

# The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

October 2021

vol. 53 #4



## Trunk or Treat

October 30

7 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Pool Parking Lot  
Bethpage Lane

Arrive at 6:30 p.m. to  
set-up your Trunk!

Questions, contact ELIZABETH KOMINSKI. See page 3 for her contact information.

**FUN for all!**



## It's Annual Meeting Time

All On Zoom

**Thursday, November 18**

**Civic Association Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

**Rec Association Meeting 7:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, December 7**

**Town Hall Meeting 8:00 p.m.**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all of our November and December meetings will be held Virtually, on Zoom. Recreational Association Members will receive the Zoom information with the Annual Meeting mailing this month. Civic Association members should contact JOHN BOGASKY for the Zoom information.

## Rec Association: Quorum is Needed

Please return your ballots **BEFORE November 18**, to create a quorum! On the ballot are 4 candidates for 4 seats, and an amendment to the By-Laws. See page 5 for the details.

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# THE BUGLE

PUBLISHED BY THE STRATHMORE BEL PRE CIVIC ASSOCIATION SINCE 1969

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## Civic Association

P.O. Box 6836, Aspen Hill, MD 20916-6836  
Annual SBPCA membership: \$20.00  
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* and the community directory; maintains the community listserv; 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 BPRA annual meeting.

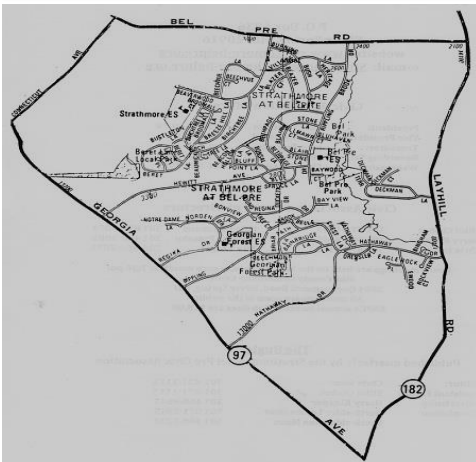
### Civic Association Officers

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

BPRA Board and committee meetings are announced at <http://strathmorebelpre.org/meetings>. Board meetings are normally the 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 (on Zoom in 2021). 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
DAVE PULLEN (Treasurer)	301 598-2521	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
CHRIS SWAN (Secretary)	301 871-1113	cswan@usa.net
TED BECHTOL	301 871-3679	tedbechtol@yahoo.com
STEVE JENNISON	301 919-9278	hsjennison@gmail.com
CLAIRE PAK	301 602-7573	claire0618@gmail.com
MARIA (COOKIE) STAGNITTO	301 807-8983	mrstags1@verizon.net
VACANT		



## Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials

Administrative Assistant	BRENDA HENRY	301 871-6298
Assessment Assistance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Audit Coordinator	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Block Party Coordinators	CLAIRE PAK and MARIA (COOKIE) STAGNITTO	(contact info is above)
Emergency Response & Planning Committee Chair	NANCY BECHTOL	301 871-3679
Entertainment & Recreation Committee Chair	CHRIS SWAN	301 871-1113
Finance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@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	MARIA (COOKIE) STAGNITTO	301 807-8983
Pool Pass Coordinator	vacant	
Pool Property Helpers Coordinator	JOE MOELLER	moellerhj@aspengroves.com
Tennis Court Keys Distributor	JIM EATON	240 743-8480
Tennis Courts and Pickleball Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@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



## Summer Fun Recap!

Before we head into our fall season, let's reminisce a bit about our fabulous summer season. Boy, did we have a lot of safe fun! So many devoted volunteers dedicated themselves to planning safe events for us all to enjoy. We owe so many our thanks and praise, as these folks enabled a very successful swim season to occur, a memorial luminaries event to honor those who died due to COVID in Montgomery County, a car parade to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, six movie nights at the pool, a shred-it event, a fall yard sale, and a memorial tree event to honor MAURY POTOSKY.

All of these events have one thing in common, they all took neighbors who choose to give back to their community by devoting a little time to making something happen so that we can all enjoy time together doing something fun. I am very proud of these folks, and their work is what makes our community so very special.

## Your Ideas and Efforts Are Welcome

If you have an idea for an event or a group or are interested in an issue, and would like to make it happen, just let me or anyone on the Civic Board know about this idea. We will support you in your efforts to make it happen. You do not have to join the Board to volunteer. Just want to help out? Folks always are needed to support our activities, so there is always a role for anyone to assist. Find an event you are passionate about, and just let us know that you are willing to assist.

## Join the Civic Association Board

The Civic Association has many openings on our Board, so, please consider running for the Board. It is such a great group of people and a lot of fun to serve in this capacity. I promise you that we will not overwork you! Luckily for all of us, we share the workload and we all manage the activities for which we are passionate. Some of these activities are behind-the-scenes tasks such as the creation of our Community Directory. LINDA BEA produces our Community Directory every other year, and has been doing so for many years. This is a tremendous amount of work, but something she loves to do for our community. Please do let me know if you might be interested in joining our board. You also are welcome to attend a few of our monthly meetings to check out how we operate, we would love to have you! We currently are meeting on Zoom, the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month. Check out page 2 for further details!



## Support the Scouts – Cub and Boy Scout Pack and Troop 763

The Civic Association sponsors our local Boy Scouts Pack and Troop 763 ! You will find them supporting us at many, if not all, of our events. They are often front and center in our activities, working to set up our events, providing entertainment, leading flag ceremonies and memorials, feeding us with popcorn and meat sticks. They also clean trash from our nature trails and collect food from our neighborhood for the local food bank. They are learning how to become good citizens by actively participating in our neighborhood. We owe them our gratitude and our support.

## Annual Meeting: Montgomery Police will present

I look forward to virtually seeing everyone at our Annual Meeting, **November 18**, and our Town Hall Meeting, **December 7**. Both meetings will be on Zoom. We are planning to host a community liaison from our police department to discuss current crime in our area and look at the trends so we can all be as prepared and safe as possible. Everyone needs to continue to be vigilant and safe with COVID too. Vaccination is key and will help us all get through this pandemic together. I hope to see many of you on the trail and at our annual meeting.



# Bel Pre Recreational News

by Karen Purdy

President, Bel Pre Recreational Association



## Upcoming Meetings – November and December

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, all Recreational Association (BPRA) meetings through the end of 2021, including the Annual Meeting, will be held via teleconference on Zoom. There are currently 2 general meetings scheduled for this fall: the joint Civic (SBPCA) and BPRA Annual General Membership Meetings on **November 18** and the joint SBPCA and BPRA Annual Town Hall Meeting on **December 7**. Information for joining these meetings via telephone, computer or other device will be included in the 2021 Annual Meeting Notice mailed to each member household during October. If you have not received your Annual Meeting Notice by **November 1**, please contact Treasurer DAVE PULLEN at treasurer4bpbra@gmail.com or 301-598-2521.

More information about each meeting is below. Additional information and helpful links can be found on StrathmoreBelPre.org.

## BPRA Annual General Membership Meeting, Thursday, November 18, 7:30 pm, via Zoom

The main order of business during the annual meeting will be the election of 4 BPRA Board Trustees. We will also present the BPRA Annual Report and 2022-23 Budget, vote on a proposed By-Law Amendment, and have time for questions. More information on the proposed By-Law Amendment can be found on page 12.

## Annual Strathmore Bel Pre Town Hall Meeting, December 7, at 8 pm, via Zoom

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



## BPRA Annual Elections

The BPRA Board of Trustees is a 9-member body elected at the Annual General Membership Meeting. Each member is elected to a 3-year term. The terms are staggered, so that 3 members are elected every year. This year, due to a recent vacancy on the Board, we will be electing 4 Board members. 3 candidates will be elected to 3-year terms, while 1 candidate will be elected to complete the 2 years remaining in the term of vacant Board seat. The candidates with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd highest vote counts will be elected to the 3-year terms. The candidate with the 4th highest vote count will be elected to the 2-year term. We have 4 candidates running for those 4 seats: TED BECHTOL, STEVE JENNISON, AUNG "ROD" OO and KAREN PURDY. Thank you all for volunteering.

## Ballots

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 BPRA Board of Trustee Elections will be held via mail-in or drop off ballot. Ballots will be mailed to each member household with the Annual Meeting Notice in October. Election instructions and additional information can be found on the reverse side of the ballot and at StrathmoreBelPre.org.

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

– Continued on page 6 –



# Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 5)

## Proposed By-Law Amendment Vote

We will be using the same ballots for Trustee Elections and the vote on the By-Law amendment. Results of the By-Law change vote will not be available at the Annual Meeting, but will be posted on StrathmoreBelPre.org and at the pool within one week of the completion of the elections. Please see page 12 for more information about the proposed By-Law change

## Spring Projects

The BPRA completed two major facility projects this Spring. Both projects were anticipated by the BPRA Five Year Plan.

**Main Pool Filters** – This project consisted of the replacement of the main pool filters and related piping. The existing pool filters were more than 25 years old and had reached the end of their useful life. Thank you to JOE MOELLER for coordinating this project.

**Tennis Court Repairs** – This project included 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. Thank you to the Tennis & Pickleball Court Committee, chaired by DAVE PULLEN, for coordinating this project and for their hard work leading up to this point. Thank you to GEORGE USHER, whose passion for tennis led to creation of the Committee and its early efforts to identify solutions/contractors, to KAREN BROWN, SOL LOPEZ, MARIA & PAUL STAGNITTO, DAVE PULLEN and GEORGE USHER for reinstalling nets on all courts, to SOL LOPEZ for procuring two new tennis court nets at no cost, STAN SACHAR for his support of the project and committee, and to JOE MOELLER, his family, BSA Troop 763 and all the neighbors who helped remove and then reinstall the tennis court backboard.

## Summer 2021



This summer, while not quite back to business as usual, was a successful and fun summer.

Thanks to our many volunteers for making our summer successful:

- ☐ JOE MOELLER and family for performing many pre-season tasks around the pool and grounds and for coordinating with contractors on several projects
- ☐ TED BECHTOL for keeping our grounds in good shape and coordinating tree pruning and removal throughout the property
- ☐ CARMEN WONG for taking on the role as Season Pass Coordinator
- ☐ TED BECHTOL, DAVE PULLEN and BILLY RUPPERT for battling rusty nuts and bolts to replace numerous signs throughout the parking lot.
- ☐ The EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE for putting preliminary 2021 rules together
- ☐ The BPRA BOARD for the many meetings dealing with the ever-changing COVID guidance and restrictions

– Continued on page 16 –





# Dolphins News

by Claire Pak

No one could ever have predicted a second consecutive COVID summer! Fortunately, we were able to hold an almost-normal swim season in 2021. A little social distancing, a few masks, and we were back in business for a short, but real, in-person season. The Dolphins finished third in the ever-competitive Prince-Mont Swim League B Division, and we won the Saum-Hilton Memorial Trophy, awarded to a small team that outperforms its seeding. We are the little swimming engine that could.



## Successful 2021 Swim Season

Our successful season was due in large part to our great coaching staff of Head Coach LILAN MILLER, First Assistant Coach OLIVIA MILLER, and Assistant Coaches CARSON TAYLOR, CAMILLE BEARMAN, and IAN VIRGA. This coaching team managed another year of COVID restrictions, a new practice schedule, a new pre-team (the Lil Dolphins), and a team of boys and girls ages 4 through 18 with enthusiasm and grace. And after 9 years on the coaching staff and many more years as one of our all-time best swimmers, Coach LILAN is retiring from the Dolphins. We can't thank her enough for her hard work and dedication to our team and our swimmers, especially during the very challenging lockdown summer of 2020, when the Dolphins were among the very few summer swim teams to compete at all. Assistant Coach OLIVIA MILLER is also moving on from summer swim, after five years as a coach and a long and illustrious career as a Dolphins swimmer. We will miss these two beautiful and brilliant sisters, and we expect to see them cheering on the deck next summer! This off-season, the search for a new Head Coach will be our top priority.



## New League Champions!

This summer, the Dolphins competed successfully in three regular-season A meets, two B meets, the B Division Championship, and the Prince-Mont All-Stars Meet. And we are very proud of our TWO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS! Mr. TYLER KOMINSKI is the PMSL LEAGUE CHAMPION in both Boys' 12U IM and Boys' 11-12 Backstroke, and Miss SOPHIE DEBACKER is the PMSL LEAGUE CHAMPION in Girls' 8U Breaststroke. Congratulations also to our record-smashing Boys 15-18 Medley Relay--CARSON TAYLOR, ERIK STAGGS, IAN VIRGA, and CHRISTIAN JENKINS broke the team record on July 17; and then CARSON, ERIK, IAN, and MICHAEL FERNANDES broke the record again a week later on July 24! The team of TAYLOR, STAGGS, VIRGA, and FERNANDES went on to a third-place finish at All-Stars.

## Lil Dolphins – Developmental Swimming Program

All of this swimming success has to start somewhere, and that is why we reorganized our developmental program this year. The Lil Dolphins is a group lessons program that allows little swimmers to learn basic swimming skills and to progressively move on to learn the competitive strokes. As Lil Dolphins swimmers gain proficiency, they move into the Novice practice, with the goal of competing in meets by the end of the summer. Thanks to Coach OLIVIA for reimagining our pre-team as a progressive learning program and getting that new program off to a successful start.

We are in full recruitment mode, so if you have children who want to swim and compete with the Dolphins, now is the time to think about **Summer 2022!**

– Continued on page 13 –

# Scouting

by Jackie Fary-Moeller

## Scouting for Food – November 13

As always, the Pack and Troop will be collecting any non-perishable food or personal/hygiene items that you would like to donate, especially oatmeal, whole grain pasta, dried or canned beans, canned meat (such as tuna or chicken), cooking oil and spices, canned vegetables or canned fruit, baby food or formula. Personal hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc., also are welcome. No glass containers, please.

Just place your donations in a bag or box, and put them by your front door by 9:30 am, on **Saturday, November 13, 2021**. It would help us out greatly if you could attach the back page of this *Bugle* (or a page labeled Scouts) to your donation. That way we will not confuse your donation for a food delivery, which has become much more common in the past 2 years. Questions - contact JACKIE FARY-MOELLER at [moeller@aspengroves.com](mailto:moeller@aspengroves.com) or call/text 301-458-5095



## Support the Scouts!

It has been a tough year for nonprofits to do fundraising, which is why Scout Pack and Troop 763 appreciate your purchase of popcorn at all the outdoor movies. In addition to still selling the popcorn, we also are selling meat sticks that come in flavors such as teriyaki, bbq, Cajun, pepperoni, hickory, etc. They are \$1 each and only 70 calories. If you like them and want to order a large amount, let me know and I can place an order and deliver it to you.

## Cub Scout New Fundraiser

And, the Cub Scout Pack (elementary age kids) is doing a new fundraiser, which is to collect your gently used donations. Anything that

you would take to a second hand store can be donated to the pack instead. We are especially interested in clothing (including shoes, hats, accessories), backpacks/purses and textiles such as blankets, sheets, towels, etc. We also take household goods such as dishes and other kitchen items, decorations, toys, small appliances, small furniture, electronics and sporting goods. We then get paid by the pound for what we collect.

If you have donations and would like them to be picked up, email JACKIE at [jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com](mailto:jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com) or call/text me at 301-458-5095. You can also drop off at my house anytime without advance notice at 2812 Blue Spruce Lane (I am close to Bel Pre School).

Many thanks on behalf of Cub Scout Pack 763, sponsored by the SBP Civic Association!



## Advertise in The Bugle

*The Bugle* reaches all 750+ homes in the Strathmore Bel Pre Community four times per year. Call John Bogasky at 301-460-1604, or email him at [johnbogasky@hotmail.com](mailto:johnbogasky@hotmail.com) to ask about advertising in *The Bugle*

Bugle Advertising Rates	Annual Rate	Single Issue Rate
Business Card (1/8th page)	\$ 140	\$ 50
Quarter Page	\$ 200	\$ 70
Half Page	\$ 250	\$ 85
Full Page	\$ 325	\$ 125



# BPRA Season Pass Option For Pool Use ??

by Karen Purdy  
BPRA President



Currently, the BPRA has two options for pool use:

1. **Household Membership:** All eligible, specific household members can access the pool. Eligible members must be listed in your account and have photos on file in our pool check-in system, eSoft Planner.
2. **Season Pass Membership:** Each BPRA member household that selects this option will get two physical, generic season passes to show to enter the pool. Each pass admits one person and must be shown each time you come to the pool.

The BPRA board is considering eliminating the Season Pass pool option, with the intent of also accommodating the needs of those who currently use it via adjustments to the Household Membership Option.

Some of the reasons for this are as follows:

- Recent pool rules updates have greatly increased the number of people considered free guests
- Recent turnover in the neighborhood
- The time and money required to manage, produce, and mail the season passes
- The general lack of volunteers willing to take tasks on moving forward
- Continued efforts to streamline and automate our processes

Before we make a decision, we want to better understand how the Season Pass option is used. If you used this option in 2021, we invite you to fill out a short survey in one of two ways:

1. Online (preferred): Visit [StrathmoreBelPre.org](https://forms.gle/EE3KD2Hts5h7j1Ht6) for a link or go directly to <https://forms.gle/EE3KD2Hts5h7j1Ht6>
2. On paper: Complete the questions below and mail to BPRA, P.O. Box 6370, Silver Spring, MD 20906

## **BPRA Season Pass Survey**

Did you use the Season Pass option in 2021?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Please check all the reasons you use the Season Pass option, as opposed to the Household Membership.

☐

I am the only person in my household, and I like being able to bring a guest without paying an extra fee.

☐

When relatives come to visit, I like being able to give my passes to them to use without paying an extra fee.

☐

I never use the pool and give the passes to friends or neighbors to use.

☐

I am not good with computers and setting up the Household Membership now seems cumbersome.

☐

I have always used the Season Passes and do not want to change.

☐

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please leave any comments you have about the Season Pass option:

# July 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 Strathmore Bel Pre Community Celebration!

by Lilla Hammond



This year's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration was a great success! It was exciting to see so many of our neighbors come out to enjoy our community's second July 4<sup>th</sup> Patriotic Car parade. As you know, last year was a first. We took the chance again. Would we have a good turn-out again? The answer was a resounding "Yes!" According to several sources, we are pleased to report that a much larger number of neighbors – possibly several hundred - came out to wave and cheer our parade on. The local Fire Station Twenty-five's firemen and emergency personnel were great, too! Their enthusiasm was contagious! You could hear their horns and sirens as they made their way throughout our community. And, the cars following the fire truck added the celebration.



## Flag Ceremony

We are again grateful to our Troop 763 Scouts for an inspiring flag ceremony just before the start of the parade. Leaders included: JOE JENKINS, Troop Scoutmaster; JOE MOELLER, committee Chair for Troop 763; BILL TOTTEN, Cubmaster, Pack 763; SUSAN PLANO-FABER, Troop Leader; and, JACKIE FARY-MOELLER and SHARON TOTTEN for their support.

Scouts: LUCAS MOELLER AND K.L. PLANO-FABER raised the flag.

## The Patriotic Car Parade Leaders and Volunteers:

Captain CLINTON KRAFT's team from Fire Station 25 led the parade.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration committee and those who helped were: DANIEL FLOYD, CHRIS JENNISON, BILLY RUPPERT, RITA VAUGHT, JOHN BOGASKY and JACKIE MOELLER. BILL and LILLA HAMMOND were the co-chairs.

Car Paraders included JOHN BOGASKY, JOHN BOGASKY, JR., ELLIOT CHABOT and CHRIS SWAN, JOE JENKINS, CHRIS and JO JENNISON, DANIEL FLOYD, SR. and DANIEL FLOYD, JR., BETH LEWIS, CRAIG MESSNER, SUSAN PLANO-FAVER, DAVIS TYNER, RITA VAUGHT and BILL and LILLA HAMMOND.

## Awards for the Best Decorated Cars and the Winners

**First Prize Award:** BETH LEWIS received a \$50 gift certificate from Pizza Stop (Plaza Del Mercado) and its owners, brothers ROD OO and LIN OO, who also live in our community.

**Second Prize Award:** SUSAN PLANO-FAVER (troop leader) won the \$30 gift from Sisters' Sandwiches & Such (16834 Georgia Avenue in Olney) and its owners AJITH WELLAGE and RAVI ABEYNAYAKE.



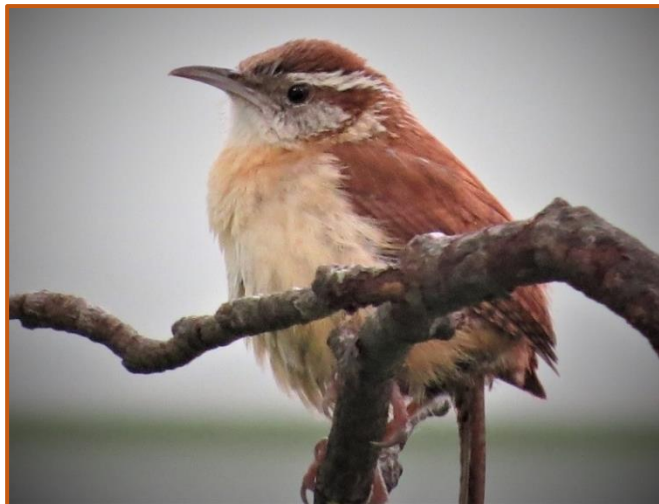
**Third Prize Award:** CHRIS and JO JENNISON received a \$20 gift card for a local restaurant.

A great big THANK YOU!! goes to our prize sponsors and all those who helped make our 2021 Strathmore Bel Pre July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration such a patriotic and fun-filled event!!

# Wren Friends

by Cecily Nabors

What's that small brown bird with the cocky attitude and the huge voice? It's a Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. The largest of our Eastern wrens, the Carolina Wren is our only wren for all seasons. (Winter Wrens come down from the north in winter, House Wrens come up from the south in summer.) A Carolina Wren's decurved bill and white eyebrow stripe make it easy to identify; the long cocked tail seems to show off the cinnamon plumage the birds wear year-round.



Carolina Wrens get my vote for most decibels of voice per gram of bird, and they sing any time of year. Only the males sing, with the rhythm of their most-quoted melody being a loud, piercing *tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle*. Males and females may keep in touch with a chattery trill.

Since Carolina Wrens are with us all year, and mate for life, they constantly claim and defend their territories. Males countering in challenge-duets, blasting out songs from neighboring patches. One will sing a phrase and then pause while the other sings a phrase. In their trumpet-clear voices the musicians are politely alternating a demand: "Stay out of my territory!" Wrens are also world-class scolders, fussing loudly at any threat to their nest-sites.

Insects and spiders make up the bulk of a Carolina Wren's diet. As they flip through leaf-litter, they'll pick up the occasional snail or millipede, but their standard fare features most of our garden pests.

Wrens are intrepid investigators. Because of their high metabolism rate, and possibly their own natural curiosity, wrens are always on the hunt: running, hopping, poking and probing into everything, and trilling as they go.



Snowman Joe is an object of deep interest to the wrens that winter in our yard

## Inviting and Feeding Wrens in the Fall and Winter

How do such small birds make it through the northern winter? Like other birds, wrens fluff out their feathers to trap the warm air near their bodies. They seek shelter in evergreens or tree-hollows, in narrow windless stream valleys, and sometimes in barns or sheds. Even with these strategies, though, Carolina Wrens are not very hardy. They find most of their food near the ground, so heavy snow and icy temperatures can be devastating. This species is one that is really helped by our suet feeders.

Besides stocking well-filled feeders, you can lure wrens and their insect-eating ways to your yard by finding a spot for a brush pile. While doing yard cleanup this fall, leave as much leaf-litter as you can. In addition, if you make a loose pile of sticks and branches with some access gaps, it will help wrens and other small birds find shelter from wind, weather, and hunting hawks.

Long may Carolina Wrens eat our bugs and fill our gardens with cheerful exuberant song!



# By-Law Amendment On the November BPRA Ballot – BPRA Fiscal Year Dates Change Proposed to Match the Calendar Year

by Dave Pullen  
BPRA Treasurer



BPRA's current fiscal year runs from March 1 to February 28/29.

Based on a recommendation from the Recreational Association (BPRA) Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees, at its September 14 meeting, voted unanimously to send a proposed By-Laws amendment to a BPRA Membership vote at the November 2021 annual meeting. The proposed amendment to By-Law Article XVI, § 1 that would change the BPRA Fiscal Year to coincide with the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. The date for the Annual Assessment will not be changed under this amendment, remaining March 1.

**The proposed Amendment would amend Section 1 Article XVI to read:** The fiscal year of the Association shall coincide with the calendar year, upon proper application to, and approval to do so by, the Internal Revenue Service.

## Why the change?

- ✓ **The dates for the BPRA fiscal year will be easier to understand.** Most homeowners think in terms of calendar year, January through December, when thinking about their financial planning. For example, the United States federal and state income tax years are based on the calendar year. Aligning BPRA's financial year to the calendar year synchronizes BPRA with the "normal" financial planning cycle of most members. In addition, our previous auditors recommended making this change several years ago.
- ✓ **The BPRA budgeting process will be easier.** BPRA's budget year is based on its fiscal year. Making the budget year align with the calendar year would make understanding the budget simpler. A homeowner would immediately understand it is for the next calendar year without having to think about exactly what time period it covers.
- ✓ **The work to handle the funds will be simplified, which should reduce bookkeeping fees.** Assessment Payments are required to be paid by March 1, for the start of the current BPRA fiscal year. BPRA members Annual Assessment payments also must be applied to the CORRECT fiscal year.

Currently, we send Notices of the Annual Assessment payment in mid-January (per our Pool Covenant Article V, § 8). Happily, we receive upwards of 85% of BPRA Member payments before March 1! Yet, these payments are received in the outgoing BPRA fiscal year, BEFORE the fiscal year for which the payments will apply. Accounting for these pre-March 1 payments complicates the work of BPRA's accountant and bookkeeper. One must first enter the prepaid assessments into a separate pre-paid account, and then after March 1, move the dues into the correct fiscal year assessment account. This requires additional bookkeeper/accountant time and thereby adds additional costs for BPRA members, since BPRA homeowners are the source of 99% of all revenue for the organization (the remaining 1% being guest fees). In sum, by changing the fiscal year to match the calendar year, but retaining March 1 as the Assessment due date, we save the expense associated with entering the same data twice and reduce the possibility of data entry error along the way.

**Please vote "YES" on the proposed By-Law Amendment when you cast your Annual Meeting Ballot!**

## Congratulations

Let's recognize our 2021 high-point and coaches' award winners.

## High Points

### 8 & Under

#### Boys

LEVI MANEL (first place)  
CHARLIE TINNIN  
tie with  
ARI POPADICH

#### Girls

SOPHIE DEBACKER  
ELORA BREEDEN  
OLIVIA HUFFINE-WRIGHT

### 9-10

#### Boys

BEN PURDY  
XAVIER HUFFINE-WRIGHT  
TOBY REYS

#### Girls

HARPER KOMINSKI  
LEILA DEBACKER  
EVIE HARRISON

### 11-12

#### Boys

TYLER KOMINSKI  
ANDRE NAPPER  
JONAS DURAN

#### Girls

JANIE SPELMAN  
GABI REYES  
LIZZIE STONE

### 13-14

#### Boys

GRAHAM WICK  
LUCAS MOELLER  
LIAM STONE

#### Girls

TESSA MILLER  
MAIA ANTONIO  
CLAIRE PURDY

### 15-18

#### Boys

ERIK STAGGS  
CARSON TAYLOR  
IAN VIRGA

#### Girls

CAMILLE BEARMAN  
SARAH SIEGLE  
LIZETT INGA

## Coaches' Awards

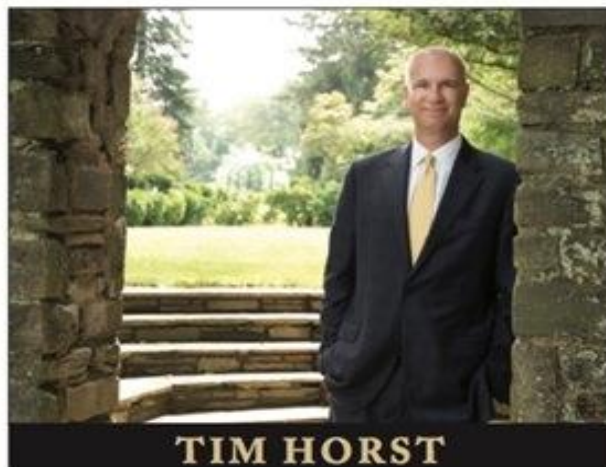
### Most Improved

GRIFFIN COOLEY  
-- (8 & Under)  
MELANY ROMERO (9-10)  
DANTE UPTGROW (11-12)  
LIAM STONE (13-14)  
EVAN PAK (15-18)



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# Dolphins News

(continued from page 13)

**Hardest Working Novice:** CHARLIE TINNIN

**Hardest Working Junior:** BEN PURDY

**Hardest Working Senior:** WYATT KENT

**Most Spirited:** CARSON TAYLOR, CAMILLE BEARMAN, IAN VIRGA

**Most Valuable Dolphin:** CARSON TAYLOR

## Swimmers of the Year

TYLER KOMINSKI (Boys)

HARPER KOMINSKI (Girls)



## FUN FACT

TYLER and HARPER are not the only two siblings to win this award in the same year. HOWEVER, they are the only two sibling Swimmers of the Year whose parents (BOTH PARENTS) were also once Dolphins Swimmers of the Year! BETH (COYLE) KOMINSKI and PHIL KOMINSKI both won this award back in the day!

## Graduating Seniors

NOLAN WICK

EAMON HOYE

CARSON TAYLOR



Congratulations to all of our award winners and thanks to ALL of our swimmers for their dedication, their spirit, and their love of the water. We are so proud of you.

## WE WANT TO SEE YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON THIS LIST NEXT YEAR!

Visit our website ([sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com](http://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com)) to learn more about the team and how your children can participate, or just reach out to any member of the SBP Dolphins Swim Team Board of Directors:

ELIZABETH and PHIL KOMINSKI, Co-Presidents: [elizabethinfo@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethinfo@gmail.com) and [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 interest in the Dolphins, and we look forward to seeing you at the pool **in May 2022**--it's just eight months away!



## BlocktoberFest is BACK!!

Sunday afternoon, **October 8**, 3 pm to 6 pm on Rippling Brook Road, between Bel Pre Elementary School and the Matthew Henson Greenway. The rain date is Sunday, **October 17**, 3 pm to 6 pm.

Once again, our superb Strathmore Bel Pre Block Party is/was happening! The Boy Scouts will provide the tables and chairs, and some fall fun. Bring yourself, bring some individually packaged snacks or individually wrapped homemade treats, and your own beverages. This is a great way to meet your neighbors, catch up on the recent news, enjoy some yummy snacks, hang out on a lovely fall afternoon, and have fun!



# New Law Mandates Reserve Study Requirements

by Dave Pullen  
BPRA Treasurer

In 2021, the Maryland Legislature enacted HB 567/MC 03-21. The legislation imposes new requirements on Montgomery County homeowner associations (HOAs), including our Recreational Association (BPRA). The law mandates that HOAs must conduct reserve studies and that they must fund their recommendations. Reserve Study funds are required to be planned and reserved to address impending and future capital improvement/replacement/maintenance. The law further requires that each reserve study must be conducted by a qualified firm/person(s), and details the required qualifications.



## Pursuant to the new law, BPRA must

- Fund and complete **by October 1, 2022**, a new Reserve Study prepared by certified professionals detailing its anticipated future needs
- Fund and complete updated Reserve Studies at least every 5 years thereafter (3 years is recommended)
- Include and disclose Reserve Study costs and their Findings/Recommendations in its annual budgets distributed to its members
- Fully fund and execute the maintenance/replacement recommendations as detailed in its first (and following) Reserve Studies

The statute establishes a “new standard of care that HOA Boards must meet if they expect to prevail in any regulatory or civil action regarding their behavior in planning for proper maintenance or replacement of the facilities/properties for which they are accountable”, according to attorney SCOTT SILVERMAN, a speaker at a Montgomery County Commission on Common Ownership Communities (CCOC) webinar on the new law.

While CCOC webinar panelists estimated initial Reserve Studies to cost \$3,000-5,000, BPRA believes that the initial costs to have a reserve study may be considerably higher. The initial Reserve Study is the most comprehensive. Further, there are upwards of 750 HOA's in Montgomery, all competing for the services of the relatively few firms which conduct such work. Funding for the initial Reserve Study required by the new law will be included in BPRA's draft FY 2023 Budget that will be included in the Annual Meeting Notice package mailed to all BPRA homeowners in a few weeks.

## BPRA Advantage

It should be noted BPRA does enjoy a significant advantage, both in the scope of the Reserve Study and in the needed funds to be set-aside. The 2019 report created by BPRA's Long-Term Planning Committee (LTPC) identified likely future needs for our common property. On the basis of that report, and Long-Term Planning Committee Chair (now BPRA President) KAREN PURDY'S presentation at the 2019 annual meeting, BPRA members authorized step-increases in the Annual Assessment rate. Those increases were designed to meet the identified needs. So we are already ahead of the curve in preparing for future costs. Hopefully, the firm with which BPRA contracts for its Reserve Study will be able to use and build upon the LTPC's comprehensive assessment in arriving at its formal conclusions.

A final key message delivered by CCOC webinar panelists is worth repeating here: either no/little reserves, or too much reserves, can impact home sales in a community. Lenders (both refinance and new sales) are becoming more aggressive in looking at HOA reserves when making their lending decisions. And, of course, the condominium's roof and wall failures in Florida serves as a warning to the effects of no/delayed actions.

# Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from page 6)

## Fall 2021 Activities

We're happy to report that we are planning on holding several fall activities in conjunction with the Civic Association this year:

- **September 25** – Shred-it and Yard Sale
- **October 2** – Drive-In Movie: In the Heights
- **October 10**, 3 to 6pm – BlocktoberFest  
(Rain Date is **October 17**)
- **October 30** – Trunk or Treat

Check the front page for more information about Trunk or Treat.



## BPRA Board Meetings

The BPRA Board of Trustees normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 pm. All members of the BPRA are welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings of the Board. A 15-minute period at the beginning of each meeting is normally reserved for members of the Association to speak on any issue you feel is important.

## 2022 Tentative Board Meeting Schedule

The BPRA Board will approve the full 2022 meeting schedule at its **January 4, 2022**, meeting. The tentative meeting schedule for remainder of the first half of 2022 is **February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7**.

See StrathmoreBelPre.org for updates.

– Continued on page 20 –

## Aspen Hill Library News

by Elliot Chabot



### Candidates Forums – at the Library OR on Zoom

In November 2022, we will elect our state and local officials. The primary election is June 28, 2022.

The current 2022 schedule for Aspen Hill Library candidate forums:

<b>March 2</b> - County Council	<b>March 10</b> - County Council
<b>April 7</b> - County Executive	<b>April 28</b> - State Legislature
<b>May 12</b> - if needed	(District 19)

IF there are a lot of County Council at-large candidates, then we will use **March 2 and 10** for those candidates, and use **May 12** for the District 3 and 4 candidates. If there are not a lot of at large candidates, then we will use **March 2** for at-large candidates and **March 10** for District 3 and 4 candidates.

The forums are planned to be held in the Aspen Hill Library Community Room, if it is available. If not, the forums will be held on Zoom. For Zoom sign-on information, and to present your questions for the candidates, please contact [AspenHillForums@gmail.com](mailto:AspenHillForums@gmail.com). For more information about the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library, contact [AspenHill@folmc.org](mailto:AspenHill@folmc.org).

The forums are part of the Aspen Hill Public Affairs Series that started in 1984, and are sponsored jointly by the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association, Aspen Hill Civic Association, Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee, and the Glenmont Exchange

## Life in Strathmore Bel Pre Photo Contest!

Simply take or collect your best photos of life in our community! Winners of the contest are eligible to receive prizes, and their photos will be published in *The Bugle*, and featured on the Strathmore Bel Pre website. Enter now and often!!

### The Rules:

1. To enter, please email your photo to: [echabot@usa.net](mailto:echabot@usa.net) by **January 1, 2022**.
2. Please put **Bugle Photo Contest** as the Subject Line.
3. Photos must be at least 940 pixels wide by 410 pixels high, and should be in JPG or PNG format.
3. Winning entries will be chosen by a panel of your neighbors.
4. Prizes: First prize \$60 Second prize \$40 Third prize \$20
5. More than one photo per person may be submitted, but only one prize may be won per person.
6. All submissions become property of the Civic Association, which may use them on the website and in *The Bugle*.



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# Little Free Library

by Katalin Korossy

I had wanted a Little Free Library (LFL) for years.

I have always loved books, but when I became a nanny and then an aunt, I particularly began to collect books for the sole purpose of passing them on. LFL's have been good sources of books for both myself and others, and I always stop when I come across one. (For those unfamiliar, LFLs are little cubbies of books which you can take from and leave books in as you wish.) Privately, I wished I could host one, but I am not handy, and they are not cheap to buy ready-made, so I didn't hope to fill that wish.



Last year, however, my family got together and bought me one. It took us a while to assemble and paint and decorate it--all seven little nieces and nephews took part, and my mother drew a beautiful Hungarian design on the front--and meanwhile we were also preparing to move to 3232 Birchtree Lane. It was a month after our move, on June 1, that we finally unveiled the little library in our yard.

I had plenty of books to fill it, and divided it between adult and kids books. But since then, I've tried to let the community dictate its contents as much as possible. Our neighborhood seems to skew most toward literary fiction, with some interest in non-fiction and young kids books (no teens--yet!). As the "steward" of the LFL, I make sure donations aren't inappropriate or in bad shape, fill big gaps, and sometimes put away some books for later when the library gets too full. At the moment, there are a few other extras in there: a DVD, a couple of coupons for free dinner kits, and some bookmarks.

I don't see most of the people who stop by the library, although my family members report in when they do, but I check it almost every day and enjoy seeing what's claimed and what's left. I think a few people have even used it to get rid of some old books, and that's totally fine: what the library can't use, I donate to the Friends of the Library (MoCo) bookstore (another great source for books!). The LFL isn't about me; it's meant to be there for the community. But I get so much pleasure and satisfaction from seeing it in action.

I hope you'll stop by. Or, better yet, considering starting your own!

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# **Recreational Association (BPRA) to Bear All Credit Card Fees Related to Online Payment of the 2022 Annual Assessment**

**by Dave Pullen**

BPRA Treasurer

The BPRA Board of Trustees has voted to bear 100% of the credit card transaction costs associated with online payments of the 2022 Annual Assessment. In 2021, those costs were shared between BPRA and the homeowner.



The online payment system is one feature of a homeowner's eSoft Planner account for managing their pool access. In 2021, the system was available from mid-February through the end of March – essentially from start-to-finish of the Assessment collection “grace period” (the period during which payments can be made without incurring penalties and fees for “late” payment under the BPRA Assessment Collections Policy). We are exploring whether in 2022 the online payment option can be extended for paying delinquent accounts as well.

“We strongly encourage homeowners to make their Assessment payments through the online payment system,” said BPRA President Karen Purdy, “since doing so gives a homeowner the maximum flexibility for managing that cost within their monthly household budget, while also reducing BPRA direct and indirect costs associated with receiving, processing, and accounting for paper check payments. Our greatest hope is that eventually, all Assessment payments are made electronically. 2022 will be the ‘test case’ for whether absorbing transaction costs associated with online payments will accelerate movement in that direction.”

## **How Our Community Can Sponsor a Refugee Family**

**by Arpad Korossy**

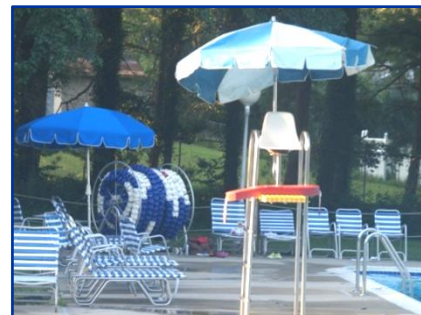
Like many of you we're grateful to live where we are - not just here in our community at Strathmore at Bel Pre, but here in the United States where we can enjoy so many invaluable freedoms and such incredible plenty. Being so blessed, our hearts go out to those who haven't been able to enjoy the same opportunities, or who have been uprooted from friends and family and lives they have known and forced to start over in unfamiliar places surrounded by unfamiliar people - as many of our ancestors did. And while there are sadly always refugees needing to seek asylum here or elsewhere, there's of course a tremendous number of refugees right now fleeing the sad circumstances in Afghanistan, and coming to the U.S. and elsewhere, with more than fifty thousand refugees currently being processed through military bases across the country, and thousands more waiting to arrive. These refugees are being processed by the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, but they depend on private organizations to partner with them to assist with helping these new arrivals get back on their feet, and this is where we can help!

One of these organizations is LIRS, the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Although they are religiously based, the work they do is not, and all are welcome to help. Though there are many opportunities to assist as individuals (see <https://www.lirs.org/help-our-afghan-allies/>), they are also looking for communities of all kinds to co-sponsor refugee families with them. This is a more significant commitment, with interested communities being asked to commit to at least a year of helping a family with various needs and with navigating the various administrative processes they need to get established, and also a commitment to raise a modest amount of money to help with initial expenses - between \$3,000 and \$7,000.

Would you be interested in giving something back in this way, and helping welcome potential new Americans to our area? If you'd like to volunteer, or just ask for more details, please contact me at [korossy.arpad@gmail.com](mailto:korossy.arpad@gmail.com)! Thank you!

## Seeking Volunteers

The BPRA is always looking for BPRA members interested in volunteering. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees, or volunteering in some other way, please contact the appropriate committee chair listed on page 3 of *The Bugle* or contact me at [klpurdy@hotmail.com](mailto:klpurdy@hotmail.com)



We are currently looking for the following:

- **Website Review Team** – We are looking for several people to work together to perform a comprehensive review of the BPRA webpages on [StrathmoreBelPre.org](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org), and make recommendations on updates, edits, and additions with an eye toward providing the information that BPRA members request and find useful.
- **eSoft Planner Coordinator(s)** – We are looking for one or more people with strong computer and organizational skills to assist with the administration of eSoft Planner. eSoft Planner is our Pool check-in and online assessment collection system. The coordinator(s) will interact with the BPRA Board, pool staff and BPRA members. The bulk of work will be performed between February and September, with significant interaction with BPRA membership in March, May and June.
- **Pavilion Scheduler** – Schedules pavilion use. This person interacts with the BPRA Board, pool staff and members. The bulk of the work will be performed between April and August.
- **Webmaster** – This person maintains the [StrathmoreBelPre.org](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org) website. Knowledge of Squarespace, or similar platform, is desired but not required.
- **Long Term Planning Committee Members** – We need BPRA members to help with the planning of the recreational facilities. IF you have any architecture or engineering background, that would be very helpful.

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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 Association—Annual Board Members Election

## 2021 Candidates 4 positions – 4 candidates

### Ted Bechtol



1. **Age (optional):** Retired
2. **Occupation:** Landscape management. I worked at a variety private, non-profit, local and federal government facilities.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** We have lived in the Strathmore Bel Pre community for 32 years and raised two girls here.
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** Most recently I have served on the Board for two terms. Previously, in the 1990's I served for about 10 years.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** I see the function of the Recreational Association to be responsibly caring out all regulations and By-Laws of the community, including fiduciary responsibility, with transparency.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** I see the Board made up of committed members working collaboratively in managing the organization and its physical assets. My particular interest is improving the physical facilities and the landscape in order to provide a safe and pleasing environment for all activities, a community amenity.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore-Bel Pre?** I think that the Board can build a stronger sense of community by supporting as possible a wide variety of activities and events generated both internally and presented by other community individuals and organizations.

### Steve Jennison

1. **Age (optional):** 66
2. **Occupation** Automotive Management (Retired)
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 36 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community)?** I am currently a member of the Board of Directors with my 3 year term expiring this year. This is currently my 4th term on the Board of Directors.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** To maintain the Strathmore Bel Pre community pool, tennis court facility & grounds.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** I believe that the Board of Directors should represent all Strathmore Bel Pre Rec. Association members and govern in the best interest of everyone.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore-Bel Pre?** Offer a variety of activities & events for community members to join, if so desired.

– Continued on page 22 –



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

# Bel Pre Recreational Association–Annual Board Members Election

## 2021 Candidates      4 positions – 4 candidates

(continued from page 21)



### Rodney Oo

1. **Age (optional):** 50
2. **Occupation:** Restaurateur
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 8 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** Operated the snack bar at the pool for Summer 2021.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** Upkeep of the neighborhood and maintain all the good work established by the previous members.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** Establish new and creative ideas to build relations with our neighbors during these unprecedented times.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore-Bel Pre?** More community events, create a welcoming committee and volunteer opportunities for those interested.

### Karen Purdy

1. **Age (optional):**
2. **Occupation:** I am currently a stay at home mom of 3 kids and an (almost) full time volunteer. I have a degree in Civil Engineering with experience in Construction Management (roads, bridges & buildings) and Construction Dispute Claims and Resolution.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 20 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I have served on the BPRA Board and been the Chair of the BPRA Long Term Planning Committee since February 2018, and I have been BPRA President since December 2019. In those positions I spearheaded the successful campaign to increase the Annual Assessment, securing the financial future of the association; developed the first Five Year Plan for BPRA facilities; with the BPRA Treasurer, led the implementation of the new online BPRA eSoft Planner portal for pool check in and online assessment payment; worked to streamline BPRA procedures; and successfully led the development and implementation of COVID era policies and procedures. I have been the Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins Swim Team A Meet Manager since 2016. In that time, I have worked to increase our parent volunteer participation, created a new team website, worked with the Dolphins Board and coaches to make important policy decisions for the team and with the Dolphins Board, successfully developed and implemented COVID era policies and procedures for practices, events and swim meets. I am a past Bel Pre School PTA Book Fair Chair for two schools, a past PTA Treasurer and past Board Member of a co-op preschool (6 years on the Board, 5 years as Treasurer.) In addition, I volunteer in my children's schools as needed, and as time permits.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association?** I believe the most important function of the BPRA Board is to maintain and upgrade our aging facilities in a fiscally responsible way.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Recreational Association?** I believe the Board should continue its focus on maintaining and upgrading our facilities and continue to automate and streamline our systems, outsourcing certain tasks to ease the burden on our volunteers and create a sustainable management system for our community. The Board should encourage more member involvement in the Board and Committees to expand our volunteer base.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore-Bel Pre?** I would continue to offer community activities such as the BlocktoberFest, Spring Thing and Summer Entertainment Series and would continue to encourage all members of the community to use our pool, tennis and pickleball courts, basketball court and other amenities (and have their kids and grandkids join the swim team!) In addition, I would encourage all community members to volunteer in the community in some way. We have many talented members with a wealth of knowledge and skill that could benefit the community. Working together to maintain our facilities, plan events, and welcome neighbors will help us get to know each other, facilitate friendships, and build a sense of community.

# Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

## 2021 Candidates 12 positions – 5 candidates

**Your profile could be here!**  
**Join the Civic Association**  
**Board and make a**  
**difference!**

### Linda Bea

1. **Age (optional) :**
2. **Occupation:** Retired
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** 33 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I serve as Secretary for the Civic Association, running the Annual Yard Sale and the annual Membership Drive. I also develop and maintain the bi-annual Community Directory.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** We strive to engage community members in our various activities to foster a strong sense of community within our neighborhood.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** We should continue to foster communication among members of our community; provide timely, relevant information via our listserv and *The Bugle*; encourage and increase participation within the community and monitor external issues and events that may impact the Strathmore Bel Pre Community.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** We should increase participation within the community by supporting the existing events and activities currently sponsored by the Civic Association, as well as developing additional opportunities for community interaction and engagement.



### John Bogasky

1. **Age (optional):** 64
2. **Occupation:** Retired but many volunteer roles. Treasurer for Special Olympics MD, Montgomery County, Board Member for the Civic Association, Treatment and Learning Centers, Source America, and Glenmont Exchange.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 31 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I serve as Treasurer for our Civic Association. I also founded and moderate the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association's listserv, fundraise for our Summer Entertainment series and organize the movie nights, manage *Bugle* advertising and am a *Bugle* columnist.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** The Civic Association provides a flexible vehicle for Strathmore Bel Pre residents to voluntarily join together to better our community
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** The Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA) aims to promote the interests and general welfare of the homeowners and residents of Strathmore Bel Pre, to provide for effective communication within the community, to provide a focal point for representation of community interests beyond the community, and to sponsor community events. My goal is to continue serving as Treasurer, organizer of the movie nights at the pool, and as moderator of the listserv.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore-Bel Pre?** Continue supporting the Civic Association listserv, organizing the summer movie nights, and supporting *The Bugle*.

**– Continued on page 24 –**



# Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

## 2021 Candidates 12 positions – 5 candidates

(continued from page 23)



### Elliot Chabot

1. **Age (optional):**
2. **Occupation:** attorney (retired)
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** 17 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** From 2013 to 2019, I served as president of the Bel Pre Recreational Association. I am currently chair of the BPRA's Governing Documents Committee, a member of the BPRA's Emergency Response and Planning Committee, a board member of the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association, and assistant editor of *The Bugle*. I actively participated in drafting the COVID-19 rules for the pool and the annual community elections. I have assisted with the Summer Entertainment series at the pool, and with our community yard sale. I'm a Friend of the Aspen Hill Library, where (pre-COVID) I helped run the Friends book sales, and Friends programming, such as the annual community festival. From 2009-2020, I served as chair of the Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee, which tends to the policy and functions of the Library. In 2019, I served as a member of the Montgomery County Planning Board's Aspen Hill Vision Zero Advisory Group.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** Speaking out for our community before the County Council and other government agencies. Keep our community strong and our voices heard.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** Continue to build the sense of community within Strathmore Bel Pre. Continue and expand programs like the Summer Entertainment Series, the Annual Yard Sale, the community's 4th of July Celebration, the town hall meetings, *The Bugle*, BlocktoberFest, the Spring Thing, and the community directory. Work together with the Recreational Association, local PTAs and scout groups, and neighboring civic associations.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** Make even better use of the community's website, listserv, and *The Bugle*, as well as the BPRA e-mail lists. Provide more opportunities for members of the community to become involved with the Civic and the Recreational Associations.

### Lilla Hammond

1. **Age (optional):**
2. **Occupation:** Realtor with Long & Foster Realtors
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** 37 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** I have been an active member of the Civic Board for many years, and organize the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and activities.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** To keep our community up to date with local news and events which may affect them; to offer activities which bring our neighbors together and give them a chance to make new friends.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** During the last few years, the community's Civic and Rec Associations have been working together. We have wonderful people stepping up to provide information about issues from the outside which affect or could affect our community. Let's continue to support: Town Hall meetings; *The Bugle*; the listserv; the Community Yard Sale; the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration; and, the Summer Entertainment programs. We have a wonderfully active community. Volunteers are welcome and needed!
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** Through the years, our Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association has created opportunities to build our community and bring us together. We have *The Bugle* which is filled with news and helpful information; the ListServ; the Strathmore Bel Pre Directory; the Annual Yard Sale, the Entertainment Series and the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Most recently, we have Zoom as another way to bring people together. Recently, neighbors used the Zoom platform to discuss the parking issues on Hewitt Avenue.

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# Strathmore Bel-Pre Civic Association

## 2021 Candidates 12 positions – 5 candidates

(continued from page 24)



### Chris Swan

1. **Age (optional):**
2. **Occupation:** law librarian (retired)
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood:** 16 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** For the last 9 years, I have served as editor of *The Bugle*. I assist in running the Summer Entertainment Series, and generally plan and manage the Summer Music events. I'm President of the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library, which (pre-COVID) held book sales to raise funds for the Library, and which runs the annual community festival. For the last 2 years, I have served as Secretary of the Bel Pre Recreational Association.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the Civic Association?** To create a strong and informed community, which is active, caring, has a sense of place, and enjoys living here in Strathmore Bel Pre, and is present in the larger community.
6. **What is your vision for the Board of the Civic Association?** I would like the Civic Association to have a functioning and inclusive website, and to plan and hold more events, both in the Summer Entertainment Series, and to bring back the Public Affairs Series, with presentations regarding issues and concerns of the times, and those affecting our neighborhood, and as citizens of Montgomery County.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** Pre-pandemic, our community had grown its events to appeal to a broader group of our neighbors. As the pandemic continues, and our response to it changes, we should begin to reinstate those events to provide our neighbors, friends and family opportunities to participate in Strathmore Bel Pre activities. We started this fall with BlocktoberFest and Trunk or Treat, and hopefully will bring back the Spring Thing next spring. We also have had a large turnover of homeowners this year, and should reach out to our new neighbors to help them get acquainted with our community.

## Home Tips: Budgeting for Home Maintenance

Over the past year our property values have increased considerably. To retain their value, our homes need on-going maintenance. To cover future costs, one way is to put approximately 1% of the home's value each year in a separate fund for this expense. For example, an older \$500,000 home would require about \$5,000 a year to maintain. Expensive repairs and replacements won't be necessary every year, but, the money set aside gives the homeowner peace of mind when a new water heater or a heating and air conditioning system needs repairs or replacement.

If you'd like to know more about the condition of your property, one way is to invite a reputable home inspector to evaluate your house and its systems. The home inspector can offer advice when a component is nearing the end of its life cycle. A good inspector will provide up-to-date repair cost guides to help with your planning.

Of course, for individual systems, calling in a licensed contractor is always a good plan.

**For more information about your real estate needs, please give us a call.**



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# 2021 Summer Movie Season Recap

May 1	June 5	July 3	August 7	September 4	October 2
					
Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2	Wonder Woman 1984	Raya and the Last Dragon	Forrest Gump	Toy Story 4	In The Heights
<b>SBPCA's First Saturday at the Movies!</b>					

The SBPCA offered six movies this summer, two drive-ins (on May 1 and October 2) and 4 movies on the pool grounds. Weather was a challenge in mid-summer. *Raya and the Last Dragon* was rained out twice, but we had perfect weather for the third try. We expanded to six movies as COVID cancelled our summer concerts, redirecting our concert funds to hold movie nights instead.

Movie attendance was off this summer but recovered for our final Drive-In movie. Our October movie selection resulted from a Civic listserv poll of SBPCA members. We believe that October's increased attendance was partly due to that poll and plan to use that approach for next year's season.

Our local scouts attended every movie night selling popcorn and other snacks. Summer Entertainment sponsor and neighbor PAULETTE LADAS of ReMax Realty also offered free snacks to our movie night patrons.

Movie nights are only possible with the help of our volunteers and sponsors. We especially thank JOHN BOGASKY, STEVE DEMING, KYE PAK, and JOE MOELLER and his boys for their help with movie operations. We also thank our sponsors listed below for their financial support.



## The SBP Civic Association Thanks Our 2021 Summer Entertainment Sponsors!!!

### SBP Superstars

Rita Vaught



**Weichert Realtors**

Tim Horst



**LONG & FOSTER**  
REAL ESTATE

**CHRISTIE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Paulette Ladas



**RE/MAX**  
Realty Group

### The Bel Pre Recreational Association

#### Community Champions

Lilla Hammond



**LONG & FOSTER**  
REAL ESTATE

Pizza Stop



#### Oscar Winners

Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot

Susan Shannon

Ted & Nancy Bechtol

Vicki Thomas & Pat Rayner

John & Shelly Bogasky

Paul & Maria Stagnitto

Kate Duchelle & Doug Smith

#### Band Leaders

Robin McEntire

Maury & Charlotte Potosky

The Hickman Family

Linda & Charles Bea

Jo & Chris Jennison

Janet Kisler

Bob & Deb Perry

And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association

*The Bugle* October 2021



# Notes from the Glenmont Exchange

by John Bogasky

Montgomery Parks is nearly at the end of a more than two-year process to update the master plan for Wheaton Regional Park. The new Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan aims to modernize the 60-year-old park. Parks staff have been collecting ideas and comments for renovating the park from park users, residents, and other stakeholders to ensure the master plan meets the needs of the county's growing, diverse population.

Highlights of the draft recommendations were presented at a virtual community meeting on September 9. The draft recommendations included the following highlights:

- ❖ Making the Shorefield Area more attractive to older children, teens, and young adults, by renovating the Adventure Playground and adding basketball courts, soccer courts, a mountain bike skills area, and a pump track.
- ❖ Activating the Rubini Athletic Complex by adding two soccer fields and replacing three diamond athletic fields with an adventure sports facility that will likely include a large regional skate park, a bouldering/climbing wall, a parkour/obstacle course, a bicycle skills area, and a splash pad.
- ❖ Creating a parkwide comprehensive signage plan (including "You Are Here" signs to help orient park users), numerous new trails and trail upgrades, and many improvements to make it easier to get to the park by transit, biking, and walking.
- ❖ Identifying permanent locations for food trucks and associated amenities in several park areas.

You can learn more about this project and view a recording of **the September 9** meeting at <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/wheaton-regional-park-master-plan-update/>



# SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Please help feed the hungry

Pack and Troop 763, Aspen Hill, Maryland

Sponsored by Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

Scouts will be in your neighborhood collecting non-perishable food items. Please attach this page or a sheet with the words “Boy Scouts” to your donation so that it is easier for us to tell what is a donation and what is a grocery delivery.

You can help by placing your food donation on your front porch by

**9:30 A.M.**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

Food collected will help local food pantries feed the hungry.

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

[Troop763-Leadership@aspengroves.com](mailto:Troop763-Leadership@aspengroves.com)

or call/text (301)458-5095

National Capital Area Council

Scouts BSA

[www.NCACBSA.org](http://www.NCACBSA.org)

To join scouting visit [BeAScout.org](http://BeAScout.org)

Or call 301-530-9360

