Scout Master JOE MOELLER; and Montgomery County's Fire Station 25 Captain JAMES RANDALL and his team of professional fire fighters and emergency personnel.

Parents and friends who escorted the paraders included: DONDI FORTUNE; KARLA ANTONIO; LISA MANTEL; EVAN MANTEL; DANIEL BREEDEN; CHRISTOPHER HUFFINE-WRIGHT; LIZ HAMMOND; MICHAEL AND SHARON CHUA HAMMOND; ANGELI CHUA; ANDREA LEV; PAUL SPELMAN; AMY COPELAND; JACKIE MUELLER; THERESA GICHURU; SARAH FORAKER; KEITH YOCKELSON; KATINA and LABROS GEORGALLAS; DAVID PURDY; RICHIE HICKMAN; TIM JONES; LIZ and PEDRO FIGUEREDO.

Entertainment and Pool Activities

NANCY BECHTOL, JOHN BOGASKY and LILLA HAMMOND coordinated the pavilion entertainment with professional magician MICHAEL CHAMBERLIN who, once again kept the attention of his audience with his wonderful magic show and balloon sculptures. Our thanks also go to the pool staff who provided safety and coordination for our activities: RILEY GARY, LILAN MILLER, KEVIN FUSS and RAPHAEL PEINERO.



Strathmore Bel Pre residents enjoyed a great time coming together on July 4th. We thank everyone who helped make our celebration another special day for our community!!

Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack 763

By Jackie Fary-Moeller

Goshen Scout Camp

Did you go to Goshen Scout Camp when you were a teenager? Well so did Troop 763 this summer. Yup, Goshen is still there and the lake is still green. A new addition at the camp this year was a black bear that the boys named Ransack, since that's what he did to their campsite. In addition to learning bear safety, the boy scouts also learned orienteering, climbing, archery, and earned merit badges like cooking and swimming.



Ready for Camp Goshen, from Bluff Point Lane.

They got ready for swimming by learning the strokes and lifesaving techniques at our community pool, thanks to Mr. MIKE HOLDER. Although MIKE was a longtime coach for Wheaton Woods, it wasn't held against him and he was allowed on pool grounds!

Scouting for Food – November 12th! Plan now!

Scouting for Food bags will be on your door on Saturday, November 5 and collection will be in the morning on Saturday, November 12. On this day, every scout troop in the country will be collecting non-perishable food. All you have to do is leave bags of food by your front door by 10 am. Troops in Montgomery County will be picking up donated food from people like you and then take them to the collection trucks. The collection trucks take the food to Manna Food Center, where more scouts unload the trucks and place the food onto the shelves. By the end of the day, the food is organized and Manna is ready for the upcoming holiday season. We collect all kinds of non-perishable food and hygiene products (soap/toothpaste) but please no glass containers. It is a great and meaningful experience for the scouts and hopefully it is one less errand for you. As always, thank you for your generous support! More info at mannafood.org

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Bel Pre Recreational Association 2016 Candidates

3 positions – 5 candidates



Elliot Chabot

1. **Age (optional):** Old enough to win my division in the Dolphin 5K Run
2. **Occupation:** Attorney. I work at the U.S. House of Representatives, under the CAO.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 13 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I have been President of the BPRA for the last 3 years. During that time, all of the litigation involving the Association has been resolved. We have reorganized our administrative, organizational, meeting and financial processes, all with an on-going commitment to comply with the many and changing County and State laws, regulations, and rules that apply to our homeowners association. All of this has allowed us to substantially decrease BPRA's administrative and legal costs, and to focus the Board on our recreational facilities – their maintenance, upkeep, expansion, and use, and to grow our community's togetherness. Through my efforts, and with Chris Jennison's excellent Web work, we increased the level of transparency by collecting and putting all of the Board records, financial reports, and property covenants on the Strathmore/Bel Pre community website. I also detailed the Board's work in our quarterly *Bugle* reports. I have had the privilege of working with many outstanding individuals in our community – too many folks to mention – but so vital to my efforts and to our community. Thanks!
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** Maintaining and expanding use of the pool, tennis courts, and the other facilities on the pool property are the most important functions of the Recreational Association. This is a multi-million dollar facility and should be the first priority of the Recreational Association. Even if your family does not heavily use (and you should) the recreational facilities are our community's best asset. They provide a focal point for our community, make it a desirable place to live, and keep property values up. If the Recreational Association isn't going to focus on the recreational facility, who will? Additionally, the pool is a lovely and safe place for the kids and adults of our community, a place where kids can be kids, adults find community and enjoy!
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** The Board needs to continue its focus on our facilities, their maintenance, their use, and on our role as the focal point for our community. We are in the beginning stages of financial and long-term planning. We need to grow and use our committee system, both to better involve the community and to enhance and support our plans as they become realities. But also recognize that there are folks who would be willing to volunteer their time in support of the community, but are not interested in attending meetings. We have an enormously talented community, but need to do a better job of harnessing more of the talent to meet the needs of this community.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore-Bel Pre?** Continue and expand programs like the Summer Entertainment Series, the Town Hall meetings, and the Strathmore/Bel Pre website. Work together with the Civic Association, local PTAs and Scout groups, the Dolphins Swim Team, the 50s Plus Club, and neighboring homeowners' associations. Make even better use of the community's website, listserve, and *The Bugle*, as well as the BPRA e-mail lists.

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Bel Pre Recreational Association
2016 Candidates **3 positions -- 5 candidates**
(continued from page 11)

Chris Jennison

1. **Age (optional):** 26
2. **Occupation:** Honors Attorney for the U.S. Department of Transportation
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 26 ½ years. I've been fortunate enough to have grown up in this neighborhood, on Bingham Court. My fiancé and I realized that SBP was the perfect choice to raise our own family, and we purchased a home on Village Lane.
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** As a lifelong resident of SBP, I grew up swimming on the swim team. I've attended my fair share of 7:30 am practices and late night B-meets, being on the swim team from about 4 until I aged out at 18. I life guarded, and became an assistant manager of the pool for 2 summers in high school/college. In that role, I got to know many members of the community, along with their needs and wants for the pool facilities. I also ran the pool snack bar with several other neighborhood teenagers for several summers in the mid-00's. Finally, since 2014, I am currently the Webmaster for strathmore-belpre.org, the website for the neighborhood, co-hosted by the Recreation and the Civic Associations. Working with Elliot Chabot, we've updated and added a lot of information to the site, from pool rules to neighborhood events, and useful things like land plat maps. I've also updated the design and made the site more accessible. After chatting with members of the Associations recently, we've begun initial planning on a major overhaul of the website as well. In working on the website, I have gotten to learn about the behind-the-scenes work that makes our neighborhood so great.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** I believe that the BPRA's role and function is to foster community and enhance our neighborhood, most importantly through the pool and recreation facilities. The property is a tremendous asset and was a huge part of my life growing up, providing me with some of my closest friends and my first jobs. The BPRA must work within its governing documents and operating laws to maintain and improve this asset for the neighborhood, as a clean, safe, fun place.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** Though I believe this is a shared responsibility of the SBPCA and BPRA, I'd like to see more community events at the pool, and a continued summer entertainment series. I'd also like to see whether year-round use is feasible. I hope that the BPRA can maintain the site that made my childhood so memorable for my future kids to enjoy. My vision for the Board is that it is a sounding board and a place of leadership for the neighborhood, to hear concerns and provide responsive solutions. It is a service opportunity for the neighborhood, so everyone – Board members and association members at large – should have a place at the table and should be respected.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore-Bel Pre?** The SBP neighborhood has a great sense of community, but only for those who are regularly engaged or included. As I have moved into a home on Village Lane and met new neighbors, I have heard from those who aren't engaged in the pool or its offerings. My thought is that they're missing out on a tremendous community asset. I would like to see the BPRA work on outreach to new or unengaged neighbors to foster a sense of community and belonging. Given the number of homeowners who are also "aging in place," I think the BPRA could be a vessel for having some sort of "senior watch" or volunteer program to keep an eye out for and to aid neighbors. Even though the neighborhood does come together during big storms and the like, it'd be great to formalize that more. I would like to see the BPRA look for ways to extend the summer pool season or expand use of the property during other times of the year.



– Continued on page 13 –

Bel Pre Recreational Association

2016 Candidates

3 positions -- 5 candidates

(continued from page 12)

Lou Ann Rector

1. **Age (optional):**
2. **Occupation:** I have been a Captain in the United States Public Health Service and work for the Surgeon General, the Nation's Top Doctor. I am retiring and plan to spend my summers at our pool.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** Since December 1998.
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I served on the Bel-Pre Recreational Association from December 2003 to December 2013, and was re-elected to a 2 year term beginning December 2014. I have assisted the Rec Board with projects including the pool parking lot lights, an AED for the pool to save folks in the event of a heart attack, a new refrigerator for the snack bar, and recently gutters for the Pool Pavilion.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** I believe in upholding the pool covenants, and keeping up the pool and other recreational facilities to enjoy them, and to preserve property values in our community.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** I also believe we have a responsibility to keep our common areas safe and updated for our community.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore-Bel Pre?** We have a nice community here, and I would like to make and keep it nicer.



Nic Reyes

1. **Age (optional):** 36 I am a Chilean-American father of 3 who works at an international development institution downtown. I go by "Nic" for short.
2. **Occupation:** Development Banker
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 2.5 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I am a newcomer looking to get involved. I have greatly enjoyed having 2 of my kids participate in summer swim team activities (the third is only 2 year old) over the last two years, and, in my free time, very much enjoy teaching/coaching the kids ice hockey, soccer, and tennis. I hope to meet more members of the community soon!
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** The most important function is safeguarding and improving our community assets while, at the same time, engendering a strong sense of community.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** My vision is to leverage the diverse experience of the board, i.e., community members, to maximize the value of our community assets. I would like to contribute to the stewarding of our community assets for the next generation of residents.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore-Bel Pre?** I would build community, first, by preserving and maintaining our community assets. Second, I am looking to promote community by getting involved--I myself am looking to get involved for the first time via the Board of the Recreational Association. Finally, I am hoping to leverage our community assets to promote events that end in increased contact among our community members. I am very thankful and greatly value the community activities, such as swim team and movie nights, that bring the members of our community together. I hope every member of our community can feel the humbling pride I feel when I see my children interact with the community at large at the pool. Simply stated, we have something special here.

- Continued on page 14 -

Bel Pre Recreational Association

2016 Candidates

3 positions -- 5 candidates

(continued from page 11)



Megan Virga

1. **Age:** 44
2. **Occupation:** I'm a senior analyst at the Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan agency that prepares budgetary and economic analyses for the U.S. Congress. I work primarily on issues related to energy and transportation.
1. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 14 years
2. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community:** I'm an active parent volunteer for both the SBP Dolphins as well as the SBP 5K planning committee. In addition, I served for seven years on the board of the Georgian Forest Elementary School (GFES) PTA, holding several officer positions during my sons' time there. I spearheaded efforts to engage local businesses in supporting our mission to enhance opportunities for children in our community. I gained significant insight into both the business and programmatic aspects of leading a nonprofit organization, and I'm proud that the GFES PTA is much stronger today than when I first joined the board.
3. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association:** I believe the ultimate goal of the association is to ensure stability and growth in property values by: 1) Diligently maintaining and improving our pool, recreation facilities, and common areas; 2) Ensuring that BPRA members have a variety of opportunities to enjoy our shared facilities; and 3) Communicating effectively with members about key issues we face as homeowners.
4. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** Above all, the board needs to manage our community's financial and capital assets strategically and in keeping with the overall priorities of our members. A successful board will find a way to divide work according to the unique talents of individual board members and enlist others in the community to help with specific tasks.
5. **How would you build community in Strathmore-Bel Pre?** Communication and opportunities to interact are key to making people feel welcome and engaged among their neighbors. There are many things that BRPA is already doing very well — announcing important news through *The Bugle* and SBP Civic listserv, organizing community events, and sponsoring entertainment opportunities. I would continue that progress, but believe we need to engage more homeowners from the “other” side of the neighborhood south of the Matthew Henson Trail. Without the pool and common areas nearby, we have less of a sense of shared communal space. For the sake of community and safety, I'd like people to know their neighbors. Something as simple as an annual potluck block party would give families an opportunity to make connections—it's particularly warranted on the “south side” of BPRA, but something I'd like to see happen throughout our streets.



Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association Board

2016 Candidates

7 positions -- 2 candidates

Bill Hammond

1. **Age** 73
2. **Occupation:** Historian retired, Grandad.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 32 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I assisted in coordinating Strathmore's July 4th celebration. I was editor of *The Bugle* from 1987 to 1994 and created the community's website in 2001. Besides assisting with the coordination of the parade and other activities for July 4 I was the Civic Association's webmaster until 2014, when I became vice president.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** The most important function for the Civic Association is to monitor outside events that could affect the community, and to keep the Community informed.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** We need to create additional ways to draw the community together. In particular, we need some new members with new ideas.
7. **How would you build community?** First, communication is important. The Civic Association created *The Bugle*, the Website, and the Listserv. All are working well, but we need to continue to improve them, while seeking additional and new approaches to reach out to our members. Second, we need to get more people in our community interested in what we do. When the County Government decides to extend the Montrose Parkway through our community via the Matthew Henson Park and Trail (the land's original purpose and still a very real possibility), the Civic Association will be the community's first line of defense. It had better be ready, but it won't be unless it has enough board members on hand, prepared and ready to spring into action. Thirty years ago, when I first joined the Civic Association, we helped to kill the Rockville Freeway which would have been built where the Park and Trail are now. At a meeting with the Maryland Department of Transportation some years back, community members pointed out that the possibility for a road there was now out of the question because the land had become a park. The officials' response was instructive, "We can get any law we want changed whenever we want to."



Rita Vaught

1. **Age:** Old enough to serve our community.
2. **Occupation:** My career has been in property management, accounting, and now real estate sales.
3. **Length of time living in SBP neighborhood:** We bought our home in 2013, and now have purchased another home closer to the pool, as our daughter is on the swim team.
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I have served on the board of the Civic Association for almost three years, and have assisted the BPRA Treasurer for the past nearly two years. I volunteer during other events as my time allows, and serve as the Treasurer of the Dolphins Swim Team.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** To be engaged with the community outside of our association.
6. **What's your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** To continue with the events we have done over the years, produce *The Bugle*, Listserv, and grow our membership.
7. **How would you build community?** Perhaps have events beyond the summer season.

Pet Waste Station

Thanks to the efforts of JACKIE FARY-MOELLER, the pet waste station – originally announced in the March 2016 issue of *The Bugle* – has been installed by the County Department of Environmental Protection along the walking path behind the tennis courts. If you have a dog, come on over and try it out! See the article on page 18 of this month's *Bugle*.



Behind the scenes

Thank you to the many members who provide the essential, vital behind-the-scenes support that allows the pool and the Association to operate, including:

- JOE MOELLER, GREG MILLER, KYE PAK, BILLY RUPPERT, TED BECHTOL, ANDY WRIGHT, and DAVE PURDY who have done an amazing job this year in identifying and fixing the things that can go wrong with our 50-year-old community pool – from improving the pump room to fixing the fences to rebuilding drainage from the pavilion to keeping the pirate ship afloat to improving the landscaping and overseeing the security system and the lighting.
- LARRY and RITA VAUGHT – the BPRA's Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer – who pay the bills, process the checks, maintain our financial and membership records, and coordinate the annual financial audit.
- Members of the Finance Committee - including MICHAEL NOAINO, GORDON KLANG, CHRIS SWAN, and the Trustees - for developing the preliminary annual budget
- BRENDA HENRY - the BPRA's Administrative Assistant (for almost 20 years) who reserves our meeting space at local schools when the pool is closed, takes care of the mail, and makes sure the trash gets picked up at the pool.
- PAUL SPELMAN - the BPRA's Secretary - who takes the minutes and co-signs the contracts.
- CHRIS JENNISON - the webmaster of the Strathmore-Bel Pre community website.
- LAURA MILLER and the MILLER family - who have run the pool snack bar for the last 5 summers.



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October Days

by Cecily Nabors (including photos)

Monarch butterfly caterpillars are still chowing down on my backyard milkweed; one more generation of monarchs will soon be heading southwest to Mexico. I hope they fly fast and that the cold doesn't catch them.



The cold is coming, though, whether we want it or not. Many of our summer-time birds (e.g., warblers, flycatchers) have already departed for warmer climes, where insects flourish year-round. Nuts and seeds are plentiful here now, and our stalwart resident birds (e.g., chickadees, finches, cardinals, woodpeckers) are eating as heartily as the migrants do. They're all preparing for winter.



Finch feeding on milkweed

Winter is my least-favorite season, and fall is its harbinger. I try to adjust my attitude by focusing on birds that shorter days bring south from their northern nesting areas. When will the first dark-eyed juncos and white-throated sparrows scuffle through autumn leaves under our shrubs? When will the first red-breasted nuthatch appear on the suet feeder, joining its white-breasted cousins that stay here all year? And where are the kinglets? They've all been reported in our area, but I haven't seen them yet.

Oh look, a red-breasted nuthatch just appeared at my study window and a white-throated sparrow has showed up on our patio. The birds are coming back here, from their summer stays in the north!

Meanwhile, hawks are sailing down fall-hued mountain ridges. Flocks of grackles jostle and clamor in the woods, flocks of robins and waxwings work on late berries, flocks of starlings fling themselves across the sky. New-hatched monarchs like the one above gather strength for their long flights. These blue-and-gold days of October are like the wings of some exotic butterfly that flits past, urging the always-changing beauty of every season in nature.

STRATHMORE-BEL PRE CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

If you haven't already done so, please join the Civic Association!

Membership Dues - Only \$18.00
Such a deal!

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

The Pet Waste Station has arrived!

by Jackie Mueller

Go check out the pet waste station on Bethpage Lane, at the corner of the tennis courts near the walking path. You'll notice it's the Lamborghini of pet waste stations, with a sealed top to prevent smells and a lock designed to prevent little kids from sticking their hands inside (so it can be placed near playgrounds). It was installed free by the county and will be maintained by the county free for one year.



Why should you use it? I'm glad you asked:

- 1.) While no one is more disappointed than me to learn this, it turns out that there is no dog poop fairy that magically goes around at night picking it up. Even more disappointing to me, owning a dog does not imbue me with some sort of karma that prevents me from stepping in it. Pick it up and you'll keep your neighbors much much happier.
- 2.) It's way better than the dumpster in the pool parking lot. Because the dog poop you fling in there today will sit there until the pool opens in 9 months. Plus, some dog owners have terrible aim and miss the dumpster completely, and you'll feel sorry for the person who has to clean that up.
- 3.) Picking it up improves water quality, and that's why the county is paying for this program. Less dog waste running off into our local streams will reduce bacteria levels in our local waterways, and that's good for wildlife, for the kids who pay in streams and not with video games, for the people who fish downstream of us in the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, and for the health of the Chesapeake Bay. It's not fertilizer, it's not good for plants, and picking up in your yard and in the park helps too.
- 4.) Highly motivating reason: rats love to eat dog poop since it's high in protein. Yes, we have rats in the neighborhood.
- 5.) So you are one of those people who likes their dog better than most of the people you meet? I understand, I have some of those days too. So do it for my dog. Picking up dog waste is a great way to keep parasites from being transmitted to other dogs.

After a year is up, the Recreation Association can either have it removed free of charge or pay for the maintenance. If you think it's a good idea, then pay attention to see if you think it's working. I noticed there is more dog waste in nearby yards than in the community area. If you think your yard is cleaner over the next several months, then say something.

Thanks, and please let me know if you have any questions. JACKIE FARY-MOELLER at jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com

THE BULLETIN BOARD – Updates from your neighborhood schools

Contributors: Laura Miller, Sara O'Neill, and Kathy Lorenzo

The Parent-Teacher Associations of our three neighborhood elementary schools, Georgian Forest (GFESPTA) and Bel Pre/Strathmore (BPSPTA), want to strengthen our ties with our neighbors. Strathmore Bel Pre property owners share in the success of the schools that serve our community. Please support the PTA, even if you don't have children at Bel Pre, Strathmore, or Georgian Forest.



NEWS FROM GEORGIAN FOREST: Hello neighbors! We won't be asking you to buy cookie dough or wrapping paper this year. That's right! This year we are starting a direct donation campaign. This will allow your money to work harder for our students. 100% of your donation goes directly to the school and is 100% tax deductible.

By contributing to the Georgian Forest PTA Direct Donation campaign, you invest directly in the children of our community. The PTA supports programs that are above and beyond the allocated resources of the school. Last year the PTA purchased additional books for the school and additional resources for the Science, Technology, Engineering and

Math (STEM) classroom. We were also able to assist with field trip costs and sponsor educational and entertaining in-school assemblies.

We truly appreciate any donation that you can make. No amount is too small. You can make a donation via PayPal at our website <http://gfespta.my-pta.org>, or write a check to "GFES PTA", note "donation" on the memo line and mail to: GFES PTA, 3100 Regina Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906. The PTA is a non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

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Home Tips: Budgeting for Home Maintenance

To retain their value, our homes need on-going maintenance. To cover future costs, one way is to put approximately 1% of the home's value each year in a separate fund for this expense. For example, an older \$300,000 home would require about \$3,000 a year to maintain. Expensive repairs and replacements won't be necessary every year, but, the money set aside gives the homeowner peace of mind when a new water heater or a heating and air conditioning system need repairs or replacement.



If you'd like to know more about the condition of your property, one way is to invite a reputable home inspector to evaluate your house and its systems. The home inspector can offer advice when a component is nearing the end of its life cycle. A good inspector will provide up-to-date repair cost guides to help with your planning. Of course, for individual systems, calling in a licensed contractor is always a good plan.

For more information about your real estate needs, please give me a call.

Lilla



Lilla Leike Hammond, CRS, GRI
Long and Foster Real Estate
6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 100 N. Bethesda, MD 20852
C. 301-518-7818 O. 301-468-0606
Email: lilla@longandfoster.com



NEWS FROM BEL PRE & STRATHMORE:

Beautification is underway at Strathmore Elementary! Fundraising has begun for an exciting art project to beautify the exterior of Strathmore. Local mosaic artist ALI MIRSKY will work with students and staff at Strathmore to create a large scale glass mosaic artwork. The project is planned for spring of 2017 and should be complete and installed by summer. Contact art teacher SARA FORAKER (sara_c_foraker@mcpsmd.org, 302-898-27310), if you are interested in financially supporting this beautification initiative. Volunteers also may be needed with creation or installation. See ALI MIRSKY's artwork: www.alimirskymosaics.com



Joel's Painting and Handyman Services will donate 10% of any new customer invoices, identified from Bel Pre or Strathmore schools, to the PTA for the 2016-2017 school year. Contact JOEL LOPEZ at 301-523-1207. Facebook: Joel Painting and Handyman Services
www.joelpaintingandhandymanservices.com joelpainting1@gmail.com

This Fall – REGISTER YOUR GROCERY STORE REWARDS CARDS TO SUPPORT OUR PTAS YOU MUST RE-REGISTER YOUR CARD EVERY YEAR!

Giant A+ Rewards Program (www.giantfood.com/aplus)

Bel Pre #00891

Strathmore ID# 04541

Georgian Forest ID# 00893

Safeway School Rewards Program (www.escrip.com) Bel Pre/Strathmore ID# 6676411

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



BOX TOPS are Welcome

PLEASE HELP 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 front office. The PTA will also be able to collect them at all school functions.



Join Us

Our PTAs hope that our Strathmore Bel Pre neighbors will join us for school and community events, especially school Spirit Nights! Our combined efforts to support local organizations and businesses will help foster our community and generate benefits to homeowners.

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/>

Like our PTA on Facebook!

Find us on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/123760599438/)

[123760599438/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/123760599438/)

Twitter: @bpspta

Upcoming PTA Events and Spirit Nights

Georgian Forest PTA

Scholastic Book Fair

November 9

Chipotle (Aspen Hill Shopping Center)

November 14

Scholastic Book Fair

March 20

Bel Pre / Strathmore PTA

McDonald's (2207 Bel Pre Rd) 5-8 pm

March 2

Chuck E Cheese (5270 Randolph Rd) 3-9 pm

January 20

Pump It Up of Silver Spring (12210 Plum Orchard Drive)

7-8:30 pm November 18, April 28, June 15

Stay tuned for additional Spirit Nights and other PTA-sponsored community events!

Aspen Hill Library News

by Chris Swan and Elliot Chabot

Aspen Hill Library Closing for 4 to 6 months!

It's True! Tuesday, November 8 - Presidential Election Day – will be the last day of operation of the Aspen Hill Library. Starting on November 9, the Library will be closed for 4 to 6 months for a mini-renovation, or “refresh.” The refresh does not: increase the size of the Library, redo the walls or roof, install a new heating and cooling system, change the landscaping, add spaces to the parking lot, give the Library new computers, or add a larger book collection.

It does provide new furniture, fresh paint, new flooring and carpeting, new bathrooms, and a new layout for the main floor. Materials have been chosen with a focus on practicality and durability, to handle the demands and stresses of our much used, busy, well loved Library.

New book drop



From renderings on display at the Library

New Features from the refresh include

- New bathrooms (watch out, they switch sides)
- New furniture and carpeting
- An enclosed, bigger book drop (replacing one of the study rooms)
- A children's program room (replacing what was the media room)
- Several smaller study rooms (replacing the computer room)
- A single, combined Information and Circulation Desk

The Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee recommended against the single service desk because it does away with the Librarian's desk in the Children's Room. The County Library Administration has decided to go with the single desk, in part due to the shortage of Library staff. We'll see whether this turns out to be a good idea or not.

Follow the Refresh – its Progress

Aspen Hill Head Librarian and Agency Manager, Angelisa Hawes, has created a blog to cover the Refresh. She will post regular updates with photos and descriptions, to show the progress and status of the refresh. The Blog is a dropdown at the bottom of the Aspen Hill Library branch's webpage.



New Single Information and Circulation Desk

Alternative Libraries Open

Nearby Libraries that will be open during our Refresh include: Kensington Park and Twinbrook (both of which have been refreshed this year), Olney (which recently received a new library) and a Wheaton Library Interim Facility in the new Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad Station on Arcola Avenue. A book vending machine can be found at the Mid-County Recreational Center as well.

Wheaton Library Status

The regular Wheaton Library currently is closed, as it is being rebuilt in combination with the Rec Center. The Wheaton Interim Library Facility will be used as a polling place for the election. Thus, it will close October 21, and will re-open November 16th. When it re-opens, it will be stocked with 20,000 items, including children's materials, books, DVDs, and CD books. Currently it only has computers, magazines, newspapers, and some programming. The new Wheaton Library currently is scheduled to be completed and open Summer 2018.

See you at the Grand Re-opening of the Aspen Hill Library next Spring!

Dolphins' Keep Trophy

(continued from page 7)



15-18

Boys

EVAN BEARMAN
EMERSON MILLER
WINSTON MILLER

Girls

MORGAN HILL
RILEY GEARY
CARRIE HILL

Most Improved

8 & under	BEN PURDY
9-10	ANTONY ROMERO
11-12	ALEENE CASTELLON
131-14	BIANCA CANALES
15-18	EMILY FRANTZ

Hardest-Working

Beginner	KYLIE WILLIAMS
Novice	JANIE SPELMAN
Junior	AMY INGA
Senior	KAYLA GEARY

Most Spirited:

WINSTON MILLER, KAYLA GEARY, SARAH STAGGS

Most Dependable:

SARAH STAGGS

Swimmers of the Year:

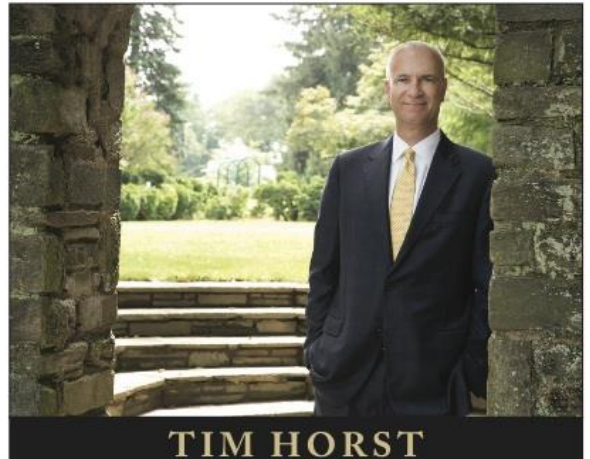
ERIK STAGGS and DARYN LAM

Thank you to all of our neighbors, supporters, and donors. We continue to be overwhelmed and grateful for your support and encouragement. We hope that our team continues to make our neighborhood proud, both in and out of the pool. Only nine months until summer!



I have served the
Strathmore at Bel Pre
neighborhood for
31 years.

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



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Photo Contest Winners – Life In Strathmore Bel Pre

by Chris Swan

Our second photo contest ran for a year, and eventually found 8 contestants, each of whom submitted 1 to 12 photographs. The photographs were independently and blindly judged by a panel of neighbors, including artist TRACEY KEATING, graphic designer BILLY RUPPERT, and GABI WRIGHT, certified photographer.

Aside from bragging rights, and display on our Website, Winners receive modest prizes:

First prize \$ 50 Second prize \$25 Third prize \$15 Honorable Mention \$10

Prizes will awarded at the Civic Association annual meeting November 17th.

First Place



Fall Memories

Photo by Christa Vorozhko

From Village Lane.

Second Place



American Robins at our birdbath in February

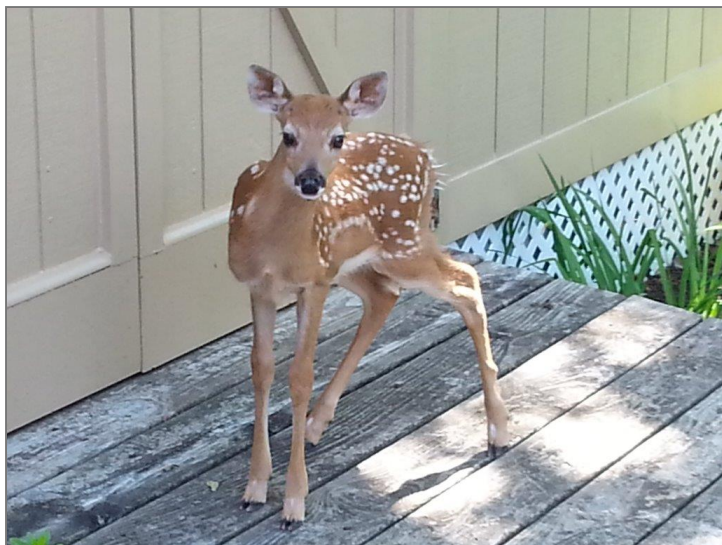
Photo by Cecily Nabors

Liquid water available to birds in winter is vital, and what a great time they have with it. Robins flock together in winter, and they do love a bath!

– continued on page 24 –

Photo Contest Winners – Life In Strathmore Bel Pre
continued from page

Third Place



Fawn in Training

Photo by Ellen Hoffman

The fawn was born in our next door neighbors backyard (Rippling Brook Drive - north), just as twins were born there last Spring. The doe was nearby teaching this fawn to find our best tasting flowers and bushes, despite all our efforts to deter them.

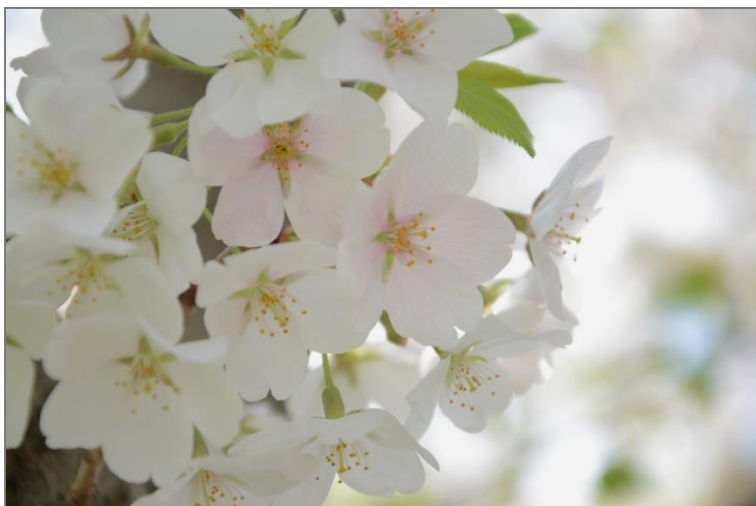
Honorable Mention



Snowstorm January, 2016

Photo by Suzy Zien

Honorable Mention



Cherry Blossoms

Photo by Mike Potocki

Other contestants included:

- Judie Lai
- Pam Levy
- Stan Sachar

Thanks to all of the Judges and the excellent photographers and their photos. Check out the Civic Association website in the future to see them again!

Watch for our next photo contest! You too can enter.