

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

June 2021

vol. 53 #3



4th of July Celebration 2021

by Lilla Hammond

It is a Strathmore Bel Pre tradition to have a parade with fire trucks and our Scouts, and family events at the pool, to bring us all together to celebrate our country's birthday! This year, like last year, due to COVID -19, we have a Flag Ceremony and a Patriotic Car Parade, with prizes!.



Flag Ceremony 12:00 noon, Strathmore Elementary School

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

Parade Route Map, see back page.

Flag Ceremony

Before the parade begins, our Troop 763 Scouts will present the flags in front of Strathmore Bel Pre Elementary School.

Patriotic Car Parade

For our second **July 4th** Car Parade, just decorate your car for the 4th and come to the Strathmore Elementary School parking lot, on Beaverwood Lane, in your vehicle. Have fun with red, white and blue colors! Arrive early, around 11:20 am, to be entered for a prize!

RSVP for the Parade

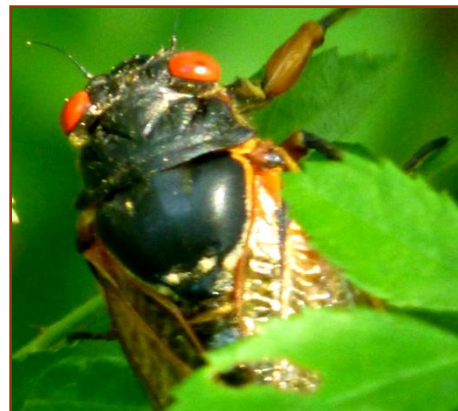
Please do register for the parade, at www.strathmorebelpre.org/fourth-of-july. Or email w.m.hammond@verizon.net.

Shred-It Event – September 25 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 25**, 2021, 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 20 for those details.

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Cicadas Brood X, 3 species

THE BUGLE

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Civic Association

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

Annual SBPCA membership: \$18.00

Web site: www.strathmorebelpre.org

The SBPCA is a voluntary association, funded by membership dues, that sponsors and participates in many community and local programs; and also represents our community to County Government and various groups such as the Montgomery County Civic Federation and the Glenmont Exchange. The SBPCA also sponsors Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 763.

Additionally, the SBPCA publishes *The Bugle* 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

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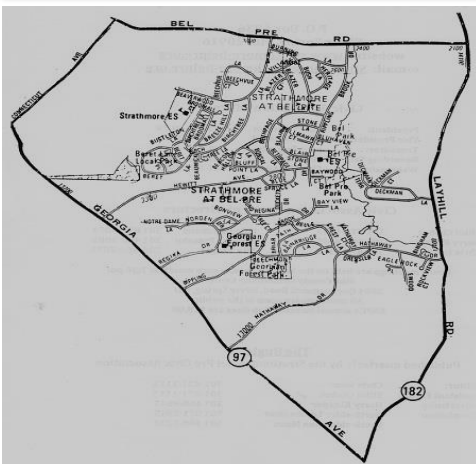
CHRIS SWAN 301 871-1113

LILLA HAMMOND 301 518-7818

RITA VAUGHT 206 406-2871

Vacant

Your name could be here!



Strathmore Bel Pre Street map

Strathmore Bel Pre Community listserv: To join the listserv, contact JOHN BOGASKY.

Website: The Civic and Rec Associations have a joint website, maintained by the Civic Association. For more information, contact BILLY RUPPERT 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 courts, volleyball court, playgrounds, picnic areas, bath house, snack bar, and pavilion, which normally are open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. The tennis courts are open year round.

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

The annual General Membership meeting is normally held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving Day at 7:30 pm, at Strathmore Elementary School (Zoom in 2020). The annual Town Hall meeting, 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
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Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

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Block Party & Spring Thing Coordinator	vacant	
Emergency Response & Planning Committee Chair	NANCY BECHTOL	301 871-3679
Entertainment & Recreation Committee Chair	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
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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
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New Member Recruitment Coordinator	vacant	
Nominating Committee Chair	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Pavilion Scheduler	vacant	
Pet Waste Station Coordinator	JACKIE FARY-MOELLER	jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com
Pool and Recreational Facilities Committee Chair	PHIL KOMINSKI	phil@freestylebooking.com
Pool Pass Coordinator	vacant	
Pool Property Helpers Coordinator	JOE MOELLER	moellerhj@aspengroves.com
Tennis Court Keys Distributor	JIM EATON	240 743-8480
Tennis Courts and Pickleball Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Trunk or Treat Coordinator	ELIZABETH KOMINSKI	elizabethinfo@gmail.com
Webmaster	BILLY RUPPERT	301 332-4901

The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

Movie nights are back!

We have made it through the worst of this Pandemic, and it is so good to be planning events again for the summer season. We have already hosted the first drive-in movie night on May 1st and the neighbors who participated were treated to a beautiful evening and a great movie. Fun was the name of the game for that evening! If you haven't managed to attend one of our movie nights, please do try it for a nice change of pace. You might be surprised how much fun you and your family can have at our Pool. JOHN BOGASKY has made it easy for us to remember movie nights this summer, they are the first Saturday of every summer month.



Neighborhood Parking

The Civic Association hosted a virtual Zoom meeting on April 27th to discuss the parking issues we have in our neighborhood, especially along Hewitt Avenue and Blue Spruce Lane and on Beaverwood Drive. We welcomed over 25 neighbors on this Zoom call and we hosted a great discussion around these parking issues discussing possible solutions.



We submitted an application to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation for their residential parking permit program for just the Blue Spruce Lane/Hewitt Avenue section of our neighborhood as a test case and we just heard back from them this week to let us know we do not qualify for this program at this time. This program was developed to assist neighborhoods who border large Metro stations and have parking issues with daytime users. Our problem is with overnight parking, but MCDOT surveyed this section of our neighborhood in both the daytime and evening and did not find enough of a problem to qualify for this permit program. They have asked us to resubmit if the volume of vehicles increases. Evidently, we need over 50% of the parked cars on the street to be from outside of our neighborhood to qualify. We continue to work on this issue and have promised to host another virtual meeting on this topic later this summer.

Enjoy the Pool This Summer

We organized another meeting with the Emergency Planning Committee to discuss the COVID pandemic and suggest ways the BPRA should open our pool this summer. We had a lively discussion around possible pool rules. With the CDC and our County rolling out new guidance on a daily basis, this is no easy task! The good news is our pool can open for the whole summer season this year. I am most thankful to all of the volunteers who assisted with this important work.

I hope everyone will consider using the pool and pool grounds this summer, enjoy the snack bar when it opens and attend the movie nights. Have you ever considered Water Aerobics with COOKIE STAGNITTO? She will instruct us again this summer, so come and join us for water aerobics. I will be there for sure!

Fall Events!!

Save the date for our **Fall Yard Sale and a Shred-It**, both are on **September 25th** right now. We also hope to bring our **Fall BlocktoberFest** event back. We hope to be moving toward a more normal summer, and hopefully fall. Please check our website for the latest news!



Bel Pre Recreational News

by Karen Purdy

President, Bel Pre Recreational
Association



Pool Opening Summer 2021

(Please see StrathmoreBelPre.org for updates)

As of this writing, we are one week away from opening the pool and although some COVID protocols remain in place, we are very happy to announce that most of the limits and restrictions from last summer are no longer necessary. The pool will be fully open, with no "pods" or reservations, and no time limits for swimmers, as long as we remain within our occupancy limits.

A few things to keep in mind:

1. All members must complete, sign, and return their COVID waivers on the day of their first pool visit.
2. All members must CHECK IN when arriving and CHECK OUT WHEN DEPARTING. This is critical, as County guidelines still require that we maintain a count of people within the gates.
3. All members should review the full rules carefully with your household. Rules are posted at the pool and at StrathmoreBelPre.org.

The public health situation is evolving rapidly, and the BPRA Board will continue to evaluate new guidance from local authorities. As local and state guidelines change, we will update our rules and protocols regarding occupancy, social distancing, face coverings, etc.

With the new online system in place, and frequent changes in local regulations, we do anticipate some confusion and perhaps a hiccup here or there. We ask for your patience as we work to ensure that our members enjoy a fun, relaxing, and safe summer at the pool.

Thank you to JOE MOELLER, TED BECHTOL and the Georgetown Aquatics staff for their hard work in getting the pool ready to open. JOE and TED spent many hours at the pool working on a variety of projects and coordinating with contractors.

Thank you to CARMEN WONG for putting together and mailing over 200 sets of season passes to our members. Thank you to the members of the Emergency Response and Planning Committee chaired by NANCY BECHTOL, and the BPRA Board for staying on top of COVID rules and restrictions and working through many iterations of the Summer 2021 Rules and Operating Procedures.



Lap Lanes and Water Aerobics

New this summer! By popular demand, we will be offering up to 6 lap lanes from 6:30 pm until close on Tuesday and Friday nights. Lanes may be used for lap swimming, water walking or other appropriate exercise. Multiple swimmers from a single household, or up to 2 swimmers from different households, may use each lane.

Reserve a lap lane by logging into your eSoft Planner account or by calling the pool. Lanes can be reserved up to two days in advance. See StrathmoreBelPre.org or the bulletin board at the pool for more information.

On Monday evenings starting June 14, our very own MARIA "COOKIE" STAGNITTO will be teaching water aerobics. COOKIE plans on teaching both shallow water and deep water classes. Please see the bulletin board at the pool for more information, including class times, cost and sign-up procedures.

Bel Pre Recreational News

(Continued from page 5)

Snack Bar

Thank you to the MILLER Family for their many years of providing delicious treats while operating the snack bar. The MILLERS decided to step away from the snack bar business after summer 2019.

We anticipate that the snack bar will open at some point this summer under the operation of SBP resident, *Bugle* sponsor, and Plaza del Mercado Pizza Stop owner, ROD OO. More information about hours and menu will be shared when it is available.

Pavilion

The pavilion will be open for limited household use this summer. As COVID guidelines change, members may be able to reserve the pavilion for parties or events. If and when pavilion reservation becomes available, instructions and contact information will be posted at the pool and on StarthmoreBelPre.org.

Tennis Court Repairs

I am happy to report that tennis court repairs are underway. Thank you to Tennis Court Committee Chair DAVE PULLEN and the entire Tennis Court Committee for clearing vegetation and brush from the courts and getting the courts ready for the repair work. Thank you to JOE MOELLER and his family for coordinating the removal of the backboard prior to work starting. More information about the tennis court repair can be found on page 9.

– Continued on page 10 –



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



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



Lilla Leike Hammond, *GRI, CRS*

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Happy Summer, Strathmore Bel Pre!

by Claire Pak
Secretary, SBP Dolphins

By the time you read this, the SBP Dolphins will be well into the 2021 swim season. Getting this season off the ground was challenging. Our practices usually begin on the day after Memorial Day, and the first meet happens in mid-June. With a schedule that doesn't change much from year to year, except for the meet locations, we can usually get a season up and running without much planning. This year, however, we started with no idea of what the summer would look like in terms of COVID-19 protocols. And so we worked with what we had, and we developed Plans A, B, and C so that we'd have contingency procedures in place to accommodate changing County Health and/or State rules and restrictions.



Our entire 2020 coaching staff returned for the 2021 season. Head Coach LILAN MILLER, Assistant Coach OLIVIA MILLER, and Developmental Coaches CARSON TAYLOR and CAMILLE BEARMAN are all back in the same roles. We are delighted to have this experienced, hardworking, and creative team back in the pool with our swimmers. Last year, we had to adjust everything – practice times and groups were different, strict COVID-19 protocols were in place. Our coaches had to manage so much more than strokes and turns and starts and finishes. They managed to keep everything running smoothly and safely, making it possible for us to hold a successful season, even in the middle of a pandemic.



With the easing of restrictions state- and county-wide, we welcome the return of summer, and the return of swimming. A Dolphins summer is a gift to our children, and we are thankful to all of you who make this gift possible. Many of you responded generously to our annual appeal, and our donors and corporate sponsors (PAULETTE LADAS/ReMax Realty, The Breakaways Band, the

Bagelry of Olney, DR. DAVID SCHLUTZ, DDS; and DSFederal) are making it possible for us to purchase new equipment (including kickboards and a new printer) and new neighborhood signs that will help us to recruit the next generation of Dolphins swimmers. Thank you, donors and sponsors!

We hope that the rest of this summer will be a relaxing, happy, and safe one for you and your families. If you have any questions about the Dolphins, visit our website: <https://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com/> Or contact any member of the SBP Swim Team Association Board of Directors. We are more than happy to answer questions and show you what a great summer the Dolphins swim team provides.

SBP Swim Team Association Board of Directors

ELIZABETH KOMINSKI, Co-President	elizabethinfo@gmail.com
PHIL KOMINSKI, Co-President	phil@freestylebooking.com
CHRIS HUFFINE, Vice President	huffine@gmail.com
DENISE REYES, Treasurer	casareyes@gmail.com
CLAIRE PAK, Secretary	claire0618@gmail.com
KAREN PURDY, "A" Meet Manager	klpurdy@hotmail.com

We can't wait to see you at the pool!



20906 and COVID-19: By the Numbers

by Elliot Chabot

On April 13, 2020, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services began publishing the daily cumulative tally of COVID-19 cases by zip code (from the Maryland Health Department). When the first 7-day average number of new cases was published on April 20, 2020, we were running 14.00 new cases per day in Strathmore Bel Pre's zip code (20906). We reached 32.71 new cases per day on May 25 and then saw a gradual decline through June 28, when we got down to just 6.00 new cases per day. Numbers started to drift up after that point, but then fell as low as 4.71 new cases per day (per 7-day average) by August 30, 2020.

With the end of summer, the numbers started to drift up again. By January 12, 2021, we were experiencing a 7-day average of 51.57 new COVID-19 cases per day in our zip code. On May 13 of this year, our zip code was recording a low of just 1.29 cases per day. Since then (as we go to press) the average has bounced between 1.86 and 3.00 new cases per day.

The next issue of *The Bugle* is scheduled to be published in October 2021. It is my hope that I can report that we've gotten the number of new cases down to zero and the pandemic is over.

Please be careful, though. Last summer it seemed like we were on the verge of being over this, but it didn't happen. Please keep yourself and your friends and neighbors safe.

**7-day Average Number Of New Covid-19 Cases
in Zip Code 20906 2020-2021**



Time Again for a Life in Strathmore Bel Pre Photo Contest!

Simply take or collect your best photos of life in our community! Winners of the contest are eligible to receive prizes, and their photos will be published in *The Bugle*, and featured on the Strathmore Bel Pre website. Enter now and often!!

The Rules:

1. To enter, please email your photo to: echabot@usa.net by January 1, 2022.
2. Photos must be at least 940 pixels wide by 410 pixels high, and should be in JPG or PNG format.
3. Winning entries will be chosen by a panel of your neighbors.
4. Prizes: First prize \$60 Second prize \$40 Third prize \$20
5. More than one photo per person may be submitted, but only one prize may be won per person.
6. All submissions become property of the Civic Association, which may use them on the website and in *The Bugle*.

Tennis Courts Renewal and Pickleball Courts Creation

by Dave Pullen

Chair, BPRA Tennis Committee

Tennis Courts Closure: 45 days

BPRA tennis courts will be locked with new locks and unavailable, effective **May 16**, and continuing for approximately 45 days, weather-dependent. Players should seek alternative venues for play during this time. The closure is to enable repair/restoration of the courts to safe play condition. The Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) Board approved a contract for this work earlier this year, after many years of effort to get the courts refurbished.



Removal of the old backboard

Pickleball Courts Creation

The first step in the renewal plan begins with the creation of additional footers to allow us to convert one tennis court into two permanent pickleball courts. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing racquet sports in the country. With two courts on our BPRA community property, this is a good way to allow our members to join the "wave!" While pickleball is especially attractive to seniors, the sport attracts players of all ages. You can even find professional pickleball matches on television these days! The remaining 3 courts will continue as standard tennis courts.

Tennis Courts Restoration

The contract work to be performed includes professional power-washing, followed by repair of the (many) cracks and especially those that have made two of the courts unsafe for play. Finally, the entire surface will be repainted in US Open blue colors and new white lines. The entire project is estimated to take about a month, provided the weather cooperates. If the nighttime temperature drops below 64 degrees, or if we get extensive rain, the timeline for completion will be extended.

The end product should be full restoration of the courts to excellent playing condition, plus the advantages of new playing opportunities for pickleball players as well as those who might want to try the sport.

Thanks to all for your patience during the repair work! We will advise you when work is completed and the "old" locks are returned, for which many homeowners already possess keys.

Tennis Courts Keys Needed?

If your household desires a key, please contact BPRA Tennis Court Keys Distributor JIM EATON. A key is free to any BPRA household one time. Should a replacement or additional key be needed or desired, JIM can provide that at a cost of \$5.00 per key. JIM's contact information is on page 3.



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Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 6)

Tree Removal and Other Grounds Work

Over the past 5 years or more, the Board has been surveying the grounds with a certified arborist on a regular basis. Each year we prioritize needs and then remove dead, declining, and hazardous trees across the property. In addition, pruning work is done to improve health and safety of remaining trees.

Over the past several years, many large white pines along the perimeter of the property have been removed. While those pine trees provided excellent screening for the first 20-25 years of their life, they began to gradually lose their lower branches, losing their screening value, and growing too large for their location, requiring removal. The remaining trees along the perimeter of the property are assessed on a yearly basis.

This spring, we performed two rounds of tree work. In preparation for the tennis court repair project, the large white pines next to the courts were removed. Those trees were deemed problematic for a number of reasons, including upheaval of the adjacent sidewalk, threat of damage to neighboring properties and numerous limbs overhanging the tennis courts. Several other trees on the property, including some perimeter pine trees were removed or pruned.

With an eye towards maintaining a pleasing and well maintained landscape, our tree and grounds work is not just limited to removal and pruning. A number of new trees and other plantings have been added to the grounds over the last few years. The Board will continue to establish new plantings in a number of locations in the near future, including between the tennis courts and sidewalk. Turf maintenance is done on a yearly basis and in an effort to offset the rainwater runoff from the large quantity of hardscape on the property, research and planning for a rain garden or gardens is underway.

TED BECHTOL, our Grounds and Landscaping Coordinator, coordinates all of these efforts and spends a significant amount of time doing work on the pool property. Thanks, TED.

– Continued on page 13 –



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Our Conservation Landscapes: an Update

by Cecily Nabors

During this spring of hope, flowers as bright as the sun livened the swale along the edges of our back yard. Golden ragwort has spread and flourished as planned in the new gardens. Shrubs all came through the winter, new growth has started, and everything is working on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay.

It's been a year since our two conservation landscapes were installed. Our landscaper, Backyard Bounty, worked with Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection to design the two areas where water flow piped from the roof of our house would be slowed by small rocky check dams and intense plantings. Non-native wineberry and other invasives were removed. They were replaced by shrubs and perennials that would prosper in shady conditions, soak up water, and serve to mask our neighbor's fence.

As I write in mid-May, the ragwort's golden cheer is subsiding into tufty white seed-heads, and the Arkansas bluestar is blooming. Wood ferns flare amid the sedges. Joe Pye weed and mallows are up, promising luscious red beauty. Shrubs like winterberry, bayberry, and blackhaw viburnums are thriving.



I'm getting my anti-deer spray ready. I've observed that while deer don't do a lot of damage to most mature woody plants, they do enjoy various snacks. Those turned out to include the sweet furled buds of the mallows and the tender new growth on the baby shrubs. The bayberry plants weren't bothered much, but the winterberries and viburnums were chewed last summer—and they're small enough to still be at risk. Aromatic sumac, planted near the steps leading down into our tiny patch of woods, unexpectedly took the biggest hit from the deer.

Even when one plans for plants that resist deer pressure, and even when tasty things are surrounded by non-tempting sedges and ornamental grasses, vigilance and stinky stuff are necessary. This year I'll concentrate attention (and repellents) on the plants that need the most help to get to maturity. I'll spray what I have to, of course. But the plants, the deer, and I will all adapt. Example: though deer still prune the low branches of our big viburnum and silky dogwood, installed many years ago, I've learned to enjoy the exuberant vase-shape that results.



Watching nature, even when struggling with some of its components (I'm looking at you, scale insects and deer) is one of the nicest ways I know to feel at home.

We need you, this place isn't going to run itself!

by Mark Foraker

BPRA Vice President and Nominating Committee Chair



The Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) Board is the governing body for our community neighborhood association. The Board is comprised of nine elected volunteer Board members who each serve three-year terms. Each year, three seats are up for election, so if you missed the opportunity to run one year, a second chance is right around the corner. This is an active Board, one that is charged with running and maintaining our communal grounds (pool, tennis courts, etc.) and ensuring we comply with County and State regulations for homeowners associations.

Each year we need BPRA community members to run for Board seats, as well as needing members for committees such as the Finance, Dispute Resolution and the Nominating Committees. Now is great time to reach out to me or to any BPRA Board member and express your interest in being a Board member! You formally must present your interest in a Board seat to the BPRA Board by **August 20, 2021**. Past that date, you can still run for a BPRA Board seat by submitting a form with signatures of five BPRA community member households to the BPRA Secretary by midnight on **October 4**. If you are interested in running, avoid that hoopla and reach out before **August 20, 2021**.

The election for this year will be held at the **November 18, 2021** annual meeting. It is always the goal to have six people running for the three open seats. Please reach out to MARK FORAKER at mark4aker@hotmail.com if you are ready to serve or if you have any questions.

Given Highest Rating by Consumer Checkbook Magazine

Robert Pence Remodeling, LLC

Web Site: RobertPenceRemodeling.com

MHIC# 136802

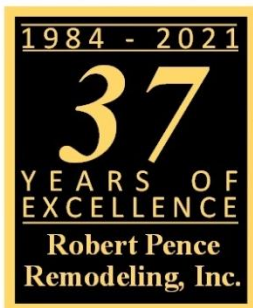
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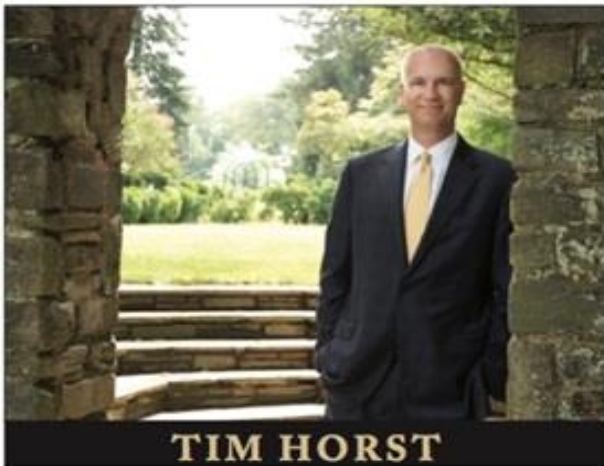
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Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 10)

Pool Hours Summer 2021

Hours will be as follows:

May 29, May 30: noon to 9 pm

May 31 (Memorial Day): noon to 8 pm

June 1 to June 16*

Monday through Thursday: 3 pm to 8pm

Friday: 3 pm to 9pm

Saturday: noon to 9 pm

Sunday: noon to 8 pm

June 17* to August 27**

July 4: noon to 6 pm

All other days: noon to 9 pm

August 28 to September 4:**

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 5 (Sunday): noon to 9 pm

September 6 (Labor Day): noon to 8 pm

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

** dates are based on the first day of Montgomery County Public Schools and are subject to change based on the school calendar. School starts Monday, **August 30, 2021.**

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

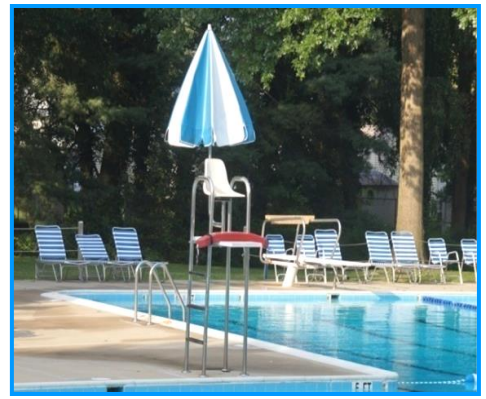
– Continued on the bottom of page 14 –



Aquatic Exercise Classes

MARIA (COOKIE) STAGNITTO will be teaching aquatic (water aerobics) classes at this pool this summer! Classes will start on Monday, **June 14th** and will be from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. You do not need to be a swimmer to join us. We work out in chest deep water. Water shoes are not required but they are helpful.

Classes will be offered for 8 weeks from **June 3rd** till **July 22nd** and are open to all over the age of 16. The cost will be \$10.00 per class, or \$50.00 for all classes. Classes will be held: **June 14, 21, and 28, July 5, 12, 19 and 26.** (weather permitting) Any questions, please contact COOKIE at (301) 807-8983



Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 10)



Volunteers Needed

The BPRA is always looking for members interested in volunteering. Currently, we are looking to fill a number of positions including Pavilion Use Scheduler, Block Party (BlocktoberFest) and Spring Thing Coordinator, Dispute Resolution Committee Chair and Webmaster. If you are interested in any of these positions, 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 any of the BPRA Board members or Nominating Committee Chair MARK FORAKER at mark4aker@hotmail.com. They can answer any questions you may have about serving on the Board. See more information from MARK about the BPRA Board of Trustees on page 3.

BPRA Board Meeting Schedule

The BPRA Board of Trustees normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 pm. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all BPRA meetings, with the exception of facility walk-throughs, will be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future. 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 you feel is important. If you would like to attend a Board meeting, please contact me at 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 the following dates in 2021:

June 8, June 22 (if needed), **July 6, July 20** (if needed), **August 3, August 17** (if needed), **September 11** (10 am, property walk through*), **September 14, September 28** (if needed), **October 5, November 2, and December 7.** (**if allowable per COVID-19 guidelines, which will be followed.*)

The Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Strathmore Bel Pre History Project

By Elliot Chabot



In the May issue of *The Bugle*, I put out a call for help in locating copies of old issues of *The Bugle*, and the minutes of the Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) and the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA). Many thanks to JAN WISOR and BRENDA HENRY for coming forward! BRENDA was able to fill in many important gaps in the BPRA records from 1999 to the present. JAN was able to provide a treasure trove of even older documents – including copies of the September 19, 1966, minutes of the Board of Directors of the Bel-Pre Community Association. September 19 was the first meeting of what became the BPRA Board – after Levitt & Sons (the original developer of Strathmore Bel Pre) incorporated the organization on September 2, 1966. The following year (1967), the BPCA became the BPRA.

We are still on the lookout for missing documents. If you have any of the following and would be willing to lend them, so that we can scan them for eventual publication on the community's website, please contact me at (301) 871-1113 or echabot@usa.net.

Still needed:

- BPRA minutes from 1976, 1977, 1986-1990, 1994-1998, and 2005.
- Civic Association minutes from 1968-2008 and 2016-2017
- The Bugle* editions from December 1994, June 1994, December 1985, August 1984, May 1984, and any before May 1970

Special thanks to BPRA Secretary (and *Bugle* editor) CHRIS SWAN and SBPCA Secretary LINDA BEA for their work preserving our community's records.

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

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Thrive Montgomery 2050 – Planning Board’s Proposal to Change the County’s Approach to Zoning

by Elliot Chabot

The Montgomery County Planning Board started a review of the County’s General Plan for private and public land use and zoning in 2018. In April 2021, the Board, chaired by CASEY ANDERSON, released a 160-page proposed plan (*Thrive Montgomery 2050*). The County Council has scheduled public hearings on the plan for June 2021.



Current General Plan

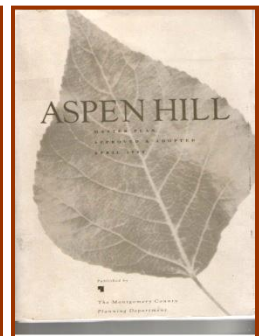
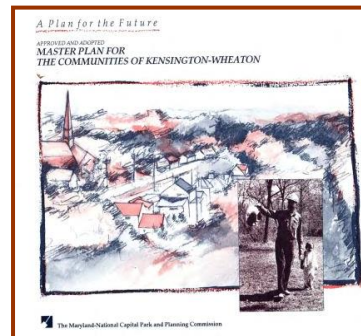
In 1964, the Montgomery County Council adopted *On Wedges and Corridors: A General Plan for the Maryland-Washington Regional District*. The 1964 General Plan set out the standards for both private and public land use and development in Montgomery County. The goals and objectives of the General Plan were updated in 1969 and 1993. The details implementing the General Plan have been defined and expanded by a series of master plans and sector plans adopted by the County Council.



Master Plans for Our Community

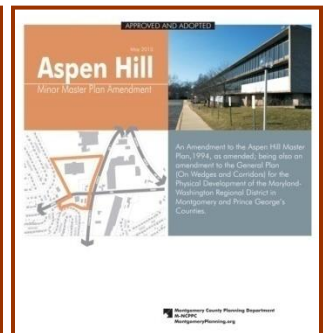
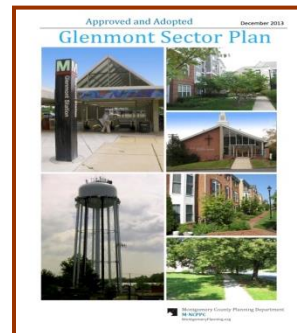
Master plans that focus particularly on our community are the 1989 Kensington-Wheaton Master Plan (which includes the southern half of Strathmore Bel Pre) and the 1994 Aspen Hill Master Plan (which includes the northern half of Strathmore Bel Pre). The Glenmont Sector Plan was adopted in 2013. The portion of the Aspen Hill Master Plan concerning the old Vitro property at Aspen Hill Road and Connecticut Avenue was rewritten in 2015 as the “Aspen Hill Minor Master Plan Amendment”.

1989 Kensington-Wheaton and 1994 Aspen Hill Master Plans



The goals of the 1964 General Plan focused on:

- ❖ Efficiency of land use
- ❖ Orderly conversion of undeveloped land to urban use
- ❖ Protection and development of natural resources
- ❖ Maintaining large open spaces
- ❖ Expanding outdoor recreation opportunities
- ❖ Public utilities and services
- ❖ Transportation system, including rapid transit
- ❖ Encouraging a greater variety of living environments through new towns and residential clusters (with an emphasis on the I-270 and I-95 corridors)
- ❖ Encouraging imaginative urban design



2013 Glenmont Sector Plan and 2015 Aspen Hill Minor Master Plan Amendment

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Specialized County-Wide Master Plans

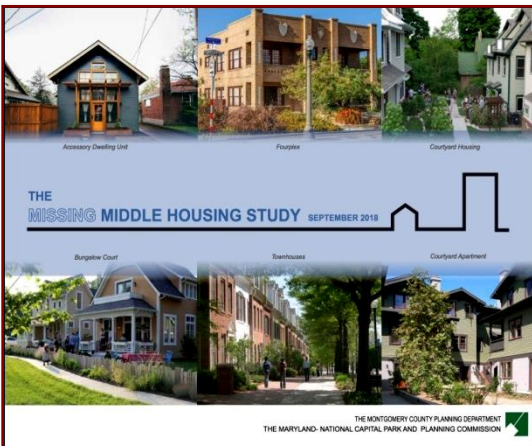
In recent years, the County Council has adopted a number of specialized county-wide master plans, including the Technical Update to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways, the Bicycle Master Plan, the Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan, and the Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan. Preliminary work on a possible Georgia Avenue Corridor Master Plan was begun many years ago, but appears to be on indefinite hold (a master plan for the Veirs Mill Road corridor was adopted in 2019). The Planning Board is currently working on drafting a county-wide Pedestrian Master Plan, which they hope to propose to the County Council by December.

Zoning in Strathmore Bel Pre

Most of the land in Strathmore Bel Pre is zoned either R-90 or R-200. These two zones are one-family residential zones with a minimum lot size of 9,000 square feet or 20,000 square feet, respectively. Strathmore Bel Pre Section 12 (the townhomes on St. Helen Circle and Trillium Terrace) are zoned R-200/TDR (a Transferable Development Rights overlay zone) which allows denser development of the property in exchange for a property owner in the County's Agricultural Reserve (which makes up most of the northern third of the County) agreeing not to fully develop their land.

Too Many Single Family Homes?

A major thrust of the proposed *Thrive Montgomery 2050* plan is the Planning Board's conclusion that there is too much single family housing in Montgomery County as compared to other types of housing. It should be noted that this conclusion was originally generated pre-pandemic, before telework and teleschooling, which now appears to be driving families towards larger, single family housing. One possible implementation of what the Planning Board sees as a major problem (too many single family homes) would be to take large amounts of land currently zoned for single family homes and rezoning those to zones that allow (or require) multi-family homes.



Missing Middle Housing

Another approach would be to change the definitions in the County Zoning Ordinance so that zones that currently focus on single family housing would now allow multi-family housing. The Planning Board identifies these multi-family homes as Montgomery County's "missing middle housing", including "2-to-4 story multi-unit clustered housing such as smaller townhouses, duplexes, triplexes, quadraplexes, detached courtyard cottages, attached courtyard apartments, or smaller apartment buildings (typically with fewer than 20 units)." More details can be found in the Planning Board's September 2018 *Missing Middle Housing Study*, which is available from the Planning Board at montgomeryplanning.org/planning/housing/.

Access to the Plans and the Upcoming County Council Public Hearings on Thrive 2050

Copies of the proposed *Thrive 2050* General Plan, the current General Plan, and most of the master plans and sector plans, are available at montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list. The County Council has scheduled virtual public hearings on the proposed *Thrive Montgomery 2050* plan on Thursday, **June 17** at 7 p.m. and on Tuesday, **June 29**, at 7 p.m. To sign up, either call (240) 8777-7900 or use the County Council's website montgomerycountymd.gov/council. Written testimony is also being accepted.

Planning Board Presentation of Thrive 2050

Planning Board representatives will be discussing their proposal at a virtual meeting of the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board on Tuesday, **June 15**, at 7 p.m. The Zoom sign in is 993 6902 0579.

Summer Movies Return to the Pool in June!

June 5	July 3	August 7	September 4
			
<i>Wonder Woman</i> 1984	<i>Raya and the Last Dragon</i>	<i>Forrest Gump</i>	<i>Toy Story 4</i>

SBPCA's First Saturday at the Movies!

Our Summer Movies return to the Pool Grounds this June! While we still have COVID restrictions, movie nights will be much the same as past years. COVID restrictions will limit our audience 100 people and we must wait for the Pool to close at 8:45 PM. Audience members will also need to stay 6 feet away from other families to maintain social distancing. Since movies almost never attract 100 fans, we don't plan to require reservations. COVID restrictions may relax further in late summer and permit earlier movie start times at sunset. If rain cancels a movie night, we plan to reschedule for another Saturday night. If rain cancels the September movie night, we will reschedule it as a Drive-In movie.

Please thank our sponsors! The SBPCA Summer Entertainment Series is only possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors whose donations cover licensing, performer and equipment costs. Our 2021 sponsors are listed below.



The SBP Civic Association Thanks Our 2021 Summer Entertainment Sponsors!!!

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Paul & Maria Stagnitto

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Band Leaders

Robin McEntire

Maury & Charlotte Potosky

The Hickman Family

Linda & Charles Bea

Jo & Chris Jennison

Janet Kisler

Bob & Deb Perry

And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association

Strathmore Bel Pre 39th 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 25 from 9:00 am to 12:00
(Rain Date, Sunday, September 26)

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



Sellers 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 23**, 2021.

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

Aspen Hill Library News

by Chris Swan

President, Friends of the Aspen Hill Library

Closed to the public since April 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Montgomery County Public Libraries are re-opening for general use this summer. County Libraries will open in three groups, dispersed around the County. Each library will be open for general use, including computers and study rooms.



Libraries nearest Strathmore Bel Pre will open:

- ☐ Rockville and Olney will open on **June 1, 2021**.
- ☐ Aspen Hill opens **June 14, 2021**.
- ☐ Twinbrook and Wheaton open **July 6, 2021**.

Face coverings (i.e. Masks) Are Required To Be Worn Inside Each Library.

The County requires masks to be worn inside all county owned/operated buildings. No eating or drinking inside the Libraries. Be sure to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before and after visiting the Library.

Outside Summer Kids Programs

The Aspen Hill Library will be holding children's storytime and STEM programs outside! These programs will be held, in good weather, on the Library lawn, across from the parking lot from the Library entrance. Inclement weather will cancel the programs. See the Library events calendar for further details.

Summer Reading Registration can be completed online, or in-person at a Library. The Aspen Hill staff encourages parents to register their kids for summer reading at the Library, since a different summer reading program is being used this year.

Holds

The **Holds-to-go** system will end as the Libraries are open for general public use. Check each Library's website or call them to check up on your holds-to go – especially as it gets close to the reopening of the Library. The **normal holds** system replace the holds-to-go system. as normal Library operations resume.

New Books!

The Aspen Hill Library has many new books – the shelves are bursting at the seams. Plan now to find your summer reading at the Library! Come in and check-out as many books as you can carry. And remember, that while you do need to return them, the Library system has gone **FINE-FREE**. No fines will accrue for any late books, as long as you do return them to the Library.



Memorial Day 2021 by Jackie Fary-Moeller

In a respectful and moving ceremony, BSA Scout Troop 763 (sponsored by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association) presented the flags and lit over 145 luminaries to honor those who died from COVID-19 in our zip code (20906). Members of the community also set up their own luminaries in remembrance of their loved ones. BONNIE CULLISON, our neighbor and Maryland House of Delegates (D19) representative, Assistant Scoutmaster BILL TOTTON and JOHN BOGASKY of the SBP Civic Association spoke at the ceremony.

The ceremony was on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. For several years now, we thank Ms. PAULETTE LADAS RE/MAX Realty Group for sponsoring the cost of supplies for our Memorial Day observances. Next year we plan to return to Gate of Heaven Cemetery to place American flags at the gravesites of veterans.

4th of July Celebration 2021

Parade Route

Strathmore Bel Pre's Flag Ceremony and Patriotic Car Parade begins and ends at the Strathmore Elementary School on Beaverwood Lane.

Prizes !!!

Prizes will be awarded for the three best decorated cars. Arrive by 11:20 am or before, to get a number and a registration form. Photos of your car will be taken at that time. Thanks!

To Be in the Parade

Register your vehicle for the Parade at www.strathmorebelpre.org/fourth-of-july. or call/email Bill Hammond, see below. Remember to arrive early at the parking lot and get your vehicle photographed to enter the contest. 3 prizes will be awarded to the most decorated vehicles.

No Decorations?

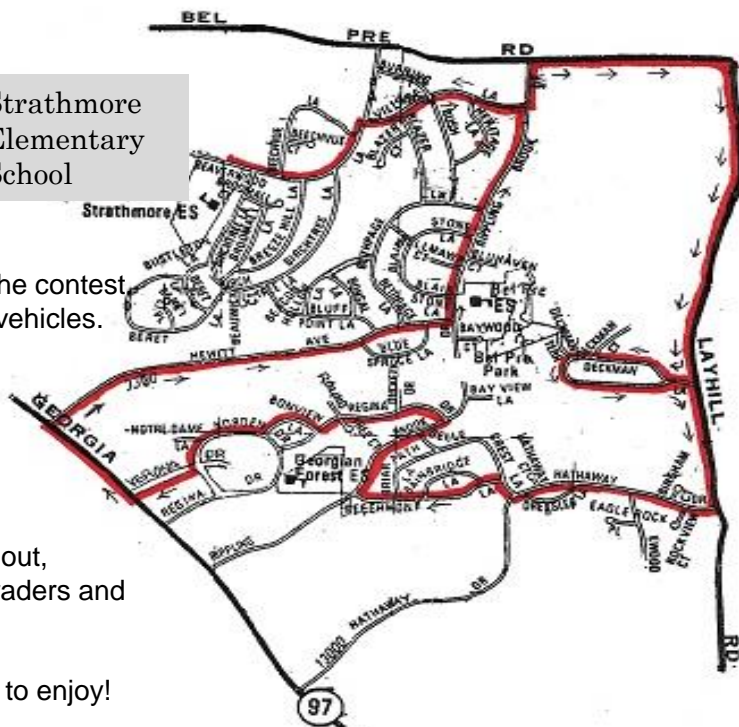
Just come in your vehicle to the parking lot to join the parade. Do register your car first!

Happy To Watch The Parade?

Everyone along our parade route, please come out, gawk at the decorated vehicles, wave to the paraders and join the festivities.

You also can decorate your house for everyone to enjoy!

Strathmore
Elementary
School



Come, Join the Fun and help us Celebrate July 4th, 2021!



**YES! Please count me in...
...to help with Strathmore Bel Pre's July 4th Celebration!**

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

___ Setting up ___ Registration ___ Safety ___ Flag Ceremony ___ Wrap up

**Call Bill Hammond at 301-509-4621 or Lilla Hammond at 301-518-7818
Or, email: w.m.hammond@verizon.net OR Lilla.hammond@verizon.net
Co-Chairs of our Strathmore Bel Pre July 4th Celebration**

**For more info, visit: <https://www.strathmorebelpre.org/fourth-of-july>
We look forward to hearing from you!**