

# The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

Early Spring 2008

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**By Reuben Lev, President**  
**Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association Board of Directors**

**Dear Strathmore-Bel Pre Neighbor,**

The Civic Association wishes one and all a very good 2008! As I assume the mantel of SBPCA President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President, Linda Bea, for her many years of dedicated service in that role! Though she has stepped down as President, Linda will continue to serve as a member of the Board.

As originally intended, the Civic Association is organized to monitor and respond to issues which though technically outside of our immediate community impact us nonetheless. Our members continue to be actively involved with several such endeavors including monitoring progress on the Matthew Henson Trail and concerns regarding it, and with reviewing and commenting on the Glenmont-Privacy World development. Board members have also met with representatives of the County and the Park Police and continue to maintain contact with them regarding community concerns.

In an effort to better serve the community, we are exploring two possibilities in the coming year: 1} holding small group meetings with members of our community who express a desire to do so; 2} developing study groups/committees of volunteers regarding specific issues of concern. Our meetings (held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 at the Genesis Nursing Home on Bel Pre Road) are open to all interested parties. Community concerns can be brought to our attention by contacting a Board member and/or via our web site ([WWW.STRATHMORE-BELPRE.ORG](http://WWW.STRATHMORE-BELPRE.ORG)). We look forward to seeing/hearing from you.

In addition to monitoring community developments, we are beginning to plan for the Annual Community Yard Sale (which will be held May 31st at the pool), and looking forward to planning for our annual Fourth of July Community Picnic. As these are labor intensive activities, volunteers are always welcome and very much appreciated.

We appreciate your continued support of the Civic Association and wish to remind everyone that we are separate and distinct from the Recreation Association. Your membership dues allow us to sponsor community events (Yard Sale; 4th Of July) to publish The Bugle and maintain the community web site. If you have not yet become a member in the Civic Association, we hope you will do so very soon.

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### COMMUNITY NOTICE:

A special primary election will be held Tuesday, April 15th to fill the vacancy on the Montgomery County Counsel created by the death of Marilyn Praisner. The general election will be held on Tuesday, May 13th.

# Strathmore-Bel Pre Civil Association (SBPCA)

P.O. Box 6836  
Silver Spring, MD 20916

[E-Mail:Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org](mailto:Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org)

The Civic Association web site [www.strathmore-belpre.org](http://www.strathmore-belpre.org)

**Annual SBPCA membership: \$12.00**

The SBPCA Board of Directors meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Genesis Center Nursing Home on Layhill Road. All meetings are open to the public.

## Civic Association Officers

President:	Reuben Lev	301-460-1048
Vice President:	Bill Hammond	301-871-5074
Treasurer	Charlie Bea	301-460-0497
Recording Sect.	Dawn Greeley	301-603-8055

## Civic Association Board of Directors

Linda Bea	301-460-0497	Maurice Potosky	301-460-9008
Max Bronstein	301-460-3117	Dan Thomas	301-871-2624
Elliot Chabot	301-871-1113	Arlene Thorne	301-871-5013
Ron Daub	301-460-0929	Harry Klapper	301-460-9645
Lilla Hammond	301-871-5074	Marilyn Lev	301-460-1048
Chris Swan	301-871-1113		

## The Bugle

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# How to Prepare for an Emergency

By Marilyn Lev and Lilla Hammond

Do you know how to prepare for an emergency? If not, the good news is that there is a lot of information available to help you learn how to become prepared. Here are a few resources:

**1. The Phone Book:** The front section of most phone books list important phone numbers and emergency procedures. To develop a plan of action for you and your family, you may want to review the information in these pages.

**2. The "Alert Montgomery" System:** Montgomery County officials are urging residents to take advantage of the County's automated warning system in an emergency, the County's Homeland Security Department will send text messages to email accounts, cell phones, pagers, Blackberrys and wireless PDAs.

In addition to emergency alerts, residents can sign up for information about severe traffic delays and severe weather. Residents already signed up for their municipal alert systems will automatically receive the Montgomery County messages.

To sign up for the personal warning system, go to the Montgomery County home page at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/> and **click on Alert Montgomery**. Residents can choose to have the emergency alerts, notifications and updates sent to one or more of their electronic communication devices. The service is free of charge, although residents may be charged by their wireless carriers to receive the text messages.

**3. The "Plan to Be Safe" Campaign:** This County program offers several valuable resources to help residents educate themselves about emergency planning and personal preparation. They include a tri-fold "**Plan 9**" brochure with pictures and simple text listing the essential items residents should have on hand in case of emergency (water, food, clothes, medications, flashlight, manual can opener, battery powered radio, hygiene items and first aid kit). Another brochure, "**Everybody Ready,**" outlines the three steps we can all take (start a conversation, make a plan, and make a kit) to be better prepared to weather a crisis. The brochure is printed in nine languages, including Cambodian, Farsi, Spanish and Russian. **For more information on the "Plan to Be Safe" campaign, go to <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov> and click on the link for "emergency preparedness" or call 240-777-3038.**

**4. Strathmore-belpre.org:** Finally, you can go to the Civic Association's own website, which was the source of much of the information in this article.

# BPRA News

## BPRA President's Message By Ed Frantz

**Dear Neighbors,**

I hope all of you enjoyed your holidays! The Association held its Annual Meeting on November 15th and the Board of Trustees held their first meeting of 2008 at the end of January. I would like to provide you with an update on what has been happening.

At the Annual Meeting, three candidates were elected to serve on the Board of Trustees - Gladston James, Lou Ann Rector and Gordon Klang. Congratulations to all three and thanks to them as well for serving their community. In addition to those three new Trustees and myself, the President of the Association, the Board now consists of Dan Keating (Vice President), John Adamo (Treasurer), Chris Swan (Secretary), Louisa Hoar, and Sue Hoye. On behalf of the Board and the Association, I would like to thank Ted Bechtol, John Bogasky and Paulette Ladas, the three Trustees leaving the Board, for many years of service to the Association and (hopefully) a little bit of help in the future.

Nothing happens without the help of many volunteers, and Ted, John and Paulette have spent an enormous amount of time and effort over the years helping to keep the pool facilities and the Association running well.

As 2008 has begun, the Board has been working on a few projects. We will be repaving a large piece of our parking lot. The Board received bids from three contractors and the work will cost the Association over \$30,000. It just amazes me how expensive this sort of construction work can be! The Trustees have turned our attention to the Association's pool management contract, which is due for renewal this season. We have begun putting together a bid document and plan to solicit proposals from at least three pool management companies this spring. I will keep you updated on the results of that process. Finally, the Board has been having ongoing discussions regarding enforcement of the Association's architectural covenants. For the past year or so, a committee chaired by Elliot Chabot has been reviewing all of our voluminous governing documents with an eye toward modernizing and streamlining them. When that review process is complete, the Board may come to the community to approve the recommended changes to the governing documents. Along the way, the Trustees may survey the Association's members, seeking input to help ensure that what is recommended to the community truly reflects the members' views. I will keep you informed as this process moves forward.

Please remember that the Board holds regular monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Bel Pre Elementary School library from September through April, and at the pool pavilion from May through August. All of these meetings are open to every member and we welcome community participation!

Cheers!

### Recreational Association Officers

President:	Edward Frantz	301-603-8055
Vice President:	Dan Keating	301-603-8162
Treasurer:	John Adamo	301-460-3275
Secretary:	Chris Swan	301-871-1113
Administrative Assistant:	Brenda Henry	301-871-6298
Pavilion Usage:	Louisa Hoar	301-871-2954

### Recreational Association Trustees

Sue Hoye	301-603-9559
Gladstone James	301-384-6535
Gordon Klang	301-460-0367
Lou Ann Rector	301-603-8805
Board Meetings are held the 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, 7:30 at Bel Pre Elementary School and during summer months at the Pool Pavilion	

# Community Developments

## GLEANINGS from MEETINGS

By Max Bronstein

### Montgomery County Civic Federation:

**Policing Developments** was the focus of the November meeting at which Police Chief Tom Manger spoke. Among the items he reported was that burglaries were up substantially, as well as thefts from autos. We learned that there were 17 pedestrian deaths in the prior year. Also, the biggest gang was MS-13, with a membership of several hundred, comprised primarily of Salvadorans. Another interesting report was that the most dangerous road in the county was Randolph Road. There was general agreement among the attendees that our chief is a very intelligent, capable, and impressive public servant, and one who carries out his responsibilities to the fullest with the highest degree of professionalism.

**Forest & Tree Laws** were discussed at the December meeting which featured both State and County representatives. It was interesting to learn that Maryland is the only state with a law to prevent deforestation. An important name to remember is that of Brett Linkletter, Program Manager of Tree Maintenance for the Department of Public Works & Transportation. Call him regarding issues concerning trees on the County right-of-way.

**The CountyStat Program** was the focus of the Federation's January meeting. This is a program similar to the CitiStat system which Baltimore has used since 2000. CountyStat won't start for several months while its structure and operation is planned and personnel are assigned. Residents will phone "311" to request County services for issues other than "911" emergency calls. The system will entail a thorough and ongoing review of the data gathered by the program with the goal of achieving efficiency, good service, and cost savings.

### **Mid-County Citizen's Advisory Board**

**The Georgia Avenue Interchange** was discussed at the November meeting. Khalid Afzal, Georgia Ave. Team Leader from Park & Planning, briefly outlined plans for a study of the Georgia Ave. corridor. This was the first in a series of planned public sessions and was not detail rich. The next meeting regarding the Georgia Ave. Concept Study will take place at Park Police Headquarters, 12751 Layhill Rd., on February 5th, from 7-9 p.m. Since Georgia Ave. is a major thoroughfare serving our community, it is imperative that our voices be heard. I

suggest as many of our residents as possible attend this meeting.

**The Development of Downtown Wheaton** was the focus in December, the Board received the County Executive's plan regarding a vision for downtown Wheaton. There was support for restaurants, small retail, and entertainment venues representing the areas rich cultural diversity. January's meeting was highlighted by a briefing from Scott Gutschick from the County's Fire & Rescue Department about their 2008 plans for expenditures and improvements. It was pointed out that while fire calls are statistically small compared to health/rescue calls, expensive fire equipment must always be available for serious fires.

### Montgomery County Council:

**The Glenmont Metrocenter/Privacy World property** was the subject of a hearing involving "oral argument" before the Council on January 15. After 4 days of testimony at the office of Zoning & Administrative Hearings last summer, the Hearing Examiner recommended that the case be remanded back to the Hearing Examiner. The "oral argument" from all sides in the matter dealt with whether the 1550 unit planned development would negatively impact area traffic and also if it would be compatible with the neighborhood. One of the key questions discussed was whether a long used transportation test was valid. After 3 hours of questions, answers, and debate, the Council voted 6-3 to remand the case back to the Hearing Examiner.

### Montgomery County Taxpayers League:

The most interesting finding at this meeting was that by fiscal year 2014, the County forecasts a budget shortfall of \$4.68 billion. This gap is 122% of our 2008 total use budget. Perhaps we all need a larger can for backyard underground fund storage.

### Mid-County Community Recreation Center:

The latest information is that construction bids currently being reviewed may result in the start of construction by early summer 2008. Let's all hope so.

Stay tuned for more notes from The Bugle!



# Dolphins Winter News

## *Our Swimmers Need Your Support*

### *Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins*

The Dolphins swim team welcomes new youngsters and teenagers who want to enjoy the recreation, teamwork and competition from Memorial Day through July.

Sometime in March, Dolphins swimmers will deliver a package to each and every one of the 700+ homes in our community. The package will include a team brochure and a donation request. Delivery of these packages will kick off the Dolphin's 3rd annual fundraising campaign.

The team hopes to maintain the fantastic level of community support provided over the past two years. The campaigns have received more than 190 donations each year from the donation request "mailing" and swim team donations. The team has been able to remain on firm financial footing. On behalf of all Dolphins families, past and present, we thank the BPRA community for your tremendous support!

We will need your support again this year to continue building this new tradition of Dolphins support.

While the Dolphins have been a vital part of our community for nearly 40 years, the annual fundraising campaign is new. Historically, the BPRA considered the team a pool recreation program and paid the team's coaching costs. Many teams receive similar support from their pools. As most readers

know, BPRA financial support ended two years ago and the team now relies entirely on its fundraising efforts. The Dolphins began the annual fundraising campaign to replace the support no longer provided by the BPRA.

The team distributes the donation request by hand to save the \$250+ postage cost and to help give our swimmers ways to be involved in helping their team. You can also use the tear-off form below to make a donation or contact President Paul Stagnitto at 301-871-6474 or at pastags@verizon.net to receive a Dolphins package.

Once again, the Dolphins will recognize all donors in the summer edition of the Bugle.

In addition to the donations, the team raises money through a community carwash held each spring at Sandy Springs Bank on the corner of Layhill and Bel Bre Pre/Bonifant, bake sales at swim meets, sales of team T-shirts and swimsuits, the swim-a-thon, the Labor Day Weekend Crab Feast and advertisements in the team directory.

The Dolphins' nearly 40 years of success has always been due to the enthusiastic support the team has received from the Strathmore Bel Pre community. On behalf of the team, let me offer our thanks for *both your past support and for your support in the future.*

*See you at a Dolphin's swim meet this summer!*

## *Donation Form*

### **Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins Swim Team**

Please mail donations to: Treasurer  
SBP Dolphins  
14001 Blazer Lane  
Silver Spring, MD 20906



☐ Yes, I want to help the Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins continue to serve our community's children in 2007! Enclosed is my contribution of:

☐ \$25 White Ribbon ☐ \$250 Bronze Medal

☐ \$50 Red Ribbon ☐ \$500 Silver Medal

☐ \$100 Blue Ribbon ☐ \$1000+ Gold Medal

☐ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ *Friend of the Dolphins*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you wish to be recognized in the Bugle)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, please add my email address to the Dolphins mailing list

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please make my gift anonymous

Please make checks payable to the SBP Dolphins

# 50+ Club News

The 50+ Club, consisting of residents of Strathmore-Bel Pre, continues its program of activities. On December 19 2007, a large group attended the performance of "The Sound of Music" at Toby's Dinner Theater in Columbia MD. After a great buffet we were treated to a superb performance of this classic musical and everyone had a wonderful time. On January 9 2008, we had our monthly meeting at the home of Ellis and Iris Hyman, where we did preliminary planning for this coming year.

On March 12, a contingent of 50 Plussers will see the annual production of the Hexagon Players at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington DC. The Hexagon Players provides great satire on the events of the day, national, local, and political. The Players income from their performances provides support for charities in DC.

Our next meeting will be on April 2 at the home of Jay Wolfgang, skipping February and March because of scheduling constraints. Following that, we will attend Toby's on April 30 for their production of "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat". For information about the 50+ Club and their events, please contact Charlotte Potosky at 301-460-9008.

## Letters to the Editor

After reading the last two issues of The Bugle, I would like to suggest that most problems in our development could be avoided if we all follow the Bel Pre Strathmore covenants set up by our developers, Levitt and Sons, in November, 1969.

One of the covenants clearly states that our homes are intended for single family use. To change this restriction, a majority of the residents must be in agreement.

Please keep our covenants as written and abide by them ensuring fair treatment for all Bel Pre Strathmore residents.

Mary T. Mandlers

## ATTEMPTED ARSON ON THE MATTHEW HENSON TRAIL

It has come to the attention of the Civic Association that there was attempted arson of a trail bench reported to the Park Police on the evening of December 31, on the section of trail between Rippling Brook Drive and Layhill Road. The Police investigation revealed that the bench was doused with an accelerant, but luckily did not catch fire as the wood was not yet cured. The attempted arson was reported to the Fire Marshall, and a request to repair the bench has been filed.

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police have full jurisdiction over the entire Matthew Henson Trail. The Park Police have advised us that because the trail has not officially opened (MNCPP has not issued an official opening date for the trail), any current use of the trail constitutes "Trespass." The Police suggest that for everyone's safety, residents refrain from trail use while construction crews are still at work trimming large trees and planting young trees. Construction vehicles are traversing the trail, and tree contractors are removing limbs from some very tall trees. In the interest of keeping the trail safe and properly maintained, the Park Police also urge residents to report any suspicious/illegal activity or vandalism to the police. The contact information for the Park Police is as follows:

"In Progress" and Non-Emergency Calls: 301-949-3010  
Emergency Calls: 301-949-8010

Day Shift Patrol Commander (8 am – 4 pm) Lt. Harvey Baker  
Office: 301-929-2729, Cell: 240-876-6361  
Email: harvey.baker@mncppc-mc.org

Evening Shift Patrol Commander( 4 pm – 12 midnight) Lt. David McClintock  
Office:301-929-2753, Cell: 240-876-6759  
Email: david.mcclintock@mncppc-mc.org

Midnight Shift Patrol Commander (12 midnight – 8 am) Lt. Antonio DeVaul  
Office: 301-929-2731, Cell: 240-417-7993  
Email: antonio.devaul@mncppc-mc.org

## Jobs Well Done: Community Member Referrals

***The Bugle has recently begun to receive letters from community members in praise of the good service they received from local contractors. As a community service to residents who might be looking for community referrals, we have decided to create a special section for such letters. If you received exemplary service from a local business and would like to recommend them to your neighbors, you may send us your story at [dgreeley8055@comcast.net](mailto:dgreeley8055@comcast.net).***

Dear Bugle Readers:

We have lived at 3108 Beaverwood lane for 27 years. Needless to say, many things in our house have been redone or replaced. Many things outside the house have been improved or made new, but there was one big project that was postponed over and over....replacing the windows and the siding. I am happy to say that this past May all 26 windows were replaced as well as the siding. Since many people stopped by to ask info about the good job, I would like to share that with all my neighbors. The windows were replaced in one day (they pushed it because the weather was calling for rain) the siding was replaced in one week. I have never been so happy to see a group of people working so hard. No music, no talking, no breaks...I was impressed. The Company's name is: J&J Seamless Gutters Inc., 1061 Taft Street Rockville, MD 20850. Tel. (301) 279-5548. Another company replaced the rotted wood around the windows. They also worked remarkably well: Builders & More (301) 253-8983.

Anna Fiore

***Please Note: letters in the Jobs Well Done section represent solely the opinion of the writer and DO NOT constitute an endorsement by the Civic Association or the Bugle.***



# The Trading Post

**FOR SALE: RAIN BARREL.** Want to save some of your water bill? Here is a rain barrel to collect rain water from the gutter. It is made of strong resin, green color for \$25. Interested party please call 240-292-0565, Alice.

**WANTED: USED TREADMILL.** I am interested in buying a slightly used treadmill. If available, Please call 240-292-0565, Alice

**FOR SALE: WHEELCHAIR.** Dark metallic blue with black cloth seat & back. "Drive," Fly Weight Series, 18-inch width, 19 lbs, removable foot rests, comes with tool set/wrenches to tighten bolts. \$50 or best offer. Call Betty or Mary at 301-603-0790.

**FOR SALE: WALKER.** Aluminum, adjustable height, with 4 wheels or 4 rubber-tipped feet. Also has a large basket attached, good for carrying things but must be removed in order to fold up the walker. \$15 or best offer. Call Betty or Mary at 301-603-0790.

**FOR SALE: FIREPLACE DOORS.** Brass with glass bi-fold doors. Excellent condition. Best Offer. Call (303) 603-8055, Dawn or Ed.\_

**FOR SALE: MICROWAVE OVEN.** White, Magic Chef , 990W microwave. Excellent Condition. Best Offer. Call (303) 603-8055, Dawn or Ed.

**PET SITTING:** Need a Petsitter? Call Alex at 301-871-7014. Experienced. References. Available 7 days a week.

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*I am just a neighbor away... look forward to hearing from You!*

*Marilyn Joyce*

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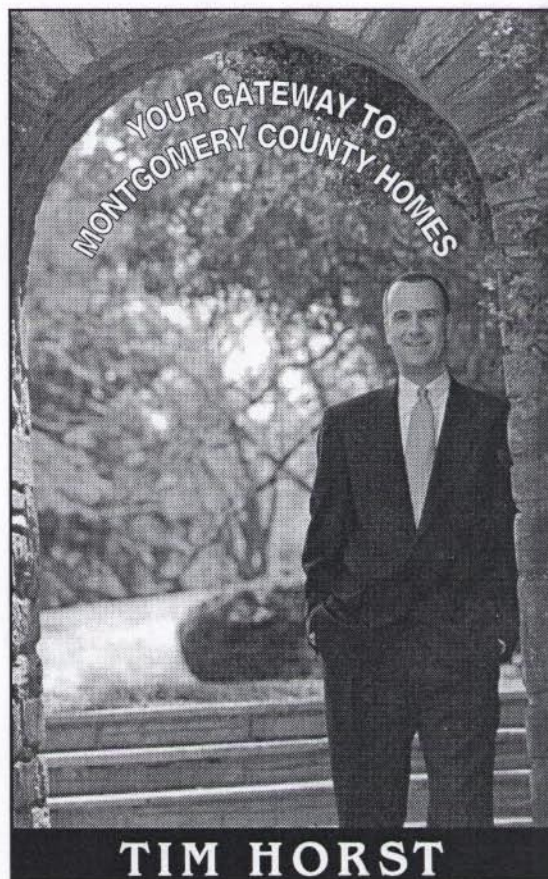
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## *Strathmore Bel Pre Community ... 2007 Market Review!*

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Average Sale Price	\$370,175	\$435,563	\$525,455	\$520,894	\$518,493
Lowest Sale Price	\$315,000	\$385,000	\$429,500	\$460,000	\$410,000
Highest Sale Price	\$450,000	\$500,000	\$639,000	\$699,999	\$665,000
Average # of Days on Mkt.	27	22	16	68	75
Sales per Year	36	33	28	26	15

*If you are thinking of buying or selling, or would like additional information,  
please call ...*



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In an effort to better serve the needs of our readers, we are working on putting together electronic delivery of the *Bugle*. If you would prefer to receive your *Bugle* electronically, please send your name, address and e-mail address to [dgreeley8055@comcast.net](mailto:dgreeley8055@comcast.net). You will receive your *Bugle* faster and save some trees!



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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**Featuring steakhouse cuisine, regional seafood and fresh pastas**

**Bring this ad and receive one free appetizer with purchase of two dinners**

**Open Tuesday through Saturday for lunch and dinner  
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# Did you know?

"A **child** in the U.S. becomes **missing** every **40 seconds!**"

Insure your child's safety with  
**GUARD-A-KID**



*Sign up today to receive an identification  
and safety package for your child*

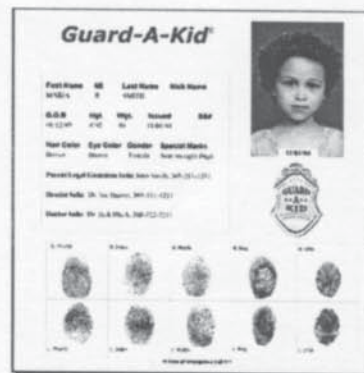
Each Child Identification Kit includes:



Two laminated wallet-sized  
I.D. cards  
and  
Child safety information  
pamphlets



CD Rom stores your child's photo,  
vital information, and digital  
fingerprints. This information can  
be e-mailed to law enforcement  
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Full-size identification  
sheet

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