

The Bugle



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Volume 49 #1

Association Election Results



The November 17, 2016, annual general membership meetings of the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association and the Bel Pre Recreational Association included the election of the boards of both organizations. Board members serve on each board for staggered 3-year terms. Each year, 5 members are elected to the 15-member Civic Association Board and 3 members are elected to the 9-member Recreational Association Board, unless additional vacancies occur.

Civic Association

BILL HAMMOND AND RITA VAUGHT were re-elected by acclimation to the Civic Association Board. JOSEPHINE BAHN also joined the board.



Recreational Association

The 2016 Recreational Association election featured 5 candidates for 3 seats. Outgoing Board Member KYE PAK did not run for re-election. Candidates ELLIOT CHABOT and LOU ANN RECTOR ran for re-election, along with newcomers CHRIS JENNISON, NIC REYES and MEGAN VIRGA.

A quorum of 79 home owners was reached at the November 17th meeting, which meant that the election was held. ELLIOT CHABOT was re-elected, along with CHRIS JENNISON and MEGAN VIRGA.

The Board held a brief meeting preceding the Town Hall meeting on December 8th, and elected the following officers for 2016-17: President ELLIOT CHABOT, Vice President GREG MILLER, Treasurer LARRY VAUGHT, and Secretary PAUL SPELMAN.

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THE BUGLE

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Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA)

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Web site: www.strathmore-belpre.org

Annual SBPCA membership: \$18.00

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

Civic Association Officers

President:	Nancy Bechtol	301-871-3679	Secretary:	Linda Bea	301-460-0497
Vice President:	Bill Hammond	301-871-5074	Treasurer:	John Bogasky	301-460 1604
			Webmaster:	Chris Jennison	301-538-5705

Civic Association Directors

Elliot Chabot	301-871-1113	Lilla Hammond	301-871-5074	Chris Swan	301-871-1113
Josephine Bahn	570-856-5025	Maurice Potosky	301 460-9008	Rita Vaught	206-406-2871

Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRAs)

The Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRAs) is the homeowners association for most of the Strathmore at Bel Pre properties. The BPRAs runs our community's pool, tennis courts, volleyball courts, playground, picnic area, bath house, snack bar, and pavilion, which are generally open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. BPRAs Board & committee meetings are announced at <http://strathmore-belpre.org/bpra>. Board meetings are normally the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm (Bel Pre Elementary School, room 161 or 138, from October to April; Pool pavilion from May to September). The annual General Membership meeting has traditionally been held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving Day at 7:30 pm, in the Bel Pre Elementary School multi-purpose room.

Bel Pre Recreational Association Board of Trustees

Elliot Chabot (President)	301-871-1113	echabot@usa.net
Greg Miller (Vice President)	301- 871-9412	winstonhen@aol.com
Larry Vaught (Treasurer)	240-558-3814	l.vaught@comcast.net
Paul Spelman (Secretary)	240-447-7758	pbspelly@gmail.com
Ted Bechtol	301-871-3679	tedbechtol@yahoo.com
Chris Jennison	301- 538-5705	chris.s.jennison@gmail.com
Billy Ruppert	301-332-4901	billyruppert@gmail.com
Megan Virga	301-536-3631	megancy@gmail.com
Andy Wright	808-341-9088	ajw.uscg@gmail.com

Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

Brenda Henry (Administrative Assistant)	(301) 871-6298
Louisa Hoar (Pavilion reservations, tennis court keys & pool passes)	(301) 871-2954
Rita Vaught (Assistant Treasurer)	r.vaught@comcast.net

The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre
Civic Association



I am delighted with our mild winter so far this year, and I believe that everyone is also enjoying our lack of snow and ice. I trust that I haven't just jinxed this fact by stating it above, and that it does not turn snowy next week! Time will tell as, unfortunately groundhog Phil saw his shadow this February, so that means 6 more weeks of winter!

Annual Meeting Recap

We had a very successful Annual Meeting for both the Civic Association and the Bel Pre Recreational Association on November 17th, 2016, at Bel Pre Elementary School. We were able to reach quorum and elect the new BPRC board members. Our own Civic Association board member ELLIOT CHABOT was elected to a second term as BPRC Board President. He will be joined by CHRIS JENNISON and MEGAN VIRGA, as they begin new terms on this board. These three individuals are a real powerhouse of talent and our neighborhood will benefit immensely from their efforts.

Our community is very fortunate to have BONNIE CULLISON living in our neighborhood. BONNIE is a Delegate in the Maryland House of Delegates for District 19. She spoke to those present at our Annual Meeting. She is always so informative and provided an excellent update on the activities in our Maryland District. She was followed by Maryland State Senator ROGER MANNO, also of the 19th Legislative District, who also provided valuable insights as to legislative activities. Our audience was very active with many questions for both of them. We are very fortunate, that for two years in a row, Delegate CULLISON and Senator MANNO have addressed our neighborhood at our annual meeting.



More Board Members Needed: You??

The Civic Association proposed both BILL HAMMOND and RITA VAUGHT to new terms on our board and both were confirmed. The Civic Association board also voted in JOSEPHINE BAHN to finish out HARRY KLAPPER'S remaining term and welcomed her to the board in September 2016.

We continue to have open vacancies on the Civic Association board. If you are interested in serving our community, please do let me or any board member know. We do need you, and would love to fill our seats with you and your interested neighbors!

3rd Annual Town Hall Meeting

Both Associations co-hosted a Town Hall meeting December 8th at the Strathmore Elementary School. We welcomed over 30 neighbors to this event, and had a lovely discussion about the many different things going on in our neighborhood. We talked about the value of our Civic Association listserv, with its up-to-the-minute news of crimes, vendors for every service you can imagine, and current neighborhood events. Do join the listserv, if you have not yet done so. Many spoke of the value of our pool property, with its many activities, and our swim team for the kids. This is the third year we have hosted the Town Hall event. I believe that it helps, both to address neighborhood questions and issues, but also to relate news of the successful and positive events happening right here in our neighborhood!

- Continued on page 15 -

Gleanings from Meetings

by Josephine Bahn

Greetings from Village Lane! I'm going to be picking up the mantle that Frank Corrigan and Max Bronstein held so well for so many years. As the newest member of the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association, I will be the SBPCA's Delegate to the Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF). MCCF is an umbrella group consisting of community civic associations from across Montgomery County. The group meets monthly to discuss county policy and to address common concerns amongst the county residents.



Montgomery County Civic Federation – December and January Meetings

In December, MCCF discussed the proposed transportation changes which include adding Rapid Bus Transit options, as well as potential changes to I-270. In January, the monthly Community Hero Award was presented to ANITA POWELL, President of the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation, for her many years of leadership serving as a Communities of Color Advocate.

Civic Association ToolKit

The main item on the agenda centered on the Community ToolKit that was developed by the Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center in 2010. Thereafter, the toolkit was revamped to benefit Mid-County Civic Associations. The toolkits contain valuable information like: identifying ways to get to know your community, how to sustain membership, how to develop leadership in your community, and how to reach non-English speakers. Of particular interest was the discussion about meeting the needs of various age groups within a community. This is an issue that Strathmore Bel Pre will likely face in the coming years. As new, younger families begin to move into the community, it will be the job of the Civic and the Recreational Associations to be of service to the various different age groups and their differing community needs.



Reports were given by the various committees. The Coalition of Bethesda Area Residents has raised a number of concerns about the Bethesda Master Plan. Costco has filed another appeal to the Maryland Appeals Court over the gas station they are attempting to place at the Wheaton Costco. Discussion ensued over legislation concerning fossil-fuel funds divestment from county sponsored pensions, and the 3% deficit in the current state budget. County Executive IKE LEGGETT presents his budget on March 15th.

Montgomery County Civic Federation – February Meeting

MCCF also discussed the proposed Montgomery County Public School Budget at its February 13th meeting. The 5th Annual Budgetpalooza was co-hosted by MCCF, the Parents' Coalition of Montgomery County, and the Montgomery County Taxpayer's League. The proposed budget is \$2.5 billion. The group met to discuss the different chapters contained within the proposed budget in an in-depth discussion. The budget was approved the following day by the members of the Montgomery County School Board.

Stay tuned to future Bugles for more information from MCCF!

Bel Pre Recreational News

by Elliot Chabot, President
Bel Pre Recreational Association



New Board Members – Congratulations

The General Membership elected two new members to the BPR Association Board of Trustees at the November 17 annual meeting: CHRIS JENNISON and MEGAN VIRGA. CHRIS is an attorney with the U.S. Department of Transportation, grew up in Strathmore Bel Pre, and has served as the webmaster for the Civic Association and the BPR Association for the last 3 years. He is continuing as webmaster and will be chairing the BPR Association's Neighborhood Dispute Resolution Committee. MEGAN is a senior analyst at the Congressional Budget Office, has served as Treasurer and Secretary of the Georgian Forest Elementary School PTA, and is an active member of the Dolphin 5K Planning Committee. She will be the BPR Association's New Member Recruitment Coordinator, as well as coordinating the community block party planned for this fall.

Thanks to our Departing Board Members

Stepping down from the Board are KYE PAK and LOU ANN RECTOR. KYE served on the Board from 2013 to 2016, is a detective with the Montgomery County Police Department, and headed up the BPR Association's Neighborhood Dispute Resolution program. LOU ANN served for 12 years on the Board and is a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service. Thank you for you both for your many years of service to the community!



Annual Meeting and 3rd Town Hall Meeting

Thank you to everyone who came to the November 17 Annual Meeting, and the December 8 Town Hall Meeting of the BPR Association and the Civic Association. Thanks also to State Sen. ROGER MANNO and Del. BONNIE CULLISON who spoke on state government issues impacting our community; to ANDY WRIGHT who chaired the elections portion of the BPR Association meeting; and to LARRY VAUGHT who presented this year's proposed budget.

Date Change for the Annual Meeting?

For the last 30 years or so, the Annual Meeting has been held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving, at 7:30 pm, right after the end of the Civic Association's Annual Meeting. At last year's Annual Meeting there was a discussion about moving the 2017 meeting to a date before the end of daylight savings time. This year's annual assessment letter (sent out in February) asked each household to indicate if they would prefer the 2017 Annual Meeting to be on Thursday, November 2, Thursday, November 16, or had no preference. If you have not indicated your preference, please do so! As this article is being written, we don't yet have the totals.

Refreshments at the Annual Meeting

For the first time in a long time we had refreshments at the Annual Meeting. Thanks to SUSAN & MAX BRONSTEIN, CLAIRE & KYE PAK, JOSEPHINE BAHN & CHRIS JENNISON, and CHRIS SWAN for making this happen.

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The Bugle March 2017

Cubs Scouts Pack 763

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

Scouts Food Drive Fall 2016

The scouts and their families of Pack and Troop 763 completed their annual Scouting for Food event in early November, collecting 143 bags of food donated by the community. Thank you to all who donated, your contributions were greatly appreciated by Manna of Montgomery County.



Troopmaster JOE JENKINS, Cubmaster BILL TOTTEN, with WILLIAM GARNER, CHRISTIAN JENKINS, JOEY MOELLER and LUCAS MOELLER

Once again, the amount of food that we collected increased this year. We were greatly surprised by this, as our community lost Mr. GENE ROSENDAHL of Beaverwood Lane, who became sick and passed away recently. Mr. ROSENDAHL was always our biggest contributor, consistently donating 30-40 bags of food every year for as long as we could remember. We would leave his house for our younger cub scouts, who would get very, very excited about collecting so much food. The smile on Mr. ROSENDAHL's face was as big as theirs. Thank you to his son and neighbor, who made sure that we still got those last few bags of food that were at his house!

Join the Scouts!

Both the Cub Scouts Pack and the Boy Scouts Troop hold their meetings at the St. Mary Magdelene Church on Aspen Hill Road. We meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm during the school year. For more information, contact Cubmaster BILL TOTTEN at wandst@juno.com.

No matter what the groundhog says, here are a few reasons why selling your home before Spring could be a good move...

- #1 Interest rates are still low, attracting homebuyers to the market.***
- #2 Housing inventory has dropped. This can give sellers an edge.***
- #3 Your next home could be more expensive. According to CoreLogic, prices could go up as much as 4.7% over the next twelve months.***
- #4 New home construction is rising. This can mean more competition for resales.***



shutterstock - 88613470

For more information about the market...or to find out if selling your home would be a good idea for you, please call me!

Lilla



Lilla Leike Hammond, CRS, GRI
Long and Foster Realtors
North Bethesda/Rockville Office
301-518-7818 O. 301-468-0606
Email: lilla@longandfoster.com



Your Dolphins Summer

by Claire Pak

Dolphin 5K Run

Can you believe that it's been two years since the first Dolphin Run? We're proud that the Dolphin Run, our own neighborhood 5K, is now an established Strathmore Bel Pre tradition. Save the date: The Third Annual Dolphin 5K will take place on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29. If you're not a runner, not to worry! You can walk the course, or you can volunteer—we'll need course marshals, registration helpers, water distributors, etc. Watch this space, and stay on top of the Civic Association listserv, for online registration and additional details, soon to come.



Think Swimming!

Right now, it's about 40 degrees outside and many, many days away from Memorial Day. This makes it the perfect time to start thinking summer and Dolphins swimming. The Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins is our community's neighborhood swim team. The team has been competing since the early 1970s. Team membership is open to all Strathmore Bel Pre community children ages 4 to 18. Grandchildren can also join the team. We offer sponsored memberships for swimmers who reside outside the community, just contact any Dolphins board member for additional information. Swimmers practice daily throughout June and July, and compete in meets on Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings. Practices and meets are structured and competitive, but FUN.

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Dolphins Summer

(continued from page 7)

Join the Dolphins

We would love to see more neighborhood children swimming with the Dolphins—the more, the merrier! If you'd like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Coach TERRY KOMINSKI, or any member of the Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins Swim Team Association Board of Directors. Our contact email addresses appear below, and any of us will be happy to hear from you and to answer any questions you might have about swim team participation. If you'd like to talk in person or on the phone, just email any of us, and we'll arrange for a time to talk or meet.



Support the Dolphins

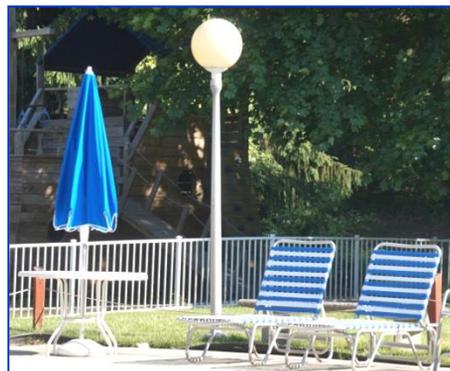
As always, we thank you for your support of the Dolphins. We are very grateful for your ongoing generosity and support. Please watch your mailbox later this year for our annual mailing!

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

GREG MILLER
MIKE BEARMAN
CLAIRE PAK
RITA VAUGHT
TERRY KOMINSKI

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Head Coach

winstonhen@aol.com
mbearman@vecna.com
cdaltonpak@yahoo.com
raught@comcast.net
mermade1967@aol.com



Summer Entertainment Series – Concerts

Two live music nights this summer featuring Strathmore Bel Pre musicians:

- June 17 - The Bubbas, featuring ELIZABETH and PHIL KOMINSKI
- TBD - Motor Driven, featuring PAUL STAGNITTO

See the next issue of *The Bugle* for more details



2017 Summer Movie Schedule

The Civic Association Board has set the following dates for the 2017 Summer Movie schedule. Mark your calendars!

- ❖ Saturday, June 3rd
- ❖ Saturday, July 15
- ❖ Saturday, August 5
- ❖ Saturday, September 2 (Labor Day Weekend)

Movies for each date are still to be determined.



The screen at the Pool in 2016



Become a Summer Entertainment Series Sponsor!

Our generous sponsors are who make it possible for the SBPCA to organize the Summer Entertainment Series. Your modest SBPCA \$18 membership dues support *The Bugle*, our Community Directory, Civic Association activities, and contribute very little to financing summer entertainment costs.

We are happy to report that many of our 2016 sponsors have already agreed to renew their support for 2017, as shown in the banner below! But we have room for more. Sponsor support covers the costs for licensing movies, hiring performers, and maintaining our equipment.

The Civic Association Board thanks those sponsors who have renewed their commitments for 2017.

The SBP Civic Association Thanks Our 2017 Summer Entertainment Sponsors!!

Lilla Hammond		Paulette Ladas		Tim Horst	
The Bel Pre Recreational Association					
<small>SBP Superstars</small>					
<small>Oscar Winners</small>		SBP Swim Team Association	Your Name Here	Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot	
<small>Ted & Nancy Bechtol</small>	<small>John & Shelly Bogasky</small>	<small>Maury & Charlotte Potosky</small>	<small>Your Name Here</small>	<small>Larry & Rita Vaught</small>	<small>Your Name Here</small>
<small>Band Leaders</small>				<small>Super Fans</small>	
And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association					

We have Room for more Sponsors!

We recognize all Summer Entertainment sponsors both in *The Bugle* and on a banner displayed at all Summer Entertainment Series events. **You can be a BAND LEADER! A SUPER FAN!** It's the perfect gift for your 2017 Summer! Be a **Superstar!**

To support these summer events, please contact Civic Association Treasurer JOHN BOGASKY at johnbogasky@hotmail.com, or contact any other Civic Association Board Member. With your support, we can sustain this new, fun-for-all Strathmore Bel Pre tradition that takes advantage of our beautiful pool facilities.

Committees

Last year, I put out a request for volunteers to serve on the BPRC committees. Many of you responded. Thank you to all who did. The initial 2017 meetings of the following committees were held or are scheduled to be held) on

- February 22 - Governing Documents Committee, 7:30 pm
- March 15 - Long Term Planning Committee, 8 pm
- April 26 - Entertainment and Recreation Committee, 7:30 pm

All 3 meetings are scheduled to be held at 3501 Beret Lane. If you're interested in serving on a BPRC committee, please send me an e-mail at echabot@usa.net or phone me at (301) 871-1113. The schedule of all committee meetings (and all BPRC Board meetings) can be found at <http://strathmore-belpre.org/bpra/>.

Paper Shredding

Want to shred sensitive papers? Come on over to the pool parking lot (13920 Bethpage Lane) on Saturday, April 1, from 10 to noon. Shredding for 2 boxes of papers per person is free for all Strathmore Bel Pre residents. Thank you to PAULETTE LADAS (RE/MAX) and LOUIE LOPEZ (Caliber Home Loans) for making this event happen. The shredding equipment is coming from Patriot Shredding of Rockville.

Dolphin 5K Run

Runners, walkers, strollers, spectators, and volunteers are all wanted for the 3rd annual Dolphin 5K Run, on Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day). The event is being sponsored by our Dolphins Swim Team - but you don't have to be a swimmer to participate! More details in the next issue of *The Bugle*, on the Civic Association listserv, and our website.

Yard Sale

On Saturday, June 3, the Civic Association will sponsor, and the BPRC will host, the 36th annual Strathmore Bel Pre Community Yard Sale. The event will happen from 9 a.m. to noon in the pool parking lot. Buyers and sellers needed! For more information, contact LINDA BEA at (301) 460-0497.

Summer Entertainment Series

The 2017 Summer Entertainment Series at the pool will feature 4 movie nights and 2 live music nights. The music night dates haven't been finalized, but the movies are scheduled for Saturday, June 3, July 15, August 5, and September 2, at dusk. Admission is free for all Strathmore Bel Pre residents. Thanks to JOHN BOGASKY (movies) and CHRIS SWAN (music) for organizing these events.

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Secure Shred Event April 1st

Need to shred your important documents? Stop in, its free!

At our community pool 10am-Noon

13920 Bethpage Lane Silver Spring, MD 20906

Maximum 2 medium boxes per person



Sponsored by: Paulette Ladas with RE/MAX

Louie Lopez with Caliber Home Loans

Contact: pauletteladas@gmail.com



THE BULLETIN BOARD – Updates from your neighborhood schools

By Elizabeth Kominski and Kathleen Lorenzo

NEWS FROM BEL PRE

Kindergarten Orientation

Registration is underway for Kindergarten orientation which will be held on April 26, 27 and 28, 2017. This is an opportunity for next year's kindergarteners and their parents to come and learn about Bel Pre and the kindergarten program, and to meet the kindergarten teachers. Parents will also begin the registration process at Kindergarten Orientation. Please call the main office, 301-460-2145, for more information and to register your child. Children must be five years old by September 1, 2017, in order to enroll in kindergarten. Please be sure to tell your friends and neighbors who have children that age to call the school and come for Kindergarten Orientation. We look forward to meeting our future kindergarteners!



Fundraiser for Bel Pre and Strathmore

Joel's Painting and Handyman Services will donate 10% of any new customer's job to Bel Pre and Strathmore Elementary Schools. Please consider this company for your next job. Call Joel's at 301-523-1207 or email joelpainting1@gmail.com. Their website: www.joelpaintingandhandymanservices.com.

NEWS FROM STRATHMORE

Mosaic Mural Project



Old sign with motto

Planning and design are underway for the Strathmore Mosaic Mural project! Local glass artist, ALI MIRSKY will work with Strathmore's art teacher, SARA FORAKER, to finalize the design by mid-March, and production with students will begin in April. The estimated cost for the 13.5' wide by 6' high (81 square feet) artwork is \$5,265, which includes all supplies, teaching time, and installation. The mural will be installed in place of the bulldog sign that is currently underneath the "Strathmore Elementary" sign on the front of the school (see photo).

We anticipate that the artwork will be complete and installed before Summer break. The theme is "Dream" which goes along with Strathmore's motto, "Dream Big, Work Hard." So far we have raised \$2,442 towards this project. But, we still need to fund \$2,823. Please consider sending a tax deductible donation to Strathmore Elementary at 3200 Beaverwood Ln., Silver Spring MD, 20906. Checks should be made payable to Strathmore Elementary. High school students who would like to earn SSL hours for helping with the mosaic, contact SARA FORAKER at 301-460-2135 or email sara_c_foraker@mcpsmd.org.



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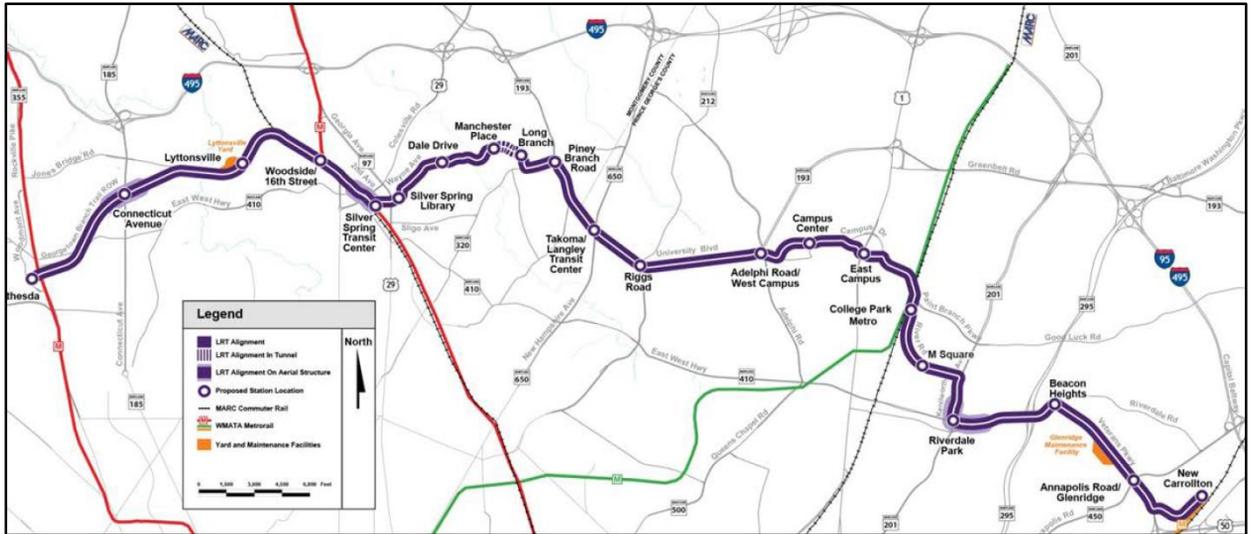
Updates from the Glenmont Exchange

by John Bogasky

The Glenmont Exchange gathers together businesses and community associations surrounding Glenmont. The Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association is a Founding Member.

Purple Line Update

October's Glenmont Exchange meeting featured MICHAEL MADDEN, public spokesperson for the Purple Line project. The Purple Line will be a new 16-mile east-west light rail line operating mostly on the surface with 21 stations. It will connect New Carrollton in Prince George's County to Bethesda in Montgomery County. Governor HOGAN's administration has awarded the contract and pre-construction work has begun. Construction, scheduled to begin in late 2016, has been held up by another lawsuit from some of the Chevy Chase property owners abutting the right of way. The project is scheduled to open in 2022.



The closest station to our neighborhood will be at the Silver Spring Transit Center. Once open, the ride from Silver Spring to Bethesda will be 9 minutes, making Bethesda far more accessible via rail to Strathmore Bel Pre residents starting trips at the Glenmont Metro station. See <http://www.purplelinemd.com/en>.

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Ballou Gardening

Planting* Mulching* Trimming*
Spring & Fall clean-ups* Fertilization*
Tree work* Walkways* Ornamental*
* Handyman Repairs*

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Plaza Del Mercado

Aldi's held their grand opening on December 15th, with lines stretching cross the parking lot to the Starbuck's. Federal Realty needed some zoning permissions from the Council for the project, which gave the Council, particularly Councilwoman Navarro, leverage to hold out for a grocery store as the community wanted.



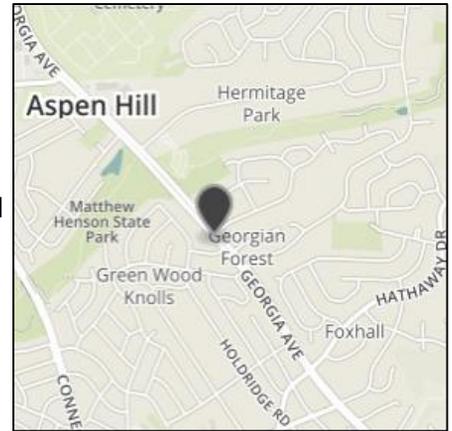
LA Fitness originally planned to open before Christmas, but had to delay the start of construction until it secured a permit for its indoor pool.

See <http://www.federalrealty.com/properties/plazadelmercado/>

Fatal Accident at Georgia & Regina

On Monday, October 24th, a pedestrian was struck and killed at 6:55 am reportedly trying to cross Georgia to get to a southbound bus stop. Even though there is a bus stop there, there is no nearby crosswalk, creating strong incentives for pedestrians to try and Cross Georgia Avenue at that intersection.

See <http://wpo.st/MXvW2>



Georgia/Randolph Grade-Separated Interchange

The construction project at Georgia Avenue and Randolph Rd. is about 50% complete.

In December, crews rerouted southbound traffic over the new bridge, freeing the center section for construction.

In late November, the lead Project Engineer told the Glenmont Exchange that the project is behind schedule for their planned Spring 2017 completion. Recently, it was announced that the latest completion date is Spring 2018.

See: <http://apps.roads.maryland.gov/WebProjectLifeCycle/ProjectInformation.aspx?projectno=MO8545115>



Part of the new Randolph Road route under Georgia Avenue

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NEWS FROM GEORGIAN FOREST

Monthly Beautification Project

On the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m., the PTA hosts a “beautification” play date. Families meet to clean up the playground area and provide children with the chance to meet up and play with friends on the weekend. While we took a break during these colder months, please plan to join us again beginning in March. All neighborhood families are welcome – whether or not you are a Grizzly! Contact the PTA for more information at infogfespta@gmail.com.



Book Fair

The PTA is bringing the Scholastic Book Fair to Georgian Forest March 20-24, 2017. The Book Fair theme is “Happy Camper Book Fair: S’more fun with books!”. The fair will be open daily from 9 am to 5 pm. Please join us on Thursday, March 23 at 6:00 pm for Story Night, s’mores and book shopping.

Painless Fundraising

Just a reminder that Georgian Forest PTA participates in the Amazon Associates program, an affiliate advertising program designed to provide a means for sites to earn fees. There is no cost to you, the only small caveat is that you must enter Amazon via our website. Please visit <http://gfespta.my-pta.org> and start shopping by clicking on the link to Amazon at the top of the page. This does not conflict with Amazon Smile. You can assist our PTA by starting on our website and a percentage of your purchases will still be donated to your designated charity through Amazon Smile.

BOX TOPS are Welcome at all our Schools

Please collect box tops from General Mills products. Our schools receive 10 cents for each box top. Drop them off in the BoxTop box located in each school 's front office.

For More Information—

Georgian Forest ES PTA

School phone: 301-460-2170

PTA website: <http://gfespta.my-pta.org>

Bel Pre Strathmore PTA

Bel Pre: 301-460-2145 Strathmore: 301-460-2135

PTA website: <http://bps-pta.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123760599438/>

Frogs Singing at the Creek

by Cecily Nabors



It is late this February 2017, and the wood frogs are singing and mating in the vernal pool and in the big wetland pond by Bel Pre Creek, near the Matthew Henson Trail. They have delightful voices, something between the quacking of ducks and the yipping of puppies. These frogs live in the woodlands, but they need water to lay their eggs in. They breed very early, often when ponds still have some ice on them. Our local ponds and wetland areas could have used more rain/snow this winter, but even so, the wood frogs are busy, and a treat to see and hear.

The tree frog season is very short! When you visit the creek, what will be singing at the creek might be American toads or spring peepers or leopard frogs or bullfrogs.... All very different, unique, fun and essential to our creek and its environment.

The President's Corner

(Continued from page 3)

Gleanings from Meetings Column

I am thrilled to report that JOSEPHINE BAHN, our new Civic Association Board member, has volunteered to be the Board member liaison to the Montgomery County Civic Federation. JOSEPHINE also will be writing the Gleanings from Meetings column, missing from *The Bugle* for the last few years. Josephine and her fiancé recently moved to Village Lane, and look forward to participating in our Community. Thanks and welcome!

Plan Now for Your Spring Events

Our Civic Association board is very busy planning for our upcoming events. The first of which will be the Yard Sale at the pool on Saturday, June 3rd. Please start now to gather your property to sell and plan to join us that day to either sell or just buy.



Shred-it Event

The Recreational Association is encouraging more activities for the pool grounds! Paulette Ladas has answered this call by organizing and supporting our first ever Shredding Event on Saturday, April 1st. All Strathmore Bel Pre residents are welcome to bring 2 medium boxes of papers for shredding, from 10 am to 12 noon. The Shred-It will be held in the Pool Parking lot.



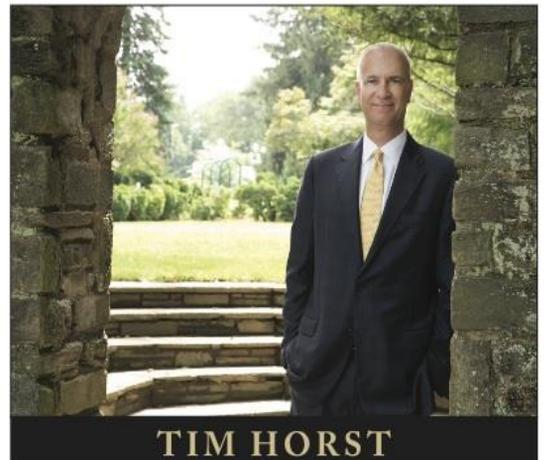
Activities? Ideas needed

If you have any other great ideas of activities we can sponsor to better utilize our wonderful grounds at the Pool during the off season, please let us know.

I can't wait to see everyone very soon at these springtime activities!

I have served the
Strathmore at Bel Pre
neighborhood for
31 years.

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Appointments

At its February 7 meeting, the Recreational Association Board approved the following appointments:

- Administrative Assistant – BRENDA HENRY
- Assistant Treasurer – RITA VAUGHT
- Block Party Coordinator – MEGAN VIRGA
- Entertainment & Recreation Committee Chairman – CHRIS SWAN
- Finance Committee Chairman – LARRY VAUGHT
- Governing Documents Committee Chairman – ELLIOT CHABOT
- Grounds and Landscaping Coordinator – TED BECHTOL
- Long Term Planning Committee Chairman – ANDY WRIGHT

- Map Project Coordinator – PAUL SPELMAN
- Neighborhood Dispute Resolution Committee Chairman – CHRIS JENNISON
- New Member Recruitment Coordinator – MEGAN VIRGA
- Pavilion Scheduler/Pool Pass Coordinator/Tennis Court Keys Distributor – LOUISA HOAR
- Pool & Recreational Facilities Committee Chairman – GREG MILLER
- Webmaster – CHRIS JENNISON

Basketball Court

Planning continues regarding the basketball court by the pool. Among the options being considered are: resurfacing and striping the court, installing new hoops, upgrading the system of security cameras to cover the court, and adding fencing (with a door) around the court.

- Thanks to GREG MILLER, KYE PAK, and JOE MOELLER for their work in moving this project forward.



Grounds

A suggestion has been made to establish a memorial tree grove on the portion of the pool property between the current pump room and Bethpage Lane. In the meantime, plans are in place to cut back the bamboo at the top end of the parking lot, to cut back the brush encroachment to the parking lot fence near the pool pavilion, and assorted tree trimming work.

- Thanks to TED BECHTOL - our horticulturalist-in-residence - for overseeing these projects.

- continued on page 19 -

Glenmont Exchange

(Continued from page 13)

Gate of Heaven Cemetery Expansion

The Cemetery has submitted a Forest Conservation Plan to the County to expand burial plots into undeveloped areas of the property. The Forest Conservation plan retains the forested buffer between the Cemetery and the SBP homes along Beret Lane.



For the detailed tree-by-tree site

plans, see: <http://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/dai/links/pdodlinks.aspx?apno=11993048B>

- Continued on page 18 -

County Library News

by Chris Swan

Aspen Hill Library Mini-Renovation

The Mini-Renovation, aka “refresh” of the Aspen Hill Library is on schedule. The Library is scheduled to open in May. No word yet regarding the exact date. New carpet and flooring is being installed. The Library also will

receive renovated bathrooms, a single information and circulation desk, small group study rooms, a second, small Children’s project room, and new furniture. While they wait to return to Aspen Hill, staff from the Aspen Hill Library are working in various Libraries around the County. If you see them in the Olney, Quince Orchard, Silver Spring, or Twinbrook Libraries, be sure to say hi.



New Librarian for Aspen Hill

Aspen Hill now has a new Chief Librarian, KEN LEWIS. Mr. LEWIS arrives from the Little Falls Library, and has worked in the County Library system for many years, moving here from the Prince Georges Library system. The community will meet him when the Library opens in May.

ANGELISA HAWES, the previous Aspen Hill Chief Librarian, now is Chief Librarian at the White Oak Library

Angelisa heads off to White Oak.

Refresh Progress for other Libraries

The Little Falls Library refresh is delayed due to a December 2016 water main break, which flooded the mechanical room and lower level floor of the Library, damaging the Library’s electrical and mechanical systems. Both Little Falls and Davis Libraries are scheduled to re-open this spring. Bethesda, Quince Orchard and White Oak Libraries are scheduled to close shortly for their refresh projects.



Aspen Hill Library gets a new outside book drop

Follow the Library Refresh Projects

Each Library with a Refresh project has a blog written by their Chief Librarian, found at their branch page on the County Library’s website. The Aspen Hill blog: montgomerycountymd/library/branches/aspenshill.html

Wheaton Library

The Wheaton Library and Recreation Center building is scheduled to begin phase 2 of construction this Spring. Phase 1 covered relocation of Hermitage Avenue, demolition of the Wheaton Youth Center building, installation of utilities and retaining walls. Phase 2 is the demolition of the existing Wheaton Library building, the new joint building construction, and development of an adjacent park. Completion of the new building is expected mid-2018.

Wheaton Interim Library

While the new Wheaton Library is being built, the upstairs room of the Wheaton Fire and Rescue Squad serves as the Wheaton Interim Library. The Interim Library has books, computers, study tables, adult and children’s programming, and is open 7 days a week. Ample parking is behind the building, with an elevator available to the second floor. Also available at the Mid-County Recreation Center are a book and a media vending kiosk, and a book/media return.



Georgia Ave Water Main Replacement

November's Glenmont Exchange meeting featured a WSSC speaker for the upcoming Georgia Avenue Water Main Replacement project. The project starts Spring 2017 and will last 18 months. It will require regular lane closures on Georgia Avenue between 9 am and 3 pm. All lanes will be open for morning and evening rush hours. At times, homes very near the project may experience water shutoffs for a few hours when reconnections are made. WSSC intends to provide plenty of notice via door hangars at each house. Given the project boundaries, it does not appear that any SBP homes will be affected. The main impact on us will be the midday lane closures

Glenmont MetroCentre

The developers at Glenmont MetroCentre are also Founding Members of the Glenmont Exchange and regularly attend meetings. Shelly and I visited the new townhomes during their Grand Opening on October 22nd. When we moved here 26 years ago, the sign said "Privacy World – Coming Soon". Well, its far from "soon", but we were curious to see the first steps, now that it was finally "coming".



The model home is stunning. You should visit. It can change your perception of what might be possible at Glenmont, especially after decades with our somewhat seedy Glenmont Shopping Center, and today's complete mess with the Randolph/Georgia interchange project. Stand on that model home's deck and imagine a different Glenmont. Visitor traffic was strong for the Grand Opening. My hope is that this project sees strong success; success strong enough to entice more developers to make the investments needed to bring the Glenmont Sector Plan to life. See <http://www.winchesterhomes.com/our-communities/details.cfm?community=glenmont-metrocentre>

The project's second phase should begin construction in late 2017 or early 2018. NV Realty is the developer for this phase. Winchester Homes developed the initial townhomes. The next phase adds more townhomes and the project's first multi-family apartment building.

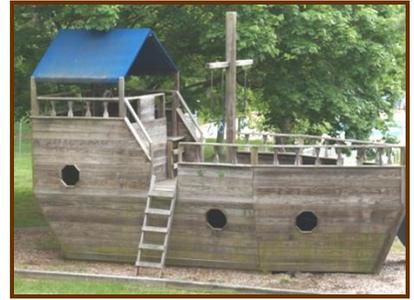
The developers continue to seek a grocery store for the final phase of the project, in the section nearest to Georgia Avenue. Their plans include a 50,000 square foot store, large enough for a grocery store like the new Safeway in Wheaton. They have met with many grocers (e.g., Whole Foods, Harris Teeter, Trader Joes), who have not yet said yes, but have also not said no. Much depends on the success of this new housing at Glenmont MetroCentre and in Wheaton.

The new apartments in Wheaton are leasing well, but not great. Reportedly, this is partly because such a large inventory, nearly 1000 units, came on the market in a short time. The newest project, Avalon Bay, on the former Equitable Bank building site at Blueridge and Georgia, delayed the start of their construction to allow more time for the market to absorb the new units in other projects.

Pump Room

Based on the recommendations of last year's engineering study by HA Associates, we hope to be issuing an RFP shortly for renovation of the main pool's pump room.

- Thanks to JOE MOELLER and KAREN PURDY for lending their engineering expertise to make this long-awaited project a go.



Pool and Facility Maintenance

We also hope to have the following done before the 2017 pool season:

- upgrade the pavilion lighting
 - maintenance on the pirate ship
 - replace the tetherball
 - repair the parking lot gates
 - convert broken umbrellas from ones that crank to ones that pin
 - repaint bathroom ceilings, pool railings, and snack bar floor.
- install bathhouse light timers
 - review the underwater lights in the main pool
 - add lighting and a fan to the children's pool pump room
 - fix the lifeguard chair decks, and the snack bar door frame
- Thanks to JOE MOELLER for working on the fixes, and to PAULETTE LADES for tracking down the repainting bids

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