

# The Bugle



Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

March 2021

Volume 53 #1

## New BPRA Member Portal and Pool Check-In System!

by Karen Purdy, President  
Bel Pre Recreational Association

We are pleased to introduce our new online pool and community management system, which provides online access for Members accounts and for their access to the pool! Members will be able to pay their assessments, manage their accounts (family members, photos, contact information), check-in at the pool, make pool lane reservations. Plus Members can donate to the pet waste station, pay their Civic Association dues and much more.

As many of you know, LOUISA HOAR, BPRA long-time pool and facility coordinator, retired after the 2020 pool season. LOUISA handled pool passes, the pool check-in Rolodex, guest access, and pavilion scheduling. Without a volunteer to handle facility access, the Board sought ways to streamline our processes.

With the input of interested community members, the Board reviewed several software products to manage these labor-intensive activities, and selected eSoft Planner – Swim Club. ESoft has the best system to handle our needs and provides additional functions to streamline BPRA processes and allow multiple volunteers to assist with these tasks.

Online options for assessment payment, household information management, and pool access choice became available to the BPRA members in mid-February 2021 through the Strathmore Bel Pre website and the community Listserv.

– Continued on page 8 –

## Street Parking in our neighborhood?

Join the Civic Association on **April 27** at a Virtual Meeting, on Zoom, to understand county rules and regulations and discuss the best ways gain more control over our street parking. We hope to have Code Enforcement, the Parking folks and perhaps some of our County Council Members in attendance.

Make your calendars now:

Street Parking Discussion on Zoom

**April 27, 2021 -- 7:30 pm**

Check the StrathmoreBelPre.org website and the listserv for further information and the Zoom details.

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# THE BUGLE

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## Civic Association

P.O. Box 6836, Aspen Hill, MD 20916  
Annual SBPCA membership: \$18.00  
Web site: [www.strathmorebelpre.org](http://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 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*, organizes the annual Summer Market & 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 at the Mid-County Community Recreation Center on Queensguard Road (during the pandemic, meetings are on Zoom). The Civic Association's annual meeting is in November just before the BPRC annual meeting.

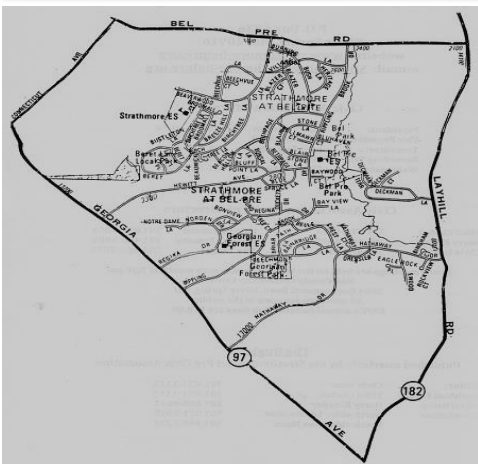
### Civic Association Officers

President: NANCY BECHTOL 301 871-3679 Secretary: LINDA BEA 301 460-0497  
Vice President: BILL HAMMOND 301 871-5074 Treasurer: JOHN BOGASKY 301 460-1604

### Civic Association Directors

ELLIOT CHABOT 301 871-1113 CHRIS SWAN 301 871-1113  
LILLA HAMMOND 301 518-7818 RITA VAUGHT 206 406-2871

Vacant  
Your name could be here!



Strathmore Bel Pre Street map

**Strathmore Bel Pre Community listserv:** To join the listserv, contact JOHN BOGASKY.

**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](mailto:billyruppert@gmail.com)

**Public Affairs Forums:** Contact NANCY BECHTOL.

**Community Directory and Summer Market & Yard Sale:**  
Contact LINDA BEA.

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Activities:** Contact LILLA HAMMOND.

# 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 courts, volleyball court, playgrounds, picnic areas, bath house, snack bar, and pavilion, which normally are open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. The tennis courts are open year round.

BPRA Board and committee meetings are announced at <http://strathmorebelpre.org/meetings>. Board meetings are normally the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, at the Bel Pre Elementary School, room 161 or 138, from October to May, or at the Pool pavilion, from June to September. During the pandemic, we're on Zoom.

The annual General Membership meeting is normally held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving Day at 7:30 pm, at Strathmore Elementary School (Zoom in 2020). The annual Town Hall meeting, co-sponsored with the Civic Association, is normally held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of December, at 8 pm, at Strathmore Elementary School.

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
MARK FORAKER (Vice President)	301 460-0632	mark4aker@hotmail.com
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CLAIRE PAK	301 602-7573	claire0618@gmail.com
MARIA (COOKIE) STAGNITTO	301 807-8983	mrstags1@verizon.net



## Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

Administrative Assistant	BRENDA HENRY	301 871-6298
Assessment Assistance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpra@gmail.com
Audit Coordinator	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Block Party & Spring Thing Coordinator	vacant	
Emergency Response & Planning Committee Chair	NANCY BECHTOL	301 871-3679
Entertainment & Recreation Committee Chair	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
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	vacant	
New Member Recruitment Coordinator	vacant	
Nominating Committee Chair	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Pavilion Scheduler	vacant	
Pet Waste Station Coordinator	JACKIE FARY-MOELLER	jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com
Pool and Recreational Facilities Committee Chair	PHIL KOMINSKI	phil@freestylebooking.com
Pool Pass Coordinator	vacant	
Pool Property Helpers Coordinator	JOE MOELLER	moellerhj@aspengroves.com
Tennis Court Keys Distributor	JIM EATON	240 743-8480
Tennis Courts Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpra@gmail.com
Trunk or Treat Coordinator	ELIZABETH KOMINSKI	elizabethinfo@gmail.com
Webmaster	BILLY RUPPERT	301 332-4901



# The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre  
Civic Association



This has been a particularly difficult time for so many this year in dealing with a worldwide pandemic which has taken over half a million lives and counting. I have always been grateful for our neighbors and our community, but especially when so many of us have needed a little extra love to get us through. Our neighborhood has always been there to help each other and support each other in times of need. A simple welcoming greeting while walking past each other, perhaps you pause in your car to let your neighbor go first, or maybe you have been able to console a neighbor who has suffered the loss of a loved one due to COVID-19. There are so many simple ways to be kind, and we need kindness especially today. I am thankful to every neighbor in our community, and I am sure everyone reading *The Bugle* this month feels the same.



## **Bugle Volunteers**

Our community *Bugles* are delivered by a few volunteers in our community who walk door to door and place our newsletters in each doorway. Both LOUISA HOAR and DAN MANN have organized and arranged for the delivery of our *Bugle* for years now, ever since I can remember. They have teams of volunteers who divide up our streets and start walking, carrying pounds of paper along the route. Covering 800 plus houses is no easy task. We are all indebted to their volunteerism and devotion to this important task. This saves

us hundreds of dollars per edition, so please thank these volunteers when you see them.

Speaking of our *Bugle*, let me take a moment to also thank both CHRIS SWAN and ELLIOT CHABOT for their dedicated service to our community and for producing and serving as editor and assistant editor of our *Bugle*. They strive to produce an edition each season which is packed with timely and relevant information about our community. They dedicate hours and hours to each edition gathering articles and making sure all content is accurate. This is no easy task! Thank you, CHRIS and ELLIOT, for all you do for our community, but especially for our *Bugle*.

## **Summer Movies**

The Civic Association Board is hopeful we will be able to program in-person activities this summer. JOHN BOGASKY is already planning his drive-in movie schedule. Maybe the movies will be able to be back on the lawn under the stars, but if that is still deemed not safe, we will have drive-in style movies this summer thanks to JOHN and his volunteers. It is just too early to plan precisely for our summer activities, but rest assured we will jump into action as soon as it is safe to plan and all be together.



In the meantime, let's be kind, wear our masks, social distance and wash our hands to reduce illness and death. This we can do. We can also choose to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors, so please extend a helpful hand and warm welcome, it will help to get us through this difficult time until we can all be together again.

# Bel Pre Recreational News

by Karen Purdy, President  
Bel Pre Recreational Association



## November General Membership Meeting

On November 19, 2020, the BPRa held its Annual General Membership Meeting, which included the election of 3 trustees, updates from the Long Term Planning and Governing Documents Committees, and a question and answer session.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and with the COVID-19 meeting rules from the Maryland Attorney General and Montgomery County Commission on Common Ownership Communities in place, the meeting was held via Zoom, and voting was done through drop-off/mail-in ballots. Thank you to Election Committee Chair DAVID PULLEN and Committee Members TED BECHTOL and BILLY RUPPERT for certifying and tallying quorum proxies and election ballots. Thank you to the Emergency Response and Planning Committee, chaired by NANCY BECHTOL, and the Governing Documents Committee, chaired by ELLIOT CHABOT, for planning the online meeting and developing COVID-19 era election rules.

Congratulations to PHIL KOMINSKI, CLAIRE PAK and MARIA "COOKIE" STAGNITTO for their election to the BPRa Board. Outgoing Board members GREG MILLER, BILLY RUPPERT, and LARRY VAUGHT did not run for re-election. Their many contributions to the board will be missed.

## December 3, 2020 Officer Elections and Town Hall Meeting

On December 3, 2020, the BPRa held a brief Board meeting to elect officers. President KAREN PURDY, Vice President MARK FORAKER, Treasurer DAVE PULLEN, and Secretary CHRIS SWAN were elected by the Board.

Following the BPRa Board Meeting, the BPRa and SBP Civic Association held a joint Town Hall meeting via Zoom. Numerous community members participated by welcoming new homeowners and discussing a number of topics including upcoming projects at the pool, the state of the community, and possible upcoming activities.



## BPRa Assessment

By now, you should have received your annual BPRa Assessment notice. The annual assessment of \$325 is due March 1, 2021. Please pay your assessment on time. Most of you do, and we thank you. If we do not receive your payment by **March 31**, your account will be subject to a \$32.50 late fee, interest of 6% per annum (\$1.63/month), and all collection costs. In addition, access to the pool and related facilities is not permitted for households

with accounts in arrears. Please see page 10 for more information from BPRa Treasurer DAVE PULLEN.

## Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA) Membership Dues

Again this year, you can pay your SBPCA membership dues when you pay your BPRa Annual Assessment. While the BPRa and SBPCA are separate entities, both associations work for the good of the community and collaborate on many community events and efforts. Combining the BPRa and SBPCA dues mailings reduces mailing costs for both the BPRa and SBPCA. Please consider supporting a great organization by joining the SBPCA. See page 4 for more information from SBPCA President NANCY BECHTOL. If you are interested in more information about what the SBPCA or BPRa do, please see pages 2 and 3 of each edition of *The Bugle*.

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# Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 763

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

## Scouting for Food Fall 2020

I was looking forward to Scouting for Food, mostly because it was going to be one activity in which not much was going to change this year. After all, picking up food that people leave on their doorstep seemed like it was already a socially distanced activity. So imagine my surprise when scout troops were not given the usual sticky notes that are distributed the week before to remind households about Scouting for Food. I can't thank CHRIS SWAN enough for coming to the rescue by working with us to place a full page of information on the last page of the past *Bugle*. That, along with a notice on the listserv, led to a record year of food collections. Of course, Manna did not have enough truck drivers that day so we ended up delivering the food directly to Manna. That gave us an opportunity to get the actual amount of food donated by weight, which came to a grand total of 1,169 lbs donated by the SBP community and neighbors. Thanks to everyone who left food donations outside, it is such a wonderful and meaningful experience for the scouts.



Scout CHRISTIAN MARTIN, Assistant Scout Master LYBBI MARTIN, and 845 lbs. of food donations

## Boy Scout Makes the Front Page

Some scouts have been staying with grandparents during the pandemic, participating with the troop in Zoom sessions and doing the same activities with their family. Boy Scout CHRISTIAN MARTIN has been in Berlin on the eastern shore of Maryland to help his grandmother. He participated in Scouting for Food with the help of his grandmother's neighbors, who were very generous. The photo shows him and his mom with the 83 bags of food collected, totaling 845 pounds of food.

Apparently, the local food pantry and local paper were so surprised that an article about it was on the front page of the December 10 *Bayside Gazette*, see it at <https://baysideoc.com/app/uploads/2020/12/12.10.20-Bayside-Gazette.pdf>.

Which makes for a grand total of 2,014 lbs of food collected by the scouts of 763. That's a ton of food! Literally!

## Flag Retirement Ceremony

As long as Pack and Troop 763 has been in existence, we have done a service project for Martin Luther King Jr. day. That was more problematic this year, so we decided to have a flag retirement ceremony. Like most troops, we are given flags in need of retirement once they have become dirty, faded or torn. Customarily, we retire these flags at a campout once a year with a formal flag retirement ceremony which culminates in the flags burned in the fire, which was the only way of retiring flags. It is a solemn, quiet ceremony where we finish by having each participant say what they like best about America.



The ATKINS family at the flag retirement ceremony

However, burning a flag to retire it is only recommended when the flag is 100% cotton. Most flags made in the past decades are at least partially made of nylon or other synthetic material. It is not recommended to burn synthetic materials since the fumes are unhealthy for the participants and contribute to air pollution. The flag retirement code has been updated to reflect this. Flags that are not 100% cotton are to be "destroyed in a dignified way" (from the flag code) and disposed of respectfully.

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# Your Dolphins

by Claire Pak

Secretary, Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins



It's February, sleeting and icy and 28 degrees outside, so of course, I'm thinking about summer and our beloved pool and the mighty, mighty Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins! 11 months ago, we could not have possibly imagined that we'd be preparing for yet another COVID summer, but here we are. We are optimistic that this summer will be better than last summer, but we are definitely preparing for the possibility that practices, meets, and other team activities will be limited. But we found a way last summer and we will find a way again this summer.

## 2020 Dolphin Dash = Durkey Dash

Speaking of finding a way, we did hold our annual 5K! It was in November rather than May, and virtual/asynchronous rather than an all-at-once race, but many neighborhood walkers and runners participated, and we raised over \$2,000 for the Dolphins! Thanks to SBP Dolphins Board Presidents ELIZABETH and PHIL KOMINSKI for planning the virtual event, and thanks also to SARA FORAKER for re-designing the t-shirt for the 2020 theme: "Durkey Dash." •Get it? Dolphin + Turkey = Durkey



Yeah, we know. But trust us, it was HILARIOUS at the time.

Anyway, because the event was asynchronous, we didn't track actual results because there really wasn't any way to be sure that all of the participants ran the entire route. So I guess anyone could have been the winner. So let's just say it was me. Ha ha! Actually, we'll declare SAMMY FORAKER as the official winner because look at that photograph. Does she not look thrilled? Congratulations to SAMMY and to everyone else who ran, walked, wheelchaired, or stroller-pushed the 2020 Durkey Dash. Here's hoping for a "real" 5K Dolphin Dash in 2021.

## Swim Season 2021

Speaking of 2021, the season is right around the corner. Registration will open in May, but if you have children (ages 4 or so through 18) who might be interested in swimming with the Dolphins this year, please contact any member of the Board, and we'll tell you everything you need to know. Summer swim team offers fun, friendship, and a genuine sense of accomplishment. The great thing about swimming is that there is always something to achieve – a time drop, a technique improvement, a first "legal" swim in a difficult event – there's always a new milestone, a new personal best. We would love to see all of our neighborhood children on the team – there is nothing like a Dolphins summer!

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### Ballou Gardening

George H. Ballou  
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# New BPRA Member Portal and Pool Check-In System!

(continued from page 1)

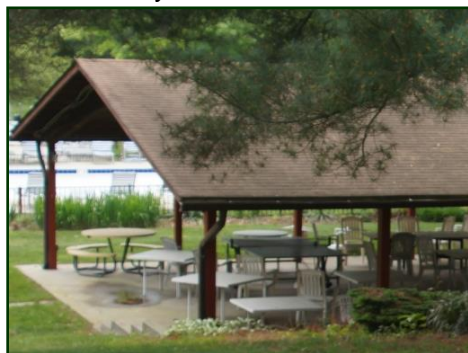
## What should BPRA members expect next?

In late April or early May, each household that provided an email address with their annual assessment form will receive an email invitation to log into their BPRA eSoft Planner account. At that time, households that selected the Household Membership option for pool access should log into their account to update household information and add family members and photos for pool admission. Season Pass holders should log into their account to review and update household information. More information will be posted at StrathmoreBelPre.org after accounts have been created. Each BPRA property will have one account. If you did not provide an email address with your assessment payment, please email your name, BPRA property address, and preferred email address to BPRAPool02@gmail.com by **March 31**, 2021.

## What if I need help with managing my account?

Step-by-step instructions for updating household information, adding family members, and uploading photos will be available on the website (StrathmoreBelPre.org). We will also hold a Zoom session in late April or early May, with a live demo of the new system followed by a Q&A period.

If we are able to hold any outdoor activities at the pool this spring, we will also be available at those events to help owners update their accounts and provide instruction on the new system.



## What will the check-in process at the pool look like?

The pool check-in process will be quick and easy. Household members will give their names to check in. Season Pass holders will show their physical pass to check in. Rather than record check-in information on paper as in years past, the guard at the gate will check each user in on a laptop or other device.

## Will there still be an option to submit information and payment by mail?

Yes. In the future, we hope more and more homeowners use the online system to update their homeowner information, choose a pool access choice, and pay their assessment. However, the existing paper system will remain available for those who wish to use it.

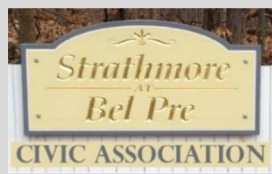
## Pool Use Reservations

At this time, we anticipate operating the pool this summer with the same COVID rules and procedures that were in place last summer. We will update our rules and procedures based on County and State guidance as we get closer to summer. If pool reservations are required, you will be able to make those reservations online by logging into your account or by calling the pool. More information and instructions will be available in May at StrathmoreBelPre.org, in *The Bugle*, and on the community listserv.

## Pavilion Reservations

Pavilion use will be dependent on the status of the COVID situation this summer. More information on how to make a pavilion reservation will be available at a later date.





2021

**First Saturdays at the Movies!**

Movies at the pool on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each summer month!

**May 1      June 5      July 3      August 7      Sept. 4**

**May 1** will be a drive-in movie. If COVID-19 restrictions allow, all other dates will be on the pool grounds. We will announce movie selections in the May *Bugle* and on the listserv.



**Please Support our Movies and Concerts!**

Our Civic Association's Summer Movies and Concerts are possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors. We recognize our 2020 sponsors below. Sponsor support pays for our costs to license movies, hire performers, and maintain our equipment. **Please contact SBP Civic Association Treasurer John Bogasky at [johnbogasky@hotmail.com](mailto:johnbogasky@hotmail.com) to join our sponsors.** Your support can help us sustain this SBP tradition.

**Summer Entertainment Sponsor Levels**

SBP Superstar	\$500
Community Champion	\$250
Oscar Winner	\$100
Band Leader	\$50
Super Fan	\$25

**The SBP Civic Association Thanks Our 2020 Summer Entertainment Sponsors!!!**

**SBP Superstars**

Rita Vaught



Tim Horst



Paulette Ladas



**The Bel Pre Recreational Association**

**Community Champions**

Lilla Hammond



Pizza Stop



Peter & Diane Kendall

**Oscar Winners**

Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot

Susan Shannon

Ted & Nancy Bechtol

Vicki Thomas & Pat Rayner

**Band Leaders**

John & Shelly Bogasky

Maury & Charlotte Potosky

Larry & Rita Vaught

Linda & Charles Bea

Jo & Chris Jennison

Janet Kisler

Paul & Maria Stagnitto

And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association

# Paying BPRAs Annual Assessment

by Dave Pullen, Treasurer

Bel Pre Recreational Association

Here are the nuts and bolts for BPRAs annual assessments, payments, and late/delinquent accounts.

## Assessments are Mailed

The 2021 mailing of the Notice of Annual Assessment was timed to reach homeowners' mailboxes no later than the end of the first week of February. If you have not received your Notice, please go to the website for a copy of the paper form OR for instructions for how to pay your Assessment online (see BPRAs President KAREN PURDY's article on page 1 for more details). As a last resort, email or call me and I'll send you a copy of the Notice and forms we need to receive from you along with your payment. My contact information is on page 3 of this issue.



## Assessments Due March 1

BPRAs fiscal year begins the first day of March and runs through the last day of February the following year. Hence, annual dues notices are sent to member-homes in February, with a payment due date of March 1<sup>st</sup>, as is fixed by our governing documents. And thankfully, most members pay on time! As of the deadline date for this issue of *The Bugle*, 63% of homeowners have made full payment, and we hope the remainder will do so before the grace period ends!

## Assessment Assistance Committee (AAC)

During the Grace Period, BPRAs homeowners in financial difficulties may request assistance through the AAC. While the actual assessment fee and any interest may not be waived or reduced, AAC may assist with a payment plan, and may waive late fees. An application form can be found on the BPRAs website, or call or email me. My contact information is on page 3 of this issue.

## Grace Period Ends March 31st

While payments not received by March 1 are delinquent, BPRAs policy allows a 30-day grace period, ending **March 31**, to receive payment without penalty. If BPRAs has not received payment by **March 31**, then on **April 1** those accounts accrue interest at the rate of \$1.63 per month, retroactive to the March 1 due date and accumulating monthly until the Assessment is paid. Also on **April 1**, a one-time late fee of \$32.50 (10% of the Assessment amount) is assessed each unpaid account.

## Delinquent Accounts

Over the following months, we'll send a delinquent homeowner *up to* three letters providing an updated statement of the current balance and requesting immediate payment of that balance.

## Delinquency Past the End of August

If BPRAs has not received payment by the end of August (the halfway point of our fiscal year), and the homeowner has not requested, nor the Assessment Assistance Committee approved, a payment plan, the Treasurer then refers those accounts to legal counsel for collection. Once counsel is engaged, BPRAs will communicate with the homeowner only through its attorney, and any settlement must include full payment of all outstanding fees owed *plus* legal fees/expenses incurred to that point (which may easily double or triple the amount owed). If no settlement is negotiated, ultimately the Board will authorize its attorney to proceed to court for judgment, where BPRAs seeks a formal court order compelling the homeowner to pay all accumulated fees and expenses associated with the claim.

## Assessment Collection Policy

BPRAs Collection Policy, along with guidelines and applications for Assessment Assistance Committee relief can be found on BPRAs pages of the community website.

# Our Backyard Woodpeckers

by Cecily Nabors

Intense investigation of tree-trunks, bounding undulating flight, and rat-a-tat volleys: we're talking about woodpeckers! Tree-cleaners and gleaners, bug-zappers. As a family, woodpeckers all have chisel beaks, strong skull bones, a long sticky tongue curled inside the skull, and zygodactyl feet (two claws forward, two back), with stiff tails to prop and stabilize against tree trunks. Woodpeckers communicate both vocally and in rhythmic tapping or drumming. They are all cavity-nesters.

We have six neighborhood species: downy, hairy, red-bellied, and pileated woodpeckers; northern flicker; and yellow-bellied sapsucker. If you're near woods, such as along the Matthew Henson Trail, you may see pileateds and sapsuckers, but here are the four species likely to be seen in most of our SBP yards all year.

## Downy Woodpecker

Our smallest and most common woodpeckers, downies have white backs and undersides, black and white wings and tail. Their white outer tail-feathers have black dots on them. Males have a splash of red on the



backs of their heads. Downies' stubby beaks are adept at nabbing beetles and other insects from under chips of tree-bark. They're small enough to dig into galls on plant stems and leaves.

## Hairy Woodpecker

The downy's larger cousin, the hairy woodpecker is dressed in the same natty black-and-white, but has a much larger beak and no black dots on the tail feathers. (In the photo, the hairy is left of the

downy and more distant.) Hairies are less common than downies and shyer, with a higher-pitched call (*peek! peek!*). Their primary food includes beetles, spiders, and caterpillars. Hairies are less likely to frequent open suburban yards, preferring patches of woods.



## Red-bellied Woodpecker

The reddish flush on its belly feathers is hard to see; a better name might be "red-capped." The cheerful noisy red-bellied is a treat in the yard, as it churrs and hoicks itself along a tree trunk. About the size of hairies, they have black-and-white barring on their backs and tail-feathers, set off by a red "ribbon" on their heads. These woodpeckers eat insects and larvae, fruit, and grain, and have been observed caching acorns and seeds.

## Northern Flicker

Our big boisterous brown-backed woodpecker; watch for the flash of bright yellow under their wings. Both males and females have a red crescent on their napes; the male sports a manly black "mustache." Flickers are famous (or infamous) for springtime volleys of drumming on gutters or any other resonant object. These birds are frequently seen on the ground, probing into anthills and lapping up the contents; ants and their larvae make up about half their diet. Flickers even let ants crawl under their feathers; formic acid acts as a pesticide for parasites.



All our woodpeckers will visit suet and peanut feeders. Now that spring approaches, courtship calls. Let the drumming begin!



# Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 5)

## Pet Waste Station Donation

Please consider making a small donation towards the Pet Waste Station located near the tennis courts when you pay your assessment. The Pet Waste Station, which is funded entirely by donations, gets a lot of use and having it helps keep our common areas clean.



## Pool Access Options

Each household is entitled to choose one of two options for using the pool facilities. Please make sure you indicate your choice and return the Assessment form to the BPRRA or submit your choice online. See page 1 and [StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment) for more information about online options.

- **Household (default option):** admission for all individuals residing in your home and as allowed by the BPRRA Recreational Facilities Policy (adopted 11/10/2020). In order to use the pool and related facilities, household census information, including names and photos of each household member must be on file.
- **2 season passes:** Each pass will admit one person and must be shown to gain access.

If you do not make a choice, you will be enrolled in the Household option. Access to the pool and related facilities is not permitted for households with accounts in arrears.

## Online Payment and Information Submittal Options

New this year, you can submit all the information requested on the annual assessment form online in our new Member Portal and online system. See page 1 for more information about the ESoft Planner system and [StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment) for more information and instructions on how to submit your information and/or pay your assessment online.

## Volunteers

The BPRRA is always looking for members interested in volunteering. Currently, we are looking to fill a number of positions including Pool Pass Coordinator, Pavilion Use Scheduler, Block Party and Spring Thing Coordinator, Dispute Resolution Committee Chair, and Webmaster.

If you are interested in any of these positions, 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](mailto: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](mailto:mark4aker@hotmail.com). He can answer any questions you may have about serving on the Board.

– Continued on page 14 –

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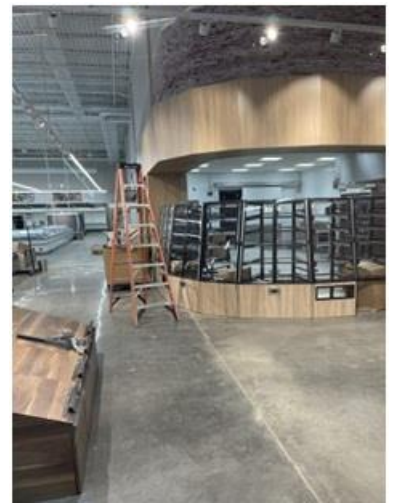
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Gill's will pick-up and deliver your vehicle from your driveway here in Strathmore Bel Pre!

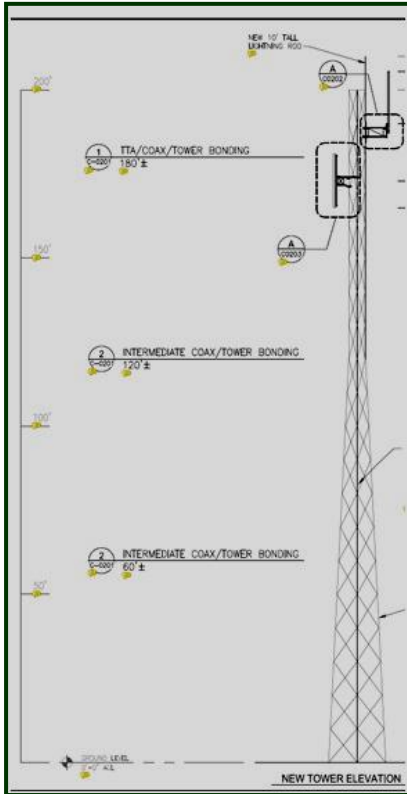
# Notes from the Glenmont Exchange

by John Bogasky



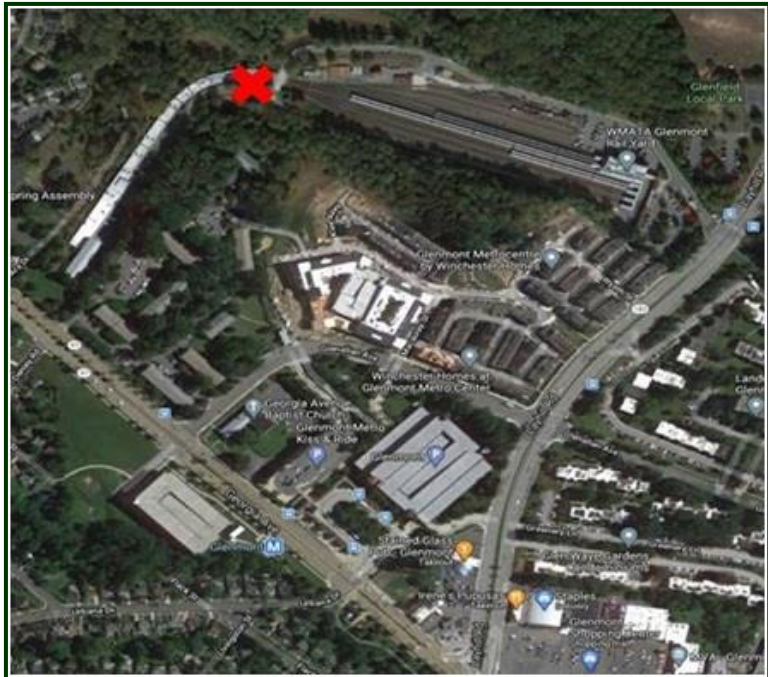
## Lidl Opens

The reconstruction of the old Shoppers Food Warehouse location in Glenmont has been proceeding since last summer. Like Aldi, Lidl is a discount international grocery store that is based out of Germany. Lidl stocks a wide variety of goods, from fresh food to clothing to tools. Lidl opened at the end of February and with 4 weeks of opening specials, according to its weekly flyer. Lidl recently opened a new store in Takoma Park, with another planned to open this Spring in Montgomery Village.



## Glenmont Metro Radio Tower

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Montgomery Planning Board approved Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) proposal MR2020004 to construct a 200 foot communication tower in the center of the Glenmont Metro Rail Yard. The tower is part of a federally-mandated plan to move WMATA communications to a 700 MHz band for all buses and rail in its service area. You can see the approximate location of the planned tower in the picture below.

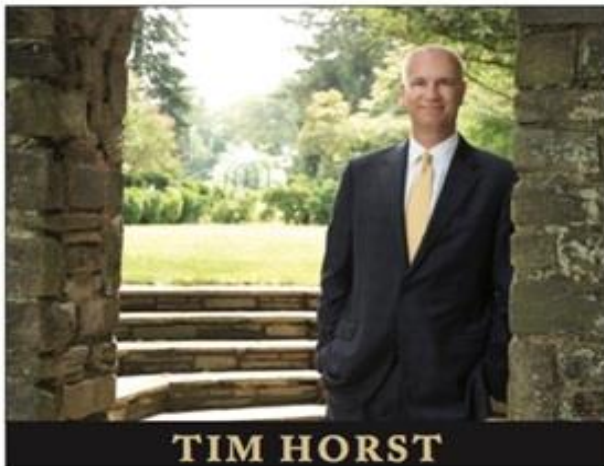


– Continued on page 18 –



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Strathmore at Bel Pre  
neighborhood for  
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complimentary American Flag  
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during the holiday season!*



O: 301.424.0900

## Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 12)

### BPRA Board Meeting Schedule

The BPRA Board of Trustees normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 pm. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all BPRA meetings, with the exception of facility walk-throughs, will be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Please see [StrathmoreBelPre.org/meetings-meeting-minutes](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/meetings-meeting-minutes) for updates.

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. If you would like to attend a Board meeting, please contact me at [klpurdy@hotmail.com](mailto:klpurdy@hotmail.com) or 301-603-9604, no later than 4pm on the day of the meeting to be added to the participants list and get Zoom log in information.

The BPRA Board will meet on the following dates in 2021:

**March 2, April 6, April 10** (9am, property walk-through\*), **May 4, May 15** (10 am, property walk-through\*), **June 8, June 22** (if needed), **July 6, July 20** (if needed), **August 3, August 17** (if needed), **September 11** (10am, property walk through\*), **September 14, September 28** (if needed), **October 5, November 2, December 7.** (\*if allowable per COVID-19 guidelines. Face coverings and social distancing required.)

The Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, **November 18, 2021** at 7:30pm.

### Pool Opening - Summer 2021

At this time, we anticipate the pool will open at noon on Saturday, **May 29, 2021**, with the same COVID rules and procedures that were in place for Summer 2020. We will update our opening date and rules and procedures based on County and State guidance as we get closer to summer. Updates will be posted on [StrathmoreBelPre.org](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org) and shared via the SBPCA Community listserv, SBP Dolphins listserv and in the May issue of *The Bugle*.

– Continued on page 16 –



## Your Dolphins (continued from page 7)

### Support Much Appreciated

If you are in a position to make a financial contribution to the team, we will be very grateful. Your support helps us to defray expenses, including coaches' salaries, league dues, software, equipment, and supplies. Contributions are tax-deductible (tax ID 26-1493052).

If you would like to mail a contribution, our address is

Strathmore Bel Pre Swim Team Association  
P.O. Box 9292, Silver Spring, MD 20916-9292

But even if a financial contribution is not possible, we hope that you'll continue to cheer us on. Please also bookmark our website, and check it frequently for updates: <https://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com>

### Contact Us

Again, if you have any questions at all about the Dolphins, how to participate, how to help, how to volunteer, or how to get one of those amazing t-shirts, contact any member of the Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins Board of Directors:

- ELIZABETH and PHIL KOMINSKI, Co-Presidents: [elizabethinfo@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethinfo@gmail.com) & [phil@freestylebooking.com](mailto:phil@freestylebooking.com)
- CHRIS HUFFINE, Vice President: [huffine@gmail.com](mailto:huffine@gmail.com)
- CLAIRE PAK, Secretary: [claire0618@gmail.com](mailto:claire0618@gmail.com)
- DENISE REYES, Treasurer: [casareyes1@gmail.com](mailto:casareyes1@gmail.com)
- KAREN PURDY, "A" Meet Manager: [klpurdy@hotmail.com](mailto:klpurdy@hotmail.com)

We appreciate your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at the pool in May — it's just a few months away!



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Paulette was born and raised in Montgomery County and has lived in Strathmore Bel Pre Community for 23 years. Paulette specializes in listing and selling residential homes and has sold over 1,000 homes. Her areas of expertise are managing repairs and spruce up to prepare your home for sale, 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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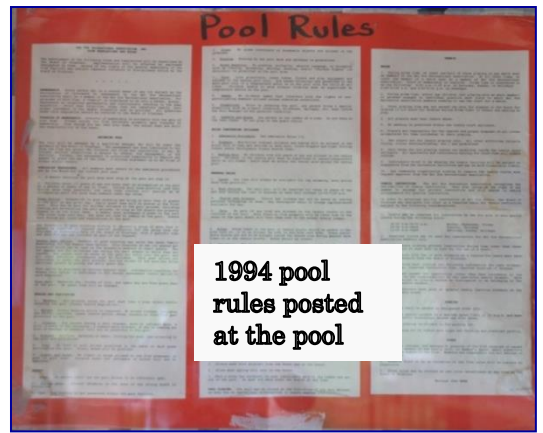


# Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 14)

## New BPRR Recreational Facilities Policy

On November 10, 2020, the Board adopted a new Recreational Facilities Policy. The last update to our rules was done in 1994. The Governing Documents Committee has been working on reviewing and revising the pool, tennis court, and pavilion rules since early 2018. Thank you to Committee Chair ELLIOT CHABOT and the entire Governing Documents Committee for undertaking this huge effort. The new policy can be found on [StrathmoreBelPre.org/government-documents](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/government-documents) under the heading Rules for Pool and Facilities Use and will be posted at the pool. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the rules before the start of the 2021 swim season.



## Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for more information about drive-in movies and other possible outdoor events this spring and summer.



## Tennis Court Repairs

As many of you are aware, the tennis courts have been in need of repair for quite some time. The Tennis Courts Committee has been working diligently for a number of years to obtain reasonable bids from contractors to repair the courts. We are now in the process of negotiating a contract for tennis court repair and anticipate the work being done this spring.

The project includes repairing cracks, eliminating low spots to prevent standing water, converting one tennis court into two pickleball courts, and resurfacing and restriping the entire fenced in court area.

### A few items of note during these repairs:

- The courts will be closed for the entire duration of the project. We will change the locks on the tennis courts during construction. Once the project is complete and the courts are open for play, the current tennis court keys will work again.
- The expected duration of the project is 2 - 3 months. This may change based on the weather.
- The tennis court work is temperature- and weather-dependent. We anticipate starting in late spring.
- After the project begins, there will be gaps between phases of work to allow materials to properly cure before the application of the next material or layer. The courts cannot be used during those cure periods and will remain locked.
- Information about the courts' closure and reopening will be posted at the courts, at [StrathmoreBelPre.org](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org) and sent out via the SBP Civic and SBP Dolphins listservs.



Pickleball anyone?  
Coming to  
Strathmore Bel Pre  
in 2021!



## Scouts (continued from page 6)

### Eagle Scout Projects

Although more difficult, Eagle Scout projects are getting done during the pandemic. NALINA ATTANAYAKE added seating around a fire pit area for the use of the youth groups at the Church of Christ at Manor Woods on Norbeck Road. The project was comprised of creating a retaining system for the existing soil and gravel as well as seating arrangements around the fire place. Geotextile cloth was used to create the retaining system while garden blocks and wooden planks were fixed for the seating. The entire project took three days due to COVID-19 limiting the amount of participants per day as well as how long they were expected to stay out. NALINA says, "This project was especially important to me considering the Church of Christ at Manor Woods was where I did cub scouting and received my Arrow of Light."



On the left side is NALINA with his parents and sister; on the right side is Assistant Scoutmaster BILL TOTEN with NALINA's younger brothers (and fellow scouts) MALINDU and ADITHYA, with fellow scout MICHAEL FERNANDES on the far right

## *There's no such thing as a 'Spring Market' in 2021... anytime is a good time to sell!*

- ◆ Inventory is still at record lows, with buyer demand at record highs. Anyone who wants to sell their home will be in a good position to do it quickly and for a good price.
- ◆ Low mortgage rates means this is the perfect time to move up or downsize your current living situation for an affordable price.
- ◆ In such a competitive market, the seller has the upper hand. This can be advantageous when it comes to negotiating terms, repairs, moving dates and more.

**For More Information, Please Call Lilla or Michael Hammond**



**Lilla Leike Hammond, *GRI, CRS***

Direct: 301-518-7818  
Lilla@LNF.com

**Michael A. Hammond, *REALTOR***

Direct: 202-271-9089  
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# Glenmont Exchange

(continued from page 13)

The Planning Board hearing on the Glenmont Metro Radio Tower also addressed the status of plans to extend Glenfield Local Park into the undeveloped forest lands north of the Glenmont Metro Rail Yard, as recommended in the 2013 Glenmont Sector Plan approved by the County Council. The undeveloped land in question includes two portions owned by WMATA.



Planning staff suggested that WMATA, as part of this Mandatory Referral, may want to transfer their portion of the designated area to the Department of Parks for master plan consistency and to minimize the operation and maintenance burden associated with the subject parcels. Future Department of Parks use of this parcel would be limited to conservation parkland and a potential natural surface trail loop originating from Glenfield Local Park. Staff forwarded the Parks Department recommendation to the Applicant. Further coordination will be needed between WMATA and the Parks Department to define a process to implement this Sector Plan recommendation in the future.



## Aspen Hill Kmart Closing

Kmart announced that its Aspen Hill store will close permanently in the next few months. The Aspen Hill Kmart was the last remaining Maryland location for the discount big-box department store. Kmart closed its other Montgomery County location, in the Kentlands neighborhood in Gaithersburg, back in September 2017. Liquidation sales began on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

We have no indications of what may be next for the Kmart site.

## New Traffic Light Planned for Randolph & Heurich

The County plans to add a traffic light at this intersection right by the Glenmont Elementary School entrance. The new light should be installed within the next 12 months. In the meantime, the County has installed an unmarked crosswalk and median standing area to help people who want to cross.



### Advertise in *The Bugle*!

Four times-per-year, *The Bugle* reaches all 750+ homes in our Strathmore Bel Pre community. Call or email John Bogasky ([johnbogasky@hotmail.com](mailto:johnbogasky@hotmail.com)) or 301-980-3215) to arrange your ad in *The Bugle*!

Bugle Ad Sizes	Annual Price	Single Issue Price
Business Card	\$ 140	\$ 50
Quarter Page	\$ 200	\$ 70
Half Page	\$ 250	\$ 85
Full Page	\$ 325	\$ 125

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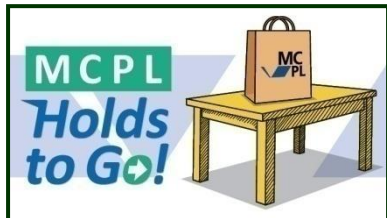
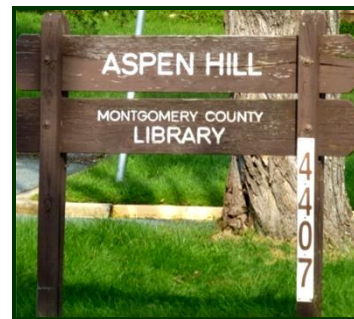


# Aspen Hill Library News

by Chris Swan

## March 24, 7 pm to 8 pm Your Key to the Aspen Hill Library under the COVID-19 pandemic

Learn how to read e-books and newspapers, listen to music, watch free movies – all through the use of your Library Card. Aspen Hill Agency Manager CHRISTINE FREEMAN and Head of Adult Services MARK SANTRO will present the nuts and bolts of the Library's services and databases, such as Hoopla and Overdrive, Holds to Go and Book Bundles. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/3uZPZ9S>.



### Library Hours and Services

All Montgomery County Libraries remain closed to actual visits inside the buildings. Online and virtual services are flourishing, as are some in-person services: physical circulation services (Holds to Go) and telephone reference questions (Ask a Librarian).

All Libraries currently have these hours for Holds to Go and Ask a Librarian:  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10 am to 6 pm  
Tuesday and Thursday 12 noon to 8 pm



### Book Bundles ONLY at the Aspen Hill Library

With your Montgomery County Library Card, you use the Library's Holds to Go system to borrow books, magazines, CDs, etc. Use the Library's catalog to select your items to borrow. Then put your choices on hold and when they are ready, pick them up at your desired Library (Aspen Hill or otherwise). But what if you do not know an author or title? Simply call the Aspen Hill Library and ask for the staff to put together a Book Bundle for you. You can ask for something specific such as pizza cookbooks, historic murder mysteries, the latest biographies of Presidents, or as general as toddler board books, some new fiction with happy endings, math made easy books, and so on. You can ask for a few books or many! And if you do not like the choices, simply return them!

### No Fines

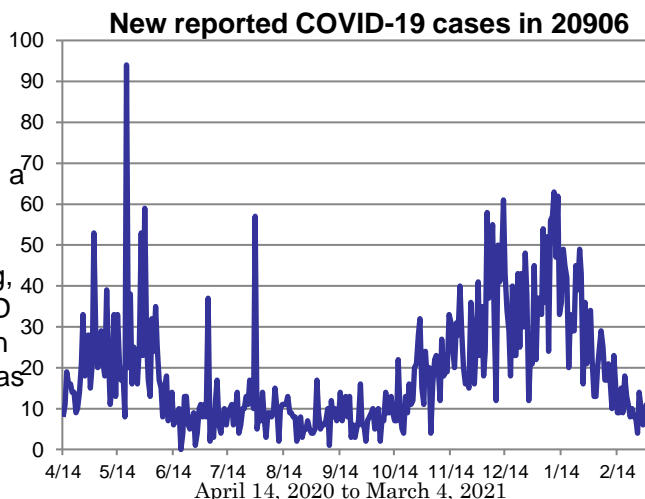
The Library system has abolished ALL fines for overdue items. As long as you return your Library materials in good shape, you will not incur any costs. If your dog chewed on the book, however ...

## 20906 and COVID-19: Update

by Elliot Chabot

The number of new COVID-19 cases in our zip code spiked between December 14 and January 12, hitting a high of 63 new cases on January 10. Since then, the number of new cases has been on a fairly steady decline through the beginning of March. At this writing, however, we are still experiencing a more new COVID cases in 20906 than we were during last summer. On a per capita basis, the number new cases in 20906 has exceeded the new case rate county-wide.

As of March 4, 2021, zip code 20906 has had 6,254 COVID-19 cases.



– Continued on page 21 –



**Nursing Homes**

The following new cases and COVID-related deaths have been reported in congregate living facilities within 20906 during the 5-month period between early November 2020 and early March 2021:

	Staff cases	Staff deaths	Resident cases	Resident deaths
Aspenwood Senior Living Community	19	0	4	1
Bedford Court	22	0	10	3
Bel Pre Health Care Center	20	0	19	1
JK House of Grace	2	0	6	0
Layhill Center	14	0	9	0

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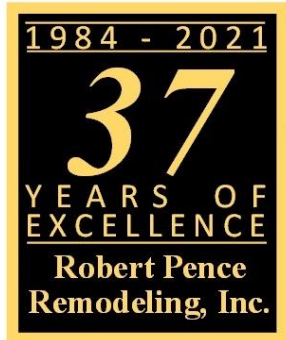
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# STRATHMORE BEL PRE JULY 4th 2021 CELEBRATION!!

Every year, our Strathmore-Bel Pre Community comes together to celebrate our country's birthday with a flag ceremony, parade and other fun entertainment!

Please see below for several ways you can help! Just call or email us!



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

Our events last year included the Scouts with a Flag Ceremony, our first-ever Patriotic Car Parade, and the Kids' Art Contest.

COVID-19 pandemic health and safety restrictions will decide the extent of our 2021 July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

Yes, you can participate! Call or email us with your ideas, interests, and abilities.

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Help Our Community Celebrate on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021!**



**YES! Please count on me ...  
...to help with Strathmore Bel Pre's July 4th Celebration!**

\_\_\_ Setting up \_\_\_ Registration \_\_\_ Safety \_\_\_ Flag Ceremony \_\_\_ Wrap up  
\_\_\_ Other Assistance \_\_\_\_\_ My ideas

**Call Bill Hammond at 301-509-4621 or Lilla Hammond at 301-518-7818**

**OR**

**Email: [w.m.hammond@verizon.net](mailto:w.m.hammond@verizon.net) OR [Lilla.hammond@verizon.net](mailto:Lilla.hammond@verizon.net)**

**Co-Chairs of our Strathmore Bel Pre July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

**THANKS VERY MUCH!!! We look forward to hearing from you!**

# Your Survey: the Future Version of *The Bugle*

The COVID-19 pandemic, with its health and safety measures, has sent us home and further into an online world. Printing paper copies of *The Bugle* is more expensive, causing Civic Association funds to diminish. Our economy has grown tighter, resulting in fewer advertisers to support the printing costs of *The Bugle*. Additional actions may be necessary to fund *The Bugle*, such as a dues increase or some electronic distribution. Hence the Survey! Please do fill this out.



## Bugle Survey - Spring 2021

Thank you for filling out this survey, which will help us understand how best to serve the SBP community.

Please return to the SBP Civic Association at PO Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20916.

Web option: You may alternately complete the survey online here: <https://forms.gle/SJT5P1NrmMBJgBJ7A>

### 1. Which one best describes how you look at the Bugle? I typically...

- Read it cover to cover
- Read some and skim/flip through some
- Skim or flip through it, but don't really read it
- Mostly ignore it

### 2. Do you typically look at the Bugle using the delivered copy, or a PDF (whether emailed to you or opened from the SBP website)?

- Usually only the PDF
- I use both, but the PDF is more useful
- I use both and find both equally useful
- I use both, but the delivered copy is more useful
- Usually only the delivered copy
- Not applicable; I rarely read the Bugle.

### 3. If you read the PDF of the Bugle, is it typically the one emailed to you, or from the SBP website?

- Mainly the emailed PDF
- Both PDF versions about equally
- Mainly the website PDF
- Not applicable; I rarely use the PDF versions

### 4. Below is a list of topics you might find in the Bugle (or maybe not). For each, please indicate if you'd like to see more or less of this sort of information in each issue. (NOTE: By "local" we mean in the general vicinity of SBP, but not in SBP itself. For example, Plaza del Mercado or Glenmont Metro station.)

I'd like more of this	I'd like about the same	I'd like less of this	Information about...
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Recent SBP events
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Upcoming SBP events
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Recent local events
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Upcoming local events
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Schools/PTAs in or near SBP
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SBP Dolphins events
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SBP Scouting or other non-Dolphin youth events

– Continued on page 24 –



# Bugle Survey (continued from page 23)

## 4., continued (see previous page for directions)

I'd like more of this	I'd like about the same	I'd like less of this	Information about...
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SBP seniors events
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Local libraries
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Profiles of SBP residents
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Crime report
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SBP and local wildlife
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Home improvements specific to SBP models
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	SBP covenants/local code
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Local building or roads projects
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Gardening/landscaping

## 5. Do you have any other specific comments on the CONTENT of the Bugle?

## 6. Are you interested in only being emailed a PDF of the Bugle, and NOT getting a physical copy, to reduce printing costs? (Assume this would not happen immediately, but sometime in the next year)

- Yes, definitely
- Probably
- Not sure
- Probably not
- No, definitely not

## 7. The Bugle is in need of volunteers in varied areas. Please select whether any of these interest you.

- Help deliver the Bugle in your immediate part of SBP
- Take photographs for the Bugle
- Write articles for the Bugle
- Look for advertisers for the Bugle

## 8. If you checked one of the above opportunities, please leave your email address.

## 9. Do you have any other specific comments on the DISTRIBUTION of the Bugle?

Thank you for filling out this survey, which will help us understand how best to serve the SBP community.

Please return to the SBP Civic Association at PO Box 6836, Silver Spring, MD 20916.

Web option: You may alternately complete the survey online here: <https://forms.gle/SJT5P1NrmMBJgBJ7A>