

# The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

June 2023

vol. 55 #3



## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration 2023

by Lilla  
Hammond

Our Strathmore Bel Pre tradition is to **Celebrate for the 4<sup>th</sup>**, to bring us all together to celebrate our country's birthday!

This year we have a Flag Ceremony, and 1 or 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 4<sup>th</sup> magic! And Field Games for the kids.



**Register online this year to participate!**

**[Online Link to the July 4th Registration and Volunteer Sign-Up](#)**

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

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**Make Sure the Car  
Parade is Held!**

**Register today!  
At least 10 cars  
need to be  
registered  
for the Car  
Parade!!**



# THE BUGLE

PUBLISHED BY THE STRATHMORE BEL PRE CIVIC ASSOCIATION SINCE 1969

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## Civic Association

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

Annual SBPCA membership: \$20.00

Web site: [www.strathmorebelpre.org](http://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 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 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: vacant

Treasurer: JOHN BOGASKY 301 460-1604

### Civic Association Directors

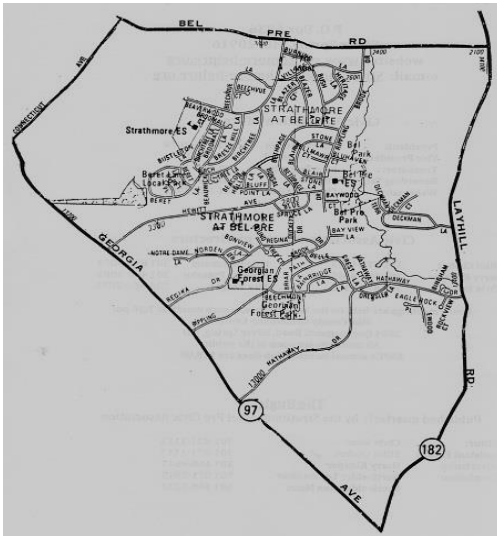
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Strathmore Bel Pre Street map

**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](mailto:billyruppert@gmail.com).

**Community Directory and Yard Sale:** Contact LINDA BEA.

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Activities:** Contact LILLA HAMMOND.

**Pedestrian Safety:** BRITTNEY HORSLEY at [bsthorsley@gmail.com](mailto:bsthorsley@gmail.com).

**Village Project:** KRISTI HULLINGS at [SBPvillage@gmail.com](mailto:SBPvillage@gmail.com)

**New Residents' Welcome Committee:** SUZANNE LAWSON, 301-915-7775.

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, on Zoom.

The annual General Membership meeting is normally held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving Day at 7:30 pm, on Zoom. The annual Town Hall meeting, co-sponsored with the Civic Association, is normally held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of December, at 8 pm, on Zoom. 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	<a href="mailto:klpurdy@hotmail.com">klpurdy@hotmail.com</a>
JAY STAGGS (Vice President)	301 603-0304	<a href="mailto:jaysbluewing@hotmail.com">jaysbluewing@hotmail.com</a>
DAVE PULLEN (Treasurer)	301 598-2521	<a href="mailto:treasurer4bptra@gmail.com">treasurer4bptra@gmail.com</a>
CLAIRE PAK (Secretary)	301 602-7573	<a href="mailto:claire0618@gmail.com">claire0618@gmail.com</a>
TED BECHTOL	301 871-3679	<a href="mailto:tedbechtol@yahoo.com">tedbechtol@yahoo.com</a>
STEVE JENNISON	301 919-9278	<a href="mailto:hsjennison@gmail.com">hsjennison@gmail.com</a>
RODNEY OO	-	<a href="mailto:rodzoo88@gmail.com">rodzoo88@gmail.com</a>
ANDREW POPADICH	-	<a href="mailto:popadichaj1@gmail.com">popadichaj1@gmail.com</a>
PATRICK WELTEROTH	570 419-2590	<a href="mailto:patrickwelteroth@gmail.com">patrickwelteroth@gmail.com</a>



## Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

Administrative Assistant	vacant	
Assessment Assistance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	<a href="mailto:treasurer4bptra@gmail.com">treasurer4bptra@gmail.com</a>
Audit Coordinator	MARK FORAKER	<a href="mailto:mark4aker@hotmail.com">mark4aker@hotmail.com</a>
Block Party & Spring Thing Coordinator	vacant	
Entertainment & Recreation Committee Chair	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
eSoft Planner Coordinator	KAREN PURDY	<a href="mailto:BPRAPool02@gmail.com">BPRAPool02@gmail.com</a>
Finance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	<a href="mailto:treasurer4bptra@gmail.com">treasurer4bptra@gmail.com</a>
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	PATRICK WELTEROTH	570 419-2590
New Member Recruitment Coordinator	vacant	
Nominating Committee Chair	MARK FORAKER	<a href="mailto:mark4aker@hotmail.com">mark4aker@hotmail.com</a>
Pavilion Scheduler	CARMEN WONG	<a href="mailto:BPRAPool04@gmail.com">BPRAPool04@gmail.com</a>
Pet Waste Station Coordinator	JACKIE FARY-MOELLER	<a href="mailto:jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com">jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com</a>
Pool and Recreational Facilities Committee Chair	JAY STAGGS	301 603-0304
Pool Gardening Group	SANDY FLEMING	<a href="mailto:sfleming04@hotmail.com">sfleming04@hotmail.com</a>
Pool Property Helpers Coordinator	JOE MOELLER	<a href="mailto:moellerhj@aspengroves.com">moellerhj@aspengroves.com</a>
Tennis and Pickleball Courts Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	<a href="mailto:treasurer4bptra@gmail.com">treasurer4bptra@gmail.com</a>
Tennis Courts Keys Distributor	JIM EATON	240 743-8480
Trunk or Treat Coordinator	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
Webmaster	BILLY RUPPERT	301 332-4901



# The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association



## Spring Thing

This has been one of our most active spring seasons ever! Hopefully, you had the time to visit the Spring Thing festival in the pool parking lot on May 6<sup>th</sup>. If you were there, we know you had a wonderful time as everyone looked so incredibly happy enjoying the activities. We cannot thank our organizers CHRIS SWAN and COOKIE STAGNITTO enough for pulling this day together for us all to enjoy. It takes a village of volunteers to staff the event, but these two did most of the work pulling the day together. The kids had a fun time with face painting and balloon making, along with several games staffed by LUBA DOWHALUK and LINDA BEA. My granddaughter was one of the little ones enjoying every game and opportunity to run and enjoy so many young ones to play with that day.

Several others volunteered to staff tables offering information on our new Villages program, the Civic Association (thank you LILLA HAMMOND), the Dolphins, Boy Scouts and so much more. Even our Montgomery County elected officials paid us a visit! Did I mention the free food? We were all treated to limitless hotdogs and sausages thanks to RODNEY OO and his wife, and pizza thanks to PAUL SPELMAN and his whole family. The entire event is supported by our Boy Scout sponsored troops and their leaders JACKIE and JOE MOELLER. They are the strong and dedicated workhorses behind all of our neighborhood events. If you missed this event, look for save the dates soon for the fall festival, it promises to be just as wonderful.

## Pool Gardening Group

Folks have been super busy getting our beautiful pool ready for the summer season. One of the new groups helping is our Gardening Group and they are organized by SANDY FLEMING ([sfleming04@hotmail.com](mailto:sfleming04@hotmail.com)) if you are interested in joining this fun group. They meet about once a month and do a thorough weeding and cleaning of the garden beds throughout the pool grounds. The pool grounds look amazing for the opening this year, thanks to their challenging work and dedication.



## Yard Sale

Hopefully, you were able to join us at the pool for the 41<sup>st</sup> yard sale on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. LINDA BEA has been organizing our Yard Sale for over twenty of those years and has the entire process organized to perfection! We are back to doing this in the spring.

Also, PAULETTE LADAS is sponsoring a large dumpster in the parking lot to assist us all in cleaning our garages and basements. Thank you, PAULETTE, and LINDA!! Now if I could just get my husband to cooperate and clean out our garage!!

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July

The **July 4<sup>th</sup>** festivities are right around the corner too, and LILLA HAMMOND has been working for months to pull together a team of helpers, as well as all our advertising for the event. Please let her know if you can assist with the parade or games at the pool. She, like LINDA, has been organizing our **4<sup>th</sup> of July** parade and activities for decades, and her dedication to our neighborhood is endless, and infectious, but needs support. Please reach out if you can help with this longest standing event in our community. The [front](#) and [last page](#) of this *Bugle* have the latest info for the **July 4<sup>th</sup> 2023** festivities.



– Continued on bottom of [page 9](#) –



# Bel Pre Recreational News

by Karen Purdy  
President, Bel Pre Recreational Association



Most of the information in this article (and more) can be found on [StrathmoreBelPre.org](https://StrathmoreBelPre.org). See the “Pool” and “Rec Association” menus at top right for information specific to the Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) and its facilities. If there is information you would like to see on the website that is not already there, or you have comments regarding the [StrathmoreBelPre.org](https://StrathmoreBelPre.org) website, please send your suggestions to [BPRAPool02@gmail.com](mailto:BPRAPool02@gmail.com).

## Pool Opening Summer 2023

I hope by the time you read this, you have had a chance to visit the pool and enjoy the refreshing water, spruced up grounds and more reliable WiFi.

Our volunteers, contractors, and pool operator (Georgetown Aquatics), had a busy spring getting the pool ready to open. A big thanks to JOE MOELLER for performing several jobs and coordinating contractors and volunteers, and to TED BECHTOL for spearheading the grounds work and JAY STAGGS for coordination with Georgetown Aquatics. Thank you to LUCAS MOELLER, GARY SCHAFFERT, ROD OO and the Volunteer Gardening Group for all the time and effort you’ve put into upkeep and repairs around the facility.

Thank you to DANIEL BREEDEN, CHRIS HUFFINE, JOE MOELLER, KYE PAK and JAY STAGGS for designing and implementing a new WiFi and security camera network. You should notice a significant improvement in WiFi reliability and coverage at the pool this summer.

If you are interested in helping with miscellaneous repair and maintenance jobs around the pool, please contact JOE MOELLER [atmoellerhj@aspengroves.com](mailto:atmoellerhj@aspengroves.com).

If you are interested in gardening at the pool, please contact SANDY FLEMING at [sfleming04@hotmail.com](mailto:sfleming04@hotmail.com). The gardening group weeds, trims, waters, and talks. It is an enjoyable way to meet new neighbors and help the community.

## Pool Rules

Please take a few minutes to visit [StrathmoreBelPre.org](https://StrathmoreBelPre.org) and familiarize yourself with the Recreational Facilities Policy, including recent updates. See below for instructions on where to find the rules online. The Recreational Facilities Policy, including pool rules, will also be posted at the pool.

– Continued on [page 6](#) –



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## Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from [page 5](#))

### Pool Hours Summer 2023

On Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) school days, the pool opens at 3 pm. On MCPS school nights (i.e., there is school the next day), the pool closes at 8 pm. Otherwise, the pool is generally open 12 pm to 9pm. The 2 exceptions are July 4<sup>th</sup> (noon to 6 pm) and on Wednesdays, when Swim Team B Meets

are scheduled (pool closes at 5 pm).

**May 27** (Saturday) and **May 28** (Sunday): noon to 9 pm

**May 29** (Memorial Day): noon to 8 pm

**May 30 to June 16\***

Monday through Thursday: 3 pm to 8 pm

Friday: 3 pm to 9 pm

Saturday: noon to 9 pm

Sunday: 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 28, 2023**.

**June 17\* to August 26\*\***

**July 4:** noon to 6 pm

All other days: noon to 9 pm

**August 27\*\* to September 2:**

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 3** (Sunday): noon to 9 pm

**September 4** (Labor Day): noon to 8 pm

Changes to pool hours will be announced via signs posted at the pool, online at [StrathmoreBelPre.org](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org), and through both the community and swim team listservs.



### Snack Bar

Please join me in welcoming our new snack bar operators, The DURAN family! The DURANS are long time Strathmore Bel Pre residents, dedicated swim team volunteers and fixtures at the pool. Please stop by the snack bar, say hello, and see what they have to offer. More information about an opening date, operating hours and the snack bar menu will be coming soon and will be posted on [StrathmoreBelPre.org](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org).

### Pool Pavilion Use??

To reserve the pavilion, get permission to bring more than 10 guests, or to have an event anywhere on the pool grounds, please send an email to [BPRAPool04@gmail.com](mailto: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.



Only Bel Pre Recreational Members (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 do visit [StrathmoreBelPre.org](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org) to review the [Recreational Facilities Policy](#) related to Guests (sections 206 to 212) and Pavilion Use (Part 6.)

– Continued on [page 12](#) –



# Dolphins News

by Lisa Mantel

Secretary, Strathmore Bel Pre (SBP) Dolphins

## Summer is Almost Here!

The weather is getting warmer, and school is nearly out. That means it's almost summertime! Your SBP Dolphins will soon begin their 54<sup>th</sup> season! And we are the defending B Division champions in the Prince-Mont Swim League.



## Swim Team Practice and Schedule

Practice begins on **May 31** and time trials (Also known as the Blue/White meet) will be on Saturday, **June 10**, at 8:30 am. Practices will be in the afternoon only until school ends. Our first "A" meet will be away on **June 17** against the Greenview Swim Team. Morning practices will begin on **June 19**. The full practice and meet schedule can be found on the Dolphins website, <https://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com/>. The information is also published right here in *The Bugle* (on [page 23](#)).

## Jelly Bean Meet

The ever-popular Jelly Bean Meet will be held on Wednesday, **July 19**. This meet is a treasured Dolphins tradition. All 8-and-under swimmers are welcome (even if they are not on the swim team), so invite your neighbors and friends! There are even parent-assisted events for swimmers who aren't ready to swim across the pool by themselves. The 9-to-12-year-old swimmers serve as timers and "officials," and candy and ribbons are awarded to all swimmers. The meet lasts about an hour and the pool is OPEN during the meet. So, why not bring your dinner to the pool and enjoy a fun-filled evening. You won't want to miss it!

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

# WHY RE/MAX?



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Paulette was born and raised in Montgomery County and has lived in the Strathmore at Bel Pre community for 30 years. Paulette specializes in listing and selling homes and has sold over 1,500 homes. Her areas of expertise are managing repairs and spruce up, proven negotiating skills for sellers and buyers, effective marketing strategies and creative financing. Paulette's business philosophy is to create lifelong business relationships through outstanding professional service. Let her experience work for you!

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# Want Help Making your Assessment Payment Online?

by Dave Pullen

Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) Treasurer

Thank you to the majority of BPRA homeowners who have paid their 2023 Assessment!

If you have not yet paid the Assessment and agree to make payment online, but need help navigating that process, please email me at [treasurer4bpri@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer4bpri@gmail.com) to make arrangements for us to connect by telephone so I can assist you.

Homeowners who pay online realize two immediate benefits:

- Your account is instantly current, so you and your eligible family members can enjoy the pool; and
- By paying by credit card, you can manage your payment over time.

Further, you avoid additional charges associated with lingering non-payment such as interest and collection costs. Also you may have significant, additional expenses if we must refer your account to our attorneys.

**Note:** This offer is available only to homeowners who have only not paid the 2023 Assessment. If you have prior-year unpaid Assessment balances, you must first resolve those through our law firm: Thomas Schild Law Group, (301) 251-1414.

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# Scouts: Memorial Day 2023

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

The scouts of Cub Scout Pack 763 and Boy Scout Troop 763 (sponsored by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association) returned to Gate of Heaven cemetery to place an American flag on the gravesites of veterans who are buried there.

Because of pandemic restrictions, the last time that we were able to do this was in 2019. With many new families and young scouts who have joined the pack over the last 4 years, it was a new experience for many who participated.

Some things don't change! It was still a moving, solemn and memorable experience. Many thanks to Ms. PAULETTE LADAS of RE/MAX Realty Group for always sponsoring the cost of the flags for this activity and to Mr. MATT RAKOLA for the photos.



## President's Corner (continued from [page 4](#))

### More Summer Events

As you can see from reading this message, we have been busy this spring, and it will be a busy summer. Hopefully between the events mentioned above, and our upcoming movies and musical performances, the Village's sponsored garden walks and lectures you have found something of interest. The entire Civic Association board and so many others work so hard to organize events which bring our community together.

This is what we are all about, and we are all eager to meet you and get to know you, so please join us!

Angela aka Angie Vaught

301-787-2088

Angelavaught1@aol.com



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*I live in your neighborhood! References upon request*





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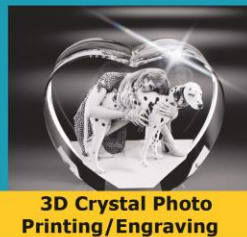
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# BULLFROGS RULE!

by Cecily Nabors

Who's hanging out in our small local wetland, calling for a "jug o'rum" in a big bass voice? It's a male bullfrog, a species named for its bull-like bellow. The caller is likely to be in or near the pond or down by the creek. It may be sitting on a log or in the muddy leaves near the edge of the water, or cruising just below the water's surface, with only those big bulging eyes visible. If the frog is close enough and not agitated by too much company, you may see his throat bulge out as he calls.



That bellow is not the only sound these big amphibians make. Amazingly, their voices range from bass to soprano, and they can click, shriek, and even mew like a cat. When the day is warm and love is in the air, a bellow from the left side of the pond may be answered by a cluck elsewhere and then a couple of clicks—a fierce or flirty froggy conversation.



Like other amphibians, bullfrogs need water to keep their skin moist and to raise a family. The female lays her eggs in the water, where they are fertilized by the male. The tadpoles hatch in just four or five days. They are much bigger than those of other frogs, so they're easy to identify, but they may take two to three years to mature into frogs. The tadpole in this picture has produced one tiny right hind leg; there's a lot more growing-up work to do.

Bullfrogs eat a lot of insects, flipping out a sticky tongue to pull in a snack. But they will also go for pretty much anything they can get into their wide mouths. Aggressive and voracious predators, bullfrogs will eat small snakes and birds, crayfish, rodents, and other frogs. (Yes, it's a frog-eat-frog world.)

A downside to bullfrogs' dominance is their impact on a local ecosystem. Bullfrogs that are introduced to a new place may shortly extirpate local species—this has been an ecological problem in some areas. In our wetland, bullfrogs predominate over other amphibians. Spring peepers and gray tree frogs still sing from the trees, and wood frogs, green frogs or leopard frogs are occasionally audible or visible, but bullfrogs rule.

Bullfrogs in their turn are hunted, of course. Humans are not the only creatures that delight in frog legs! In our SBP wetland, frogs are hunted by resident red-shouldered hawks in the daytime and barred owls at night. Not to mention passers-by like herons and sandpipers. And have you seen the big snapping turtle that frequents the pond and creek? No wonder frogs take cover when they can. Rock ledges near the bridges over Bel Pre Creek sometimes shelter a frog, and pond duckweed often provides camouflage.

Frogs have been around for about 230 million years—since before the dinosaurs. It's safe to say our boss bullfrogs will be with us for a while longer.



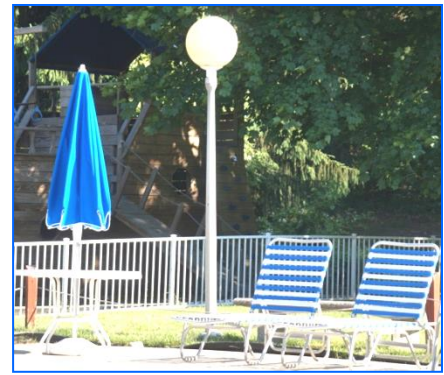


# Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from [page 6](#))

## Online Information about the Pool and the Recreational Facilities

Information about pool hours, rules, facility reservations, the snack bar, activities such as Masters Swimming, and more can be found at <https://www.strathmorebelpre.org/general-pool-information>



From the community home page ([www.strathmorebelpre.org](http://www.strathmorebelpre.org)), hover over “Pool” at top right, and then choose “General Information” from the dropdown menu

Information about the pool will be updated as we approach our opening date and throughout the summer. Information will also be posted at the pool.

## 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 2023 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 2023 Bugle](#) or [StrathmoreBelPre.org](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org) for detailed information about how to make sure your eSoft Planner account is properly set up for pool check in.

**Only those that reside in your home should be listed in your eSoft Planner account for pool check in.** While you are not charged guest fees for your non-resident children, grandchildren, parents, or grandparents, they are still considered guests, not members, and do not have unlimited access to the facility. A household member will have to accompany them the pool and sign them in each time they visit.

If you watch your grandchildren on a regular basis and bring them to the pool as their caregivers, you can add them to your account for ease of check in.

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

If you are a new resident, renter, or landlord, please visit [StrathmoreBelPre.org/pool-access-eSoft](http://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.**



Information about eSoft Planner and pool check in can be found at <https://www.strathmorebelpre.org/pool-access-esoft>. Links to the eSoft Planner Help Form and eSoft Planner login page are also available..

From the community home page ([www.strathmorebelpre.org](http://www.strathmorebelpre.org)), hover over “Pool” at top right, and then choose “Pool Access/Check-in (eSoft Planner)”, “eSoft Planner Login Page” or “eSoft Planner Help Form” from the dropdown menu.

– Continued on [page 14](#) –

# Fire Safety in our Homes and our Community

by Maria (Cookie) Stagnitto

The Strathmore Bel Pre Multigenerational Village Project invites you to a presentation by the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services! Come and learn about smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, the current County laws on them, and how the Fire Department can assist you with them. Ask your questions about the safety of battery powered appliances and more.

**Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 6:30 pm**  
(rain date Thursday, June 29 at 6:30 p.m.)  
Pool Pavilion

MICHAEL STAGNITTO, a former member of the Dolphin Swim Team, now a Montgomery County Firefighter and Paramedic, will make a guest appearance.

Please join us for an interesting and life-saving hour-long presentation. There will be time for questions and answers after the presentation.

**All community members are welcome, and encouraged to attend.**



## Tennis and Pickleball News

by Dave Pullen

Chair, BPRA Tennis & Pickleball Courts Committee

The BPRA tennis and pickleball courts are **CLOSED** until further notice to allow for annual power washing and maintenance of the surface, followed by repairs for surface failure, and remediation of crack lines.

Depending on the scope of the work that needs to be done, the courts may be closed for several weeks -- we simply don't know for sure at this juncture.

**Please do not enter the courts enclosure for any reason until further notice**, as the repair issue will require reapplication of material that requires curing/drying time to seal properly.

During this interlude, public tennis courts are available at many nearby schools and parks, and pickleball courts are available at the Bauer Rec Center off of Norbeck Road.

Thank you for your cooperation.



## Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from [page 12](#))



### BPRA Board Meeting Schedule

The BPRA Board of Trustees normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 pm. All BPRA meetings will be held via Zoom or at the pool. Please see [StrathmoreBelPre.org/meetings-meeting-minutes](https://www.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 you feel is important. To attend a Board meeting, please contact me at [klpurdy@hotmail.com](mailto:klpurdy@hotmail.com) or (301) 603-9604 no later than 4 pm on the day of the meeting, to be added to the participants list and get Zoom log in information.

The BPRA Board will meet on these dates in 2023: Board Meetings: **June 6** at the pool, **June 20** (if needed), **July 11** at the pool, **July 25** (if needed), **August 1**, **August 15** (if needed), **September 11**, **October 3**, **November 7**, **December 5**, **January 2, 2024**.

**The Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:30pm.**



The BPRA Meeting Schedule and related information, including preliminary meeting agendas and meeting minutes can be found <https://www.strathmorebelpre.org/meetings-meeting-minutes>

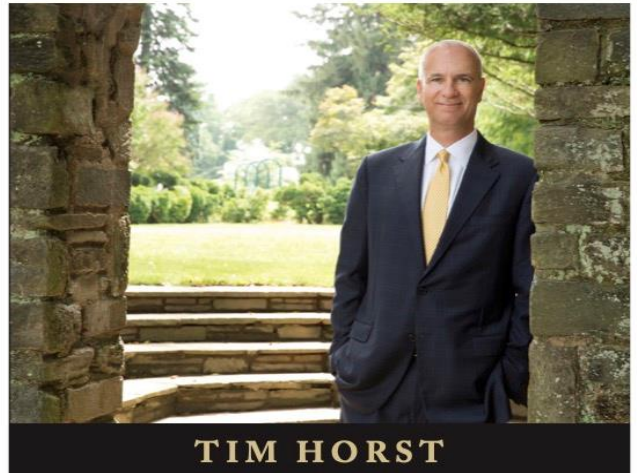
From the community home page ([www.strathmorebelpre.org](http://www.strathmorebelpre.org)), hover over "Rec Association" at top right, and then choose "Meetings & Meeting Minutes" from the dropdown menu.

The full meeting schedule is posted in mid-January each year with updates as needed. Meeting minutes and committee reports are posted after minutes are approved by the BPRA Board.

– Continued on bottom of [page 15](#) –

## Selling homes in the Strathmore at Bel Pre neighborhood for 39 years

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# Strathmore Bel Pre Village Project

by Kristi Hullings

Hello Strathmore Bel Pre Neighbors! Our monthly Strathmore Bel Pre Village meetings are always the second Thursday of the month, and have started at 7:30 pm. This summer, our Village meetings will take place in-person at the pool pavilion and/or pool grounds, weather permitting.



Our summer meetings at the Pool Pavilion will have a social and a business part. Social hour will begin at 6:30 pm, for those who wish to nosh and converse, and/or play board games, bocce or cornhole. Several of us are bringing snacks to share as well. Our business meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. You are invited to the social hour (bring some snacks or soft drinks to share), and/or to the business meeting.



## Village Summer Meetings at the Pool Pavilion

6:30 pm Social Hour, 7:30 pm Business meeting

Thursday, **June 8**

Thursday, **July 13**

Thursday, **August 10**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

**Village Social Activities Survey is Still Open**

## THANK YOU to those who have taken the Village Social Activities survey!

For those who haven't, we are still gathering responses, and we would love to have your opinions heard. You are welcome to submit anonymously, if that is your preference. It takes less than 5 minutes to check the boxes. The link to the electronic version of the survey can be found here: [Village Social Activities Survey](https://www.strathmorebelpre.org/village-social-activities-survey). You can find the printed version in the May *Bugle*, which is online at [www.strathmorebelpre.org/the-bugle](https://www.strathmorebelpre.org/the-bugle). The print version may be turned into the Village basket on the bulletin board at the pool.

We would love to get as much community input as possible on social activity scheduling and about our path to charitable organization status. We hope you will be able to join us. All neighbors and opinions are welcome! Even if you cannot join us, feel free to email me, [SBPvillage@gmail.com](mailto:SBPvillage@gmail.com).

## Bel Pre Recreational News (continued from [page 14](#))

### For Pool Check In, Who should be listed in my eSoft Planner Account ?

Only those that reside in your home should be listed in your BPRA eSoft Planner account. While you are not charged guest fees for your non-resident children, grandchildren, etc, they are still considered guests, not members. As such, they do not have unlimited access to the facility. A household member will have to accompany them to the pool and sign them in each time they visit.

If you watch your grandchildren on a regular basis and bring them to the pool as their caregivers, you can add them to your account for ease of check in. If your grandchildren join the swim team, facility use will be dictated by the Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins Non-resident Swimmer Policy. In that case the swimmers' parents can accompany the swimmer to the pool without you for swim team practices and events, but they cannot use the pool unless they are signed in by a member as guests.

### Paying For Guests!

For guests for which you need to pay, you can either purchase guest passes online before you come to the facility, or pay when you arrive. The passes purchased online show up in your account for use when you check a guest in at the front desk. You will not have a paper pass. Only BPRA members can pay for guests!

– Continued on bottom of [page 17](#) –

# For those who dare to keep learning...

Explore noncredit classes with Osher at JHU this fall. Make new friends and enjoy lively discussions with expert faculty. Satisfy your curiosity and energize your mind with programs in-person and online. Fall registration begins June 16th.

**CONTACT US TODAY:**

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## BlocktoberFest for 2023!

Strathmore Bel Pre's very own block party

**October 14**

**rain date October 15**

3 pm to 6 pm



The date for the BlocktoberFest 2023 is **October 14**, with a rain date of **October 15**. The party will be held on the end of Rippling Brook Drive, between the

Matthew Henson Trail and Bel Pre Elementary School.

This is a real block party, with the funding and support provided by Rec and Civic. The party will have music, games for the kids, potluck snacks and other foods (pizza and brats, baked potatoes perhaps!), soft drinks. You are welcome to bring your own beverages (byob).

This is your opportunity in the fall to get together with neighbors and friends, meet new folks, learn more about the community, and enjoy each other's company, have some tasty foods, find some fun, and be out in the nice fall weather.

The Scouts may sell popcorn, the Welcome Committee and Village Project will be there. Put the party on your calendar today. Along with a note to remember to have to bring your potluck snacks, preferably individually packaged.

## Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from [page 15](#))

### 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](mailto:klpurdy@hotmail.com).



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

If you are interested in helping with miscellaneous repair and maintenance jobs around the pool, please contact JOE MOELLER at [moellerhj@aspengroves.com](mailto:moellerhj@aspengroves.com). If you are interested in gardening at the pool, please contact SANDY FLEMING at [sfleming04@hotmail.com](mailto:sfleming04@hotmail.com).

Information about volunteer opportunities can be found at <https://www.strathmorebelpre.org/volunteers>



From the community home page ([www.strathmorebelpre.org](http://www.strathmorebelpre.org)), hover over "Rec Association" at top right, and then choose "Volunteers" from the dropdown menu.

Information is updated periodically.



# Welcome to the Strathmore Bel Pre Neighborhood

by Suzanne Lawson

New Residents' Welcome Committee



Moving house is high on the list of life's most stressful activities. Some folks unpack their boxes at high speed and miraculously settle within 2 weeks. Others may take a year or more. Practical questions arise: Which day of the week is trash collected? Which are the nearby kid-friendly restaurants? Where is the nearest dry cleaner? The internet makes research easy, but it is so much nicer to speak with someone in the neighborhood instead of having to engage in lengthy research.

The Strathmore Bel Pre New Residents' Welcome Committee is currently comprised of CHRIS SWAN, DAVE PULLEN, SUZANNE LAWSON and SHANNON O'ROURKE. They would be pleased to chat on the phone or, if preferred, to arrange to meet newcomers in person. If they can't answer a question, they will try to find a response. Don't hesitate to reach out to SUZANNE: (301) 915-7775, or SHANNON: (804) 980-8923.

Additionally, the Civic Association runs the neighborhood listserv, where neighbors post their questions and get answers; find out about upcoming events in the neighborhood, as well as current problems or successes. Contact JOHN BOGASKY ([see page 3](#)) to join the ListServ. Membership in the ListServ is free to new residents for their first calendar year in the neighborhood.



## Spring Thing 2023 ~~ Lots of Fun

The May 2023 Spring Thing was a success, with assorted games for everyone to play, lots of yummy food to eat, and visits by the County Executive MARC ELRICH and County Council District 4 Member NATALI FANI-GONZALEZ.

Several families attending were new to the neighborhood, and had recently moved into our community. This was their first introduction to our activities. Many of them had young kids, for whom the face painting,

balloon twisting, bowling and fishing games were very popular.

Thanks go to:

- SUZANNE LAWSON for her New Residents Welcome and ice-breaker (with a prize),
- SUSAN GRIESBAUER and Village Project members for their assistance in setting up the refreshment tables,
- PAUL SPELMAN for his excellent pizza,
- ROD OO for his delicious hot dogs,
- DAVE PULLEN for the tennis and pickleball demos,
- COOKIE and PAUL STAGNITTO for the kids' fishing game, bowling, and chalk fun, and the many assorted neighbors who helped with them,
- KYE PAK for his excellent music,
- JACKIE and JOE MOELLER and the Scout masters and the Scout troops for their bubbles games, and their assistance with the set-up and take-down of the chairs, tables, etc.
- STEVE JENNISON for taking the trash and recycling to the Montgomery County Transfer Station,
- the Swim Team, the Civic Association, and the Village Project members who staffed tables,
- the BPRA and the Civic Association for their financial support for the balloon twister and face painters,
- CHRIS SWAN and ELLIOT CHABOT for their assistance and assorted contributions, and most of all,
- COOKIE (and PAUL) STAGNITTO, for heading up this event!

# New Bugle Editor(s) Needed



*The Bugle*, the newsletter for the Strathmore Bel Pre Community (which you now are reading), has been continuously published since 1969, by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association, as a free resource to the community.

For the past 20 years or so, *The Bugle* has been published quarterly. With the exception of the printing, this is an all-volunteer operation! We are dependent upon community volunteers (yes, that's you!), to help us create and distribute your community newsletter. From raw content to getting ads to walking the streets for delivery, our community does it all.

Our jobs as Editor and Assistant Editor have been to create a coherent issue, editing (and sometimes writing or rewriting) the articles, adding photos and creating charts and tables as needed, placing the advertisements, etc. The two of us have served as Editor and Assistant Editor for over 10 years. We are retiring from our positions after the final issue for 2023, the October issue, volume 55, #4. While we have enjoyed our roles very much, it is time for other community members to take on *The Bugle*.

## Thanks!

We very much want to **THANK** every person who has written articles, taken photos, created charts and graphics, given us advertisements, proofread the issues, gone to the printer, and then distributed each edition of *The Bugle*, for over the past 10 years. Also, thanks for your patience, humor, and acceptance of the all too-often typos and errors in our editions.

## Thinking about being the Bugle Editor?

Remember that the Civic Association (with support from the Bel Pre Recreational Association) funds *The Bugle*, deals with the advertising, and works with the folks who distribute it in paper to the Community. Joining the Civic Association Board is most vital to the job of *The Bugle* Editor, as is having a Civic and a Recreational mindset. Although our lives have become more electronic and less paper oriented, the Civic Association is committed to keeping paper copies available for folks who still live in the paper world. Also, more than 1 person often has handled the editorial duties

**What would you like the Bugle to become?** We are more than happy to assist you, but the future issues would be yours to shape. If you're interested (or think you might be interested) give us a call at (301) 871-1113.  
Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot

## Join the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

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

### Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association Membership

**Dues are just \$20 per year.**

Why Join? The Civic Association:

- Publishes *The Bugle*
- Hosts the [StrathmoreBelPre.org](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org) web site
- Runs the Civic Association listserv
- Organizes the Yard Sale, the July 4<sup>th</sup> Events, Summer Movies and Concerts

**We need your support to help sustain these community services!**

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

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# A Change to the SBPCA Summer Movie Schedule

by John Bogasky

The SBPCA plans to show *The Fabelmans* in place of *A Man Called Otto* for our August movie. While *Otto* received a few more votes in our summer poll, we later learned that the marketing for the movie (e.g., “Fall in love with the grumpiest man in America”) did not fairly represent the movie’s content. The movie includes multiple detailed sequences where Otto attempts suicide, scenes that did not match the movie’s upbeat marketing. *The Fabelmans* was the next highest vote-getter, and its content better aligns with its marketing.

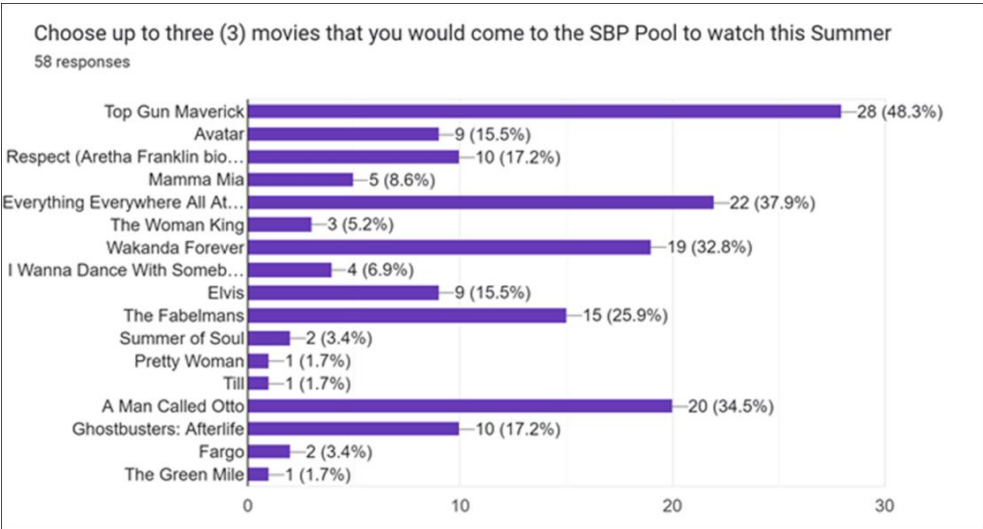
Below is our revised 2023 Movie Schedule



## Movies for Kids, Movies for All Ages, and Movies for Grown-Ups

It is a challenge to choose movies for our Summer series. We live in a diverse community where tastes vary widely. For the past two years, we have used a community poll via our Civic Association listserv to help us choose the movies.

We conducted two movie polls this year, the first to select our three budgeted movies and a second to select a fourth movie based on fundraising success. Our first movie poll had mostly movies for all ages (e.g., *Top Gun Maverick*, *Mamma Mia*), and movies for grownups (*Everything Everywhere*, *The Fabelmans*). It did include one movie for kids (*Ghostbusters: Afterlife*). Here are the results from the first poll:

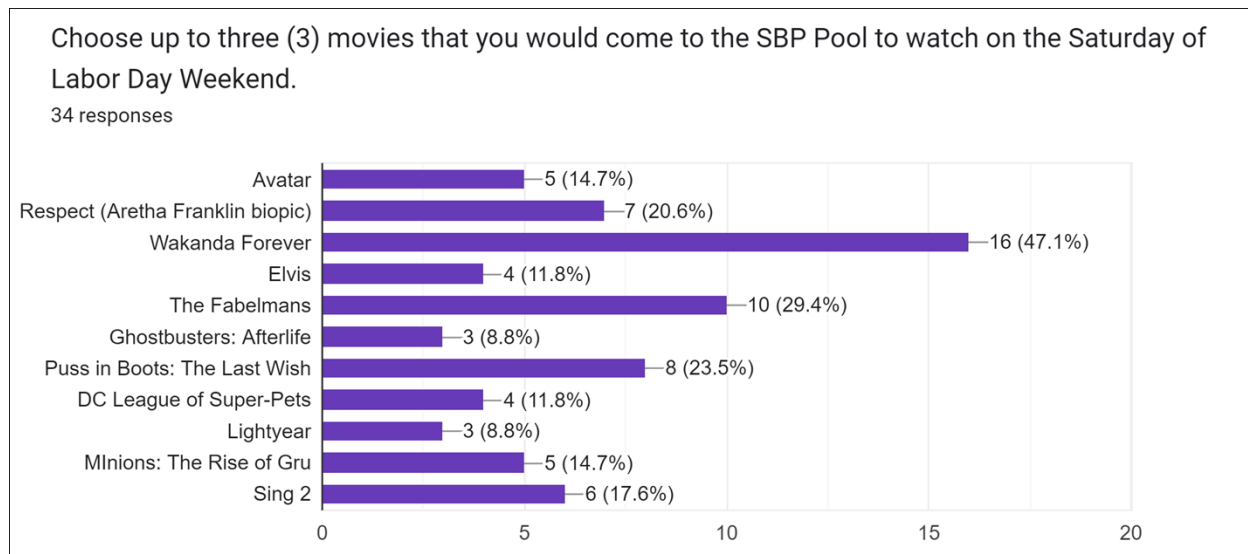


– Continued on [page 22](#) –

## Summer Movies (continued from [page 21](#))

Our initial movie selections matched the top three vote-getters in this poll.

For our second poll, we added more movies for kids (e.g., *Sing 2*, *Minions: The Rise of Gru*, *Puss-In Boots*) in response to feedback. However, those movies for kids did not fare well in the second poll. Instead, *Wakanda Forever* won after placing fourth in the original poll. Here are the results from the second poll.



It's curious that the movies for kids did not poll better. We did ask people to only vote for movies that they would go to the pool to see. Since we need darkness, our movies start late, typically 8:30 pm or later. That time is not ideal for children, so that could have been a factor. In the end, the SBPCA felt that we should respect the poll results and show the movies the community selected through the poll. We made an exception for *Otto* because it seemed that the misleading marketing may have impacted polling.

### Thank You to Our Sponsors!

As always, our SBPCA thanks our Summer Entertainment Sponsors for their support. Their contributions make it possible for our Civic Association to organize movies and concerts at the Pool each summer. We hope to see many of you at a movie or concert this summer!

**The SBP Civic Association Thanks Our 2023 Summer Entertainment Sponsors!!!**

SBP Superstars					
Tim Horst LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE	The Bel Pre Recreational Association		Paulette Ladas RE/MAX Realty Group		
Community Champions	ASTIHA ARTISAN GREEK BAKERY	Susan Shannon			
Oscar Winners	Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot John & Shelly Bogasky	Gabriele Richard Paul & Maria Stagnitto	Ted & Nancy Bechtol J. Steed & Sharon Edwards	Lilla Hammond & Family Michele Cimbala	
Band Leaders	Peter & Diane Kendall Norman & Maureen Stulz	Linda & Charles Bea David & Sara Pullen	Janet Kisler Christopher & Lauren Mazenac	Tigran Iskanian & Shannon O'Rourke Patrick & Sunita Joshi-Taylor	Bob & Deb Perry Larry, Rita, & Angela Vaught
Super Fans	Beverley Collins Carmen Lopez	Sandeep & Laura Krishnan Cecily Nabors & Lou Martin	Daniel & Raquel Mann Elaine Dynes	Kathleen Dyer Heidi & Michael Eldridge	Liza Lieberman Marsha Ellen Bisker
Susan Griesbauer Timothy Schulz & Isadora Cipoletts					

And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association

# 2023 Strathmore Bel Pre Summer Calendar

~June/July/early August~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Pool Hours May 27 to June 16 and from August 27 to Sept 4--</b> Mon to Thurs 3 to 8 pm Fri 3 to 9 pm Sat noon to 9 pm Sun noon to 8 pm		<b>Pool Hours June 17 to August 26--</b> July 4: noon to 6 pm All other days: noon to 9 pm	<b>All events are at the pool unless otherwise indicated</b>	<b>June 1</b> 	<b>2</b> 	<b>3 Annual Yard Sale, 9 am to noon</b> <b>Movie Night</b> Everything Everywhere @ dusk
<b>4</b> Yard Sale rain date, 9 to noon	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm at the pool	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> SBP Village Group social hour @ 6:30; planning meeting 7:30	<b>9</b> Swim Team Ice Cream Social @ 6:30, open to the community	<b>10</b> Swim Team Blue/White Meet (time trials)
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b> Bel Pre/Strathmore ES PTA meeting @ Strathmore 7:00	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> <b>MCPS Last Day of School</b> Swim Team Pasta Party @ 6:30	<b>17</b> <b>Longer Pool Hours begin – noon to 9</b> Swim Team meet @ Green View
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Swim Team AM Practices begin; afternoon Mon, Tues, & Thur	<b>20</b> BPRA Board meeting (if needed) @ 7:30 pm, on Zoom or at the pool	<b>21</b> Swim Team B Meet (tentative) @ 5:00	<b>22</b> <b>Fire Safety presentation</b> @ 6:30	<b>23</b> Swim Team Pasta Party @ 6:30	<b>24</b> Swim Team meet @ home vs. Smallwood Village
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee meeting @ 7:30 on Zoom	<b>27</b> Civic Association Board meeting @ 7:30 pm, on Zoom	<b>28</b> Swim Team B Meet vs. Norbeck Hills @ 5:00	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b> Swim Team Pasta Party @ 6:30	<b>July 1</b> <b>Movie Night</b> Topgun: Maverick @ dusk Swim Team meet @ Rogers Carter
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> of July –</b> Parades 12:30 pm Magic Show 1 pm Children's Games 2 pm	<b>5</b> Swim Team B Meet (tentative) @ 5:00	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> Swim Team Pasta Party @ 6:30	<b>8</b> Swim Team meet @ home vs. Mount Vernon
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 at the pool 	<b>12</b> Swim Team B Meet (tentative) @ 5:00	<b>13</b> SBP Village Group social hour @ 6:30; planning meeting @ 7:30	<b>14</b> Swim Team Pasta Party @ 6:30	<b>15</b> Swim Team meet @ home vs. Cheverly Dolphins Dance (tentative) @ 8:00
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b> Jelly Bean meet @ 6:00 (see <a href="#">page 7</a> for more details – everyone is invited to participate)	<b>20</b> BPRA Governing Docs Com. Meeting on Zoom @ 7:30	<b>21</b> Swim Team Pasta Party @ 6:30	<b>22</b> <b>Swim Meet – Divisional Championship @ home</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b> Civic Association Board meeting @ 7:30 pm, on Zoom BPRA Board meeting (if needed) @ 7:30 pm, on Zoom or at the pool	<b>26</b> Swim Team Banquet @ 6:00 	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b> Swim Team All Stars Meet @ West Arundel
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 	<b>August 1</b> BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm, on Zoom or at the pool	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Movie Night</b> The Fabelmans @ dusk



# 4th of July 2023

## Register Online or In-Person!

### Start at Strathmore Elementary School

- ☐ Parade Registration 11:30 am
- ☐ Fire Trucks arrive 12:00 noon
- ☐ Flag Ceremony 12:20 pm
- ☐ Parades Begin 12:30 pm

### Meet at the Pool Grounds

be sure to sign the red July 4<sup>th</sup> log-in book at the pool check-in.

- ☐ The Magic Show 1:00 pm, Pool Pavilion
- ☐ Fields Games 2:00 pm, Pool Grounds

### Car Parade Route (held only IF 10 cars register!)

See the map above. The car parade begins and ends at the Strathmore Elementary School.

### Kids Parade Route (walkers, strollers, and bikers)

Begins at Strathmore Elementary School and ends at the Pool Grounds. Parade goes 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



Happy To Watch a Parade? Come out and enjoy!

**Strathmore Bel Pre ~~ July 4th, 2023 Celebration**  
**You can Register online this year to participate!**  
[Online Link to the July 4th Registration and Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Setting up \_\_\_ Registration \_\_\_ Safety \_\_\_ Flag Ceremony \_\_\_ Wrap up

\_\_\_ We plan to be in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Patriotic Car Parade (driving, riding).

\_\_\_ We plan to be in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Children's Parade (walking, biking, with stroller)

\_\_\_ Volunteering to help with the parade (safety, registration, et al)

\_\_\_ Volunteering to help with childrens' games on the pool grounds (after the parades)

**Contact Strathmore Bel Pre July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee:**

call Nicole Banks at (301) 316-8331 or

e-mail questions or registration info to Luba Dowhaluk at [lubadowhaluk@gmail.com](mailto:lubadowhaluk@gmail.com)

(Or register online, see above!)

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

