

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

June 2020

vol. 52 #3



4th of July Celebration 2020

by Lilla Hammond



It is a Strathmore Bel Pre tradition to have a flag ceremony, a parade with fire trucks and the boy scouts, a magician, followed by field and pool games . All fun ways to bring us together to enjoy and celebrate our country's birthday!

This year, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we have 2 new and different events to celebrate **July 4th** for our community.

Patriotic Car Parade – Expanded Route!

You all are invited to participate in our 1st ever July 4th Car Parade. Just decorate your car for the 4th. Have fun with red, white and blue colors! You don't need to decorate or sign up to be in the parade. We do encourage you to let us know if you plan to have your car in the parade – so that we can estimate the number of cars participating. We also hope everyone along our parade route will come out and wave to the paraders, and join the festivities.

Flag Ceremony 12:00 noon, Strathmore Elementary School

Car Parade 12:30 p.m., Strathmore Elementary School.

Parade Route, see page 17.

Kids and Teens: It's An Art Contest

In lieu of marching in a parade, children and teens in our community are invited to create art, and to show off their artistic and creative skills.

We have several art sketches for our younger artists to color. Several of the coloring sketches were created by MICHAEL HAMMOND, who grew up in our community, and now is a professional artist.

Older kids and teens may wish to create their own art work, and are encouraged to enter them in the contest.

To Enter The Contest

Obtain the printed sketches to color by emailing to BILL HAMMOND at w.m.hammond@verizon.net. Please include the ages of your artists participating, so we can send you the best sketches for those ages.. Information also will be available on the Strathmore Bel Pre website.

– Continued on page 17 –

Contents	
July 4 th Celebration	1
SBPCA Board	2
BPRA Board	3
President's Corner	4
Recreational Association	5
Dolphins Swim Team	7
20906 and COVID-19	8
Music at the Pool	9
Conservation Landscapes	11
Glenmont Exchange	13
Assessment Assistance	16
July 4 th Parade Map	17
Summer Movies	18
Aspen Hill Library News	20
Summer Calendar	21
Advertisers index	24



THE BUGLE

PUBLISHED BY THE STRATHMORE BEL PRE CIVIC ASSOCIATION SINCE 1969

CHRIS SWAN, Editor 301 871-1113

Assistant Editor: ELLIOT CHABOT 301 871-1113

Advertising: JOHN BOGASKY

301 460-1604

North Circulation: LOUISA HOAR 301 871-2954

South Circulation: DAN MANN

301 460-3330



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. 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

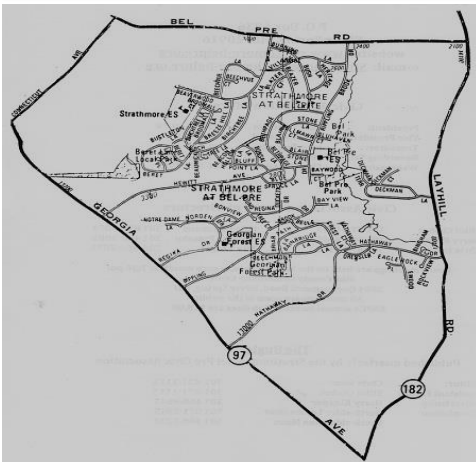
ELLIOT CHABOT 301 871-1113

CHRIS SWAN 301 871-1113

vacant

LILLA HAMMOND 301 518-7818

RITA VAUGHT 206 406-2871



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.

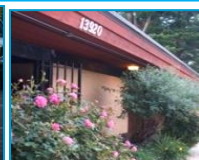
BPRA Board and committee meetings are announced at <http://strathmorebelpre.org/meetings>. Board meetings are normally the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, at the Bel Pre Elementary School, room 161 or 138, from October to May, or at the Pool pavilion, from June to September.

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, 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

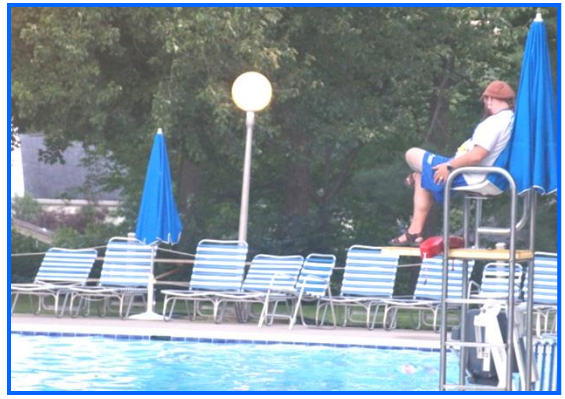
Administrative Assistant	BRENDA HENRY	301 871-6298
Assessment Assistance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Audit Coordinator	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Block Party & Spring Thing Coordinator	vacant	
Emergency Response & Planning Committee Chair	NANCY BECHTOL	301 871-3679
Entertainment & 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	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
Pool Property Helpers Coordinator	JOE MOELLER	moellerhj@aspengroves.com
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

I have written this column to our community for years now. But in all of these years, our community has never been faced with a pandemic crisis of this magnitude. We have lost so many people so quickly and many our elderly and some of our most needy citizens. No one could have ever imagined we would be living in quarantine for the past three months, and only now hoping to be able to reduce some restrictions. We are hopeful our lovely pool will open soon, though it will look much different this summer.



Pool

The Civic Association Board has been working very closely with the BPRA Board to develop plans for reopening our pool and the pool grounds. We want our neighbors and especially the children in our neighborhood to have a fun summer, so we will find a way to make it work as soon as the County allows us to open. New rules will require our patience and our discipline to make sure we keep everyone safe when we open. If we all work together, we will have a fabulous summer.



4th of July

Civic Association Board member LILLA HAMMOND has been working her magic to organize a 4th of July vehicle parade this year and hopes to have one of our County fire engines leading the procession of cars through the neighborhood. The 4th of July parade is one of our longest standing traditions in our neighborhood, and LILLA was not going to see it cancelled because of COVID-19. I am hoping many can join in on the fun that day to celebrate the birth of our Nation.

"Drive-In" Movies

Another amazing Civic Association board member is JOHN BOGASKY. JOHN has been thinking creatively to design and plan for drive-in movies this year using the pool parking lot for the location, and your vehicles to maintain social distance. Several neighbors have been assisting him in this plan. Thanks to ELLIOT CHABOT, JOE MOELLER, STEVE DEMMING, PHIL KOMINSKY, and CLARK BAUGHERAS who also have been instrumental in coming up with the equipment and plan. I sure hope we will be able to host these movies and soon!

Yard Sale, Movies and Music Concerts

We hope to get back to our usual events this Summer. We plan to hold our yard sale to this fall, **September 12**. We are hoping to host movie and music nights inside our pool grounds at some point this summer. We have to hope that this virus will be calmed by the heat and sun of summer. Hopefully we will be more prepared this Fall to prevent its spread when the weather cools.

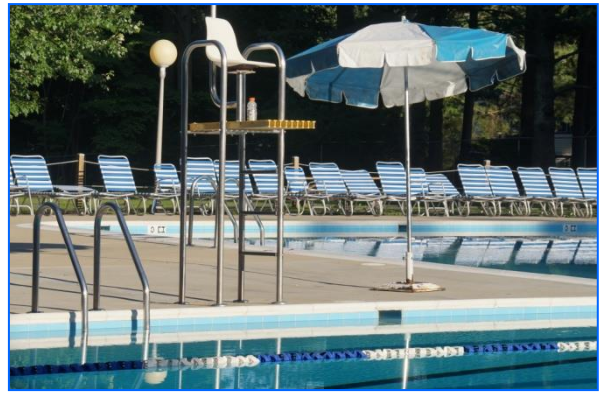
I continue to be so impressed by the creative thought and planning by many in our neighborhood during this time. The birthday and graduation parades have been so fun, and such a great way to remind folks they are thought of on their special days. Please keep the ideas coming, and the neighborly kindnesses flowing. Most importantly please continue to be well, and stay safe through this pandemic, and we will all be together again soon when it is safe to do so.



Bel Pre Recreational News

by Karen Purdy

President, Bel Pre Recreational
Association



In a normal year, this column would be filled with stories of a successful pool opening and information about upcoming community events at the pool. But this is certainly not a normal year, so instead I will share with you what we know, what we have been doing to get ready for the pool opening when it arrives, and what this summer at the pool may look like. Yes, we do plan to open our pool, unlike many other local pools operated by associations like ours.

Community, Compliance, Respect, Patience

This summer will look very different than summers of the past. In order to open the pool amid a pandemic, we have had to make many changes. We ask for patience, understanding and cooperation. We ask that you know and follow the rules and procedures that will be in place. Please remember that our lifeguards and other staff are usually community members, and are friends, teammates, babysitters, and neighbors. Please show them respect as they do their jobs enforcing compliance with both water safety rules and the COVID-19 rules and restrictions. The BPRA Board and Georgetown Aquatics staff are looking out for the safety of our pool users and the community as a whole. Cooperation and compliance will make a summer at the pool possible.



When will the pool open? Saturday, June 20?

The question first and foremost on many minds is “When will the pool open?” Unfortunately, as of this writing, we do not know. On May 29th, Montgomery County announced that outdoor pools would be allowed to open with restrictions sometime during Phase 2 of the County’s COVID-19 Recovery Plan. Phase 1 of that plan started on June 1st. Given that the COVID-19 situation is changing quickly, it is likely that the County has now announced a date for entering Phase 2 and possibly even a date to allow outdoor pools to open. Up to date information regarding an opening date will be posted on our website, StrathmoreBelPre.org, on the SBP Civic Association listserv, the Dolphins listserv, and at the pool.

Before we can open the pool

Please keep in mind, when the County announces a date that pools will be allowed to open, this does not automatically mean we will be able to open the pool on that date. A number of things need to happen before we can open the pool.

The State of Maryland and Montgomery County governments both must allow pools to open, before we can open. On May 27th, the State of Maryland announced that outdoor pools could open with restrictions on May 29th. Montgomery County just announced a pool opening date of June 19th, on June 15th, for lap swimming only.



Spring Maintenance and County Inspection. The County inspects the pool every year before opening. The BPRA has completed our yearly spring maintenance and cleaning. The pool was inspected by the County, and passed the County’s pre-opening inspection. Thus, we are ready to open, as soon as we are permitted.

– Continued on page 6 –

Bel Pre Recreational News

(Continued from page 5)

Compliance with Federal, State and County COVID-19 rules, Restrictions and Guidelines

The County noted in its May 29th press release that a number of rules, restrictions and guidelines would be in place when pools open. Those restrictions include, but are not limited to, a restriction on the maximum number of people allowed at the pool at any given time, social distancing both in and out of the water, the use of face coverings when outside the water whenever possible, and the continued closure of the wading (baby) pool.



Before opening the pool, the BPRA must have measures in place to meet the COVID-19 rules, restrictions and guidelines. To that end, the BPRA Board, the new BPRA Emergency Response and Planning Committee, and several other dedicated volunteers have been busy getting the pool ready to open, developing plans to open with new rules and restrictions, and developing procedures to help keep our community safe when the pool does open. While we are doing our best to be proactive and prepared, we fully anticipate that the County will issue additional rules, restrictions and guidelines when they announce the date that pools will be allowed to open. We must meet all restrictions before opening the pool.

What to expect when the pool opens?

Initially, to comply with social distancing regulations, the pool will be physically divided into sections for household use. Time slots for each pool area will be available via registration. You will come to the pool wearing a face covering, sign in and then proceed to their designated area on the pool deck. When the lifeguard indicates a swimming session is open, you will proceed to your designated pool area to swim. Once the swimming time is over, everyone will clear the pool, return to their belongings, put their face covering(s) on, sign out and then exit the pool grounds. Additional details on these procedures, the reservation system and complete rules are posted on StrathmoreBelPre.org

The BPRA Board understands that this is a rapidly changing situation and will reevaluate the rules, processes and procedures on a regular basis as the summer progresses and as County guidance changes.

The full set of rules, including information about guests and revised age restrictions for unaccompanied minors will be posted on StrathmoreBelPre.org and at the pool.

Generally, you will need to:

- ❖ know and follow the rules (see StrathmoreBelPre.org)
- ❖ follow the directions of the lifeguards and staff
- ❖ sign in and sign out each time you come to the pool
- ❖ practice social distancing both in and out of the water
- ❖ wear face coverings when not in the water
- ❖ bring your own chairs
- ❖ bring your own kickboard (for lap swimming only)

The baby pool and surrounding area, pirate ship, and playground will be closed.

What About Community Events?

We are hopeful that at some point this summer, we will be able to hold some of our planned community events, but how things unfold will depend on County rules, restrictions and guidelines. – Continued on the bottom of page 10 –



Dolphins Report

by Claire Pak, Secretary, SBP Dolphins

We hope that this issue finds you all healthy and well. After the long quarantine, we're sure that the question uppermost in your minds is "What about the Dolphins? What about the swim season?" As of this writing, the Prince Mont Swim League plans to proceed with the 2020 season. Our swimmers hope to be back in the water for an abbreviated season. The first meet will be on either July 11 or July 18.



Virtual Meets

Our meets will be "virtual." Our coaches will exchange line-ups with the opposing teams' coaches, and then each team will swim events at their own pool, with results exchanged afterward to determine a final score. Because of pool capacity limits, we may need to split each virtual meet into two sessions. More information will follow as we gather information and gain a better understanding of the County guidelines.

Financial Assistance Appreciated!

If you are in a position to make a financial contribution to the team, we will be very grateful. Our children and teenagers have given up so much already and we hope that a short summer of swimming will make up for this long period of isolation. Your support helps us to defray expenses. Contributions are tax-deductible. If you are able to make a contribution, our address is: Strathmore Bel Pre Swim Team Association, P.O. Box 9292, Aspen Hill, MD 20916-9292. If a financial contribution is not possible, we hope that you'll continue to cheer us on! Please do bookmark our website, and check it frequently for updates: <https://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com/>

New to the Neighborhood ??

If you're new to the neighborhood, and you'd like to learn more about your community's Swim Team, please contact any member of the Strathmore Bel Pre Swim Team Association Board of Directors:

GREG MILLER	President	winstonhen@aol.com	DENISE REYES	Treasurer	casareyes1@gmail.com
MIKE BEARMAN	Vice-President	mbearman@vecna.com	KAREN PURDY	A Meet Mgr	klpurdy@hotmail.com
CLAIRE PAK	Secretary	claire0618@gmail.com			



woman-owned,
small business &
SBP resident!


MASTIHA
ARTISAN GREEK BAKERY

MASTIHABAKERY.COM

order online / pick up | Kensington, Maryland
use discount code: SBP for 10% off your first order!

20906 and COVID-19: By the Numbers

by Elliot Chabot

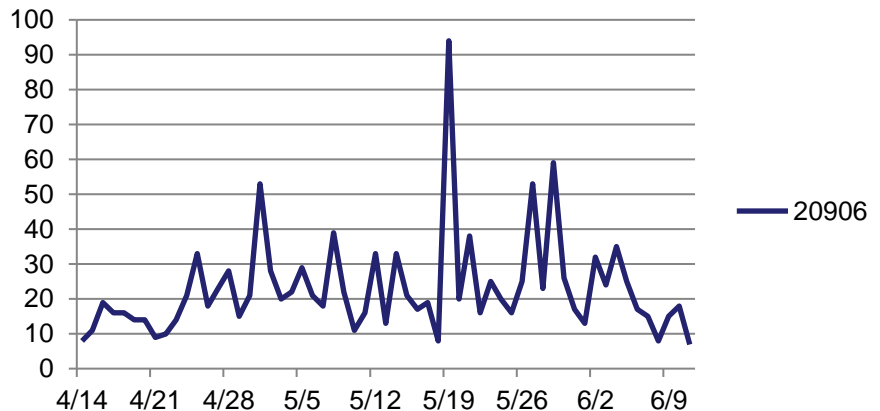
May 19 may have been the day we started to turn the corner on COVID-19 in zip code 20906. (Cross your fingers!) Though it's too soon to say definitively.

On April 13, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services began publishing, the daily cumulative tally of COVID-19 cases by zip code (from the Maryland Health Department). The numbers are updated every day at 10 am.

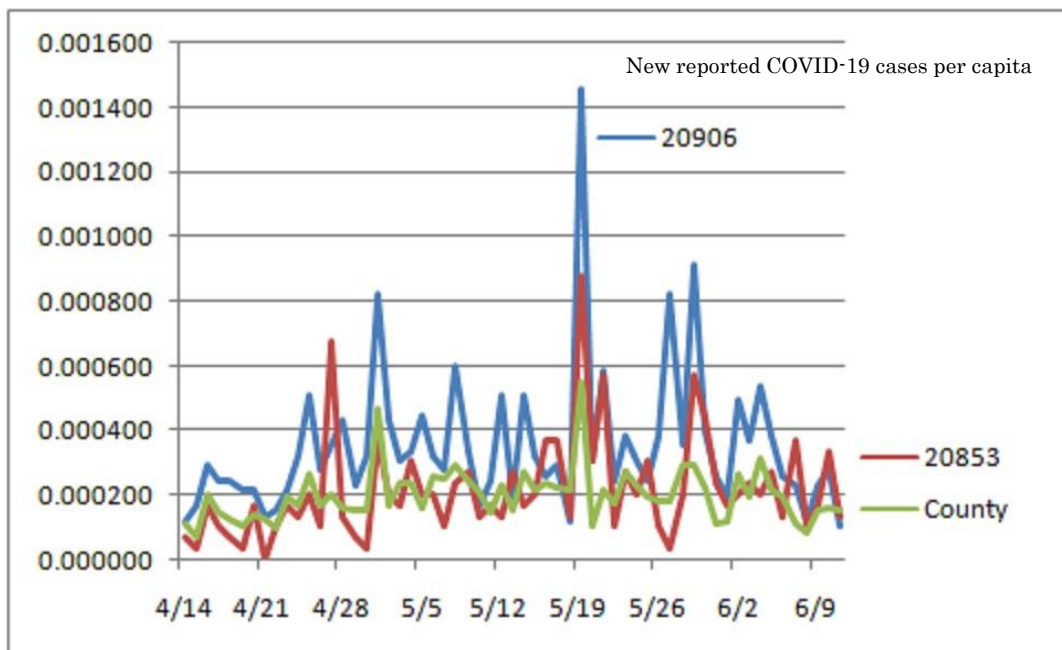
Large Zip Code

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:



- continued on top of page 10 -

Summer Music 2020

by Chris Swan

We are hopeful that the State and County COVID-19 and health regulations will allow our summer musical concerts to be enjoyed this summer. Check the Civic Association's listserv, the pool bulletin board, and the Strathmore Bel Pre website for the latest details.

The Breakaways **July 21 4 pm to 6 pm**
Featuring **ELIZABETH and PHIL KOMINSKI**

Our very own musical stars! Back by constant demand, they will bring us their latest musical finds, and play our favorites as well.



Motor Driven Band **August 23 4 pm to 6 pm**
Featuring **PAUL STAGNITTO**

Long time community member PAUL STAGNITTO returns with his classic rock band, bringing their rocking rhythms and deep knowledge of rock and roll.



SOLE D'ITALIA
RESTAURANT

14324 Layhill Road 301-598-6660

FAMILY OWNED FOR OVER 40 YEARS
YOUR 1 STOP CATERING SHOP
DAILY SPECIALS



Meals on Wheels of Wheaton

We Can Help!

Do you know someone who is home-bound? We deliver nutritious, freshly cooked meals in Leisure World, Silver Spring, Kensington & Wheaton.

301-942-1111

10101 Connecticut Avenue **Accepting New Clients!**
Kensington, MD 20895

www.mowwheaton.org **Volunteers Needed!**

Award Winning

20906 and COVID-19 (continued from page 8)

The numbers show that from since at least mid-April, our zip code had a consistently higher per capita number of new COVID-19 cases reported than all of Montgomery County, or our sister zip code 20853.

Nursing Homes

On April 29, 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). 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	3	0	10	0
Bedford Court	10	0	4	2
Bel Pre Health Care Center	11	0	52	4
JK House of Grace	7	0	14	1
Layhill Center	3	0	19	7

Bel Pre Recreational News (continued from page 6)



Thank You

Thank you to BUD KESSLER for arranging parking lot crack filling and basketball court sealing, to KYE PAK for re-routing the pavilion gutter downspouts and installing construction fence around the pirate ship and playground, TED BECHTOL for painting the depth markers around the pool, MARK FORAKER, BILLY and TED BECHTOL for fence repair and to JOE MOELLER RUPPERT and for coordinating spring repairs and maintenance, coordinating volunteer efforts at the pool, and for completing countless projects at the pool.

Thank you to Emergency Response and Planning Committee Chair NANCY BECHTOL and committee members MIKE

BEARMAN, JOHN BOGASKY, ELLIOT CHABOT, MARK FORAKER, CLAIRE PAK, BILLY RUPERT, and CHRIS SWAN.

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 this edition of *The Bugle* or contact me at klpurdy@hotmail.com.

If you are interested on serving on the BRPA's Board of Trustees, please contact Nominating Committee Chair MARK FORAKER at mark4aker@hotmail.com. He can answer any questions you may have about serving on the Board.

Our New Conservation Landscapes

by Cecily Nabors

A wall of wineberry edged our woods. Birds and toads liked the tangle of multiflora rose, wineberry, and forsythia, woven together with honeysuckle, at the edge of our back lawn. But it was time for the invasives to go. I e-mailed Backyard Bounty, a local landscaper, asking them to give me advice, dig out the tangle and the wineberry wall, and install native plants to screen our neighbor's fence.



I'd been wanting to do something strong and personal for the Earth. I wanted to make a difference: add native vegetation, allow less runoff water, and observe the results.

MARCH 2019 – The Project Starts

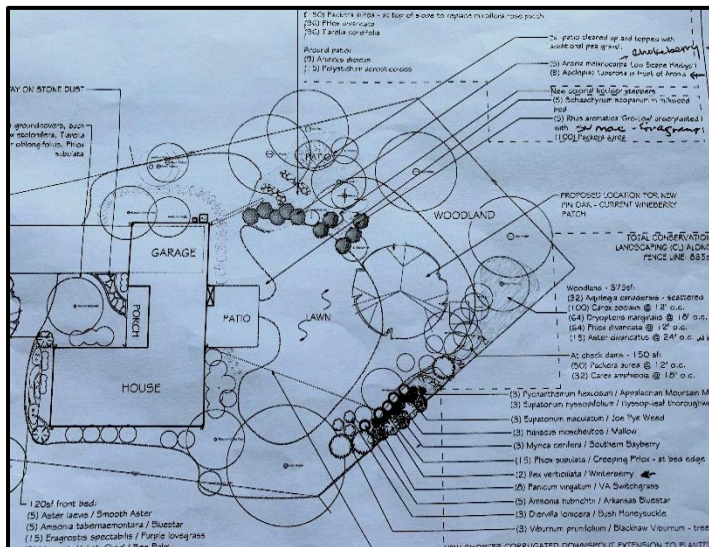
Backyard Bounty came to appraise our yard. They said our long swale in front of the fence was a good candidate for a RainScapes project! I was excited, partly because that would mean Montgomery County would subsidize part of the cost. They filled out the application to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for site evaluation. DEP was swamped with requests, so that took a while.

JULY 2019 – Two Conservation Landscapes!

Two people from the DEP Watershed Restoration Division looked over our situation. They agreed: the swale qualified for a conservation landscape. It drains not just water already piped from the downspout on the eastern corner of our roof but from neighbors' roofs also. We had easily more than the required total of 250 square feet that would be involved with the project, with the water flow directed into our wooded area for on-site stormwater management.

We had also piped the drainage from the western corner of the house down into our woods. The new plan would stop both drainpipes at the top of the slope. Plantings and small stone checkdams would slow the water flow so it could be absorbed. Each corner of the house would drain into its own conservation landscape.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019 – Initial Design, Suggestions, Decisions



Backyard Bounty presented initial drawings and suggestions for the two conservation landscapes. We discussed plant possibilities, always remembering the “deer pressure.” The plants I hoped for that deer do like (e.g., winterberry) would be positioned against the fence and surrounded by things deer don't like (e.g., sedges) as a natural defense. I suggested additional items like Joe Pye weed and butterfly weed for pollinators, and a pin oak to replace the one we lost. The landscaper worked my suggestions into the design, and noted that care would be taken of our existing native mayapple and Jack-in-the-Pulpits in the woods.

– Continued on page 12 –

Our New Conservation Landscapes

(continued from page 11)

JANUARY 2020 – The Final Plan

The final plan included a general woodlot clean-up, resettling the stones of the woods path, and installing over a thousand plants. The County's RainScapes program may cover as much as \$7,500 of the cost. This whole thing was big and a little scary, but I was looking forward to spring, when work would start.

APRIL 2020 – Time to Plant!

The plants went in during the third week of April. Backyard Bounty dug out the tangle and our big clumps of wineberry, pulled the stiltgrass and garlic mustard from the slopes and woodlot, smoothed the swale, and added a layer of rich black compost.

Stones were added to protect the pipe discharge sites and create checkdams to control water flow. Deer investigated at each step. When the plants went in, they looked small and vulnerable.



- Continued on page 23 -

Given Highest Rating by Consumer Checkbook Magazine

Robert Pence Remodeling, LLC

Web Site: RobertPenceRemodeling.com

MHIC# 136802

Roofing * Siding * Gutters and Trim

Seamless Gutters (All Colors)

Featuring Certain-Teed Products

36 Years in Business

Member Better Business Bureau



Call 240-876-3492

e-mail: rpremodel@Verizon.net

Angie's List Super Service Award 14 Years in a row

News from the Glenmont Exchange

by John Bogasky

Georgia Avenue: Victim or Beneficiary??

Over the last few years, our local stretch of Georgia Avenue has been the beneficiary (victim?) of two major capital improvement projects. First was the 2018 major repaving, repairing what had become a badly damaged road surface. Second, was the 2019-2020 WSSC Water Main Replacement project which is just now finishing up. Thanks to WSSC's patchy repairs, parts of Georgia Avenue are now back to the same bumpy, dilapidated condition, just one year after the repaving project. Both projects were long planned. WSSC first briefed the Glenmont Exchange about their water main replacement project in November of 2016.

The tragedy is that the projects were done in the wrong order, with the Water Main Project tearing up the newly pristine road surface. If the water main project had been first, only one major repaving job would be required. Now, we must pay for two.

Georgia Avenue is a State Road, so responsibility for managing it falls to the State Highway Administration (SHA). It was SHA that managed the repaving project and that issued a permit to WSSC for their project. Yet, despite these shared responsibilities, there is no evidence that SHA tried to coordinate the schedules for the two projects.

Our local state senator, BEN KRAMER, has been looking into this question after I brought it to his attention at a local community meeting. He has met with SHA, who assured him that WSSC's SHA permit requires them to resurface the road following the water main repairs ("final work zone roadway restorative resurfacing"). SHA said back in December that this work was scheduled to occur in "late Spring to early Summer". There is still time to meet that schedule as I write this.

SHA did not address why the projects were done in this sequence. We are all WSSC ratepayers and we are all taxpayers. In the end, all of us as citizens bear the cost for the duplicate resurfacings. Its too late for SHA to fix that error for Georgia Avenue, but Senator KRAMER has promised to work to fix it so that SHA will do a better job of coordinating future projects. Time will tell.

The SHA representative who met with Senator KRAMER was 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. You can reach Senator KRAMER at ben.kramer@senate.state.md.us.

– Continued on page 14 –

Ballou Gardening
George H. Ballou
Call Anytime 301-260-1184



Planting, Mulching
Trimming, Fertilization
Tree Work, Walkways
Spring & Fall Clean-ups
Ornamental
Handyman Repairs

Serving you in the MD, VA & DC Area (includes Baltimore)



Carroll Knolls Local Park Renovation Approved by Planning Board

Carroll Knolls Local Park is on the former site of the Montgomery College of Art and Design, just south of Wheaton along Georgia Ave. The County's Parks Department bought the site in 2012.

The park renovation will include the County's first paved "pump track." Pump tracks are a circuit or small hills and banked turns designed to be ridden without pedaling, instead using up-and-down body movements to propel bikes, scooters, skateboards, etc.

Other park improvements include a new playground area, open space, a picnic shelter, and a new parking lot.

The Montgomery Planning Board approved the \$2.8 million renovation in May. The project must receive approval and funding from the Montgomery County Council before construction can begin. Given the reduced prospects for County revenue as a result of the pandemic, it may take some time for this project to come to fruition.



Wishing you and yours a Safe, Happy, & Healthy Fourth of July!



*As we count our blessings,
we thank the brave who have served and are serving.*



Lilla Leike Hammond, GRI, CRS
Direct: 301-518-7818
Lilla@LNF.com / www.LillaHammond.com
Michael A. Hammond, REALTOR
Direct: 202-271-9089
Michael.Hammond@LNF.com

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE



CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
795 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
Office: 301-424-0900

Serving students age 12 months through grade 12

Barrie School

Enrolling Now
for Fall 2020



Discover Montessori: 12 mos - Grade 5
Project-Based Learning: Grades 6-12

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

(301) 576-2800 | admission@barrie.org

barrie.org



Ages
4-14

Barrie Camp

Camp opening
delayed until July 6



Visit barrie.org/camp for updates.

13500 Layhill Road, Silver Spring, MD

Minutes from ICC & Glenmont Metro
Bus Transportation & Extended Day

BPRA Board Creates Assessment Assistance Committee

by Dave Pullen

Treasurer, Bel Pre Recreational Association

All of our lives have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For those who are struggling financially as a result, the Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) has created an Assessment Assistance Committee. The Committee will handle homeowner requests for assistance with payment of the annual Assessment and the associated fees that come with late payment of the Annual Assessment. All requests for assistance requests will be treated as confidential, and no data provided to the Committee will be disclosed to any other person without the requesting homeowner's written consent.

The Assessment Assistance Committee will operate under these constraints:

1. BPRA governing documents require member-homeowners to pay the annual assessment, and do **not** allow the Board to waive that requirement.
2. The Montgomery County Commission on Common Ownership Communities (the County agency that oversees all homeowners' associations in the County) has ruled that the BPRA's governing documents **require** that interest be charged (6% per year, currently \$1.50/month) on payments received "late."
3. BPRA governing documents set **March 1 as the due date for paying the annual assessment**. There is a "grace period" of 30 days to make payment without incurring penalty, which expires midnight, March 31st.
4. Payments received after March 31 are delinquent. Delinquency is a technical term. It does not imply any moral deficiency or intent to evade responsibility by a homeowner. BPRA accepts mailed payments bearing a postmark not later than March 31 as "on time," regardless of when received. Similarly, on-line payments are "timely" if recorded within one business day of the date of transaction.

The Assessment Assistance Committee will now promptly review and decide homeowner's requests for extensions to pay and/or relief from penalties assessed. Only homeowners with no existing, prior-year arrearage, are eligible. The Committee will consider documented impacts of job loss or reduction in hours, unforeseen medical expenses, failure to receive monies expected because of an existing court order or binding contract/agreement, and any other credible explanations for why payment may be late – including whether BPRA failed to provide proper notice to the homeowner.

The Committee is authorized to negotiate payment plans for satisfying the Assessment payment, provided any such plan involves a good faith up-front payment of at least \$100 *and* results in payment in full in no more than 5 months' time. A homeowner who enters into an agreement with the Committee will be considered to be in "good standing" – and hence, eligible to access the common property facilities (tennis courts, pool, etc.) on the same basis as any other member — so long as the homeowner adheres to the payment plan requirements. If not, the remaining indebtedness is accelerated (meaning, the full, remaining balance becomes immediately due and payable) and the member's privileges are suspended until the account is paid in full.

In the future

Homeowners, to be considered a request for relief from full payment, must make their request no later than the end of the "grace period" for timely payment (March 31). A form for the request will be available on the Strathmore Bel Pre website.

Creation of the Assessment Assistance Committee will facilitate prompt decisions on homeowner requests for relief and assure the community that all applications are decided on a common set of standards and criteria.

4th of July Events (continued from page 1)

Complete your Art Contest Entry

When your contest art is completed, please scan it or take a photo of it, and email it as an attachment to the BILL HAMMOND at w.m.hammond@verizon.net. Be sure to include the artist's name and age for each work.

Deadline for All Art Entries is Labor Day, 2020

Prizes will be awarded and announced in the next issue of *The Bugle*. Entries will be displayed on our community's website at www.strathmorebelpre.org, and in *The Bugle*, as space permits.

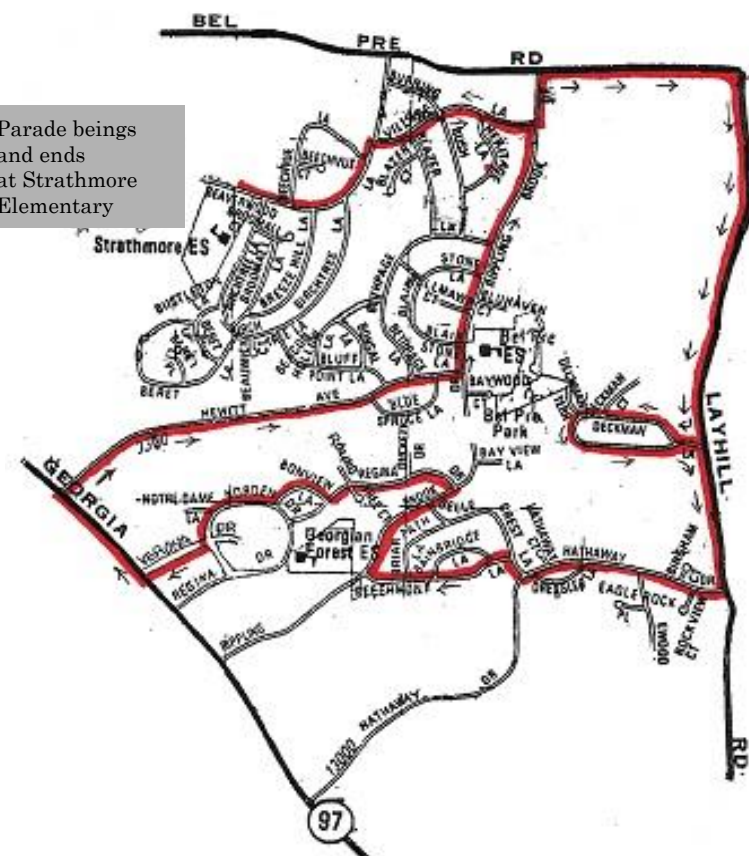
July 4th

We hope you will join us and help make our July 4th celebration a great event!!

Contact July 4th Celebration Co-chairs:

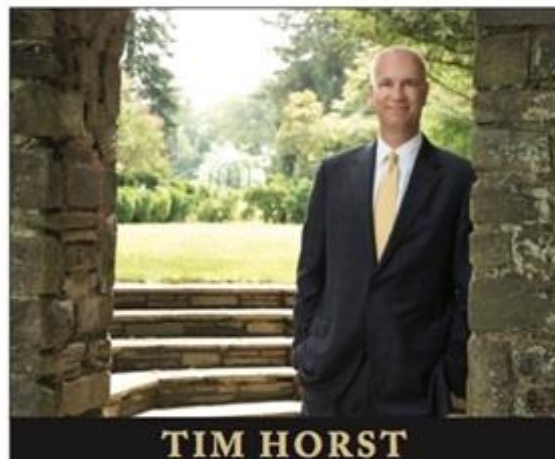
BILL HAMMOND (301-509-4621) or LILLA HAMMOND (301-518-7818) with questions

July 4th 2020 CAR Parade Route



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

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



Office: 301.424.0900 x127

Cell: 301.370.3864

E-mail: Team@TimHorst.com



Look for your
complimentary American Flag
on July 4th and Apple Butter
during the holiday season!



LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

O: 301.424.0900

2020 Summer Movies at the Pool

June 27 Drive-In?



Aladdin

July 11



Sonic The Hedgehog

August 1



A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood

September 5



Spider-Man: Far From Home

Come out and enjoy a movie this summer at our pool's natural hillside amphitheater. We believe that our hillside affords ample room for outdoor social distancing starting in July.

A Drive-In Movie June 27! We have plans to organize a June drive-in movie in the pool parking lot. We have the equipment we need, but we still need permission from the County. Cars will be in every other parking space to generate social distancing. Our Drive-In plans also give us a backup if COVID-19 restrictions prevent us from showing movies on our hillside. Watch the SBPcivic listserv and the SBP Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/strathmoreatbelpre/>) for updates and rain delay announcements.

All movies start at dusk, between 8:30 and 8:45.

Please thank our sponsors! The SBPCA Summer Entertainment Series is only possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors whose donations cover licensing, performer and equipment costs. Our 2020 sponsors are listed below. If you want to become a sponsor, please contact SBPCA Treasurer JOHN BOGASKY at johnbogasky@hotmail.com. Your support can help us grow and sustain this SBP tradition.



2019: Hillside social distancing before it was trendy!

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

SBP Superstars

Rita Vaught



Weichert Realtors

Tim Horst



LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Paulette Ladas



RE/MAX
Realty Group

The Bel Pre Recreational Association

Community Champions

Lilla Hammond



LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

Pizza Stop



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

2231 BEL PRE RD
SILVER SPRING, MD 20906
PLAZA DEL MERCADO



PIZZA STOP



MON-SAT 11-9PM | SUN 11-8PM
WWW.EATPIZZASTOP.COM | @EATPIZZASTOP
(301) 598 3200

\$4 OFF

**JUMBO 20" PIZZA
AND
6-PACK OF BEER
OR 1 BOTTLE OF WINE**

\$29.95

**2 LARGE 16"
2 TOPPING PIZZAS
AND
2L SODA**

\$2 OFF

**ANY
PASTA ENTREE**

\$2 OFF

**ANY
12" SUB**

OWNED & OPERATED BY A LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY

Aspen Hill Library News

by Elliot Chabot

The Aspen Hill Library – along with all of the other public libraries in the County – remains closed. The County Executive announced on June 10 that Montgomery County libraries will begin providing curbside service in Phase 3 of the County's COVID-19 re-opening. With Phase 2 starting Friday, June 19, Phase 3 is not likely to start until the week of June 29, at the earliest.



At the June 10 meeting of the Montgomery County Library Board, Montgomery County Public Libraries Director Anita Vassallo reported that:

- ❑ 2 weeks before curbside service begins, all library staff (who have been working from home since March 16) will return to their library. The first week will be spent on training how to operate under the new COVID-19 rules; re-arranging all the furniture in the library to meet the social distancing standards; and processing the books returned before March 16.
- ❑ The week before curbside service starts, the library will start accepting the return of books and other materials that were checked out before the closure. All fines will be waived for 30 days. The library plans to quarantine any returned books for 72 hours before returning them to the shelves. [late breaking news: Library Book drops will open **June 29** for books to be returned, and Library staff will answer the telephones.]
- ❑ Starting the 3rd week, “curbside” service will begin. If you contact the library (by telephone or internet) they will locate the books that you request. You will be set up with an appointment 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. [late breaking news: Contactless holds pick-up service will start **July 6**.]
- ❑ Sometime in the future (no particular date yet planned) the public will be able to come back into the main part of the library. The Library System currently envisions that this, too, will be by appointment only, with one family permitted per 200 square feet of public space.

Postponed, cancelled, or reformatted

While the Library moves slowly toward re-opening, some annual events are being recast.

- This year's **Summer Reading Program will run from June 15 to August 31**. Support will be on-line. For more information, go to MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/library/programs/summer-read-and-learn.html.
- The Annual General Membership Meeting of the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library (originally scheduled for May 30) will be held on Saturday, August 29, and will be held by teleconference. The annual luncheon and speaker will be deferred to next year.
- Plans for the 29th annual Aspen Hill Community Festival – scheduled for September 19 – are still up in the air. If the festival is held, it will likely be very much scaled back from recent years.
- The Fall used book sale – scheduled for October 24 – is in doubt. Updates will be published on the Strathmore Bel Pre listserv. For more information, contact the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library at AspenHill@folmc.org.

Still charging on

One thing that the pandemic has not stopped is the work on the gardens in front of the Aspen Hill Library. Thanks to the hard work of the Aspen Hill Garden Club, weeding, watering, and maintenance of the gardens continues.



2020 Strathmore Bel Pre Early Summer Calendar

~ June/July 2020 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All dates are tentative due to COVID-19!!! Events struck-through indicate cancelled or rescheduled events.		Pool Hours to June 15: Mon to Thurs 3 to 8 pm Fri 3 to 9 pm Sat noon to 9 pm Sun noon to 8 pm	Pool Hours June 20 to August 30: Every day noon to 9 pm July 4: noon-6		Pool Hours Aug 31 - Sep 3: 3 pm to 8 pm Sept 4: 3 to 9 Sept 5-7: noon to 9 pm	
	June 1 Swim team pm practices all week Montgomery County COVID-19 reopening Phase 1 starts	2 Rec. Association Board teleconference	3 Rec. Association Emergency Planning Committee teleconference	4 Rec Assoc Governing Docs Com teleconf	5 Swim Team Ice Cream Social	6 Drive-In Movie: Aladdin rescheduled to 6/27 Swim Team Blue-White Meet
7	8 Swim Team pm practices all week Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee teleconference	9 	10 	11	12 Swim Team Pasta Party	13 Swim Team A Meet Friends of AH Library Budget Committee meeting
14	15 MCPS Last Day of School Longer Pool Hours begin tomorrow	16 Swim Team am practices begin Swim Team Buddy Breakfast Rec. Association Board teleconference	17 Swim Team B Meet—Twinbrook @ SBP 	18 Rec Assoc Governing Docs Com teleconf	19 Swim Team Pasta Party Montgomery County COVID-19 re-opening Phase 2 starts	20 Pool Reopens!! Swim Team A Meet Friends of AH Library Bd. teleconference Music Concert: rescheduled to 8/23
21	22 Swim Team first practice 	23 Swim Team Swimathon Civic Association Board teleconference Rec. Association Board teleconference	24 Swim Team B Meet—W. Laurel Swim Club @ SBP 	25	26 Swim Team Pasta Party No Swim Team pm practice	27 Swim Team A Meet Swim Team Dolphin Dance Drive-in Movie: Aladdin
28	29 Aspen Hill Library book drop re-opens 	30 	July 1 	2	3 Memorial Meet 8:30 am Swim Team Pasta Party No Swim Team pm practice	July 4th! Pool open 12 noon to 6 pm Flag Ceremony noon Parade 12:30 pm Entertainment 12:30 Field Games 2:00
5	6 Curb-side service starts at Aspen Hill Library	7 Rec. Association Board meeting	8 Swim Team B Meet @ Norbeck Hills	9	10 Swim Team Pasta Party No Swim Team pm Practice	11 virtual Swim Team A meet, perhaps Movie Night: Sonic the Hedgehog

2020 Strathmore Bel Pre Summer Calendar

~ July/August/September 2020 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 12 	13 Swim Team Divisionals Practice will be rescheduled AH Lib. Advisory Committee teleconference	14 Swim Team Divisionals Practice will be rescheduled 	15 Swim Team Jelly Bean Meet, perhaps Swim Team Divisionals Practice will be rescheduled	16 Swim Team Divisionals Practice am and pm will be rescheduled	17 Swim Team Pasta Party with Paper Plate Awards 6 pm Swim Team Divisionals Practice am will be rescheduled	18 Swim Team B-Division Championships will be rescheduled to early August as a virtual meet
19 Music Concert: The Breakaways - featuring BETH & PHIL KOMINSKI 4-6	20 Swim Team All-Stars Practice am regular practice instead all week	21 Swim Team All-Stars Practice am Rec. Association Board meeting (if needed)	22 Swim Team All-Stars Practice am Swim Team Awards Banquet hope to reschedule to Aug.	23 Swim Team All-Stars Practice am	24 Swim Team All-Stars Practice am	25 Swim Team Prince Mont Swim League All-Stars
26	27 	28 Civic Association Board Meeting	29 	30	31 	August 1 Movie Night: A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood Swim Team Divisionals perhaps
2	3	4 Rec. Association Board meeting	5	6	7	8 Swim Team Divisionals perhaps
9 	10	11 	12 	13	14 	15
16	17	18 Rec. Association Board meeting (if needed)	19	20 	21	22
23 Music Concert: Motor Driven Band-Featuring PAUL STAGNITTO	24 	25 Civic Association Board Meeting	26 	27	28 	29 Friends of Aspen Hill Library virtual annual meeting (teleconference)
30	31 MCPS School Year Starts Shorter Pool Hours begin	September 1 Rec. Association Board meeting	2	3 	4	5 Movie Night: Spider-man: Far From Home
6	7 Labor Day Pool closes @ 9 No Pool Guest Fees	8	9 	10	11 	12 39th annual Yard Sale (originally 5/30) Rec. Association Board meeting

Our New Conservation Landscapes

(continued from page 12)

MAY 2020 – Our New Gardens

The garden work is in a finished-for-now stage. The plants are thriving. The vulnerable ones will be less vulnerable as they get older/woodier, and as the unpalatable sedges grow up to make “walls” in front of the ones that deer find tasty. (For now, those plants are sprayed.) The new pin oak will be coming from Tree Montgomery in the fall.



I confess to needing some time to learn the plants I've never had before, like *Packera aurea*, golden ragwort, a ground cover, pictured above. This Fowler's toad (on the left) is also learning about its lovely new habitat.

The fight with garlic mustard, stiltgrass, and wineberry isn't over. But we have a small victory, a win for native plants and pollinators, and added protection for the Chesapeake Bay.

WHY RE/MAX?

PAULETTE M LADAS
9711 Washingtonian Blvd. Suite 160
North Potomac, MD 20878
301-674-7742 (Direct)
pauletteladas@gmail.com
www.pauletteladas.com

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!

That's the sign of a RE/MAX agent®
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIALIST!
PAULETTE LADAS OFFICE: 301-921-4500

RE/MAX 
 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals

**We're not like the others.
And neither are you.**



Buy Local! Support Our Advertisers!

Our advertisers are members of our community who have been helping pay for the cost of printing *The Bugle* – that you receive free on your doorstep. Now they need your help. Please patronize them and let them know you saw their ad in *The Bugle*!

Food

- Mastiha Artisan Greek Bakery
(p. 7) 301-648-1403 (new advertiser!)
- Meals on Wheels of Wheaton
(p. 9) 301-942-1111
- Pizza Stop
(p. 19) 301-598-3200 (new advertiser!)
- Sole D'Italia
(p. 9) 301-598-6660

Schools & Camps

- Barrie School (p. 15) 301-576-2800

Real Estate

- Lilla & Michael Hammond (Long & Foster/Christie's) (p. 14) 301-518-7818
- Tim Horst (Long & Foster/Christie's)
(p. 17) 301-370-3864
- Paulette Ladas (RE-MAX)
(p. 23) 301-674-7742

Home & Garden

- Ballou Gardening
(p. 13) 301-260-1184
- Robert Pence Remodeling
(p. 12) 240-876-3492



Help Our Community Celebrate July 4th, 2020!

Yes! Please count me in...

...to be part of Strathmore Bel Pre's July 4th Celebration!

NAME _____

PHONE: _____ OR E-MAIL: _____

On JULY 4TH, 2020, below are the ways and times help is needed:

- ___ Parade of Cars..... Yes, I plan to be a part of the parade.
- ___ Registration & Safety..... On July 4th
- ___ Children's' Art on the Web..... Help with children's art on the web
- ___ Decorations & Signs..... Before July 4th

To participate:

Complete this form, take a photo and text it to 301-509-4621!
or call Bill Hammond at 301-509-4621 or Lilla Hammond at 301-518-7818
or email this form to: w.m.hammond@verizon.net.

THANK YOU!!! YOUR JULY 4TH CELEBRATION TEAM

PS: Check the listserv and strathmorebelpre.org for the latest information!