

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

June 2022

vol. 54 #3

4th of July Celebration 2022

by Lilla Hammond

It is a Strathmore Bel Pre tradition to have a fun Celebration for the 4th, to bring us all together to celebrate our country's birthday! This year we have a Flag Ceremony, and 2 parades: one for kids to stroll, bike, walk, and two, a Patriotic Car Parade, with prizes! MICHAEL CHAMBERLIN is back with his special July 4th magic! And Fields Games for the kids!

Parade Registration	11:30 am, Strathmore Elementary School
Fire Trucks Arrive	12 noon, Strathmore Elementary School
Flag Ceremony	12:20 pm, Strathmore Elementary School
Parades Begin*	12:30 pm, Strathmore Elementary School
The Magic Show	1:00 pm, Pool Pavilion (sign-in to enter)
Field Games for the Kids	2:00 pm, Pool Grounds



***Children's Parade Route:** North on Beaverwood Lane from Strathmore Elementary School. The parade then turns at the second entrance to Birchtree Lane, and next turns left on the paved path, following the path to our community swimming pool

***Car Parade Route Map:** Starts and ends at Strathmore Elementary School (see [back page](#).)

Yard Sale September 24 (rain date 9/25) Shred-It September 24 (rain OR shine)

Have sensitive papers that need shredding? Thanks to PAULETTE LADAS (RE/MAX), an industrial size paper shredder will be at the pool parking lot for 2 hours on **September 24**, from 10 am to 12 noon, to turn those papers into confetti. Please bring no more than 2 medium boxes per person.

Come for the Shred-IT, and stay for the Fall Yard Sale! See the Yard Sale article on [page 24](#) for those details.

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THE BUGLE

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Civic Association

P.O. Box 6836, Aspen Hill, MD 20916

Annual SBPCA membership: \$20.00

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 to 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* and the community directory; maintains the community listserv; 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

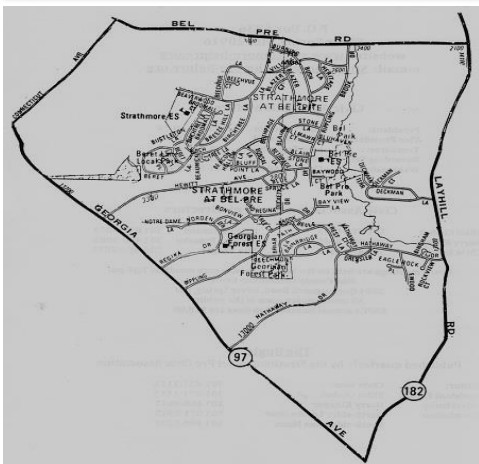
Treasurer: JOHN BOGASKY 301 460-1604

Civic Association Directors

NICOLE BANKS MZCole77@gmail.com LILLA HAMMOND 301 518-7818

RITA VAUGHT 206 406-2871

ELLIOT CHABOT 301 871-1113 CHRIS SWAN 301 871-1113



Strathmore Bel Pre Street map

Strathmore Bel Pre Community listserv: To join the listserv, contact JOHN BOGASKY. You must be an SBPCA member to join the SBPcivic listserv.

Website: The Civic and Rec Associations have a joint website, maintained by the Civic Association. For more information, contact BILLY RUPPERT at billyruppert@gmail.com

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

Established in 1966, 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 and pickleball courts, volleyball court, playgrounds, picnic areas, bath house, snack bar, and pavilion, which normally are open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. The tennis and pickleball 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. The annual Town Hall meeting, co-sponsored 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
RODNEY OO		rodzoo88@gmail.com
CLAIRE PAK	301 602-7573	claire0618@gmail.com
MARIA (COOKIE) STAGNITTO	301 807-8983	mrstags1@verizon.net



Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

Administrative Assistant	vacant	
Assessment Assistance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Audit Coordinator	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Block Party & Spring Thing Coordinator	MARIA (COOKIE) STAGNITTO	301 807-8983
Entertainment & Recreation Committee Chair	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
eSoft Planner Coordinator	KAREN PURDY	BPRAPool02@gmail.com
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
Pavilion Scheduler	CARMEN WONG	301 523-0485
Pet Waste Station Coordinator	JACKIE FARY-MOELLER	jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com
Pool and Recreational Facilities Committee Chair	MARIA (COOKIE) STAGNITTO	301 807-8983
Pool Property Helpers Coordinator	JOE MOELLER	moellerhj@aspengroves.com
Tennis and Pickleball Courts Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Tennis Court Keys Distributor	JIM EATON	240 743-8480
Trunk or Treat Coordinator	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
Webmaster	BILLY RUPPERT	301 332-4901



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The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

Movies and Spring Thing

The season kicked off in our neighborhood during the weekend of May 14th with the first drive-in movie "Encanto" that Saturday evening and the Spring Thing event on Sunday. We entertained a crowd at both events in the Pool parking area. It was so wonderful to see so many neighbors after a long winter and cool spring. We have COOKIE STAGNITTO to thank for her organization of the Spring Thing event, and she had the help of so many friends and neighbors to entertain the young and old in our community. The time just flew by while eating the SPELMAN family's homemade pizza, getting your face painted by TRACY KEATING, being amazed by JAN WISOR's quilts, getting gardening advice from SANDY FLEMING, or speaking with the candidates running for office. I am missing on this list so many other volunteers and especially our Scouts, who made this event so very special, and we thank each and every person for their help and assistance. Everyone was just so happy to be together! The movie program is managed by JOHN BOGASKY and his team of dedicated volunteers, and their kickoff event was spectacular. PAULETTE LADAS brought snacks for everyone, and someone came with a box of light sticks for the kids, and both were a huge hit!



July 4th Coming Soon!

If you missed these events, please don't despair, many more are planned for this summer. LILLA and BILL HAMMOND are busy planning the events on **July 4th** to include a car parade through both sides of our neighborhood, a magician and pool games. They need volunteers to assist with all these activities, so please reach out to them now to help. Movies and concerts are planned to run throughout the summer season, so come out and enjoy the pool property and see neighbors you haven't seen in a while.



Fall Yard Sale and Shred-It

We plan to host the neighborhood Yard Sale on Saturday **September 24th**, with a rain date of the **25th**. See more information on [page 24](#).

PAULETTE LADAS will again sponsor the Shred Day event on the **24th** from 9 am till noontime at the same time as the yard sale. So you can shred your sensitive papers, sell your former treasures, and yet shop for new ones at the yard sale. PAULETTE will be present and just loves to see everyone, and to catch up with all of the news. We can't thank her enough for all she does to support our community!

Welcome to the Board: Nicole Banks

We welcomed new Civic Association Board member NICOLE BANKS this past meeting. She is simply amazing and is already contributing to improving our community website and helping with our 4th of July events. CHRIS JENNISON and BILLY RUPPERT have managed our website for years and welcome NICOLE's additional help and assistance.

Interested in Participating? You are Needed.

This neighborhood runs on volunteer effort s, yours included! Each one of us can bring our personal strengths, skills and abilities to our community. And by working together, we create a better place, we all have fun, we learn and grown, and we build relationships with our neighbors, and find new friends. And the work in creating our events, publications, social media, website and in maintaining and enhancing our common facilities and areas gets done! If you have a little extra time, skills to offer and are interested in participating, please reach out to anyone in the Recreational or Civic Association (BPRA or SBPCA). We will welcome you with open arms!

Bel Pre Recreational News

by Karen Purdy

President, Bel Pre Recreational
Association



Pool Opening Summer 2022

By the time you read this, the pool should be open and while I cannot guarantee sun or warm water, I know that our facilities will be in great shape thanks to our dedicated volunteers and contractors.

You'll notice that we have painted the bathhouse doors, cleaned out the interior light fixtures, replaced several timbers around the small playground, added wood chips at both the playground and pirate ship, added mats below all the swings, planted new trees and flowers, removed overgrowth around the fenced perimeter, painted several railings, and replaced wooden railings and steps in the pavilion.

A big thanks to JOE MOELLER and his family, TED BECHTOL, MARK FORAKER, ROD OO, DAVE PULLEN, BILLY RUPPERT, COOKIE STAGNITTO and the newly formed Gardening Group, sponsored by the Over 60s Club.

Recreational Facilities Policy – worth a read

Before visiting our beautiful facility, please take a few minutes to visit StrathmoreBelPre.org and familiarize yourself with the Recreational Facilities Policy, including recent updates. The Recreational Facilities Policy and updates can be found on StrathmoreBelPre.org/government-documents under the heading **Rules for Pool and Facilities Use; and other policies**. The Recreational Facilities Policy, including pool rules, will also be posted at the pool. Please note that these rules may change at any time based on the ever-changing COVID situation.

Pool Hours Summer 2022

The summary: On MCPS school days, the pool opens at 3 p.m. On MCPS school nights (i.e., there is school the next day), the pool closes at 8pm. Otherwise, the pool is generally open noon to 9 p.m. except for July 4th (noon to 6 p.m.).

The details:

May 28, May 29: noon to 9 pm

May 30 (Memorial Day): noon to 8 pm

May 31 to June 17*

Monday through Thursday: 3 pm to 8 pm

Friday: 3 pm to 9 pm

Saturday: noon to 9 pm

Sunday: noon to 8 pm

June 18* to August 27**

July 4: noon to 6 pm

All other days: noon to 9 pm

August 28 to September 3:**

Monday through Thursday: 3 pm to 8 pm

Friday: 3 pm to 9 pm

Saturday: noon to 9 pm

Sunday: noon to 8 pm

September 4 (Sunday): noon to 9 pm

September 5 (Labor Day): noon to 8 pm

* dates are based on the last day of school for Montgomery County Public Schools and are subject to change based on the school calendar.

** dates are based on the first day of school for Montgomery County Public Schools and are subject to change based on the school calendar. School starts Monday, August 29, 2022.

Changes to pool hours will be announced via signs posted at the pool, online at StrathmoreBelPre.org, and through both the community and swim team listservs.

– Continued on [page 7](#) –

Bel Pre Recreational News

(Continued from [page 6](#))

Pool Check-in

We have transitioned to a Household-based pool entry system. **This means no one will receive paper pool passes this summer.**

Once you have paid your 2022 BPRA Annual Assessment (and any outstanding prior year balances) and are properly set up in the BPRA eSoft Planner pool check-in and assessment collection system, you will simply check in with your name at the front desk.



Please see the May 2022 *Bugle* (pp. 11-12) for detailed information about how to make sure your eSoft Planner account is properly set up for pool check in.

If you need assistance, please visit StrathmoreBelPre.org/pool-access-esoft and complete the eSoft Planner help form (preferred) or email BPRAPool02@gmail.com. If you do not have access to a computer or email, please call me at (301) 603-9604 before 8 p.m. for assistance.

If you are a new resident, renter, or landlord, please visit StrathmoreBelPre.org/pool-access-esoft for information on how to get set up for pool check-in. **Renters and/or landlords need to complete the help form each summer so that we have accurate records of who is authorized for pool use for a rental property.**

Snack Bar

Once again, this summer, SBP resident, *Bugle* sponsor, and Pizza Stop owner ROD OO, will be operating the snack bar. More information about an opening date (likely once Montgomery County Public Schools close for the summer), operating hours and a new menu will be coming soon.

Pavilion Reservations? Events on the Pool Grounds?



To reserve the pavilion, OR to have an event anywhere on the pool grounds, please send an email to BPRAPool04@gmail.com. Include your name, address, phone number, type of event, time and date requested, number of total anticipated attendees, number of anticipated BPRA members and number of anticipated non-BPRA members. Alternatively, you may leave a message for BPRA Pavilion Coordinator CARMEN WONG at (301) 523-0485.

Only BPRA members in good standing may reserve the pavilion. Reservations are generally taken on a first-come first-serve basis and use of the pavilion or the pool with 10 or more guests normally requires approval at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Board usually meets only once a month.

Before submitting a request, please visit StrathmoreBelPre.org to review the Recreational Facilities Policy related to Guests (sections 206 to 212) and Pavilion Use (Part 6.).

Water Aerobics

MARIA "COOKIE" STAGNITTO will be teaching water aerobics on select Monday evenings this summer. Please see the bulletin board at the pool for more information, including class times, cost and sign up procedures.

– Continued on [page 12](#) –

Happy Summer, Strathmore Bel Pre!

by Claire Pak
Secretary, SBP Dolphins

Happy Summer, SBP neighbors!
It's Memorial Day, just a few hours
after the annual Dolphin Dash 5K,
and we're ready to begin another
awesome Dolphins season.



2022 Dolphin Dash 5K

Thank you to all of our neighbors for your generosity and support! We've had an amazing response to our fundraising appeal, and many of you came out to run, stroll, and push strollers this morning. Many more neighbors volunteered their time to serve as course marshals to keep our runners safe and cheer them on to the finish. And speaking of the finish . . .



Congratulations to AARON SIEGLE, senior Dolphins swimmer, Good Counsel Class of 2022 valedictorian, and all-around awesome kid, for his third consecutive Dolphin Dash first-place finish. This will be AARON's last summer as a Dolphin, but hopefully not his last summer as a 5K participant.

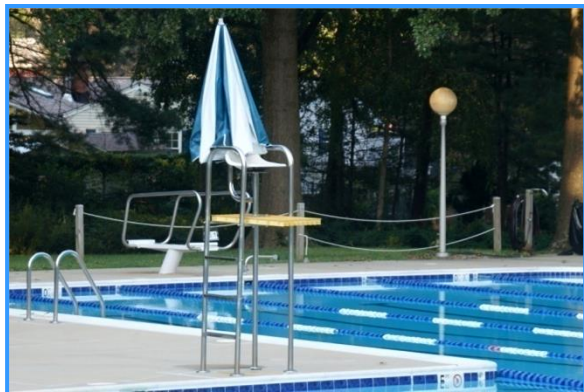
If anyone wants to unseat him next year,
I'd advise them to start training NOW.



Swim Team Practice and Schedule

Practice begins this week, and time trials will be on Saturday, **June 11** at 8:30 AM. Our season begins in earnest on **June 18**, as the Dolphins hit the road for our first A meet, against the West Arundel Ducks. Ducks are cute and everything, but they're no match for Dolphins. Our full schedule is published on our website, <https://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com/>, and the information is also published right here in *The Bugle* (on [page 26](#)).

If you're still interested in joining the team, please visit the [website](#) to learn more about practice times, registration fees, our coaching team, our history, and more.



Thank you again for your continued support.
We can't wait to see you at the pool!



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Our Neighborhood Trees – Tulip Trees

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

It's mid-May as I write this, and these trees are in full bloom. You may not notice the flowers until they fall on the ground, but it's beloved by hummingbirds and other pollinators. Do you have big mature shade trees in your yard? Chances are good that it is the tree by many names: tulip poplar, tulip tree, yellow poplar or Tulip-Wood, all common names for one of the biggest deciduous trees in eastern North America. Approximately 1 in 4 trees on the Matthew Henson trail are tulip poplars, as they tend to dominate forests in the early stages of succession (forests that are 50-150 years old, common in Montgomery County).



The Aspen Hill area was rapidly developed in the 1950's as farming the area ended and some areas were allowed to return to forests. Both red cedar and tulip trees were first on the scene, as they are fast growing trees that like a lot of sun. Tulip poplars tend to like the moister areas and will shoot up 40 feet in the first 15 years of their life, putting on an additional 2 feet of height every year after that. Its strategy is to grow a straight trunk with a high canopy of branches that provide shade to the slow growers coming up underneath them (maples and oaks). In a mature forest of over 200 years, tulip poplars will be absent or completely rare, as fast growing also means a short life span for a tree.

Tulip trees are beautiful and easy to identify. The leaf is the only one with 4 points and is vaguely violin or vase shaped. The flower really does look like a tulip, and is big and cup-shaped, with green petals. By the end of May to early June, you'll see the flowers on the ground, with petals that have a very distinctive orange band. When winter arrives, look up and you'll still see the seeds, grouped together in a cone shaped structure, waiting for wind to blow them to the next sunny spot. It is very likely that you have seen the yellow and orange butterflies called tiger swallowtails, they will often lay their eggs on the leaves.



Tall Trees in Matthew Henson Park

When I drive down my street (Blue Spruce Lane) and look out at the trees that are in the Matthew Henson park, every tall tree is a tulip poplar. Heights of 50-150 feet are very common. Both the tallest tree in Maryland and in the eastern US is actually a tulip tree (coming in at the rather unimpressive 192 feet). If you love the big mature trees in your yard, then you probably love a tulip poplar. What you are not going to like is what comes next, which is that fast growing means weak wood. You can easily see a tulip poplar in the Matthew Henson lying on its side, as these trees fall easily. The wet soil that is very common for this area will lead to a small root system, meaning the tree is more likely to fall down after lots of rain and wind (also common with large white pines). This makes a large

tulip tree a bad idea for a tree near your house.

Weak Branched, and Providers of Shade

You'll feel the pain when it is time to cut them down, as most professionals recognize that tulip trees have weak branches and are more difficult/dangerous to cut down. There are a few ways to save money, the first is to cut the tree down to a 20-25 foot height. No branches will damage the house, and the tree may re-grow limbs. If the tree dies, then you have years of wildlife viewing enjoyment ahead of as woodpeckers move in to make cavities for their nests. In my yard, I have even seen bluebirds move in after the woodpeckers. Second, you can ask to have the trunk cut into firewood sized pieces and then split them. It is very easy to split, and will dry and burn quickly, being so lightweight. Third, ask to leave the branches in your yard instead of having them hauled away. You can cut up the branches a little at a time, placing them in yard waste cans to be taken away over several weeks.

But next time you enjoy a cool shady trail in the height of summer, thank the tulip poplars, beautiful native trees that are exactly where they belong.

Vote for the Team that Gets Real Results



ELECTION DAY IS JULY 19! EARLY VOTING: JULY 7-14



BEN KRAMER for State Senate

- ▶ Lifelong Montgomery County resident
- ▶ Community activist
- ▶ Successful small-business owner
- ▶ Three terms State Delegate and one term State Senator

▶ Passed laws to help seniors, protect the environment, fund schools & reduce class sizes, protect consumers and stop animal abuse



BONNIE CULLISON for House of Delegates

- ▶ Retired MCPS special educator
- ▶ 12 years in the House of Delegates
- ▶ Serves on Health and Government Operations Committee
- ▶ Deputy Speaker Pro Tem; Chair, Insurance and Pharmaceuticals Subcommittee

▶ Passed laws to contain health care costs, increase the health safety net and expand covered Medicaid services



CHARLOTTE CRUTCHFIELD for House of Delegates

- ▶ Elected to the House of Delegates in 2018
- ▶ Attorney, former Assistant State's Attorney for Montgomery County
- ▶ Chair, Family and Juvenile Law Subcommittee (Judiciary Committee)

▶ Passed laws to ensure equity in prison pre-release services, enable victim's rights, protect child witnesses/victims, support prosecution accountability and criminal (juvenile) justice reform



VAUGHN STEWART for House of Delegates

- ▶ Elected to the House of Delegates in 2018
- ▶ Attorney who worked on policy for both President Obama and Congressman Raskin
- ▶ Passed laws to restore the Chesapeake Bay, strengthen ethics laws, expand affordable housing, make our roads safer, combat hate crimes, and protect our immigrant neighbors from mistreatment

Paid for and organized by: Friends of Ben Kramer, Cynthia Craven, Treasurer. Friends of Bonnie Cullison, Pamela M. Pinkett, CPA, CGMA, Treasurer. Friends of Charlotte Crutchfield, Jeffrey Groce, Treasurer. Friends of Vaughn Stewart, Alexandra Stewart, Treasurer.

A Time to Dance

by Cecily Nabors

When I see or hear an Eastern bluebird, I cannot keep silent. “Bluebird!” comes out in a subdued shout. They were so scarce for so many years that now every sighting is a celebration. As I’ve been wandering our community, doing my ANS Birdathon, I’ve actually found two bluebird nests in old woodpecker holes near the Henson Trail. Both nests were active, with parents flying in with beaks full of insects—food for babies.

Many people in SBP have commented on seeing more bluebirds these days. It’s wonderful to be able to say that bluebirds have bounced back.



Years ago, I was talking to a friend and praising the efforts being made to save a declining bird species. My friend said this appalling thing. “Maybe it was just its time to be over.” Her tone was soothing. It implied: Don’t mourn the loss, it’s no big deal.

Stunned, trying to compromise, I said, “But why not preserve it if we can?” Her notion was that it wasn’t important to humans, so it didn’t matter.

The trouble is, we don’t always know what’s important to humans. After all, earthworms used to be thought a nuisance. Gardeners tried to get rid of them, probably fearing they ate plant roots. But Darwin’s careful study, published in 1881, showed that, in fact, earthworms are bountiful friends, producing compost from detritus.

Humans evolved here with all this Nature-stuff inextricably woven around us. We’re cutting holes in it. As ALDO LEOPOLD advised, we need to remember the first rule of tinkering: Keep all the parts.

Ecclesiastes 3 tells us there is “a time to mourn and a time to dance.” Extinction merits mourning.

Eastern bluebird numbers plummeted because of human activity, changes in farming practices, and the proliferation of introduced species. Aggressive European starlings and house sparrows killed many bluebirds and took their nest sites. Recently, however, humans have been helping bluebirds. Nesting boxes, monitored to evict murderous intruders, and mounted in suitable habitat with predator guards, have helped the sweet-voiced sky-birds recover. Leaving dead trees and stumps available to woodpeckers and other birds for nest sites is paying off as well. Breeding Bird Survey data show that Eastern bluebirds are now a species of low concern.



What’s in it for us humans? If beauty isn’t enough, we should at least be grateful for their insect control. For me, seeing Eastern bluebirds in my yard or in the meadow or wetlands near the Henson Trail brings joy. Any day with a bluebird in it is a time to dance.

Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from [page 7](#))

Volunteers

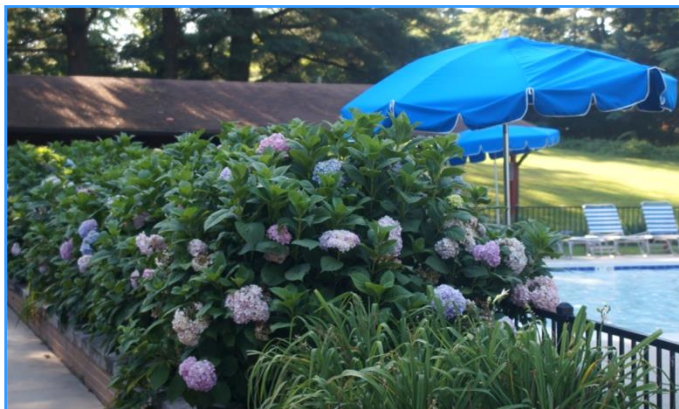
The BPRA is always looking for members interested in volunteering.

If you are interested in serving on our committees, or volunteering in some other way, please contact the appropriate committee chair listed on [page 3](#) or contact me at klpurdy@hotmail.com.

If you are interested in serving on the BPRA'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.



New benches for the tennis and pickleball courts



BPRA Board Meeting Schedule

The BPRA Board of Trustees normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 pm.

BPRA meetings, except for facility walk-throughs, are held via Zoom. Please see StrathmoreBelPre.org/meetings-meeting-minutes for updates.

All members of the BPRA are welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings of the Board. A 15-minute period at the beginning of each meeting is normally reserved for members of the Association to speak on any issue. If you would like to attend a Board meeting, please contact me at klpurdy@hotmail.com or (301) 603-9604, no later than 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, to be added to the participants list and to get Zoom log-in information.

The BPRA Board will meet on the following dates in 2022:

June 7, June 21 (if needed), **July 12** (at the pool), **July 26** (if needed), **August 2, August 16** (if needed), **September 13, October 6** (Thursday), **November 1, December 6**, and **January 3, 2023**.

The **Annual Meeting** is currently scheduled for Thursday, **November 17, 2022**, at 7:30 pm.


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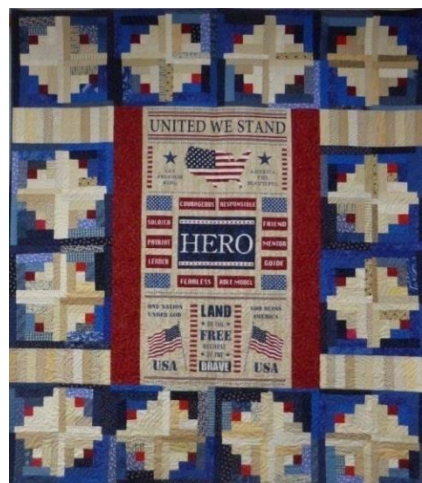
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QUILTS OF VALOR

by Jan Wisor

Quilts of Valor (QOV) is a nationwide volunteer organization that awards healing quilts to men and women who have served our country that were touched by war. The awarded quilts, called Quilts of Valor, provide the recipient of a tangible reminder of our appreciation and gratitude for their service, sacrifice and valor. The quilt tops and quilting are made from donated materials and labor. We are fortunate to live in a community that has a strong QOV network. I was honored to be part of a QOV award ceremony several years ago at the Silver Spring Veterans Center whose director, WAYNE MILLER, lives in our community. This was the first time that I had been part of the ceremony that awarded one of my quilts and it was a pivotal moment in my life, where I gave a quilt away to stranger and felt a renewed sense of patriotism.



Capital Quilts has a QOV Chapter that meets monthly to gather and make QOV. I have spoken to the program manager and she said they are always in need of quilts. I wondered if we could help support the QOV Chapter by sewing quilt tops? I will be glad to coordinate the project and keep it local. Do you quilt or sew? If so, would you be interested in sewing a few blocks? I will provide the pattern and materials, you provide the labor! Once we get a group identified, a formal program can be established. Please contact JAN WISOR at janwisor@aol.com for more information or interest. Our newly formed Over 60 group is sponsoring our QOV efforts, but anyone is encouraged to participate.

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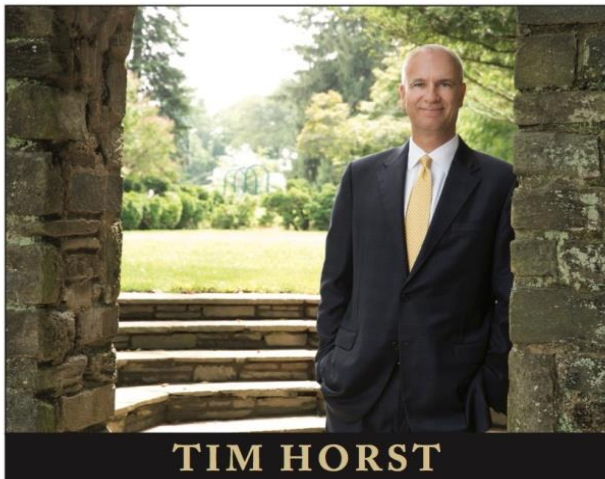
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Summer Concerts are Back!

After a 2 year hiatus, live music returns to the Pool Pavilion! Make your calendars now, you do not want to miss these two concerts!



The Breakaways July 17 4 pm to 6 pm BETH and PHIL KOMINSKI !

Our very own musical stars, and current co-Presidents of the Dolphins, our Swim Team. PHIL founded and led the world-famous rock band, the Lloyd Doppler Effect. Be sure to ask PHIL and BETH about their CDs!

TONY M! Music For Kids July 31 3 pm to 5 pm



TONY M taught elementary school for 11 years, and decided to be a professional musician in 2014. He will play a wide variety of original and cover music in a very interactive way. Check out his website and blog. <https://www.tonymmusic.com/>. TONY M. also sells his music on CDs, so if you like it, you can hear it again.

TONY is also married, with 3 talented daughters. He lives with a 16.5 year old pug (Wilson), 2 cats (Sebastian and Annie), 2 bunny rabbits (Duke and Lola) and one beta fish (Rose).

Spring Thing for 2022

by Maria (Cookie) Stagnitto

Block Party & Spring
Thing Coordinator

While delayed a day, the Spring Thing on
Sunday May 15th was a success!




Folks attending enjoyed getting together with their neighbors and friends, meeting and greeting local candidates, learning about our community groups, and sampling gourmet pizza or hot dogs on the grill, a fire pit with s'mores, plus potluck contributions and soft drinks. For the kids, assorted sports clinics were available, as well as sailboat races, a carnival, face painting, balloon twisters and more.

Many thanks to the SCOUT Troop 463, without whom this event would not be possible. TRACY KEATING brought her amazing face painting skills. PAUL SPELMAN crafted Papa Paul's own gourmet pizzas, and ROD OO made yummy hot dogs. The BPRA Tennis Courts Committee provided tennis and pickleball demos. The Dolphins sold their spiritware, CECILY NABORS talked about the Audubon Naturalist Society birdathon, JAN WISOR showed the quilt she made for Quilts Of Valor, SANDY FLEMING and LUBA DOWHALUK gave gardening advice, LIILA HAMMOND and JOHN BOGASKY talked about the Civic Association activities and about the upcoming **July 4th** celebration. Assorted local candidates, or their campaign staff, were present, representing elections from Circuit Court Judges to County Councilmember seats (both at-large and the brand new 6th district councilmember seat).

(THANKS to COOKIE STAGNITTO (and PAUL STAGNITTO) who organized this year's Spring Thing, per editor)

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BlocktoberFest for 2022!

Strathmore Bel Pre's very own block party
October 15, rain date October 16

Join your friends and neighbors to celebrate fall in true block party fashion, Saturday afternoon,

October 15, 3 pm to 6 pm, on Rippling Brook Road, between Bel Pre Elementary School and the Matthew Henson Greenway. The rain date is Sunday, **October 16**, 3 pm to 6 pm.



The Boy Scouts will provide the tables and chairs, and some fall fun. Bring yourself, bring some individually packaged snacks or individually wrapped homemade treats, and your own beverages (byob). We will have soft drinks and cold filtered water as well.

This is a great way to meet your neighbors, catch up on the recent news, enjoy some yummy snacks, hang out on a lovely fall afternoon, and have fun!

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Gardening Group

A newly formed group of Gardeners has joined together to work with TED BECHTOL, BPRA Grounds and Landscaping Coordinator extraordinaire, in maintaining the shrubs and plants on the pool grounds. Everyone is welcome to join and help out to keep our grounds in good shape. Contact COOKE STAGNITTO at (301) 807-8983, if you want to help out by gardening on the pool grounds.



Over 60 Club

by Cookie Stagnitto

Newly formed, the Club is focused on folks in our neighborhood who are over 60. The Club will be meeting at the pool pavilion, on the 1st Thursdays of the month, in the summer from 4:30 pm to 7 pm.

Please bring your snacks to share **and your ideas**, to our meetings scheduled for:

June 9 (rescheduled due to weather),
July 7, August 4, September 4.

A 60-plus mile event with any combination of swimming, biking, walking and running is planned. Submit your name to Cookie (mrstags1@verizon.net) and keep track of your miles. All 60 mile plus participants will be acknowledged at our September get together.

We are sponsoring: the book exchange in the pool lobby, Quilts of Valor for our Veterans, and the Gardening Group. What else should/could we be doing?

All 60s plus folks are welcome! Contact COOKIE STAGNITTO for more information at mrstags1@verizon.net.



Trunk or Treat Saturday October 29

Pool Parking Lot, 5 pm to 7 pm
(set up time: 5:30 pm)

Decorate your trunk a little or a lot. Handout Treats (no tricks here!) to the kids, admire the trunks, the costumes, and have lots of fun!





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BUSINESS Support new businesses in the county to employ our residents

UNITY Uniting our community and supporting affordable housing legislation

INVESTMENT In our children and their future

LEADERSHIP Paving the way for sustainable growth, infrastructure and conservation

DIVERSITY Embracing the needs of our diverse community

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ChristaTichy4CountyCouncil

By Authority of Friends of Christa Tichy and
Sarah Landry, Campaign Manager; Joe Schoengold, Treasurer



Be on the Look Out for Cicada Killer Wasps

by Ted Bechtol

BPRA Grounds and Landscaping
Coordinator

The Cicada Killer Wasp (*Sphecius speciosus*) is well known to most of those that frequent the pool in mid to late summer as they hover and buzz around the pool entrance and may seem to be a nuisance. These are the 747's of the insect world and while they look intimidating and act belligerently, they rarely sting people. These 2" long black and yellow insects deserve to be considered as one of the good guys of the insect world, or beneficial, since Cicadas cause damage to trees. Cicadas are captured by these Wasps, hauled to their underground borrows for their larva to eat. At the pool, the burrows are easy to spot usually at the edge of the concrete sidewalk with soil piled up from the excavation. They are attracted by the warm south facing exposure of the Bathhouse and the relatively soft and dry soil. An irrigation system that operates frequently would likely discourage them from nesting, but we do not have such a system on the pool grounds.



Rather than living in a colony like honeybees, Cicada Killers are considered solitary. There is just one generation of wasps per year and the adults are active for 2-3 weeks in mid-summer. The females collect food supplies, construct burrows and lay eggs during this period. After mating the male wasps die, which is not uncommon with bees and wasps. The newly laid eggs hatch, they feed on the captured Cicada and the larva develop a cocoon to overwinter in the burrow. When spring comes the larva pupates then develop into an adult wasp and the cycle repeats.

While these insects can be considered a threat or nuisance initially, once one gains an understanding and appreciation for Cicada Killers, we usually have a better respect for their place in the natural world.



Summer Aquatic Classes

by Maria (Cookie) Stagnitto

We will have our summer aquatic classes again this summer in the large pool, on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm.

We will have sessions on:

**June 13, 20 and 27,
July 11, 18, and 25,
August 22 and 29.**

The cost is \$10.00 per class or \$50.00 for all 8 classes. Everyone is welcome to attend!!

Maybe this year, it won't rain on Monday evenings so we can get all 8 sessions in!
Contact COOKIE STAGNITTO for more information at mrstags1@verizon.net.

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- Providing **quality** and **affordable public transportation**
- Addressing the **equity and opportunity gap** in our schools
- **Attracting entrepreneurs** and young innovative companies
- **Reducing** greenhouse **gas emissions** in our county
- **Incorporating community feedback** on enrichment programming taking place at our libraries and community resources

For up-to-date Primary Election info
visit maricemorales.com

By Authority: Friends of Maricé Morales. Josh Goodman, Treasurer.

MARICÉ
MORALES
★
COUNTY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 6

The SBPCA Announces our 2022 Summer Entertainment Sponsors

The SBPCA is pleased to announce our 2022 Summer Entertainment Sponsors. Each year, our Summer Entertainment program cost several thousand dollars for movie licenses, performer fees and equipment. Your Civic Association could not afford these costs without the support of our sponsors. Please thank them when you see them.

The SBP Civic Association Thanks Our 2022 Summer Entertainment Sponsors!!!

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Susan Shannon

Ted & Nancy Bechtol

Peter & Diane Kendall

John & Shelly Bogasky

Paul & Maria Stagnitto

Kate Duchelle & Doug Smith

Band Leaders

Robin McEntire

Linda & Charles Bea

Janet Kisler

Larry, Rita & Angela Vaught

Jo & Chris Jennison

Bob & Deb Perry

Super-Fans

Sandeep & Laura
Krishna

And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association

This summer we celebrate our Civic Association's **Tenth Summer Entertainment Season!** Our first movie was *Night at The Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian* in the summer of 2013. We used rental equipment in 2013 and 2014. We bought our current movie equipment in 2015, enabling us to increase the number of movies we could show each season. This season was our first where we used an SBPcivic listserv poll to help select movies.

Movies Show Rain or Shine

Our May 7th Drive-In movie was postponed by weather. Our final four movies are inside the pool grounds and will show rain or shine. When rain threatens, we will show the movie under the Pool Pavilion instead of the nearby hillside. Movies start at dusk, about 20 minutes after sunset.

We hope to see many of you at our poolside "theatre" this summer!

May 7 May 14

June 4

July 2

August 6

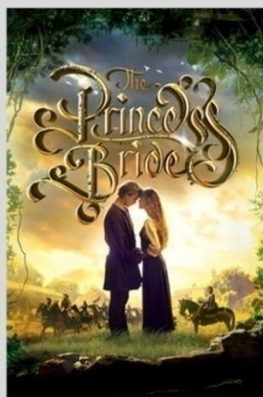
September 3



Encanto



Spider-Man: No
Way Home



The Princess
Bride



West Side Story
(2021)



Disney's
Jungle Cruise

Strathmore Bel Pre 40th Yard Sale

by Linda Bea

Different Locations!

In addition to the Bel Pre Recreational Association pool parking lot location, individual sellers in our neighborhood are invited to register their sales. Maps of registered sellers will be distributed at the pool parking lot.

WHEN: Saturday, September 24 from 9:00 am to 12:00
(Rain Date, Sunday, September 25)

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



Seller's Registration fee of \$12.00 per space.

Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association Member Discount: \$2.00

Sellers, Please Register:

Fill out and return the registration form below, along with a check for the registration fee. For the Main sales location only: Tables with 2 chairs are available for an additional \$5.00 on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaces are limited, so reserve early.

To sell from your home

You MUST register by Thursday, **September 22, 2022**.

Questions? Call Linda Bea for additional information: (301) 460-0497.

~~~~~ Yard Sale Sellers REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE/EMAIL: _____

Sales location: BPRA Pool _____ **My Home (add my home to the sales map)** _____

Number of Spaces:

Civic Assn members - \$10.00 per space: \$ _____

Non-members - \$12.00 per space: \$ _____

Number of tables (pool location only) - \$ 5.00 each: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

2022 Strathmore Bel Pre Summer Calendar

~June/July 2022~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pool Hours May 28 to June 16 and from Aug. 28 to Sept 5 Mon to Thurs 3 to 8 pm Fri 3 to 9 pm Sat noon to 9 pm Sun noon to 8 pm		All events are at the pool unless otherwise indicated Pool Hours June 17 to Aug. 27 July 4 noon to 6 pm all the rest noon to 9 pm	June 1 Candidates' forum - School Board (Districts 1 & 3) @ 7:30 pm on Zoom Swim Team PM Practices begin: M-F thru 6/17	2 Over 60 Club, 4:30-7:00 pm	3 	4 Movie Night Spiderman: No Way Home @ dusk
5	6 	7 BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm, on Zoom 	8 	9 	10 Swim Team Ice Cream Social	11 Swim Team Blue-White Meet (time trials) 8:30 am
12	13 Aquatic Class 6:30-7:00 pm Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee meeting on Zoom 7:30-9:30 pm	14 	15 Candidates' forum - Montgomery County State's Attorney @ 7:30 pm on Zoom 	16 	17 MCPS Last Day of School Longer Pool Hours begin Swim Team Pasta Party	18 Swim Team A meet @ West Arundel Swim Team, 8:30 am
19	20 Swim Team AM Practices begin (AM M-F; PM Mon, Tu & Th) Aquatic Class 6:30-7:00 pm	21 BPRA Board meeting (if needed) @ 7:30 pm, on Zoom	22 Swim Team B meet vs. Twinbrook 	23	24 Swim Team Pasta Party 6:30 pm	25 Swim Team A meet @ Cheverly Swim & Racquet Club, 8:30 am
26	27 Aquatic Class 6:30-7:00 pm 	28 Civic Association Board meeting @ 7:30 pm, on Zoom	29 Swim Team B meet vs. Norbeck Hills	30 	July 1 Swim Team Pasta Party 6:30 pm	2 Swim Team A meet @ 8:30 am Movie Night Princess Bride @ dusk
3	4 Memorial Meet 8 am Parades 12:30 pm Magic Show 1 pm Children's Games 2 pm	5 	6 Swim Team B meet @ Ashton	7 Over 60 Club, 4:30-7:00 pm	8 Swim Team Pasta Party 6:30 pm	9 Swim Team A meet vs. Rogers Center Swim Team 8:30 am
10	11 Aquatic Class 6:30-7:00 pm	12 BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm, at the pool	13 Swim Team B meet @ Middlebridge/Popular Run	14 	15 Swim Team Pasta Party 6:30 pm	16 Swim Team A meet vs. Belair @ 8:30 am
17 Komin-ski music concert 4 pm	18 Aquatic Class 6:30-7:00 pm	19 	20 Jelly Bean Meet @ 6:30 pm	21 	22 Swim Team Pasta Party & Paper Plate Awards 6:30	23 Swim Team B Division Championship @ Belair Swim & Racquet
24	25 Aquatic Class 6:30-7:00 pm	26 Civic Association Board meeting @ 7:30 pm, on Zoom	27 Swim Team Awards Banquet @ 6 pm	28	29	30 PMSL All-Stars Meet, location TBD, 8:30 am
31 Kids music concert 3 pm	August 1 	2 BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm, on Zoom	3	4 Over 60 Club, 4:30-7:00 pm	5	6 Movie Night West Side Story (2021)

Early Voting July 7 to 14 * Election Day July 19

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2022 Congressional, State and Local Elections

by Elliot Chabot

Ready to Vote in the Primary?

Your chance to vote in Maryland's Primary elections for Congressional, state, and local elections is coming very soon! Maryland no longer has a fall primary. Legislation several years ago moved the primary elections from the fall to early summer. This year, due to several Court challenges to the decennial redistricting maps, the primary date was moved several times, and finally became **Tuesday, July 19th!**

Who is on the Ballot? What Districts cover Strathmore Bel Pre Residents?

Hopefully, as a regular *Bugle* reader, this date is on your radar, and you have chosen your candidates for the assorted offices to be filled. If not, your days to do so are getting numbered. A list of candidates who will be on the ballot (and their websites) is available from the Maryland State Board of Elections (https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2022/primary_candidates/index.html). Strathmore Bel Pre is in the 8th Congressional District, 19th State Legislative District, and 6th County Council District. If you're still not sure who to vote for, consider which candidates your neighbors thought so highly of that they've posted signs for them in their front yard.

Okay, Where Do I Vote? What Hours are the Polls Open?

Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. On election day, Strathmore Bel Pre voters who live north of the Henson Trail vote at Argyle Middle School. Strathmore Bel Pre voters who live south of the Henson Trail vote at Georgian Forest Elementary School.

Early Voting for 2022

If you don't want to wait until election day, early voting is also available at 14 locations throughout Montgomery County, including the Mid-County Recreation Center (2004 Queensguard Road), the Bauer Drive Recreation Center (14625 Bauer Drive), and the Wheaton Library & Recreation Center (11701 Georgia Avenue). Early voting for the Primary Election will be available from **July 7 to 14**; and early voting for the General Election will be available from **October 27 to November 3**. The 14 early voting locations will be open those days from 7 am to 8 pm.

General Election and Fall Candidates Forums

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8.

More Candidates Forums will be held this Fall to cover assorted elections. The forums will be held on Zoom, and will be announced in advance on the Civic Association's listserv. Everyone is welcome to attend and to ask questions of the candidates.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the election process, call the Montgomery County Board of Elections at (240) 777-8683.

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AUTHORIZED BY NATALI FOR COUNCIL, ANGEL GONZÁLEZ, TREASURER



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4th of July 2022

Flag Ceremony

Prior to the Parades, the Scout Troop will present the flags at Strathmore Elementary School on Beaverwood Lane.

Car Parade Route

The car parade begins and ends at the Strathmore Elementary School on Beaverwood.

Kids Parade Route

for walkers, strollers, and bikers

Begins at Strathmore Elementary School and ends at the Pool Grounds. (see the [front page](#))

To Be in Either of the Two Parades

Call/email/text BILL or LILLA HAMOND, see below. Register your vehicle for the Parade at strathmorebelpre.org/fourth-of-july, or call/email/text BILL HAMMOND, see below.

Prizes for Decorated Cars!!!

Prizes will be awarded for the three best decorated cars. To enter the contest, arrive early at the parking lot to get your vehicle photographed. You also are welcome to join the parade without decorations on your car!

Happy To Watch one of the Two Parades? Come out and enjoy!

Post Parade Events at the Pool Grounds

MICHAEL CHAMBERLIN, Master Magician, 1 pm

Field Games for the Kids, 2 pm.

(be sure to sign the red July 4th log-in book as you enter the pool grounds.)



Please count me for Strathmore Bel Pre's July 4th Celebration!

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

___ We plan to be in the July 4th Patriotic Car Parade.

___ We plan to be in the July 4th Children's Parade

___ We plan to watch the Magician in the Pool Pavilion

___ I can help with the car parade. ___ I can help with children's' games.

___ Setting up ___ Registration ___ Flag Ceremony ___ Wrap up

Text BILL HAMMOND at 301-509-4621 or LILLA HAMMOND at 301-518-7818

Or email Bill at: whammond38@gmail.com

Strathmore Bel Pre July 4th Celebration Committee

*****If you text us, be sure to text "July 4th" at the start of your message. *****

THANKS!! We look forward to hearing from you!!

For more info, visit www.strathmorebelpre.org/fourth-of-july