

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association
October 2023

vol. 55 #4



Trunk or Treat~~October 28

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Pool Parking Lot
Bethpage Lane



To set-up your trunk,
arrive early, at 4:30 pm.

Questions, contact Chris
Swan. See [page 3](#) for her
contact information.

FUN for all!



Bugle Editor(s) Needed

This is our last issue!
Contact us to save *The Bugle*.

See [page 26](#).



It's Annual Meeting Time

All On Zoom

Thursday, November 16

Civic Association Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Rec Association Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 5

Town Hall Meeting 8:00 p.m.

All of our November and December meetings will be held virtually, on Zoom. Recreational Association members will receive the Zoom information with the Annual Meeting mailing this month. Civic Association members should contact JOHN BOGASKY for the Zoom information.

Rec Association: Quorum is Needed

Please return your ballots **BEFORE November 16**, to create a quorum! A By-laws amendment and the election of 3 trustees are on the ballot. See pages [5](#), [10](#), and [23](#) for the details.

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THE BUGLE

PUBLISHED BY THE STRATHMORE BEL PRE CIVIC ASSOCIATION SINCE 1969

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Civic Association

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

Annual SBPCA membership:

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 to various groups such as the Montgomery County Civic Federation and the Glenmont Exchange. The SBPCA also sponsors Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 763.

Additionally, the SBPCA publishes *The Bugle* and the community directory; maintains the community listserv; organizes the annual Yard Sale; the 4th of July festivities; and (in conjunction with the Recreational Association) the Summer Entertainment Series, the Public Affairs Forum Series (generally held during the summer), and the yearly community-wide Town Hall meeting, held in December.

The SBPCA Board of Directors normally meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm on Zoom. The Civic Association's annual meeting is in November just before the BPRC annual meeting.

Civic Association Officers

President: NANCY BECHTOL 301 871-3679

Secretary: LINDA BEA 301 460-0497

Vice President: vacant

Treasurer: JOHN BOGASKY 301 460-1604

Civic Association Directors

NICOLE BANKS

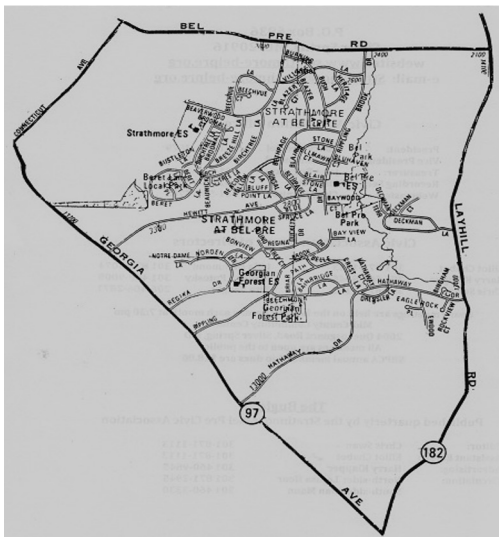
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Strathmore Bel Pre Street map

Strathmore Bel Pre Community listserv: To join the listserv, contact JOHN BOGASKY. You must be an SBPCA member to join the SBPcivic listserv.

Website: The Civic and Rec Associations have a joint website, maintained by the Civic Association. For more information, contact BILLY RUPPERT at billyruppert@gmail.com.

Community Directory and Yard Sale: Contact LINDA BEA.

July 4th Activities: Contact LILLA HAMMOND.

Pedestrian Safety: BRITNEY HORSLEY at bsthorsley@gmail.com.

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

SBP Village: KRISTI HULLINGS at SBPvillage@gmail.com

Bel Pre Recreational Association

Established in 1966, the Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) is the homeowners' association for most of the Strathmore at Bel Pre properties. The BPRA runs our community's pool, tennis and pickleball courts, volleyball court, playgrounds, picnic areas, bath house, snack bar, and pavilion, which normally are open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. The tennis and pickleball courts are open year round.

BPRA Board and committee meetings are announced at <http://strathmorebelpre.org/meetings>. Board meetings are normally the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, on Zoom.

The annual General Membership meeting is normally held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving Day at 7:30 pm, on Zoom. The annual Town Hall meeting, co-sponsored with the Civic Association, is normally held on the 1st Tuesday of December, at 8 pm, on Zoom. Correspondence can be sent to the BPRA at P.O. Box 6370, Aspen Hill, MD 20916-6370.

Bel Pre Recreational Association Board of Trustees

KAREN PURDY (President)	301 603-9604	klpurdy@hotmail.com
JAY STAGGS (Vice President)	301 603-0304	jaysbluewing@hotmail.com
DAVE PULLEN (Treasurer)	301 598-2521	treasurer4bpra@gmail.com
CLAIRE PAK (Secretary)	301 602-7573	claire0618@gmail.com
TED BECHTOL	301 871-3679	tedbechtol@yahoo.com
STEVE JENNISON	301 919-9278	hsjennison@gmail.com
RODNEY OO	-	rodzoo88@gmail.com
ANDREW POPADICH	-	popadichaj1@gmail.com
PATRICK WELTEROTH	570 419-2590	patrickwelteroth@gmail.com



Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

Administrative Assistant	vacant	
Assessment Assistance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpra@gmail.com
Audit Coordinator	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Block Party & Spring Thing Coordinator	vacant	
Entertainment & Recreation Committee Chair	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
eSoft Planner Coordinator	KAREN PURDY	BPRAPool02@gmail.com
Finance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpra@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	PATRICK WELTEROTH	570 419-2590
New Member Recruitment Coordinator	vacant	
Nominating Committee Chair	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Pavilion Scheduler	CARMEN WONG	BPRAPool04@gmail.com
Pet Waste Station Coordinator	JACKIE FARY-MOELLER	jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com
Pool and Recreational Facilities Committee Chair	JAY STAGGS	301 603-0304
Pool Gardening Group	SANDY FLEMING	sfleming04@hotmail.com
Pool Property Helpers Coordinator	JOE MOELLER	moellerhj@aspengroves.com
Tennis and Pickleball Courts Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpra@gmail.com
Tennis Courts Keys Distributor	JIM EATON	240 743-8480
Trunk or Treat Coordinator	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
Webmaster	BILLY RUPPERT	301 332-4901

The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

The Fall season is evident everywhere in our neighborhood with pumpkins decorating the doorways and colorful leaves falling from our abundance of trees. The mature trees in our woodlands and yards make our community unique. Right now, raking leaves is not a favorite activity, but these trees are still worth this effort by providing much needed shade in the summer, and such gorgeous fall color to enjoy.



Summer 2023 Activities: Recap

It is hard to say goodbye to such a fantastic summer of so many community activities. The new SBP Village has been active all summer with garden walks at Brookside, bird walks, game nights and fire safety lectures. Look for many planned fall activities inside this *Bugle* edition and promoted on our community listserv. If you are a member of our Civic Association, you can belong to the community listserv. The Civic Association hosted the Yard Sale and 4th of July Parade and pool activities. We host, in conjunction with the BPR, the summer entertainment series of movies and music events. We also co-host both the Spring Thing and Fall BlocktoberFest. Considering how busy the Dolphin's swim team is all summer long, there is something to do in our community almost every single day in the summer!

Bugle Editors Needed!

We have so many people in our neighborhood who volunteer their time and talents to make all these activities happen. These special people are also what makes this neighborhood so amazing. This issue is the last issue of *The Bugle* where both CHRIS SWAN and ELLIOT CHABOT will serve as Editor and Assistant editor. This is the hardest job of all volunteer positions, and they have served in this capacity for over ten years. We owe them both a huge debt of gratitude for this level of dedicated service. Together, they have created a newsletter packed with articles that they believed our neighbors would enjoy and would benefit from reading. The Boy Scouts, the Recreational Association (BPR), your Civic Association (SBPCA), community businesses, the Dolphins, Aspen Hill Library, CECILY NABORS, and the SBP Village all use *The Bugle* to communicate with all neighbors. We need someone in our neighborhood to come forward to perform this important job so that we can all stay informed. I cannot imagine a season without reading CECILY's latest local nature article. I have learned so much from her! Please consider volunteering to keep our *Bugle* alive for the next decade. Volunteering as our new editor would also be the greatest gift we could give to CHRIS and ELLIOT to thank them for their dedicated service to our community, and to keep *The Bugle* history going strong into the future.

Plans for 2024 -- Dues Increase is Needed

The Civic Association has been busy planning for next year, and we find ourselves in need of more funding to cover all our Community activities and *The Bugle*. We plan to increase our annual dues to \$25.00 per year, up from the current rate of \$20.00. We have not raised our dues in over three years, and now everything costs so much more, post-COVID.



Digital Bugle Copies? More Civic Association Members Needed!

We are also planning to roll-out an option to receive a digital copy of *The Bugle*, instead of a paper copy, for neighbors who would prefer this option. This will reduce printing expenses for *The Bugle* and will help us balance the Civic Association's budget. We continue to push for more members, as this too will help our budget. With only one third of our community joining the Civic Association, we have much room for membership growth! You can help us balance our budget just by becoming a member of your Civic Association!

– Continued on [page 15](#) –

Bel Pre Recreational News

by Karen Purdy

President, Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA)



Check Out Our Website

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



Upcoming Meetings – all on Zoom

All BPRA meetings through the end of 2023, including the Annual Meeting will be held via teleconference on Zoom. There are currently 2 general meetings scheduled for this fall: the joint Civic Association (SBPCA) and BPRA Annual General Membership Meeting on **November 16**, and the joint SBPCA and BPRA Annual Town Hall Meeting on **December 5**. Information for joining these meetings via telephone, computer or other device is included in the 2023 Annual Meeting Notice mailed to each member household during October. If you have not received your Annual Meeting Notice by **November 1st**, please contact Treasurer DAVE PULLEN at treasurer4bpra@gmail.com or 301-598-2521.

More information about each meeting is below. Additional information and helpful links can be found on StrathmoreBelPre.org under the “Rec Association” menu at top right.

BPRA Annual General Membership Meeting, Thursday, November 16, 7:30 pm, via Zoom

The main order of business during the annual meeting will be the election of 3 BPRA Board Trustees and the proposed adoption of a BPRA By-Laws Amendment. We will also present the BPRA Annual Report and the 2024 Budget, and have time for questions.

Annual Strathmore Bel Pre Town Hall Meeting, Tuesday, December 5, at 8 pm, via Zoom

The Town Hall meeting is an opportunity to (virtually) get together with your neighbors to share knowledge, learn more about our community and ask questions in an informal setting.



BPRA Annual Board of Trustees Elections

The BPRA Board of Trustees is a 9-member body elected at the Annual General Membership Meeting. Each member is elected to a 3-year term. The terms are staggered, so that 3 members are elected every year.

This year, we have 3 candidates running for those 3 seats: CHARLES MEININGER, CLAIRE PAK and CHRISTINE TYLER PELL. Thank you all for volunteering. Bios of each candidate are available, starting on [page 23](#).

Thank you to outgoing Board Members STEVE JENNISON and PATRICK WELTEROTH. PATRICK, a past BPRA Treasurer, just completed a one-year term. STEVE, who is completing his 5th year on the board (this time around!) previously served on the board in the late 1980s and 1990s including a 4-year stint as President in the 1990s. Thank you for your contributions to the community!

– Continued on [page 6](#) –

Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from [page 5](#))

2023 BPRA Annual Meeting and Elections – What is the Same, What has Changed?

We will follow the same basic Annual Meeting and voting procedures as we did in 2020, 2021 and 2022, with several notable exceptions resulting from the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency. A summary is below and continues on [page 9](#). A detailed explanation of the COVID era elections rules, the emergency authorizations they were based on, the changes resulting from the end of the State of Emergency and the BPRA's proposed plans to update our Governing Documents to allow for electronic meetings and mail-in ballots for future meetings can be found on [page 10](#).



Meeting on Zoom – Same Procedure as 2020, 2021, 2022

The SBPCA and BPRA Annual Meetings will again be held on Zoom this year.

Ballots – Same Procedure as 2020, 2021, 2022

The 2023 BPRA Board of Trustee Elections will be held via mail-in or drop-off ballot. Ballots and proxy envelopes will be mailed to each member household with the Annual Meeting Notice in October. Election instructions and additional information can be found on the reverse side of the ballot, and at StrathmoreBelPre.org.

Establishing Quorum – Same Procedure as 2020, 2021, 2022

Proxies Are Needed!

For the BPRA to do business, such as elect BPRA Board Trustees and adopt a By-laws amendment, at the Annual Meeting, we must establish a quorum of at least 72 households, which is 10% of member households. **Quorum can be established by proxy**, so it is important that each member household complete and return the proxy envelope included in the Annual Meeting mailing before **November 16th**.

Completing and returning the proxy allows your household to be counted as “present” by proxy for purposes of establishing quorum at the 2023 Annual Meeting and any continuances thereof. Members attending the meeting on Zoom also will be considered present for establishing quorum. If we do not meet quorum requirements at the **November 16th** meeting, then the election and By-Laws voting portion of the annual meeting will be adjourned. The meeting will reconvene as an additional meeting on Tuesday, **December 5**, at 8:00 p.m., via teleconference on Zoom, where the quorum will be either 36 households (under the BPRA By-Laws), or those in attendance on Zoom or by proxy (under the Maryland Homeowners Association Act § 11B-111(6)).



Election of BPRA Board Trustees (change in procedure from 2020, 2021, 2022)

Only ballots submitted by members who **also attend** the Zoom meeting may be counted.

A detailed explanation about why this has changed can be found on [page 10](#). The proposed By-laws amendment will allow mail in/drop-off ballots, meaning all properly completed and timely returned

ballots can be counted whether or not a member attends a virtual Annual Meeting. See below and [page 10](#) for more information about the proposed by-laws amendment.

Election Results

Election results will not be available at the Annual Meeting but will be posted on StrathmoreBelPre.org and at the pool within approximately one week of the completion of the election.

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Dolphins News

by Lisa Mantel

Secretary, Strathmore Bel Pre (SBP)
Dolphins Swim Team



Labor Day weekend has come and gone and the SBP Dolphins have said goodbye to another wonderful swim season. Many of our swimmers remained at the pool until the very last minute, only leaving when the gates were finally closed.

2023 Season Highlights

This summer, the Dolphins competed in five “A” meets, three “B” meets, plus the Prince-Mont Swim League (PMSL) B Division Championship. We finished the year with a record of three wins and two losses during the regular season, and placed fourth at the B Division Championship meet. Several swimmers also made an excellent showing at the PMSL All-Star Meet. Congratulations to all the swimmers!

A special shout out goes to Mr. TYLER KOMINKSI, who is the PMSL LEAGUE CHAMPION in Boys 13-14 100 yard Individual Medley. TYLER also won every individual event during the regular season, breaking multiple team records and setting a new SBP pool record in IM. Way to go, TYLER!

You can't have a successful swim team without a dedicated and talented coaching staff. Former Dolphin CARSON TAYLOR returned for his third season coaching and his first as Head Coach. He was joined by another Dolphin alum, IAN VIRGA, as Assistant Coach. CARSON and IAN were assisted by Developmental Coaches ASA VIRGA, ERIK STAGGS, SARAH SIEGLE, TESSA MILLER, WYATT KENT, EVAN PAK, and MICHAEL FERNANDES.

Congratulations to our 2023 high-point and coaches' award winners:



8 & Under Boys

DIMA LALIASHVILI (first place)
BENNETT DEBACKER (second place)
WILLY TINNIN (third place)

8 & Under Girls

EMMA DEBACKER (first place)
ZOE HARRISON (second place)
ALLISON PHELPS (third place)

9-10 Boys

LEVI MANTEL (first place)
CONNOR ATKINS (second place)
CHARLIE TINNIN (third place)

9-10 Girls

SOPHIE DEBACKER (first place)
BROOKE TAYLOR (second place)
ISABELLA DORSEY (third place)

– Continued on [page 14](#) –

Angela aka Angie Vaught

301-787-2088

Angelavaught1@aol.com



Swim Instructor: Private lessons, Strathmore Bel-pre pool, and Montgomery County Olney.
Pet Sitting, House Sitting Services. Dogs (most), cats, birds, and small animals.

I live in your neighborhood! References upon request



Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 763

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

Aviary

A big congratulations TO LUCAS MOELLER of BSA Troop 763 (sponsored by the SBP Civic Association), who completed a big project to earn his Eagle Scout rank. If you go to Meadowside Nature Center, you will see the flight aviary that LUCAS designed and built for Gillis, the black vulture. Gillis has imprinted on people and cannot be released into the wild. She is not injured, so LUCAS built her an outdoor aviary where she can exercise safely. Look for Gillis when you go to Meadowside, she is often hanging out in her aviary and she will be used in educational programming. LUCAS would like to thank the scouts and adults of Troop 763 for coming out to help him dig footers, pour concrete, put up a lot of lumber and cover the whole enclosure with netting.



Scouting for Food, Saturday, November 11

For information about our annual Scouting for Food Drive to help feed the hungry, see the [back page](#) of this issue of *The Bugle*.

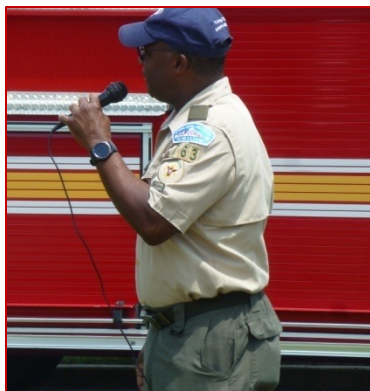
Mulch Sale

Boy Scout Troop 763 will be have a fall mulch sale, with deliveries on the afternoon of Friday, **October 20** and morning of Saturday, **October 21**. Same as our spring mulch sale - we will be selling natural shredded mulch for \$6 a bag, no minimum number required. Bags of mulch will be placed alongside your driveway or front walk. Place an order by emailing moeller@aspengroves.com or by calling (301) 603-7387. We accept cash, checks made out to Troop 763, or ask about PayPal or credit card options. Checks can be dropped off at 2812 Blue Spruce Lane - we have a locking mailbox so your check will be safe. This fundraiser covers the cost of camping, equipment and keeps dues low for our Scout families. Thanks for your business!

Join Us!

Interested in joining scouting?

- For kindergarteners through 5th grade (girls and boys) contact Cubmaster KYLE STEARNS at cspack763.silverspringmd@gmail.com for info about the meetings of Cub Scout Pack 763. The pack is organized into dens according to age. Come check out one of our den meetings and see if it's for you!
- For 6th graders through age 18, contact Scoutmaster BILL TOTTEN at billatotten@gmail.com to learn more about our troop.



Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from [page 6](#))

Adoption of the proposed By-Laws Amendment (change in procedure from 2020, 2021, 2022)

Only ballots submitted by members who attend the Zoom meeting may be counted.

Details about why this has changed can be found on [page 10](#). The proposed by-laws amendment will allow mail-in/drop-off ballots, meaning all properly completed and returned ballots can be counted whether or not a member attends a virtual Annual Meeting. See below and [page 10](#) for more information about the proposed by-laws amendment.



We encourage all members to attend the November 16th Annual Meeting on Zoom and **we urge all households, whether they plan on attending the meeting or not, to complete and return the proxy envelope.** Doing so helps us meet quorum requirements and shows your support for the Association to conduct business at the Annual Meeting.

Proposed By-Law Amendment

At the November 16, 2023, BPRAs Annual Meeting, the membership will be voting on the adoption of a BPRAs by-laws amendment. This amendment authorizes the BPRAs Board of Trustees to hold electronic meetings and authorizes mail-in/drop-off ballots for the BPRAs elections and other BPRAs business that requires a vote by the membership. The proposed amendment essentially codifies the procedures we used, under emergency authorization, in 2020, 2021, and 2022, for virtual/electronic meetings and mail-in/drop-off ballots for BPRAs elections. More information about the proposed by-laws amendment can be found on [page 10](#).



Summer 2023

Once again, summer has come and gone and our members and guests were able to enjoy our facilities because of the efforts of our pool operator, Georgetown Aquatics, and our many volunteers.

Again, this year, we saw an increase in the number of people enjoying our well-maintained facilities and participating in several organized activities throughout the summer including swim team, masters swim, movie nights, concerts, pickleball, community meetings, SBP Village events and more.

Thanks to our many volunteers for making our summer successful:

- JOE MOELLER and family for performing many pre-season tasks around the pool and grounds and for coordinating with contractors on several projects
- TED BECHTOL for keeping our grounds in good shape and coordinating tree pruning and removal throughout the property.
- The 60 + Club gardening group, coordinated by SANDY FLEMING for many hours of weeding and planting in all areas of the grounds.
- CARMEN WONG for her many hours of work as Pavilion & Facility Scheduler.
- DANIEL BREEDEN, CHRIS HUFFINE, JOE MOELLER, KYE PAK and JAY STAGGS for designing and implementing a new WiFi and security camera network.
- The BPRAs Board of Trustees for countless hours of behind the scenes work.

We are always in need of more volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact me or any BPRAs Board Members listed on [page 3](#) of *The Bugle*.

– Continued on page [18](#) –

2023 BPRA Annual Meeting Changes

by Elliot Chabot

Chair, BPRA Governing Documents Committee



Background

The Commission on Common Ownership Communities (CCOC) is the Montgomery County Government agency that oversees all homeowners' associations (HOAs), condominium associations, and housing co-ops in Montgomery County. The Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA) is our HOA. In 2020, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCOC issued emergency directives authorizing home-owners' associations to hold meetings and elections that were not in-person — even if an association's governing documents normally required that they be done in-person. Based on these directives (issued [March 6](#) and [April 2, 2020](#)), the BPRA Board adopted an amendment to the [BPRA Plan of Organization](#) whereby the annual general membership meetings for 2020, 2021, and 2022 were held on Zoom, using mail-in ballots for voting.

The CCOC has now taken the position that, since the President, Governor, and County Executive have all declared that the states of emergency have ended, the Commission no longer has the authority to waive in-person requirements of homeowners' association by-laws. Therefore, the BPRA can no longer use those CCOC directives as authority to have the annual meeting on Zoom and to vote by mail.

The State Legislature, however, enacted a new section to the Maryland Homeowners Association Act ([§ 11B-113.6](#)) in 2021 that authorizes HOAs to hold meetings by Zoom or by other electronic means, notwithstanding any contrary language contained in the governing documents of the HOA. The statute, however, only authorizes counting of the ballots of members who actually attend the electronic meeting. As a result, when we use the new state statute to authorize our annual membership meeting being held on Zoom, only ballots submitted by members who attend the Zoom meeting may be counted.

Plans for the 2023 Annual Meeting

Because the BPRA By-Laws do not authorize electronic meetings, the Maryland Homeowners Association Act provision is the only authorization that can be used by the BPRA to hold its 2023 Annual General Membership Meeting on Zoom.

While state law authorizes us to hold our annual meeting on Zoom this year, we must follow our current [BPRA By-Laws](#) regarding proxies and ballots. Our By-laws allow for [proxies](#) to be used to meet the General Membership meeting quorum requirements. Our ballots also are required to be by secret ballot. Our Plan of Organization ([§ 405](#)) provides the mechanics for how ballots for the election of trustees have been distributed, mailed-in or dropped-off, and counted.

Only the ballots of members who actually **attend this year's annual meeting on Zoom**, however, will be counted, due to a requirement found in the Maryland Homeowners Association Act provision authorizing HOAs to hold an electronic meeting.



Proxies are needed!

Please attend the BPRA Zoom Annual Meeting!

All members of the Association are strongly encouraged to submit a proxy to establish a quorum. Please complete it, and also fill out your mail-in their ballot, which will be distributed with the official notice of the annual meeting mailed to each lot owner. Plan to attend the Annual Meeting on Zoom and be there.

– Continued on the middle of [page 15](#) –

Spark Bird

by Cecily Nabors

Many people who enjoy watching and/or feeding birds can tell a tale of a particular bird or circumstance that piqued their interest above the casual. That spark bird awakened a need to know more.

Often, the bird that sparks the interest is a common backyard bird. For ROGER TORY PETERSON, whose illustrated field guide inspired and aided millions of us, it was a northern flicker that led him to believe that “birds are the most vivid reflection of life.”



Bird artist DIANE FORD illustrated our SBP Birdathon reports during the pandemic. She told me that as a little girl, she saw a pair of bluejays in her backyard. “Their color and flair awed me,” she said. She’s been drawing birds (and selling paintings) ever since. This is her quick sketch of a sassy jay.



Sometimes a bird’s behavior captures our attention. SHARON and STEED EDWARDS have several feeders in their SBP yard. SHARON has “an affinity” for the hummingbirds. They are “so independent, so protective of their home turf, combative at times, and unpredictable ... but fun to observe!”

Her husband STEED appreciates the goldfinches. “Their color, once they turn, really brightens up the feeders!” Male goldfinches will change into their drab winter plumage soon, but will stay with us to feast on sunflower and nyger (thistle) seeds at our feeders through the cold weather. The males will “turn yellow” again in the spring.

JACKIE FARY-MOELLER, our local Scout leader, says that for her, the catalyst was a Carolina wren. She decided she needed to know what that very cute and common bird was. That led to “a grand realization that I had very little idea of what the plants and animals all around me were, so it was kind of part of a whole mission to learn more and be able to identify the life in my neighborhood.”

Strangely enough, my spark bird was also a Carolina wren. Sometimes a sound fits into things in a new way and becomes a real “ear-opener.” I was familiar with wrens’ perky personalities, but did not suspect that the loud trill I heard in my backyard came from that tiny bird. When a birder friend identified it, a whole new world of interconnected sight and sound opened up.



Learning something new about a “common” bird proved to be both startling and addictive. I was hooked—and happy. An awakened interest in birds, a change of focus, can reveal so many connections: the connection of birds to the universe, the connection of the universe to us.

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July 4th 2023 Celebration

at Strathmore Bel Pre

by Lilla Hammond

Chair, July 4th Celebration,
Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association



The July 4th spirit of the attendees was inspiring! Parents, grandparents, children, and guests enjoyed the eventful day beginning with the Scouts and their leaders' impressive patriotic flag-raising ceremony. This year we also had the car parade, the magic show at the Pavilion and field games for the kids at the pool area. It was a great celebration.

Flag Ceremony

Troop 763 scout leaders and scouts enacted a wonderful tribute to our country. Those who led the ceremony included APOLLO TYLER-PELL, OWEN ATKINS, DIEGO STENOS, KYLE SIMMERMAN, LADA SNITSAREVA, OLGA SNITSAREVA and STONE STEARNS of the Cub Scout Pack. The Scout Pack included EVAN RHOMAN, K.L. PLANO-FABER, LIAM ATKINS, TOBY DRAGOO and Senior Patrol Leader LUCAS MOELLER. Leaders included Pack Cubmaster KYLE STEARNS, Pack Committee Chair LAUREN ATKINS, Troop Scoutmaster BILL TOTTEN, Troop Committee Chair JOE MOELLER and JACKIE FARY-MOELLER.

We also thank JOE MOELLER and the BPRC for the excellent sound system and their large canopy. At the end of the ceremony and pledge of allegiance to our flag, we had a wonderful surprise. A gentleman spontaneously began singing the *Star-Spangled Banner* and others joined him. We don't know singer's name, but, we are very grateful for the special moment he gave us.

The Children's and the Patriotic Car Parade

The children and their families followed the route to our BPRC community pavilion and pool. The cars took the route throughout our community.

Winners of the Patriotic Car Parade were: #1 CHRIS JENNISON, #2 DANIEL FLOYD, and #3 ROBERT FORD. We congratulate the winners and thank all the participants including JOHN BOGASKY, WAYNE CHRISTOPHER, CRAIG MESSNER, JACKIE and JOE MOELLER, DEE DEE MUSER, MARK TINNIN and LEAF TYLER PELL.

Children's Parade Participants: Families of: LAUREN ATKINS, KEN CHEN, CATRINA COOLY, GEORGALLAS, WRIGHT-HUFFINE, SHANNON KNAPP, JENNIFER MICKULES, DAWNYEL PRYOR and FRANK TOTTEN.



The Magic Show and the Children's Field Games

For our afternoon events, we had a very good turn-out. MICHAEL CHAMBERLAIN's performance delighted adults and children. We were pleased to have so many children enjoy playing the games this year. We truly needed the volunteers! Our thanks to DONNA BARNARD, LINDA BEA, LUBA & BOHDAN DOWHALUK, MICHAEL HAMMOND and ANNA LUCIA PAZ.

Honor Roll of Stars...

We couldn't have done it without you!

LUBA and BOHDAN DOWHALUK, JOE and Jackie Moeller, BILL TOTTEN, NICOLE BANKS, CHRIS WRIGHT, LINDA BEA, RITA VAUGHT, CHRIS SWAN, ELLIOT CHABOT, DANIEL FLOYD, MICHAEL HAMMOND, ANNA LUCIA PAZ, BILLY RUPPERT, JOHN BOGASKY and CHRIS JENNISON.

A great big THANK YOU!! goes to our volunteers and participants who made our 2023 Strathmore Bel Pre July 4th Celebration so special!

11-12 Boys

AMAN DANIEL (first place)
BEN PURDY (second place)
Xavier Huffine-Wright (third place)

11-12 Girls

HARPER KOMINSKI (first place)
LEILA DEBACKER (second place)
EVIE HARRISON (third place)

13-14 Boys

TYLER KOMINSKI (first place)
DAVID DORSEY (second place)
ANDRE NAPPER (third place)

13-14 Girls

JANIE SPELMAN (first place)
BLEN DANIEL (second place)
GRACIE FORAKER (third place)

15-18 Boys

EVAN PAK (first place)
ERIK STAGGS (second place)
WYATT KENT (third place)

15-18 Girls

TESSA MILLER (first place)
LIZETT INGA (second place)
SARAH SIEGLE (third place)



Coaches Awards

Hardest Working Beginner: WREN DRIESSEN
Hardest Working Novice: WILLY TINNIN
Hardest Working Junior: EMMA DEBACKER
Hardest Working Senior: TESSA MILLER

Most Improved 8U: STONE STEARNS
Most Improved 9-10: OLIVIA HUFFINE-WRIGHT
Most Improved 11-12 : XAVIER HUFFINE-WRIGHT
Most Improved 13-14 : ETHAN ALDAG
Most Improved 15-18: BILLY SPELMAN

Most Dependable: TESSA MILLER
Most Spirited: EVAN PAK, TESSA MILLER, WYATT KENT, ASA VIRGA

Swimmers of the Year

TYLER KOMINSKI (Boys)
SOPHIE DEBACKER (Girls)

Most Valuable Dolphin

EVAN PAK

Congratulations to all of our award winners!



Farewell to Graduating Dolphins

This summer we also said goodbye to SIX graduating seniors:

MICHAEL FERNANDES
WYATT KENT
DANIEL LANDRY
OWEN MILLER
EVAN PAK
ASA VIRGA

We wish them well in their future endeavors and thank ALL of our swimmers for their dedication and team spirit.

– Continued on [page 19](#) –

President's Corner

(continued from [page 4](#))

Community Directory

In recent years it has been difficult to produce a quality community directory due to members opting out of providing their contact information when joining the BPR and SBPCA. We only use the addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of members who checked the box to allow this activity when registering for membership. Fewer members have done this, so our directory is limited in the number of neighbors listed in this fall's edition. LINDA BEA pulls our directories together every other year, and she does her best to share this valuable information with everyone in the SBPCA. We cannot thank LINDA enough for taking on this important task. Please consider opting into the Directory when you send in your dues this coming spring.



Most importantly, attend an activity this fall/winter season, or just take a walk to meet new neighbors and reconnect with folks you have not seen in a while. We all enjoy living in such a walkable community, how can you not go outside to see those towering trees of color!

2023 BPR Annual Meeting changes (continued from [page 10](#))

What about 2024 and beyond?

To enable the BRPA to use mail-in/drop-off ballots for elections in future annual meetings – where every mail-in/drop-off ballot completed and returned in a timely fashion is counted – now requires a change in the BPR By-Laws.

Amendments to the BPR By-Laws require the approval by the General Membership at an Annual Meeting. At its October 3 meeting, the BPR Board approved forwarding to the General Membership a proposed amendment to the BPR By-Laws. The By-Laws amendment would authorize the General Membership, the Board, and the BPR committees to hold meetings by video conferencing or other electronic means. It would also authorize the use of mail-in/drop-off ballots for votes at any General Membership meeting, not just the Annual General Membership meeting.

Amendments to the BPR By-Laws go into effect 30 days after they are adopted by the General Membership. Thus, a proposed amendment to the By-Laws adopted at the 2023 meeting would take effect **December 16**, if it is approved at the **November 16** General Membership meeting.

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Get Socially Engaged with Your Strathmore Bel Pre (SBP) Village

by Kristi Hullings



Something for Everyone

Whether you are into games, exercise, nature, sports, baking, eating, drinking, crafting, live entertainment, learning from experts, or performing acts of kindness, SBP Village has an activity planned for you. Every Strathmore Bel Pre resident is a welcome member of village. One of our main goals is to help all village members feel connected to others in the community since **meaningful social interactions have been proven to increase happiness and promote longevity.** (For more information, refer to the article “Sharing Secrets to a Happy Life” in the [March 2023 edition of *The Bugle*](#).)

SBP Village offered a variety of social activities over the summer based on neighbor preferences as indicated on the Social Activities Survey published in the [May 2023 edition of *The Bugle*](#). Community members enjoyed Zumba classes, garden tours, game nights, pickleball, nature walks, presentations on fire safety and energy, and even a comedy show and a gathering at Lone Oak Farm Brewery.



Village Social Activities for the Fall and Winter

Data from the SBP Village social activities survey continues to inform planning for fall and winter activities. Each month will have a theme, with matching activities. So far, the Village Committee has scheduled **over thirty events** representing many of the most popular interest activities, as indicated by the survey results.

October 2023 – Theme: Creativity

- **10/7 Village Volksmarch, 10 am, Matthew Henson Trail, by Bel Pre Elementary School.**
The Community Walk will meet the First Saturday of Each Month. Park at the school, and meet by the trailhead at Rippling Brook. Each walk will be around 5K.
- **10/14 BlocktoberFest, 3 pm - 6 pm, on Rippling Brook Drive, near Bel Pre Elementary School.**
 - Sponsored by the Rec and Civic Associations.
 - Stop by the Village table and the Montgomery County Energy Connection’s light bulb recycling table to exchange light bulbs (CFL & incandescent). See [page 33](#) for an article about the program.
- **10/15-11/12 Community Wide Project – Socialable Scarecrows**
 - Design a scarecrow and place in your yard. You may even dress or pose it to indicate a household hobby, interest, or identity. Email a picture of your scarecrow & address to SBPvillage@gmail.com by 11/3. Walk our neighborhoods and enjoy the Scarecrows (A Map of their locations will be available at the 11/4 Village Volksmarch & on SBPvillage.org). Vote for your favorites via email or LIKE via Strathmore Bel Pre Facebook page.
- **10/16 Brookside Gardens Guided Walk 1 pm, Brookside Gardens, with neighbor SANDY FLEMING**
 - Please register in advance so SANDY can send updates if needed: <https://tinyurl.com/BrooksideOct>
- **10/28 Trunk or Treat, 5 to 7 pm, BPRA pool parking lot.**
 - Decorate your trunk and hand out candy or treats. Arrive at 4:30 pm to set-up your trunk.
- **10/30 World Series Game 3 Watch Party, Stained Glass Pub,**



– Continued on [page 27](#) –

Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from [page 9](#))

Fall 2023 Activities

We're happy to report that we are planning on holding several fall activities in conjunction with the Civic Association and the SBP Village. More information can be found on [pages 4](#) (Civic) and [17](#) (Village).



2024 BPRA Assessment

The 2024 BPRA Annual Assessment Notice will be mailed to each BPRA member household in late January. **The 2024 Assessment is due March 1, 2024.** Information about the Annual Assessment can be found on [StrathmoreBelPre.org](#). The Annual Assessment webpage, found under the "Rec Association" drop down menu on StrathmoreBelPre.org, will be updated by the middle of January with 2024 information.

Pay Online? Yes!

In 2023, we had a significant increase in online assessment payments. We encourage you to pay your annual assessment online with a credit card through our eSoft Planner portal. Paying online saves our volunteers countless hours of data entry and check processing time, reduces our use of paper, reduces data entry errors, and lets members get set up for pool check in at the time of assessment payment.

You can pay your BPRA Assessment, join the Civic Association (SBPCA), donate to the Pet Waste Station Fund, and donate to the SBP Dolphins swim team all in one place. (We understand that having to do a separate transaction for each of these is a bit frustrating. We have requested a "Shopping Cart" feature to allow one payment transaction for all enrollments. We anticipate having this function in place for the 2025 assessment payment.)

Online payments for 2024 will be available no later than **February 1, 2024**. Payment by mailed paper check will still be an option.

How to Use Your eSoft Planner Account to Pay Your Assessment (and More) Online

If you have never logged into your eSoft Planner account and are interested in paying your assessment online in 2024, please consider making sure you can log into your account now.

Requests for your login name and password can be made by visiting [strathmorebelpre.org](#) and completing the BPRA eSoft Planner Help Form.



To do this:

[visit StrathmoreBelPre.org](#),

- hover over the "Pool" menu
-- top right of the page,
- click ESOFT PLANNER HELP FORM,
- click CLICK HERE FOR THE ESOFT PLANNER HELP FORM
- Complete and submit the form.
- If you do not see a response within a week, please check your SPAM folder.

Alternately, you can email BPRAPool02@gmail.com. Please include your name and BPRA Property Address in any correspondence.

– Continued on [page 20](#) –

Dolphins News

(continued
from
[page 14](#))



Inaugural Charity Corn Hole Tournament

In July, we held our inaugural Charity Corn Hole Tournament where Strathmore Bel Pre (SBP) swimmers, coaches, and community members showed off their bean bag tossing skills. For a suggested donation of \$10/team, 32 teams of two vied for the honor of being crowned SBP Corn Hole Champions. Senior swimmer EVAN PAK and Assistant Coach IAN VIRGA dominated the competition and emerged victorious after a nail-biter of a final game. These gentlemen earned the SBP Cornhole Championship Belt, which they can keep until next year when they will have to defend their title.

With all the generous donations, the SBP Dolphins raised \$1,305 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Thank you to the team and the community for supporting this worthy cause. To learn the facts about suicide, visit www.afsp.org. And if you or someone you know is struggling, please call or text 988.

A Look Ahead – Join the Swim Team

Did you happen to walk or drive by the pool on a Saturday morning this summer, and, upon hearing all the cheering, develop a huge case of FOMO (fear of missing out)? Well, don't let that be you next year! Join the swim team and you, too, can attend early morning swim meets, cheer on your fellow teammates, and, of course, eat DONUTS! And we can't forget about the other team events, such as the Dolphin Dance, the trip to Hershey Park, and the Dolphin Games. To learn more about the team and how your children can participate, please visit our website, sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com. If your child can't swim, that's no problem! The Lil Dolphins is a group lessons program taught by our developmental coaches that allows little swimmers to learn basic swimming skills and progressively move on to learn the competitive strokes. Reach out to any member of the Dolphins Board of Directors or our A Meet Manager, KAREN PURDY, for more information. We can't wait to see you at the pool next year!

PAUL SPELMAN, President: pbspelly@gmail.com

CHRIS HUFFINE, Vice President: huffine@gmail.com

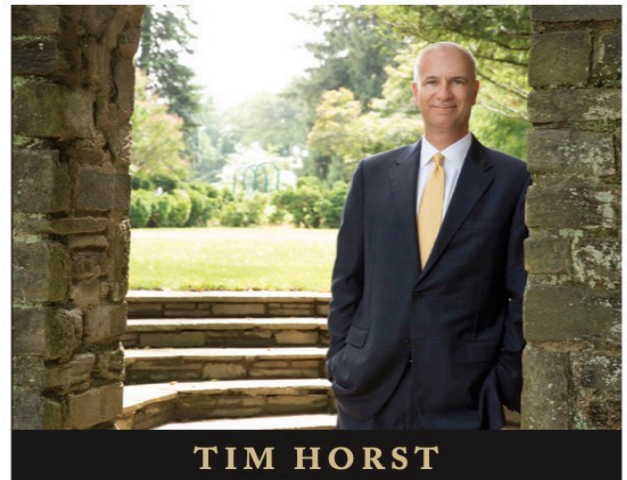
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DENISE REYES, Treasurer: dawreyes@gmail.com

KAREN PURDY, A Meet Manager: klpurdy@hotmail.com

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Bel Pre Recreational News

(Continued from [page 18](#))

Seeking Volunteers

The BPRa is always looking for members interested in volunteering.

If you are interested in serving on our committees, or volunteering in some other way, please contact the appropriate committee chair listed on [page 3](#), or contact me at klpurdy@hotmail.com.



If you are interested in serving on the BRPA'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.

If you are interested in helping with miscellaneous repair and maintenance jobs around the pool, please contact JOE MOELLER at atmoellerhj@aspengroves.com.

If you are interested in gardening at the pool, please contact SANDY FLEMING at sfleming04@hotmail.com.

Great Volunteer Activities, You are Needed

Web site review team – We are looking for several people to work together to perform a comprehensive review of the BPRa webpages on StrathmoreBelPre.org and make recommendations on updates, edits, and additions with an eye toward providing the information that BPRa members request and find useful.

eSoft Planner coordinator(s) – We are looking for one or more people with strong computer and organizational skills to assist with the administration of eSoft Planner, our Pool check in and online assessment collection system. The position will include interaction with the BPRa Board, pool staff and BPRa members. The bulk of work will be performed Between February and September, with significant interaction with the membership in March, May, and June.

Long term planning committee members, especially those with architectural or engineering experience.

2024 BPRa Board Meeting Schedule

The BPRa Board of Trustees normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 pm. 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.

Remaining meetings in 2023 include **October 2**, **November 7** and **December 5**.

The BPRa Board will approve the full 2024 meeting schedule at its **January 2, 2024**, meeting. The **tentative** meeting schedule for remainder of the first half of 2024 is **February 6, March 5, April 9, May 7, June 4**.

See StrathmoreBelPre.org for updates.

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2023 Summer Movies Recap

By John Bogasky

2023 marked our Civic Association's 11th year of summer movies at our pool.

Mother Nature cooperated three out of four times, and gave us perfect weather for Wakanda Forever over Labor Day weekend.

SBPCA 2023 Summer Movie Schedule

June 3



Everything, Everywhere All at Once

July 1



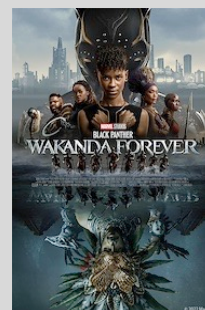
Top Gun: Maverick

August 5



The Fabelmans

September 2



Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

Choosing Movies By Our Listserv Poll

This was our second year using a listserv poll to help choose the movies. One hope was that the poll would boost movie attendance. Attendance was similar to past years, so it's not clear what impact the poll may have had. In any case, we plan to continue with the poll for our 2024 season.

Thanks to our Volunteers!

Our summer movies only happen through the efforts of our volunteers.

I want to thank Steve Deming, KYE PAK, DAVE PULLEN, and JOE MOELLER for their indispensable help with presenting our movies this past summer.



Thanks to our Sponsors!

I also want to thank our sponsors, whose financial contributions make it possible to license and obtain our summer movies.

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

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MASTIHA
ARTISAN GREEK BAKERY

Susan Shannon

Oscar Winners

Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot
John & Shelly Bogasky

Gabriele Richard
Paul & Maria Stagnitto

Ted & Nancy Bechtol
J. Steed & Sharon Edwards

Lilla Hammond & Family
Michele Cimbala

Band Leaders

Peter & Diane Kendall
Norman & Maureen Stulz

Linda & Charles Bea
David & Sara Pullen

Janet Kisler
Christopher & Lauren Mazenac

Tigran Iskanian & Shannon O'Rourke
Patrick & Sunita Joshi-Taylor

Bob & Deb Perry
Larry, Rita, & Angela Vaught

Super Fans

Beverly Collins
Carmen Lopez

Sandeep & Laura Krishnan
Cecily Nabors & Lou Martin

Daniel & Raquel Mann
Elaine Dynes

Kathleen Dyer
Heidi & Michael Eldridge

Kathleen Schmeich
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Liza Lieberman

Susan Griesbauer
Timothy Schulz & Isadora Cipoletts

And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association

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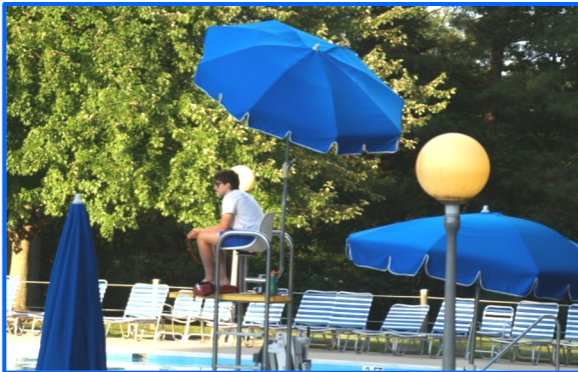
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Bel Pre Recreational Association—Annual Board Member Elections

2023 Candidates 3 positions – 3 candidates

Charles Meininger

1. **Age (optional):** 44
2. **Occupation:** Software Consultant (full-time) and Audio Engineer (part-time)
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** Moved in December of 2021, so coming up on 2 years!
4. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** Providing community building and recreation opportunities for the neighborhood.
5. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** I would love to see some community charity drives or walks/runs sponsored by the neighborhood.
6. **Other than participating in (and preparing for) Board meetings, what projects (or other activities) do you plan to do for the Association?** I plan on assisting wherever needed with the pool facility, and looking for ways we can increase outreach and engagement with the community.
7. **What do you intend to do to promote access to the pool (and other recreational facilities) to the entire community?** I think personal outreach and more community events using the facilities could be a big help!



Claire Pak

1. **Age (optional):** Eligible for AARP membership
2. **Occupation:** Communications Specialist
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** 18 years
4. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** I think that the Recreation Association's most important function is to maintain our recreational facility, to encourage all community members to enjoy it, and to extend the sense of community beyond the pool and the swim team.
5. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** I don't think that any one person can build community on their own. Rather, I think that it's the job of Board members to create and sustain the conditions that allow neighbors to connect and establish the relationships that build community.
6. **Other than participating in (and preparing for) Board meetings, what projects (or other activities) do you plan to do for the Association?** I'm currently serving as Secretary and am happy to continue in that role. I'll also serve on other committees as needed.
7. **What do you intend to do to promote access to the pool (and other recreational facilities) to the entire community?** Continue to work with the Board to ensure that our facilities are funded and maintained, and continue to support events that will bring people together at the pool. And although our children have graduated from the swim team, I'll continue to advocate for the team because I believe that it is one of the biggest reasons why our community is so close-knit and caring.

– Continued on [page 24](#) –

Bel Pre Recreational Association—Annual Board Member Elections

2023 Candidates 3 positions – 3 candidates

(continued from [page 23](#))

Christine (Ceej) Tyler Pell

- 1. Age (optional):** Elder Millennial, and because there are SO MANY CHRISTINES in this neighborhood, I want to let you know my nickname is Ceej (pronounced "siege").
- 2. Occupation:** Finance and Operations Consulting
- 3. Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** Since early 2021 (in the house to the left of the tiny cemetery on Beechvue, please feel free to come check out the Beall Family headstones any time!)
- 4. What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** The three most crucial roles of the Rec Association are: 1) taking responsibility for keeping our community areas beautiful, safe, and functional; 2) encouraging community engagement, in collaboration with other BPPA committees; and 3) performing the thankless task of ensuring HOA fees are paid - I know the world of collections management well, so I understand how hard and important this work is. The most difficult task the Association faces is prioritizing how to use those funds, which means thinking strategically and planning for the future. This will require a combination of preserving where we've come from, and looking to current trends for new inspiration, which is exactly the kind of thing I do with my clients.
- 5. How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** Once we've aligned on the priorities and events calendar our crucial next step is driving engagement through clear and accessible communication. Every event or request needs to be communicated succinctly, with a focus on the benefits to the participant, should include a single next step, and it must be easy to find online and in print. For example "We need YOU for 2 hours on the morning of Wednesday, November 1st to make this our best 11/1 ever - email christine.tylerpell@gmail.com to claim this spot" will get a much stronger response than "reach out to get involved!"



- 6. Other than participating in (and preparing for) Board meetings, what projects (or other activities) do you plan to do for the Association?** I would love to work on cooler-weather events. So many of us are together all summer at the pool, and then after Labor Day...it gets tougher. I have lots of ideas for increasing engagement at existing events like the Spring Thing and Trunk or Treat, as well as low-cost, high-connection events we could add to the calendar. I also selfishly want everyone to come hang out at the Beall Cemetery on Halloween. Have I mentioned I live next to it? I love it. Did you know the ghosts have an address? It's 14123 Beechvue Lane. I think that's so fun.
- 7. What do you intend to do to promote access to the pool (and other recreational facilities) to the entire community?** Communication is everything - I'm always looking for opportunities to make messages clearer and to make sure people can find them easily. I love the issues of *The Bugle* that have an events calendar - it would be wonderful if that could be a standard inclusion so people can tear them out and hang them on the fridge. We can also add events to the SBP website - it often only shows BPPA meeting information, and it would be great to start adding all the community events to it. The people who organize events and manage facilities in this community care SO MUCH and do such an incredible job, and they deserve to have their work seen.

Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA)

2023 Candidates 9 positions – 1 candidate

Nancy Bechtol

1. **Age (optional):** 65
2. **Occupation:** Director Emerita, Smithsonian Facilities
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** 33 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I have served as our SBPCA Board President for a number of years, and before that on the Dolphin Swim team board for 6 years while my daughters were on the swim team. I also have served on the Combined Federal Campaign local board since 2011, helping to organize this charitable campaign each year.
5. **What do you see as the essential function of the Civic Association?** Our most important function is to bring our community together by planning activities to celebrate holidays, the seasons and time together. We also provide ways to communicate on a local level through *The Bugle* newsletter and Listserv. With everyone working everywhere and children attending schools all over the area, it is important to have planned activities that pull us all together from time to time. The SBPCA is the conduit that helps to connects us to our neighbors.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** We need to grow our board to be more representative of our community. The more diverse in race and age board members are, the more relevant activities we can organize and sponsor. As a volunteer-led association, each board member can only do so much. It is important to maintain a healthy balance of providing the much-needed work for the community with having fun. Please consider joining this fabulous organization to help move us in the right direction! There is an endless list of what we can do to improve our community, we need more organizers and more doers!
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** The SBPCA, BPRA and Dolphin swim team have been around for over fifty years, building and maintaining our community with so many volunteers, where each have given their talents and time to our community. These organizations and every volunteer have helped shape our community into what it is today. It has been a sheer pleasure to be a small part of this large well-thought-out vision for our community. To build and maintain our community, we need to continue to attract talented volunteers to give back, as every hand and new idea matters.



Join the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

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

Membership Dues are just \$25 per year

Why Join? The Civic Association:

- Publishes *The Bugle*
- Hosts the strathmorebelpre.org web site
- Runs the Civic Association listserv
- Organizes the Yard Sale, the July 4th Events, and the Summer Movies and Concerts

We need your support ! Help sustain these community services!

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

Notes from The Glenmont Exchange

by John Bogasky



There have been some changes at the Glenmont Exchange over the summer. **First**, JOSH GOODMAN has chosen to step back from serving as Glenmont Exchange President. He plans to remain an at-large member of our Board. All of us on the Board want to thank JOSH for his years of service leading our organization and look forward to his continued participation. **Second**, I am honored that the Board has named me as our new President. I have been part of the Glenmont Exchange since its inception, serving as Vice-President.

What is The Purpose/Mission of Glenmont Exchange?

The Glenmont Exchange grew out of the 2012 community meetings for the Glenmont Sector Plan. Those meetings forged new connections across the community. It was useful that we talked with each other. We exchanged perspectives and insights, enlightening all of us. We created the Glenmont Exchange as a forum to continue those connections. The name Glenmont *Exchange* reflects that purpose.

The Glenmont Sector Plan meetings convened representatives of businesses, Home Owner Associations (HOAs), Civic Associations (CAs), and individuals. That diverse collection of perspectives was instrumental in forging new connections. The Glenmont Exchange welcomes members from that same diverse group.

In accordance with its role as an information exchange forum, the Exchange generally avoids taking positions on local issues, except where there is a near-unanimous consensus amongst our members. Of course, members (businesses, HOAs, CAs, and individuals) can and do take positions as they wish.

What activities does the Glenmont Exchange pursue to further its purpose?

- Convenes community meetings (on-demand frequency at present)
- Shares information about Glenmont area developments
 - HOA/Member Email List – Our SBP civic listserv receives Glenmont Exchange updates.
 - Social media (Facebook)
 - Website is an option, but not effective for breaking news.
- Hosts Candidate Forums or Co-Sponsors those held by others (e.g., Aspen Hill Library)

– Continued on the bottom of [page 30](#) –

Thinking about being the Bugle Editor?

You will have help and financial support from the Civic Association (SBPCA), as well as some support from the Bel Pre Recreational Association. Civic funds *The Bugle*, deals with the advertising, and works with the folks who distribute it in paper to the Community. Joining the Civic Association Board is most vital to the job of *The Bugle* Editor, as is having a Civic and a Recreational mindset. Although our lives have become more electronic and less paper-oriented, the Civic Association is committed to keeping paper copies available for folks who still live in the paper world. Also, more than 1 person often has handled the editorial duties. You can collect your friends and neighbors and do this together.



Thanks!

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

What would you like the Bugle to become? We are more than happy to assist you, but the future issues would be yours to shape. If you're interested (or think you might be interested) give us a call at (301) 871-1113, or email us, see [page 3](#). Signing off as Bugle editors, **Chris & Elliot**

November 2023 – Theme: Gratitude

- **11/1 Rain Garden, Beekeeping Tour and Tea, 1 pm, BECHTOL home, 13700 Rippling Brook**
- **11/4 Village Volksmarch, 10 am, Matthew Henson Trail, by Bel Pre Elementary School.**
The Community Walk will meet the First Saturday of Each Month. Park at the school, and meet by the trailhead at Rippling Brook. Each walk will be around 5K.
- **11/4, 11/5, 11/11 & 11/12 Project Porchlight.**
Montgomery County Energy Connection will be going door to door from 10 am - 3 pm, offering free LED porch light bulbs, and collecting CFL bulbs for safe recycling.
- **11/9 Village Meeting, 7:30 pm, on Zoom, with a Speaker**
Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection presentation: Learn How to Protect Yourself From Identity Theft Before the Holiday Season, Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/SBPvillageZoom>
- **11/12-11/26 Community Wide Project – Driveway Chalk Blessings**
Draw pictures or write what you are thankful for, then walk the neighborhood and enjoy gratitude on display.
- **11/12 Commanders Watch Party 4:00 pm, Brookville Beer Farm**
- **11/27 Presentation, 7:30 pm, on Zoom**
How to Recognize & Alleviate Stress: Self-Care and How to Help Loved Ones, from licensed counselor and neighbor AMANDA CORNAGLIA, <https://tinyurl.com/SBPvillageZoom>.
- **Nov-Dec Theater Outings**
Several great opportunities to see a live show through December. Email [SBP Village](#) if interested in discounted group tickets to any of these shows:
 - Fiddler on the Roof at Olney Theatre, Miracle on 34th Street at Toby's Dinner (or Brunch) Theatre, Improvised Shakespeare Company (comedy) at The Kennedy Center Theater Lab, Frozen at The Kennedy Center Opera House

– Continued on [page 28](#) –

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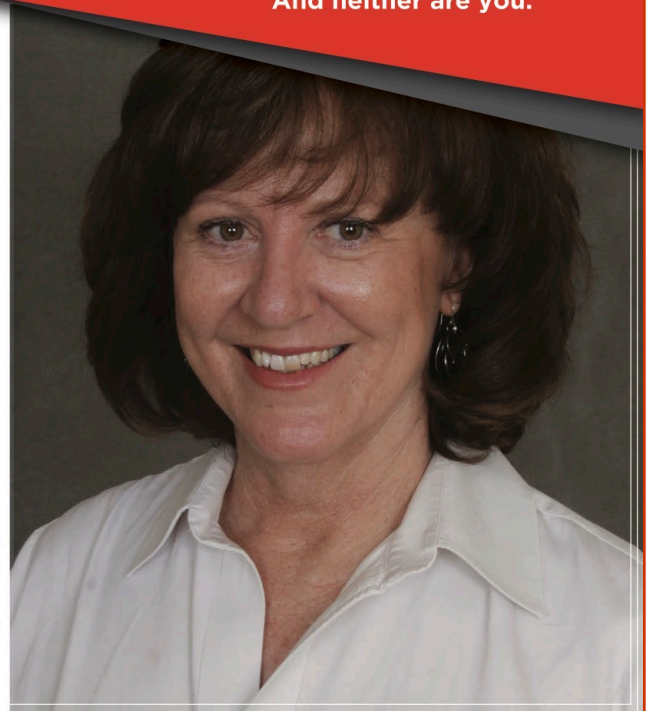
Paulette was born and raised in Montgomery County and has lived in the Strathmore at Bel Pre community for 30 years. Paulette specializes in listing and selling homes and has sold over 2,000 homes. Her areas of expertise are managing repairs and spruce up, proven negotiating skills for sellers and buyers, effective marketing strategies and creative financing. Paulette's business philosophy is to create lifelong business relationships through outstanding professional service. **Let her experience work for you!**

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December Theme – Seasons Greetings

➤ **12/1-12/31 Community Wide Project – Cheers**

Smile, wave, and visit with your neighbors. Better yet, deliver greeting cards including your name and contact information. Everyone feels safe and welcome when they have friendly neighbors they can call on.

➤ **12/2 Village Volksmarch, 10 am, Matthew Henson Trail, by Bel Pre Elementary School.**

The Community Walk will meet the First Saturday of Each Month. Park at the school, and meet by the trailhead at Rippling Brook. Each walk will be around 5K

➤ **12/5 National Cookie Day Cookie Swap, 5 pm, COOKIE's house, 2901 Regina Drive.**

Bake and bring a container of goodies to trade, and an empty container to fill with new treats to take home.

➤ **TBD Garden of Lights, Brookside Gardens**

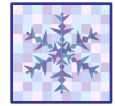
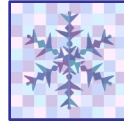
Meet at Brookside Gardens for a half mile evening walk through the magical winter wonderland. Advance tickets required. Check SBP Village website for details.

➤ **TBD Theater Outings** Check website to see dates and to learn about group tickets for: Fiddler on the Roof; Miracle on 34th, Improvised Shakespeare, and Frozen

➤ **12/5 Happy International Volunteer Day!** Be on the lookout for ways to volunteer in the community. For example, help with a village activity or offer to shovel a neighbor's driveway.

➤ **12/14 No Village Meeting in December**

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa



January Theme – Resolve To Get Involved

➤ **1/1-1/31 Communitywide Project – Let It Snow!**

Help display community unity. Create and place paper snowflake(s) in a front window so it is visible from the street. Walk the neighborhood and look for the snow flakes. Add "Engaging in Village Activities" to your list of resolutions.

➤ **1/3 Bingo Wednesday & Capitals Watch Party, 6:30 pm, Brew Belly in Olney**

➤ **1/6 Village Volksmarch, 10 am, Matthew Henson Trail, by Bel Pre Elementary School.**

The Community Walk will meet the First Saturday of each Month. Park at the school, and meet by the trailhead at Rippling Brook. Each walk will be around 5K.

➤ **1/7 Commanders v. Cowboys Watch Party, Greene Turtle in Olney**

Meet at least 15 minutes before Game Time.

➤ **1/11 Village Meeting, 7:30 pm, on Zoom** <https://tinyurl.com/SBPvillageZoom>

➤ **1/25 Presentation, 7:30 pm, on Zoom**

Start the New Year Off Right: *Tips for a Happy, Healthy, and Balanced Life*, with neighbor ROBIN ANTHONY KOUYATE, PhD <https://tinyurl.com/SBPvillageZoom>.



February Theme – Love

➤ **2/3 Village Volksmarch 10 am, Matthew Henson Trail, by Bel Pre Elementary School.**

The Community Walk will meet the First Saturday of Each Month. Park at the school, and meet by the trailhead at Rippling Brook. Each walk will be around 5K

➤ **Also Pretzel Day.** Grab a heart-shaped pretzel and feel the community love as we walk together.

➤ **2/1-2/29 Communitywide Project – Acts of Kindness**

Look for kind ways to brighten a neighbor's day. Consider swapping window snowflakes for hearts, to show neighbors you care.

➤ **2/6 Trivia Tuesday & Capitals Watch Party 6:15 pm, Brew Belly in Olney.**

➤ **2/8 Village Meeting 7:30 pm, on Zoom** <https://tinyurl.com/SBPvillageZoom>.

➤ **2/24 Cultural Storyteller, 7 pm, on Zoom.** *Community & Culture in Mali, West Africa* with neighbor OUSMANE KOUYATE <https://tinyurl.com/SBPvillageZoom>.

– Continued on [page 29](#) –

March SBP Village Social Activities

Look for new events, like **Women’s Wine & Appetizers**, in the next edition of *The Bugle*.

If you do not see your personal hobbies and interests reflected, please either fill out the **social survey from the [May 2023 Bugle](#)**, or email SBPvillage@gmail.com to indicate what type of groups or events would pique your interest. We are happy to add popular activities to help all SBP Village members feel a sense of belonging and inclusion

Stay In the Know

Don’t miss out on fun village events. This is the last edition of *The Bugle* until March, so please select any method below to stay up-to-date and informed about details for upcoming village activities:

- Email SBPvillage@gmail.com and get added to our email list to receive event announcements
- Look for our new website SBPvillage.org and refer regularly to our calendar of events
- Sign up for **SBP Civic Association Members’ Listserv** SBPcivic+subscribe@groups.io
- Follow **Strathmore Bel Pre on Facebook**
- Look for a soon-to-be-posted **SBP Village link** on the community site StrathmoreBelPre.org
- Complete the social survey at tinyurl.com/SBPVsurvey1 and share your contact information

Interested in Getting Involved?

Get alerted about event details using one of the above methods. Then simply show up and have fun meeting neighbors. If you are willing to help select the time and location for any of the following groups or activities (or if you have another suggestion you would like to see) please email [SBP Village](#).

Some of the most requested activities are in need of a contact person(s) to get things started:

• Food Trucks	• Parents with Young Kids	• Dining Out Group
• Book Club	• Babysitting Co-op	• Language Learning
• Game Nights	• Theater (tickets coordinator)	• Group of your choice



SBP Food Trucks?

To date, the most requested social event indicated on the SBP Village Social Activities Survey is Food Trucks. The proposed idea is to invite a food truck to the neighborhood one night a month (for example, 1st Tuesdays). These events would allow families to gather for a preparation-free meal, some neighborly interaction, and perhaps a little neighbor-provided entertainment. (Karaoke, musical performances, or dancing anyone? Or maybe a little trivia or cornhole competition?) The logistics and legal liability of this plan are currently being researched.

Most food trucks require a minimum guaranteed amount of sales, so it would be helpful to get a sense of how many families would participate. If you are enthusiastic about the food truck idea, please either email SBPvillage@gmail.com to give us feedback or complete the social activities survey (tinyurl.com/SBPVsurvey1), making sure to check the food truck box under “Proposed Events.”

If neighbors indicate a preference for specific types of cuisine, the village will take such requests into consideration. If you happen to own a food truck or know a business owner who might be interested, or if you have ever scheduled a food truck for an event, please let us know. We gladly welcome any advice or volunteers who have experience or interest in this type of potential event.



Village Volunteer Program

In addition to providing activities that increase social engagement, wellness, and education, SBP Village plans to develop a neighbor-helping-neighbor support system. This volunteer component will help address SBP Village's other two goals of offering a sense of purpose and a sense of support for neighborhood residents. The next edition of *The Bugle* should have information about this upcoming volunteer initiative. SBP Village will again be requesting neighbor input, this time concerning potential areas of need within the community. The Village will also be working with new county partners to access official volunteer training, background checks, and other resources to support our endeavors.

County Assistance for SBP Village

To help fulfill our pledge to remain a dues-free village, SBP Village has looked outside our neighborhood for sources of assistance. Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services allocates funds to assist budding villages like ours.

SBP Village Partners with other Villages

SBP Village also joined together with seven other more established Montgomery County villages. Working together, the group decided to form a consortium, and set about establishing its legal status. The consortium's board of directors worked with a nonprofit lawyer to register the Montgomery County Villages Consortium, Inc. in the State of Maryland. Paperwork then was filed in September with the IRS so that the Consortium can become a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. As such, the consortium and its villages will be eligible for grant funding as well as tax-deductible donations. In fact, the consortium has already applied for and been awarded grants from the state of Maryland and Montgomery County.

SBP Village and Montgomery County Villages Consortium Together

SBP Village will be using the Montgomery County Villages Consortium as our fiscal sponsor. We will remain an independent village, but we will not be separately incorporated, or have our own charitable status. We will use the tax status of the consortium, and will benefit from contracting with it and participating in some of its programs. The Consortium lawyer anticipates the IRS process to be completed in the spring. This is a precursor to SBP Village obtaining liability insurance, a requirement necessary to launch our volunteer program in earnest. Status updates should be available in March.

Glenmont Exchange (continued from [page 26](#))

County and State are Applying for a Federal Grant to Study Georgia Avenue Improvements

Back in May, Governor WES MOORE visited Wheaton for a safety walk along Georgia Avenue with Montgomery County Councilmember NATALI FANI-GONZALEZ. After follow-up meetings with Moore Administration staff, the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Montgomery County Government are working together to apply for a Federal DOT grant under the Community Connection Plan, part of the Inflation Reduction Act. If awarded, the grant will study pedestrian, bicycle, and transit needs within the Georgia Avenue corridor from Forest Glen Road to Layhill Road, and identify public infrastructure improvements around the Wheaton Metro Station.

The grant only funds the study to identify needs. Later work would develop alternatives to address those needs which would advance into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The NEPA process is extensive and offers many future opportunities for public input before any implementation decisions are made. Our Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association issued a letter supporting the award of grant funds for this study.

2023/2024 Strathmore Bel Pre Fall/Winter Calendar

~October/November/December~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Oct. 1	2 Filing deadline for BPRC candidates	3 BPRC Board meeting @ 7:30 pm on Zoom	4 	5	6	7 Village Volksmarch 10 am, Matthew Henson trail, by Bel Pre Elementary
8	9 Indigenous Peoples Day – no school, Library closed Trash does NOT slide	10	11 	12 Village Group meeting @ 7:30 on Zoom	13 	14 BlocktoberFest , 3-6 pm, Rippling Brook Drive, by Bel Pre Elementary School
15 Village Socialable Scarecrows starts Eastern Standard Time begins	16 Village, Brookside Gardens Walk, 1 pm Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee meeting @ 7:30, Zoom	17 	18 	19 	20 Scout Troop 763 Mulch delivery	21 Scout Troop 763 Mulch delivery
22	23 	24 Civic Assoc. Bd. Meeting at 7:30 pm, on Zoom	25 	26	27	28 Trunk or Treat 5-7 pm @ the pool parking lot
29	30 Village – World Series Watch Party @ Stained Glass Pub	31 Halloween 	November 1 Call BPRC if you haven't gotten your annual meeting notice yet Village - Rain Garden, Beekeeping Tour 1 pm	2 	3	4 Village Volksmarch 10 am, Matthew Henson trail, by Bel Pre Elementary Project Porchlight, 10 am – 3 pm
5 Project Porchlight, 10 am – 3 pm	6 	7 BPRC Board meeting @ 7:30 pm on Zoom	8 	9 Village Group meeting @ 7:30 on Zoom, Speaker on Identify theft	10 Veteran's Day , observed Library closed Trash is picked up, NO trash slide	11 Scouting for Food Drive Project Porchlight, 10 am – 3 pm
12 Diwali	13 Village – Driveway Chalk Blessings starts	14	15 	16 Annual Meetings – on Zoom SBPCA (7 pm), BPRC (7:30 pm)	17 Deadline for BPRC ballots	28 
19 	20 Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee meeting @ 7:30 on Zoom Public schools early dismissal	21 Public Schools early dismissal	22 Public Schools closed 	23 Thanksgiving Library, Public Schools closed No trash, trash slides	24 American Indigenous Heritage Day Library, Public Schools closed	25 
26	27 Village presentation on stress, 7:30 pm on Zoom	28	29 	30	December 1 Village – Cheers Project starts	2 Village Volksmarch 10 am, Matthew Henson trail, by Bel Pre Elementary

2023/2024 Strathmore Bel Pre Fall/Winter Calendar (CTD)

~December/January/February~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 	5 Village – Cookie Swap @ 5 pm BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm on Zoom Town Hall meeting @ 8 pm on Zoom	6 	7 Hanukkah begins	8	9 
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Library closed	25 Christmas Library and Public Schools closed No trash, trash slides	26 Kawanaza begins Public Schools closed 	27 Public Schools closed	28 Public Schools Closed	29 Public Schools closed	30 
31 New Year's Eve	January 1 New Year's Day Library, Public Schools closed No trash, trash slides	2 BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm on Zoom (tentative) Public Schools closed	3 Village – Bingo Wednesday & Capitals Watch Party @ Brew Belly, Olney, 6:30 pm	4	5 	6 Village Volksmarch 10 am, Matthew Henson trail, by Bel Pre Elementary
7 Village – Commanders Watch Party, Greene Turtle, @ Olney, Game Time	8 Village – Resolved to Get Involved starts	9 	10 	11 Village Group meeting @ 7:30 on Zoom	12	13 
14 	15 Martin Luther King Day Library, Public Schools closed No trash, trash Slides	16 	17 	18	19 	20
21	22 Lunar New Year begins	23 Civic Assoc. Bd. meeting @ 7:30 pm, on Zoom. Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee meeting @ 7:30 on Zoom	24 	25 Village presentation on balanced life @ 7:30 pm on Zoom	26	27 
28	29	30 	31	February 1 Village –Acts of Kindness Project starts	2	3 
4	5 	6 BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm on Zoom (tentative) Village – Trivia Tuesday & Capitals Watch Party @ 6:15 pm, Brew Belly in Olney	7 	8 Village Group meeting @ 7:30 on Zoom	9	10 Village Volksmarch 10 am, Matthew Henson trail, by Bel Pre Elementary

Project Porchlight

by Larissa Johnson

Residential Energy Program Manager
Energy, Climate, & Compliance Division
Montgomery County Department
of Environmental Protection

During the month of November 2023, Strathmore Bel Pre Village will be participating in Project Porchlight, a program sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection.



CFL light bulbs
These bulbs contain mercury, and do not go in the regular trash.



LED light bulb, an example of Project Porchlight

Project Porchlight was created as part of [Montgomery Energy Connection](#), a program of Montgomery County to help homeowners use less energy and recycle their CFL light bulbs correctly. The porch is often the entryway into your home, the first point of contact for you to start using less energy.

In November, (11/4, 11/5, 11/11, 11/12), Energy Ambassadors will be going door to door in our neighborhood, to install the LED bulbs on our porches. If you are not home, they will leave information for you to make the switch. Also, if you have any CFL bulbs in your home that you would like to [recycle right](#), please collect them and have them ready for the Energy Ambassadors to recycle for you. **They will give you 1 LED bulb per 3 CFL bulbs.**

Lighting accounts for around 12% of an average home's electricity use. By switching to LED light bulbs, you can save about \$225 in energy costs per year.

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SCOUTING FOR FOOD

PLEASE HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

Pack and Troop 763, Aspen Hill, Maryland

Sponsored by Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

Scouts will be in your neighborhood collecting non-perishable food items. You can help by placing your food donation on your front porch by

9:30 A.M.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Please attach this page to your donations or label them for "Scouts"

Food collected will help local food pantries feed the hungry.

If we miss you and it's after 1pm, please email

Troop763-Leadership@aspengroves.com

or call/text (301) 458-5095

National Capital Area Counsel

Scouts BSA

www.NCACBSA.org

To join scouting visit BeAScout.org

