

# The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

May 2018

[www.strathmorebelpre.org](http://www.strathmorebelpre.org)

vol. 50 #2



## Strathmore Bel Pre 37th Annual Summer Market & Yard Sale



**Success for You!** In addition to the main selling location at the Bel Pre Recreational Association pool parking lot, we are supporting individual sellers in our neighborhood, due to our successful expansion last year. Maps of registered sellers will be distributed at the pool parking lot.

**WHEN: Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon**  
(Rain Date, Saturday, June 9th)

**WHERE: BPCA pool parking lot, 13920 Bethpage Lane.**  
Gates open for set-up at 8:30 am.

**Sellers Registration fee of \$12.00 per space.**

**Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association Member Discount: \$2.00**

### **SELLERS/Crafters/Neighbors, to register:**

Fill out and return the registration form below, along with a check for the registration fee. For the Main sales location only: Tables with 2 chairs are available for an additional \$5.00 on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaces are limited, so reserve early. To sell from your home, you **MUST** register by Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Call LINDA BEA for additional information: (301) 460-0497.

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### ~~~~~ **YARD SALE SELLERS REGISTRATION FORM**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE/EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sales location:** BPCA Pool \_\_\_\_\_ My Home (add my home to the sales map) \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Spaces:**

Civic Assn members	- \$10.00 per space:	\$ _____
Non-members	- \$12.00 per space:	\$ _____
Number of tables (pool location only)	- \$ 5.00 each:	\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed:		\$ _____

**Make checks payable to 'SBPCA' and mail to: P.O. Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20916**

# THE BUGLE

*Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association Since 1969*

**Chris Swan, Editor 301-871-1113**

Assistant Editor: Elliot Chabot	301 871-1113	Advertising: John Bogasky	301 460-1604
North Circulation: Louisa Hoar	301 871-2954	South Circulation: Dan Mann	301 460-3330

## **Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA)**

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

**e-mail: [Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org](mailto:Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org)**

**Web site: [www.strathmore-belpre.org](http://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 the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Civic Association Directors**

Elliot Chabot	301 871-1113	Lilla Hammond	301 871-5074	Chris Swan	301 871-1113
Josephine Bahn	570 856-5025	Chris Jennison	301 538-5705	Justin Stone	202 615-2124
		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 are generally open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. BPRA Board & committee meetings are announced at <http://strathmore-belpre.org/meetings>. Board meetings are normally the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm (Bel Pre Elementary School, room 161 or 138, from October to May; Pool pavilion from June to September). The annual General Membership meeting has traditionally been held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving Day at 7:30 pm, in the Bel Pre Elementary School multi-purpose room. The annual Town Hall meeting traditionally is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of December, at 8 p.m., same place.

### **Bel Pre Recreational Association Board of Trustees**

Elliot Chabot (President)	301 871-1113	<a href="mailto:echabot@usa.net">echabot@usa.net</a>
Greg Miller (Vice President)	301 871-9412	<a href="mailto:winstonhen@aol.com">winstonhen@aol.com</a>
Larry Vaught (Treasurer)	240 558-3814	<a href="mailto:l.vaught@comcast.net">l.vaught@comcast.net</a>
Paul Spelman (Secretary)	240 447-7758	<a href="mailto:pbspelly@gmail.com">pbspelly@gmail.com</a>
Ted Bechtol	301 871-3679	<a href="mailto:tedbechtol@yahoo.com">tedbechtol@yahoo.com</a>
Chris Jennison	301 538-5705	<a href="mailto:chris.s.jennison@gmail.com">chris.s.jennison@gmail.com</a>
Karen Purdy	301-603-9604	<a href="mailto:klpurdy@hotmail.com">klpurdy@hotmail.com</a>
Billy Ruppert	301 332-4901	<a href="mailto:billyruppert@gmail.com">billyruppert@gmail.com</a>
Megan Virga	301 536-3631	<a href="mailto:megancy@gmail.com">megancy@gmail.com</a>

### **Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials**

Brenda Henry (Administrative Assistant)	301 871-6298
Louisa Hoar (Pavilion reservations, tennis court keys & pool passes)	301 871-2954
Rita Vaught (Assistant Treasurer)	<a href="mailto:r.vaught@comcast.net">r.vaught@comcast.net</a>

# The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association



**Hooray for springtime!** I thought it would never arrive this year. The unusually cool temperatures have meant we had a very long blooming season for our magnolia trees, forsythia, hyacinths, daffodils and the Yoshino and Kwansan cherry trees that line the streets in our neighborhood. Our sights are finally onto summer, and the planning for summer has begun in earnest.



## The Spring Thing!

The Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association and the Bel Pre Recreational Association decided to create a new event, The Spring Thing, on April 22<sup>nd</sup> on the pool grounds, as a combination neighborhood social opportunity and open house for our community groups. Hence the name: The Spring Thing!. The Thing meant a moon bounce for the kids, tennis demos for kids and adults, a shredding truck to help clean our offices and homes, potluck food and drinks for everyone, and local community groups and politicians presenting their services and wares, with their opportunities for us to get involved.

I am pleased to report that The Spring Thing was as successful as was our first Blocktober event last fall. The Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association happily co-sponsored The Spring Thing. We assisted with its organization and operations, and donated funds to ensure its success. It is wonderful to use our beautiful pool property before the pool opens for Memorial Day weekend. IF you missed it, plan now to attend it next year.

## Summer Market – Our 37<sup>th</sup> annual Yard Sale Saturday June 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2018

The Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association is busy planning for our next yard sale, renamed the Summer Market. It has a new name to better describe your opportunities at our sale! You can sell and buy all sorts of excellent items! Bring your art, your crafts, your jewelry, your foods. Find new homes for them and take back lovely new ones.



## Summer Market Locations

Our traditional location, at the pool parking lot (13920 Bethpage Lane) will host our main selling and buying opportunities. To sell items at the parking lot, just return the form from the front page of this *Bugle*, or let LINDA BEA know. You are able to purchase a table and/or and space, as in past years.

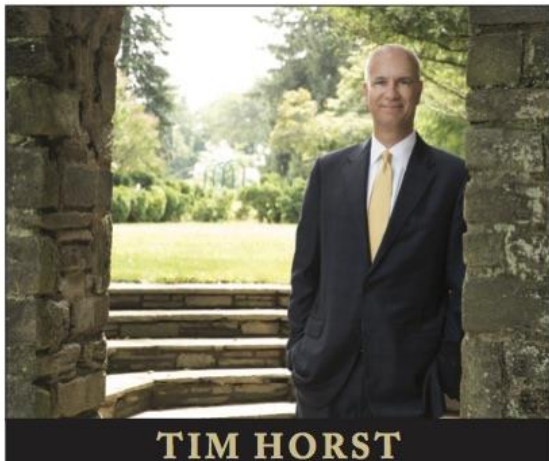
Last year, we tried an expansion of our sales location. We offered participating neighbors an additional selling opportunity: the ability to stage their very own home-based yard sale, backed by the publicity and assistance of the Civic Association. STEVE DEMING created a map of participating sellers which we gave to interested buyers. We plan to do the same this year. So, for your very home-based yard sale, please return the form from the front page of this *Bugle*, or let LINDA BEA know. STEVE will add your sale to the map, which will be made available to buyers at the pool parking lot location.

**- Continued on page 19 -**



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

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



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## **Gleanings from Meetings**

by Justin Stone

Stumbling forward, ever forward, I've attended two Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF) meetings during this *Bugle* period. In that time, I've also started a new job for the Montgomery County in its Department of Finance. As it turns out, this job had some relevance for my attendance at the MCCF meetings, although I could never have guessed at its significance ahead of time. The story unfolds in all its glory below.



### **March 12, 2018 MCCF Meeting Annual Presentation on the State of the County Environment**

DANILA SHEVEIKO, MCCF Second Vice President's presentation was not encouraging as to 1) the quality of environmental protection efforts in Montgomery County, 2) the actual personal risk we all bear living here, and 3) the efforts made to reduce existing environmental risks to health, which were deemed as little more than window dressing. I certainly was ready to accept that more needed to be done on the environment, but the case that no progress had been made in one of the most progressive counties in the United States was not clearly presented. My attendance at the meeting was cut short, however, as I needed to leave relatively early. As I was gathering my things to go, the conversation turned sharply emotional and argumentative, with some less-than-complimentary descriptive nouns and adjectives. While I did find the verbal pyrotechnics somewhat amusing, I will say that the topic at hand was not, and I left with a genuine concern as to what was real and what was not as pertains to the environment in Montgomery County.

**- Continued on page 14 -**

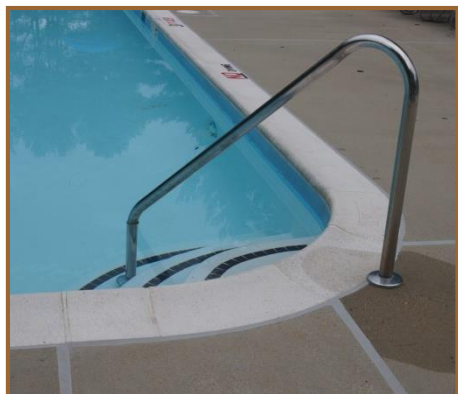
# Bel Pre Recreational News

by Elliot Chabot,  
President, Bel Pre Recreational Association

## Pool Opening (13920 Bethpage Lane)

**Saturday, May 26** will be the first day of the **50th summer** season for our community's pool! The pool will open at noon sharp. Come and join us.

### Pool hours for 2018 are currently set for:



- May 26-27 noon to 9 pm
- May 28 noon to 8 pm (Memorial Day)
- May 29 to June 14
  - Mondays to Thursdays - 3 pm to 8 pm
  - Fridays – 3 pm to 9 pm
  - Saturdays - noon to 9 pm
  - Sundays - noon to 8 pm
- June 15 to September 3 (Labor Day)
  - July 4 - noon to 6 pm
  - all other days - noon to 9 pm



Changes to hours will be announced at the pool, on the Civic Association listserv, and at <http://StrathmoreBelPre.org>.



### Pavilion and Party Reservations

One of the benefits of being a Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) member is that you can reserve the Pool Pavilion for free. While you do need to supply a security deposit in advance, it is refunded after you use the pavilion. Do note: if you have any guests who are not BPRA members, you need to pay the regular guest fee (\$2 per person for weekdays, \$3 per person for weekends). Guest fees must be paid by the member, and are not to be paid by any guest(s).

Please make your reservations early -- because (1) reservations generally are taken on a first come-first-served basis and (2) use of the pavilion or the pool with 10 or more guests normally requires approval at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Board usually meets only once a month. Now would be a good time to make your reservation!

To reserve the pavilion or to have an event anywhere on the pool grounds, please contact LOUISA HOAR at (301) 871-2954.

### Tennis Court Keys

LOUISA is also the one to contact if you want or need a key to the tennis courts.

**Thank you LOUISA!**



- Continued on page 6 -



## Events where you don't have to get wet

We've got a great community swimming pool, but there are also lots of events that don't involve getting wet! Already scheduled for this season are:

- **Dolphin Dash 5K Run** -- May 28, 8 am until the last one makes it in.
- **Summer Market nee Community Yard Sale** -- June 2, 9 am to noon
- **Movie Night (Coco)** -- June 2, starting at dusk
- **Independence Day Celebration** -- July 4, parade at noon followed by events at the pool from 1 to 3:30 pm.
- **Movie Night (Beauty & the Beast)** -- July 7, starting at dusk
- **Community Affairs Forum** -- July 12, 7:30 pm  
US Postal Service. Meet the postmaster.
- **Movie Night (Dirty Dancing)** -- August 4, starting at dusk
- **Concert** -- August 26, 7 to 9 pm  
featuring ELIZABETH and PHIL KOMINSKI
- **Movie Night (The Greatest Showman)** -- September 1, starting at dusk



Also in the planning stages are at least one more live music night and at least 2 more community affairs forums (one with the County Police and one with the County Planning Board). The SBP Dolphins sponsored the Dolphin 5K Dash. The movie nights, live music nights, and community affairs forums are co-sponsored by the BPRA and the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association, with contributions from the SBP Dolphins and community members. Announcements of additional events will be found in the June *Bugle*, on the listserve and on the bulletin board at the pool.

## Pool Passes

In mid May, all BPRA households should be receiving a note from our Pool Passes Coordinator, LOUISA HOAR. If, when you sent in your \$225 annual dues, you indicated that your choice was 2 season passes, then you should be receiving your 2 passes for the 2018 season. If you indicated that your choice was household admission, then you should receive a census form asking who lives in your household and a request for recent photos.



When you come to use the pool, be sure to bring and show your season pass at the front desk - if you requested season passes. If you requested household admission, then the staff at the front desk will check our photos collection.

If you have any questions about our pool passes, please contact LOUISA at (301) 871-2954

## **SBP Dolphins: We do more than swim!**

by Claire Pak

Can you believe that we're about to run the **FOURTH ANNUAL DOLPHIN DASH 5K**? Thanks to our wonderful, supportive community, we are able to offer a great race and a fun neighborhood event, while also raising needed funds for our team. As always, the run will take place on Memorial Day, which is on Monday, May 28. Registration is \$35; fee goes up to \$40 on the Friday before the race. **REGISTER BY MAY 10** to guarantee your shirt size!



Registration is here: <https://www.active.com/aspen-hill-md/running/distance-running-races/dolphin-5k-2018>.

Registration fees cover official timing and a t-shirt. Teams of five or more runners will receive a \$10 per person discount, which applies to either early registration or full price. Runners, walkers, wheelchairs, and strollers are all welcome.

**- Continued on page 8 -**

**Given Highest Rating by Consumer Checkbook Magazine**

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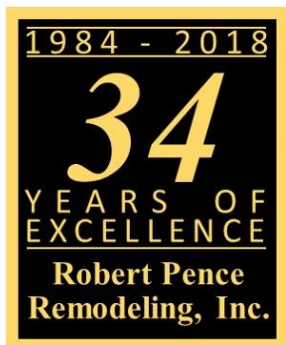
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# Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins

(continued from page 7)

## Dolphins DO Swim!

Our Swim season kicks off on June 16! Please see the next issue of the Bugle (or email me at [claire0618@gmail.com](mailto:claire0618@gmail.com) to be added to the Dolphins' Google Group) for a detailed calendar with meet dates and locations. We are also delighted that our entire coaching staff (Head Coach TERRY KOMINSKI, Assistant Coach LILAN MILLER, and Developmental Coaches SARAH STAGGS, RILEY GEARY, and OLIVIA MILLER) will be returning this summer. Be sure to see the next *Bugle* issue for the coaches' bios!



## Donations Needed

If you have received our annual mailing, please consider making a donation. Although most of the team's operating budget is funded by team families through registration fees and in-season fundraising (especially our bake sale), we do need to raise additional funds to cover unexpected or larger expenses. This year, we are developing a new website for the team (thank you, KAREN PURDY) for which we will need to cover hosting costs. Your generous donations make it possible for us to keep our technology and equipment up to date, and continue to meet our day-to-day operating costs, which include coaches' salaries.



## Join the Dolphins

If you have considered signing your children up for the team, but you're not sure what it involves, we invite you to contact any Dolphins family or board member to learn more. We welcome swimmers of ALL ability levels. Swimmers start as early as 3 (in the Developmental group) and our league allows swimmers to compete until they reach age 18. Our Developmental group offers small-group and individual instruction for beginning swimmers and non-swimmers. When children can safely swim the length of the pool, they get to compete in the swim team meets!

There is nothing better than a Dolphins summer, and the SBP Dolphins offer so much more than fun and competition. Many team members and their families have formed strong and lasting friendships with other families whom they might never have met without the swim team, and those friendships continue long after swimmers grow up and graduate from the Dolphins. We'd love for more of our neighborhood families to enjoy the same experience. Board member contact information appears below.

GREG MILLER	President	<a href="mailto:winstonhen@aol.com">winstonhen@aol.com</a>
MIKE BEARMAN	Vice-President	<a href="mailto:mbearman@vecna.com">mbearman@vecna.com</a>
CLAIRE PAK	Secretary	<a href="mailto:cdaltonpak@yahoo.com">cdaltonpak@yahoo.com</a>
RITA VAUGHT	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:rvaught@comcast.net">rvaught@comcast.net</a>
KAREN PURDY	A Meet Manager	<a href="mailto:klpurdy@hotmail.com">klpurdy@hotmail.com</a>
TERRY KOMINSKI	Head Coach	<a href="mailto:mermade1967@aol.com">mermade1967@aol.com</a>

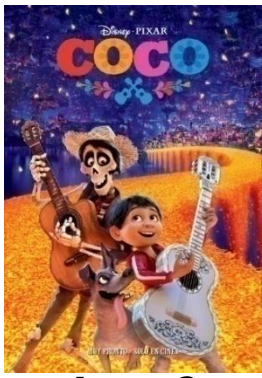


## Keep in Touch

If you're a Dolphins fan, we would love to keep in touch with you during the summer. I send frequent emails filled with team news, and if you'd like to receive updates, just send me an email and I'll add you to our Google Group. We're counting the days until Memorial Day and we hope you are, too. We'll see you at the pool!



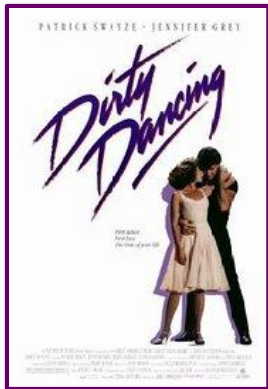
## SBPCA Announces 1st Saturdays at the Movies!



**JUNE 2**



**JULY 7**



**AUGUST 4**



**SEPTEMBER 1**



**Mark your calendars!** The first Saturday night of each month this summer will be movie night at the pool. The following Sunday is the rain date. **All movies start at dusk, between 8:30 and 8:45 pm, earlier in September.**

**The SBP Civic Association Thanks Our 2017 Summer Entertainment Sponsors!!!**

Lilla Hammond 	Tim Horst  	Paulette Ladas 				
<b>The Bel Pre Recreational Association</b> <span style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">SBP Superstars</span>						
<b>Oscar Winners</b>	SBP Swim Team Association	Susan Shannon	Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot			
<b>Band Leaders</b>	Ted & Nancy Bechtol	John & Shelly Bogasky	Maury & Charlotte Potosky	Larry & Rita Vaught	Linda & Charles Bea	Susan & Max Bronstein
<b>And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association</b>						

### **Please Support our Movies and Concerts!**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays at the Movies and our Summer Concerts are only possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors. We recognize our 2017 sponsors above. Their support helps us to cover the costs of licensing movies, hiring performers, and maintaining our equipment. **Please contact SBPCA Treasurer John Bogasky at [johnbogasky@hotmail.com](mailto:johnbogasky@hotmail.com) to join our sponsors.** Your support can help grow and sustain this new SBP tradition.

Summer Entertainment Sponsor Levels	
SBP Superstar	\$500
Community Champion	\$250
Oscar Winner	\$100
Band Leader	\$50
Super Fan	\$25

# Clean up – Mathew Henson Trail

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

Do you remember the wind storm, the worst of the year, when both schools, the metro and the federal government closed due to strong winds? Our neighborhood had the unfortunate coincidence of that day being our trash and recycling pickup day. Did you notice how your recycling bin was empty before the truck came to collect it? Your recyclables ended up going into the storm drains on your street, where they were quickly washed into local streams. It was easy to see them all over the place along the boardwalk and bridges of the Mathew Henson Trail. SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!!



Well, somebody did – the scouts and families of Pack and Troop 763, sponsored by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association, and the scouts of local Girl Scout Troop 232. We covered the area behind Bel Pre Elementary School, picked up the “trash rafts” at the 2 bridges, and came back up the stream valley towards Rippling Brook Road, ending up cleaning around the storm-water pond where ducks and other birds like to nest.

We collected about 16 bags of loose trash, which is less than last year, but this trend is similar to other multi-year efforts in the area. As an area gets cleaner, it tends to stay cleaner and there is less trash that is deposited since trash collects trash. (You will notice the same effect with your sink and dishwasher. Put every dish straight into the dishwasher and the sink stays clear. As soon as the first dish is left in the sink, then all subsequent dishes will be piled up in the sink.)

However, this year we collected 5 times the amount of recyclables as we did last year, as a result of the fact that the 3 windiest days of the year all fell on Fridays when the cans were on the street. The single most common thing we picked up? Disposable water bottles accounted for about half the recyclables we found. They are light and easily airborne and become litter very quickly. The biggest difference? We picked up far fewer plastic bags. Studies of local streams have shown a 50-80% reduction in plastic waste as a result of the 5 cent plastic bag tax.



For many of the kids, this is their favorite activity of the year. They get to wander through the woods, under bridges, through the mud, using their outdoor voices. At the end, there is a pile of trash and then woods looked noticeably cleaner, and they unequivocally knew that their actions helped the environment. So, a very big thank you to everyone who has bought popcorn from a scout and to the many donations received from the community. The pack (elementary school age kids) needs about \$60 per scout to cover the cost of dues, awards, insurance, activities, and a subscription to the awesome *Boys Life* magazine. Many families cannot afford that, especially if they have more than one scout. Your donations and purchase of popcorn helps cover the cost for these scouts, who can participate in all that scouting offers them. Thanks also to Montgomery County Parks and Planning, who provides the supplies and picks up the trash.



# THE BEAUTY OF SPRING BEECHES

by Cecily Nabors

How lucky we are to have so many beautiful beech trees nearby! Beeches (*Fagus grandifolia*), my favorite trees, are common on the slopes above Bel Pre Creek. Many are tall and venerable elders, with canopy too dense to allow much undergrowth. Where several beeches are close, they create a splendid open look of dappled glades and thick silvery trunks; spaces are pillared and vaulted like cathedral cloisters.

Scientific studies have proven that spending time in nature can reduce your stress hormones, lower your pulse rate, and improve your blood pressure. Even a small neighborhood park like ours beside the Henson Trail provides restful places to be apart from busy daily life.



Walking under beeches in early spring is just such a blessing. The air is mild, and scudding clouds drop short slanting showers that barely dampen the ground. Straight gray beech boles, streaked with moisture, make me feel I am impossibly small and walking among stationary elephants. The trees' pewter colored branches are all tipped with dark new growth that ends in pointed amber flames of tightly furled leaf buds. I walk across netted roots on an amber carpet of the last generation of leaves. Amber to green to amber again. A beautiful progression.



By late April, the beeches' upper branches are golden-green crowns, while the lower leaves are still tightly held by the furled amber calyxes. Soon the leaves all burst forth, and the hill above the creek is a glory of tender soft green. The new leaves, fully out, are edged with fine pale hairs and creased like a partly folded fan. Beneath the trees lies a litter of cast off amber hulls.



Beeches are an essential part of our park's small forest. Gray rivulets of roots cascade down the slope, merging with and melting into the earth, holding fast lest earth and tree slide together into the creek. Branches and roots capture rainfall, slowing its progress to the ground and retarding its loss. Old leaves and fallen branches contribute to uneven, spongy soil surfaces that divert and slow runoff on its way down to the creek. Boughs shade the water and keep its temperature cooler on warm days.

On some warm day soon, do take a little time to sit on a beechroot bench by the creek and just relax. It's good for your health!



# THE BULLETIN BOARD – Updates from your neighborhood schools

## NEWS FROM BEL PRE and STRATHMORE ELEMENTARY



### Bel Pre and Strathmore Elementary Schools need your help!



Teacher Appreciation Week is quickly approaching May 7-11. The PTA could use volunteers and donations for that week. If you would like to donate dessert, supplies, or your time, please contact our neighbor and PTA board member Christine Mueller by email [cmueller56@gmail.com](mailto:cmueller56@gmail.com) or by text 202-375-4274. Monetary donations welcome.

#### Supplies by Saturday, May 5:

- ☐ Expo Markers
- ☐ Liquid Glue
- ☐ Glue Sticks
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Gallon-size ziploc bags
- ☐ Lysol Wipes

#### Desserts for AM Friday, May 11:

- ☐ Brownies
- ☐ Cookies
- ☐ Cake
- ☐ Pie
- ☐ Fruit
- ☐ Other treats

### Upcoming Events at Bel Pre and Strathmore

**Monday, May 7- Friday, May 11**

**Teacher Appreciation Week**

**Thursday, May 24 Strathmore Spring Concert**

7:00-8:30 pm @ Bel Pre Elementary

**Friday, June 1 Luau Dance – Spring Fling**

6:30-8:30 pm @ Bel Pre Elementary

**Thursday, June 7 Strathmore Talent Show**

7:00-8:00 pm @ Bel Pre Elementary

## NEWS FROM GEORGIAN FOREST

So far, this school year, the Georgian Forest PTA has provided:

- \$2000 in mini-grants to various grade levels and special departments to fund special programming and field trips
- \$1600 for an in-school entertaining and educational assembly;
- Almost \$3300 "Scholastic Dollars" for the Media Center and Literary Specialist to purchase books through Scholastic Books
- \$3000 "Scholastic Dollars" for teachers to use to build their classroom libraries
- provided funds and concessions to support the Fall Festival, Staff Luncheon, and Staff Appreciation.



# Updates from the Glenmont Exchange

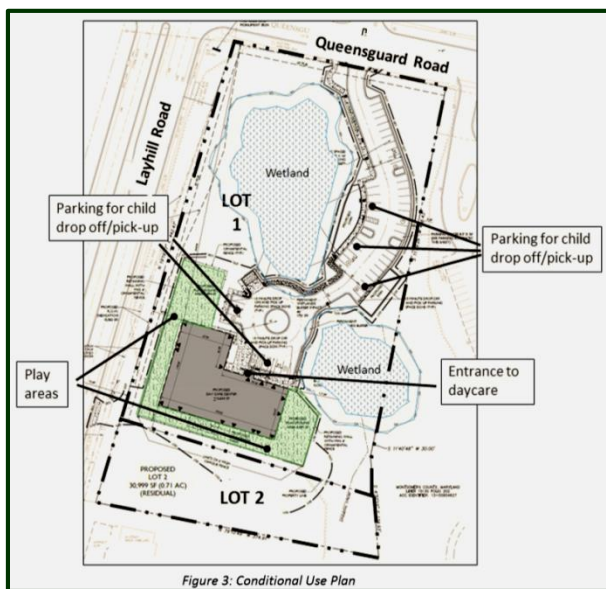
by John Bogasky

*The Glenmont Exchange gathers together businesses and community associations surrounding Glenmont. The Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association is a Founding Member.*

As an information exchange, Glenmont Exchange meetings are a useful way to get updates on developments in our area. Here are some updates from recent meetings.

## Primrose Day Care Center

The new day care center proposed for the corner of Layhill Road and Queensguard Road, just across from the entrance to the Mid-County Recreation Center is progressing. A Planning Board hearing was held April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Staff development report can be found online at <http://montgomeryplanningboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CU-17-16-Staff-Report-FINALCSPB.pdf>

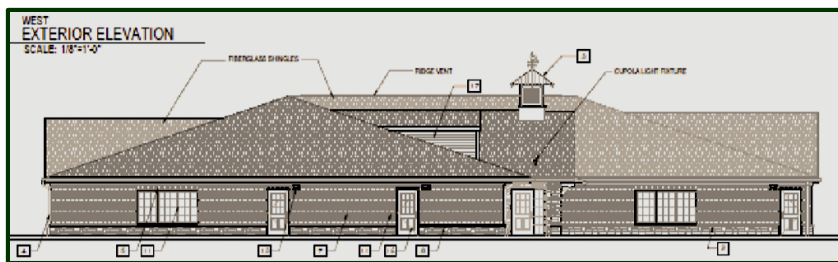


The proposed Primrose School will be in a new 12,634 - square foot, one-story building with 11 classrooms on a 4.22 acre site. The facility will serve up to 200 children, with up to 32 employees onsite at any one time. All-day care will be available for children age six-weeks old to pre-Kindergarten age. Before and after school programs may be offered for students ages 5-12.

The applicant, Layhill Property LLC, plans to subdivide the property into two lots. The Primrose School will occupy one lot, with second one proposed as residential.

Two wetlands and their buffers largely dictate the proposed site design, which attempts to minimize their impacts. Twenty-five of the parking spaces will be reserved for short-term child drop-off and pick-up, with the remainder of the 52 parking are intended for the staff.

Due to the property's topography, the proposed building sits at a lower elevation than Layhill Road, such that its roof will be the most prominent feature seen from Layhill Road. The building is designed to be residential in character with sloping roofs, a stone and brick façade, and windows with mullions.



13,000 square feet of fenced outdoor play area, covered with artificial turf, also are proposed. One outdoor play area will be for infants, two for early preschool-age, and one for preschool-aged children. A 6-foot-tall decorative iron fence will surround the west, east, and north sides of the play area. The play area on the south side of the building that faces the adjacent residential property will be enclosed by a semi-opaque vinyl fence. Retaining walls border most of the proposed parking and play areas.

Going all the way back to the community meetings for the Glenmont Master Plan, there has been a community clamor for better day care facilities in our area. The new Primrose Day Care Center will go a long way towards addressing those longstanding community desires.

**- Continued on page 15 -**





## April 9, 2018 MCCF Meeting Montgomery County's Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget

Upon arrival at the meeting, I found in attendance Montgomery County Council Member NANCY FLOREEN, Council Staff member MARLENE MICHAELSON, and Director of Finance ALEX ESPINOSA, who also happens to be my new boss, as well as several candidates for Montgomery County Council, both Democrats and Republicans. Council Member FLOREEN gave an impassioned speech on the care and diligence that goes into the choices made in the county's budget each year, describing the efforts as

"very thorough work." She also delivered a sharp rebuke to the derogatory comments being made about waste and inefficiency in the budget, coming from candidates on both sides of the aisle, including some current county employees.

Mr. ESPINOSA then ran through the key elements of the county's \$5.6 billion recommended operating budget for fiscal year 2019. More information on which can be found at <http://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/BASISOPERATING/Common/Index.aspx>. Nearly half of the budget (46.7%) is taken up by expenditure on public schools, whereas another 10.5% goes to public safety, 7.7% to other county government functions, another 7.7% to debt service, and 5.7% to health and human services, leaving 21.7% to be split up amongst a variety of other functions. The Montgomery County Taxpayers League next listed its views on all areas of the current and proposed budget for the County, quite often disagreeing with the premises and expenses of the budget.

## IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO GET ORGANIZED TO SELL!



**Declutter.** Pair down the decor, furniture & family pictures to an amount that makes the space feel more open & inviting.

**Create a timeline.** Create a list of the big repairs or enhancements you've done that you can leave on the table for people who tour your house.

**Tackle home improvement projects.** Make a list of all of the minor things that need to be done in order for your house to show better. Then, do them!.

The Market is Hot. Inventory is Low.  
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# Glenmont Exchange

(Continued from page 13)

## Montgomery County Storm Water Summit for Homeowners

On Wednesday, June 6th,  
Sustainable Maryland will hold a  
Storm Water Summit for home  
owners, at Brookside Gardens.

Sustainable Maryland is an initiative from the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland.



Presentations will focus on the the County's RainScapes Storm Water Management Incentive Program. This program enables homeowners to receive rebates for rain barrels, pervious pavement, dry wells, rain gardens, and other storm water conservation landscaping measures.

Information will also be presented about Water Quality Protection Charge (WQPC) Credits. Homeowners are able to receive credits of up to 80% off your WQPC charges through the use of specific storm water management techniques.

Light refreshments will be served. There is no cost to attend. Registration is only online at <https://tinyurl.com/yc8a6tek>. Questions? Contact Mike Hunninghake at [mikeh75@umd.edu](mailto:mikeh75@umd.edu) or 301-405-7956.



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Hospital in Washington D.C.  
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## The Spring Thing



The first annual Strathmore Bel Pre Spring Thing was a success! Thank you to everyone who brought food for the community snack pot luck and an especially big thanks to PAUL SPELMAN who brought his mobile pizza oven! The event included

- ❖ a moon bounce for the kids (thanks CHRIS SWAN),
- ❖ tennis demos (thanks to the BPRA Tennis Group – GEORGE USHER, KEVIN BROWN, STAN SACHAR, KAREN BROWN, and DAVE PULLEN)
- ❖ document shredding (thanks to PAULETTE LADAS of RE/MAX, LOUIE LOPEZ of Caliber Home Loans, and the folks at Patriot Shredding), and
- ❖ a pony (thanks to Barrie School)!

We also had hospitality tables from the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association,

Friends of the Aspen Hill Library, Cosmic Kids Camp, Five Star Kids Camp, Barrie School, Jade Dragon Martial Arts, Bel Pre/Strathmore PTA, Pack 763, our neighbor and District 19 State Delegate BONNIE CULLISON, and Green Party County Council candidate TIM WILLARD.



Thank you to CHRIS SWAN and MEGAN VIRGA who organized the Spring Thing and to JOE MOELLER, JACKIE FARY-MOELLER, BILL TOTTEN, Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 763, and Georgetown Aquatics who took care of all sorts of behind the scenes work that made the Spring Thing a success!

## Pool Rules

If you would like to participate in the re-write of the rules governing the pool, tennis courts, pavilion, parking lot, etc., it's not too late! The BPRA Governing Documents Committee met last February 21 and is scheduled to meet again on May 15, at 3501 Beret Lane. If you'd like to become a member of the committee or get a copy of the current working draft, just give me a call at (301) 871-1113 or e-mail me at echabot@usa.net. If you just have an interest in part of the rules, for example just the rules dealing with the basketball courts, or the pool, or the parking lot, etc., that's fine. Participation can be a la carte or you can get involved in the entire re-write. The last time the pavilion rules were rewritten was in 2008 and the last time the rest of the rules got a rewrite was in 1994! Everyone is welcome to participate.

**- Continued on page 17 -**



## Ballou Gardening

Planting\*Mulching\*Trimming\*  
Spring&Fall clean-ups\*Fertilization\*  
Tree work\*Walkways\*Ornamental\*  
\* Handyman Repairs\*

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Olney MD 20832

Call us Anytime  
301-260-1184







## Physical Facilities – Fixing and Improving

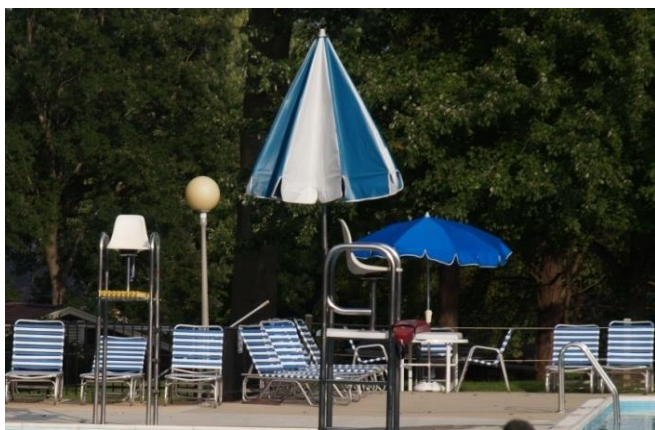
Plans for the physical facilities for the 2018 season (some before opening day and some after) include upgrading the security system, improving the underwater lighting, repainting the ceiling in the bathrooms, fixing the pool lane dividers, maintenance on the pavilion lighting, replacing the life guard chair decks, upgrading the pump room the children pool, upgrading the pool deck umbrellas, improving the system for cleaning the main pump room strainers, adjusting the parking lot gates, improved signage, getting

the snack bar operational, and repainting the basketball courts. Thank you to JOE MOELLER, KYE PAK, GREG MILLER, LAURA MILLER, BILLY RUPPERT, and all the other volunteers who make these happen. Thank you, as well, to the folks at Georgetown Aquatics, who manage day-to-day operations at the pool.

## Pool Property Trees

In addition to having an almost 50-year-old community swimming pool, we also have 50-year-old trees that were planted while the pool was under construction. Last year, several neighbors of the pool indicated concern about the maintenance of the pool property along the property line. We have worked with, and continue to work with, those neighbors to identify specific problems. During 2017 we spent over \$15,000 (roughly 10% of the BPRA's annual budget) on maintenance of the areas along the fences.

This included removing dead trees and brush, removing vines, pruning existing trees, and starting to establish a clear corridor along the fence line. During 2018, we expect to be spending a comparable amount on these activities (as well as planting new trees further back from the fence line) and will continue to do this each year for the foreseeable future. Thank you TED BECHTOL for making this happen.



## Long-term Planning

Looking beyond the current season, work continues on development of a long-term plan for our community's recreational facilities. Key questions being looked at include when did each of the major components of our facilities (including the pumps, the pool, the clubhouse, the pavilion, and the tennis courts) last have major renovation and what are their remaining life-expectancies?. As they reach their next major milestones, what are the likely costs to repair or replace or upgrade? Are we on good financial footing to meet these needs? Where should we go from here? KAREN PURDY is heading

up this enormous effort. Thank you to KAREN and to all the community members (current and past) who are helping put this together.

- Continued on page 21 -



# Aspen Hill Library News

by Elliot Chabot

## More Candidate Forums

Where do the candidates stand on the issues of the day? Come and ask them! Primary Election Day is June 26 (early voting June 14-21). The General Election is Tuesday, November 6, with early voting October 25 to November 1.



The Friends of the Aspen Hill Library (in conjunction with the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association, the Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee, and the Aspen Hill Civic Association) is continuing to sponsor a series of candidates forums at the Library. Scheduled for May through October are forums for:

- ✓ Maryland House of Delegates (District 19) - Thursday, May 10
- ✓ County Council (District 3) - Thursday, June 7
- ✓ County Council (District 4) - Thursday, September 6
- ✓ County Circuit Court Judges - Monday, September 17
- ✓ Maryland State Senate (District 19) - Thursday, September 27
- ✓ County School Board - Thursday, October 18

All of the forums start at 7:30 pm, at the Aspen Hill Library, 4407 Aspen Hill Road.

During this election cycle the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library have also hosted candidates forums for U.S. House of Representative (District 6), County Executive, and County Council (At Large).



## Used Book Sale

This year's Spring Used Book Sale at the Aspen Hill Library is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, from 10 am to 4 pm. Thousands of used books (as well as CDs and DVDs) will be on sale at amazing prices. The books are divided into over 30 categories. All of the proceeds are used for programs, books, and supplies at the Aspen Hill Library.

The Fall Used Book Sale is currently scheduled for Saturday, October 27.

## Book Donations

If you'd like to donate books, CDs, or DVDs, for the Aspen Hill Friends of the Library book sales, just contact the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library at [aspenhill@folmc.org](mailto:aspenhill@folmc.org) or call me at (301) 871-1113. We're happy to come to your door to pick up any donations and give you a tax receipt. Items are accepted all year round, and even on the day of the sale.



## Local Librarian Does Well

Former Aspen Hill Library Manager ANGELISA HAWES has been named the new Assistant Director for Facilities and ADA, for the Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries. ANGELISA headed up the Aspen Hill Library from 2014 to 2017. Congratulations ANGELISA!

## President's Corner

(continued from page 3)

### Summer Programs in Progress

Thanks to JOHN BOGASKY, with assistance from STEVE DEMING and KYE PAK, our Summer Movie Nights are set. Now we just need to hope for rain-free evenings to enjoy the excellent movies coming to our pool grounds. (Rain dates are the following evening.) The music evenings are being finalized, so for the music lovers like myself, CHRIS SWAN will have some great talent for us to enjoy this summer. Elliot Chabot and I are organizing this summer's Community Affairs Forum. We are planning for several informative meetings again this summer. I hope that these new sessions will be as popular as last year's topics. If you have any ideas for topics please let us know. We have already arranged for our Silver Spring Postmaster GABRIEL HAMILTON to return on Thursday July 12th at 7:30 pm at the Pool Pavilion.



### July 4<sup>th</sup> Events – have fun and help out

We are delighted that JUSTIN and NICOLE STONE have agreed to coordinate our 4th of July planning this summer. Please reach out to help them, as the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade, entertainment, and pool games in the afternoon need quite a few volunteers. You can help out, have fun, and celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> in our neighborhood and at our lovely pool and grounds.

Cubmaster BILL TOTTEN, and the scouts and families of Pack and Troop 763 will lead the parade from Strathmore Elementary School up to the pool, followed by entertainment in the pool pavilion and field games.

# Barrie School

## Now Enrolling for Fall 2018!

- Ages 18 months - Grade 12
- Newly renovated Montessori building and Maker Space
- New STEAM courses for Middle & High School including planetary and marine science

**Schedule a tour today!**

301-576-2800 or [admission@barrie.org](mailto:admission@barrie.org)

**barrie.org**



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**For ages 4-14**

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**[barrie.org/camp](http://barrie.org/camp)**



13500 Layhill Road, Silver Spring, MD • Minutes from ICC & Glenmont Metro Transportation Available



# The SPRING THING

by Megan Virga

On behalf of the board members of the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association and the Bel Pre Recreational Association, THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our first ever SPRING THING! We were delighted to have such a strong turnout to kick off the spring and summer season. The weather was (finally!) warm and sunny, the tennis courts and basketball court were in full swing, and many neighbors enjoyed an afternoon of catching up over shared snacks and engaging with representatives from local community groups.



It was a great day! Special thanks go to:

- ❖ PAULETTE LADAS (of RE/MAX) and LOUIS LOPEZ (of Caliber Home Loans) for generously sponsoring our paper-shredding extravaganza;
- ❖ The members and parents of BOY SCOUT TROOP 763 for setting up, cleaning up, and maintaining a semblance of order in the bounce house;
- ❖ Our Community Tennis Group—GEORGE USHER, KEVIN & KAREN BROWN, and STAN SACHAR—for serving up a fabulous demo of their skills. And to DAVE PULLEN, who provided much of the extra racquets and other training equipment



Finally, we're grateful for all of the community groups that came to share information about the activities and services they offer to our residents, including:

- ❖ Barrie School
- ❖ Bel Pre/Strathmore ES PTA
- ❖ Cosmic Kids Camp
- ❖ Five Star Kids Camp
- ❖ Friends of the Aspen Hill Library
- ❖ Jade Dragon Martial Arts

We'll do it again, folks!



And if you have suggestions for next year's Spring Thing —or other community events— we'd love to hear them!



# Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 17)

## Pet Waste Station

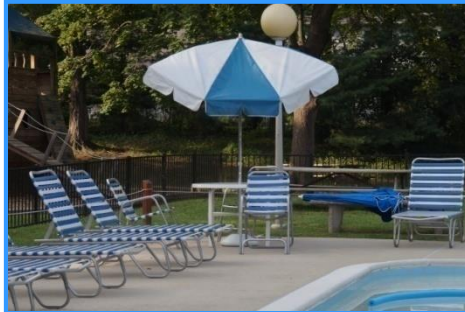
As the weather gets nicer and we're all more out and about, please consider making a donation to support the upkeep of the pet waste station that is on the path next to the tennis courts. The pet waste station is no longer being maintained by the County Government. It is being maintained by the BPRA with the support of the Civic Association. Please consider making a donation to help support it -- especially if you have a dog who uses it! Donations can be mailed to the BPRA at P.O. Box 6370, Silver Spring, MD 20916-6370. (Thanks to JACKIE FARY-MOELLER for making the pet waste station a reality.)



## BPRA meeting schedule: May 2018 to January 2019

The meeting schedule for the BPRA Board of Trustees is:

- Tuesday, May 1, 7:30 pm at Bel Pre Elementary School (room 161 or 138)
- Saturday, May 12, 10 am, at the pool
- Tuesday, June 5, 7:30 pm at the pool pavilion
- Tuesday, June 19, 7:30 pm at the pool pavilion (if needed)
- Tuesday, July 10, 7:30 pm at the pool pavilion
- Wednesday, July 25, 7:30 pm at the pool pavilion (if needed)
- Tuesday, August 7, 7:30 pm at the pool pavilion
- Tuesday, August 21, 7:30 pm at the pool pavilion (if needed)
- Tuesday, September 11, 7:30 pm at the pool pavilion
- Saturday, September 15, 10 am at the pool
- Tuesday, October 2, 7:30 pm at Bel Pre Elementary School (room 161 or 138)
- Wednesday, November 7, 7:30 pm at Bel Pre Elementary School (room 161 or 138)
- Tuesday, December 4, 7:30 to 8:00 pm at Bel Pre Elementary School (room 161 or 138)
- Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 pm at Bel Pre Elementary School (room 161 or 138)



## Attend a Meeting?

All BPRA members are welcome to attend the meetings of the Board of Trustees. Fifteen minutes are usually set aside at the beginning of each Board meeting, so that members of the Association can address the Board about any topic of concern to the community.

## November Annual Meeting

The Annual General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 15 at Bel Pre Elementary School. The Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association will hold its annual meeting from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The BPRA annual meeting begins immediately after the Civic Association meeting has concluded.

## Strathmore Bel Pre Town Hall meeting

The annual Strathmore Bel Pre Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, at 8 pm. If we didn't get a quorum at the November BPRA annual meeting, then the Town Hall meeting will include a continuation of the BPRA annual meeting.

# Summer Concerts

Two live music nights this summer featuring Strathmore Bel Pre musicians!

**Saturday**

**June 23**

7 pm to 9 pm

**The Motor Driven Band**

featuring

PAUL STAGNITTO



**Sunday**

**August 26**

7 pm to 9 pm

**The Bubbas**

featuring

ELIZABETH and PHIL KOMINSKI



## Please Volunteer For Our Community's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration!

You can help us make this July 4<sup>th</sup> a special day, and a great celebration for our community.  
We welcome your ideas and talents!

### Contact:

WILLIAM HAMMOND – Bill.Hammond@verizon.net or 301-509-4621

LILLA HAMMOND – Lilla.Hammond@verizon.net or 301-509-4621

**For our July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Celebration, help is needed with the following:**

PARADE .....11:30 am-1:00 pm (Registration & Safety)

ENTERTAINMENT.....12:30 pm–2:30 pm

GAMES.....2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

DECORATIONS,SIGNS..... ON July 4<sup>th</sup> and before

**We look forward to hearing from you.... Thanks!**

**THANKS VERY MUCH! THE JULY 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration Team**