

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

May 2021

www.strathmorebelpre.org



vol. 53 #2

Memorial Luminaries

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

The scouts of Pack and Troop 763 (sponsored by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association) usually place American flags at the graves of veterans to honor those buried at Gate of Heaven cemetery for Memorial Day. However, our plans are disrupted again this year. We hope that the community will join us on Saturday evening (**May 29**) of Memorial Day weekend to commemorate the people who died of COVID-19 in our zip code.



As of mid-April, 142 people have died in 20906: a luminary will be set out for each person. These luminaries will be a white paper bag with a battery powered candle inside (instead of a candle) to give a

warm light. This display will take place on the pool grounds and will remain in place through Memorial Day (Monday). We welcome the community to join us and we will have additional luminaries if you would like to place one for someone that you know.

Please look for more details on the listserve or email JOE and JACKIE MOELLER at moeller@aspengroves.com, (301) 603-7387, if you have questions. Many thanks to Ms. PAULETTE LADAS, who has sponsored the cost of the cemetery American flags since our first year and for her continued support for this display of luminaries.

How will The Pool open on May 31?

As this issue of *The Bugle* goes to press, we don't know the answer to that question. Current plans are to follow the rules and procedures from last summer. See the listserv and the website for the latest information. Details on page 5.



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Bugle Survey

It is not too late to send the Civic Association your thoughts about *The Bugle*.



If you have misplaced your March 2021 *Bugle*, simply fill out the online version of the website:
<https://forms.gle/SJT5P1NrmMBJgBJA>

The survey ends May 31, 2021!
Make sure your voice is heard.

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.

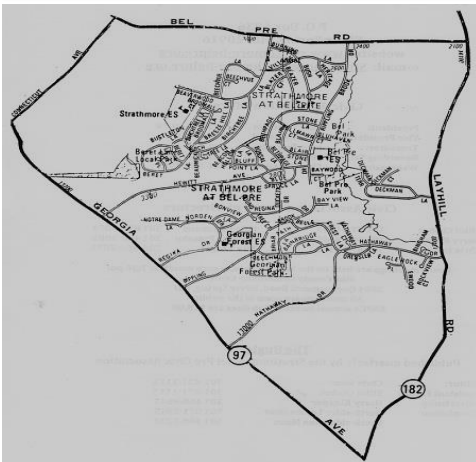
Civic Association Officers

President:	NANCY BECHTOL	301 871-3679	Secretary:	LINDA BEA	301 460-0497
Vice President:	BILL HAMMOND	301 871-5074	Treasurer:	JOHN BOGASKY	301 460-1604

Civic Association Directors

ELLIOT CHABOT	301 871-1113	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
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
DAVE PULLEN (Treasurer)	301 598-2521	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
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TED BECHTOL	301 871-3679	tedbechtol@yahoo.com
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PHIL KOMINSKI	240 793-0012	phil@freestylebooking.com
CLAIRE PAK	301 602-7573	claire0618@gmail.com
MARIA (COOKIE) STAGNITTO	301 807-8983	mrstags1@verizon.net



Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

Administrative Assistant	BRENDA HENRY	301 871-6298
Assessment Assistance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Audit Coordinator	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Block Party & Spring Thing Coordinator	vacant	
Emergency Response & Planning Committee Chair	NANCY BECHTOL	301 871-3679
Entertainment & Recreation Committee Chair	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
Finance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Governing Documents Committee Chair	ELLIOT CHABOT	301 871-1113
Grounds and Landscaping Coordinator	TED BECHTOL	301 871-3679
Long Term Planning Committee Chair	KAREN PURDY	301 603-9604
Mapmaster	PAUL SPELMAN	240 447-7758
Neighborhood Dispute Resolution Committee Chair	Vacant	
New Member Recruitment Coordinator	Vacant	
Nominating Committee Chair	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
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 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

Our *Bugles* are published fast and furiously in the springtime as they contain vital information about our summer and fall plans. This places a huge workload on our Editor and Assistant Editor, CHRIS SWAN and ELLIOT CHABOT and the authors of all the articles. We owe these folks a huge thank you for continuing to keep us all informed. Our *Bugles* are just jammed packed with useful information, and I hope you enjoy each edition as much as I do!



Summer Movies and Fall Yard Sale (perhaps)

Our summer season will kick off on the very **first day of May** with our first movie night for the year. Don't worry if you can't make this first event, as JOHN BOGASKY has planned for five movies this year. He has assembled a dedicated team of helpers and with more hands all helping, it is a little less work for everyone. We are not planning a spring Yard Sale this year but hope to maybe have one in the fall this

year. Stay tuned for more details in our June *Bugle*.

COVID-19 Era Pool Operations

I have been assisting the BPRA Board in gathering interested neighbors together to meet on Zoom to discuss our plans for opening our pool this summer – given the current situation with COVID-19. I hope everyone has been able to register for their vaccination and that many have already been vaccinated. This will help us bring our cases of COVID way down in our community and allow us to all be safely together again. If you are interested in joining our group to help develop our 2021 pool operating protocols and procedures for COVID-19, please send me an email (bechtna@si.edu) or call me and I will make sure you get a Zoom invite for our meetings.



Parking

We have also organized a town hall meeting on **April 27th** at 7:30pm to discuss our neighborhood parking issues along Hewitt Ave, Blue Spruce Lane, Bluff Point Lane, and Beaverwood Lane. We are hoping for a good turn out of interested neighbors and will discuss the issues in detail and the opportunities we have for possible solutions. If you missed this meeting, please reach out to me as I am happy to catch you up the details.

Volunteers Needed! Help out with July 4th activities! Deliver *The Bugle*! Join the Civic Board!

Are you interested in volunteering to assist with any of our activities planned for this year? We could use help with our 4th of July Parade. Please reach out directly to LILLA and BILL HAMMOND to offer your support. We could use help delivering *The Bugle*. Reach out to LOUISA HOAR or DAN MANN if you are Interested in delivering these *Bugles* and getting in extra steps, while helping your community. JOHN BOGASKY is always in need of sponsors to financially support our entertainment series. We are in need of more Civic Board members! Just let me know if you are willing, and I am sure we can find a mutually beneficial activity that could use your help. We are great at sharing the workload on the Board, so that no one needs to do too much and burnout becomes a problem. Consider joining the fun! In the meantime, stay safe and well until we can all be together again.



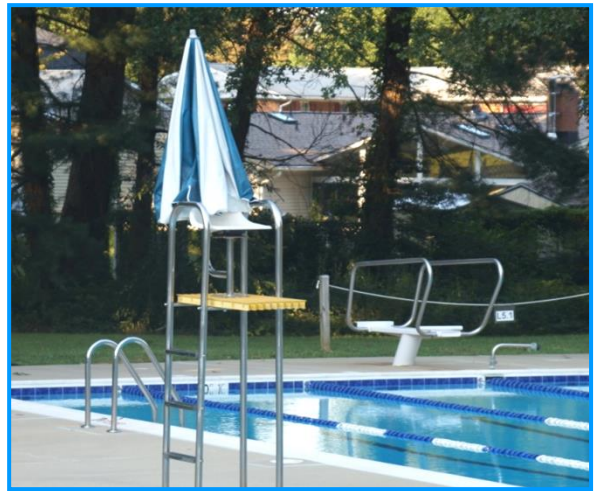
Bel Pre Recreational News

by Karen Purdy

President, Bel Pre Recreational Association

Annual Assessments – Your Pool Access

Thank you to those members that have already paid your \$325 annual assessment. If you have not yet paid your 2021 annual assessment, please contact BPRA Treasurer DAVE PULLEN. Email him at treasurer4bpri@gmail.com or call him at (301) 598-2521 to arrange payment and confirm amount due. Payments made after March 31 are subject to a \$32.50 late fee, 6% per annum (\$1.63/month) interest, and collection costs. Access to the pool and related facilities is not permitted for households with accounts in arrears.



NEW – Electronic Pool Use Reservations and Pool Check-in System

This summer, for the first time, we will be using the new BPRA eSoft Planner system for access to the pool. The system will be used for pool use reservations, and for your check-in to the pool itself. This means that you must have an eSoft Planner account to access the pool. BPRA Board members have been hard at work creating basic accounts for each BPRA household.

Please see page 11 for information about what you need to do to make sure your eSoft Planner account is up to date for your pool access. Pool staff will rely on BPRA member-provided information in the eSoft system to manage pool access, so PLEASE be sure that your information is correct and complete.

If you have an email address, but did not include an email address on your 2021 Annual Assessment form, or if you are a new resident, please review the information on page 11. You can visit www.strathmorebelpre.org/pool-access-esoft for information on how to request an account. If you do not have an email address, please contact me at (301) 603-9604 so I can set up pool access for you. See more information on page 11.

Pool Opening Summer 2021

-- Please see StrathmoreBelPre.org for updates



At this time, the pool is scheduled to open at noon on **May 29, 2021**, with the same COVID rules and procedures that were in place for Summer 2020. As of this writing, we have not received pool operating guidance from the county for this summer. We will review our rules and procedures as we approach **May 29**, and also throughout the summer.

We will make updates based on the current COVID situation and County and State guidance as necessary. Updates will be posted on StrathmoreBelPre.org and shared via both the Community and SBP Dolphins listservs. Signs will also be posted at the pool.

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Summer 2021 Operating Procedures

If you have thoughts, ideas, comments or concerns regarding our Summer 2021 operating procedures, please email those to BPRAPool03@gmail.com for consideration by the Emergency Response and Planning Committee (ERPC) and the BPRA Board. Similarly to last year, ERPC will review last year's procedures and recommend any changes to the BPRA Board for adoption. Alternately, if you do not have access to email, you may leave a message for me at (301) 603-9604. If you are interested in participating in the ERPC discussions about Summer 2021 operating procedures, please let me know at BPRAPool03@gmail.com or (301) 603-9604.

Pool Hours for Summer 2021

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 8 pm

Friday: 3 pm to 9 pm

Saturday: noon to 9 pm

Sunday: noon to 8 pm

June 17* to August 28**

Daily: noon to 9 pm

July 4: noon to 6 pm

August 29 to September 4:**

Monday through Thursday: 3 pm to 8 pm

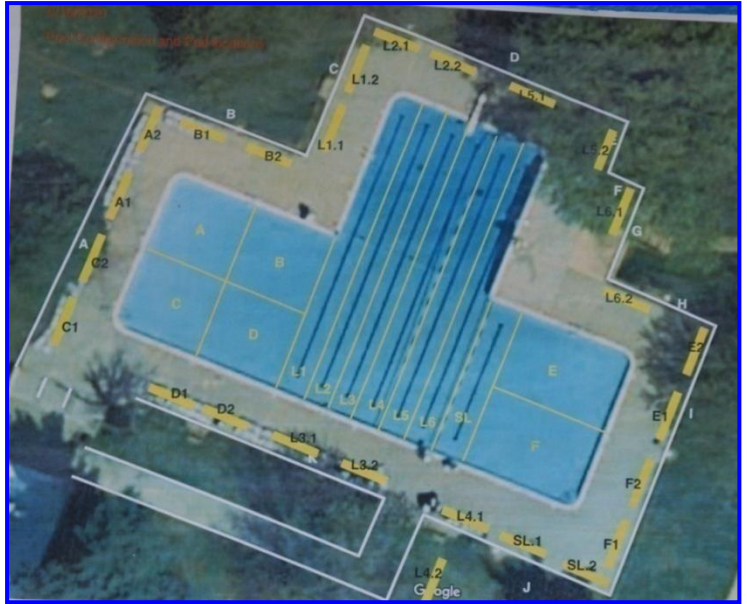
Friday: 3 pm to 9 pm

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 should start 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.



Volunteers, Please!!

The BPRA is always looking for members interested in volunteering. Currently, we are looking to fill a number of positions including Pool Pass Coordinator, Pavilion Use Scheduler, Block Party 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.

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Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins News

by Claire Pak

Secretary, SBP Dolphins



After a very long winter, it's almost summer, and that means it's almost time for Dolphins swimming! We expect to be back in the water early this summer, but as of this writing, we still don't have our schedule finalized. The Prince-Mont Swim League surveyed its member teams to see what precautions and restrictions people would like to see (other than those mandated by local authorities). We will once again send a survey to neighborhood swim families and potential swim families. As soon as our schedule is available, we'll post it online and on the pool bulletin board, and publish it in the next edition of *The Bugle*.

If you have children who might be interested in swimming with the Dolphins, please reach out to any member of the SBP Swim Team Association Board of Directors. Our contact information appears below. Our website, <https://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com/>, provides all of the need-to-know information about the team and its history, our coaching staff, practice and meet schedules (when we have them finalized); and even has a link to our team store (see below), where you can buy Dolphins-branded merchandise, including jackets, t-shirts, and shorts that are perfect for your daily neighborhood walks!

Financial Support is Much Needed

As many of you know, we were fortunate enough to be able to hold a short swim team season last summer, but COVID-19 restrictions made it impossible to hold our annual 5K run/walk, or our weekly bake sales, both major revenue sources for the team. Registration fees also fell substantially, as many families made the understandable decision to sit out the season.

A few weeks ago, we set up a GoFundMe link to raise money for the team. Our GoFundMe page, https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-dolphins-swimming-through-a-pandemic?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1, is available for those who would like to make a contribution and prefer electronic payment methods

Many people have responded very generously to our GoFundMe online appeal. ***Special, early thanks to PAULETTE LADAS, who is always so generous to the team and to any cause that benefits our community's children; and to The Bagelry in Olney, a great local business and Dolphins supporter,***

Many others asked if they could contribute by check, rather than through electronic means. The answer to that question is a resounding **yes** — we will be very happy to accept any contributions, large or small, by check or credit card or GoFundMe — we are grateful for any support. If you'd like to send a check, please feel free to use the form at the end of this article.

Your contributions will help us to fund some immediate needs, including new stopwatches and kickboards; as well as some looming expenses, including a new PC and printer.



Dolphins Swim Gear

The Dolphins gear shack at Swim Outlet, <https://www.swimoutlet.com/sbpdolphins/>, offers a range of Dolphins-branded merchandise and swim equipment including goggles and kickboards. Our team receives a generous commission on every purchase.

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Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins News

(continued from page 7)

SBP Dolphins on the Web

Our team website, <https://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com/>, includes About Us information, a history of the team written by team patriarch Papa JOHN KOMINSKI, registration and volunteer sign-ups, and pretty much everything else a Dolphins swimmer, parent, or coach could need.



Thanks!

We remain very grateful for the opportunity to represent our neighborhood, and to provide sporting, social, and educational opportunities for our children. There are lots of non-financial ways to support the Dolphins, too — sign up for our weekly updates (email claire0618@gmail.com), visit our website and read up on our team's history, cheer on our runners when the 5K returns, and encourage your SPB neighbors to sign their children up to swim with us. We can't wait to see you at the pool!

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

Yes, I want to contribute to the SBP Dolphins!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Amount \$ _____

Check # _____



Mail your contribution with this slip to:

Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins Swim Team Association

P.O. Box 9292

Silver Spring, MD 20916-9292

Your contribution is tax-deductible. Our tax ID number is 26-1493052. Thank you!

Squirrel Tales

by Cecily Nabors

Many people assume that if a person feeds birds, he or she must consider gray squirrels, *Sciurus carolinensis*, The Enemy. Those folks chuckle about the birdfeeders that will flip squirrels in the air, in hopes that the furry rodents, once spun into a neighbor's yard, won't find the way back. For me, squirrels are not my enemy; that category is reserved for real villains like garlic mustard and deer. Squirrels are merely a nuisance.



Think, though. If you came upon squirrels unforeseen on another continent, you'd think the people who lived there were lucky to see such charmers every day. Squirrels are cute! Most of our squirrels are gray in winter, russet-tinted in summer—small soft animals with white bellies and big fluffy tails. Melanistic squirrels, black or brown, are the same species, just wearing a different suit.



Squirrels breed twice a year. Nest dens are usually in tree hollows. We'll be seeing youngsters this spring and then again in the fall. Those round, twiggy, leafy nests high in trees, called dreys, look drafty and unstable, but are good temporary shelters during the warmer months.

Squirrel DNA has evidently evolved to maximize craft, athletics, and food detection. Our squirrels have plenty to eat in our yard, at least seasonally, as we have several black walnut trees, a new pin oak to replace the one that died, two pine trees, a big hickory, and berry-producing shrubs. Seeds, flower buds, galls, mushrooms and insects supplement squirrels' diet. (Don't be surprised this spring if you see them eating cicadas!) Squirrels will also eat birds' eggs and nestlings if they get a chance.

They cache food, burying acorns in winter, then sniffing them out in the spring. Other things they sniff out are tulip bulbs; I have given up planting tulips. Life has enough frustrations without trying to prevent the clever gray gourmands from finding every tasty bulb.

However, squirrels do love a bird feeder, almost any birdfeeder, and will go to great lengths to capture the food. My feeder poles have baffles, but some squirrels are Olympic-quality athletes and can accomplish the almost-impossible. If they're that good, I figure they deserve a few sunflower seeds.

Maybe we should thank squirrels for giving us the opportunity to exercise our little gray cells in attempts to defeat these little gray animals. Today: sending probes to Mars; tomorrow: outwitting squirrels!



Scouts: Talking Trash

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

It's April and therefore time for photos of scouts picking up trash as part of month long Earth Day efforts. You can find a cleanup during every weekend of April in this area and the scouts of BSA Unit 763 (sponsored by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association) did 2 of them. First, early April found the scouts at White's Ferry on the C&O Canal to experience the literal flotsam that the flooding river leaves behind. Cubmaster BILL TOTTEN organized a weekend wide cleanup at 3 sites on the canal. Personally, I've never seen so many beer bottles in my life. And water bottles. And wine bottles. And Gatorade bottles. Not to mention 55 gallon drums. You can see Troop 763 above with the haul for the day.

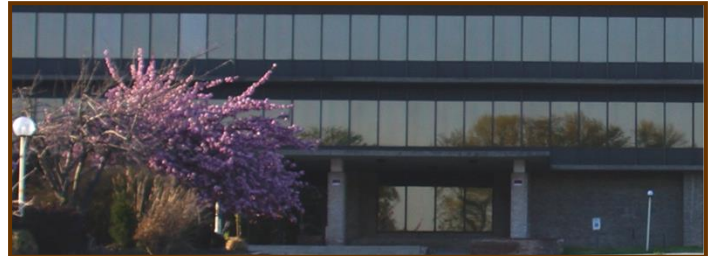


And later in April found us along our local cleanup area of Bel Pre Local Park (behind Bel Pre School) and the Matthew Henson Trail up to Rippling Brook Drive. We did our first cleanup in 2014 and spent several consecutive years taking care of it. We actually haven't done this section for the past 2 years, but this year found us collecting 9 bags of trash and 3 bags of recycling. The area is the cleanest that I have ever seen it. As I always say, trash attracts trash. A area that is nice and clean is much more likely to stay that way. You can see the Cub Scouts

and parents of Pack 763 here, with their trash collected after 2 hours of collective work

Notes from the Glenmont Exchange

by John Bogasky



The old Vitro Building

Construction Progress

Past months have shown construction begin on several projects reported in earlier versions of this column.

- **Primrose Day Care Center** The Day Care has finally broken ground on their site at the corner of Queensguard and Layhill. You can find details in the May 2018 *Bugle*.
- **Gate of Heaven Cemetery Expansion.** The Cemetery has begun clearing parts of their forested areas along Connecticut Avenue across from the Post Office. We first reported on this expansion way back in the March 2017 *Bugle*.
- **Kaiser Permanente.** Kaiser Permanente has completed demolition of the old Vitro building, behind Home Depot, at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and Aspen Hill Road. They are now working on-site preparation for their new Health Care buildings. We reported on the Kaiser Permanente project in the May 2020 *Bugle* edition.

Past editions of *The Bugle* can be found on the Civic Association website at www.strathmorebelpre.org/the-bugle.

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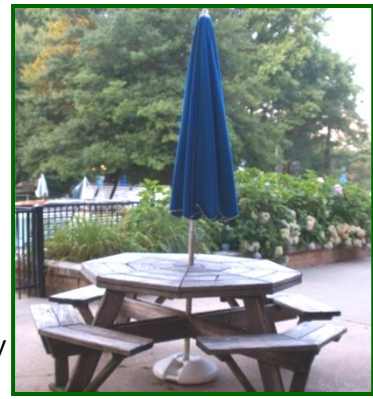
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eSoft Planner, BPRA's new Member Portal and Pool Check-In System, is now online!

by Karen Purdy

President, Bel Pre Recreational Association

eSoft Planner is live! As we announced in the February *Bugle*, we selected eSoft Planner as our new online pool/community management system. eSoft Planner will streamline and automate many of our processes, enabling pool staff to manage pool access with member-provided information. Members will be able to maintain their own account information, upload photos and add family members for pool access, pay assessments, update contact information, make pool reservations, donate to the pet waste station, and more.



By **May 1**, all BPRA households with valid email addresses on file and annual assessments that were paid in full by **March 31** should receive a welcome email from eSoft Planner with login credentials and links. Check your spam/junk folder if you don't see the email in your inbox. If you paid your assessment after **March 31**, you might receive the email after **May 1**.

Households will not receive login credentials until assessments are up to date. Contact BPRA Treasurer DAVE PULLEN at treasurer4bpra@gmail.com or (301) 598-2521 to arrange for payment so that we can set up an eSoft Planner account for you.

IMPORTANT: Pool staff will rely on the eSoft system and the *information that you provide* to manage pool access, so PLEASE take the time to set up or review your account and make sure that your information is correct and complete by **May 16**.

Please visit strathmorebelpre.org/pool-access-eSoft for more information and detailed instructions on how to log in and:

1. Review your **PROFILE**, ensure that your information (name, address, email address) is correct, and make any necessary updates
2. **ADD HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**, and upload photos (*for Household access option*)
3. **ENROLL** in the membership option you want: **SEASON PASS** (two) or **HOUSEHOLD** (*if you have already enrolled online, check to be sure that your membership option is correct*)
4. **VERIFY** that your membership is set up correctly

My profile is set up and ready to go. Now what?

If you have logged into the system and your account is set up, your information is correct, your photos are in the system, and your 2021 assessment is up to date, then you're ready for your first day at the pool. As we continue to add service options in eSoft Planner, pavilion reservations and pool use reservations (when necessary) will be available through the system. Watch future editions of *The Bugle* for updates.

What if I need help with managing my account or have other questions?

Step-by-step instructions for updating household information, adding family members, and uploading photos are posted on the website (StrathmoreBelPre.org/pool-access-esoft). We will also hold another Zoom demo followed by a Q&A session on Thursday, **May 6** at 7 pm. If we are able to hold outdoor gatherings at the pool this spring, we will be available at those events to offer individualized instruction on the new system. BPRA volunteers will be available in person to assist during pool opening weekend. You can also submit a help request via the website and a volunteer will respond within seven days.

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I paid my 2021 Annual Assessment and did not get login credentials. What should I do?

Please visit StrathmoreBelPre.org/pool-access-eSoft and select the option that best applies to you.

I do not have an email address or access to a computer or the Internet. Do I need to do anything to set up my pool access?

Please contact Karen Purdy at (301) 603-9604. If you selected:

- Season Passes – We will note in your account that you do not have an email address. Your passes will be mailed to you before the pool opens.
- Household – We will note in your account that you do not have an email address. We will work with you to set up your account.

I already completed a form when I paid my assessment. Why can't you just use the information that I provided to set up my account?

With over 700 households in the community, data entry would be too big a job for one or two volunteers to manage. A self-service data entry system will require only a few minutes from each household, versus many hours if volunteers handle data entry. Additionally, self-service reduces the likelihood of errors, and puts members in control of their own accounts.

What will the check-in process at the pool look like?

The pool check-in process will be quick and easy. Household members will give their names to check in. Season Pass holders will show their physical pass to check in. Rather than record check-in information on paper as in years past, the guard at the gate will check each user in on a laptop or other device.

Will I need to make reservations to use the pool?

The public health situation is changing rapidly. As of this writing, we anticipate operating the pool this summer with some version of COVID rules and procedures in place. However, we will continue to monitor County and State guidelines, and will update our procedures as necessary. If pool reservations are required, you will be able to make those reservations online in your eSoft Planner account or by phone. More information and instructions will be posted online at StrathmoreBelPre.org.

Can we reserve the pavilion this summer?

More information on the pavilion will be available at a later date.



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Glenmont Exchange

(continued from page 10)

Glenmont MetroCentre Phase 2.1

On March 31st, Buchanan Partners presented their updated plans for Phase 2.1 of the project. Phase 2.1 will add a second apartment building across from the recently completed apartment building on Glenallan Avenue. Both are classed as luxury apartment buildings with modern amenities.

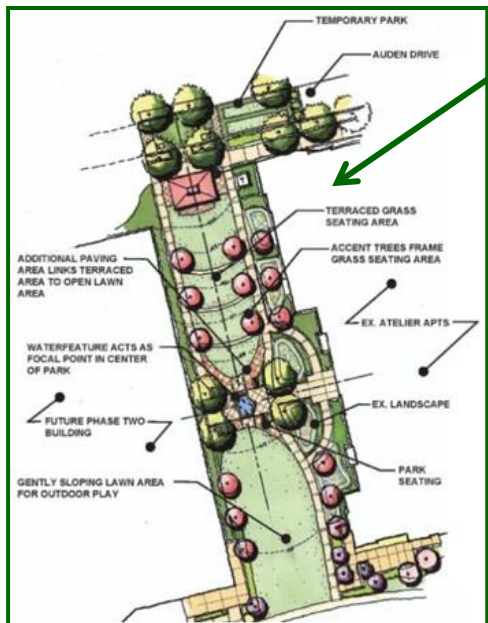


New Park

There are also detailed plans for the public space, approximately 30 x 800 ft, between the two apartment buildings. This area includes a fountain feature and a gazebo at the bottom of a terraced lawn that would be suitable for concerts and other outdoor events.

Pursuit of a New Grocery Store

The developers also shared that the successful build-out of Glenmont MetroCentre was renewing interest from major grocers in possibly opening a store on the site. A grocery store at the corner of Glenallan and Georgia Avenues has long been part of the site's development plans.



New Apartment Building

The new apartment building will have a somewhat more modern look than the just-completed building, as shown in the image on the right. This image looks west towards Georgia Avenue along Glenallan Avenue, with the yellow umbrellas near the entrance to the planned new park.



The revised plans also included some minor adjustments to the planned interior road layout on the site. They also changed the schedule for demolishing some of the old apartments, asking the County to permit delaying demolition of two apartments in the Forest buffer until later project phases.

Preliminary Plans only

Buchanan Partners was careful to note that all of the plans presented at this early meeting were preliminary and could change before the Planning Board's upcoming meeting.

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Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 6)

Tennis Court Repairs

As reported in the March issue of *The Bugle*, the BPRA is proceeding with long awaited tennis court repairs. The project includes repairing cracks, eliminating low spots to prevent standing water, converting one tennis court into two pickleball courts and resurfacing and restriping the entire fenced in court area. While we anticipate the work being started in late spring or summer, we do not yet have a start date. Once we have a start date, it will be posted on the website, community listserv and on signs at the tennis courts and the pool.



A few items of note:

- ❖ The courts will be closed for the entire duration of the project. We will change the locks on the tennis courts during construction. Once the project is complete and the courts are open for play, the current tennis court key will work again.
- ❖ The expected duration of the project is 1.5 months. This may change based on the weather.
- ❖ The tennis court work is temperature and weather dependent.
- ❖ After the project begins, there may be gaps between phases of work to allow materials to properly cure before the application of the next material or layer. The courts cannot be used during those cure periods and will remain locked.
- ❖ Information about the courts' closure and reopening will be posted at the courts, at StrathmoreBelPre.org and sent out via the SBP Civic and SBP Dolphins listservs.

– Continued on page __ –

There's no such thing as a 'Spring Market' in 2021... anytime is a good time to sell!

- ♦ Inventory is still at record lows, with buyer demand at record highs. Anyone who wants to sell their home will be in a good position to do it quickly and for a good price.
- ♦ Low mortgage rates means this is the perfect time to move up or downsize your current living situation for an affordable price.
- ♦ In such a competitive market, the seller has the upper hand. This can be advantageous when it comes to negotiating terms, repairs, moving dates and more.

For More Information, Please Call Lilla or Michael Hammond



Lilla Leike Hammond, GRI, CRS

Direct: 301-518-7818

Lilla@LNF.com

Michael A. Hammond, REALTOR

Direct: 202-271-9089

Michael.Hammond@LNF.com



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Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 15)



Become a BPRA Board Member

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

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 4pm 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:

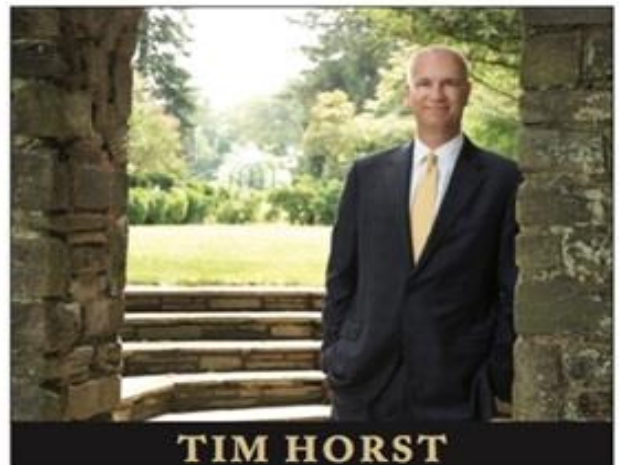
- **May 4, May 15** (10 am, property walk-through*)
- **June 8, June 22** (if needed)
- **July 6, July 20** (if needed)
- **August 3, August 17** (if needed)
- **September 11** (10 am, property walk through*)
- **September 14, September 28** (if needed)
- **October 5**
- **November 2**
- **December 7**

(*if allowable per COVID-19 guidelines. Face coverings and social distancing required.)

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

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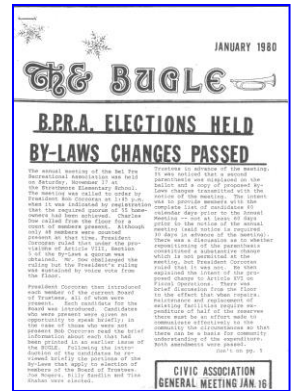
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O: 301.424.0900

Strathmore Bel Pre History Project: Old Minutes & Bugles wanted

by Elliot Chabot

The first homes in Strathmore at Bel Pre were sold in 1968. The Strathmore Bel Pre History Project is an effort to capture some of the history of our community before the records completely vanish. Do you have any old issues of *The Bugle*? Or old minutes from the Bel Pre Recreational Association, the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association, or other organizations from our community? If you are willing to lend them so they can be copied and scanned, please get in touch with me at echabot@usa.net or (301) 871-1113.



The Civic Association has an excellent collection of *The Bugle*, going back to May of 1970, and Civic Association minutes going back to at least 2009. The BPRRA has Board minutes going back to 2006.

We are particularly looking for copies of the following:

- *The Bugle* December 1994, June 1994, December 1985, August 1984, May 1984, and any before May 1970.
- BPRRA minutes (or reports) before December 2005
- Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association minutes (and reports) before 2009

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20906 and COVID-19: Update

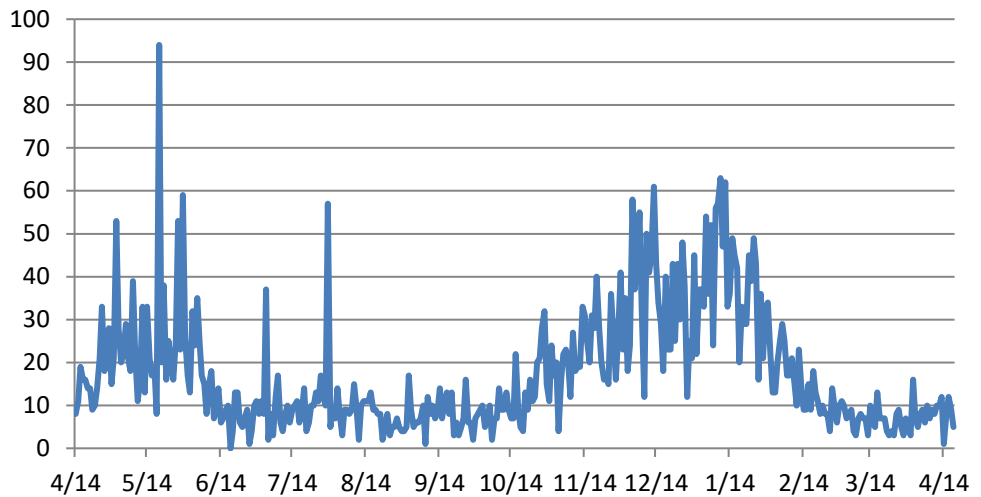
By Elliot Chabot

Since mid-February, the number of new COVID-19 cases in zip code 20906 has plateaued at an average of 7.89 new cases per day. After a December where the average in our zip code was 34.60 new cases a day, this almost brings us down to the levels of last August (7.65 per day).

New COVID-19 cases have also been reported in some of the nursing homes in our zip code between March 3 and April 7: Bedford Court

reported 2 new staff cases and Bel Pre Health Care Center reported 1 new staff case. The Layhill Center reported 2 new resident cases and, sadly, 4 resident deaths.

New reported COVID-19 cases in 20906



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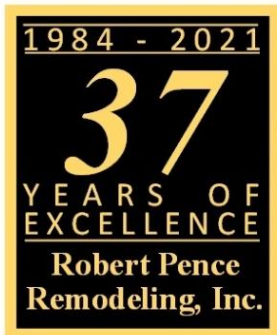
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Civic Association's 2021 First Saturdays at the Movies!

May 1

June 5

July 3

August 7

September 4



Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2



Wonder Woman 1984



Raya and the Last Dragon



Forrest Gump



Toy Story 4

Our **May 1st** movie will be a Drive-in Movie as we did last summer and fall. We hope to return to the Pool Grounds for the remainder of the season. All movies will follow Montgomery County restrictions for Outdoor Performances during the pandemic.

Since those County restrictions will likely cap attendance, we will require advance reservations for each movie. Reservations will open about 2 weeks before each movie. Watch the SBP Civic listserv, SBP Dolphins listserv, or SBP Facebook Page for updates, reservation instructions, and rain delay announcements. **All movies start at dusk.**

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. If you want to become a sponsor, please contact SBPCA Treasurer JOHN BOGASKY at johnbogasky@hotmail.com. Your support can help us grow and sustain this SBP tradition.



2019: Hillside social distancing pods before it was trendy!

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

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Every year, our Strathmore-Bel Pre Community comes together to celebrate our country's birthday!

Please see the box below for several ways you can help!.



Our events last year included our first Patriotic Car Parade and the children's Patriotic Art Contest.

Help us make this year's celebration special by selecting one or more activities below.

Help make your July 4th Celebration the best yet!



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

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

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

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

___ My child wants to submit art for the Children's Patriotic Art Contest

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

Or email: w.m.hammond@verizon.net / Lilla.hammond@verizon.net

Co-Chairs of our Strathmore Bel Pre July 4th Celebration

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