

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association
March 2020



Volume 52 #1

Spring Thing May 9

(Open House and Community Social)

You Are Invited!
Saturday Afternoon
May 9th
2 pm to 4 pm
Pool Parking Lot
13920 Bethpage
Lane



Open House ~ We've invited groups from our community to come and show us what they do.

Fun ~ The Recreational Association's Tennis Group will demo tennis and pickleball. And more fun is being planned!

Refreshments ~ Please bring your signature snack to share. The BPRAs and SBPC will provide paper goods, tableware and beverages. The Scouts will assist with tables and chairs.



Shred Day ~ PAULETTE LADAS (RE/MAX) and JOE SALISBURY (Realty Group Mortgage) will be on site to turn your sensitive papers into confetti.

Everyone's welcome ~ The Spring Thing is 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!

Bel Pre Recreational Assessment (BPRAs) Increase Passes!

In January 2020, BPRAs held 3 meetings to discuss the Long Term Planning Committee's assessment proposal. On Thursday, January 23, 2020, the BPRAs membership reconvened for the third and final meeting to vote on the proposal. A quorum was reached and voting took place. The assessment proposal was adopted with 88% of votes In favor of the proposal See the BPRAs News starting on page 5 for details!

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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 sponsors and participates in many community and local programs; and also represents our community to County Government and various groups such as the Montgomery County Civic Federation and the Glenmont Exchange. The SBPCA also sponsors Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 763.

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

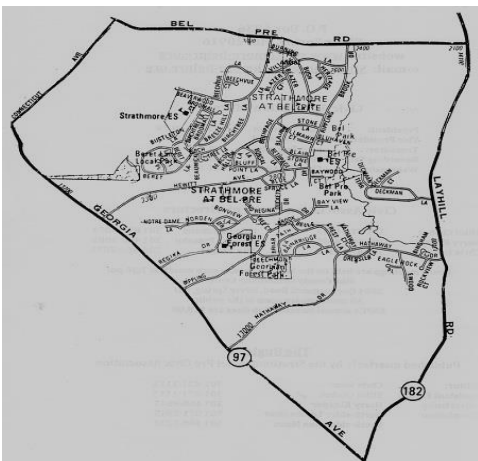
The SBPCA Board of Directors normally meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Mid-County Community Recreation Center on Queensguard Road. The Civic Association's annual meeting is in November just before the BPRC annual meeting.

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 Swan	301 871-1113	vacant
Lilla Hammond	301 871-5074	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, maintained 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, or 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 Strathmore Elementary School. The annual Town Hall meeting, presented with the Civic Association, traditionally is normally held on the 1st Tuesday of December, at 8 pm, at Strathmore Elementary School.

Correspondence can be sent to the BPRA at P.O. Box 6370, Aspen Hill, MD 20916-6370.

Bel Pre Recreational Association Board of Trustees

Karen Purdy (President)	301 603-9604	klpurdy@hotmail.com
Mark Foraker (Vice President)	301 460-0632	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Dave Pullen (Treasurer)	301 598-2521	Dave_pullen@outlook.com
Chris Swan (Secretary)	301 871 1113	cswan@usa.net
Ted Bechtol	301 871-3679	tedbechtol@yahoo.com
Steve Jennison	301 919-9278	hsjennison@gmail.com
Greg Miller	301 871-9412	winstonhen@aol.com
Billy Ruppert	301 332-4901	billyruppert@gmail.com
Larry Vaught	240 558-3814	l.vaught@comcast.net



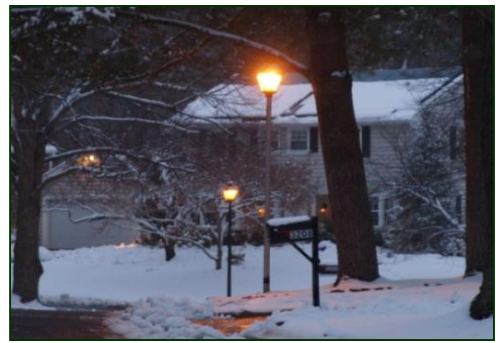
Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

Administrative Assistant	Brenda Henry	301 871-6298
Audit Coordinator	Mark Foraker	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Block Party & Spring Thing Coordinator	vacant	
Entertainment & Recreation Committee Chair	Chris Swan	301 871-1113
Finance Committee Chair	Dave Pullen	treasurer4bpbra@gmail.com
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	vacant	
Nominating Committee Chair	Mark Foraker	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Overdue Collections Coordinator	Dave Pullen	treasurer4bpbra@gmail.com
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	vacant	
Trunk or Treat Coordinator	Elizabeth Kominski	elizabethinfo@gmail.com
Webmaster	Billy Ruppert	301 332-4901

The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre
Civic Association



Long Term Planning

We have had a busy winter in our community! We hosted three meetings in January related to our need to increase dues to better care for our recreation facilities. Fortunately, our community voted to increase our dues at the conclusion of the third meeting on Thursday January 23rd. The Long Term Planning Committee, under the excellent leadership of KAREN PURDY, developed an excellent plan for our facilities that projects all known requirements for the next 5 to 10 years, and what it will cost to perform these tasks. We will be in excellent shape to accomplish the highest priority work given our newly approved dues structure. We owe KAREN and the whole planning committee a huge debt of gratitude for the effort they put into this planning work this past year. It is wonderful to have this planning effort behind us, and the new work to design and renovate the original bathhouse in our future.



Maury Potosky

Our neighborhood and civic association lost long-standing neighbor and friend MAURY POTOSKY in December. We held our first board meeting for 2020 in January without MAURY present, and that felt very strange to all who were there. MAURY was always there for our neighborhood and his community, and even attended our Annual Community Meeting last November, just days before he would leave us. You will read several tributes to MAURY and the work he did for our neighborhood and community in this edition of our *Bugle*, starting on page 18.

Words can not express how much he meant to us, nor the extent of his contributions to so many great organizations in our community. I personally enjoyed learning from MAURY the history of our neighborhood, as he was an original owner. He inspired me to do what I could for our neighborhood, and was an inspiration to so many of us. He set the example of what service is to your community, and the importance of giving what you can. He was appreciative of every contribution, and made everyone around him feel good about their service. Our love and support go out to his wife CHARLOTTE POTOSKY and their whole family. He will be forever missed in our community.

Dues

The Civic Association is joining the BPRA this year in doing a joint call for membership and dues. You should have seen a letter in the mail asking for your dues for BPRA for 2020 and your membership dues for the SBPCA. We are doing this joint mailing to save on mailing costs, and to help you in supporting both requests with one check or other payment method. We will separate out the dues and membership for both organizations once received.



We hope this will be easier for you and welcome your opinion or ideas for other ways we can streamline our work and communications.

– Continued on the top of page 19 –

Bel Pre Recreational News

by Karen Purdy, President
Bel Pre Recreational Association

Thank you!

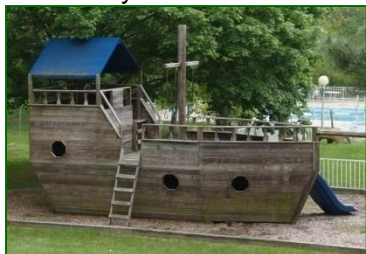
A huge thank you to ELLIOT CHABOT for his 6 years of leadership and guidance as BPRA President. Instead of taking a well earned break and retiring from community volunteering, ELLIOT will continue on as Chair of the Governing Documents Committee, a member of the Long Term Planning Committee, assistant editor of *The Bugle*, SBPCA Board member, and Board member of the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library, among other things.



November General Membership Meeting

On November 19, 2019, the Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) held it's Annual General Membership Meeting, which included the election of 3 trustees and presentation of the Long Term Planning Committee's assessment proposal. Thank you to everyone who attended or sent in a proxy, and to our election judges.

Congratulations to MARK FORAKER, DAVID PULLEN, and CHRIS SWAN for their election to the BPRA Board. Outgoing Board members ELLIOT CHABOT, CHRIS JENNISON, and MEGAN VIRGA did not run for re-election. Their many contributions to the board will be missed.



BONNIE CULLISON, senior District 19 State Delegate, and our neighbor, discussed current state legislation regarding homeowner and condominium associations. The legislation aims to strengthen their financial stability through long term planning and reserve funds. BONNIE also mentioned Wheaton Woods Swimming Pool's financial troubles, that resulted from a broken main pipe and no funds to fix it.

Long Term Planning Committee Research and Dues Assessment Proposal

The Long Term Planning Committee presented their report and recommendations, based upon survey results from the Summer BPRA Community Survey, research and work of the Committee.

Committee member CHRIS WRIGHT presented the results of the BPRA Community Survey, which was conducted from late May to mid-July 2019. CHRIS discussed community opinions on BPRA facilities usage, community interest in facility improvements and off-season use, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, crime, the BPRA Board, communication and other community issues. Further details of the Community Survey results can be found in the October 2019 edition of *The Bugle*.

Following a question and answer session about the Community Survey Results and related Long Term Planning Committee initiatives, KAREN explained the research and methods used by the Committee to develop the assessment proposal – including the state of BRPA facilities, development of the Five Year Plan for BPRA Facilities, research and analysis of assessment options, review of several assessment scenarios, the need to tie the annual BPRA assessment to inflation and next steps for the Long Term Planning Committee. Additional information about the Long Term Planning Committee assessment proposal was included in the October 2019 edition of *The Bugle*.

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The Bugle March 2020

Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 763

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

Eagle Scout is the highest rank one can achieve in BSA Scouts (only about 1-2% of scouts will attain it) and Troop 763 has been lucky enough to have 4 Eagle Scouts as a reconstituted troop. These projects can have a huge impact in our community, such as our latest two Eagle Scout projects:

TETE NARH-MENSAH worked with the American Red Cross to organize and host a blood drive at the Church of Christ at Manor Woods. During the drive there were 30 eligible participants who donated blood, meeting the goal of 25 pints. The other scouts in our troop also taught people, who were waiting to donate, how to make paracord bracelets for the armed forces.

BEN WEINER also did his project at the Church of Christ at Manor Woods on Bauer Drive. The church decided it would like a fire pit on the church grounds as a place for activities and social events. Ben did the fundraising from the congregation, worked with the site manager to develop a plan, and then directed his fellow scouts and adult volunteers to remove sod, move 5 tons of rock dust, compact it to prepare the site and then build the fire pit. Here is a photo of Ben next to the finished project.



Join us!

Know a boy interested in scouts? Join 763 – we meet at the St. Mary Magdalene Church on Aspen Hill Road (behind Giant) at 7 pm every first and third Wednesday of the month. Contact **BILL TOTTEN** at billatotten@gmail.com for more info.

Know a teenage girl interested in scouts? Tell her to contact Scoutmaster **MR. DELANEY** at Troop264G@gmail.com. This is a new girl troop starting in the Olney/Brookeville area and is the closest to the SBP community for now. Scouts BSA does accept girls but is not coed – girls and boys troops are in separate troops.



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Your Dolphins

by Claire Pak

Secretary, Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins

It's a mild winter but the Strathmore Bel Pre (SBP) Dolphins are still missing summer. Thankfully, as of this writing, there's only three months to wait. The Dolphins season will begin just after Memorial Day, which will be right around the corner by the time you read this.



What are the SBP Dolphins?

Well, you must be new here! The SBP Dolphins is our neighborhood swim team, founded in 1969, and a strong competitor in the Prince-Mont Swim League. During the last 51 years, over 1,000 summer swimmers have represented the Dolphins. Many of these swimmers competed for the first time as Dolphins, and then went on to swim 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. Some former Dolphins swimmers have even 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 information).

Contact a Dolphin

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, 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



Coming up

Watch future issues of *The Bugle* for more Dolphins news, including registration for the 6th 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!

Fall Fun

by Megan Virga

BlocktoberFest 2019

Our third annual neighborhood block party last October was a blast! Neighbors from throughout our community turned up for a fun afternoon of mixing and mingling. Everyone who attended did their part to make the event a success—especially by contributing to our bountiful potluck!



Special thanks go to:

- ❖ Boy Scout Troop 763 hauled tables and chairs to the party venue, built a rope bridge for kids to play on, and handled all of the logistics related to setting up and breaking down the event
- ❖ PAUL SPELMAN and Sons set up their traveling pizza kitchen and cranked out slice after slice of deliciousness, putting the “luck” in potluck for the rest of us;
- ❖ All of the neighbors who volunteered to help set up and clean up.

Last but certainly not least, the BPR Trustees are grateful to our hosts—that is, the residents of Baywood Court and Rippling Brook Drive. We appreciate your hospitality and support while the community invaded your corner of the neighborhood!

This Year?

Yes, we are doing it again. It looks like the 2020 BlocktoberFest will be held in early October, most likely **October 10th**. Keep reading *The Bugle* for the exact date, or check the ListServ and the website.

– Continued on page 12–

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A Bird For All Seasons

by Cecily Nabors

When you walk outside and hear a car alarm coming from the top of a tree, it's likely that you're in the territory of a Northern Mockingbird. These professional mimics don't imitate only bird songs; any noise they hear is grist for their gray-feathered mill. The species is aptly named *Mimus polyglottos*.

I'm happy to say we usually have a mockingbird in charge of our front yard all year round. Mockers are mostly quiet in winter, so our current fellow probably won't start mimicking titmice and sparrows until April, but it's a pleasure to watch him in all seasons. Besides lighting up the musical scene, our avian proprietor is clearly a stubborn, opinionated individual who seldom comes off the loser in a fight. Okay, this is perhaps a bit anthropomorphic, but anyone who has been dive-bombed by a territorial mockingbird will know what I mean.



Mockingbirds stake out breeding territories in the spring and feeding territories in the fall. Mockers don't care about seed feeders, but may come to suet. Our area has good winter supplies of bugs and berries: dogwood, holly, and juniper berries, plus the vestiges of tiny fruits on decorative fruit trees, vines, and shrubs. Our big front-yard juniper, trimmed to a Christmas-tree shape, is a multi-purpose structure, offering dense cover and a terrific watchtower. Our mockingbird-in-residence often perches at the top, keeping a watchful eye on his property.

Here's an example of how vigorously a mockingbird will defend a winter territory. We used to have two Bradford pear trees in the front yard (gone now, snapped off in storms) that once afforded me a view of the most decisive mockingbird action imaginable. That late winter day, a large flock of starlings had filled our leafless pear trees; the trees looked as if they'd leafed out in black. Our resident mocker took offense at this violation of his premises. Moving at ramming speed, he dashed at one starling after another, driving them out one-by-one. Branches bounced and shook as the gray dynamo moved systematically to evict

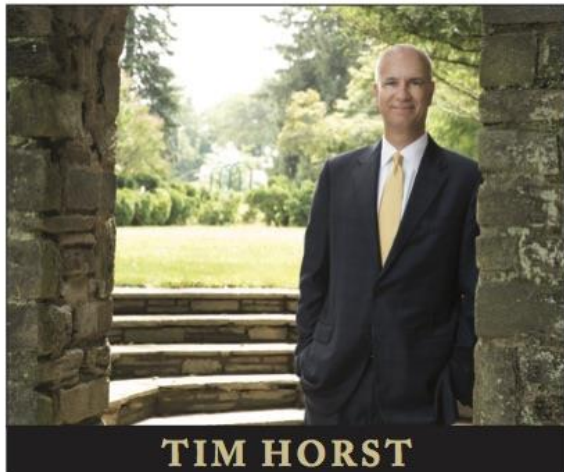


invaders from first one tree, then the other. Then he repeated his cycle, cleaning out the few stragglers. At the end, both trees, once full of noisy jostling life, were empty. The mockingbird took a victory lap and then flew off to patrol his boundaries.

Winter or summer, we don't often see mockingbirds in the back yard, except for occasional visits to the suet feeder or to drink from the birdbath. But that might change this year. We're upping our game in the back yard this spring, adding new native plants (carefully chosen with our deer population in mind). We're also incorporating a County-approved conservation landscape that will help protect the Chesapeake Bay. Stay tuned!

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

*The experience is there...
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Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 5)

Three General Membership Meetings Held in January 2020

In January 2020, the BPRM held a series of meetings to discuss and vote on the Long Term Planning Committee's assessment proposal: January 9th, January 16th, and January 23rd, 2020. At each meeting, members were given a chance to ask questions and discuss the proposal.

The first planned opportunity to vote on the assessment proposal was Thursday, January 9. A quorum was not reached at this meeting, therefore, voting on the proposal did not take place. The meeting was adjourned. The membership reconvened on Thursday, January 16, 2020. Again, a quorum was not reached and voting did not take place. On Thursday, January 23, 2020, the BPRM membership reconvened for the third and final meeting to vote on the assessment proposal. A quorum was reached and voting took place. The assessment proposal was adopted with 88% of votes In Favor of the proposal.



Based on the adopted assessment proposal, and vote by the BPRM Board to assess the newly adopted maximum amount, the assessment due March 1, 2020, is \$300. Additional information about payment of the Annual Assessment can be found in this edition of *The Bugle*, on page 17.

Thank you to everyone that participated in this process by attending the meetings, asking questions, collecting proxies and voting. A special thank you to our Check-In and Ballot Box Judges: TED BECHTOL, JOHN BOGASKY, MARK FORAKER, STEVE JENNISON, DAN KEATING, BILLY RUPERT and RITA VAUGHT.

If you have any questions about the Annual Assessment, or the Long Term Planning Committee, or if you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact KAREN PURDY at klpurdy@hotmail.com.

– Continued on page 13 –

Notes from the Glenmont Exchange

by John Bogasky

Kennedy High School Expansion

MCPS is planning a 3-story addition to Kennedy HS which will include eight standard classrooms, one drama classroom, a special education suite, two science labs, a technology suite, a multipurpose lab, a medical careers academy, a school store, and offices. The 17,000SF foot facility will allow for an additional 429 students for an enrollment capacity of up to 2,221 students. The addition will be built on the Middlevale Lane side of Kennedy.



Contingent on funding through the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, a School-Based Wellness Center will be included as an alternate for the project, which would serve students and their families. The project will also replace the existing natural grass stadium field with artificial turf. Parking will also be expanded with a new surface parking lot in on the school's north side that will add about 108 spaces.

Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan Update

Montgomery Parks is updating the 1987 Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan and is seeking input from park users, especially from neighborhoods near the park. The planning team presented to the Glenmont Exchange at our November meeting.

They noted that the park functions more like a collection of neighborhood parks than an integrated regional park. In the plan, they want to improve the connections between segments and improve walkable access. They are considering new facilities and converting some fields in the athletic area from diamond fields (baseball) to rectangular fields (soccer). Additional amenities to serve our diverse communities will be considered. Under any plan, 2/3rds of the park will remain natural area.



They are reaching out for community input through the Spring and plan several public events and town halls. Send your input to project manager CHUCK KINES at Charles.Kines@montgomeryparks.org. They are due to present a report to the Planning Board in the Fall. They will have a booth at Taste of Wheaton on June 7th.

Glenmont Shopper's Sold to Lidl

The Shopper's Food Warehouse location in the Glenmont Shopping Center has been sold to Lidl, a

German-based grocer similar in concept to Aldi. The Shoppers store should be completely closed by March. Lidl purchased six sites from Shoppers. A Lidl spokesman said in December that Lidl "will be making significant investments in the redevelopment of the sites and will have more to share regarding the grand opening timeline at the end of next year."



The shift from Shoppers to Lidl could expand the need for a full-service grocer in Glenmont, possibly helping Glenmont Metrocentre with their search to find a full-service grocer tenant for their planned development at the corner of Georgia and Glenallan across from the Glenmont Metro Station.

Halloween Trunk-or-Treat 2019

Our second annual Trunk or Treat took place Saturday night, November 2nd, on a cold and dark night! While the celebration was brief, the trunkers went all out. Thanks to the BRPA for hosting this event.



Plan Now for 2020

Trunk-or-Treat this year will be Saturday night, **October 31st!** Start your planning now for a trunking, hallowing good time.

Available to Help or Volunteer?

Interested in helping with community events? We'd love to have you. Contact any member of the Civic or Recreational Association. See pages 2 and 3. You also are welcome to join the Civic Association Board.



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

- Gutters and downspouts
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Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 10)

Annual BPRA Mailing:

BPRA Assessment

- By now, you should have received your annual BPRA assessment notice. The annual assessment of \$300 is due March 1, 2020. Please pay your assessment on time. Most of you do, and we thank you. If we do not receive your payment by **March 31**, your account will be subject to a \$30 late fee, interest of 6% per annum and all collection fees. In addition, access to the pool and related facilities is not permitted for households with delinquent accounts. Please see page 17 of this edition of *The Bugle* for more information from BPRA Treasurer DAVID PULLEN.



➤ Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA) Membership Dues



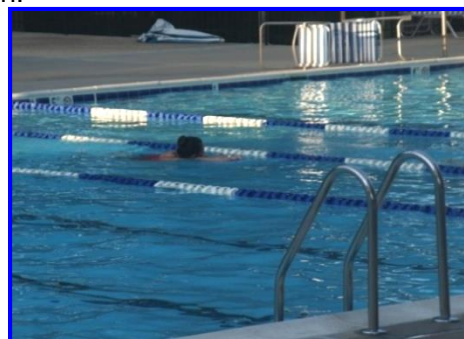
You can now pay your Civic Association membership dues when you pay your BPRA annual assessment. While the Rec and Civic Associations are separate entities, both associations work for the good of the community and collaborate on many community events and efforts. Combining the BPRA and SBPCA dues mailings reduces mailing costs for both the BPRA and SBPCA. Please consider supporting a great organization by joining the Civic Association. See page 4 of this edition of *The Bugle* for more information from SBPCA President Nancy BECHTOL. If you are interested in more information about what the Civic or Rec Associations do, please see pages 2 and 3 of each edition of *The Bugle*.

➤ Pet Waste Station Donation

Please consider making a small donation towards the Pet Waste Station located near the tennis courts when you pay your assessment. The Pet Waste Station, which is funded entirely by donations, gets a lot of use and having it helps keep our common areas clean.

➤ Pool Access Options

Each household is entitled to choose one of two options for using the pool facilities. Please make sure you indicate your choice and return the assessment form to the BPRA.



- **Household** (default option): admission for all individuals residing in your home. In order to use the pool and related facilities, you must have a completed census form and current photograph of all individuals residing in your home on file at the pool.
- **2 season passes:** Each pass will admit one person and must be shown to gain access.



➤ Volunteers

The BPRA is always needs volunteers. If you are interested in helping out, please indicate your interest on your assessment form or email any board member. You do not need to be a member of the board to volunteer. Any and all help is appreciated!

– Continued on page 14 –



December 2019 Officer Elections and Town Hall Meeting

On December, 3, 2019, the Recreational Association held a brief Board meeting to elect officers. Elected were President KAREN PURDY, Vice President MARK FORAKER, Treasurer DAVID PULLEN and Secretary CHRIS SWAN.

Thank you to ELLIOT CHABOT and GREG MILLER for their years of service as Board Officers. ELLIOT, while no longer on the BPRa Board, will continue to provide support and guidance in his role as Chair of the Governing Documents Committee. GREG will continue to serve on the BPRa Board and as Chair of the Pool and Recreational Facilities Committee.

Following the BPRa Board Meeting, the Recreational and Civic Associations held a joint Town Hall meeting. Several community members participated by asking questions and providing information about the assessment proposal, the functions of the BPRa and SPBCA, the upcoming Kaiser construction at the corner of Aspen Hill Road and Connecticut Avenue, and the state of the community and upcoming activities.

- Continued on page 20 -



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Saturdays at the Movies!

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

May 30 July 11 August 1 Sept. 5

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



Please Support our Movies and Concerts!

The SBPCA's Saturday Movies and Summer Concerts are only possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors. We recognize our 2019 sponsors below. Sponsor support pays for our costs to license movies, hire performers, and maintain our equipment. **Please contact SBPCA Treasurer JOHN BOGASKY at johnbogasky@hotmail.com to join our sponsors.** Your support can help us sustain this SBP tradition.

Summer Entertainment Sponsor Levels

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

The SBP Civic Association Thanks Our 2019 Summer Entertainment Sponsors!!!

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The Bel Pre Recreational Association

Anonymous

Community Champions

SBP Swim Team Association

Oscar Winners

Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot

Susan Shannon

Mary Manders

Ted & Nancy Bechtol

Vicki Thomas & Pat Rayner

Band Leaders

John & Shelly Bogasky

Charlotte & Maury Potosky

Larry & Rita Vaught

Linda & Charles Bea

Jo & Chris Jennison

Justin & Nicole Stone

Janet Kisler

And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association

Civic Association Changes Its Membership Mailing Date

by John Bogasky, Treasurer
Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association



For decades, the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA) and the Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) have sent separate dues mailings to our community. The Civic Association mailing historically goes out in August and the Rec Association mailing goes out in February. Each mailing costs each organization about \$500.

As announced at the Annual Meeting, our 2 organizations are planning a joint mailing in 2020, thereby dividing up and cutting the mailing costs for each organization. Since the Covenants control the Rec Association mailing schedule, the Civic Association is changing its membership mailing schedule to align with the Rec Association schedule.

As a result, when you receive your annual Recreational Association dues mailing this year, the response form will include a new option to add your \$18 Civic Association membership dues to your Rec payment. The mailing will also include membership letters from the Civic and Recreational Associations.

We hope that this change, by combining two payments into one, offers our members a small but welcome reduction in your paperwork burdens. We also hope that this change helps more Recreational Association members join the Civic Association. Historically, only about 30% of BPRA members are also SBPCA members, so the Civic Association has much room to grow!

Households that receive *The Bugle* but are not BPRA members will receive a separate mailing directly from the Civic Association. Financially, this change means that Civic will receive its 2020 dues earlier, in March/April instead of September/October.

Please reach out to any member of the Civic Association Board, listed in the front of *The Bugle*, if you have questions about this change. Thanks you for supporting your Civic Association!

Join the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

**Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association Membership
Dues are just \$18 per year.**

Why Join? The Civic Association:

- Publishes *The Bugle*
- Hosts the strathmorebelpre.org web site
- Runs the Civic Association listserv
- Organizes the Yard Sale, the 4th Events, and the Summer Movies and Concerts

We need your support to help sustain these community services!

To join, contact LINDA BEA at 301-460-0497 or a Civic Board Member listed on page 2.

Bel Pre Recreational Association Dues

by Dave Pullen, Treasurer
Bel Pre Recreational Association

Dues, due?
What happens when
you do not pay them??

New to the Neighborhood?

If you are a new member of the Strathmore Bel Pre Recreational Association, and did not receive your annual dues notice in the mail, notify the BPRA Treasurer in March! Late fees will apply as of **April 1st**.

The Dues

The Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) Fiscal Year runs from March 1st to the last day of February. Annual dues notices with the assessment amount are sent to Recreational Association property/home owner members in February. Payment is then due by March 1st. For 2020, the assessment is \$300.

Who Pays These Dues and Why?

Property owners in the Bel Pre Recreational Association are legally required to pay the assessment every year, as long as they own a property connected to the BPRA! Paying your dues entitles your entire household to use the pool, tennis courts, etc. You are also entitled to vote at BPRA General Membership meetings. Even if you don't use the pool, the playground, the tennis courts, or attend General Membership meetings, paying your dues maintains the recreational facilities, which preserves the value of your home!

Payment by April 1st 😊

Many thanks to our BPRA members (the vast majority) who pay on time!

No payment by April 1st? Delinquent!

If BPRA has not received your payment by **March 31**, you are delinquent.

Letters Go Out

Each delinquent homeowner will receive *up to* three letters over the course of the next few months seeking payment.

Costs to Eliminate the Delinquency Go Up

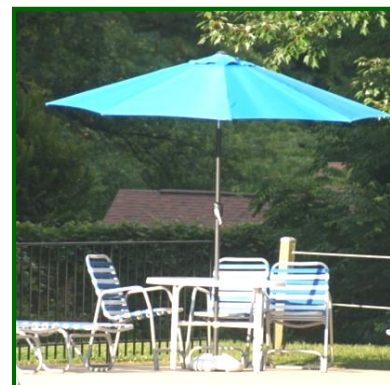
Every month an account remains delinquent, the amount owed to bring it current increases, as follows:

- **April 1st:** Homeowner owes the base payment (\$300) **plus** a late fee equal to 10% of the assessment amount (\$30); **plus** simple interest at 6% per year (\$1.50/month); **plus** our collection costs (\$10.00) for a total due of \$341.50
- **May 1st to July 31st:** Every following month the assessment remains unpaid, add \$1.50 in interest, plus collection costs of an additional \$10.00 for each additional reminder letter.

No Payment Received by August? Legal Action and Attorney Fees

The BRPA Board authorizes referral of the matter to legal counsel for collection. Once legal counsel is engaged, BPRA will communicate with the homeowner only through the association's attorney.

The dues collection and settlement includes: 1) the homeowner's payment of all outstanding fees owed *plus* 2) legal fees/expenses incurred to that point, which may easily double or triple the amount owed. If no settlement is negotiated, the Board will authorize the BPRA's attorney to proceed to court for judgment. BPRA will seek a court order compelling the homeowner to pay all owed and accumulated fees and expenses associated with the claim. A lien also will be executed against the homeowner's property.



The Exception

Homeowners may present extenuating circumstances and receive a payment plan. Such plans can be granted by the BRPA Board, in its sole discretion. The assessment and fees, etc. still must be paid.

In Memoriam: Maury Potosky

by Max Bronstein

with contributions from John Bogasky,
George & Barbara Usher, and Elliot Chabot



MAURICE "MAURY" POTOSKY, a long-time leader in the Strathmore Bel Pre community, passed away on November 30, 2019 at the age of 90. He and his wife, CHARLOTTE, were original owners here beginning in 1972.

When Levitt & Sons turned the pool property over to the community in 1972, MAURY was a leader in the effort to make sure the first BPRA elections were open and fair. MAURY also led the effort in the 1970s to block an attempt to double-charge members of our community with Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission fees. The community wound out settling out of court, but got back almost all of the extra charges Levitt had intended to pass on to the community.

MAURY served well over 20 years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association. He was re-elected to the Board in 2017 (at age 88) for another 3-year term. Throughout the years, MAURY was always a source of practical, helpful knowledge and advice, with a solid understanding of our community's history, foundations, traditions, and, of course, the BPRA covenants.

MAURY was a dutiful member and leader of the SBP community. He rarely missed a Civic Association meeting and I don't think he ever missed an Annual BPRA Meeting, always doing his part to help our community, even if only to help meet the quorum. He was our last Annual meeting, on November 21st, just a week or so before he passed.

MAURY and CHARLOTTE were also briefly profiled, along with others, in the April 29, 2011, *Washington Post* article on Strathmore Bel Pre.

MAURY wrote the definitive article on BPRA covenants published in the June and November 2012 issues of *The Bugle*. MAURY founded and led the Bel Pre Investment Club. for over 18 years. When that club closed down, he joined a large club of independent investors, serving as its local treasurer. CHARLOTTE and MAURY also led our community's 50 Plus Club for over 18 years.

MAURY was born in Bronx, New York, and attended the Bronx High School of Science. He went to New York University where he received a degree in Systems Engineering. He worked for the Navy for many years on classified projects dealing with underwater security systems. He left the Navy, worked at Philco, and then returned to the Navy, where he completed his working life. In addition to his wife, CHARLOTTE, MAURY is survived by 4 children and 8 grandchildren.

MAURY was also active in the autism community, supporting his grandsons BEN and SAM.. For many years, MAURY and CHARLOTTE have raised funds for the Autism Speaks Annual Walk. In 2019, MAURY and CHARLOTTE were the number two fundraising team in the DC region. Over the years, MAURY and CHARLOTTE raised more than \$250,000 for autism research!

– Continued on the bottom of page 19 –

President 's Corner (continued from page 4)

Parking

Several neighbors have come forward to complain about growing parking issues along their streets and in front of their houses. This issue is particularly bad along Hewitt Avenue and Blue Spruce Lane. A petition has been circulated in this area by concerned neighbors, and a letter is being drafted by the Civic Association to request permit parking for these two streets in our neighborhood. We will see how this all works out and will keep everyone informed as more streets might be interested in doing this in the future. We do not know whether our wish will be accepted by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. This is such a serious problem for our neighbors in these areas, we felt we had to try.



Our full spring and summer worth of fun events kicks off Saturday, **May 9th** with our Spring Thing, from 2 pm to 4 pm. I hope to see everyone there this year, and if not, look forward to our Yard Sale (**May 30th**), **4th of July** festivities, and Music and Movie nights later in the summer. We are so fortunate to have a community with so many wonderful events which bring us all together.

Spring Events

We would love to expand our community events, perhaps add a Farmers Market! If you have ideas and some time, please do help us and yourself to enhance our community! Feel free to contact any of the Civic Association Board members listed on page 2, or myself. Every hour you can help does matter!

Please Do Volunteer!

Every hour you can help does matter!



In Memoriam: Maury Potosky (continued from page 18)

MAURY was fervent in following his religion and was an extremely active congregant at Shaare Tefila Congregation in Olney. He often led prayer services and attended many services every week. Additionally, CHARLOTTE is very active in the Sisterhood there and in numerous activities at the synagogue. Also, she and MAURY provided Sabbath services for those who live in care residences and cannot attend services away from their residence. CHARLOTTE continues to carry on their long-time traditions. MAURY was also active in the national organization of the Conservative branch of Judaism, serving as a vice-president, and organizing programs for seniors.

We must mention in addition to MAURY's many activities and accomplishments, that he was a "Tzaddik". In Hebrew, "Tzaddik" means a righteous person. Everyone who knew MAURY over a long or short time, or perhaps just from one meeting, realized that MAURY was a genuinely good person, who helped all in need, possessed great wisdom and much knowledge, and served his community, his religion, and his fellow man to the utmost. He will be greatly missed. May his memory be for a blessing.

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 reserved for members of the Association to speak.

Meeting Date	Time	Location
March 3 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (room 138)
April 4 Saturday	10 am	At the pool – Property Walk-through
April 7 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (room 138)
May 5 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (room 138)
May 16 Saturday	10 am	At the pool – Property Walk-through
June 2 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion
June 4 Thursday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion – tentative General Membership meeting
June 16 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion – if meeting is needed
July 7 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion
July 21 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion – if meeting is needed
August 4 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion
August 18 Tuesday	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion – if meeting is needed
September 1 Tues.	7:30 pm	At the pool pavilion
September 12 Sat.	10 am	At the pool – Property Walk-through
October 6 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (room 138)
November 10 Tues.	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (room 138)
November 19 Thurs.	7:30 pm	Bel Pre elementary School (all purpose room) – Annual General Membership meeting
December 1 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (room 138)
December 1 Tuesday	8:00 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (all purpose room) – Town Hall meeting
January 5 Tuesday	7:30 pm	Bel Pre Elementary School (room 138)

– Continued on page 24 –



At our community pool May 9th 2-4pm

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DAILY SPECIALS

Aspen Hill Library News

by Elliot Chabot

Will Jawando Community Forum

County Councilmember WILL JAWANDO came to the Aspen Hill Library on January 11. Councilmember JAWANDO is the County Council's lead on library issues. He has announced that he intends to hold a "community conversation" at each of the public libraries in Montgomery County. Several senior staffers from the County Department of Public Libraries also attended the Aspen Hill meeting.



Numerous Aspen Hill Library concerns were raised at the meeting, including:

The Missing Curb Cut

The Curb Cut in front of the main entrance to the building was removed during the 2017 mini-renovation ("refresh") of the Library. The only curb cuts now are in the handicapped parking area and at the sidewalk next to Aspen Hill Road. Assistant Director for Facilities and ADA ANGELISA HAWES responded that the decision was made by the County's Department of General Services, not by the Library Department.

Change and Loss of Library Staff

Since August, the Aspen Hill Library lost its Head librarian, its Head Children's Librarian, its Teen Services Librarian, and its Head Adult Services Librarian, and some Circulation staff. Two of those positions were still vacant as of the January 11 meeting.

Flooding in the Library Basement

Since the Aspen Hill Library reopened in 2017, there have been numerous floods in the downstairs of the building – after just about every major rain storm. Assistant Director HAWES reported that the Library Department and the Department of General Services are trying to figure out why there is still flooding and an outside expert has been brought in.

– Continued on page 23 –

Advertise in *The Bugle*!

Four times-per-year, *The Bugle* reaches all 750+ homes in our Strathmore Bel Pre community. Call or email John Bogasky (johnbogasky@hotmail.com or 301-980-3215) to arrange your ad in *The Bugle*!

Bugle Ad Sizes	Annual Price	Single Issue Price
Business Card	\$ 140	\$ 50
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Half Page	\$ 250	\$ 85
Full Page	\$ 325	\$ 125

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Aspen Hill Library News

(continued from page 21)

Candidates Forums

2020 is an election year, so the Library will continue our community's tradition of holding candidates forums. While most of the press is focused on the presidential election, the Aspen Hill Library will focus on positions further down the ballot with a series of Thursday night (7:30 to 9:30 pm) forums:

- March 5** - Montgomery County Circuit Court
- March 12** - School Board (District 4)
- March 26** - School Board (At Large)

The forums are being sponsored by the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library, Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association, Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee, and the Aspen Hill Civic Association. Everyone is welcome to come and participate.



Property Tax Workshop - March 22

Want to learn what's the latest with property tax credits that you might be eligible for? The Aspen Hill Library will be hosting a free workshop on Sunday, **March 22**, sponsored by the Aspen Hill Civic Association and the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library. Interested in participating? Then contact KC CHRONOPOULOS at kc@Inf.com (put Tax Credit Workshop" in the subject line) or call (202) 285-5837 Please indicate your property address when you email or call.



Used Book Sale - May 2

It's coming! The annual spring book sale at the Aspen Hill Library will be on Saturday, **May 2** from 10 am to 4 pm. Ten thousand books will be available for sale at incredibly inexpensive prices. The books are divided into over 35 categories. Lots of children's books, history and politics, fiction of all kinds, and lots more! This book sale will also feature several hundred books in Estonian -- so if you know anyone who reads Estonian, please let them know!

All proceeds from the book sale are used for programming, supplies, and furnishings at the Aspen Hill Library. The book sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library.

Library Meeting Day - May 30

The Library's annual Library Meeting Day will be held on Saturday, **May 30**. From 10 a.m. to noon, the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library will hold their annual general membership meeting, and the Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee will hold its monthly meeting. Around noon there will be a luncheon with a fabulous speaker (yet to be announced). The luncheon is ridiculously Inexpensive. Luncheon tickets are available by contacting AspenHill@folmc.org. Even if you don't buy lunch, there is no charge for coming to listen to the speaker, or to come for either of the morning meetings.



Everyone is welcome!

Past Community Events

Since the last edition of *The Bugle*, in addition to our annual meetings, the BPRA and SBPCA have held 2 joint community events: BlocktoberFest and Trunk or Treat.



Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for fun this Year:

- May 9** – Spring Thing
- May 23** – Pool opens
- May 25** – Dolphin Dash 5K
- May 30** – Yard Sale and Summer Market
- May 30** – Summer Movie
- June 20** – Motor Driven Band, featuring PAUL STAGNITTO
- July 4** – Independence Day parade and pool-based events
- July 11** – Summer Movie
- July 19** – The Breakways band, FEATURING ELIZABETH & PHIL KOMINSKI
- August 1** – Summer Movie
- August 23** – Kids Afternoon Concert
- September 5** – Summer Movie
- October 31** – Trunk or Treat

Be on the lookout for all of the details about these events as they get closer. Information will be found in *The Bugle*, on the ListServ, and on the StrathmoreBelPre.org website.

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 -
w.m.hammond@verizon.net or (301) 509-4621
Lilla Hammond -
Lilla.Hammond@verizon.net or (301) 518-7818



For our July 4th, 2020 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 4th and before

***We look forward to hearing from you... Thank you very much!
The July 4th Celebration Team***