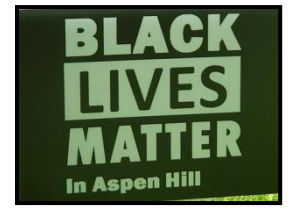


The Bugle



Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

October 2020

vol. 52 #4

It's Annual Meeting Time All On Zoom

November 19:

Civic Association Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Rec Association Meeting 7:30 p.m.

December 1

Town Hall Meeting 8:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all of our November and December meetings will be held Virtually, on Zoom. Recreational Association Members will receive the Zoom information with the Annual Meeting mailing this month. Civic Association members should contact John Bogasky for the Zoom information.

Rec Association: Quorum is Needed

Please return your ballots BEFORE November 19th!
See pages 5 and 6 for the details.

No Trunk Or Treat for Halloween 2020!

See the Movie Coco, at the Drive-in!

See page 9 for details

Decorate and/or Carve Pumpkins

It's a Contest! (With Real Prizes!!)

See page 25 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, Aspen Hill, 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 Recreational Association) the Summer Entertainment Series, the Public Affairs Forum series (generally held during the summer), and the yearly community-wide Town Hall meeting, held in December.

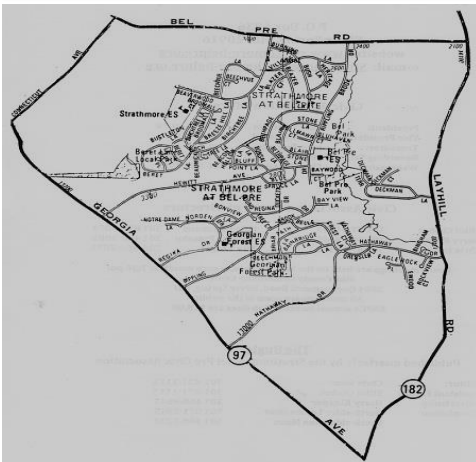
The SBPCA Board of Directors normally meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Mid-County Community Recreation Center on Queensguard Road (during the pandemic, meetings are on Zoom). The Civic Association's annual meeting is in November just before the BPRA annual meeting.

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 SWAN	301 871-1113	Vacant
LILLA HAMMOND	301 518-7818	RITA VAUGHT	206 406-2871	Your name could be here!



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. During the pandemic, we're on Zoom.

The annual General Membership meeting is normally held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving Day at 7:30 pm, at Strathmore Elementary School (Zoom in 2020). The annual Town Hall meeting, presented with the Civic Association, 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	treasurer4bpri@gmail.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
Assessment Assistance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Audit Coordinator	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Block Party & Spring Thing Coordinator	vacant	
Emergency Response & Planning Committee Chair	NANCY BECHTOL	301 871-3679
Entertainment & Recreation Committee Chair	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
Finance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@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	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Pavilion Scheduler	vacant	YOUR NAME could be here
Pet Waste Station Coordinator	JACKIE FARY-MOELLER	jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com
Pool and Recreational Facilities Committee Chair	TED BECHTOL	301 871-3679
Pool Pass Coordinator	vacant	YOUR NAME could be here
Pool Property Helpers Coordinator	JOE MOELLER	moellerhj@aspengroves.com
Tennis Court Keys Distributor	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Tennis Courts Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
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



Summer Successes during the Pandemic

This year continues to be like no other in our lives, but I am hoping this message finds all neighbors and families well and surviving COVID-19 without any serious health issues. It has been so difficult to socially distance ourselves and maintain a stringent protocol of using our masks and washing our hands. I am so very proud of our ability to manage an open pool facility this summer and a swim team season without any need to close or cancel meets. We were careful all summer, and it really showed that if you follow CDC, State and County guidance, everyone can be safe.

The Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) Board did an outstanding job leading our community in developing guidelines on how exactly to open our pool. We owe each of these volunteer members a huge debt of gratitude. The summer was different, and I missed the kids being able to play at the pool, but at least we could swim and enjoy the sun in our smaller family units.

Real Summer and Fall Events in 2020!

I am always very proud of the work of the SPBCA Board, but this year I am proud of the resourcefulness of our board members. LILLA and BILL HAMMOND totally reinvented our 4th of July parade! They created the first ever car parade with over 20 cars, and our local Fire Station fire engine and Boy Scout troop at the lead. Everyone in the parade enjoyed this event, but this year neighbors could watch from their front yards along the route. This added to the patriotic fun in a big way! JOHN BOGASKY, and his team of active volunteers have hosted 5 drive-in movies this year in the parking lot of our pool facility, with the 6th movie planned for late in October, with the movie Coco. What a brilliant idea, and these movies have brought such joy to the families able to attend. I have a feeling we will be hosting movies until the end of this pandemic as it is the perfect socially distant outdoor activity. This is a lot of work for set up and take down, so we owe these volunteers a huge thank you!

Emergency Response and Planning Committee

The successful newly established Emergency Response and Planning Committee was asked to develop a plan for the first Virtual Annual Meeting, due to COVID-19. This joint Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) and Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA) Committee has been working for the past several months to plan for a BPRA Mail-in Ballot for the Annual Election, and a Joint Zoom annual meeting for both Associations.



November 19th Annual Meeting on Zoom at 7 pm!

Please join us on November 19th at 7 pm.

Contact JOHN BOGASKY (see page 2) to join the Civic Association meeting. Since virtual meetings are easier to attend, I am looking forward to meeting more of my neighbors. We are interested to see how the Community finds our Zoom meetings. If they are successful, we will consider offering these types of meetings more in the future.

Zoom Practice Session – November 12th

Please chime into our practice session on **November 12th** to help anyone who isn't well versed in Zoom. It is easy to navigate Zoom with

practice, so please join us! DAVE PULLEN promises to show us exactly what we need to do to prepare for the annual meeting.

– Continued on page 18 –

Bel Pre Recreational News

by Karen Purdy

President, Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA)

Upcoming Meetings

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, all BPRA meetings through the end of 2020, including the Annual Meeting, will be held via teleconference. There are currently 3 general meetings scheduled for this fall: Explore Zoom on **November 12th**, the joint SBPCA and BPRA Annual General Membership Meeting on **November 19th**, and the joint SBPCA and BPRA Annual Town Hall Meeting on **December 1st**.

Information for joining these meetings via telephone, computer or other device is included in the 2020 Annual Meeting Notice mailed to each member household during October. If you have not received your Annual Meeting Notice by **November 1st**, please contact BPRA Treasurer DAVE PULLEN at treasurer4bpbra@gmail.com or (301) 598-2521. More information about each meeting is below. Additional information and helpful links can be found on StrathmoreBelPre.org.

Thank you to Committee Chair NANCY BECHTOL and the Emergency Response and Planning Committee for planning and developing the procedures for the fall meetings.



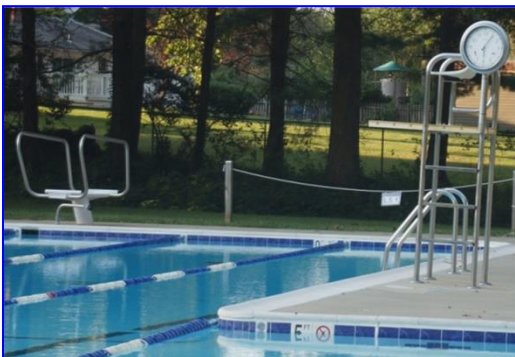
Explore Zoom – November 12, 7:30 pm via Zoom

If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, have questions about the platform, or would like assistance signing into a Zoom meeting, please join us at 7:30pm on Thursday, **November 12th**. Members of the BPRA and SBPCA Boards and other volunteers will be available to help you sign into the Zoom meeting and answer questions about how to use and navigate the Zoom platform. If you would like someone to walk you through the process of signing into the Zoom meeting in real time, please contact me at klpurdy@hotmail.com or (301) 603-9604 before **November 12th**.

There are several Zoom video tutorials available at <https://zoom.us>. Click the “RESOURCES” button in upper right side of the top black menu bar for Video Tutorials, FAQs and more. Visit StrathmoreBelPre.org for links.

Annual BPRA General Membership Meeting Thursday, November 19, 7:30 pm, via Zoom

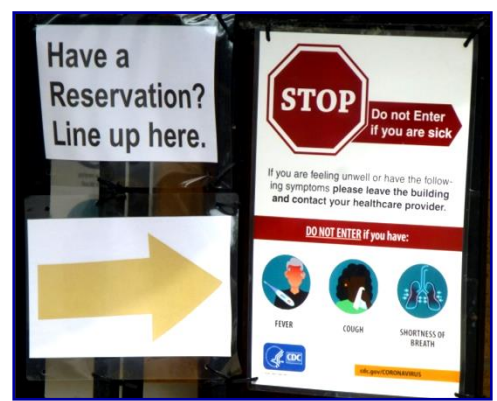
The main order of business during the annual meeting will be the election of 3 BPRA Board Trustees. We will also present the BPRA Annual Report and 2021-22 Budget, with some time for questions.



Annual Strathmore Bel Pre Town Hall Meeting December 1, at 8 pm, via Zoom

The Town Hall meeting is an opportunity to (virtually) get together with your neighbors to share knowledge, learn more about our community and ask questions in an informal setting.

– Continued on page 6 –



Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 5)

BPRA Annual Elections

The BPRA Board of Trustees is a 9 member body elected at the Annual General Membership Meeting. Each member is elected for a 3-year term. The terms are staggered, so that 3 members are elected every year. This year we have 3 candidates running for 3 seats: PHIL KOMINSKI, MARIA "COOKIE" STAGNITTO, and CLAIRE PAK. Find candidate profiles starting on page 20. Thank you all for volunteering!



Ballots

Due to COVID-19 rules, restrictions, and accommodations, the 2020 BPRA Board of Trustee Elections will be held via mail-in or drop-off ballot. Ballots will be mailed to each member household with the Annual Meeting Notice in October. Election instructions and additional information can be found on the reverse side of the ballot, and also at StrathmoreBelPre.org.

Election results will not be available at the Annual Meeting, but will be posted on StrathmoreBelPre.org and at the pool within one week of the completion of the election.



Departing Board Members

Thank you to the three dedicated BPRA Trustees whose terms end this year: GREG MILLER, who has long served as the Pool and Recreational Facilities Committee Chair; BILLY RUPERT, our WebMaster, also the force behind our new pavilion chairs and tables, and a jack-of-all-trades volunteer willing to step up and help whenever needed; and LARRY VAUGHT, past BPRA Treasurer and current member of the Finance Committee. Their hard work, dedication, and commitment to both the Board and our community will be missed.

Summer 2020

This summer looked very different than summers of the past, but rather than focus on the things we could not do, I would like to give thanks for what we were able to accomplish and enjoy: a successful and safe pool season, summer drive-in movies, a socially distanced swim team, and a Fourth of July flag ceremony and car parade. Thank you to all of the people who made those events possible.

The BPRA Board decided early-on that we would open the pool and bathrooms this summer, following the CDC, State and County COVID-19 orders, rules, regulations. A BPRA Emergency Response and Planning Committee was created to establish our 2020 COVID-19 rules and procedures. The Committee spent many hours wrangling the best system to open our pool, in the great unknown, without knowing what would be allowed, how best to follow the COVID-19 safety precautions, and when the pool could open.



– Continued on page 15 –

Dolphins News

by Claire Pak

Swim Meets in 2020

Who says you can't hold a swim meet during a pandemic? Not the Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins! Thanks to a hard-working and creative coaching staff, brilliant and dedicated volunteers, and our beautiful swimmers, we had a short, but very successful swim season.

How We Did It

How did we do it, when so many other local swim leagues cancelled their whole seasons? We changed everything — we reorganized our practice groups and schedules, we broke meets into multiple sessions, and we sanitized everything in sight. And we made some sacrifices — no Dolphin Dance or Dolphin Games, no pasta parties or pep rallies, and no early-morning travel (OK, not everything was a sacrifice). We even managed to hold an end-of-season banquet, with a video awards ceremony and drive-through catering courtesy of Papi's, run by one of our neighbors.



Thanks to Many

It would take the whole issue to acknowledge everyone who made this season possible, but a few people deserve special recognition, especially our awesome A Meet Manager KAREN PURDY; not to mention our amazing coaches. KAREN made sure that the meets were fully staffed and that we complied with County health and safety guidelines, and she is pretty much the brains behind this operation. Data Manager CHRIS HUFFINE and Head Coach LILAN MILLER had to contend with a completely new order of events, which made seeding and scoring meets much more complicated.

Our assistant coaches (OLIVIA MILLER, CARSON TAYLOR, and CAMILLE BEARMAN) all had much more to do than in seasons past — they had to coach while enforcing social distancing and dispensing hand sanitizer (and they all swam for the team, too!) Our deck officials (ELIZABETH KOMINSKI, MIKE BEARMAN, LOIS KENT, PHIL KOMINSKI, and DANA BEARMAN) made sure that our meets ran on schedule and in accordance with the rules. And as always, JOE MOELLER was our all-around problem-solver and voice of reason.



Departing President and Vice-President

While we are recognizing people, we also want to thank our outgoing President GREG MILLER and also outgoing Vice President MIKE BEARMAN. GREG and MIKE served the team with selfless dedication for a decade, and we were lucky to have them. GREG is the new Director of the School of Music at the University of Maryland and his professional responsibilities made it impossible for him to continue as Board President. And DANA and MIKE BEARMAN moved to Boston. The BEARMANS were the best neighbors, friends, and fellow team parents anyone could ever ask for. We will miss them tremendously.

New Board of Directors

Our new Board of Directors:

- ❖ PHIL and ELIZABETH KOMINSKI, Co-Presidents
- ❖ CHRIS HUFFINE, Vice President
- ❖ CLAIRE PAK, Secretary
- ❖ DENISE REYES, Treasurer

We look forward to serving the team and the Strathmore Bel Pre community and are hopefully preparing for a real season in 2021.

– Continued on page 13 –

Scouting

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

Helping with Food Insecurity

If you have looked at the food insecurity maps for the area, you will notice that the Aspen Hill area appears bright red with high food insecurity. Scouts were there to help. Our community partner (and meeting location) is St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church (the church behind Giant and next to the pet cemetery), who partnered with Misa Magdalena and the Arcadia Foundation to distribute boxes of fruits and vegetables to people in the community who are financially impacted by COVID-19. Each week, from late July through August, boy scouts from Troop 763 (sponsored by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association) unloaded approximately 250 - 300 boxes of fresh fruit and veggies, along with pantry staples such as brown rice, dried black beans and canned tuna or chicken.



In the photo are scouts CHRISTIAN JENKINS in the front and LEEROY ELROD on the right and Assistant Scoutmaster BILL TOTTEN in the truck.

Scouting for Food: November 14 9:30 am

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Scouting for Food will be slightly different this year. We will collect any nonperishable food or personal/hygiene items that you would like to donate, especially oatmeal, whole grain pasta, dried or canned beans, canned meat (such as tuna or chicken), cooking oil and spices, canned vegetables or canned fruit, baby food or formula. Personal hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc., also are welcome. NO glass containers, please! Just place your donations in a bag or box, and put them by your front door by 9:30 am, on Saturday, **November 14, 2020**.

Citizenship Article

Troop 763 is also pleased to announce our first scout to be published in a national online publication. KL PLANO-FABER's article is "Learning About Citizenship" and can be found at: <https://www.scoutspirit.org/learning-about-citizenship/>. In order to earn their Eagle rank, a scout must complete at least 21 merit badges, including 3 separate citizenship badges for the world, nation and community. Citizenship is a core value to BSA Scouts, and there once was a merit badge called Citizenship in the Home, which is now the Family Life merit badge.



Eagle Scout Project

by Joey Moeller

I decided to do an Eagle Project at Meadowside Nature Center because I spent a lot of time there as a kid. I built a 13 feet long butterfly shaped play structure for the outdoor play space at the nature center. You can see it when you walk up the hill from the parking lot. We chose to make the body canoe shaped to emulate the Native American dugout canoe in the woodland Indian exhibit inside the nature center. The dugout canoe inside the nature center is a favorite for many children to climb inside and pretend.

We wanted the children to be able to climb inside the butterfly and imagine themselves flying. The butterfly is placed in a location between the trees and the meadow to encourage further exploration of the park.

Summer Movies: Socially-Distanced Drive-In Movie fun

June 6

July 12

August 1

September 5

September 19

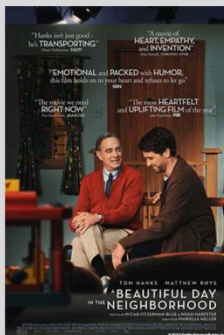
October 24



Aladdin



Sonic The Hedgehog



A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood



Spider-Man: Far From Home



Jumanji: The Next Level



Coco



Moving the picnic tables into position

Despite COVID, we found a way to keep our Summer Movie season – moving to a drive-in format in the pool parking lot. The key was to raise our screen higher (using picnic tables) and raise our projector to match the higher screen. We added an FM broadcaster to reach the car radios. Finally, we added a reservation process to ensure our events stayed within the County's 50-person limit.

When COVID restrictions cancelled our summer concerts, we expanded to 6 movies, including a Halloween showing of Coco on **October 24th**. Watch the SBPcivic listserv or SBP Facebook page for details on making a reservation for Coco. (Rain date for Coco is **10/31**)

Special thanks go to JOE MOELLER and his boys for helping solve our drive-in movie engineering challenges. STEVE DEMING and KYE PAK also helped with equipment setup and tear down. We also thank the BPRA Board for supporting our plans and keeping the pool bathrooms open during our Drive-in Movies.

Finally, our Civic Association wants to thank our sponsors whose financial contributions make it possible for us to organize our Summer Entertainment program each year.

The SBP Civic Association Thanks Our 2020 Summer Entertainment Sponsors!!!

SBP Superstars

Rita Vaught



Tim Horst



LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Paulette Ladas



The Bel Pre Recreational Association

Community Champions

Lilla Hammond



LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

Pizza Stop



Peter & Diane Kendall

Oscar Winners

Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot

Susan Shannon

Ted & Nancy Bechtol

Vicki Thomas & Pat Rayner

Band Leaders

John & Shelly Bogasky

Maury & Charlotte Potosky

Larry & Rita Vaught

Linda & Charles Bea

Jo & Chris Jennison

Janet Kisler

Paul & Maria Stagnitto

And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association

The Bugle October 2020

July 4th 2020 Strathmore Bel Pre Celebration

by Lilla Hammond

Our Strathmore Bel Pre Community's July 4th celebration was a great success! Due to COVID-19, we needed to make our July 4th events safe for all participants. So, in addition to our flag raising ceremony, we decided to launch our first "Patriotic Car Parade", and tour our entire neighborhood.



Raising of the Flag Ceremony

Pack 763 lead by BILL TOTTEN, Cubmaster and JOE MOELLER, Committee Chair for Troop 763 with Boy Scouts BEN WEINER, KL PLANO-FABER and LEEROY ELROD.

Patriotic Car Parade Leaders and Parade Volunteers

Lt. ROBERT FAASAND, with his team from Fire Station 25, led the parade. The July 4th Celebration Committee and volunteers included: CINDY BLACKMON, BETTY HINER, LINDA BEA, BILLY RUPPERT, RITA VAUGHT, and BILL and LILLA HAMMOND, Co-chairs.



Our Patriotic Car Parade attracted a great number of participants, with a parade route that included the north, south, and east sides of Strathmore Bel Pre! With a long line of 25 cars, and approximately one hundred and fifty bystanders waving flags along the parade route, we had a great July 4th celebration. Thank you all for the fantastic turnout!!

– Continued on page 16 –

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Feed the Birds

by Cecily Nabors

When a friend asked me where goldfinches go on migration, I laughed and said, “To my birdfeeders.”

Goldfinches seem to disappear in autumn because they molt into drab attire. Males and females both turn brownish-gray, highlighted by pale yellow throats. Don't be too quick to tidy your gardens; goldfinches will help clean up all the seeds. Growing native plants helps to feed our birds all year.



Our backyard birds will soon be joined by migrants from the north that spend the winter here. If you want to help sustain avian diversity, it's time to put out bird feeders.

Food and Feeders

Being a good feeder of birds is not just about buying a good bird-feeder. Offer a variety of seed and suet in different feeders for different eaters. Avoid packages of mixed seed with lots of tiny round millet seeds—much of it will be wasted. Don't feed bread crumbs—they mold fast and provide poor nutrition.



Black-oil sunflower seed: It's the odds-on favorite with most backyard birds. It works well in tube, hopper, and platform feeders. Don't let the shells drift into a garden, as they are toxic to many other plants. Either sweep them up, or buy the hulled sunflower seed. It's extremely popular! You'll see cardinals, titmice, house finches, woodpeckers, blue jays, sparrows, chickadees, mourning doves, juncos, and of course grackles and starlings.

Nyjer seed: It's often called “thistle” but the seeds come from an African daisy. Offer these tiny black seeds in feeders that have small perches or require the bird to hang upside-down. American

goldfinches love nyjer. If you're lucky, you might even get a visit from a pine siskin. One rough winter a common redpoll found my nyjer feeder, a “life bird” for me.

Peanuts: You can scatter whole peanuts (jays or squirrels will love them) or hang a wire mesh feeder holding shelled peanuts, or mix them in with other seed. My peanut feeder is a favorite with blue jays, woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, and titmice.



Suet: The square blocks are bird magnets. Great for woodpeckers all year round. In our yard, we have northern flickers, plus downy, hairy, and red-bellied woodpeckers, just about any day. In summer, our local catbird clamors for suet. In winter, our local mockingbird tries to claim it. The blocks come in different “flavors.” I haven't noticed much difference in popularity.

– Continued on page 12 –

The Bugle October 2020

Water

Water is especially important in winter, when puddles and small streams are frozen. Our birdbath is popular all year; in winter it's vital for birds. I plug in a birdbath heater, but you can also buy a heated birdbath. Birds are there every hour, every day. Sometimes they're lined up, taking turns. Robins are especially grateful.



Squirrels

Squirrels will be an issue! I once hung a wooden feeder in a tree. Squirrels gobbled the seed and then shredded the feeder. Place your feeders six feet from anywhere squirrels can reach—they are Olympic-quality jumpers. If your feeders are pole-mounted, use a baffle on the pole. If you have a great spot for a feeder but squirrels can reach it, try safflower seed, as squirrels will mostly leave it alone. Or buy a "squirrel-proof" feeder; their antics as they try to foil it will be your winter entertainment.

Help with info

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology (allaboutbirds.org) is just what its name asserts. For local expert advice and plentiful supplies, visit the Backyard Naturalist in Olney (thebackyardnaturalist.com) or the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase (anshome.org). Both stores have curbside pickup.

Your reward

Feeding birds is not effortless. And it's not cheap, either: 25 pounds of hulled black-oil sunflower is not "tuppence a bag." But you'll find buying the seed and suet, cleaning the feeders, and keeping them filled is worth it. Watch a cardinal's scarlet flash in a snowy tree, listen to the cheerful trill of a Carolina wren, catch a nuthatch's upside-down act. You're making winter easier for them, while they make it beautiful for you.

Meals on Wheels of Wheaton



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Dolphins News

(continued from page 7)

Congratulations

Let's recognize our 2020 high-point and coaches' award winners.

High Points:

8 & Under

Boys

BEN PURDY
LIAM GERNER
TOBY REYES

Girls

LEILA DEBACKER
LAYLA BREEDEN
EVIE HARRISON

9-10

Boys

TYLER KOMINSKI
XAVIER HUFFINE-
WRIGHT

Girls

GRACIE FORAKER
JANIE SPELMAN

11-12

Boys

DAVID DORSEY
ANDRE NAPPER
JOSH TESFAI

Girls

CLAIRE PURDY
GABI REYES &
CAROLINA KENT



13-14

Boys

ERIK STAGGS
GRAHAM WICK
LUCAS MOELLER

Girls

SARAH SIEGLE
TESSA MILLER
LIZETT INGA

15-18

Boys

CARSON TAYLOR
IAN VIRGA
WYATT KENT

Girls

CAMILLE BEARMAN
OLIVIA MILLER
SYDNEY FORD

Coaches' Awards:

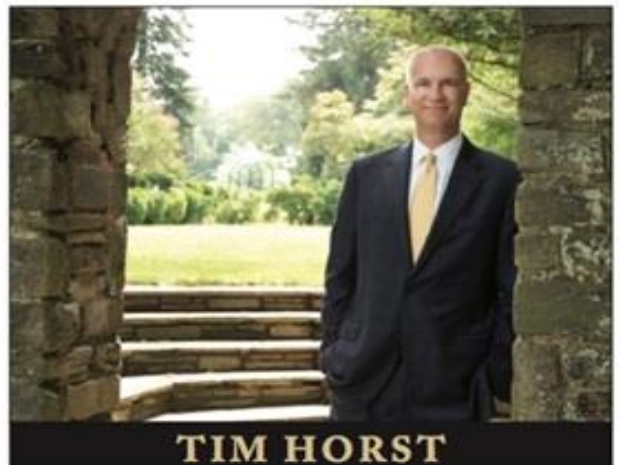
Most Improved

BROOKE TAYLOR (8 & Under)
XAVIER HUFFINE-WRIGHT (9-10)
GABI REYES (11-12)
JEREMY SPELMAN (13-14)
EVAN PAK (15-18)

– Continued on page 14 –

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

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Dolphins News

(continued from page 13)

Hardest Working:

BEN PURDY (Junior)

IAN VIRGA (Senior)

Most Spirited: CARSON TAYLOR, CAMILLE BEARMAN, and OLIVIA MILLER

Most Dependable Dolphin: OLIVIA MILLER

Swimmers of the Year:

LEILA DEBACKER (Girls)

ERIK STAGGS and TYLER KOMINSKI (Boys).

ERIK and TYLER also broke team records this year. ERIK broke the Boys' 13-14 50m Butterfly and Freestyle records. TYLER broke the Boys' 9-10 50m Freestyle and Backstroke records.

Graduating Seniors

OLIVIA MILLER

AIDAN PAK

BEN SHUSTER

ANGELA VAUGHT

LIAM TOBIN

Financial Support Much Appreciated

If you are in a position to make a financial contribution to the team, we will be very grateful. Although we were able to have an active Team this season, we were not able to conduct our usual fundraising activities, including our bake sale and the community-wide annual 5K. Your support helps us to defray expenses, including coaches' salaries, league dues, software, equipment, and supplies. Contributions are tax-deductible (tax ID 26-1493052).

If you would like to mail a contribution, our address is:

Strathmore Bel Pre Swim Team Association

P.O. Box 9292

Silver Spring, MD 20916-9292

If a financial contribution is not possible, we hope that you'll continue to cheer us on. Please also bookmark our website, and check it frequently for updates at <https://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com/>.

We are so happy that we were able to provide a summer of fun and competition for our neighborhood children, amid the shutdowns and cancellations and quarantines. We appreciate your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at the pool next summer.



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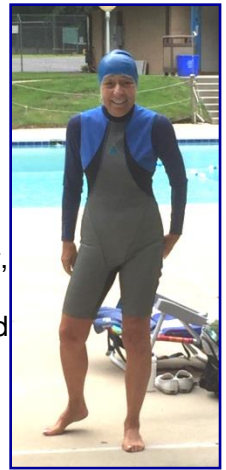


Bel Pre Recreational News

(Continued from page 6)

Pool Opens!

The pool opened on Saturday, June 20th! We generally enjoyed a warm and sunny season, with smooth operations. Using a reservation system, swimmers were able to swim or exercise in the pool. The Swim Team also managed a Swim Season, with virtual meets, and even a virtual banquet. We decided to extend the pool season into September, due to the late opening of the pool, and to make use of the normally lovely early September weather. However, in a fitting end to this crazy spring and summer, fall weather arrived shortly after Labor Day. The low nighttime temperatures contributed to a chilly pool for the last weeks of our extended season. Still, there were many intrepid swimmers enjoying the pool every day up until it closed for the season on Sunday, September 20th.



Extended Pool Season

The pool will be open until
Sunday, September 20, 2020.

COVID era rules and procedures remain in effect until the end of the season.

Pool Hours:

Monday, 8/31 – Thursday, 9/4: 3 – 8pm

Friday, 9/5: 3 – 9pm

Saturday, 9/6, Sunday, 9/7, Monday (Labor Day) 9/7: noon – 9pm

Tuesday 9/8 – Friday 9/11: 3 – 7:30pm

Saturday 9/11, Sunday 9/12: noon – 7:30pm

Monday 9/13 – Friday 9/18: 3 – 7:30pm

Saturday 9/19, Sunday 9/20: noon – 7:30pm

Pool closes for the season at 7:30pm, Sunday 9/20/2020.

Thanks!

A big thank you to the BPRA Board and all of the people who made this 2020 pool season possible:

- The Emergency Response and Planning Committee, Chaired by NANCY BECHTOL, developed COVID era policies and procedures and provided other guidance and support to the Board. Committee Members: MIKE BEARMAN, JOHN BOGASKY, ELLIOT CHABOT, MARK FORAKER, CLAIRE PAK, BILLY RUPPERT and CHRIS SWAN.
- JOE MOELLER (and his boys) worked tirelessly to get our physical facilities ready to open and ready for social distancing.
- JOE procured materials, built the “fish tank” entryway and spent countless hours doing other needed projects, and coordinated with Georgetown Aquatics to get the pool ready to open.
- MARK FORAKER was instrumental in getting policies and procedures in place, laying out deck pods and setting up the pool and grounds for social distancing, creating and procuring signs, and providing support, wherever needed, especially during the crunch time leading up to our opening on June 20th.
- PHIL KOMINSKI and BILLY RUPPERT for laying out and setting up the deck “pods”.
- KYE PAK and his boys for installing the orange safety fence around the pavilion and play equipment.
- The Georgetown Aquatics staff for implementing new procedures, solving problems, and being kind, helpful, and respectful.
- Our BPRA members for knowing and following the rules and procedures, being respectful and patient, and appreciating the efforts of the volunteers and staff.



LOUISA HOAR ~~ We **THANK** You!

A very special thank you to LOUISA HOAR for her many years and countless hours of behind the scenes work for our community as Tennis Court Key Distributor, Pavilion Scheduler, and Pool Pass Coordinator. LOUISA's dedication, well-thought-out systems and processes and attention to detail have kept things running smoothly for decades. Group use of our Pool Pavilion has run smoothly for years, thanks to Louisa!

If you are interested in taking over as Pavilion Scheduler or Pool Pass Coordinator, please contact me for more information.

– Continued on bottom of page 17 –

July 4th Celebration (continued from page 10)

An amazing celebration doesn't just happen...the spirit was there and we want to thank the following people who worked hard and contributed:

The Patriotic Car Paraders

JOHN and JOHN JR. BOGASKY (1); INDIKA, ADITHYA, and MALINDU ATTANAYAKE (2); ANGIE and RITA VAUGHT (3); TIM and EVAN HAGMAN (4); BILL and SHARON TOTTEN (5); CRAIG MESSNER (6); JOE, JACKIE, JOEY, and LUCAS MOELLER (7); CHARLES and LATRICIA BOONE (8); CHRIS SWAN and ELLIOT CHABOT (9); a white Mercedes. We never got the drivers' names ☹️ (10); MARK and AIDA SAMARA and their three children (11); JENN, ALVARO, BELLE, and JONAS DURAN (12); CHRIS, JO, STEVE, and baby RUTH JENNISON (13); BETH LEWIS (14); DIERDRE O'GRADY and son (15); ROD and RADLEY OO (16); the HUFFINE-WRIGHT family – CHRIS HUFFINE, CHRIS WRIGHT, XAVIER and OLIVIA HUFFINE-WRIGHT (17); MICHAEL, SHARON, WILLIAM, and ALEXANDRA HAMMOND (18); PHIL and ELIZABETH KOMINSKI (19); ELMER G MERCEDES (20); SHAUN, ALPHA, and SYED ADAMS (21); PAM and RAUL GUARIN (22); BILL and LILLA HAMMOND (23); LAMBROS GEORGALLAS (24) and SOL LOPEZ (25). Special thanks to SOL LOPEZ who followed the parade and picked up all the SBPCA Parade route signs along the way.

The Awards and the Winners

First Prize Award of \$40 went to SHAUN ADAMS and his two children ALPHA and SYED. It was sponsored by Pizza Stop (Plaza Del Mercado) and its owners, brothers ROD OO and LIN OO, fellow residents of Strathmore Bel Pre, and paraders themselves!



Second Prize Award of \$30 went to BETH LEWIS. It was sponsored by Sisters Sandwiches & Such (16834 Georgia Avenue In Olney) and its owners AJITH WELLAGE and RAVI ABEYNAYAKE.



Third Prize Award of \$20 went to PHIL and BETH KOMINSKI. It was sponsored by The Greene Turtle in Olney.



Note: Look for more photos of the 2020 July 4th Patriotic Parade cars on our StrathmoreBelPre.org website!

– Continued on bottom of page 20 –

Aspen Hill Post Office Cleanup

by George Usher

On August 26th 2020, NANCY FEY posted a message to the Bel Pre Civic Association listserv commenting on the rather shabby appearance of the Aspen Hill Post Office. She remembered that Strathmore Be Pre (SBP) community volunteers had cleaned up the grounds on a previous occasion. RITA VAUGHT responded, stating that she had visited the branch that day and noticed it was seriously in need of a cleanup. A couple was there pulling weeds.



Post Office Clean-up in 2017

BPRA Post Office Cleanup in 2017

The cleanup idea came up during a meeting with representatives of the USPS, held at the pool June 20, 2017, regarding community issues with the post office. One of the complaints concerned the outside appearance of Aspen Hill branch facility. The Silver Spring postmaster at that time, GABRIEL HAMILTON, said that the USPS staff had no funds to do more. It was suggested that our community members would volunteer to assist in a cleanup effort. As a result, I met with DENEEN TAYLOR, USPS Director of Communications, and organized the cleanup held on August 5th, 2017. BEN & AUDREY HAWLEY, BOB TROLL, and I were the members of the community who worked with several USPS personnel to complete the work. It took us about 2½ hours. We planned to repeat the effort in the spring of 2018, but the personnel at the post office moved to other positions and that effort never got off the ground.

Cleanup in 2020 or 2021 ?

As a result of the August 2020 listserv communications, quite a few community members volunteered to participate in a cleanup this year. On August 8th I contacted the Aspen Hill Branch Supervisor and offered our services. She told me she would pass this offer on to the Branch Maintenance Manager. He got back to me later that day and told me that he appreciated the offer but he would not need outside help. The department had gotten a little behind in the previous weeks, but they were catching up.

I told him to keep my phone number and to contact me if they should change their mind. I also told him that we would contact him again in the spring to repeat the offer. Several of the neighbors stated they would be happy to help if we could arrange such a spring cleanup.

Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 15)

Little Free Library

Thank you to the STAGGS family for spearheading the installation of a Little Free Library near the tennis courts. JAY and ERIK STAGGS and MARSHALL MCNAMEE installed the Little Free Library over Labor Day weekend. Stop by and see this new addition to our community.



Fall Activities

While we will NOT be holding BlocktoberFest or Trunk Or Treat this fall, the Civic Association and the Rec Associations are sponsoring a drive-in movie, *Coco*, and, with the Swim Team, a brand-new pumpkin decorating and/or carving contest. Keep an eye on StrathmoreBelPre.org for announcements regarding fall or winter activities.

Seeking Volunteers

The BPRA is always looking for members interested in volunteering. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees or volunteering in some other way, please contact the appropriate committee chair listed on page 3 of *The Bugle* or contact me at klpurdy@hotmail.com

Little Free Libraries in Strathmore Bel Pre

Little Free Library Celebrates Its Second Birthday!

by Luba Dowhaluk

The Little Free Library on Regina Drive has seen lots of action in the past two years. Neighbors as well as passersby have stopped to check out the offerings and take some books to read, especially during this pandemic time. What a good way to spend time during the lockdown and beyond. Not only have folks taken advantage of the free books, but many have contributed their favorite reads so that others can share in the experience. The choices have ranged widely, from fiction to nonfiction, from children's to young adult to adult reads. In fact, the library has had so much use that the knob had to be replaced already! Please continue to enjoy the selections and feel free to contribute your favorites to share. As I have walked the neighborhood, I'm finding several new Free Little Libraries showing up which is wonderful and makes this library feel less lonely! Happy reading!



New Addition To Our Neighborhood: Little Free Library – Take a book, Leave a book

by Jill Staggs

A Little Free Library has been installed near the tennis courts on Bethpage Lane. The Library is part of the world-wide Little Free Library Association, which is administered by a non-profit organization that provides literacy programs for children. There are currently over 100,000 registered Free Little Libraries in 108 countries. Please stop by the Strathmore Bel Pre Free Little Library at Bethpage Lane and pick up a book, or drop off books to contribute to the Little Library. We have books for children, teens and adults. Our family donated the Free Little Library for our neighborhood in honor of my mother, who passed away from cancer in February. I would especially like to thank ERIK STAGGS and MARSHALL MCNAMEE for their considerable help with building and installing the Free Little Library. Also, many

thanks to the Bel Pre Recreational Association for the location. If you have suggestions for the Little Free Library, please email me at jillstaggs@gmail.com. Happy Reading!

President's Corner (continued from page 4)

Please Do Join Us! Join the Civic Association Board

We are so fortunate to have so many volunteers in our community willing to run for office in the BPRA, SPBCA and Dolphins Swim Team Boards. We appreciate everyone who steps forward, but we could use more neighbors, perhaps you? Please, do join us, and offer your wisdom and energy to one of these Boards. We currently have seven vacant seats on the SBPCA Board. I have agreed to run for another term as President so that we didn't create another vacant seat. We would welcome anyone from our community to serve and promise to share the workload so that no one needs to work beyond their comfort level. Serving is a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and feel connected to your neighborhood. If interested, please call me or anyone on any of these boards. We welcome the help, but also the new ideas and energy that everyone brings forward. I look forward to seeing everyone virtually later this fall, and hope that everyone stays well and safe till we can meet again in person.



Aspen Hill Library News

by Elliot Chabot

The Aspen Hill Library (our community's big free library) remains largely closed to the public. There are some services now being provided through the Library, and hopefully more will come before too long.



Borrowing Books

The Library is open for borrowing books. Use the Library catalog to select your books and place them on hold. You also can contact the Library and request books, even asking for the staff to select books for you, such as Halloween mysteries, the latest biographies, or cookbooks for the Fall, or lots of beginning reader books. After placing your books on hold, you will get a notification when they are ready for you. Use the Library system's appointment system to pick your time to go to the Library's foyer and get your books, aka "curb-side" service. When you can come to the foyer at the main entrance to the library, where your books will be in a bag with your name on it.

No Fines

Adult books still have due dates, but no fines will accrue. Materials are quarantined after they are returned to be safe for the staff (and you) to handle them. Children's books that circulate also have no fines.

Take and Make

Aspen Hill Library (with help from the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library) is one of just a few public libraries in Montgomery County that are piloting a Take and Make program. Make an appointment and you can come to the Aspen Hill Library and pick up a kit of fun projects for kids. Some Take and Make kits are Science themed, while others are grab bags. For more information, go the County Libraries Take and Make webpage (<https://mcpl.libnet.info/v/assets/226>) or call the Library at (240) 773-9410.



Gardens

The inside of the Library may be closed, but the gardens around the Library are open for everyone to come over and enjoy. The County cuts the grass at the Library, but it's the Aspen Hill Garden Club that maintains the gardens – including watering and weeding. The Garden Club now has labeled various plants in the gardens.

School Board Candidates Forum – October 19th on Zoom

The candidates forum for School Board candidates (originally scheduled for last March, but postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic) has been rescheduled to **October 19** and has been moved to a Virtual Event on Zoom. All 6 candidates for the 3 seats have been invited.

The forum is part of the Aspen Hill Public Affairs Series that started in 1984, and is sponsored jointly by the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association, Aspen Hill Civic Association, Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee, and the Glenmont Exchange. For Zoom sign-on information, and to present your questions for the candidates, please contact AspenHillForums@gmail.com. For more information about the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library, contact AspenHill@folmc.org.

Bel Pre Recreational Association

2020 Candidates 3 positions – 3 candidates

Phil Kominski

1. **Age (optional):** 42
2. **Occupation:** Musician / Booking Agent / Small Business Owner / USA Swim Coach
1. **Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** 41 years
1. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** Co-President of Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins Swim Team, Easter Bunny at the Easter COVID Parade, Tower Photo Booth Donations for a few events, Referee / Starter for Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins, Musical Performer for the community once or twice a year.
2. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** Community Outreach and Events. As an outsider, I like to think of the BPRA as a way to bring the community together and a way to discuss issues and problems in order to, hopefully, see one another “eye to eye” and work out resolutions.
3. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** Increased Fun activities and community outreach. Tossing around new ideas and see what we can bring to fruition.
4. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** Increased awareness of community-open events and calendar / budget examination for new ideas. Open discussions for new ideas. Once events are scheduled, we then work on ways to better reach out and involve all of those present, when on site at each event. Additionally, I would like to propose that when an issue arises between the BPRA and a community member, that we schedule a “coffee meet up” sit down to have an open discussion about the problem and to see how we can work towards a win-win outcome. Essentially, I would like to help put an end to online disagreements and arguments that happen within the community, if possible. ☺



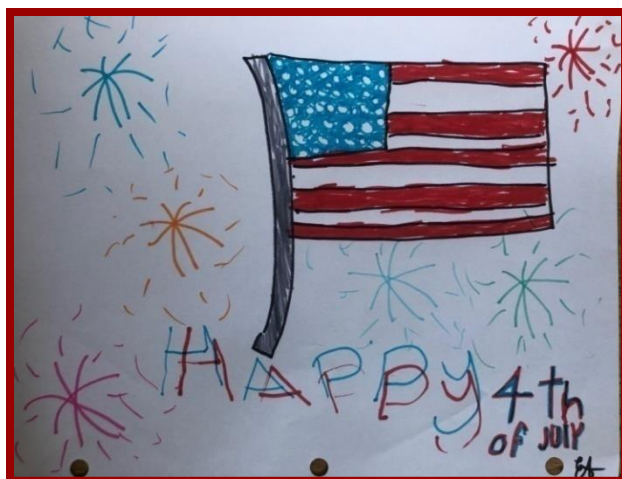
– Continued on page 21 –

July 4th Celebration

(continued from page 16)

Children's Art Contest and Online Art Show

In response to our Kids art contest, announced in the June *Bugle*, two artists submitted wonderful creative and original artworks. JULINE FLOYD received First Prize for the 9-12 year-old group. ELIZABETH DIXON was awarded First prize for the 8 years and under age group. Each received \$20. We are delighted that they participated, and plan for further art contests in the future.

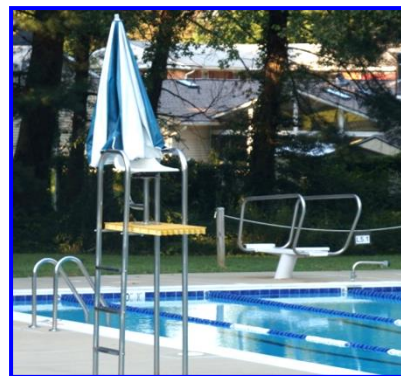


Bel Pre Recreational Association

2020 Candidates

3 positions – 3 candidates

(continued from page 20)



Claire Pak

1. **Age (optional):** I'm middle-aged, assuming that you have a very optimistic outlook for my potential life expectancy.
2. **Occupation:** Technical Writer/Communication Specialist
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** 15 years (we moved here in June 2005).
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I have been the Secretary for the SBP Dolphins Swim Team Association since 2009. I also served as Secretary of the Bel Pre/Strathmore PTA, from 2010 to 2016.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** I think that the Recreational Association has a role to play in mediating disputes and resolving neighborhood issues, but I think that its most important function is to manage our recreational facilities for the benefit of the entire community. Many families, including mine, chose this neighborhood because of the neighborhood pool and swim team. Our neighborhood recreational facility is a treasure, and we should treat it accordingly.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** The Board should serve as stewards of our beloved pool and grounds, ensuring that future generations of children can have the same wonderful Dolphins summers that our children have been lucky enough to enjoy. The Board are also the ambassadors and cheerleaders for this amazing community. There's no place like SBP.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** In addition to the pool and swim team, I'd continue to support and expand neighborhood events and traditions such as the 4th of July parade, BlocktoberFest, Trunk or Treat, holiday carols, and the Dolphins 5K. I'd also try to reach out personally to more neighbors, both to get to know them personally, and to encourage them to participate in SBP events and organizations.

– Continued on page 22 –

Join the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

The Civic Association is a voluntary body, which aims to represent and inform the community in local civic affairs. In contrast, the Bel Pre Recreational Association is a mandatory body, which you generally join when you buy your house. Rec Association annual dues maintain the pool and pool properties.

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 July 4th Events, 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

2020 Candidates

3 positions – 3 candidates

(continued from page 21)



Maria (Cookie) Stagnitto

1. **Age (optional):** 68
2. **Occupation:** Registered Nurse. Retired after 27 years at The National Institutes of Health. Currently consulting part time in the field of clinical research.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** 33 years
2. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I am a member of the BPRA Governing Documents Committee. I was actively involved with the swim team for many years.
3. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** The most important function of the BPRA is to oversee the operation and utilization of our community's recreational facilities. To coordinate, along with the SBPCA, the many community activities and services provided to our residents. To promote the fitness, safety, and wellbeing of our residents.
4. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** My vision for the Board is that it ensures the Association remains fiscally solvent and operational, that it maintains, improves and upgrades, as necessary, the community's recreational facilities, and that it engages residents to become more involved with and take an active role in the Association. We currently offer a host of events but rely on the same people to make these events successful. I will work as a Board member to expand our pool of volunteers.
5. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** I would actively support the variety of activities and events we host for our residents. I would work to welcome and engage new members to the community to become active members in the Association. I am a daily user of the pool in the summer, and I would like to support activities that will increase our members use of the pool such as shallow water and deep water aerobics. I am also an avid Pickle Ball player, and I believe it would be very beneficial to, and bring together, many members of the community if the association provided

Home Tips: Budgeting for Home Maintenance

To retain their value, our homes need on-going maintenance. To cover future costs, one way is to put approximately 1% of the home's value each year in a separate fund for this expense.

For example, an older \$300,000 home would require about \$3,000 a year to maintain. Expensive repairs and replacements won't be necessary every year, but, the money set aside gives the homeowner peace of mind when a new water heater or a heating and air conditioning system needs repairs or replacement.

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

Of course, for individual systems, calling in a licensed contractor is always a good plan.

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



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Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

2020 Candidates 8 positions – 1 candidate

Your profile could be here!
Join the Civic Association
Board and make a difference!

Nancy Bechtol

1. **Age (optional):** I am 62
2. **Occupation:** Director, Smithsonian Facilities and have served this fabulous organization for the past 27 years. Before this role, I worked for M-NCPPC for 3 years as their horticultural manager, and even worked at Brookside Gardens for 2 years before that. I am a University of Maryland undergrad and grew up in Towson, Maryland, so a Marylander thru and thru.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** We moved here in the fall of 1990, so we have been here 30 years this fall. We raised our two girls in this neighborhood and have also enjoyed being an active part of the swim team and BPRA over the years.
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community)?** I have served as the President of the Civic Association since 2008, so for the past 12 years and have enjoyed working with a fabulous Board throughout my tenure. These Board members have become very close friends of both TED and I. Most recently I have assisted our community in designing a safe way to open our swimming pool and have an active pool season. This same group of talented volunteers came together recently to design our first ever virtual Annual Meeting this fall with mail-in voting procedures due to COVID-19 restrictions. I have also worked with our Civic Association Board to design COVID-19 friendly events for this year such as our drive-in movies and car parade for the 4th of July celebration. These events were led by our board members JOHN BOGASKY and LILLA and BILL HAMMOND.



5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** Our Civic Association is here to keep our neighborhood engaged and informed. We organize many activities and could organize even more if we have more Board members. We currently have 7 vacant seats, so please let me know if you are interested in helping with our work. I believe the most important thing our Association does is work to secure a vibrant community, one which is inclusive, accepting and diverse, and utilizes the talents of our neighbors to host fun and engaging activities.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** As President of our Civic Association, I will be an active team member on the Board leading our work to bring our neighbors together to learn and have fun. We do all we can to increase the quality of our community by providing opportunities for our neighbors to connect, have fun and share information.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** We need to continuously grow as an Association to better serve our vibrant community. Our work during this pandemic has been truly inspirational to watch. We have created new programs to continue to serve our community and bring neighbors together in a safe manner. We are always looking for new ways to do business and welcome the assistance of anyone interested in joining our Association. I think we build community by encouraging our neighbors to become active participants in their community.

Piebald Deer Sightings

by Nira Sathi

During our regular morning walks along the Mathew Henson trail, we see plenty of wildlife, e.g., turtles, deer with their young ones prancing around, and different species of birds. When my husband happened to walk alone one day, he also saw 3 snakes sunbathing in the creek near the steps leading to the trail from Rippling Brook Drive (ugh).

However, the highlight of those walks has been sightings of piebald deer in the wooded area near the trail ending at Alderton Road. On six separate occasions we have been very fortunate, and simply delighted, to see the these two piebald fawns.



A Google search on "piebald deer" produced the following information:

- A piebald deer is usually characterized by a lack of pigment in patches around its body; those areas appear white, in addition to the normally white areas like the belly, underneath the tail, around the nose, ears, and throat patch.
- It is reported that less than 2% of deer are piebalds, which is rare but still more common than completely albino whitetails. Piebaldism is a recessive trait; it is believed that both parents must carry the recessive gene for there to be a chance that they will produce piebald fawns.

➤ Unlike the albino deer, which has pink eyes, a pink nose, and pinkish hooves, piebald deer have normal brown eyes and nose with black hooves like a normal whitetail. Their coloration is due to a rare inherited genetic variation (defect) that affects less than one percent of the white-tailed deer population.

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Paulette was born and raised in Montgomery County and has lived in Strathmore Bel Pre Community for 23 years. Paulette specializes in listing and selling residential homes and has sold over 1,000 homes. Her areas of expertise are managing repairs and spruce up to prepare your home for sale, proven negotiating skills for sellers and buyers, effective marketing strategies and creative financing. Paulette's business philosophy is to create lifelong business relationships through Outstanding Professional Service. Let her experience work for you!

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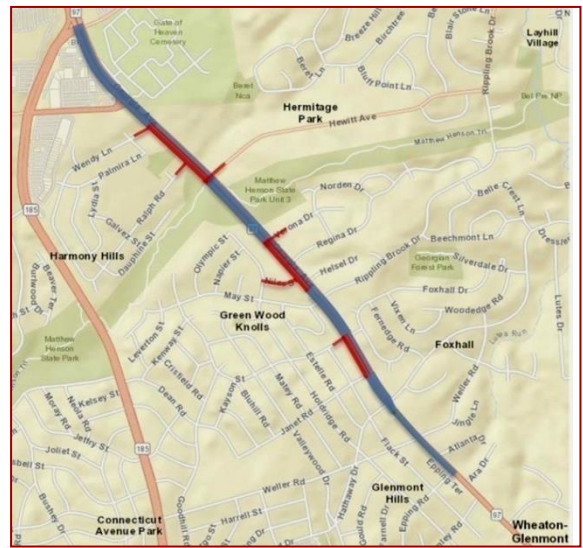
Notes from the Glenmont Exchange

by John Bogasky

Georgia Avenue Update

Over the summer, we received updates from the State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) on the status of the water main replacement and resurfacing along Georgia Avenue.

As of September 14, 2020, WSSC planned to complete the water main replacement in late October. WSSC also committed that "All the roads that we disturbed during this project will receive a curb to curb mill and overlay. On Georgia Avenue, we will be restoring the side of the road our trench is in from the curb to the median. WSSC expects to complete the entire project by "mid-to-late November", weather permitting.



Neither WSSC nor SHA have responded to the questions about why SHA resurfaced Georgia Avenue in Aspen Hill the year before the WSSC project began, even though the WSSC's plans had already been publicized. WSSC in one letter said that Georgia Avenue was last resurfaced on 2012. We all know that is inaccurate as we all "enjoyed" the 2018 repaving in the Aspen Hill area.

The County's SHA liaison for this project is Mr. CHRISTOPHER S. BISHOP, Montgomery County Government and Community Liaison for SHA. He can be reached at CBishop@mdot.maryland.gov or (301) 513-7405. WSSC's Project Manager is Mr. GARY MCHUGH who can be reached at gary.mchugh@wsscwater.com or (301) 206-7363. State Senator BEN KRAMER has also been helping address this issue. You can reach Senator KRAMER at ben.kramer@senate.state.md.us.



Pumpkin Decorating and/or Carving Contest!

Whether you carve your pumpkin, paint it, draw all over it, add props, candles, lights, be sure to take a photo of it, and enter the contest! You can win real prizes, bragging rights, and publication in the Winter 2021 *Bugle*.

The Contest has 3 categories

1) Strathmore Bel Pre Pumpkins 2) Spooky or Scary Pumpkins 3) Funny or Cute Pumpkins

Photo Entries are due by November 7, 2020.

Email your entries, with your pumpkin category or categories, your name and address, to CHRIS JENNISON at chris.s.jennison@gmail.com.

VOTE (once) for your favorite pumpkin in each category by November 14, 2020.

Choose your votes wisely, since you only will be able to vote once.

See the website: www.strathmorebelpre.org/halloween.

Contest Winners will be announced at the Rec Association Annual Meeting November 19, 2020.

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Swim Team, Rec and Civic Associations, and the expert assistance of Civic Association Chief Pumpkinmaster CHRIS JENNISON, Strathmore Bel Pre has its first pumpkin contest!

2231 BEL PRE RD
SILVER SPRING, MD 20906
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OWNED & OPERATED BY A LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY

20906 and COVID-19: Update

by Elliot Chabot

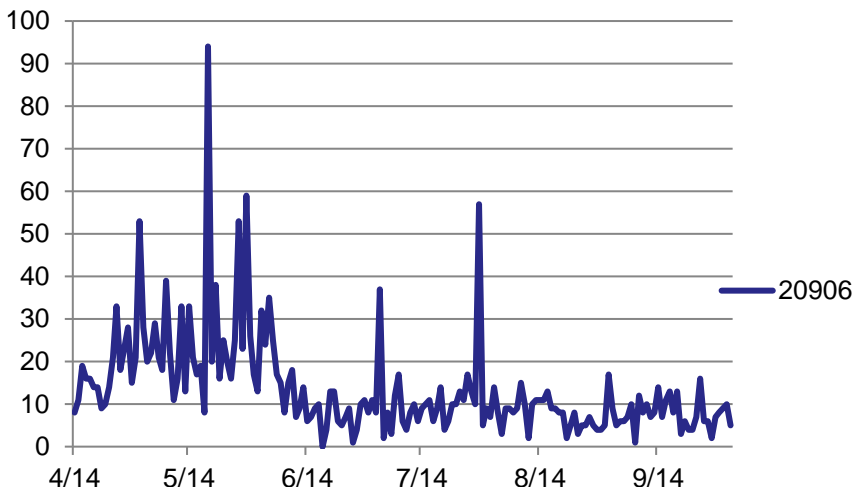
Since June 11, the number of new COVID-19 cases in zip code 20906 has plautoed at roughly 2 to 12 per day (other than spikes on July 3 and 29). We're definitely doing better than we were in the spring, when we were running 20-30 or more new cases a day, but we're not out of the woods yet.

Montgomery County has been publishing a daily cumulative tally of COVID-19 cases by zip code (from the Maryland Health Department) since mid-April.

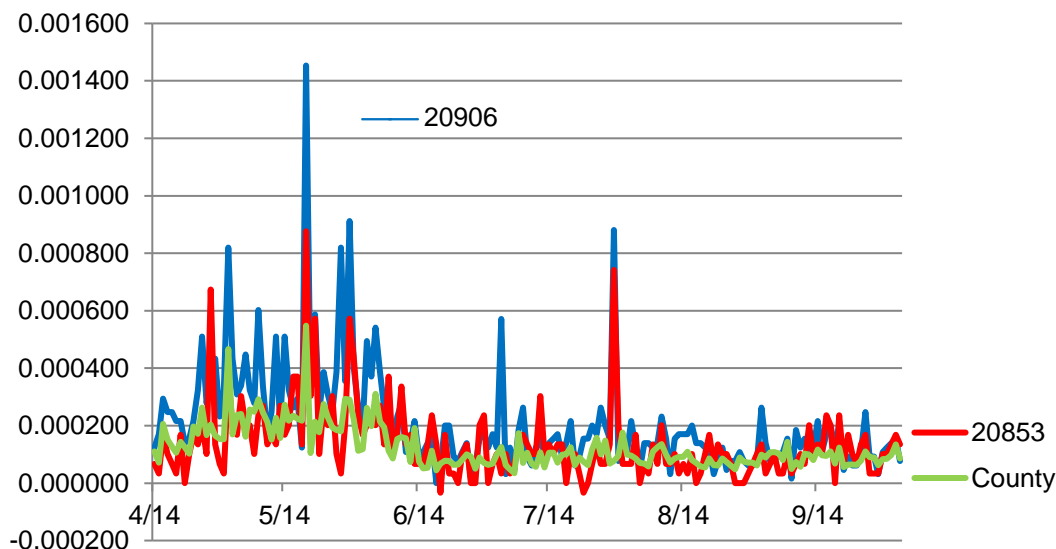
Large Zip Code

As mentioned in the June *Bugle*, zip code 20906 is a large zip code. It extends from Glenmont to just south of Olney. On the west it's bounded by Connecticut Avenue and then Georgia Avenue. On the east it goes to Northwest Branch Park. 20906 includes all of Strathmore Bel Pre, as well as Leisure World, Georgian Forest, Foxhall, Harmony Hills, Layhill Village, and other communities.

New reported COVID-19 cases in 20906



According to ZipDataMaps, zip code 20906 has a population of 64,696. By comparison Montgomery County's population is listed as 971,777, and zip code 20853 – just to the west of us (covering the rest of Aspen Hill) has a population of 29,673. This makes zip code 20906 one of the largest zip codes (by population) in the state. By dividing the number of COVID-19 cases reported by the population figures, we can compare the per capita results for Montgomery County, 20906, and 20853:





New reported COVID-19 cases per capita

In the spring, our zip code was consistently running a higher per capita rate of new cases than the county or our sister zip code 20853. As the summer progressed, the three rates have been converging.

– Continued on page 29 –

The Bugle October 2020

A photograph of a modern school building with large windows and wooden siding. Several students are walking on a path in front of the building. The background is filled with lush green trees.

 **Lower School:** *Montessori Method*
12 mos - Grade 5

 **Middle & Upper School:** *Project-Based*
Grades 6-12

Learn more about Barrie through one
of our virtual admission events
at barrie.org/admission

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admission@barrie.org

**Enrolling Now
for Fall 2021**

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 **BarrieSchool**

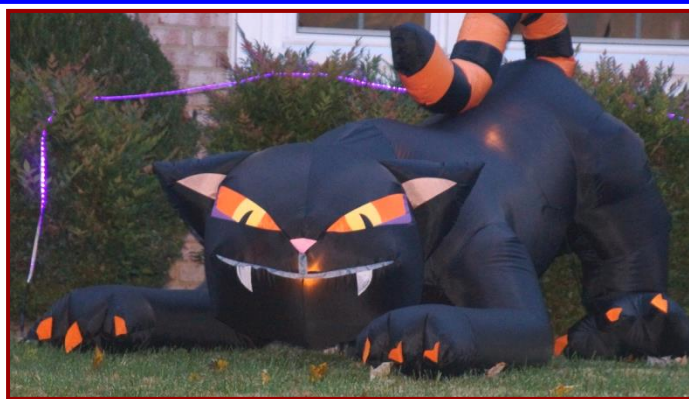
13500 Layhill Road, Silver Spring, MD
Minutes from ICC & Glenmont Metro
Bus Transportation & Extended Day

Nursing Homes

The Maryland Department of Health began publicly reporting the number of resident and staff cases and deaths for each individual nursing home, assisted living facility, and group home (with 10 or more residents) weekly since April 29. Within zip code 20906, the following facilities were listed as having one or more COVID-19 cases:

	Staff cases	Staff deaths	Resident cases	Resident deaths
Aspenwood Senior Living Community	12	2	17	7
Bedford Court	31	0	6	2
Bel Pre Health Care Center	11	0	52	4
JK House of Grace	7	0	14	1
Layhill Center	7	0	19	7

Since the report in the June *Bugle*, this represents an increase at Aspenwood of 9 staff cases, 2 staff deaths, 7 resident cases, and 3 resident deaths. Bedford Court experienced 21 additional staff cases and 2 additional resident cases. Layhill Center had 4 more staff cases.



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Schools & Camps

- Barrie School (p. 28) 301-576-2800

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- Paulette Ladas (RE/MAX) (p. 24) 301-674-7742

Home & Garden

- Ballou Gardening (p. 14) 301-260-1184
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SCOUTING FOR FOOD

PLEASE HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

Troop 763, Aspen Hill, Maryland

Sponsored by Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

Scouts will be in your neighborhood collecting non-perishable food items. **No glass items please.** See page 8 for more details.

You can help by placing your food donation by your front door!

9:30 A.M.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Food collected will help local food pantries to feed the hungry.

If we miss you and it's after 1pm, please email Troop763-

Leadership@aspengroves.com

or call/text (301) 458-5095

National Capital Area Counsel

Scouts BSA

www.NCACBSA.org

To join scouting visit BeAScout.org

Or call (301) 530-9360

