

The Bugle



Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

March 2019

Volume 51 #1

Spring Thing May 11

(Open House and Community Social)



You Are Invited

On **Sunday afternoon, May 11nd, from 2 to 4**, in the afternoon, come to the pool parking lot (13920 Bethpage Lane) for the our **2nd Strathmore Bel Pre Spring Thing!**

Open House. We've invited groups from our community to come and show us what they do. We plan to have booths from the Rec and Civic Associations, the Swim Team, Boy Scouts, Friends of the Library, Cosmic Kids, the Barrie School, and many more. Find out what's going on the community first hand, and get ready for Summer!

Fun. A moon bounce will be there for the kids. The Recreational Association's Tennis Group will be providing demos on the tennis courts. Plus the activities on the grounds and parking lot. And perhaps a pony...



Refreshments

We encourage everyone to bring their signature snack to share. The BPRA and SBPC will provide paper goods, tableware and beverages

Thanks to the Scouts, we will have tables and chairs.

Shred Day. Thanks to PAULETTE LADAS (RE/MAX) and LOUIE LOPEZ (Caliber Home Loans), Patriot Shredding of Rockville will be on site to turn your sensitive papers into confetti. Drive up & drop off, or better yet, stay for the fun.

Everyone's welcome. The Spring Thing is being sponsored by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association and the Bel Pre Recreational Association. Everyone in the entire Strathmore Bel Pre community is welcome to come!

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THE BUGLE

PUBLISHED BY THE STRATHMORE BEL PRE CIVIC ASSOCIATION SINCE 1969

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Civic Association

P.O. Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20916
Annual SBPCA membership: \$18.00
Web site: www.strathmorebelpre.org

The SBPCA is a voluntary association, funded by membership dues, that represents our community to County Government and various groups such as the Montgomery County Civic Federation and the Glenmont Exchange, and participates in many local and community programs. The SBPCA also sponsors Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 763.

The SBPCA also publishes *The Bugle*, organizes the annual Summer Market & Yard Sale, the 4th of July festivities, the Communitywide Public Affairs Forum series (generally held during the summer), and in conjunction with the Rec Association, the yearly community-wide Town Hall meeting, held in December.

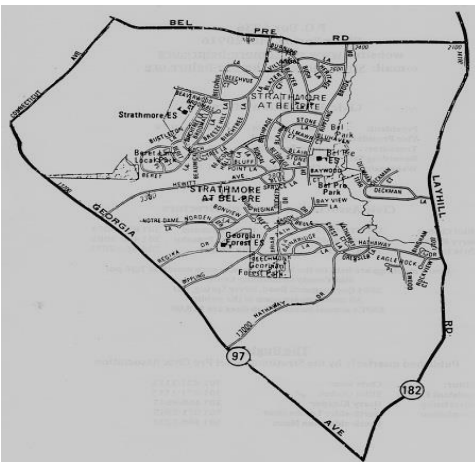
The SBPCA Board of Directors meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Mid-County Community Recreation Center on Queensguard Road. The Civic Association's annual meeting is in November just before the BPRA annual meeting.

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	Chris Jennison	301 538-5705	Chris Swan	301 871-1113
Lilla Hammond	301 871-5074	Maurice Potosky	301 460-9008	Rita Vaught	206 406-2871



Strathmore Bel Pre Street map

Strathmore Bel Pre Community listserv: To join the listserv, contact John Bogasky.

Website: The Civic and Rec Associations have a joint website, mainlined by the Civic Association. For more information, contact Billy Ruppert.

Public Affairs Forums: Contact Nancy Bechtol.

Community Directory and Summer Market & Yard Sale: Contact Linda Bea.

July 4th Activities: Contact Lilla Hammond.

Bel Pre Recreational Association

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 court, playgrounds, picnic areas, bath house, snack bar, and pavilion, which normally are open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. The tennis courts are open year round.

BPRA Board and committee meetings are announced at <http://strathmorebelpre.org/meetings>. Board meetings are normally the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, at the Bel Pre Elementary School, room 161 or 138, from October to May, and at the Pool pavilion, from June to September.

The annual General Membership meeting is normally held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving Day at 7:30 pm, at Bel Pre Elementary School. The annual Town Hall meeting, presented with the Civic Association, traditionally is held on the 1st Tuesday of December, at 8 pm, at Bel Pre Elementary.

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
Ted Bechtol	301 871-3679	tedbechtol@yahoo.com
Chris Jennison	301 538-5705	chris.s.jennison@gmail.com
Steve Jennison	301 919-9278	hsjennison@gmail.com
Karen Purdy	301 603-9604	kpurdy@hotmail.com
Billy Ruppert	301 332-4901	billyruppert@gmail.com
Larry Vaught	240 558-3814	l.vaught@comcast.net
Megan Virga	301 536-3631	megancy@gmail.com



Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

Treasurer	Patrick Welteroth	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Secretary	Mark Foraker	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Administrative Assistant	Brenda Henry	301 871-6298
Block Party & Spring Thing Coordinator	Megan Virga	301 536-3631
Budget Committee Chair	Patrick Welteroth	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Entertainment and Recreation Committee Chair	Chris Swan	301 871-1113
Governing Documents Committee Chair	Elliot Chabot	301 871-1113
Grounds and Landscaping Coordinator	Ted Bechtol	301 871-3679
Long Term Planning Committee Chair	Karen Purdy	301 603-9604
Mapmaster	Paul Spelman	240 447-7758
Neighborhood Dispute Resolution Committee Chair	vacant	
New Member Recruitment Coordinator	Megan Virga	301 536-3631
Pavilion Scheduler	Louisa Hoar	301 871-2954
Pet Waste Station Coordinator	Jackie Fary-Moeller	jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com
Pool and Recreational Facilities Committee Chair	Greg Miller	301 871-9412
Pool Pass Coordinator	Louisa Hoar	301 871-2954
Tennis Court Keys Distributor	Louisa Hoar	301 871-2954
Tennis Courts Committee Chair	George Usher	geo_usher@verizon.net
Trunk or Treat Coordinator	Beth Kominski	elizabethinfo@gmail.com
Webmaster	Billy Ruppert	301 332-4901

The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre
Civic Association



Annual Meeting & Vision Zero

We were fortunate last year to have planned our annual Town Hall meeting for the first week in December, so we were able to fall back on this date to hold our Annual Meeting and election of directors.

Who would have thought that November snow would have been a factor that caused us to cancel our November 15th meeting?

Our guest speaker, MAREN HILL, from the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission, discussed the Aspen Hill Vision Zero Study, which seeks to find creative ways to eliminate all pedestrian traffic fatalities in the area, and to improve traffic safety for walkers, bicyclists, transit riders and motorists.



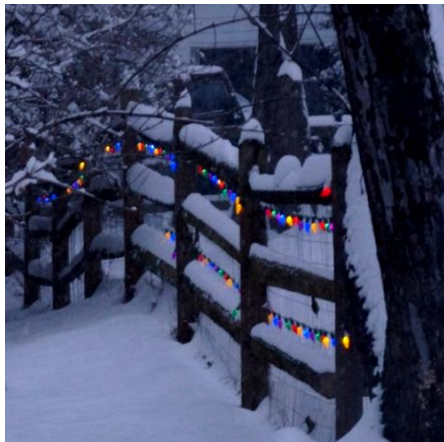
Map our Pedestrian Safety Issues!

The Aspen Hill Vision Zero website, set-up by the Montgomery County Planning Board, has an interactive map feature where you can indicate your concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety issues in our community. You can create your own comments, or agree with older ones. Go to the website, <https://www.mcreactmpa.com>

and find the button for the map.

Please do comment! If more of us comment, the Montgomery County Planning Department will hear us loud and clear! Note that MAREN continues to speak throughout the area, so if you missed her at our December meeting, you should be able to find other speaking locations on their website. The Aspen Hill Vision Zero Advisory Committee meets the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm. See the website for locations.

Join Us



We have over 700 households represented by our Civic Association, and yet, less than 300 members are dues paying members. For a mere \$18, you receive much more in value! From *The Bugle* to our Summer events, as well as our support for a wide variety of activities, your funds and membership goes far.

Please do join the Civic Association! Further, you can join the Civic Association's Board. We have several vacant seats, and we are a fun group, focused on supporting our neighbors and community. We welcome even the smallest investment of your time. In return, you get the latest community news, and the satisfaction of participating in your community.

Please feel free to join us at our next Board meeting. We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, in the Mid Country Recreation Center off Layhill Rd. You are invited!

– Continued on page 18 –

Bel Pre Recreational News

by Elliot Chabot, President
Bel Pre Recreational Association



December 4 Elections and Meetings

Congratulations to TED BECHTOL, STEVE JENNISON, and KAREN PURDY who were re-elected to the Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) Board of Trustees at the December 4 annual General Membership meeting. TED is a landscape manager and horticulturalist. He served on the Board from 1994 to 2006 and again since 2015; and is the BPRA's Grounds and Landscaping Coordinator. STEVE is an automotive consultant and served on the Board in the late 1980s and early 1990s, including 4 years as President. KAREN is an engineer, has served on the Board since filling a vacancy in 2018, and chairs the BPRA's Long Term Planning Committee.

Congratulations also to MARK FORAKER and PATRICK WELTEROTH who were elected as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, at the Board's December 4 meeting. MARK is the Executive Director of Mercy Health Clinic, a non-profit that provides medical services to low-income residents of Montgomery County. PATRICK is a CPA and has served as a member of the BPRA's Finance Committee since 2017.

PAUL SPELMAN (attorney and pizza chef supreme at our inaugural Spring Thing and Blocktober Fest) has stepped down from the Board, and from his position as BPRA Secretary. Paul served from 2015 to 2018, but is continuing on as the BPRA's Mapmaster (maintaining the maps of the Association). Thank you also to our election judges: LOUISA HOAR, CLAIRE PAK, BILLY RUPPERT, PAUL SPELMAN, MEGAN VIRGA, and GEORGE USHER.

At the December 4 General Membership meeting, the membership approved an amendment to the By-Laws that allows proxies to be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum at future General Membership meetings. This is the first time that an amendment to the By-Laws has been approved since 1980. Thanks to DAVE PULLEN for presenting the amendment at the December 4 meeting.



KAREN PURDY presented a status report to the General Membership on the work of the Long Term Planning Committee. The Committee is compiling information on the maintenance history and life expectancy of the major components of our community's 50-year-old pool and our other recreational facilities; the state of our finances; and what our options are going forward. The Committee is developing a survey to assess the General Membership's priorities concerning renovations and upgrades of the facilities, as well as related topics, such as off-season use of the facilities. Thank you to KAREN, NANCY BECHTOL, SUE HOYE, DAN KEATING, JOE MOELLER, MARK SAMARA, CHRIS SWAN, STAN SYNKOSK, and CHRIS WRIGHT for all your work on the long term planning effort.

Outgoing Treasurer LARRY VAUGHT presented the proposed budget at the Annual General Membership meeting. There was discussion about raising the dues, but they will remain \$225 for this year. Larry has stepped down as BPRA Treasurer, after 5 years of service in that position, but continues to serve as a member of the Board. LARRY was the first CPA to serve as BPRA Treasurer in many years, and – with Assistant Treasurer RITA VAUGHT – was instrumental in updating our financial records and bookkeeping practices.

– Continued on page 12 –

The Bugle March 2019

Memorial Trees

by Ted Bechtol

BPRA Grounds and Landscaping Coordinator

The Be Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) now has a Memorial Tree program. This program provides an opportunity for community members to remember a special person(s) with a memorial tree. The tree will be planted on the pool grounds. The cost of the tree, its planting and any memorial plaques, are the responsibility of the tree's sponsor. The tree's addition to the pool grounds and landscape will enhance and benefit the green spaces surrounding the pool and recreational facilities.



A wide selection of shade and ornamental tree species and site locations across the grounds is available for consideration. A small tag or plaque (up to 3" by 5"), can be mounted on the ground, or on the tree to identify the memorial. The cost would be at the sponsor's expense.

As the BPRA's Grounds and Landscaping Coordinator, I will work with anyone interested in sponsoring a tree to determine the types available, possible locations, and any other considerations and to determine an agreeable selection. I will then present the name of the sponsor, and the memorializing purpose, along with a location map for Board consideration, modification if necessary, and final approval.

The memorial tree will be incorporated into the routine landscape maintenance of the pool grounds. Any supplemental care, such as watering, provided by the sponsor will be welcomed.

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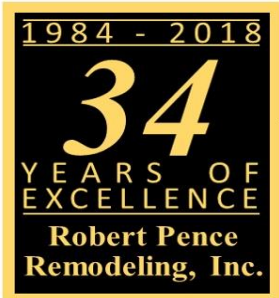
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Your Dolphins

by Claire Pak

Secretary, Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins

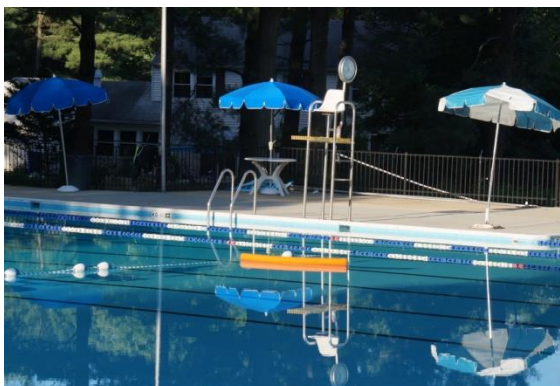
If you're anything like me, then you're tired of winter about a week after Christmas. By February, you're counting the days until summer. And in this community, summer means one thing: SBP Dolphins Swimming!



Your Swim Team

If you're new to our community, the SBP Dolphins is our neighborhood swim team, founded in 1969, and officially welcomed to the Prince-Mont Swim League in 1972. In its 50-year history, the SBP Dolphins has been the home team for over 1,000 summer swimmers, many of whom also swam for their high schools, colleges, U.S. Swimming club teams, and even at the U.S. Olympic Trials. The team has inspired long-lasting friendships among swimmers and their families; and many former Dolphins swimmers have returned to the Dolphins as team parents.

Thanks to our neighbor and beloved team patriarch, PAPA JOHN KOMINSKI, a detailed history of the team is available online, at <https://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com/history>. The 18-chapter history covers the story of the Dolphins from 1969 through 2018, with more chapters to come.



Join the Dolphins

We would love to see more neighborhood children make Dolphins history! SBP team membership is open to all Strathmore Bel Pre community children ages 4 to 18. We also offer sponsored memberships for swimmers who reside outside the community (contact any board member for additional information).

If you'd like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Coach TERRY KOMINSKI, or any member of the Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins Swim Team Association Board of Directors. Our contact email addresses appear

below, and any of us will be happy to hear from you and to answer any questions you might have about swim team participation. If you'd like to talk in person or on the phone, just email any of us, and we'll arrange for a time to talk or meet. We'll also be at the BPRA's Spring Thing event, so look for the friendly people in the Dolphins spirit wear.

SBP Dolphins Swim Team Association Board of Directors

GREG MILLER	President	winstonhen@aol.com
MIKE BEARMAN	Vice-President	mbearman@vecna.com
CLAIRE PAK	Secretary	cdaltonpak@yahoo.com
DENISE REYES	Treasurer	casareyes1@gmail.com
KAREN PURDY	"A" Meet Manager	klpurdy@hotmail.com
TERRY KOMINSKI	Head Coach	mermade1967@aol.com



Watch future issues of *The Bugle* for more Dolphins news, including registration for the 5th annual Dolphin Dash 5K! The Memorial Day Dolphin Dash is the official kick-off to the SBP summer season; and runners, joggers, walkers, wheelchair riders, and stroller pushers are all welcome to participate. Bookmark the Dolphins website (<https://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com/>) and visit often for news about the 5K and other Dolphins events. We can't wait to see you at the pool!

The Social Network: Strathmore Bel Pre Joins Facebook

by Chris Jennison

Social networking is all around us, and as a community, we're constantly looking for ways to strengthen our community and its communications. With almost 4 in 5 Americans now on Facebook, the Strathmore Bel Pre (SBP) community now has a new place to share news, updates, and stay in touch. Late last year, a Strathmore Bel Pre facebook page was launched, which you can find by going to the website www.facebook.com/strathmoreatbelpre, or by searching "Strathmore Bel Pre" in the top search bar while logged into Facebook.

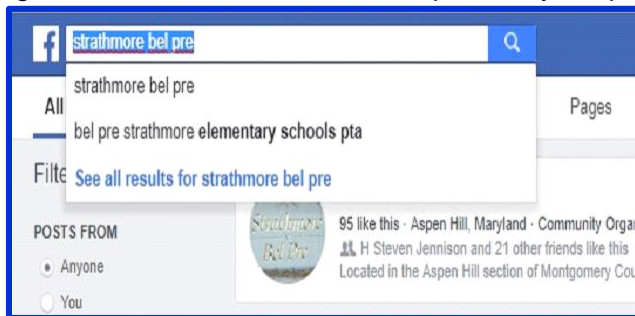
Here are a few reasons SBP now has a Facebook page:

Communication- It is an effective, quick means for communicating important information. For instance, upcoming maintenance work, block parties, Bel Pre Recreational Association (homeowner's association) and Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association meetings are being posted on the Facebook page. For example, we posted a reminder that there was a Kennedy High School fundraiser at the Connecticut Avenue Chipotle in early February. We'll also post a link to *The Bugle* to the Facebook page, so that you can get the electronic copy of *The Bugle*, like you do over the Civic Association listserv and in hard copy.

Community - It is common for some folks to have lived in the neighborhood for years without ever learning who their neighbors were, at least until a neighbor became obnoxious. A Facebook community page encourages members to get to know others in their community. For example, we recently posted an article talking about longtime Civic Association President NANCY BECHTOL and her work at the Smithsonian, and recently congratulated BPRA President ELLIOT CHABOT on being appointed to the Aspen Hill Vision Zero Study Advisory Group.

Here's how you can help with the Facebook page:

Visit the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/strathmoreatbelpre) and "Like" it by clicking the button that says "Like" just below the picture of the Pavilion from the 4th of July. This will ensure that you get news and updates from Facebook when you log into the site. Liking the page will also ensure that you get notified when new events are posted by the page.



Click "Events" on the left tab of the page and be sure to note the upcoming meetings and events.

Share your organization's updates: are your kids a member of the Dolphins' swim team, or perhaps you're a member of the 50+ Club? We'd love for representatives for the various community organizations to contribute posts and updates to the Facebook page. Right now, the page is largely managed by myself and JOHN BOGASKY, but if each group contributes a volunteer, it will be much easier to make this a vibrant page!

We hope that you will "Like" the Strathmore Bel Pre page, and enjoy the content we post. As always, if you have any suggestions or feedback, please feel free to share!

Chickadee Happiness

by Cecily Nabors

My New Year's Resolution for 2019 is to entice Carolina chickadees to return to our yard. I miss their looping flight and cheeky chatter. I want them back.

In our yard, the chickadee trend line is dismally down. This is my twenty-fifth year of counting our backyard birds for Project FeederWatch for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. For FeederWatch, observers write down the number of birds of each species they see feeding at one time, over a count period of two days, with at least five days between each count period. It's fun and enlightening citizen science.



Carolina chickadee with a moth

In the early years, I used to have three or sometimes four Carolina chickadees in the yard, dashing in for sunflower seeds and sampling the suet. That number has been dropping. During the last two winters, the most I saw at a time was two. Last year I saw two chickadees only occasionally. This year I've never seen two at a time. I'm writing this in early February. So far, in ten two-day count periods, one lone chickadee has shown up only three times.

I don't spray pesticides or insecticides — no mosquito-killers, none of that. If our yard doesn't have insects, I won't see birds — a horrible prospect! In fact, without insects, Earth's ecosystems would fall apart. It's not just about pollinators; it's the sheer food value. Many backyard birds eat mostly seeds as adults, but baby birds must be fed soft food. Every bug or caterpillar in the garden is food for something else. DR. DOUGLAS TALLAMY, professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, puts it this way in his book, *Bringing Nature Home*: "We need healthy insect populations to ensure our own survival." Truth to tell, I don't feel the need for mosquitoes, roaches, or emerald ash borers, but I get what he means.

Our yard definitely has insects, but I must increase the allure for chickadees. Two plans: one minor, one major. Minor: This winter I hung a new feeder with sunflower chips (aka bird candy) to join the other five feeders. Finches, starlings, and sparrows love it. Chickadees? Absent.

The major plan: I'm hoping to make our backyard more attractive to all birds. Our yard has changed since we moved here in 1985. We have a small patch of woods with tulip trees, black cherries, white ashes, a big hickory, some hawthorn and holly, lots of spicebush, and many more invasive species than before. The white ash trees are dying. We used to have an apple tree, but the derecho took it down. We used to have a pin oak on the lawn near the edge of the woods, but it died years ago. Non-native invasive wineberries have advanced several feet from the edge of the woods to cover the ground where the oak had stood. According to DR. TALLAMY, oaks support more butterfly and moth species (534) than any other family of trees. My own favorite tree is the American beech, but beeches only support 126 species. I want another oak!

I've called a landscape company that specializes in transforming yards using native species. I hope they will help me devise a good plan to get rid of wineberries and other invasives, and advise me whether we can plant another oak tree, add a dwarf cherry tree, and maybe even try native winterberries or other bird-friendly plants with some hope of success. Shade cast by the woods is a factor to contend with, as well as hungry deer in our unfenced yard. But I'm hoping we can make our mini-habitat more conducive to chickadee happiness. Stay tuned.

Rain Gardens: Boy Scout Troop/ Cub Scout Pack 763

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

Rain Gardens

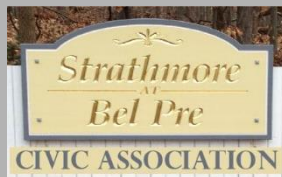
Why have rain gardens attracted so much attention recently? It's the newest "technology" to address the perpetual problem of stormwater management in urbanized areas. If you watched the videos of the floods in downtown Ellicott City, you would notice that the flood was coming down main street and not from the river. Some of the rain that fell upstream of Ellicott City fell on impervious surfaces such as concrete/asphalt, roofs and other hard surfaces. Rain rolls off these hard surfaces in sheet flow instead of being absorbed into the ground. In addition, lawns are not able to absorb as much water as forested areas. All this rainwater has to go somewhere fast, and it flows downhill creating erosion in streams and flooding on streets that cannot get rid of stormwater fast enough. In addition, this sudden deluge of overly warm water can damage streams, creating difficult living situations for fish and other aquatic life. Rain gardens absorb some of this rainwater like a sponge, capturing and storing it for about 24-48 hours before it slowly percolates into the groundwater. We are fortunate to live in a county that is working proactively to help manage this stormwater by giving out grants to install rainscapes.



St. Mary Magdalene Church Rain Garden – Eagle Scout Project

The first Eagle Scout project of the reconstituted Troop 763 is complete, which is a rain garden installed at St. Mary Magdalene Church (on Aspen Hill Road in between Giant and the pet cemetery). NENE (sounds like nay-nay) MENSAH met with the county and church to choose the size and placement, applied for a grant from the county, procured the materials, and directed a group of people to do the work. In the above photo we can see scouts and their families begin the process of removing sod and digging down approximately 8" to remove the dirt. The idea is to create a "catch bowl" in the ground, which needs to be a little lower than the surrounding area, and can have water directed into it via gutter downspouts or channels.

– Continued on page 17 –



1ST SATURDAYS AT THE MOVIES!

We have set the dates for this summer's movies. Mark your calendars!

June 1 July 6 August 3 August 31

We are making our movie selections and will announce them in the May *Bugle*.
See you at the Pool this Summer!

News from the Glenmont Exchange

by John Bogasky

Wheaton Revitalization

Progress on the new Montgomery County office building and Town Square in Wheaton has become more visible as the new building's structure is now above ground. The building will top out in August and be fully closed-in by October. Move-in is planned for Summer 2020.

The Wheaton Revitalization Project includes a County office building, below-ground parking garage, and a Town Square with a concert stage as part of the Wheaton Revitalization Strategy.

The building will be the new home for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) which will relocate from its current home in Silver Spring.

You can learn more about the project and follow its progress at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/WheatonDev/index.html>.



Top: an artist's drawing of completed building
Bottom: January 2019 Wheaton's County office building

Aspen Hill Vision Zero Study

MAREN HILL, Project Director for the Aspen Hill Vision Zero Study, gave a presentation about the program at the Strathmore Bel Pre annual community meeting. Recently, BPRA President ELLIOT CHABOT was appointed as a member of the Advisory Group for the study. If you want to follow the study, or have insights that should be addresses/considered, go to the Study web site at: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/area-2/aspen-hill/aspen-hill-vision-zero-study/>.



Microtransit Pilot Study

Microtransit is a new idea for public bus systems. Instead of fixed bus routes, the service works more like Uber or Lyft. Riders use an app to summon a vehicle to take them to designated locations within the zone. Kansas City is considering such a bus system, and released this photo, from a company called Bridj.

Montgomery County is in very early stages of conducting a pilot study of how this concept might work here. Areas within 3 miles of the Rockville, Glenmont or Wheaton

Metro Stations are the candidate Pilot sites. Only one of these sites will be the pilot. Strathmore Bel Pre would be largely within a Glenmont Pilot area.

The County Government calls this the FLEX service and hopes to launch the Pilot this Summer. They expect to hold public forums to discuss this Pilot sometime in March or April. Watch the SBP listserv and *The Bugle* for updates on this service.

Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 5)

Recent and Upcoming Events

Since the last issue of *The Bugle* came out, the Recreational Association and the Civic Association have jointly sponsored 2 events in the community. Our 2nd annual Blocktober Fest block party on the part of Rippling Brook Drive between Bel Pre Elementary School and the Matthew Henson Trail. was held on October 13. On Halloween, we held our 1st annual Trunk or Treat in the pool parking lot. Thank you to MEGAN VIRGA, ELIZABETH KOMINSKI, and all their volunteers (including SARA and MARK FORAKER and NANCY STONER) for making both of these events great successes. Special thanks to Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 763 for their help with set up and take down and all the other great things you do.



Coming soon (May 11, from 2 to 4 pm, at the pool parking lot — 3920 Bethpage Lane) is the 2nd annual Spring Thing. The Spring Thing is our (now) annual open house where we invite groups from throughout our community to share what they do, and our Spring Community Social Event!. Yes, it's a thing, our Spring Thing! Activities for the kids are being planned. Refreshments will feature a community snacks potluck. And for the 3rd year in a row, we'll have an industrial paper shredder there for sensitive papers that you need shredding. Thank you to PAULETTE LADAS (RE/MAX), LOUIE LOPEZ (Caliber Home Loans), and the folks at Patriot Shredding of Rockville for the shredder. Thanks to MEGAN VIRGA and her volunteers for organizing this event.



Other summer time activities at the pool to mark on your calendar include:

- May 25 - pool opens
- May 27 - Dolphin Dash 5K
- June 1 - Summer Market & Yard Sale
- June 1, July 6, August 3, & August 31 pool movie nights
- July 4 - Independence Day Parade and pool events

Live music nights/afternoons at the pool are being planned.
More details in the next *Bugle*.

Thanks to CHRIS SWAN (music), JOHN BOGASKY (movies), LINDA BEA (Summer Market), LILLA & BILL HAMMOND (July 4th), and GREG MILLER and the Swim Team Board (Dolphin Dash) for coordinating these community events. Thanks to the Civic Association for running several of our Summer Events, and for co-sponsoring others! Thanks to Georgetown Aquatics for managing pool operations this summer.

Memorial Tree Program

Would you like to have a memorial tree planted on the pool grounds in honor of a loved one? If you do, please contact TED BECHTOL, our Grounds and Landscaping Coordinator. He will work with you to select the type of tree/ location, and to determine costs. Memorial trees provide a longstanding remembrance of a loved one. Each one also adds to the shade and landscape of the community pool grounds. For further information, contact TED at tedbechtol@yahoo.com or call (301) 871-3679.



– Continued on page 19 –

Fall Fun (i.e. Community Events)

by Megan Virga

BlocktoberFest

Our second annual neighborhood block party in October was a great success! We are very grateful to our Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 673 and their parents for creating our party venue. And to the Scouts for their lovely warm fire pit, and the fun obstacle course.



Many thanks to everyone who turned out with their potluck snacks, which were varied and plentiful. We all enjoyed an afternoon of mixing, mingling, keeping warm by the fire pit, and, yes, hovering around the Spelman Travelling Pizza Grill! Huge thanks go to the SPELLMAN FAMILY for the special effort they've made at so many BPRA events. (*By the way, do you deliver?*)



Thanks, also, to SARA and MARK FORAKER, ELIZABETH KOMINSKI, and NANCY STONER who helped organize the event.

Most importantly, thank you to our hosts—the residents of Baywood Court and Rippling Brook. The BRPA Trustees thank you for your hospitality!



– Continued on page 14 –



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Halloween Trunk-or-Treat

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first ever Trunk-Or-Treat on Halloween night, celebrated in our pool parking lot! We're grateful to ELIZABETH KOMINSKI, who, with creativity and panache, organized the first of what will no doubt become a recurring and much-anticipated annual event. Scary music, great lights, and a fog/smoke machine. Oh my!

Folks went all out! Family vehicles were spectacularly transformed with awesome creativity into delightfully ghastly and ghoulish displays, accompanied by yummy treats, of course! By all accounts, everyone had a blast! Thanks to the BRPA for hosting this event.



Interested in helping with community events?

We'd love to have you. Contact MEGAN VIRGA (megancv@gmail.com).



Spring

MAINTENANCE TIPS

Warmer weather is right around the corner, so now is the time to freshen up your home.
Checklist of spring cleaning and maintenance tasks.

☐ Gutters & downspouts

☐ Siding

☐ Exterior caulking

☐ Window & door sills, thresholds

☐ Window & door screens

☐ Drain waste & vent system

☐ Hot water heater

☐ Air conditioner

☐ Heat pump

☐ Foundation

☐ Roof

☐ Deck

☐ Porches

☐ Landscaping

☐ Sprinklers

☐ Plus _____

Inventory is Low. This may be the perfect time to make a move!
For more information, please call Lilla or Michael Hammond.

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Lilla@LNF.com

Michael A. Hammond, REALTOR
Direct: 202-271-9089
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Going *Over the Edge* for Special Olympics

by John Bogasky

On November 3rd, SHELLY and I walked off the edge of a 16 story building in Bethesda to raise money for Special Olympics in Montgomery County. We raised over \$12,000 from more than 125 donors, including several SBP residents. Overall, the event in Bethesda raised about \$20,000 for our athletes. A big, big, thank you from SHELLY and I for all of your support!

Amazingly, even though SHELLY broke her collarbone 2 weeks before the event, she still went Over The Edge, one-handed no less!

Rappelling for her first time, one-handed, from the top of a 16-story building, takes a lot of bravery. Let no one doubt her commitment to the Special Olympics athletes of Montgomery County!

There is also the small matter (to some!) of the fundraising contest between SHELLY and I. In the 36 hours before our drop, we had 5 lead changes as donations came in. In the end, she “edged” me out at drop time by just \$113, \$6,378 to \$6,265. Who knew she was such a vigorous competitor, even breaking her collarbone to go all out for the sympathy support!!! ☺

Team Shelly and Team John placed 2nd and 3rd in the state. First place went to MIKE MARYN, Montgomery County's Alpine Head Coach. MIKE raised \$6,950. Thanks again to all for your support!



SHELLY BOGASKY, Area Director for Special Olympics and SBP resident, going Over The Edge for her athletes.



Scout Mulch Sale

Cub Scout/Boy Scout Troup 763 is conducting its annual spring mulch sale.

Delivery dates are March 9 and April 6.

\$5 for each 2 cubic foot bag of Four Corners shredded hardwood mulch from Rising Sun, Pennsylvania, procured from Country Boy. There is no minimum order, and we will deliver to your driveway. Please place your order by email (moeller@aspengroves.com) or by phone (301) 603-7387.

Make checks payable to Troop 763, though we also accept cash or credit card. You do not need to be home at the time of delivery. Checks can be mailed to 2812 Blue Spruce Lane or just drop the check in our locking mailbox. Please describe where along your driveway you would like the bags stacked. We do not spread them out through the yard.

Troop 763 is sponsored by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association. Proceeds from the mulch sale will be used to lower the price of dues and buy camping equipment.

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Minutes from ICC & Glenmont Metro
Bus Transportation & Extended Day Available

barrie.org



Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack 763 (Continued from page 10)

Creating a Rain Garden

It is best to dig down as far as possible, 2' is ideal but 4-8" is the recommended minimum. The deeper the rain garden, the more water it can hold. For this project, at St. Mary Magdalene Church, we were able to remove about 8" of dirt before we hit a layer of clay. (You may have noticed this orange colored clay in your own backyard, it is very common in this area).

After as much soil as possible is removed, a rototiller is run through the garden several times to break up the clumps and create a deeper garden. Some of the dirt is then put back into the garden and mixed with organic material such as Leafgro®. This is done to make the soil less compact and fluffier and therefore more like a sponge, giving room for water to be temporarily stored. The remainder of the dirt was used to fill in some holes in the ground on the church property. However, many rain garden designs use this extra dirt to create berms (small ridges) that help channel or contain water. For example, if a rain garden was installed on a slope, the extra dirt could be used to create a lip or small embankment on the lower side of the garden so that it could hold in more water (imagine a levee alongside a riverbank).



The next step is planting. In addition to aesthetics and benefits to wildlife, native plants provide an important function in a rain garden. Their roots prevent erosion of soil, they soak up some of the water and filter out pollutants. These plants were provided at a discount by American Plant Landscaping (which also installs rain gardens). Country Boy and Home Depot also provided discounts on the materials.

And, as we always tell the boys, it's not really scouting unless we photo-document it. Here are the scouts of Troop 763 behind the finished garden. About 20 people worked over 3 hours to finish the project. The digging was slow going since there was a large amount of gravel, rocks and fill material (the site was probably a former parking area). Gravel was spread around the edge of the garden to help with filtering and slowing down the water. This garden will help out the church directly by reducing flooding on the property, giving water a place to go instead of backing up along the outside of the walls, and reduces the mosquito breeding habitat by eliminating standing water.



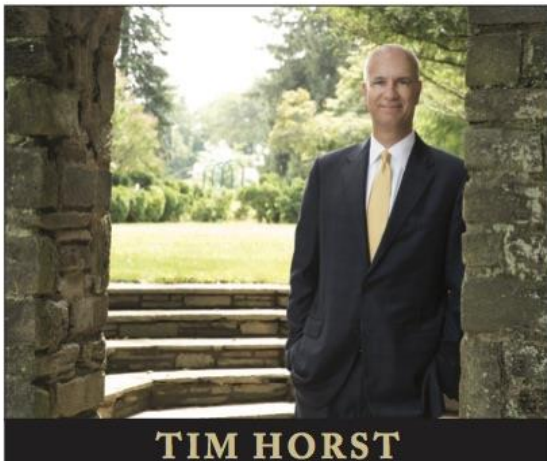
Have an area in your yard that is often wet or do you have erosion problems? Consider a rain garden or other type of rainscape. Learn more at: Raingardennetwork.com

Learn about rebates from the county for controlling water runoff:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes/about.html>

Questions? Contact JACKIE at jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com.

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

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President's Column

(continued from page 4)

Community Planning

I had a chance to join KAREN PURDY and our Recreational Association's Long Term Planning Committee for a meeting. They are developing a 5-year capital and maintenance plan for our recreation facilities. I was so impressed with their work. We all should soon see a survey from this committee. The survey will request our thoughts about our recreational facilities and our community. Please do complete this survey, and make certain that your opinions are heard. The Committee plans to use the survey results to frame the future development of our recreation facilities, so your opinions do matter! We are most fortunate to have such professional talent to pull this plan together right here in our own fabulous neighborhood!

Spring Thing – May 11th

Speaking of programs and recreational facilities, our first program this spring is the next Spring Thing! Civic and Rec are busy planning this next event. Please put this date on your



calendar and plan to join your neighbors at the pool parking lot. I already can't wait to see everyone, and to feel the warmth that our spring time will deliver. In the meantime, enjoy these frosty days as we look forward to being together again soon.

Plan Now – Summer Market and Yard Sale! Saturday, June 1st

If winter inspires you to declutter, be sure to set aside items for our Market and Yard Sale, where you can find good homes for your former treasures, meet your neighbors and friends, and take home new treasures.



Or perhaps you wish to sell handcrafted items (jewelry, pottery, knitted, crocheted, sewn, hand - built) or homemade goodies, etc., as well as the more traditional Yard Sale treasures.

All are welcome at our Summer Market!

Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 12)

Pool, Pavilion, Tennis, Parking Lot, and Grounds Rules

The Governing Documents Committee continues to make substantial progress in reviewing the recreational facilities rules (pool, pavilion, tennis courts, etc.). By the time you receive this copy of *The Bugle*, a complete proposed draft should be ready for community review. A copy of the draft should then be available shortly on the StrathmoreBelPre.Org website. If you would like a copy e-mailed to you (or if you would like to join the Governing Documents Committee), please e-mail me at echabot@usa.net. This will be the first time in 25 years that the pool rules have been overhauled.



Maintenance and Repairs

As reported last year in *The Bugle*, just before the start of the 2018 season, leaks were discovered in the bathhouse. Temporary repairs were made so that we could be ready for opening day. As we go to press with this issue of *The Bugle*, the Board is looking at more substantial repairs to the bathhouse that should take us through at least the next 5 years. The Board is also looking at



replacing/repairing the pool's white coating, coping stones, and tiles this year.

Since the last *Bugle*, work has been done:

- upgrading the security system for the pool, parking lot, tennis courts, and basketball court
- installed an electric space heater in the pump room
- seeding and fertilizing the grounds

The Tennis Courts Committee is continuing to seek bids and proposals to fix up the tennis courts.

Thank you to JOE MOELLER, GREG MILLER, KAREN PURDY, TED BECHTOL, GEORGE USHER, and DAVE PULLEN for their work on these projects.

– Continued on page 21 –



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Little Free Library Is Now in Our Neighborhood

by Luba Dowhaluk

Little Free Libraries are a global phenomenon set up in neighborhoods all over the world and we now have one right here. These small, front yard book exchanges number over 60,000 in 80 countries. Ours is available on Regina Drive, on the corner of our lot at 2817 Regina Drive. With the help of our grandson and his parents, a Little Free Library has been set up here for everyone to use.



Here's how it works:

You stop by, browse through the books, pick one or more that you like or always wanted to read but never did, take it home and enjoy. When you're done, you can return it, pass it on to someone else, but please don't sell it. That's not the purpose.

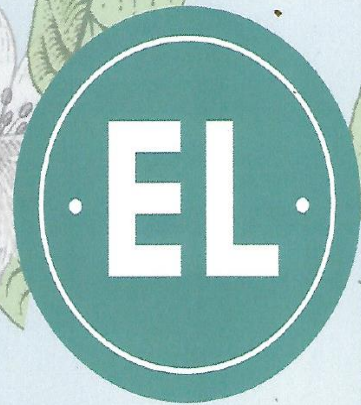
Feel free to donate any books in good shape that you loved and want to share with others.

There are adult fiction and nonfiction books, children's books, and young adult books.

Now that you know about Little Free Libraries, you might notice them elsewhere. There's one at Brookside Gardens, one on Bauer Drive, one by Wheaton High School, and see where else you can find them.

This one is registered under the Charter #66214 which makes it all official. Please enjoy this neighborly addition to our Community.

Happy reading!



Estate Living

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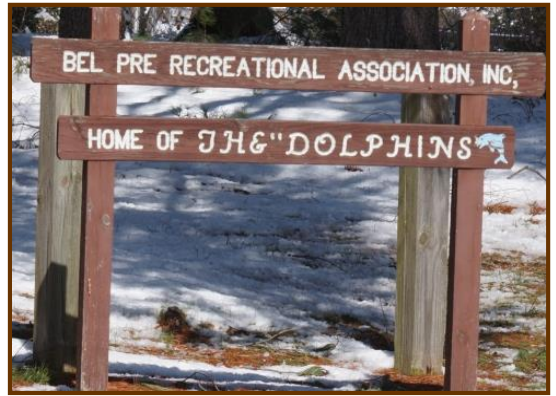
Let Go and Live!

Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 19)

Dues are Due

March 1 is (as it has been for over 50 years!), the date That annual BPRA dues are due. If you have paid your 2019 dues already, Thank You! If you haven't paid your dues yet, please make sure that we have them no later than March 31. Dues received after March 31 are subject to a \$22.50 late fee as well as 6% per annum interest and any collection costs. So don't wait – pay your dues today!



BPRA dues are \$225 per year and can be mailed to the Bel Pre Recreational Association, P.O. Box 6370, Silver Spring, MD 20916-6370. Dues can be paid by check or through on-line e-billing. For more information, contact BPRA Treasurer PATRICK WELTEROTH at treasurer4bpri@gmail.com.

Also, please consider adding a few dollars to support the pet waste station that's on the path by the tennis courts. There's a donation line on your dues notice. Last year we raised about \$200 in donations.

Pedestrian Safety

The Montgomery County Planning Board is conducting a study of pedestrian safety in our area – with a particular emphasis on the shopping centers around Aspen Hill Road, Georgia Avenue, and Connecticut Avenue; plus the neighborhoods of Harmony Hills and Wheaton Woods, and the neighborhoods between Georgia Avenue, Connecticut Avenue, and Bel Pre Road. Although Strathmore Bel Pre is not in the primary area of the study, the Planning Board staff have indicated that they are interested in hearing about pedestrian and traffic safety in our community and in the other communities that border the study area, as well.

This is an opportunity to raise issues such as sidewalks for those streets that lead to our elementary schools; marking safe places for pedestrians on our streets that don't have sidewalks; speed Limits; roadway lines of sites; traffic signals; and other issues of pedestrian, biker, and driver safety.

Information about the study — which is named Aspen Hill Vision Zero (for envisioning a day when there are no traffic fatalities in Aspen Hill) — is available at <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/area-2/aspen-hill/aspen-hill-vision-zero-study/>. The Aspen Hill Vision Zero Advisory Group meets the third Thursday of every month at various locations in the area, at 7:30 pm. Time is set aside at each meeting to hear comments and suggestions from anyone from the community who wants to speak. The March 21 and April 18 meetings will be at Harmony Hills Elementary School (room 135). The May 16 and June 20 meetings will be at the Aspen Hill Library (downstairs community room). For additional meetings, see their website.



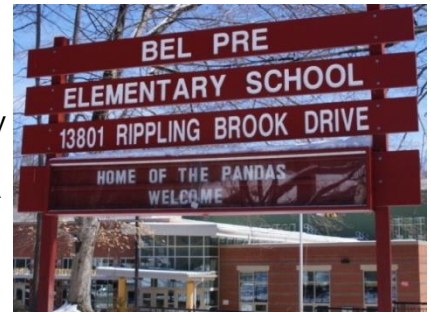
– Continued on page 22 –

Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 21)

BPRA Board Meeting Schedule

The BPRA Board of Trustees normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 pm. All members of the BPRA are welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings of the Board. A 15-minute period at the beginning of each meeting is normally reserved for members of the Association to speak on any issue you feel is important.



Meeting Date	Time	Location
March 5 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (Room 138 or 161)
April 2 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (Room 138 or 161)
April 13 Saturday	10 am	At the pool – Property Walk-through
May 7 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (Room 138 or 161)
May 18 Saturday	10 am	At the pool – Property Walk-through
June 4 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion
June 18 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion – if meeting is needed
July 9 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion
July 25 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion – if meeting is needed
August 6 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion
August 20 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion – if meeting is needed
September 10 Tues.	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion
September 14 Sat.	10 am	At the pool – Property Walk-through
October 1 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (Room 138 or 161)
November 5 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (Room 138 or 161)
December 3 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (Room 138 or 161)
January 7 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (Room 138 or 161)



Shred Day
FREE Community Shred Event

At our community pool May 11th 2-4pm

Maximum 2 medium boxes per car

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Louie Lopez
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Aspen Hill Library News

by Elliot Chabot

Used Book Sale May 4TH

This year's Spring Used Book Sale at the Aspen Hill Library is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 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. The spring sale includes a fantastic collection of theatre-related books and everything from sci fi to murder mysteries to Judaica to cookbooks, and everything in between – as well as lots of kids books. 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 26.

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 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.

Knitting and Crocheting Club

Visit the Library Community Room on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month for the Knitting and Crocheting folks. You can learn, or work on your own projects. Please bring yarn and size 8 needles or a crochet hook to learn.

All ages and skill levels are welcome! Come and join the fun!

Please Volunteer For Our Community's July 4th celebration!

You can help us make this July 4th 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) 518-7818

LILLA HAMMOND – Lilla.Hammond@verizon.net or (301) 518-7818



For our July 4TH, 2019 Celebration, help is needed with the following:

PARADE11:30 am-1:00 pm (Registration & Safety)

ENTERTAINMENT.....12:30 pm–2:30 pm

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

DECORATIONS,SIGNS..... ON July 4th and before



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

THANKS VERY MUCH! THE JULY 4th Celebration Team

Long Term Planning Committee Update

by Karen Purdy

Long Term Planning Committee Chair



The Long Term Planning Committee (LTPC) is a group of BPRA Members working together to create a long term comprehensive building and maintenance plan for the BPRA Facilities. The plan will address what work needs to be done in the coming years, when that work needs to be done, how much that work will cost, and where the money will come from. The plan will address routine maintenance and operations as well as Capital Improvements.



The BPRA facilities are now about 50 years old. As the facilities age, the cost of maintaining those facilities increases. Given the age and condition of our building facilities, we are approaching a crossroads where we will need to decide whether to (1) continue to maintain the existing facilities as best as possible, repairing and replacing items as they fail; (2) renovating the existing facilities; (3) pursuing replacement of the existing building facilities; or (4) a combination of those three options. The Long Term Planning Committee will use a number of resources, including but not limited to member feedback, expert reports, maintenance history and expenditures, current condition and

expected life of existing systems and other applicable information to make a recommendation to the BPRA Board of Trustees regarding the long term approach to addressing our facility needs. The LTPC's initial Annual 5-year Facility Plan will be submitted to the BPRA Board of Trustees in the fall of 2019.

Join the Committee

All BPRA member feedback and participation are appreciated. If you are interested in joining the Long Term Planning Committee, please contact Committee Chair KAREN PURDY at klpurdy@hotmail.com.

Coming Soon: BPRA LTPC Survey – for YOU

As a part of the development of the BPRA Long Term Plan, the Long Term Planning Committee will use a comprehensive survey to assess the membership's priorities regarding the BPRA Facilities, renovations, upgrades, new building, etc. In addition to addressing the physical facilities, the survey will also address a number of other topics such as off-season use of the facilities, potential new amenities within the grounds, pedestrian and bicycle safety within the neighborhood, the yearly assessment, the annual meeting, community events, and how the BPRA Board is doing.



The survey is currently in the final stages of development and will be available in late April or early May. Information and applicable links will be published on the BPRA website and posted on the SBP Civic Association listserv. In addition, information about the survey and a hard copy of the survey will be published in the May *Bugle*.

Please plan on sharing your opinions by responding to the survey when it becomes available. We want to know what you think. Make your voice heard and help shape the vision of the Long Term Plan.