

The Bugle



Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

October 2013

vol. 45 #4

It's Annual Meeting Time!

November 21

NEW Location

Strathmore Elementary School

Civic Association Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Rec Association Meeting 7:30 p.m.



Please come! Meet your neighbors, hear about the work of the Associations this past year, and learn about their future plans.

You can cast your vote for your Civic and Recreational Association board members only at each of the annual meetings. Every vote is important, so do attend the meetings, learn the latest, and vote!

Civic Association Board Candidates

Sharon Adamo
Frank Corrigan
William Hammond
Rita Vaught

Recreation Board Candidates

Elliot Chabot
Kelsey Klass
Kye Pak
Jim Rauch
Lou Ann Rector
Adam Shepard

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Tom Lilly presents at the 2013 July 4th Celebration

→ Candidate bios on page 11.
Also read Dan Keating's article on page 5! ←

THE BUGLE

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Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA)

P.O. Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20906

e-mail: Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org

Web site: www.strathmore-belpre.org

Annual SBPCA membership: \$15.00

The SBPCA is a voluntary association, funded by membership dues, that represents our community to County Government and various groups such as the Montgomery County Civic Federation. The SBPCA also publishes *The Bugle*, organizes the annual Yard Sale and 4th of July festivities. The SBPCA Board of Directors meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Mid-County Community Recreation Center on Queensguard Road. The Civic Association's annual meeting is in November just before the BPRA annual meeting.

Civic Association Officers

President:	Nancy Bechtol	301 871-3679	Secretary:	Linda Bea	301 460-0497
Vice President:	Bill Hammond	301 871-5074	Webmasters:	Bill Hammond	301 871-5074
Treasurer:	John Bogasky	301 460-1604		Adam Shepard	727 871-0393

Civic Association Directors

Charlie Bea	301 460-0497	Ron Daub	301 460-0929	Chris Swan	301 871-1113
Max Bronstein	301 460-3117	Lilla Hammond	301 871-5074	Dan Thomas	301 871-2624
Elliot Chabot	301 871-1113	Harry Klapper	301 460-9645		
Frank Corrigan	301 460-1011	Maurice Potosky	301 460-9008		

Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA)

The Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) is the homeowner's association for Strathmore Bel Pre properties. Your BPRA annual assessment pays for your pool, tennis courts, volleyball, playground, picnic area, bath house, snack bar and pavilion; open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. BPRA Board Meetings are held during the summer months at the Pool Pavilion, on the 4th Monday at 7:30 pm, and in September and October at Strathmore Elementary School on the 4th Thursday, at 7:30 pm. The annual meeting is in November at Strathmore Elementary.

Bel Pre Recreation Association Officers

President:	Dan Keating	301 603-8162	dtkeats@gmail.com
Vice President:	Karen Potocki	609 947-1256	karenpotocki@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Ed Frantz	301 603-8055	ed_frantz@comcast.net
Secretary:	Paulette Ladas	301 674-7742	pauletteladas@remax.net

Bel Pre Recreation Association Trustees/Directors

Robert Bowser	301 460-3444	r.bowser@verizon.net	Kim Watters	301 460-0054	kimwatters@live.com
Dan Entwisle	301-871-9363	twisles@msn.com			
Lou Ann Rector	301-603-8805	louann.rector@fsis.usda.gov	Anthony Wormack	202 468-3565	awwormack@gmail.com

Bel Pre Recreation Association Volunteers

Admin Asst:	Brenda Henry	301 871-6298	Pavilion Usage:	Louisa Hoar	301 871-2954
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The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol, President Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

I can't believe it is already fall and that our Civic Association activities for this past summer have come to an end. I am hoping you had an opportunity to participate in at least one of these summer activities. We started the summer with our **neighborhood yard sale** held on the pool grounds. We fortunately had a beautiful day for a good solid turnout. We again benefited from the donation of a large dumpster by Paulette Ladas, and this dumpster was packed full by the time it was emptied and taken away.

Our next big event was our **4th of July celebration** with a parade through the neighborhood, followed by a magic performance and field games held on the pool grounds. The Civic Association has hosted this event for over 30 years. Every year the children and families in our neighborhood celebrate this important day in our history. The hardworking Hammonds have organized these events for years. Without them, this historic celebration would not occur. We are so very fortunate to have both Lilla and Bill in our community!! Thanks, Lilla and Bill.

For the first time ever we organized fun events on the pool grounds during three separate summer evenings. We took advantage

of our wonderful pavilion at the pool and hosted two musical performances, all organized by Chris Swan. We luckily had two beautiful evenings and could enjoy some rock and roll, and jazz. Many neighbors danced to the music and had a great time. Our first movie night, organized by Adam Shepard, presented *Night at the Museum* on a big screen, with yummy, hot popcorn. Adam did an amazing job to pull together this night of fun entertainment, including the movie licensing.



We expect that over time more neighbors will discover how wonderful these events are and join us at the pool. I would like to thank the Rec Association for assisting with the costs for pool staff for these evening events. Their support is much appreciated. We plan to do this again next summer, and will advertise our entertainment dates a lot earlier than we did this summer. We are hoping that advance notice will enable more neighbors to be able to attend, and enjoy our community and lovely pool. So, look for the dates!

I hope to see you all at our annual neighborhood community association meeting in November. We need folks to come so that we reach our quorum! Then we can vote in members for the upcoming terms of the Recreational Association and the Civic Association.

Please remember to send in your Civic Association membership dues for this coming year.

They are due right now. We have already received close to 230 memberships, but we were hoping for many more. Linda Bea organizes our membership drives every year, and sent out the membership drive letters in August. If you have misplaced yours, please just let us know and we will get you another copy.

I hope everyone has a wonderful fall season and takes some time to enjoy our great neighborhood.

Gleanings From Meetings + More

By Frank Corrigan

Montgomery County Taxpayers League Meeting – July Meeting

At the July 25, 2013, meeting of the Montgomery County Taxpayers League, Holly Sears Sullivan discussed the County's Business Development Corporation. She has been the Director for six months and previously held a similar position in Tennessee. Approximately 70% of her time is devoted to recruiting new businesses/corporations to the County, and 30% is focused on retention of and meeting the needs of existing companies.

She mentioned that Fairfax County's Business Development Agency has 45 employees, is 100% county government funded, and all of its Board of Director members are from the private sector. In contrast Montgomery County has approximately 25 employees.

Since assuming her position, Ms. Sullivan has developed a relationship with the University of Maryland to gather quantitative economic data, and pursue labor analytics, job growth and family partners. She noted that different approaches to job growth and retention are required due to the variety of County locations such as Wheaton, Gaithersburg and Bethesda. The annual budget for the Business Development Corporation is \$500,000. She plans to issue a monthly legislative report. Presently, she is monitoring two particular State legislative proposals: the Purple Line and the Maintenance of Effort. She mentioned that Maryland's corporate tax is the fifth highest in the Nation.

Ms. Sullivan felt that the energy sector has significant growth possibilities, but noted that Montgomery County's energy costs are ten (10) times those of Fairfax County.

She plans to work with the Montgomery County legislative delegation. She also wants to encourage younger entrepreneurs. This could include an Entrepreneurship Center to foster innovation, provide a creative environment, and link to universities. Ms. Sullivan mentioned that Montgomery County, Prince George's County and Fairfax County are currently experiencing 1.2% job growth whereas Howard County is exceeding 2%. She said Montgomery County needs to address the "sustainability" of job growth and is interested in leadership in this area from local and state politicians. She stressed the importance of "relationships" in fostering business and job development in the County.

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The pirate ship with pirates on board



The Butterfly Bush in front of the Pool House

Bel Pre Recreational Association News

by Dan Keating, President Bel Pre Recreational Association Board

This is likely to be my last *Bugle* note as President of the Bel Pre Recreational Association Board (BPRA), a position in which I've served for several years. A new president should be taking over in December. I'll still be serving on BPRA board.

Because there are multiple organizations in the community, I feel it's important to remind people that the Bel Pre Recreational Association is the group to whom you pay your annual assessment of \$225 each March. The BPRA maintains the community recreation property with tennis courts, basketball court, volleyball court, Pavilion, snack bar, bath house, playground equipment, picnic tables, kiddie pool and big pool with diving board.

I also need to remind you that our very important annual meeting is Thursday, Nov. 21 at Strathmore Elementary School cafeteria-auditorium at 7:30 p.m., following the Civic Association Annual Meeting at 7 p.m. I want to encourage you to please come to the annual meeting because if you are not there, decisions about your neighborhood and your home may be made without you.

While the BPRA Board has many responsibilities concerning the community recreation property, the Board has spent the greatest part of its time over the past year, and over the previous couple years, on another issue: Enforcement of land-use covenants concerning residential properties, such as your own home. As I have explained at previous annual meetings, the community has a conflicting mix of expectations. Some people expect the covenants to be enforced as they are written. Others note that neither the original developer nor past BPRA Boards have actively enforced many of the written covenants, such as prohibitions on sheds and the many types of fences, that have become prevalent in the community. So those people say their expectation is that the practices of the previous 40-plus years will be perpetuated. Both expectations are reasonable, but they are in conflict.

Over the past few years, the board had spent close to \$100,000 on legal advice and representation on the issue in general and concerning a case where one community resident has sued us repeatedly – to get the BPRA Board to enforce the fence rule against a neighbor. While the vast majority of community members never attend the board's monthly meetings, the small number of visitors who have come to the board are often pressing for additional covenant enforcement.

The legal advice for which we paid indicated that barring a court ruling to the contrary, the BPRA Board can assume that the Board has authority to enforce covenants and the rules are enforceable. But the Board has also been advised that it needs to adopt an enforcement scheme that is fair and has the support of the community. And we must take into account that more aggressive enforcement could be costly -- as the issue has already proven to be -- making us consider whether a higher annual assessment would be needed.

But the issue that most resonates with me, when enforcement issues are presented to the Board, is that it is a constant source of neighborhood resentment. Enforcement becomes a tool that neighbors wield against each other out of anger. People against whom enforcement has been pursued, respond by pointing the finger at others. Under the spirit of, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone," and "people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones," unless we have a community that is 100% pure and without problems, the enforcement regime is simply going to unfurl a stream of endless cases.

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The Bugle October 2013

Bel Pre Recreational Association News

Continued from page 5

The BPRA board, which is made up of neighborhood volunteers, becomes a place where angry people lash out at each other. The community becomes one in which people go after each other. Neither of those are appealing to me.

The board has enforced some rules on issues, such as commercial signage, on which there are not already widespread violations that have persisted for decades. Given the vast number of fences, sheds and other things in the neighborhood, I think an aggressive enforcement program would be extraordinarily disruptive. And I would note that our rules have no provision to “grandfather” violations since all of the violations were created after the rules were already in place. And “grandfathering” the existing violations in place would tell those who broke the rules that they are allowed to continue to break the rules, but those who did not break the rules, that they are not allowed to break them. That seems to be punishing the wrong people in my opinion.

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful neighborhood, a great community and such abundant communal recreation resources. But the board, already, has been distracted from its important job of maintaining those facilities. And I think a board obsessed with handling the flow of neighbors battling each other will not attract volunteers. I fear that we will sacrifice the good things we have in pursuing choices that get increasingly ugly.

As I said at the start, I am stepping down as president. So I felt I should share my thoughts on what has been happening over the last several years. **Please come to the annual meeting so your voice can be heard on what will happen to your neighborhood and home over the next several years.**



Summer 2013: the Dolphins Excel

By Claire Pak

Congratulations to the SBP Dolphins for a fantastic winning season! Coach Terry Kominski, Assistant Coach Reed Brown, and Developmental Coaches Lilan Miller, Nick Wesley, and Collin Dobbins led the Dolphins to a 4-1 finish in the regular season and a second-place finish at the B Division championship.



For the second consecutive year, we won the prestigious Saum-Hilton Memorial Trophy! This is presented by the Prince-Mont Swim League to the small team that most consistently outperforms expectations!

We held our annual awards banquet on Wednesday, July 24. Awards were presented to the top 3 swimmers in each age group, based on total number of points scored, and are known as the high points awards. Individual awards also are presented to swimmers selected by the coaches.



2012 Dolphins Winners:

TOP 3 swimmers for each age group

8 & Under

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Asa Virga	Piper Yockelson
Evan Pak	Ava Yockelson
Owen Miller	Tessa Miller
/Erik Staggs (tie)	

9-10

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Ian Virga	Lauren Hill
Carson Taylor	Daryn Lam
Eamon Hoye	Camille Bearman

11-12

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Marrick Golladay	Carrie Hill
Dale Gotcher	Nadira Roberts
Josh Bearman	Olivia Miller

13-14

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Evan Bearman	Morgan Hill
Caelin Hoye	Rebecca Wesley
Emerson Miller	Emma Shuster
	Alice Millan (tie)

15-18

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Nick Wesley	Lilan Miller
Collin Dobbins	Emma Bearman
Connor Ruppert	Kayla Geary

– Continued on page 8 –

Summer 2012: the Dolphins Excel

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Coaches' Awards

Hardest Working (by practice group):

Jonathan Sharp (Beginner)
Owen Miller (Novice – 8 and under)
Carson Taylor (Junior – 9-14)
Olivia Miller (Senior – 15-18)

Most Improved (by age group):

Wyatt Kent (8 and Under)
Trevor Whitaker (9-10)
Maya Kodgi (11-12)
Alice Millan (13-14)
Alana Kominski (15-18)



Most Dependable:

Lilan Miller

Most Spirited:

Nick Wesley, Collin Dobbins

B Swimmers of the Year:

Nelson Brown (boys)
Emma Shuster (girls)

Swimmers of the Year (overall high-points award):

Asa Virga (boys)
Morgan Hill (girls)



This was an extraordinary season, not just because of the outstanding win-loss record, but because of the great contributions from our many dedicated parent volunteers and the welcome addition of a number of new swimmers (many of them among the awards winners!) If you have children or grandchildren who would like to be part of the fun of a Dolphins summer, please contact Coach Terry Kominski or any member of the SBP Dolphins board:

Greg Miller	President	winstonhen@aol.com
Mike Bearman	Vice-President	mbearman@vecna.com
Claire Pak	Secretary	cdaltonpak@yahoo.com
Alvaro Duran	Treasurer	justalvaro@gmail.com
Renee Yockelson	A Meet Manager	yocks@verizon.net
Marta Ferman B	Meet Manager	ferman2@verizon.net
Terry Kominski	Head Coach	mermade1967@aol.com

Finally, on behalf of the Swim Team Board and the entire team membership, THANK YOU to the many residents of this community who continue to support our team and our children. Many of you have given generous financial support, for which we are deeply grateful. Equally valued are your kind and encouraging words for our coaches and swimmers. It's been wonderful to see so many of you coming out to cheer our swimmers on, and we never forget how lucky we are to be embraced by such a generous community. We are looking forward to another winning season in 2014...only 8 months until summer!

2013 Photo Contest – the Winners

By Adam Shepard

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2013 Photo Contest! We had 40 some submissions, and we have wonderful new content to share on the website. Owing to the quality of the photos, it was a very tough judging process, but the Civic Association board has decided to award these entries.

Prizes will be awarded at the annual meeting in November. We also will be updating the website with the results, and featuring many of the submitted photos throughout the site. **Congratulations to everyone, and thanks again for your submissions to the contest!**



1st Place: Baby Turtle, by Reuben Spencer



2nd Place: Springtime, by Susan Griesbauer



**3rd Place: Eagle Rock Place
Blizzard**, by Kathy Ennis

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2013 Photo Contest – the Winners

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Honorable Mention: Bridge on the Matthew Henson Trail, by Robert Thomas



Honorable Mention: Cherry Blossoms, by Suzy Zien

Honorable Mention: Peacock on the Run, by John Adamo



Bel Pre Recreation Association
2013 Candidates
3 positions -- 6 candidates

Elliot Chabot

1. **Age (optional):** younger than I look
2. **Occupation:** Attorney, U.S. House of Representatives
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 10 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I am the assistant editor of *The Bugle*. I helped with the music programs at the pool this past summer, and over the past few years, have helped with our community yard sale. Several years ago, I chaired a Recreational Association committee which created updated By-Laws for the Association, that were presented to the community at the annual meeting, but did not reach the super-majority to pass. In 2010, I also worked on the proposals used to choose the pool management. I'm a Friend of the Aspen Hill Library, where I help run the book sales, and events such as the annual community festival. I'm chairman of the Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee, which tends to the policy and functions of the Library. My wife and I believe in the Swim Team and have provided financial support since 2009, when the Recreational Association cut its support, due to a community vote.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** Maintaining the pool, tennis courts, and the other facilities on the pool property are the most important functions of the Recreational Association. This is a multi-million dollar facility and should be the first priority of the Recreational Association. Even if your family does not currently use the Recreational facilities, it is our best asset, and keeps property values up in this community. If the Recreational Association isn't going to focus on the recreational facility, who will? Additionally, the pool is a safe place for the kids of our community, a place where kids can be kids.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** Bring the focus of the Board back to dealing with the pool and providing recreational services to our community. If there is interest in also perusing covenants, then the Board needs to delegate it to people who have the time; or hold separate meetings where that's the focus. Right now covenant enforcement is a huge source of acrimony within the Recreational Association Board and at our annual community meeting. How much the Recreational Association should be in/get into covenant enforcement should be decided by a community vote. The last time the community voted on this was 1998, when the community voted 237 to 27 against Recreational Association enforcement of the land use covenants. That was 15 years ago, and it's certainly reasonable to say that it's time to vote again. But either way, the community should decide, what if anything, it's Recreational Association should do, as to the covenants.
7. **What is your vision for the Community?** Beyond all that, my vision for the Board is that it should be a place where members of our community who want to volunteer their time or talents feel they will be treated with respect, and that the ultimate purpose of everything is to make this a better place. We are fortunate to have the ability to create a community through our Recreational Facilities, and should work to enhance it.

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Bel Pre Recreation Association

2013 Candidates

3 positions -- 6 candidates

Continued from page 11

Kelcey Klass

1. **Age (optional):** Not relevant. I have been working since I was a teenager. Finally, now that I am retired from the US Department of Education, I have the time and desire to become more involved in the community affairs of Strathmore Bel Pre.
2. **Occupation:** My occupation at present is a substitute teacher for Montgomery County Public Schools.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** My family moved into this community in 1972. So it has been over 40 years that I have lived in this community.
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** My most recent contribution to this community has been to serve on the committee that looked at and discussed the covenants that came with ownership of a home here. The committee made recommendations to the Board which are still being studied.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** My vision for the Board of the Recreation Association is to do everything in their power to maintain the quality, high standards, and reputation this community has worked so diligently to achieve.
6. **What is your vision for the community?** My vision for the community is to be well functioning, well integrated, responsive to the needs of the families residing here, and responsive to the times as they exist and change.

Kye Pak

1. **Age (optional):** 43
2. **Occupation:** Detective, Montgomery County Police Department, District 4
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 8 years (we moved in in June 2005)
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** My children both swim for the Dolphins and I have volunteered for the team for 5 years. I provide frequent crime and police activity updates for the community listserv, and often respond personally to additional inquiries about crime prevention and safety.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** I believe that the BPRA's most important function is to make the most of our pool and recreation facilities, which I consider the community's most valuable asset. I've been happy to see the Civic Association's efforts to offer more family entertainment, and I'd like to see more community events at the pool. I want to see the pool and grounds well-maintained and managed and for our residents to see the pool as the go-to place in the summer. I hope to see the pool remain as it's been...a place where families and friends can gather and enjoy the summer, and where parents can send their children, knowing that they'll be safely and happily occupied.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** I feel that a Board position is a service position, and so for me, it's just another way to serve the community. I plan to spend more time listening than talking.
7. **What is your vision for the community?** We've made close friendships in the community, and our children love the pool, the swim team, and their many neighborhood friends. My wife and I often talk about how lucky we feel to live in a community where there's always a friend or neighbor to either celebrate with, or to call for help when it's needed. My vision is that we'll continue to build on our strengths, welcoming new neighbors and friends, and continuing to build a strong, close-knit neighborhood.

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Bel Pre Recreation Association

2013 Candidates

3 positions -- 6 candidates

Continued from page 12

Jim Rauch

1. **Age (optional):** 69
2. **Occupation:** Retired Design Engineer Philips Medical Systems
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 40 Years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** Although not a board member, I have attended a number of monthly meetings to provide input on issues. Notified Montgomery County on issues it had jurisdiction over in behalf of the board. Worked with construction supervisor for Georgian Forest School re-model for issues regarding improper work by sub-contractors.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** The mission is to enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood through management of common areas, enforcement of rules and covenants, support of initiatives that strengthen bonds among residents, and investment in capital improvements that benefit the greater good.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association? What is your vision for the community?** I envision a community of neighbors working together to achieve a higher quality of life and increasing property values. I envision a neighborhood that is considered by residents and non-residents alike to be a desirable place in which to live and enjoy the benefits of family, friends and community.

Lou Ann Rector

1. **Age (optional):**
2. **Occupation:** I am a Captain in the United States Public Health Service and work for the Surgeon General, the Nation's Top Doctor.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** I have lived in the community since December 1998.
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I have served on the Bel-Pre Recreational Association since December 2003. I have assisted the Rec Board with many projects such as parking lot lights at the pool, an AED for the pool to save folks in the event of a heart attack, and purchasing a new refrigerator for the snack bar.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** As a board member, I believe in upholding the charter and preserving property values in our community. I serve on the Board-Created Covenant Committee in order to evaluate covenants and find what is relevant and what is unenforceable.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** I also believe we have a responsibility to keep our common areas safe and updated for our community.



The Snackbar at night



Flowers at the Pool

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Bel Pre Recreation Association

2013 Candidates

3 positions -- 6 candidates

Continued from page 13

Adam Shepard

1. **Age (optional):** 26
2. **Occupation:** Software Engineer
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** just under 3 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I helped to update and continue to maintain the Civic Association website. Working with the SBPCA board, I also helped to charter the recent Summer Entertainment Series, as well as the 2013 Photo Contest.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** I think one of the main charters of the Rec Association is in its name - "Recreation." A big function of the association is to maintain and operate the community's recreational facilities. We have a wonderful space that is home to lots of activity over the summer, and I would enjoy seeing the community come together even more often for events.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** I hope that the Board can continue to increase its support of neighborhood activities, in addition to the work it already does to maintain and improve our recreation facilities. I don't think we can ignore the current issues surrounding our covenants and bylaws, so I also envision the board becoming more proactive in providing process and leadership for matters brought to its attention.
7. **What is your vision for the community?** I've had a great time living in this community, and am very glad we chose to live here over other neighborhoods. I envision the community becoming an even better place to live, through all of our events and organizations.

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Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association Board

2013 Candidates

5 positions -- 4 candidates

Sharon Adamo

1. **Occupation:** Program Director and Registered Dietitian (RD), U.S. Public Health Service
2. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 15 years
3. **What are your most recent contributions for/to the community?** I have attended many Annual meetings of the BPRA and the Civic Association. I have also helped to serve food at the July 4th picnic on several occasions, and this past summer, I attended a Civic Association monthly meeting, as well as enjoying one of the concerts at the pool. My husband John served for 10 years on the BPRA. I feel it is now my turn to serve our community.
4. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** To stay current on what is happening in the areas around our neighborhood, and to help build a sense of community, as we welcome new homeowners/residents.
5. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** To help maintain the good quality of life that we enjoy in our neighborhood.
6. **What is your vision for the community?** To be a welcoming and safe community.

Frank Corrigan

1. **Occupation:** Retired from U.S. Department of Education
2. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** I have lived here for 42 years
3. **What are your most recent contributions for/to the community?** I attend meetings and report to the community through *The Bugle* regarding activities of the Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF), the Taxpayers League, and County government staff and officials
4. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** It is vital and essential to keep residents apprised of developments and actions in our County and the State.
5. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** My vision is to monitor plans, activities and developments affecting the Strathmore Bel-Pre community and to and represent the interests of its residents.
6. **What is your vision for the community?** My vision is to maintain a high standard for representing our community in an ever changing environment of growth and development.

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The Back "N Time Band at the Pool in July.



Moonlight at the Pool

Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association Board 5 Positions -- 4 candidates

Continued from page 15

Bill Hammond

Age (optional): 70.

1. **Occupation:** Retired Chief: General Histories Branch, U.S. Army Center of Military History, and Senior Lecturer in University Honors Emeritus at the University of Maryland, College Park.
2. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 29 years
3. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I help run the Civic Association's July 4th events with my wife, Lilla. I take photos for *The Bugle*, and provide other assistance to the editors.
4. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** The Civic Association functions to keep our neighbors informed of developments in the County that affect our community.
5. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** The board must continue and further develop its efforts to draw community members together. The July 4th program, the movies at the pool, and the Dance nights at the pool have succeeded in this.
6. **What is your vision for the community?** It's a great community, and we have to keep it that way. Since the late 1960s, our civic association has succeeded in creating a distinct identity for Strathmore through our summer programs, and *The Bugle*, and today, with the addition of our listserve and our professional website. The envy of many nearby localities, the Civic Association's ability to pull everyone together, gives our 700 household neighborhood substantial influence with government policy makers, who have had to take our opinions into account in their planning. That we have, for example, the Matthew Henson trail running through our area, rather than a so called "Outer Beltway" is the result in great part of our community's strong, united efforts. We must maintain this strength and even increase it in order to ensure that our successors can call upon it again should the need arise.



Rita Vaught

1. **Age (optional):** 57
2. **Occupation:** Accountant, property manager, former real estate broker.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** We purchased our home in May 2013
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community)?** Our daughter joined swim team, and we volunteered at meets.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** For communications for our HOA.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** To continue to be involved in our regional area.
7. **What is your vision for the community?** To preserve property values, being a strong community.

Strathmore Bel Pre July 4th Celebration

By Lilla Hammond

This year's July 4th parade was a great success!! Everyone was delighted when the fire trucks, including a **hook and ladder truck**, arrived to lead the parade. Our community was also represented by Cub Scout Troop 763 and the community's Dolphins in a couple of cars.



Our sincere thanks to our **Montgomery County Fire Station 25 Firefighters:** Jason Eberly (Truck – Driver), Capt. Rhonda Weaver (Truck – Officer), Will McGinn (Truck – Tillerman), Brian Alleman (Engine – Master Firefighter), Lt. Jason Masters (Engine – Officer), Mike Cornejo (Engine – Firefighter), Brian McCullough (Engine – Firefighter).

Two Fire Trucks lead the Parade for 2013

2013 Paraders:

Paraders: Clarissa Barclay, Kevin Bhargava, Matthew Brogan, Ciara Coleman, Christopher Cron, Makayla Cron, Gwen L. Disharoon, Tom Disharoon, David Dorsey, Isabelle Duran, Jonas Duran, Gracie Jane Foraker, Beatrice Gray, Paula Griffith, Isabelle Griffith Belfort, Rini Jackson, Tatiana Jackson, Troy Jackson, Caroline Kent, Craig Kent, Shane Kent, Wyatt Kent, Harper Kominski, Tyler Kominski, Daryn Lam, Daniel Landry, Miriam Lev, Matthew Lilley, Nicholas Lilley, Grace MacFarland, Hannah MacFarland, Charlotte McNamee, Marshall McNamee, William McNamee, Kathy Merritt, Mindy Merritt, Lily Miller, Jackie Moeller, Joe Moeller, Joey Moeller, Lucas Moeller, Nene Narh-Mensah, Tete Narh-Mensah, Teye Narh-Mensah, Hayford Mensah, Margaret Mensah, Aidan Pak, Evan Pak, Aaron Poawui, Jessica Poawui, Yolanda Puzzo, Katie Sheetz, Andrea Soltesz, Sarah Staggs, Carson Taylor, Ava Yockelson, Jonas Yockelson, Piper Yockelson.

Getting ready for
The Parade.



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July 4th Celebration

Continued from page 17



Along the parade route.

Magic and Field Games

The celebration's next event was a performance by Magician Tom Lilly, well-known for his work with hospitals, libraries and nursing homes with an emphasis on reading. Later, Scott and Leanne McNamee lead the children's games, making this event a lot of fun for all the participants! Their children and other parents assisted. It was a wonderful event to wrap up the day.

We are grateful to those who participated and contributed to Strathmore Bel Pre's Fourth of July program. They include Ruth and Bob Wolpert, Reuben and Marilyn Lev; Maury and Charlotte Potosky and Joe and Molly Story, Adam Shepard, Chris Swan and Elliot Chabot. And special thanks to our organizers, the committee chairs, Harry Klapper, Bill and Lilla Hammond, Joe and Molly Story. That so many people were willing to share their time and talents is just another reflection of our great community spirit. Thanks everyone!



Tom Lilly performs magic on the 4th!

Music at the Pool -- Summer 2013

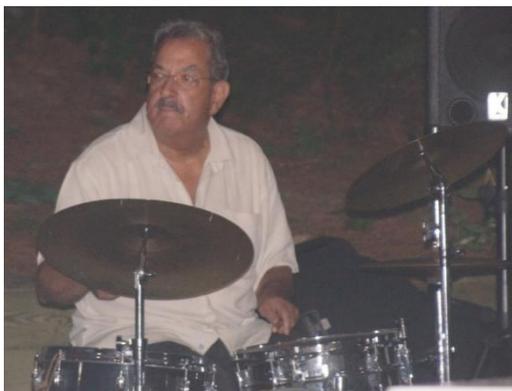
By Chris Swan and Christine Rostami

Back-n-Time, a Classic Rock Band, rollicked the crowd at the pool pavilion on July 20, with a great concert of classic rock and roll tunes. The band played tunes from Elvis, the Beatles, Bruce Springsteen, the Police, and the Rolling Stones, among others. Their high energy, excellent music inspired folks to dance.



The Greg Lamont Trio performed on Saturday, August 3, inside the pool pavilion. We were treated to a first rate jazz concert in a perfect setting - free, close up, outdoors; the weather was perfect! -with a bit of rain softly falling around us, kids playing on the boat, friendly neighbors. Thanks to the Snack Bar for providing our musicians (and us) with burgers, sodas and chips.

After the band members were fed and refreshed, the second set opened with "Take Five"- a classic for jazz fans (Dave Brubeck w/ Paul Desmond). You may not know the name of this piece, but you most likely would recognize it after the first few notes. The audience showed their appreciation with healthy applause. The group played familiar sounding, easy to listen to, classic pieces, "Satin Doll" & "A Train" among them.



Both concerts were sponsored by the Civic Association!

Gleanings from Meetings

Continued from page 4

September Meetings

Montgomery County Civic Federation

The Montgomery County Civic Federation meeting on September 9, 2013, focused on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Maryland. The presenter was Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director of Health and Human Services for Montgomery County.

Ms. Ahluwalia listed a number of reasons why health care reform occurred: mounting costs, uneven and inconsistent quality in the system, rising numbers of uninsured/underinsured in the population, limited use of information technology and a primary focus on disease instead of wellness. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires each state to establish a health insurance exchange by 2014; expands Medicaid to include individuals with incomes up to 138% of the Federal poverty level beginning in January 2014, and establishes tax credits for small businesses that provide health insurance to employees effective January 2014.

In January 2014, coverage will be extended to adults with pre-existing conditions. Parents can continue to provide coverage for children until age 26. Insurance companies cannot cancel coverage when an enrollee is sick and must cover preventive care and medical screening. Maryland Health Connection is the State's health insurance exchange, and it will be online in October 2013 to enable individuals, families and small businesses to compare health insurance options, calculate out of pocket costs, and enroll in a plan which addresses their coverage needs. Additionally, Maryland Health Connection will expand access to the 730,000 residents state-wide who are currently without health insurance. The Maryland Health Connection will maintain a call center. Call Maryland Consolidated Services Center at 1-855-642-8572 and TTY at 1-855-642-8573. Approximately 120,000 Montgomery County residents are uninsured.

Taxpayers' League

On September 19, 2013, Bob Hoyt, Director of the Department of Environmental Protection, made a presentation to the Montgomery County Taxpayers League. His agency is responsible for the "Water Quality Protection Charge" that has been collected since 2002 and is predicated on the Federal Clean Water Act of 1972. A number of jurisdictions in the State collect little, if any, tax to address rain water runoff. Montgomery County basically leads this effort. This year, Mr. Hoyt's Department received \$22,908,000 as a result of the "rain tax" and \$2,389,000 from the "bag tax". His Department is retro-fitting 20 or more "ponds" of Home Owner Associations. Also, his office oversees 4,000 acres of rain run-off representing about 20% of the runoff in the County. Federal buildings do not pay the rain tax; neither do County or State of Maryland buildings.

Mr. Hoyt estimated that it would cost \$14 billion or more to thoroughly clean up the entire state. He noted that counties that are closer to the Chesapeake Bay may have to undertake more as well as different mitigation efforts, e.g. runoff from farms. Presently 50% of Montgomery County's cleanup of water sheds, etc. is defined as inadequate to poor.

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Gleanings from Meetings

Continued from page 20

Taxpayers' League

A homeowner who wishes to reduce his/her "rain water" tax/charge with new trees, a canopy, rainscapes, a permeable driveways, rain gardens, etc. can apply to Mr. Hoyt's Department. Photographs and other documentation ins needed. The maximum reduction in the rain tax a homeowner can achieve is 50%. Questions or inquiries can be directed to www.mcmd.gov/dep.

To obtain information about planning and development in Montgomery County contact the Planning Department at www.montgomeryplanning.org/hoaca.

This rain garden can be found on Blue Spruce Lane.



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50s Plus News

By Charlotte Potosky

The 50 Plus Club has completed its summer series of meetings at the BPRP Pool Pavilion. The meetings were enjoyable in the environment of our beautiful pool and recreation area. We met at the pool on May 29 and August 7. The July 10 meeting was held at the home of Susan and Max Bronstein, due to inclement weather. The September 21 get together was held at the home of Charlotte and Maury Potosky.

We are planning our fall and winter meetings, along with trips to the theater. If you are a resident at Strathmore and would like to join us for our meetings/trips and are not yet a member of the 50 Plus club, please call Charlotte Potosky at 301-460-9008, or send an e-mail to maury3505@aol.com.

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If you haven't already done so, please join the Civic Association!

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If you have any questions, contact Linda Bea, 301-460-0497

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BPRA homeowners who need copies of the Bel Pre - Strathmore Covenants or other Bel Pre Rec. Assoc. Documents in order to sell their homes should either 1) contact the Civil File room in person. There is a cost for duplication. This office can be found on the first floor of the Circuit Court Building in Rockville. Refer to Civil Desk: Homeowner Records, HOA 268 filed on March 28, 1989, or 2) call Community Paperworks and ask for a resale package ← approximate cost \$75). Their phone number is (301) 309-8977.

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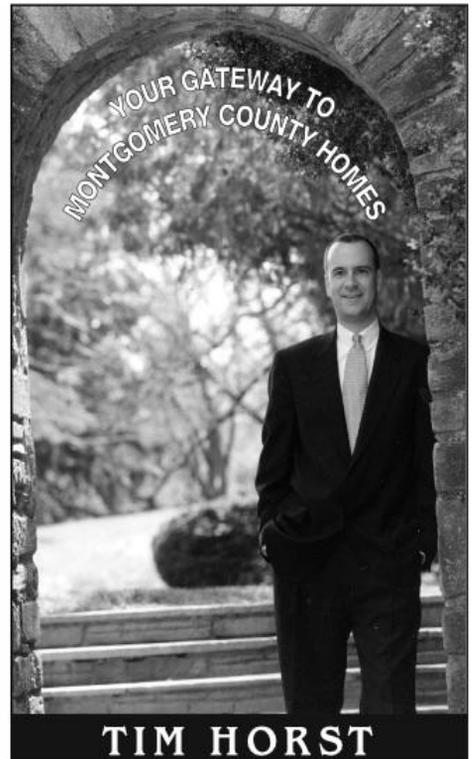
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Aspen Hill Library News

by Chris Swan



Fall Book Sale – November 16 10 am to 3 pm Community Room

The Aspen Hill Friends Fall Book Sale on November 16, 2013 promises to be chock full of books, CDs, and puzzles. With plenty of good books at bargain prices, you can shop to your heart's content. Shop for yourself, for your family, and, of course, for the holidays.

Books are arranged in some 35 categories such as Reference, Cookbooks, Travel, Math, Religion, Business, History, and of course, the Fiction –romance, mysteries, science fiction, espionage, and general fiction. Most books cost 50¢ for paperbacks, and \$1 for hardbacks, although special books are available.



Book Donations Needed

If you would like to donate used books, CDs, records, board games, or puzzles for the Aspen Hill Friends of the Library book sale, e-mail the Friends at aspenhill@folmc.org, or call us at (301) 871-1113. The Aspen Hill Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations are tax deductible. Please do not bring donations to the library, as staff are not able to accept them. Thanks.

Contact the Friends, then donate!

Getting your home insurance in order....Information for a smooth home sale:

Flood Coverage - Most policies cover water damage that occurs from above the ground, such as roof leakage, storm water pushed through window voids, and burst plumbing. Water that rises or seeps into a basement from the ground is considered a flood and is not insured. If you are concerned about ground water seepage & damage, you need a separate flood insurance policy.

Insurance companies share claim information with each other using the C.L.U.E. report, a standardized itemization of claims and, often, inquiries that a homeowner has made. Too many calls or claims can prevent the homebuyer from obtaining a new insurance policy or s/he may be quoted an outrageously high price. A savvy homeowner, in order to keep his policy intact and to have an acceptable C.L.U.E. report, will only make an inquiry or claim for major losses.

Deductibles - Since only large losses might be claimed, it may be economical to raise the deductible on your current policy to lower the annual premium.

Insurance When Selling - You should call your insurance company to let them know that you are putting your home on the market to be sure you are properly covered. After the sale, keep your policy in effect for a week or so until the buyer's deed has been recorded with the County.



And, when you're ready to make your move.... please call Lilla!

Lilla Hammond, CRS, GRI Email: lilla@lnf.com
301-518-7818 (Direct) 301-468-060 (Office)

