



Bel Pre Recreational Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6370 Silver Spring, MD 20916-6370

January 2024

Dear Neighbor:

**Happy New Year! The Bel Pre Recreational Association Board of Trustees wishes you a happy, safe, healthy, and successful 2024.**

**This mailing includes the bill for your 2024 BPR A annual household assessment, as well as updates from our Civic Association and the SBP Dolphins swim team. Your payment of \$400 is due March 1, 2024, and is considered late if not paid by that date.** However, no additional charges are levied as long as payment is received or postmarked by March 31, 2024 (the "grace period.")

Please make every effort to pay your assessment on time. Prompt payments help you avoid delinquency fees and reduce the time our volunteers must spend collecting assessment payments.

#### **Why must I pay this assessment?**

Payment of the annual assessment is required by law. There is a covenant attached to your property deed, which is recorded in the Montgomery County Land Records. When you bought your home, or opted to join the BPR A, you accepted the legal responsibility to pay this annual assessment for as long as you own the home. Copies of the covenants are available on the Strathmore Bel Pre community website: [StrathmoreBelPre.org/government-documents/](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/government-documents/), under the heading "Covenants – Bel Pre Recreational Association."

#### **What am I paying for?**

The annual assessment pays for operation, maintenance, and upkeep of our shared recreational facilities, and contributes to our Reserve Account in anticipation of future capital expenses. The Association's recreational complex is located at 13920 Bethpage Lane. We anticipate that the pool will be open from Saturday, May 25 through Labor Day, Monday, September 2. The tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts are accessible year-round. At less than \$35 per month, the annual assessment is a bargain compared to the cost of membership in a private swim and tennis club or the average HOA fee in Montgomery County.

#### **How do I pay?**

You may pay online via credit card (no transaction fees) or by paper check or money order. *These are the only acceptable forms of payment. Board members are not authorized to accept hand-delivery of your payment.*

**Online:** Visit [StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment). This option should be enabled by February 1, 2024.

**Paper Check:** Write one check payable to Bel Pre Recreational Association. The total should include the mandatory BPR A Assessment and any optional payments. Include your BPR A street address on the check, and mail to: **Bel Pre Recreational Association, Inc., P.O. Box 6370, Silver Spring, MD 20916-6370.**

#### **What happens if my payment is late?**

If we have not received your assessment payment by March 31\*, your account is assessed a one-time late fee of 10% (\$40.00); and, as required by a County Government Order, simple interest at 6% per year. Interest is accrued on the first day of each month retroactive to the March 1 due date (i.e., on April 1, you accrue \$2.00 in interest expense for the month of March; on May 1, you accrue another \$2.00 if payment was not received during April; etc.)

**\*Payments mailed to BPR A must be postmarked by March 31, 2024 to be considered on time.**

#### **What happens if I do not pay?**

The Association will make reasonable attempts to reach homeowners whose payments are past due. If you fail to respond to our attempts to contact you at your Strathmore Bel Pre address or the billing address of record, BPR A will refer your account to our attorney. BPR A's attorney is authorized to begin collection efforts; and, if necessary, to place a lien on your property deed. Homeowners whose accounts are referred for collection will be responsible for additional costs, including attorneys' fees, court filing fees, etc., which must be paid in addition to the total amount of unpaid annual assessments, interest, and late fees. See the Assessment Form for additional information.

#### **Questions?**

If you have any questions about the assessment or about BPR A, please call me at (301) 603-9604 or contact BPR A Treasurer Dave Pullen at [treasurer4bpra@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer4bpra@gmail.com) or (301) 523-2448. **If you recently moved out of the neighborhood or believe you have received this notice in error, please contact Dave Pullen immediately so that we can update our records accordingly.**

Karen Purdy, President

*Serving the Strathmore at Bel Pre community since 1966*

# BEL PRE RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION (BPRA)

## 2024 Annual Assessment of \$400 is due March 1, 2024

**\*After March 31** additional charges including a 10% late fee (\$40.00), plus 6% interest per annum (\$2.00/month) and collection costs apply.

There are three ways to pay your Annual Assessment, update your homeowner records with BPRA, and confirm your pool check-in information for this summer.

### 1 - Online: Update information and pay with a credit card (NO FEES)

- *This is the preferred method. Spending a few minutes updating your information and paying your assessment online saves our volunteers countless hours of data entry and check processing time.*
- See the back of the assessment form for basic instructions and visit [StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment) for links and full instructions.
- Pay your BPRA annual assessment, join the SBPCA, and/or donate to the pet waste station, Summer Entertainment and Street Festivals or SBP Dolphins online, using a credit card.
- Update your eSoft Profile and Household Information.
- Confirm your pool check-in information when you pay your assessment.
- Indicate/update interest in volunteering for the community.
- *If you make your payment and update your information online, you do not need to return the paper form.*

### 2 - Online and via mail: Update information online and pay with a mailed paper check

- Pay your BPRA annual assessment, and/or join the SBPCA, make a pet waste station, Summer Entertainment and Street Festivals or SBP Dolphins donation with a paper check or money order.
- Update your eSoft Profile and Household Information online. See the back of the assessment form for basic instructions and visit [StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment) for links and full instructions.
- Confirm your pool check-in information online.
- Indicate/update interest in volunteering for the community online.
- Make check payable to Bel Pre Recreational Association.
- Include BPRA property address on check.
- Write **one** check for all payments (BPRA assessment, SBPCA membership, pet waste station donation, SBP Dolphins donation).
- Mail check and completed form to BPRA P.O. Box 6370, Silver Spring, MD 20916-6370.
- *If you update your household information online, you do not need to return the paper form.*

### 3 – Mail only: Update information and pay via mail

- Complete the enclosed BPRA Assessment Payment and Household Information Form. Make changes to owner names and mailing address as necessary.
- Make check payable to Bel Pre Recreational Association.
- Include BPRA property address on check.
- Write **one** check for all payments (BPRA Annual Assessment, SBPCA membership, pet waste station donation, Summer Entertainment and Street Festivals donation, SBP Dolphins donation).
- Mail check and completed form to BPRA P.O. Box 6370, Silver Spring, MD 20916-6370.

## **BPRA COLLECTIONS PROCEDURES**

*The full BPRA Collections Policy can be found at [StrathmoreBelPre.org/government-documents](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/government-documents).*

The Association will make up to three written attempts to collect your payment (including all accrued interest, late fees, and our collection costs, as applicable). If we are unable to reach you or are unsuccessful in our effort to collect your payment, then the Board of Trustees will refer your account to our attorney for collection. At that point, you will become liable for additional costs, including attorneys' fees, costs associated with placing a lien on your property, and court costs if necessary.

**For those experiencing documented, short-term financial hardship**, BPRA has established an Assessment Assistance Committee to review and rule on relief applications. Relief requests must be filed **no later than March 31** using the required application, which is available on the community website at: [strathmorebelpre.org/annual-assessment](http://strathmorebelpre.org/annual-assessment) or may be requested from BPRA Treasurer Dave Pullen at [treasurer4bpbra@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer4bpbra@gmail.com) or (301) 523-2448. As the Committee's authority is limited, homeowners requiring greater flexibility in making payment should consider paying the full Assessment by credit card, which allows the cardholder greater control over the payment timeline.

# BPRA Assessment Payment and Household Information Form

Complete and return this form with your payment **OR** pay and update information online.

<b>BPRA 2024 Assessment (required)*</b> .....	<b>\$ 400.00**</b>
Optional: Donation to help support the pet waste station.....	\$ _____
Optional: SBP Dolphins Donation.....	\$ _____
Optional: SBPCA Membership, \$25.....	\$ _____
Optional: Summer Entertainment and Street Festivals Donation .....	\$ _____
<b>Total Enclosed</b> (one check payable to BPRA).....	<b>\$ _____</b>

**\*After March 31, 2024** additional charges including a 10% late fee (\$40.00), plus 6% interest per annum (\$2.00/month) and collection costs apply. \*\*2024 only, does not include any amounts owed for prior years.

**Please provide all information below.** It is important that we have accurate homeowner records and contact information. Please update owner names as needed and indicate primary phone and email with \*.

OWNER NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

BPRA PROPERTY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RENTAL? Yes No If YES, who will use the pool: OWNER RENTER

Montgomery County Code §29-51(g) states that a landlord of a rental dwelling in a community **must** report to the governing body of the community the rental status of each unit owned by the landlord, **and** report any changes in status of each unit within 10 days of the change. BPRA relies on such reports in compiling and filing its annual report to the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, as required by Montgomery Count Code §29-51(h)

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if different than above)

PHONE NUMBER(S): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS(ES): \_\_\_\_\_

**HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION** – Required for pool check in. List each **resident** who is eligible for pool entry per the BPRA Recreational Facilities Policy. **ONLY** those that live in the BPRA home should be listed. Please provide date of birth for those under 18.

Name, Date of Birth	Name, Date of Birth	Name, Date of Birth
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## **POOL ACCESS and CHECK-IN**

Our Household-based pool entry system allows for admission for all individuals residing in your home. **Names and photos of each household member must be on file in eSoft Planner to gain access.** Assistance setting up your eSoft Planner account and taking and uploading photos will be available in the spring. *Access to the pool and related facilities is not permitted for households with accounts in arrears.* The BPRA Recreational Facilities Policy can be found at [StrathmoreBelPre.org/government-documents](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/government-documents).

## **SBPCA LISTSERV**

When you join the SBPCA and provide your email address, you will automatically be invited to join the community listserv. By joining the listserv, you will receive community updates and access to an electronic version of *THE BUGLE*. (SBPCA **DOES NOT** provide your email address to any other organizations.)

Do not share my email address with the SBPCA for the SBPCA Community listserv.

## **BPRA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** (check any that you are interested in)

\_\_\_ Entertainment & Recreation    \_\_\_ Tennis/Pickleball Courts    \_\_\_ Governing Documents    \_\_\_ BPRA Board  
\_\_\_ Neighborhood Dispute Resolution    \_\_\_ Grounds Maintenance    \_\_\_ Long Term Planning    \_\_\_ Finance Com.

## **SBPCA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** (check any that you are interested in)

\_\_\_ SBPCA Board Member    \_\_\_ July 4<sup>th</sup>    \_\_\_ Deliver THE BUGLE    \_\_\_ Welcome Committee  
\_\_\_ Summer Entertainment Series    \_\_\_ Webmaster    \_\_\_ Monitor Zoning Issues

## Update information online and pay with a credit card (NO FEES) or mailed paper check

Visit [StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/annual-assessment) for links and detailed step-by-step instructions. Basic instructions are below. As you navigate the site, make sure to click "Update", "Continue", "Add Family Member", or "Finished" at the bottom of each page to save changes.

eSoft Menu Choices you will use to complete steps below:



- **Steps 2, 3, 6 and 7:** Hover over My Account for the drop down menu to: update My Profile, review My Memberships, update My Interests, or Add Family Member.
- **Steps 4 and 5:** **Click** Memberships on the top menu for the Swim Membership list.

### 1. Log in to your account.

- Your user name is probably NOT your email address. Use the link on the login page to retrieve your login or reset your password as necessary. If you cannot retrieve your information with those links, please visit [StrathmoreBelPre.org/pool-access-esoft](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/pool-access-esoft) and fill out the eSoft Planner help form.

### 2. Review your PROFILE, ensure that your information (name, address, email address) is correct, and make any necessary updates. Make sure all resident household members are listed in My Profile. You can add additional household/family members in step 3. Do not add primary account holder as a Family Member.

- Hover over My Account, click on My Profile.

### 3. ADD HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY MEMBERS, and upload photos as necessary.

- These are your Household Members as defined by the BPRAs Recreational Facilities Policy. Please note: just because a family member is listed in My Profile does not mean they are set up for check-in at the pool. The family member must be enrolled in the 2024 BPRAs Annual Assessment - due March 1, 2024 Swim Membership (Step 4) to be available for pool check in.
- **If you need to add a family member:** Hover over My Account, click Add Family Members. Fill in required information. Click "Add Family Member" at the bottom of the page. Repeat as necessary.
- **If you need to delete a family member:** visit [StrathmoreBelPre.org/pool-access-esoft](http://StrathmoreBelPre.org/pool-access-esoft) and fill out the eSoft Planner help form.

### 4. ENROLL in the 2024 BPRAs Annual Assessment - due March 1, 2024 membership to **pay your assessment** and get set up for pool check in (you may pay online or by check.)

- Pay your BPRAs Annual Assessment:
  - **Click** "Memberships."
  - Click "Sign Up" next to 2024 BPRAs Annual Assessment - due March 1, 2024.
  - Complete the steps for enrollment. Select pay by credit card or pay by check.

### 5. ENROLL in the appropriate Swim Membership to join the SBPCA, or make a Pet Waste Station, SBP Dolphins or Summer Entertainment and Street Festivals donation.

- **Click** "Memberships."
- Click "Sign Up" next to the membership you would like to enroll in.
- Complete the steps for enrollment. Select pay by credit card or pay by check.
- Repeat for each enrollment. **There will be a separate credit card transaction for each enrollment.**

### 6. Click on **MY MEMBERSHIPS**, and **VERIFY** that your membership is set up correctly. Family members must be listed in your 2024 BPRAs Annual Assessment - due March 1, 2024 membership to show up for pool check in. All valid memberships for 2024 have "Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024" as the membership dates. Prior year memberships are not valid for 2024.

### 7. Confirm or update **MY INTERESTS** to express interest in volunteering for the community. Please do this each year.

- Hover over My Account, Click My Interests.

### 8. If you opted for check payment: After completing all membership enrollment selections, please write a single check to cover all enrollments. Make checks payable to BPRAs, and note your property address on the check or on a separate piece of paper. Please mail your check to BPRAs P.O. Box 6370, Silver Spring, MD 20916. **Payments must be received or postmarked by March 31, 2024 to be considered on-time.**

Questions? Email [BPRAPool02@gmail.com](mailto:BPRAPool02@gmail.com)



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

January 6, 2024

Dear Strathmore Bel Pre Neighbor,

I hope this letter finds your family safe and well. Although it may be freezing outside, summer will be here before you know it. Which means the Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins will soon be pulling out those swimsuits and getting ready to dive into another season of fun, friendship, and community spirit. The Dolphins are truly a beloved institution, one that brings kids and families together and forges lasting friendships.

I would like to personally thank all of you who have offered financial support to the Dolphins year after year. To those of you who are new to our neighborhood, and to those who would like to help us for the first time, here is some information about the Strathmore Bel Pre Dolphins.

Our SBP swim team has been in continuous existence for over 50 years and is open to all Strathmore Bel Pre community children and their relatives and friends, ages 4 to 18. Each summer the team brings together nearly 100 children to learn skills, form friendships, work together, and build memories to last a lifetime. Unlike a lot of area swim teams, the Dolphins draw most members from the surrounding neighborhood, and as such, the Dolphins tend to be one of the smallest teams in the highly competitive Prince-Mont Swim League. But because of generous community financial support and the overwhelming participation of neighborhood families, the Dolphins continue to have a strong presence in the league.

While the swimmers practice and have home meets at our wonderful neighborhood Bel Pre Recreational Association pool, the team is not funded by the BPRA. Instead, the Dolphins depend on swimmer fees and donations to offset costs such as the salaries of our head coach, assistant coach, developmental coaches, PMSL registration fees, and the like. Strathmore Bel Pre Swim Team Association, Inc. is a 501c3 Non Profit Organization, ID number 26-1493052, and all contributions are tax deductible. Please visit our website at [sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com](http://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com) to donate, and for information about registration, calendar dates, and SBP's renowned history.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my sincerest gratitude for the continued support the community has provided, which we recognize as a true investment in our children. Together we can continue to make a difference for the future of SBP kids and our community.

Sincerely,

Paul Spelman  
President, Strathmore Bel Pre Swim Team Association Inc  
[sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com](http://sbpdolphins.swimtopia.com)



Summer is not  
that far away,  
and that means  
**SBP DOLPHINS  
SWIMMING!**

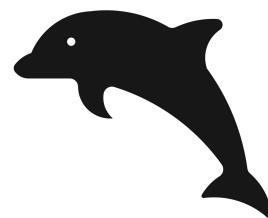
What's so great about a Dolphins summer?  
Four things: **FUN, FAMILY, FRIENDSHIP,**  
**and FREESTYLE!**

*For over 50 years, SBP children from ages 4 through 18 have enjoyed summer fun, fitness, and friendship with the SBP Dolphins swim team. It is without a doubt the greatest way for kids—and their parents—to meet and make friends with other families in the SBP neighborhood. Dolphins summers are short, but Dolphins friendships last a lifetime. Come join us—we'd love to have you!*

**Contact us!** SBP Swim Team  
Association Board of Directors:

- Paul Spelman, President  
([pbspelly@gmail.com](mailto:pbspelly@gmail.com))
- Chris Huffine, Vice President  
([huffine@gmail.com](mailto:huffine@gmail.com))
- Lisa Mantel, Secretary  
([lisamariemantel@gmail.com](mailto:lisamariemantel@gmail.com))
- Denise Reyes, Treasurer  
([casareyes1@gmail.com](mailto:casareyes1@gmail.com))
- Karen Purdy, A Meet Manager  
([klpurdy@hotmail.com](mailto:klpurdy@hotmail.com))

***Want to learn more?***



**Visit our website:  
[SBPDolphins.Swimtopia.com](http://SBPDolphins.Swimtopia.com)**

# Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association

P.O. Box 6836  
Silver Spring, MD 20916

February 1, 2024

Dear Neighbor,

**Our 2024 membership drive is now underway!** Everyone who lives in Strathmore Bel Pre can join the Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association (SBPCA), whether you own or rent your home. While the BPRA and SBPCA use this unified membership mailing, the SBPCA is separate from the BPRA and is funded by your voluntary membership dues.

**The Civic Association organizes community activities, enhances dialogue across our community, and represents our community to outside organizations, all to help improve our community's quality of life.** Our activities include:

1. publishing *THE BUGLE* to keep you informed about current issues within the community and the County;
2. maintaining a website to keep the community connected and informed ([www.strathmorebelpre.org](http://www.strathmorebelpre.org));
3. maintaining the SBPcivic email listserv to help Civic Association members communicate and share information;
4. actively representing our community to the Montgomery County Civic Federation and the Glenmont Exchange;
5. sponsoring the annual community Summer Market (yard sale) and the Fourth of July parade and magic show;
6. sponsoring the Summer Entertainment Series of concerts and movies at the pool pavilion, as well as the Spring Thing and Blocktoberfest street festivals,
7. publishing a Community Directory listing families and pertinent information on various State and County government agencies, information on how to reach Montgomery County Council and Board of Education members, and information about the County's 'MC311 program for non-emergency government information and services;
8. tracking and actively speaking out on issues that may impact our community, such as development proposals;
9. supporting the SBP Villages;
10. interfacing with our District 19 representatives in the State Legislature; and
11. working with Maryland Park and Planning on zoning issues and special exceptions.

Civic Association Board members dedicate many hours to help strengthen our community and our property values. **Your voluntary membership dues of just \$25 per household to our Civic Association** help us continue supporting you and maintaining the quality of life we have come to enjoy in our neighborhood. These dues underwrite all SBPCA Activities, especially *THE BUGLE* and our 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. **Please join or renew your Civic Association membership today!**

**Your Civic Association membership entitles you to join our SBPcivic email listserv**, an interactive communication channel that supplements *THE BUGLE*. SBPcivic listserv members receive an electronic version of *THE BUGLE* before it is distributed to the neighborhood. Members also receive a discount on Summer Market (Yard Sale) rentals.

SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT SERIES & STREET FESTIVALS	
Sponsorship Levels	Amount
SBP SuperStar	\$ 500
Community Champion	\$ 250
Oscar Winner	\$ 100
Band Leader	\$ 50
Super Fan	\$ 25

**You can also help sponsor our Summer Entertainment Series and Street Festivals** by donating online or via the enclosed Assessment Form. This year, we are combining fundraising for the Summer Entertainment Series and our street festivals in the Spring and Fall. These have all become popular traditions that bring our community members together. We hope you will join our sponsors and come out to enjoy the summer evenings with your neighbors. See the sponsorship levels in the table at left.

**You can use the BPRA's eSoft Planner to pay your SBPCA Membership Dues and your Summer Entertainment/Street Festival Sponsorship.** The eSoft Planner website includes separate line items for each payment type.

Unfortunately, you will need to enter each payment separately, as eSoft Planner does not offer a shopping cart where one can pay for multiple items in a single transaction.

**Our Civic Association Board has several vacancies. We need volunteers to serve on our Board and help run our programs.** If you can help us keep our community the wonderful place it is, please reach out to any Board member (listed on the inside cover of every *BUGLE* edition.) **If you have questions** regarding our membership drive or anything else about the SBPCA, please contact Nancy Bechtol, SBPCA President, at 301-871-3679.