

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

Summer 2011

Issue: 11.03

July 4th Celebration

Spend this 4th of July with your friends and neighbors at our beautiful community pool! Your Civic Association has once again organized a full day of events and activities promising relaxation, food and fun for your entire family. As always, **volunteers** are needed to help out with the day's events. Please call Lilla Hammond on (301) 871-5074 to volunteer.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

COMMUNITY PARADE (Strathmore Elementary School @ 12:30)

Registration for paraders will begin at 12:30 and the parade will begin 1:00. The parade will begin at the school and paraders will head up Beaverwood Lane to the north end of Birchtree Lane, then down the footpath to the pool pavilion. Community members of all ages are invited to participate. All registered paraders will receive a prize.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT (Pool Pavilion @ 1:30)

The Civic Association will once again provide entertaining fun targeted toward the younger members of our community but will also be fun for all.

FIELD DAY EVENTS (Pool Grounds @ 3:00 – 4:00)

The field day team is planning fun for the whole family! Don't miss it!

COMMUNITY PICNIC (Pool Pavilion @ 5:30)

The community picnic will again feature **BBQ** menu to include beef and chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, drinks and assorted deserts.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION for the picnic is strongly recommended. This will allow the committee to accurately determine how much food to purchase. The committee will order only a limited number of walk-up portions. Walk-ups will be admitted on a first-come first served basis until the walk-up portions are gone. So, don't take a chance, register in advance.

ADMISSION for advanced registration is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12 years of age. The admission for walk-ups will be \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children under 12 years of age, while portions are available.

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July 4th Picnic Registration / Volunteer Form

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

____ Adults @ \$10.00 each

\$ _____

____ Children under 12 @ \$5.00 each

\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

\$ _____

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION I will ...

Set Up & Clean Up Serve Food Bring a Dessert

Help with Field Day Activities Help with Parade Registration

Send this form, along with your payment, postmarked by June 26th to: SBPCA P.O. Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20916

THE BUGLE

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Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA)

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

e-mail: Strathmo@strathmore-belpre.org

Web site: www.strathmore-belpre.org

Annual SBPCA membership: \$15.00

The SBPCA is a voluntary association, funded by membership dues, that represents our community to County Government and various other groups such as the Montgomery County Civic Federation. The SBPCA also publishes **The Bugle** and 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 Genesis Center Nursing Home on Bel Pre Road. The Civic Association's annual meeting is in November just before the BPRA annual meeting.

Civic Association Officers

President:	Nancy Bechtol	301-871-3679	Vice President:	Bill Hammond	301-871-5074
Treasurer:	John Bogasky	301-460-1604	Secretary:	Linda Bea	301-460-0497
Past President:	Reuben Lev	301-460-1048	Webmaster:	Bill Hammond	301-871-5074

Civic Association Board of Directors

Charlie Bea	301 460-0497	Harry Klapper	301 460-9645	Max Bronstein	301 460-3117
Marilyn Lev	301 460-1048	Elliot Chabot	301 871-1113	Dan Thomas	301 871-2624
Frank Corrigan	301 460-1011	Maurice Potosky	301 460-9008	Chris Swan	301 871-1113
Ron Daub	301 460-0929	Arlene Thorne	301 871-5013	Lilla Hammond	301 871-5074

Bel Pre Recreational Association (BPRA)

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

Bel Pre Recreation Association Officers

President:	Dan Keating	301-603-8162	dtkeats@gmail.com
Vice President:	Sue Hoye	301-603-9559	sue@hoyes.org
Treasurer:	Keith Yockelson	301-460-8555	number1pools@verizon.net
Secretary:	Ed Frantz	301-603-8055	ed_frantz@comcast.net
Lou Ann Rector		301-603-8805	

Bel Pre Recreation Association Board of Trustees

John Adamo	301 460-3275	fijimaster@juno.com	Dan Entwisle	
Lou Ann Rector	301 603-805		Arthur Meister	301 438-7869
Paulette Ladas	301 674-7742	apladas@aol.com		ustation@aol.com

Bel Pre Recreation Association Volunteers

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

-by Nancy Bechtol, President SBPCA

By the time you read this message, we will have already had a successful 2011 Yard Sale on our beautiful pool property. These Yard Sales are always so much fun, and often are the first time we see our distant neighbors after a long winter of hibernation! The Civic Association Board enjoys organizing this Yard Sale each year, and we really hope you came out to sell or purchase. If not, please try to next year, you might be surprised how much fun it is to attend and participate.

This issue of the Bugle is all about reminding everyone to participate in our upcoming July 4th festivities also at the pool. We host a full day of events, for the young and old in our community, and the Board hopes to see everyone there. It takes a tremendous amount of work to organize this day, and I can't thank these volunteers enough for all they do to make the 4th of July a success.

Did you see the article on the Washington Post on Saturday April 30th in the Real Estate section? The article featured our Strathmore-Bel Pre neighborhood and many of our neighbors were interviewed and mentioned in the article. Please check it out on the website if you missed it. The author, Jim Brocker did a fabulous job writing the piece.

One of our Board members, Arlene Thorne shared a fact sheet with safety tips for using our nature trail which was written by the Park Police of MNCPPC. The fact sheet reminds users of the trail to stay alert at all times paying attention to your surroundings. It reminds us to make sure we always tell someone we are planning on using the trail, and to be prepared by carrying a cell phone in case of an emergency. Good neighbors try to look out for each other, and I thought I would share the highlights of this fact sheet with all of you, hoping we never have an emergency because we are careful and safe. Hoping to see many neighbors real soon out and about taking advantage of our wonderful pool, tennis courts, nature trail or sidewalks.

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Gleanings from Meetings & More

-by Max Bronstein

On May 3rd, I and others in a small group known as CivicLink, met with County Executive Ike Leggett to have a frank & open discussion on important current county issues. These meetings occur about every two months and have been ongoing for several years. The following items were discussed at the most recent meeting:

The status of tax abatements will be examined to ascertain if any have gone on too long. (Tax abatement: No taxes for commercial or residential projects until they are viable; the problem is nobody is checking to see if they should have ended.)

Still too many unlicensed contractors operating in the county.

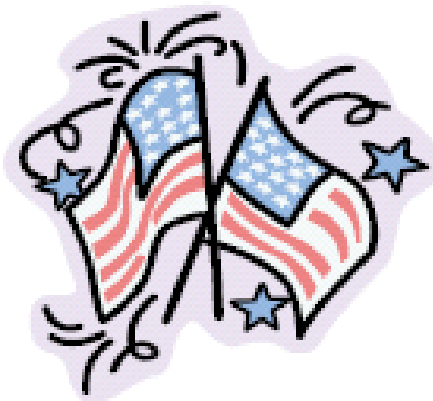
At the time of the meeting the court decision had not yet been made upholding the Executive's decision to ignore the arbitrator's granting to the police union their position as to pay & benefits. The court decision upheld Leggett's position based on the county charter provision that made affordability the overriding factor in these matters & that the charter trumps the decision of a labor arbitrator or administrator. It is possible this may be appealed, but so far it has not been. (continued on page 6)

STRATHMORE BEL PRE JULY 4th 2011 CELEBRATION!!

As many of you know, Strathmore-Bel Pre Community likes to celebrate July 4th!

There is always plenty of planning to do and we get great assistance from our fun-loving, patriotic neighbors.

Would you like to help us this year?



*Help make our July 4th Celebration the best yet!
Thanks!*

If you would like to volunteer to make our community's celebration special this year, select from the list below.

We welcome your ideas, and talents!

- Parade Committee
- Entertainment
- Field Day –Games
- July 4th Picnic

Help Our Community Celebrate July 4th 2011!

YES! I would like to help with Strathmore Bel Pre's July 4th Celebration.

NAME _____
PHONE: _____ OR EMAIL: _____

- PARADE for the kids.....Volunteers needed: 11:45am - 1:15pm
- FIELD GAMES.....Volunteers needed: 2pm - 4pm
- PICNIC set up at Pool Pavillion...Volunteers needed: 4pm - 5pm
- PICNIC tickets, servers and wrap up..Volunteers: 5pm - 7:30pm

Planning meeting June 14th 7:30pm @ Layhill Center - Genesis
3227 Bel Pre Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:
Harry Klapper at hjklapper@msn.com or Lilla Hammond at lilla.hammond@verizon.net
Or contact us by phone at 301-460-9645 (Harry) and 301-518-7818 (Lilla)
Or, if you prefer, please complete the above form and send asap to:
SBPCA PO Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20916 Thank you!

Gleanings (Continued from page 4)

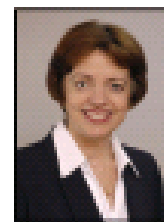
All agreed that the County Council should be able to exercise more oversight & control over the budget of MCPS. Recall that 57% of the entire county budget goes to MCPS. Since that meeting it appears the council has moved in that direction by reducing the county's funding to the schools by \$33 million. While the school board controls how the funds it receives are used internally, the reduction in the amount may result in the action the council desires. Namely, that employees pay a larger share for benefits.

Leggett's plan regarding pay & benefits for county employees did not cover school employees, and also differed from the council's plan in that it took effect more quickly & with higher amounts. Since the council has the final decision on the budget, their plan will prevail. The final council budget decision will be made on May 26. The council will be in recess May 31 through June 14.

The Montgomery Civic Federation meeting on May 9th featured Police Chief Tom Manger, States Attorney John McCarthy, & Assistant States Attorney George Simms. Their presentation brought out some interesting items as follows:
(Continued page 12)



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Civic Association Email Listserv Reaches 150 Members - Do You Know What You're Missing?

-by John Bogasky

We're happy to report that this past May, the Civic Association email list serve passed the 150 member mark! The Civic Association would like to thank all of the members who have joined the listserv and helped to make it a success!

Listserve usage has grown with membership. Recent discussions on the listserv have included:

- News about Giant's plans to close the Del Mercado store and coordination of a "call Giant" campaign to push back.
- Details regarding April's burglary on Birchtree Lane.
- Neighborhood recommendations for lawn care, house cleaning and handyman services.
- A picture of the Ride-On bus that crashed into the Kentucky Fried Chicken on Georgia Ave.
- Details about the accident that destroyed our community sign (again!) at Layhill & Hathaway
- How to mitigate the disruption caused by the Wat Thai temple's annual spring and fall festivals while also supporting this great local event. (Mark your calendars, Fall's Sart Thai festival is scheduled for September 18, 2011.)
- Comments about the Washington Post profile of Strathmore Bel Pre in the April 30th Real Estate section.

Listserve members also receive *The Bugle* electronically when it is sent to the printers, several weeks before the paper copies are distributed to the neighborhood.

The SBPcivic listserv is open to all Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association members. If you are a Civic Association member who has not yet joined, the easiest way to join is to send me an email at johnbogasky@hotmail.com. Please include your name and street address so I can confirm your Civic Association membership. Not a Civic Association Member?

In order celebrate the listserv's success, and to help build Civic Association and listserv membership, the Civic Association Board recently approved a reduced-price \$5 half-year membership for this year only. This introductory price is just one-third of the annual \$15 membership cost. Our hope is that this introductory price will entice new families to give the Civic Association and the SBPcivic listserv a try. If you are interested in taking advantage of this special, one-time offer, please mail your check, made out to "SBPCA", to: **SBPCA Treasurer, P.O. Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20906.**

Please be sure to include a note with any email addresses for your household that you want to add to the SBPcivic listserv. Your introductory membership will be good until December. The Civic Association's regular annual membership drive mailing will occur sometime in late August or early September.

The 50 Plus Club Update

-by Maury Potosky

The 50 Plus club continues its activities for the summer. With the opening of the pool, all of our summer meetings will be at the Pavilion at the pool. The meetings all start at 6:15 PM. Our members bring their own dinner, but we share desserts brought by various members. The summer schedule of meeting dates are:

Wednesday, June 1, 2011
Wednesday, July 13, 2011
Wednesday, August 10, 2011
Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Our schedule of shows at Toby's Dinner Theater include *Anything Goes*, the Cole Porter musical currently running in revival on Broadway. We are scheduled to go Wednesday evening, July 20, 2011. Follow-on shows are *Chicago*, scheduled for Wednesday evening, Sept. 21, 2011 and *White Christmas*, scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 30, 2011. If you are interested in attending these shows please contact Charlotte Potosky at 301-460-9008. All admission for these shows are at group rates.

All 50 plus residents are invited to participate in our meetings and shows. Please contact Charlotte at 301-460-9008.



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THE DOLPHINS

-by Claire Pak

By the time you receive this issue of the Bugle, the Dolphins season will be fully underway! The Dolphins would like to extend a sincere thank-you to the entire community for the generous response to our annual fundraising appeal. Your donations make it possible for the Dolphins to continue providing the opportunity for recreation, competition, and fun for our neighborhood's children.

We're very pleased to welcome several new coaches to our coaching staff. Laura Entwisle, a 2010 team graduate, has been promoted from Developmental Coach to Assistant Coach. Sarah Ruppert and Lilan Miller, both Senior members of the team, will join the coaching staff this year as Developmental Coaches. Additionally, Joanna Ladas will return as Lead Developmental Coach, and Head Coach Terry Kominski will return for a 21st season coaching the Dolphins.

Our website is located at <http://sbpdolphins.org/>. We post frequent updates on team events and meet results, and subscribing to the feed is a great way to keep up with the team. We also send a weekly email update, so please contact Claire Pak (cdaltonpak@yahoo.com) if you'd like to be added to the distribution list.

Please don't hesitate to contact any member of the SBP Swim Team Association Board if you have questions about the team or about any of our scheduled events this season. We look forward to seeing you at the pool!

Greg Miller	President	winstonhen@aol.com
Scott McNamee	Vice-President	scott.mcnamee@fda.hhs.gov
Claire Pak	Secretary	cdaltonpak@yahoo.com
Maribel Pinero	Treasurer	Maribel@mtpcpa.com
Andrew Ladas	A Meet Manager	apladas1@aol.com
Paulette Ladas	B Meet Manager	apladas@aol.com

SPECIAL NOTE: COUNTY CODE on LAWN MAINTENANCE

Montgomery County require that owners & renters maintain their lawns so that so that they do not exceed a height of 12 inches.

Also, the code requires that noxious weeds such as poison ivy & others should not be allowed to grow unchecked.

Trees with dead branches must be maintained so that they do not pose a danger to health or safety.

Violation notices grant 10 days for corrections. Failure to correct violations allows the county to do the work and bill the property owner.

Report any problems with weeds & tall grass on private property by calling 311.

Remember, keeping our lawns well maintained enhances everybody's property values and is a source of community pride!

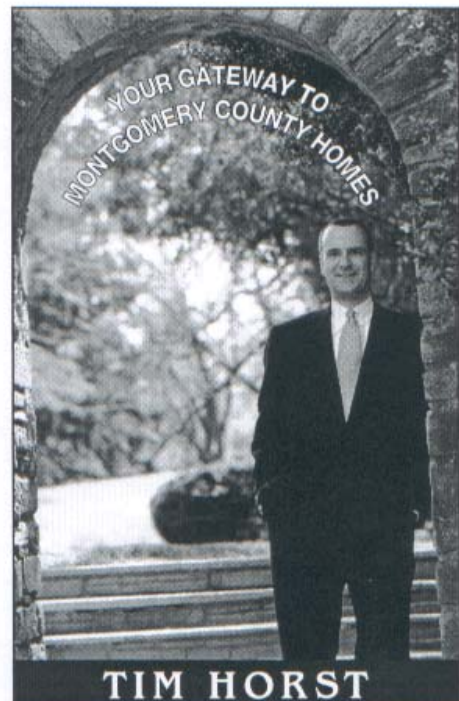
Maryland –
National Capital Park Police
Montgomery County Division
Corporal Dean Smith
(301) 929-2721

JOGGING / EXERCISING SAFETY TIPS

- Running is your right – safety is your responsibility
- Stay alert at all times to your surroundings and approaching people
- Try to stay in well lit areas and areas not obstructed shrubs, alleys, and places people can hide
- Vary your routes and times frequently
- Exercise with a companion if possible
- Walk or jog facing traffic so you can see approaching traffic
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS – If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation – leave
- Make sure someone knows where you are to exercise and when you will return
- If you think you are being followed by someone on foot, abruptly change your direction and walk toward open stores, restaurants or a well lit home
- If a car is following you, turn and walk in the opposite direction or walk / jog on the opposite side of the street
- If you feel you are in danger, scream, blow a whistle, etc. to try to attract attention to yourself

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BPRA President's Message:

We hope our membership and guests enjoy a fun summer at the recreational facilities. The board has been working to make sure our community facilities are thought of as much more than simply a pool.

We have added more large to the lawn to expand picnic opportunities. Speaking of food, we are fortunate to have neighbors Greg and back running the snack bar again this year.

We have replaced the ugly, rusted fence around our wonderful four . In an ironic twist, a powerful storm downed an oak tree onto the brand new fence three days after the installation was completed. Our insurance covered for replacement of the damaged portion. The courts are in very good shape and a wonderful asset that can be used in the spring and fall, even when the pool is not open.

In the pavilion area, we've added a second ping-pong table since our existing table was in constant use. The playground and pirate ship are in good shape. If you want to reserve the pavilion for a party or other large event, please contact Louisa Hoar (see page two for contact info).

Up the hill, we re-graded the area around the popular so that it's on flat ground that's even on both sides of the court.

Other changes on the grounds include removal of a giant, unsightly shrub by the baby pool and another in the middle of the steps leading down to the main pool. Getting rid of those overgrown blobs cleaned up the look of the two pools. We also had to remove a lot of damaged trees, and upgraded our security cameras.

I hate to bring up unpleasant subjects, but it's important to remind everyone (and ask them to make sure all members of the family are aware) that trespassing after hours or when the facilities are closed is a crime. It has been prosecuted in the past and would be prosecuted again in the future.

The BPRA board's regular meetings will be , and at the pavilion. We are glad to have members join us. If you have concerns or comments about the BPRA, please feel free to get in touch.

Dan Keating
President
BPRA Board

Gleanings (Continued from page 6)

Chief Manger has been with the county for 7 years & seen his number of officers grow from 1100 officers to 1151 presently. I submit that rate is far below the percentage population increase. That translates to about 1.2 officers per 10,000 residents vs. twice that nationally. The police department's budget is \$230 million for about 1800 total employees.

The States Attorney's Office has 72 attorneys handling 30,000 cases. There are about 40 gangs in the county with a membership of roughly 1500 individuals with an average age of 19. However, gangs were not found to be a major factor in crime. Sexting & bullying via the internet was termed to be rampant in the county. The States Attorney's Office focuses to a great extent on education as a primary tool in crime prevention. As to the Kennedy Cluster, members from the States Attorney's Office meet with families with issues at various schools in the cluster & refer them to the appropriate agencies for help.

(Continued page 13)

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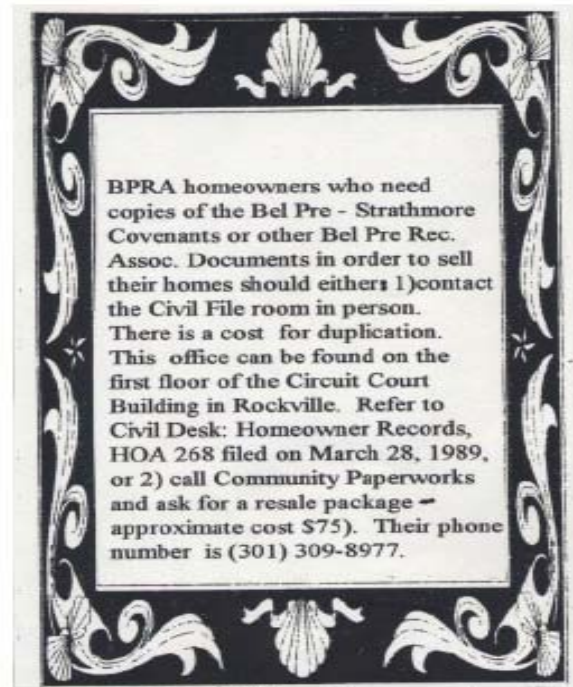
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Gleanings (continued from page 12)

The Montgomery County Taxpayer's League meeting in April was attended by Doug Prouty, president of the Montgomery County Education Association, also known as the teacher's union, plus Gino Renne, president of the union that represents the general employees of the county government. The MCEA has 12,000 members, 75% of whom live in the county; about 10,000 members are teachers. Principals & administrators are members of a different union. The general employees number 6500 and 65% live in the county. The two union leaders told League members about their backgrounds & about the activities of their respective unions. A number of questions were posed to both leaders. Space does not permit a full report on the interchanges. However, this writer must express his opinion that many grains of salt had to be taken in order to swallow the answers we heard. Suffice it to say that we all conducted ourselves in a friendly manner. The May meeting entailed a discussion of plans & strategies for publicity and membership enhancement. For more enlightenment go to:
www.mctaxpayersleague.org Try it, you'll love it...

Again, pay attention to the actions & decisions of your elected officials, especially the school board, which is often overlooked. When elections come around you'll be better prepared as to how to vote. Please remember, the most important office in our democracy is that of private citizen.



Andrea J. Lev

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