

The Bugle

Published by the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association
October 2024

Volume 56 #4



BlocktoberFest~~October 20

By Bel Pre Elementary School

3-6pm (setup starts at 2pm, no rain date)

Community block party on Rippling Brook Drive between the Matthew Henson Trail and Bel Pre Elementary School. See [page 28](#) for more details.

Trunk or Treat~~October 26

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

Everyone is welcome. If you are handing out treats, plan to arrive at 4:30 pm to set up your trunk. See [page 20](#) for more details.



It is Annual Meeting Time

All meetings are on Zoom

Thursday, November 21

SBP Civic Association Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Bel Pre Rec Association Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 5

Town Hall Meeting 8:00 p.m.

BPRA members will receive Zoom information with the Annual Meeting mailing this month. See [page 5](#) for more details. SBPCA members who are not BPRA members and are not on the listserv can reach out to JOHN BOGASKY at johnbogasky@hotmail.com for Zoom information.

Both associations are holding elections for officers. Candidate profiles begin on [page 23](#).

Rec Association Quorum is Needed

Please return your ballots **BEFORE November 21**, to create a quorum for elections!

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**Scouting for Food
November 9**

See [back page](#) for details.

THE BUGLE

PUBLISHED BY THE STRATHMORE BEL PRE CIVIC ASSOCIATION SINCE 1969

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The Bugle is published four times a year, in March, May, June, and October. Please contact KATHY EMERY if you have comments on *The Bugle* content or would like to submit an article for *The Bugle*.



Civic Association

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

Annual SBPCA membership: \$25.00

Web site: www.strathmorebelpre.org

The SBPCA is a voluntary association, funded by membership dues, that sponsors and participates in many community and local programs; and also represents our community to County Government and to various groups such as the Montgomery County Civic Federation and the Glenmont Exchange. The SBPCA also sponsors Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scout Pack 763.

Additionally, the SBPCA publishes *The Bugle* and the community directory; maintains the community listserv; organizes the annual community 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 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: vacant

Treasurer: JOHN BOGASKY 301 460-1604

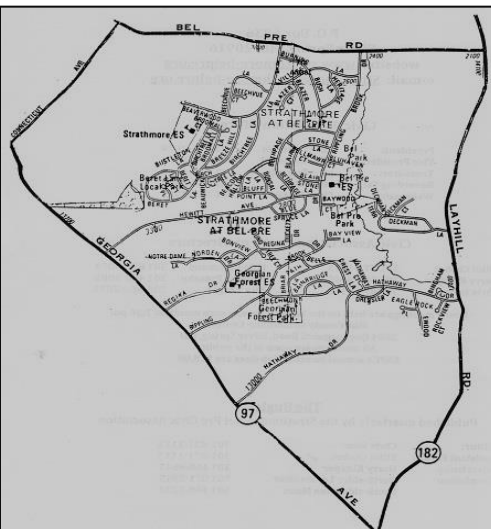
Civic Association Directors (up to 12 available positions)

CHRIS SWAN 301 871-1113

LILLA HAMMOND 301 518-7818

RITA VAUGHT 206 406-2871

ELLIOT CHABOT 301 871-1113



Strathmore Bel Pre Street Map

Strathmore Bel Pre Community Listserv: To join the listserv, contact JOHN BOGASKY at johnbogasky@hotmail.com. You must be an SBPCA member to join the SBPcivic listserv.

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

Community Directory and Yard Sale: Contact LINDA BEA at linda.k.bea@verizon.net or (301) 460-0497.

July 4th Activities: Contact LILLA HAMMOND at (301) 518-7818.

SBP Village: Contact KRISTI HULLINGS at SBPvillage@gmail.com.

New Residents Welcome: Contact SUZANNE LAWSON at suzanne57lawson@gmail.com or (301) 915-7775 to get connected to neighborhood activities and information.

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 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-meeting-minutes>. Board meetings are normally the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, on Zoom, from October to May; or at the Pool pavilion, from June to September.

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

Bel Pre Recreational Association Board of Trustees		
KAREN PURDY (President)	301 603-9604	klpurdy@hotmail.com
JAY STAGGS (Vice President)	301 603-0304	jaysbluewing@hotmail.com
DAVE PULLEN (Treasurer)	301 598-2521	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
CLAIRE PAK (Secretary)	301 602-7573	claire0618@gmail.com
TED BECHTOL	301 871-3679	tedbechtol@yahoo.com
CHARLIE MEININGER	-	charlesmeininger@gmail.com
RODNEY OO	-	rodzoo88@gmail.com
ANDREW POPADICH	-	popadichaj1@gmail.com
CHRISTINE TYLER PELL	-	christine.tylerpell@gmail.com



Bel Pre Recreational Association Officials		
Administrative Assistant	Vacant	
Assessment Assistance Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Audit Coordinator	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Block Party & Spring Thing Coordinator	CHARLIE MEININGER	charlesmeininger@gmail.com
Entertainment & Recreation Committee Chair	CHARLIE MEININGER	charlesmeininger@gmail.com
eSoft Planner Coordinator	KAREN PURDY	BPRAPool02@gmail.com
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	PATRICK WELTEROTH	570 419-2590
Nominating Committee Chair	MARK FORAKER	mark4aker@hotmail.com
Pavilion Scheduler	CARMEN WONG	BPRAPool04@gmail.com
Pet Waste Station Coordinator	JACKIE FARY-MOELLER	jfarymoeller@aspengroves.com
Pool and Recreational Facilities Committee Chair	JAY STAGGS	301 603-0304
Pool Gardening Group	SANDY FLEMING	sfleming04@hotmail.com
Pool Property Helpers Coordinator	JOE MOELLER	moellerhj@aspengroves.com
Tennis and Pickleball Courts Committee Chair	DAVE PULLEN	treasurer4bpri@gmail.com
Tennis Courts Keys Distributor	JIM EATON	jeaton6365@gmail.com
Webmaster	BILLY RUPPERT	301 332-4901

The President's Corner

by Nancy Bechtol

President, Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

I can never remember such a busy summer season in the Strathmore Bel Pre neighborhood! We had so many activities to enjoy thanks to our Dolphins swim team who enjoyed a winning season, an active new Village organization, the BPRA and SBPCA. Some think it a bit confusing to have so many different active organizations all working to build our community, but I say the more the merrier! All of these activities provide lots of choices for how to meet up with your neighbors and enjoy to community. Whether you swim, play tennis, walk, do water aerobics or rumba, enjoy nature, puzzle, parade, yard sale, enjoy music and movies, we have it for you right here in our neighborhood. We are all fortunate to have so many neighbors willing to volunteer their time and services to help make these events happen.



We are privileged to have five current SBPCA board members running for another term in this year's elections. We have worked together on the Board for decades now, and each of us have our areas of expertise and commitment to our community through dedicated service. This Board would not run without the hard work and dedication of LINDA BEA, LILLA HAMMOND, CHRIS SWAN, ELLIOT CHABOT, and JOHN BOGASKY. Please join me in thanking them for their service and give them a shout out when you see them at events or in passing.

Seven vacant SBPCA director positions remain open, and we welcome new members anytime. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. Even though we only meet about ten times a year, this is still too much of a commitment for some folks. We have recently voted to create a way for our neighbors to help advise our work by creating a new Advisory Group. These individuals will occasionally review our minutes, budgets, ideas and provide comments through email correspondence. There are no meetings required for this new group. If interested, please reach out to JOHN BOGASKY at johnbogasky@hotmail.com and he will make sure to add you in these communications.

This summer's July 4th ceremony was fabulous and everyone in attendance had an amazing time participating in the parade and pool activities. We were fortunate to have a gorgeous day for this outside celebration. The planning committee lead by LILLA HAMMOND and LUBA DOWHALUK did an exceptional job and organized many first time ever special touches for everyone to enjoy. We especially owe Lilla a huge thank you as she has managed our 4th of July celebrations for over 30 years. She and her late husband Bill have dedicated hundreds of hours to our community in planning and managing this historical event in our neighborhood. Thank you again Luba for jumping in to co-lead this committee, as it is a job too big for any one person!



The fall season Yard Sale was also a winner this year as we enjoyed more sellers and participants than ever before. With excellent weather, many came out to shop and enjoy catching up with neighbors. Our fearless organizer LINDA BEA really outdid herself this year managing many last-minute additions and doing so with total grace making the entire job look easy. Easy for Linda only because she has organized our yard sale for over two decades! I would also like to thank PAULETTE LADAS and DUSTIN BORZET of RLAH Real Estate for donating a large dumpster for our Yard Sale use and leaving it in

place for an entire week to allow many neighbors to dispose of their unwanted household items. They both attended the yard sale and were able to talk to many who also attended. What a fun day!

We are not done with our events yet this calendar year, as the Fall season will be busy with BlocktoberFest, Trunk or Treat, the Annual meeting, and our continued Village calendar of events. Please consider attending as many as you can and introduce yourself to any Board members. We would love to meet you and talk about how wonderful our neighborhood is right here in Strathmore Bel Pre.



Bel Pre Recreational News

by Karen Purdy, President

President, Bel Pre Recreational Association



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

Upcoming Meetings

All BPRA meetings through the end of 2024, including the Annual Meeting will be held via teleconference on Zoom. There are currently two general meetings scheduled for this fall: the joint SBPCA and BPRA Annual General Membership Meeting on November 21 and the joint SBPCA and BPRA Annual Town Hall Meeting on December 5. Information for joining these meetings via telephone, computer or other device is included in the 2024 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 treasurer4bpri@gmail.com or 301-598-2521.

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

BPRA Annual General Membership Meeting, Thursday, November 21st, 7:30 pm, via Zoom

The main order of business during the annual meeting will be the election of three BPRA Board Trustees. We will also present the BPRA Annual Report and the 2025 Budget and have time for questions. The SBPCA Annual Meeting will be held right before the BPRA annual meeting starting at 7pm.

Annual Strathmore Bel Pre Town Hall Meeting, Thursday, December 5th, 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 three members are elected every year. At the time of publication, we have three candidates running for those three seats: TED BECHTOL, JENNIFER DURAN, and PATRICK TAYLOR. Thank you all for volunteering. Profiles for each candidate are available starting on [Page 22](#).

If any additional candidates step forward by the October 7 deadline to notify the BPRA Secretary that they are running for a seat on the board, those profiles will be posted on the StrathmoreBelPre.org Annual Meeting page,

The 2024 BPRA Board of Trustee Elections will be held via mail-in or drop off ballot. Ballots and proxy envelopes will be mailed to each member household with the Annual Meeting Notice in October. Election instructions and additional information can be found on the reverse side of the ballot and at StrathmoreBelPre.org.

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

Thank you to outgoing Board Member ROD OO. Rod just completed a three-year term and was instrumental in coordinating snack bar facility maintenance for the past several years. Thank you for your contributions to the community.

My current term is also ending this November. I have been on the Board since February 2018 and have served as President for the last five years. I will continue in my role as eSoft Planner coordinator until a replacement can be found and will continue working with the Long-Term Planning Committee for the foreseeable future. I'd like to extend a big thank you to the BPRA Board, committee chairs and volunteers and to the SBPCA and Village Boards and volunteers. I enjoyed working with you and appreciate everything you do for the community.

The Board elects its officers each year for a one-year term. The BPRA Board will elect new officers at its December 3, 2025 Board meeting.

Please consider volunteering for the community as a BPRA or SBPCA Board member, committee member or in some other capacity. Curious but not ready to take the plunge? Consider attending a Board Meeting or Committee Meeting or reach out to me or any Board Member or Committee Chair (see [Page 3](#)) with questions.

– Continued on [page 6](#) –

The Bugle October 2024

Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from [page 5](#))

2024 Annual Meeting and Elections – what is the same, what has changed?

Meeting on Zoom (same procedure as 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

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

Establishing quorum (same procedure as 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

For the BPRA to do business, such as elect BPRA Board Trustees and adopt a by-laws amendment, at the Annual Meeting, we must establish a quorum of at least 72 households (10% of member households.) Quorum can be established by proxy, so it is important that each member household complete and return the proxy envelope included in the Annual Meeting mailing before November 21. Completing and returning the proxy allows your household to be counted as “present” by proxy for purposes of establishing or maintaining quorum at the 2024 Annual Meeting and any continuances thereof. Members in attendance that do not return a proxy will also be considered present for establishing quorum. If we do not meet quorum requirements at the November 21 meeting, then the election and by-laws voting portion of the annual meeting will be recessed and will reconvene on Thursday, December 5, at 8:00 p.m., on Zoom, where in accordance with the procedures set out by (1) Maryland Homeowners Association Act § 11B-111(6) or by (2) BPRA By-Laws, Article VIII, § 5: the quorum at the BPRA reconvened/additional meeting on December 5 either will be: (1) those members who are present (in person or by proxy) or (2) 36 households. If we have a quorum on November 21, then our December 5 meeting will be just the Annual Town Hall Meeting.

Election of BPRA Board Trustees (change in procedure from 2023)

In 2023, only ballots submitted by members who attended the BPRA Annual Zoom meeting could be counted. See page 10 of the October 2023 *Bugle* for more information.

At the November 16, 2023, BPRA Annual Meeting, the membership voted to adopt a BPRA by-laws amendment. This amendment authorizes the BPRA Board of Trustees to hold electronic meetings and authorizes mail-in ballots for the BPRA elections and other BPRA business that requires a vote of the membership. The proposed amendment essentially codifies the procedures we used, under emergency authorization, in 2020, 2021, and 2022 for virtual/electronic meetings and mail-in/drop off ballots for BPRA elections. This means that all ballots submitted by members in good standing - provided they are properly completed and received by the submission deadline - can be counted whether or not a member attends a virtual Annual Meeting.

We encourage all members to attend the November 21 Annual Meeting on Zoom and **we urge all households, whether they plan on attending the meeting or not, to complete and return the proxy envelope.** Doing so helps us meet quorum requirements and shows your support for the Association to conduct business at the Annual Meeting.

– Continued on [page 13](#) –

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Your Dolphins

by Lisa Mantel

Secretary, Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins

Labor Day is always bittersweet for the swim team families. While we eagerly anticipate the school year beginning, we can't help feeling a bit sad that the pool has closed for the season. Even though the gates have been locked and the pool deck cleared, our excitement for the next swim season is already building.

2024 Season Highlights

This summer, the Dolphins participated in five "A" meets, three "B" meets, the Prince-Mont Swim League (PMSL) B Division Championship, and the PMSL All-Star Meet. Under the guidance of head coach CARSON TAYLOR and assistant coaches IAN VIRGA and EVAN PAK, we concluded the regular season with a record of three wins and two losses. At the B Division Championship meet, the Dolphins secured fourth place but achieved a commendable third place overall in the division.



Carson, Ian, and Evan were joined by Developmental Coaches SHANE KENT, TESSA MILLER, ANDRE NAPPER, KAYA PODSIADLO, SARAH SIEGLE, ERIK STAGGS, and GRAHAM WICK. Thank you to all our coaches for helping to mentor and instruct the next generation of Dolphins!

A special shout out goes to Miss LEILA DEBACKER who broke the SBP team and PMSL league record in Girls 11-12 50m backstroke this season with a time of 32.31 seconds. Way to go, Leila!

Congratulations to our 2024 high-point and coaches' award winners:

8 & Under Boys

- Bennett DeBacker (first place)
- Willy Tinnin (second place)
- Isaiah Seabrook (third place)

9-10 Boys

- Charlie Tinnen (tie first place)
- Levi Mantel (tie first place)
- Julian Harlow (third place)

11-12 Boys

- Ben Purdy (first place)
- Toby Reyes (second place)
- Elijah Gappa (third place)

13-14 Boys

- Aman Daniel (first place)
- Jonas Duran (second place)
- Xavier Huffine-Wright (third place)

15-18 Boys

- Erik Staggs (first place)
- Graham Wick (second place)
- David Dorsey (third place)

8 & Under Girls

- Jovie Taylor (first place)
- Isabella Seabrook (second place)
- Ada Aroom (third place)

9-10 Girls

- Brooke Taylor (first place)
- Isabella Dorsey (second place)
- Emma DeBacker (third place)

11-12 Girls

- Leila DeBacker (first place)
- Layla Breeden (second place)
- Sophie DeBacker (third place)

13-14 Girls

- Elin Mantel (first place)
- Blen Daniel (second place)
- Janie Spelman (third place)

15-18 Girls

- Tessa Miller (first place)
- Sarah Siegle (second place)
- Lizett Inga (third place)

– Continued on [page 8](#) –

Your Dolphins

(continued from [page 7](#))

Coaches Awards

- Hardest Working Novice: Gwendolyn Knapp
- Hardest Working Junior: Sammy Foraker
- Hardest Working Senior: Lizett Inga
- Most Improved 8U: Ada Aroom
- Most Improved 9-10: Serafina Paglione
- Most Improved 11-12: Makayla Cooley
- Most Improved 13-14: Xavier Poteau
- Most Improved 15-18: David Sheffield-Staten and Titan Lindstedt
- Most Dependable: Sarah Siegle
- Most Spirited: Erik Staggs

Congratulations to all our award winners!

Farewell to Graduating Dolphins

This summer we also said goodbye to EIGHT graduating seniors:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| • BELLE DURAN | • SARAH SIEGLE |
| • LIZETT INGA | • BILLY SPELMAN |
| • HANNAH MACFARLAND | • JEREMY SPELMAN |
| • KAYA PODSIADLO | • ERIK STAGG |

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

SBP Dolphins Swim Team Board of Directors

This summer, we also elected a new Dolphins Board of Directors. Our bylaws call for the election of Board officers every two years, and all families with a child on the team are entitled to vote. The new SBP Dolphins Swim Team Board of Directors is:

- EMILY TINNIN, President (emily.azarian@gmail.com)
- CHRISTINE POPADICH, Vice President (elias.christine@gmail.com)
- LISA MANTEL, Secretary (incumbent) (lisamariemantel@gmail.com)
- DENISE REYES, Treasurer (incumbent) (sbpstatreasurer@gmail.com)

We want to thank outgoing President and Vice President, PAUL SPELMAN and CHRIS HUFFINE, respectively, who have provided so much to the Dolphins team. Fortunately, they still have kids on the team, so they'll stick around for several more years.

A Look Ahead

If you would like to learn more about the team and how your child(ren) can participate next summer, please visit our website (<https://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com>).

If your child can't swim, consider joining the Lil Dolphins, which is a group lessons program taught by our developmental coaches. Lil Dolphins provides new swimmers with an opportunity to learn basic swimming skills and eventually move on to the competitive strokes.

Reach out to any member of the Dolphins Board of Directors (listed above) or our "A" Meet Manager, KAREN PURDY (klpurdy@hotmail.com), for more information.

Swimmers of the Year

- Aman Daniel (Boys)
- Leila DeBacker (Girls)



Angela aka Angie Vaught

301-787-2088

Angelavaught1@aol.com



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

I live in your neighborhood! References upon request

Scouting Update: A May to Remember!

by Jackie Fary-Moeller and Leaf Tyler Pell

In what is becoming a Maryland bucket-list activity, Troop 763 greatly enjoyed a kayaking trip to the Malloys Bay Ghost Fleet in Charles County. Most of the shipwrecks are from ships that were intended to be used for World War I and it was really neat to be able to paddle right up to them and get a close look. The troop also camped at Smallwood State Park that weekend.



Have a teenage boy (6th grade to age 18) who wants to have fun and learn more about the things you don't learn in school? Join Troop 763! Get more info from Scoutmaster BILL TOTTEN at billatotten@gmail.com

Have a teenage GIRL who wants to camp, enjoy the outdoors, earn their Eagle Scout rank, be active in the community and much more? We are in the process of starting Troop 763G. Please contact JOE MOELLER at moeller@aspengroves.com for more info.

Cub Scout Pack 763: Spreading Joy and Values in Our Community!

As the leaves start to change and the air gets crisp, our neighborhood's Cub Scout Pack 763 has been busy making memories and demonstrating the values of scouting. From sleepaway camps to pool parties, popcorn sales, and acts of kindness, these young adventurers have shown us what it means to be a true scout.

Camp Ross: A Week of Adventure and Fun!

Several cubs and pack leaders spent an unforgettable week at Camp Ross, where they embarked on thrilling activities like hiking, swimming, boating, archery, and even learned to play gaga (Israeli dodgeball)! But it wasn't all fun and games – they also took on important responsibilities like helping with meals and cleanup. And from what we hear, they even got some sleep!

End-of-Summer Pool Party: One Last Summer Hurrah!

Who says learning can't be fun? Our scouts had a blast at the SBP pool while learning essential water safety rules. It was the perfect way to wrap up the summer and make some waves.

Popcorn Sales are Open: Support Your Local Scouts!

It's that time of the year again – Popcorn Sales are open! Every fall, our scouts raise funds for their pack activities while honing their social and leadership skills. If you're craving some delicious popcorn or want to support Pack 763, don't hesitate to reach out at cspack763.silverspringmd@gmail.com.

A Cub's Act of Kindness: Embodiment of Scouting Values

During a recent popcorn shift outside a local supermarket, one of our young cubs witnessed an elderly person collapse in the parking lot. Without hesitation, this brave cub alerted their adult leader and waited safely with the popcorn table while their adult tended to the victim. Luckily, everyone turned out to be okay, thanks in part to the quick response of this remarkable young scout and their adult leader. This heartwarming story showcases the very essence of scouting values in action.



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Scouting Update

(continued from [page 9](#))

Scouting for Food Pick-up: Join the Effort on Nov. 9th!

Mark your calendars for November 9th, when our scouts will be collecting food donations for those in need. Check the [back page](#) of this newsletter for details on how to participate.

Join the Fun: We Welcome New Cubs!

With the new school year comes a fresh start for our scouting family. We've already welcomed multiple new cubs, and there's always room for more! If you're interested in joining the adventure, please don't hesitate to reach out. We can't wait to meet you!

Cub Scout Pack 763 is more than just a group of kids having fun – they're a shining example of community spirit, kindness, and determination. We're forever grateful to everyone who supports these endeavors, and to the SBP Civic Association and Bel Pre Recreation Association for their ongoing support. Let's continue to support and celebrate these amazing young people as they grow and thrive!

BSA Troop 763 and Cub Scout Pack 763 are sponsored by the SBP Civic Association. Troop 763 is for boys in 6th grade through the age of 18. Troop 763 seeks to be a diverse, inclusive, welcoming, small but dynamic group of boys and their families. We have fun while teaching practical skills that aren't taught in schools. We understand that many families are not experienced in outdoor skills but can come learn them together at Troop 763. If you would like more info, please contact BILL TOTTEN at billatotten@gmail.com.

Cub Scout Pack 763 is for all children in kindergarten through 5th grade in the Strathmore/Bel Pre and Aspen Hill community. Pack 763 is a diverse, inclusive group of children and their families from all backgrounds who have fun together learning citizenship, character, personal fitness, outdoor skills and conservation, and leadership. For more information, please contact cspack763.silverspringmd@gmail.com.

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Songster in the Garden

by Cecily Nabors

What's the only American songbird with "song" in its very name? The Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). This is a widespread species, found in almost every state. While they do migrate, we in the Mid-Atlantic may see them all year round. Males and females dress alike in suits of reddish-brown and gray, with dark streaks on a pale shirt-front. The streaks seem to merge in a central spot, like a decorative tie tack.

The bird was a favorite with the American colonists, who named it for its musical repertoire. The song usually starts with three long notes, sort of a Now Hear This alert. What follows is a series of trills and short sharp notes of almost infinite variation, usually ending with a trill.



To demonstrate his territorial dominance, the male Song Sparrow proves that he knows many songs. It's not a set playlist—this avian DJ shuffles his songs. Males do most of the singing. Female Song Sparrows have been shown to be attracted to the best musician. Perhaps they think that if he can remember all those songs, he has an equally good memory for food sources and will be a good provider.

The birds frequent thickets, brushy areas, pond and stream edges, and gardens, and may even be seen in coastal marshes. They typically forage on the ground, staying close to cover. Their summer diet consists largely of insects, spiders, caterpillars, and ants, though seeds and fruit are also on the menu. In winter they eat mostly seeds, mainly those of grasses and weeds. One study found that over the course of a year, about half of their diet is weed

seeds—what an excellent garden clean-up crew!

Mates tend to be monogamous, though some males have been shown to have more than one mate. Nests are built in shrubs or brush piles and occasionally in low trees, or on the ground tucked under grassy clumps or bushes. Females are the nest-builders and do the incubation also.

Though Song Sparrows are abundant and a species of low concern, their numbers are decreasing. We can keep our gardens bird-friendly by not spraying pesticides and insecticides indiscriminately.

A water supply will bring many birds to the garden. Song Sparrows bathe frequently and are delighted to enjoy a splash in a birdbath, even in winter.

Lure Song Sparrows to your yard with fruited shrubs, brush piles, and other places of shelter. They will come to feeders, though they'll usually hop about underneath, looking for dropped seeds, and scurry into cover again. If a small streaky brown bird is foraging shyly in your yard, be sure to listen as well as look. It may be a Song Sparrow, our backyard improv artist.



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Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from [page 6](#))

Summer 2024

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

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



Thanks to our many volunteers for making our summer successful:

- JOE MOELLER and family for performing many pre-season tasks around the pool and grounds and for coordinating with contractors on several projects.
- TED BECHTOL for maintaining our grounds and coordinating tree pruning and removal throughout the property.
- The 60 + Club gardening group, coordinated by SANDY FLEMING, for many hours of weeding and planting in all areas of the grounds.
- CARMEN WONG for her many hours of work as Pavilion & Facility Scheduler.
- JIM EATON for coordinating tennis/pickleball court keys.
- The BPRA Board of Trustees for countless hours of behind-the-scenes work.

We are always in need of more volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact me or any BPRA board member listed on [Page 3](#) of *The Bugle*.

Fall 2024 Activities

We're happy to report that we are planning on holding several fall activities in conjunction with the Civic Association and SBP Village. More information can be found on [page 28](#) (for BlocktoberFest) and [page 19](#) (for Village activities).

2025 BPRA Assessment

The 2025 BPRA Annual Assessment Notice will be mailed to each BPRA member household in late January. The 2025 Assessment is due March 1, 2025. Information about the Annual Assessment can be found on StrathmoreBelPre.org. The Annual Assessment webpage, found under the "Rec Association" drop down menu on StrathmoreBelPre.org, will be updated with 2025 information by the middle of January.

In 2023 and 2024, we had a significant increase in online assessment payments. We encourage you to pay your annual assessment online with a credit card through our eSoft Planner portal. Paying online saves our volunteers countless hours of data entry and check processing time, reduces our use of paper, reduces data entry errors, and lets members get set up for pool check in at the time of assessment payment.

You can pay your BPRA Assessment, join the SBPCA, donate to the Pet Waste Station Fund, and donate to the SBP Dolphins swim team all in one place. Online payments for 2025 will be available no later than February 1, 2025. Payment by mailed paper check will still be an option.

We anticipate that a newly rebuilt, much more user-friendly version of eSoft Planner will be up and running for 2025 BPRA Assessment payments. More information will be included in the Annual Assessment mailing and posted on StrathmoreBelPre.org.

– Continued on [page 14](#) –

Bel Pre Recreational News

(continued from [page 13](#))

Seeking Volunteers

The BPRA is always looking for members interested in volunteering.

- If you are interested in serving on our committees, or volunteering in some other way, please contact the appropriate committee chair listed on [Page 3](#) or contact me at klpurdy@hotmail.com.
- If you are interested in serving on the BPRA's Board of Trustees, please contact Nominating Committee Chair MARK FORAKER at mark4aker@hotmail.com. He can answer any questions you may have about serving on the Board.
- If you are interested in helping with miscellaneous repair and maintenance jobs around the pool, please contact JOE MOELLER at moellerhj@aspengroves.com.
- If you are interested in gardening at the pool, please contact SANDY FLEMING at sfleming04@hotmail.com.

In addition, we are currently looking for the following:

- eSoft Planner coordinator(s) – We are looking for one or more people with strong computer and organizational skills to assist with the administration of eSoft Planner, our Pool check in and online assessment collection system. The position will include interaction with the BPRA Board, pool staff and BPRA members. The bulk of work will be performed between February and September, with significant interaction with the membership in March, May, and June.
- Web site review team – We are looking for several people to work together to perform a comprehensive review of the BPRA webpages on StrathmoreBelPre.org and make recommendations on updates, edits, and additions with an eye toward providing the information that BPRA members request and find useful.
- Long term planning committee members, especially those with architectural or engineering experience.

2024 & 2025 BPRA Board Meeting Schedule

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

Remaining meetings in 2024 include November 5 and December 3. The first meeting in 2025 will be January 7.

The BPRA Board will approve the full 2025 meeting schedule at its January 7, 2025, meeting. The **tentative** meeting schedule for the first half of 2025 is February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, and June 3. See StrathmoreBelPre.org for updates.



The BPRA Meeting Schedule and related information, including preliminary meeting agendas and meeting minutes can be found at <https://www.strathmorebelpre.org/meetings-meeting-minutes>.

From the community home page (www.strathmorebelpre.org), hover over "Rec Association" at top right, and then choose "Meetings & Meeting Minutes" from the dropdown menu.

The full meeting schedule is posted in mid-January each year with updates as needed. Meeting minutes are posted after minutes are approved by the BPRA Board.



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Season of Thanks & Season of Giving

by Kristi Hullings with Strathmore Bel Pre Village

SBPvillage@gmail.com, SBPvillage.org

Thanks for a Successful “Season 1” for SBP Village

July 2024 marked the end of Strathmore Bel Pre Village’s first year of active operation. Our main goal this first “season” of the village was to provide a variety of opportunities for increased neighbor-to-neighbor interaction to promote a sense of belonging in the community.

This summer was also our first time contributing data to the Montgomery County *Village Collective Impact Report*. This data helps illustrate the value of villages to communities and has led to generous county and state funding grants for the village movement. Tallying our data was hugely rewarding. SBP Village’s Fiscal Year 2024 report (found on [Page 18](#)), shows our village sponsored over 75 activities in its first year, and participation grew with each new event.

Thank you to all who have attended a village-sponsored event. I am also particularly grateful for the team of volunteers who routinely participate in planning meetings and to those who help sponsor events. Special thanks to our most recent hosts, Trisha Wells and Marc Nations, for a delightful Happy Hour Social in their cozy garden. Many of the guests were even treated to a tour of their beautifully renovated Judson-model home. What a fun way to end the summer!



– Continued on [page 16](#) –

Season of Thanks & Season of Giving

(continued from [page 15](#))

Autumn Begins Our “Season of Giving”

To clarify, the village is *not* asking for money. (In fact, SBP Village is one of the only *no-fee* villages in the county!) “Season 2” of SBP Village is time to begin building our volunteer corps so we will have a support network for neighbors in need of assistance; and everyone needs help at some time. **Are you willing to give a little time to help a neighbor with any of the following?**

NEIGHBOR NEEDS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	
Vacation or Emergency Aid checking mail, watering plants putting out/away trash & recycling providing meals in emergencies dog walking / pet sitting	Tech Support assistance with computer, phone, tablet, tv website navigation guidance electronic registration or purchasing help coaching how to use a specific app
Transportation Assistance rides (to doctor, grocery store, bank, etc.) errand running (dropping mail at the post office, picking up prescription, library book, or grocery item)	Physical Tasks tasks that require a ladder or heavy lifting small home repair tasks organizing small yardwork tasks (planting, moving hoses, etc.) snow shoveling, raking vehicle assistance (jumpstart car, change tire)
Companionship home visits (to those living alone or ill) friendly phone calls caretaker support (staying with family member during caretaker appointments)	Host an Interest Group game nights (board games, bunco, poker, dominos, bridge group, etc.) peer groups (parents of young ones, caretakers, LGBTQ+, singles, pet owners, etc.) babysitting co-op foodies (supper club, progressive dinners, brunch, neighborhood food trucks, etc.) language or culture groups (for those who are fluent or those wanting to learn a new language) hobby groups (book club, homebrewers, quilters, woodworkers, artists, runners, musicians, writers, filmmakers, gardeners, etc.)
Village Support enter service requests into computer language translation deliver village info to neighbors host a social, cultural, or educational event temporary equipment loans (stroller, air mattress, tools, highchair, crutches, wheelchair, dog crate, etc.) Student Service Learning supervisor (Certify hours for students who volunteer to shovel snow, rake, help with tech, etc. Requires county training.)	

Attend Volunteer Training to Learn How You Can Give to the Village

On November 14, SBP Village will host our first official volunteer recruitment and training. Although most of the tasks require no specific skill, training and background checks are required of all village volunteers for liability purposes. Training will cover what we legally are and are not allowed to do for our neighbors as village volunteers. During the training, volunteers will also learn how to use our new online service request system.

Join us to learn how you can help your neighbors and gain your own sense of purpose. Tasks will vary, and volunteers can sign up to offer as few or as many services as they like. More details and registration for the training can be found on our website: SBPvillage.org.

FY24 SBP Village Collective Impact Data

Report to Montgomery County on village activities between July 1, 2023 and June 31, 2024.

1. Village name: **Strathmore Bel Pre Village**
2. Contact person name: **Kristi Hullings**
3. Contact person's email: **SBPvillage@gmail.com**
4. Number of paid staff: **0**
5. Total annual budget (How much your village needed to operate during this time):
out of pocket + county + grants : **\$1,473.57**
6. Number of social and educational events: **75**
7. Number of participants in all events (This is the total attendees for all of the events. An individual's attendance is counted at each event they attend): **562**
8. Number of people involved with the village (This should be for all UNDUPLICATED number of people who participated in activities, received services, donated to you and all your volunteers): **52** (*This number is likely higher, but this is what we could prove.*)
9. Number of active volunteers: **11**
10. Number of direct service volunteers (providing hands on help): 0 (*will begin FY25*)
11. Number of rides (one way): 0 (*will begin FY25*)
12. Number of all other volunteer services: 0 (*will begin FY25*)
13. Total number of ALL volunteer hours: **542**
14. Please share a summary of your village over this time period.

Strathmore Bel Pre Village is a developing, multigenerational village comprising the full neighborhood of Strathmore Bel Pre, located in the Aspen Hill region of Silver Spring, MD. After surveying the community in June of 2023, SBPV began Fiscal Year 2024 offering social, educational, and wellness programming to meet the interests and needs expressed by the community.

SBPV has used this first full year to grow its program, foster relationships, and develop name recognition and trust within the community. The social, wellness, and educational programs have been well-received, and new members join with each new activity offered. The village has established some new community traditions such as the monthly Village Volksmarch, a 5K community nature hike the first Saturday of each month. Another favorite program series is Village Voices, where volunteer members of the community teach other neighbors what "community" looks like in their native home cultures.

The Montgomery County Villages Consortium will be the fiscal sponsor for SBPV for Fiscal Year 2025. SBPV is anxious to begin volunteer services in FY25, as soon as it obtains insurance and nonprofit status through the nascent consortium.





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SBP Village - Social Engagements - Fall/Winter Calendar

Join in, meet neighbors, learn stuff, be well, and have fun!

Details & Updates: SBPvillage.org Questions: SBPvillage@gmail.com

OCTOBER 2024

- **10/5 Village Volksmarch** (5K Community Walk) 10 AM @ Matthew Henson Trail at Rippling Brook Dr. 1st Sat. of each month: Walk at your own pace for fresh air, exercise, and neighborly camaraderie
- **10/9 Brookside Gardens Walk** 1 PM with neighbor Sandy Fleming
Please register in advance so Sandy can send updates if needed: SBPvillage.org
- **10/10 Village Planning Meeting** 7:30 PM via Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/SBPvillageZoom>
- **10/20 BlocktoberFest Community Block Party** 3 PM - 6 PM near Bel Pre Elementary.
Sponsored by SBP's Civic & Rec Associations - Water provided, BYOB & snack or dessert to share
- **10/20 - 11/3: Communitywide Project: SOCIABLE SCARECROWS**
Let's make fall festive by putting scarecrows in our yards. You may wish to dress or pose yours to indicate a household hobby, identity, or interest (e.g. sports fan, gardener, musician, cultural heritage, alma mater, trick or treat theme, etc.) Email your address and a picture of your scarecrow by 10/27 to SBPvillage@gmail.com so a map can be shared on Strathmore Bel Pre's community Facebook page, listserv, and village website: SBPvillage.org. Walk the neighborhood and enjoy the inviting display of community creativity, and "Like" your favorites.
- **10/26 Bel Pre Rec Association Trunk or Treat** 5 PM - 7 PM @ pool parking lot



NOVEMBER 2024

- **11/1 "Glow & Throw" Axe Throwing** 6:00 - 8:00 PM @ The Adventure Park at Sandy Spring
Registration and payment required for this event: SBPvillage.org
- **11/2 Village Volksmarch** (5K Community Walk) 10 AM @ Matthew Henson Trail at Rippling Brook Dr.
We may also walk the Scarecrow route, if there is good participation.
- **11/14 SBP Village Volunteer Training** 7:30 PM @ Cookie Stagnitto's home: 2901 Regina Dr.
Visit website for details: SBPvillage.org
- **11/21 SBP Community Annual Meeting** with SBP Civic Association & Bel Pre Rec Association
- **11/23-11/28 Communitywide Project: DRIVEWAY CHALK ART SHOW** Draw pictures or write what you are thankful for, then walk the neighborhood and enjoy gratitude on display.



DECEMBER 2024

- **12/1-12/31 Communitywide Project: SPREAD CHEER** Consider delivering greeting cards or goodies to neighbors you don't know yet. Include your name and contact information. Everyone feels welcome and safe in the community when they have friendly neighbors they know and can call on.
- **12/5 SBP Community Town Hall** with SBP Civic Association & Bel Pre Rec Association
- **12/7 Village Volksmarch** (5K Community Walk) 10 AM @ Matthew Henson Trail at Rippling Brook Dr.
- **12/12 Cookie Swap** 4-6 PM @ Luba Dowhaluk's house: 2817 Regina Dr. Bake and bring a container of goodies to trade and an empty container to fill with new treats to take home.
- **TBD (12/24 - 12/31) FROZEN the Musical @ Olney Theater**
Register on SBPvillage.org or email SBPvillage@gmail.com if interested in discounted group tickets



– Continued on [page 20](#) –

SBP Village Calendar

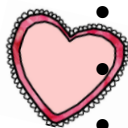
(continued from [page 19](#))

JANUARY 2025



- **1/1 Communitywide Project: RESOLVE TO GET INVOLVED** Attend a village event or volunteer!
- **1/4 Village Volksmarch** (5K Community Walk) 10 AM @ Matthew Henson Trail at Rippling Brook Dr.
- **1/9 Village New Volunteer Training**, if needed 7:30 PM Check website for location information
- **1/10 Toby's Dinner Theater: SOUND OF MUSIC**
Register on SBPvillage.org or email SBPvillage@gmail.com if interested in discounted group tickets
- **1/16 Fireside Chat & Tea** 2:00 - 4:00 *Snow or Shine* @ Nancy & Ted Bechtol's 13700 Rippling Brook
- **TBD MoCo Emergency Preparedness Class: SMART STROKE** 7:30 PM *Check website for date*
Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/SBPvillageZoom> Learn the risk factors, symptoms, and response for a Stroke

FEBRUARY 2025



- **2/1 Village Volksmarch** (5K Community Walk) 10 AM @ Matthew Henson Trail at Rippling Brook Dr.
- **2/1-2/28 Communitywide Project: ACTS OF KINDNESS** Look for ways to brighten a neighbor's day.
- **2/13 Village Meeting** 7:30 PM via Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/SBPvillageZoom>
- **2/27 Happy Hour Social 5:30 - 7:30 PM** @ Linda & Charlie Bea's Home 2909 Regina Drive
- **TBD MoCo Emergency Preparedness Class: CPR** 2 hour in-person certification class location TBD

MARCH 2025

- **3/1 Village Volksmarch** (5K Community Walk) 10 AM @ Matthew Henson Trail at Rippling Brook Dr.
- **3/13 Village Meeting** 7:30 PM via Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/SBPvillageZoom>

Check our website for updates! Several events will be added to the schedule, including:

Brookside Garden of Lights
Community Art Show (Visual artists, please contact SBPvillage@gmail.com if you'd like to participate)
Village Voices (Please email if you are willing to share about your native community and culture)
Parents' Night Out
Lunch & Learn: How to Set Up a Trust
Independent Film Screenings
Pub Bingo & Trivia Nights

Trunk or Treat 2024

Sunday October 26, 5 to 7 pm

Trunk or Treat will take place on Saturday, October 26, in the Pool Parking Lot, from 5 pm to 7 pm. Set-up starts at 4:30 pm. The earlier set-up time is for the folks who are decorating their trunks and arranging their candy/treats to come and do so, before the kids arrive. All are welcome.

This is a spin from the traditional Halloween trick or treating, Trunk or Treat brings together community members of all ages and neighborhood kids (especially yours). Just come to the pool parking lot, open and decorate (or not) your vehicle's trunk for Halloween. Then put out lots of treats, to be collected by the kids. Or simply bring your kids in their costumes (or not) and have fun, collect the treats, visit with your neighbors, and enjoy the event.

Each trunker (those who come to give out the candy/treats) should count on between 80 and 100 kids arriving.

This year's Trunk or Treat will be run by former BPRA Trustee (and BPRA Secretary) PAULETTE LADAS, and DUSTIN BORZET. If you have questions, contact Paulette at (301) 674-7742 or pauletteladas@gmail.com.



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2024 Summer Movies Recap

by John Bogasky

2024 marked our Civic Association's 12th year of summer movies at our pool.

We show movies rain or shine. This year, Mother Nature brought our final two movies into the Pavilion. We had perfect weather for Barbie, the top vote-getter in this year's movie poll.

SBPCA 2024 Summer Movie Schedule

June 1	July 6	August 3	August 31
			
<i>The Boys In The Boat</i>	<i>Barbie</i>	<i>The Holdovers</i>	<i>Mission: Impossible: Dead Reckoning (Part One)</i>



Attendance was good this summer, especially when the weather cooperated. While we were dry and snug watching movies under the Pavilion roof, I understand how a rainy night discourages some from coming out. I hope that more families give a rainy night a try next year.

Our summer movies only happen through the efforts of our volunteers. I want to thank STEVE DEMING, KYE PAK, DAVE PULLEN, and JOE MOELLER for their indispensable help with presenting our movies this past summer. I also want to thank our sponsors, whose financial contributions make it possible to license and obtain our summer movies.

The SBP Civic Association Thanks Our 2024 Summer Entertainment Sponsors!!!

SBP Superstars



Community Champions

Susan Shannon

Oscar Winners

Larry, Rita, & Angela Vaught

Ted & Nancy Bechtol

Lilla Hammond & Family

John & Shelly Bogasky

Paul & Maria Stagnitto

Tim Schulz & Isadora Cipoletta

David & Sara Pullen

Band Leaders

Peter & Diane Kendall

Linda & Charles Bea

Janet Kisler

Stan & Carol Sachar

Steve Jennison

Bob & Deb Perry

Tigran Iskanian & Shannon O'Rourke

J. Steed & Sharon Edwards

Christopher & Lauren Mazenac

Trisha Wells & Marc Nations

Chris Swan & Elliot Chabot

Super Fans

Kathleen Dyer

Gloria Jackson

Carmen Lopez

Kathleen Emery

Michele Cimbala

Norman & Maureen Stulz

Susan Griesbauer

Billy & Maggie Ruppert

David & Sandra Fleming

George Wigfall

Daniel & Raquel Mann

Kate Duchelle & Doug Smith

Lynne Towle

Aaron & Andrea Carter

Timothy & Carol Ann Boyd

Sandeep & Laura Krishnan

Cecily Nabors & Lou Martin

Laala Wodjouatt & David Lozano

Karen Kart & Lacy Thompson

Anahid & Taleen Ghazarian

Gregory Niswonger & Mary Yano

Andrea Danko-Koenig & Thomas Koenig

And Our Host - The Bel Pre Recreational Association

Bel Pre Recreational Association – Annual Board Member Elections

2024 Candidates 3 positions – 3 candidates

The following candidate profiles reflect all of those received prior to *The Bugle* publication deadline.

Ted Bechtol

1. Age (optional):

2. Occupation: I have been retired from the Federal government for about 6 years and have had a career working in various aspects of landscape management including historic properties both private, institutional, and governmental.

3. Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood: We have lived in the Strathmore Bel Pre community since 1990 and our two girls attended the local schools.

4. What are your most recent contributions for/to our community? I am a current Board member and have served for about 20 years while living in the community. Aside from attending regular Board meetings I manage our contracts for routine mowing and associated services, and tree work such as removals and ongoing tree pruning. Other duties may involve planning tree planting projects, researching rain garden feasibility and periodically organizing gardening volunteers. Additionally, I support a variety of facility maintenance projects and hands on efforts.

5. What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association? What is your vision for the Association? I believe the first priority of the BPRA is to maintain our pool and associated facilities at the highest level possible to provide a true community amenity and a place for coming together for community activities.

6. How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre? I build community by volunteering my time and skills to support other organizations such as the Civic Association and Villages.



Patrick Taylor

1. Age (optional): 59 years old

2. Occupation: Facilities manager at a FDA research facility

3. Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood: I've lived in the neighborhood for 18 years: the first 10 years on the side with the pool; the last 7 years on the south side; both on Rippling Brook Drive

4. What are your most recent contributions for/to our community? We've had kids on the swim team for the last 5 years. I've always volunteered for every meet and have recently been moved into the head timer position.

5. What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association? What is your vision for the Association? Recreational Associations are incredibly important for a healthy vibrant community. They develop opportunities for residents to be active and to interact with other people in the community and I believe that a tighter community leads to a safer community.

6. How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre? I've always heard compliments from people outside our community about how they wish that their community had all of the activities and closeness that our community has. I would continue to add to our social calendar and would like to see community programs like a kids book and toy swap among others. Maybe some community socials at local restaurants or breweries, especially during the winter months when there are not a lot of community events happening.



– Continued on [page 24](#) –

BPRA 2024 Board Member Candidates

(continued from [page 23](#))

Jennifer Duran

1. Age (optional): old enough to have seen Star Wars premier in the movie theater

2. Occupation: Digital Product Manager at FiscalNote

3. Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood: 19 years

4. What are your most recent contributions for/to our community? Our whole family is involved in the SPB Dolphins - my kids are swimmers, I officiate at the swim meets, and my husband takes the majority of the pictures of the team in action! We have also managed the SBP Snack Bar for the past two summers.



5. What do you see as the most important function of the Recreational Association? What is your vision for the Association? There are two key functions of the BPRA, equally important in my view.

- 1) To create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community who are seeking things to do and belonging in our neighborhood. I have always found this community to be a gem in this way and believe there is even more work to do to extend that sense of belonging. One of my children is neurodiverse and has been welcomed here with open arms her entire life - this has been amazing and life-changing for both her and our family! I want this to be a possibility for everyone in the community. We are incredibly fortunate to have a growing group of community members who are doing this work - and I would like to join the ranks of those on the board who ensure that we support them!
- 2) We need to continue the excellent practices of the folks who have been leading the BPRA to continue to maintain and invest in our facilities, so that we have the venue for the activities that bring us together. Managing the Snack Bar for the past two years has really opened our eyes to the level of effort, investment and commitment that is necessary to keep our pool and facilities running and so beautifully maintained. These facilities were a big selling point for us when we purchased our home in 2006, and we believe they will continue to add value and attract folks to our neighborhood for years to come.

My vision is that we don't let this disappear or go into a state of disrepair that would make our investment much harder to maintain - that we keep doing the hard work that comes with owning something so valuable in so many ways. Some years will be better than others, but creating community, and maintaining the places that bring us together is a worthy investment for all of us.

6. How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre? Two things again:

- 1) Keep empowering and encouraging the folks who are already dedicating their time and energy into creating community - the SPB Village events, the summer activities at the pool such as Zumba and water aerobics, the movie nights and concerts, and other events like the yard sale, Spring Fling and BlocktoberFest. Cosmic Kids, the before/after care and summer camp program at our elementary schools here is run by a family who lives and grew up here and creates even more opportunities for our kids to experience belonging in their neighborhood. We also have more informal things going on that are wonderful - I see the very popular puzzle exchanges my neighbor holds, the walking group that passes by my house every day, and the neighbors who do an amazing job bringing joy through their gardening talents. How lucky are we to have this? My goal in joining the board is to help sustain it where the BPRA facilities are involved.
- 2) Where possible, encourage opportunities to become more inclusive for others who seek belonging but haven't found their place yet. Inclusivity is frankly what has made my family so attached to this neighborhood - it seems to be a long-held tenant of our culture as SPB. Inclusion takes thought and intention, so I would like to contribute to the board by bringing my intention to grow our sense of community to include all who seek it.

Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association Board Member Elections

2024 Candidates 14 open positions – 5 candidates

Linda Bea (incumbent Secretary)

1. **Age (optional):**
 2. **Occupation:** 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 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 SBP 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 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 (incumbent Treasurer)

1. **Age (optional):** 67
2. **Occupation:** Retired from paid work, volunteer for Special Olympics, SBPCA, SourceAmerica, Main Street, SEEC, and The Glenmont Exchange. Direct Support “Professional” for my son John.
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 34 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** Multiple roles for the SBPCA including Treasurer, Bugle Ad Sales, SBPcivic listserv founder and moderator, Bugle contributor, and organizing our Summer Movie series. In a less direct way, my role as President of the Glenmont Exchange helps keep our community connected to neighboring communities.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the SBP Civic Association?** The SBPCA offers a vehicle where neighbors can work together to make our community better. Funded by voluntary donations and run by volunteers with shared purpose, the SBPCA has more flexibility to pursue new ideas without the covenant restrictions that restrain how the BPRA can deploy our mandatory homeowner assessment payments. Examples include the pool shed, the folding tables and chairs in the shed, our movie equipment, and the 4th of July Magic Show, all funded by SBPCA member dues and contributions.
6. **What is your vision for the Association?** All of us on the SBPCA Board have been serving for a decade or more and we have several vacancies. We need to find ways to attract new members and expand the voices on our Board. If you are interested in serving on our Board, please reach out to any of our Board members.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** My best ideas for building community in SBP are the ones I currently work on, especially the SBPcivic listserv that connects our SBPCA members and the Summer Movies at the pool, open to all SBP residents and their guests.

– Continued on [page 26](#) –

2024 SBPCA Candidates

(continued from [page 25](#))

Elliot Chabot

1. **Age (optional):**
 2. **Occupation:** attorney (retired)
 3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 20 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 (BPRA). From 2012 to 2023, I also served as assistant editor of *The Bugle*. I am currently chair of the BPRA's Governing Documents Committee, serve on the BPRA's Finance Committee, and am a board member of the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association. I have assisted with our community's Summer Entertainment Series at the pool, Spring Thing, BlocktoberFest, and the community yard sale. From 2009-2020, I served as chair of the Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee. 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 SBP Civic Association?** Speaking out for our community before the County Council and other government agencies. Keep our community strong and our voices heard. Working with the BPRA and other Strathmore Bel Pre groups.
 6. **What is your vision for the 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?** The Civic Association (hopefully jointly with the BPRA, SBP Village, Scout Troop/Pack 763, the Swim Team, the local PTAs, and other neighborhood groups) needs to reach out to the new members of our community. People need to be welcomed when they move into Strathmore Bel Pre. It's a great community with lots of opportunities for involvement — what we need is better communication.
-

Lilla Hammond

1. **Age (optional):** Over half a century
2. **Occupation:** Grandmother
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 40 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** Managed the 4th of July celebration for 30 years
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the SBP Civic Association?** SBPCA's most important functions are to bring people together, protect and care for our community's interests on the outside, and ensure the preservation and beauty of our existing neighborhood environment.
6. **What is your vision for the Association?** We should continue to give our kids great opportunities, such as the swimming program, and ensure a safe and congenial environment for them and respect for all of our neighbors.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** I would encourage more events for neighbors to get to know each other, continually reach out to get to know more people and find ways to include them in the activities and organizations available here, to look for ways to recognize all the people who contribute in individual ways to uplifting the community,

– Continued on [page 27](#) –

2024 SBPCA Candidates

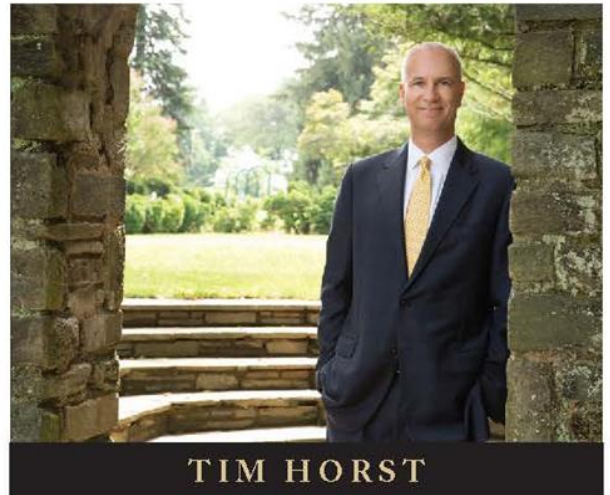
(continued from [page 26](#))

Chris Swan

1. **Age (optional):**
2. **Occupation:** law librarian (retired)
3. **Length of time living in the Strathmore/Bel Pre neighborhood:** 19 years
4. **What are your most recent contributions for/to our community?** After 11 years as *Bugle* editor, I stepped down. Fortunately, Kathy Emery most ably has become our new *Bugle* editor. I still assist her from time to time. Though I no longer am a Trustee of the Bel Pre Recreational Association, I participate in the BPRA Governing Documents and Finance Committees. I assist in running the Summer Entertainment Series, and generally plan and manage the Summer Music events. I also play major roles in the Spring Thing, our BlocktoberFest and Trunk or Treat. I am active in our Strathmore Bel Pre Village. I remain president of the Aspen Hill Friends of the Library and hope to see a more active role for our Friends group in the future.
5. **What do you see as the most important function of the SBP Civic Association?** To create a strong and informed community, where residents actively engage in our community, are caring, have a sense of place – this is our community, living is great in Strathmore Bel Pre. The Civic Association also needs to play a role in representing our community to those around us, and to the local government, other civic leaders, etc.
6. **What is your vision for the Association?** I would like the Civic Association to have a functioning and inclusive website, to plan and hold more events, and to bring back the Public Affairs Series, with presentations regarding issues and concerns of the times, and those affecting our neighborhood, and us as citizens of Montgomery County.
7. **How would you build community in Strathmore Bel Pre?** We should reach out to our new neighbors in our community to help them get acquainted with our community. We also need to find more opportunities for our neighbors to engage each other and with the Civic and Rec Associations.

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Notes from the Glenmont Exchange

by John Bogasky

Gravity Mountain Bike Park Opens in Wheaton Regional Park

Montgomery Parks held the grand opening for the new Bike Park back in July. The Gravity Mountain Bike Park, a unique addition to our community, offers an exciting experience for kids and families. With two distinct courses, the green course features dirt berms, dirt table-tops, and rollers, while the more challenging blue course boasts a start platform, jump sections, and wooden berm turns. With nearly a mile of combined trails, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

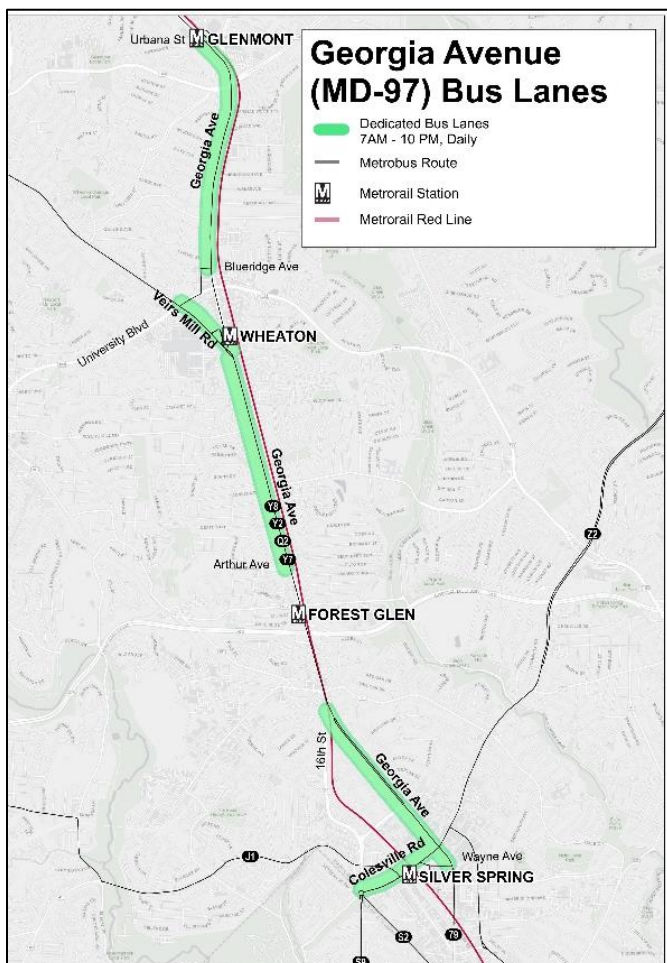


County, Metro, and Maryland Departments of Transportation Agree to Extend Bus Lane Pilot Program on Georgia Avenue

We were all happy to see Metro's Red Line reopen on schedule. However, you may have been surprised to learn that the Georgia Avenue bus lanes are still in effect. The State and County agreed to extend the bus lanes on a pilot basis through December.

The County Executive announcement focused on the benefits to transit riders and noted that measured "travel times for drivers remained constant" despite the lane closures. The pilot will provide an opportunity to measure the impact in a more normal situation when the Metro trains are running. The full announcement is at:

<https://montgomerycomd.blogspot.com/2024/08/county-metro-and-maryland-departments.html>.





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Strathmore Park Reopening Celebration

Montgomery Parks is throwing our community a party to celebrate the re-opening of Strathmore Local Park! Gather in October to enjoy the park's updated playground, courts, pumpkin decorating, and treats. Details are in the flyer. The park is located next to Strathmore Elementary School on Beaverwood Lane. **Because of this event, BloctoberFest will now be held on Sunday, October 20.**



MONTGOMERY PARKS

Join Us For A Park Re-Opening Celebration!

Saturday, October 19, 2024
from 2 - 3:30 pm
Rain date: Saturday, October 26

Enjoy the park's updated playground, courts,
pumpkin decorating, and treats

Costumes encouraged!

Strathmore Local Park
3210 Beaverwood Lane
Aspen Hill, MD 20906



MontgomeryParks.org



BlocktoberFest 2024

Sunday October 20, 3 to 6 pm

BlocktoberFest will be held on October 20 on Rippling Brook Drive between the Matthew Henson Trail and Bel Pre Elementary School. Set-up begins at 2 pm. The party will run from 3-6 pm.

BlocktoberFest is our community's block party – with music; games (some with prizes) and entertainment for the kids; gourmet pizza and a snack potluck

(please bring snacks to share); food, juice, water, soft drinks; and bring your own (alcoholic) beverages, if desired (BYOB). This is your opportunity to get together with neighbors and friends, enjoy each other's company, have fun, and be outside together in the nice fall weather.

Many thanks to: Scout Troop/Pack 763, CHARLIE MEININGER, CHRIS SWAN, KYE PAK, COOKIE (MARIA) STAGNITTO, PAUL SPELMAN, ELLIOT CHABOT, KRISTI HULLINGS and the SBP Village, and more, and with funding and support from the Civic Association and the Rec Association.

Bring yourself, your family, your friends, and your potluck contributions!



SBP July 4th Celebration

by Lilla Hammond

Our Strathmore Bel Pre Community came together, again, to celebrate our country's Independence Day. For the past fifty-plus years, we have invited everyone in our neighborhood to share the day with us. This year was no exception. At this time, we recognize those people who helped make July 4th, 2024 special. We could not have done it without their contributions.

Website and registration: CHRIS WRIGHT and BILLY RUPPERT. RITA VAUGHT and Luba DOWHALUK.

Equipment and set-up for the parade and pool activities: Luba and BOHDAN DOWHALUK, JOE and JACKIE MOELLER and RITA VAUGHT.

Flag Ceremony: Cub Scouts: OWEN A., CHASE M., LACEY M., OWEN T., DAVID P., MAXIMILLIAN D., APOLLO T-P. and WESLEY H.. Scouts BSA: Troop 763: LIAM A., TOBY D., NATH M., LUCAS M. and NOAH P.. Scouts from Troop 264: CONNOR A., ALISON D., LADA S-C., OLGA S-C. and cousin. Scout leaders: BILL TOTTEN, JOE and Jackie MOELLER, LUCAS MOELLER, LAUREN ATKINS.

Parade: OFFICER CONNOR RUPPERT, of Montgomery County Police and a member of our community, led our children's parade. We are grateful to him. He enjoyed many conversations with his neighbors and provided helpful answers to their questions. We also thank those who helped with our parade.

Entertainment and Games: Michael CHAMBERLAIN, our favorite magician, shared surprising tricks, giving everyone an amazing and fun performance. Games followed and the leaders were kept busy with children laughing and playing – having a great time. Prizes were given.

Our First-time event: The American History Quiz!! It was a great success! ALLYSON RANDOLPH provided the questions. The children were excited about the challenge and had a very hard time waiting for everyone to complete it. They wanted to know who answered the most questions correctly. Participants were: ELORA B., ALLISON P, EVIE H., ZOE H., ELIN M., TITAN L., LADA, ZOE P., BELLE D., OLGA, and VICKI. OLGA won!

July 4th 2024 Planning Committee: Co-chairs LUBA DOWHALUK and LILLA HAMMOND, with support from ALLYSON RANDOLPH, ARPAD KOROSSY, LASZLO KOROSSY, MEICA and DESTIN DOPWELL, JACKIE FARY-MOELLER, RITA VAUGHT, SHANNON KNAPP, MILTON and CLAUDIA MACIEL, JR., DANIEL FLOYD, CHRIS MARSHALL, MEICA and DESTIN DOPWELL, JANET SAND and JOHN BOGASKY.

We thank all those who helped make our July 4th celebration enjoyable! We have done our best to acknowledge everyone. There are others who contributed. We thank them, too!

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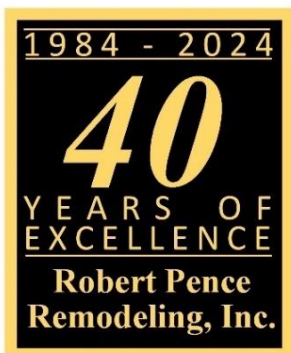
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Don't Miss Out on Community Connections

Many great things are happening in our community. *The Bugle* tries to cover many of them for all residents of the community, but with just four editions a year, *The Bugle* isn't the most timely way to receive information. To stay plugged into community happenings, if you are not already participating in any of these, please consider joining in.

- 1) Join the SBP Civic Association and its membership listserv. See box below for details.
 - a. The listserv enables:
 - timely distribution of relevant information to community members
 - immediate communication for situations like missing or found pets
 - asking for neighbor recommendations for service providers or other information
 - b. While past listserv emails can be searched for specific information, TRISHA WELLS has made it easier to find recommendations for service providers. She has compiled all the service provider recommendations from the listserv into a single table, including who provided the recommendation and when the provider was used. While the providers in this list aren't endorsed by the BPRA or SBPCA, you can reach out to the recommending neighbor to find out more and then decide for yourself if you want to use the provider.
- 2) When signing up for the SBPCA, you can indicate whether or not you want to be added to the community directory. If you are already an SBPCA member but are not in the current directory, ask JOHN BOGASKY to include you in the next bi-annual release.
- 3) Participate in SBP Village activities which are announced on the SBPCA listserv, the SBP Facebook page (facebook.com/strathmoreatbelpre) and the Village's new website (SBPvillage.org). Email Kristi Hullings at SBPvillage@gmail.com to be added to the SBP Village mailing list.
- 4) If you are new to the neighborhood, please reach out to SUZANNE LAWSON. Call or text her at (301) 915-7775 or email her at suzanne57lawson@gmail.com. She would be pleased to speak with you on the phone, or arrange to meet in-person, to welcome you to the neighborhood and help you connect to all the things that are available here.

Joining the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

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

Membership Dues are just \$25 per year

Why Join? The Civic Association:












- Publishes *The Bugle* and a community directory (for those who opt-in)
- Hosts the strathmorebelpre.org web site
- Runs the Civic Association listserv, which now includes access to a searchable summary of neighbor recommendations for local service providers
- Organizes events like the community yard sale, the July 4th celebration, summer movies and concerts, BlocktoberFest, and Trunk or Treat
- Supports the SBP Village initiative and local scouting organizations

To join the SBP Civic Association and its membership listserv, simply send an email to JOHN BOGASKY at johnbogasky@hotmail.com with your request. Listserv membership is included with SBP Civic Association membership.

Strathmore Bel Pre Winter Calendar (Oct & Nov)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Oct 1 BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm on Zoom	2 Rosh Hashanah starts	3 Public schools closed	4	5 Village Volksmarch 10am, Matthew Henson trail, by Bel Pre ES
6	7 	8	9 Village, Brookside Gardens Walk, 1pm	10 Yom Kippur Village planning meeting @ 7:30 on Zoom	11	12
13 	14 Indigenous Peoples Day Library closed	15	16 	17	18 Public schools closed for students	19 
20 BlocktoberFest 3-6 pm, Rippling Brook Drive, by Bel Pre ES	21 Village project "Sociable Scarecrows" starts thru 11/3	22 SBP Civic Assoc Board meeting @ 7:30 pm on Zoom	23 	24	25	26 Trunk or Treat 5-7 pm @ the pool parking lot
27 Scarecrow photos due	28 	29 	30 Call if you haven't gotten your BPRA annual meeting notice yet	31 Halloween & Diwali 	Nov. 1 Village Axe Throwing 6-8pm @ Sandy Spring Adv Park	2 Village Volksmarch 10am, Matthew Henson trail, by Bel Pre ES
3 "Fall back" to Eastern Standard Time	4 Public schools closed for students	5 Election Day BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30pm on Zoom; public schools closed	6	7	8	9 Scouting for Food begins 9am
10 Library closed	11 Veteran's Day Library closed, No trash, trash slides	12	13 	14 Village Volunteer Training 7:30pm @ Cookie Stagnitto's	15	16 
17	18 	19	20 Deadline for BPRA ballots	21 Annual Meetings on Zoom SBPCA (7 pm), BPRA (7:30 pm)	22	23 Village project "Driveway Chalk Art Show" starts thru 11/28
24	25 Public schools early dismissal	26 Public Schools early dismissal	27 Public Schools closed 	28 Thanksgiving Library, Public Schools closed No trash, trash slides	29 Native American Heritage Day Library, Public Schools closed	30

Strathmore Bel Pre Winter Calendar (Dec & Jan)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 1 Village "Spread Cheer" Project starts	2	3 BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm on Zoom	4	5 Annual Town Hall meeting 8pm on Zoom	6	7 Village Volksmarch 10am, Matthew Henson trail, by Bel Pre ES
8	9	10 	11	12 Village Cookie Swap 4-6pm @ Luba Dowhaluk's	13	14 
15	16 	17	18	19	20	21
22 	23 Public schools closed	24 Public schools closed	25 Christmas, Hanukkah begins Library & public schools closed, No trash, trash slides	26 Kawanaza begins Public schools closed	27 Public schools closed	28 
29	30 Public schools closed	31 New Year's Eve Public schools closed	Jan 1 New Year's Day Library, Public schools closed No trash, trash slides	2	3 	4 Village Volksmarch 10am, Matthew Henson trail, by Bel Pre ES
5	6	7 BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm on Zoom (tentative)	8	9 Village new volunteer training @ 7:30pm (check website)	10 Village, Sound of Music @ Toby's Dinner Theater	11
12 	13	14	15 	16 Village Fireside Chat & Tea, 2-4pm @ Bechtol's house	17	18 
19	20 Martin Luther King Day Library, Public Schools closed No trash, trash slides	21 	22	23	24 	25
26	27	28 SBP Civic Assoc Board meeting @ 7:30 pm on Zoom	29 Public schools closed for students	30	31	Feb 1 Village Volksmarch 10 am, Matthew Henson trail, by Bel Pre ES
2	3	4 BPRA Board meeting @ 7:30 pm on Zoom (tentative)	5	6	7	8

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Sponsored by Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association

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

9:00 A.M.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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

Food collected will help local food pantries feed the hungry.

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