

Barrister's Keepers Newsletter

Volume 20 No. 1

March 2017

BK HOA Board Meeting

The March BK HOA Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14th at Woodson High School – Room E204. Starting time is 7:00PM.

Covenants Committee Updates

Happy Spring, Residents!

There are a few homeowners who have some outstanding issues from last year, we will be sending out notes to the homeowners on the more egregious issues so we can keep our community a beautiful place to live! One issue we have noticed is that there are several different shades of paint on the garage doors. There is only one color designated to be used (as detailed in our community reference document): McCormick Amber White, Exterior Semi-Gloss—or an EXACT color match from another paint company of comparable quality.

With the nice weather, it is a perfect time for you to walk around your own properties to assess what needs to be done. In addition to the normal aging issues of dirty sidewalks, driveways, and tarnished door hardware, please take notice of areas of wood rotting, paint peeling, mildew on siding, and overgrown shrubbery. If you are doing any work that changes the appearance of the outside of your residence, you **must** submit an Architectural Change Proposal with proper signatures! Covenants Committee will do our walk around late spring. We will send an email a couple weeks prior. Any homeowners who want to walk around their home with the committee member(s) are welcome to contact us and we will try to accommodate schedules. Otherwise, we will leave notices on your doors at the completion of the walk-arounds.

Finally --- Parking. Most residents and their guests have been responsive to the parking

warnings issued. We remind you that visitor parking is for our guests.

Residents are to park in their garages or driveways, or find alternate parking offsite. Any vehicle parked in visitor parking longer than 2 weeks must have an approved Visitor Parking Permit that is good for up to 90 days. It may be renewed once, at that time the vehicle will be considered permanent and must be parked as in regulations. Article 12 (f) of our Declaration gives the Board rights to tow vehicles in violation of the Rules and Regulations.

Please visit the website to download the Parking Permit application. www.barristerskeepershoa.org

Social Committee Updates

The BK December Holiday Party was held Sunday afternoon, December 11, 2016, at Nancy Webster's home.

We had a lovely time, with great hors-d'oeuvres, champagne and wine! And, we collected lots of The Toys-for-Tots.

Thanks again to Nancy, for hosting again.

If the Spring-like weather holds, we may be able to have a Social-by-the-Fountain sooner than later.

Look for community-wide announcements on your emails.

Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Can you believe this winter we're having? Knock on wood, throw some salt over your shoulder, and whatever else we're supposed to do to keep from jinxing us. Plus – enjoy the weather. Take a look at the tree in front of 3474! One thing for sure – it's March and every passing day brings Spring one day closer.



And with Spring will come the annual "Sprucing of the Yard" efforts we go through each year. As the weather turns warmer, start taking a look around to see what maintenance needs to be done. Each one of us has a responsibility to do our part to ensure standards are maintained and rules are followed. If you don't have a copy of the design standards for Barrister's Keepe, they are out there on our web site at: <http://barristerskeepeshoa.org/> along with any form you may need. One important thing to remember when it comes to projects in the yard – never assume anything. If you have a question about whether or not you can add a bush; or replace a bush; or take out a tree; or whatever, look it up or ask someone on the Covenants Committee.



I wish I had a great update for you on what's going on down at the circle. I do know the new Mayor has just recently met with the developer to try to coax them along. As you all have seen, the Enclave has broken ground and is going in rather quickly. Bonnie and I stopped in recently and

they're ahead of schedule due to all the mild weather. The sales person told us they've already sold close to 50% of the 80 units. If you get a chance to stop in, do so.



We have had some security concerns recently and I want to again emphasize, "If you see something, say something!" That doesn't mean tell a neighbor about it a few days later. That means call the police. We've had an ad hoc committee looking at various ways we can increase security by installing cameras. We'll talk about that at our Board meeting on the 14th. But, the best way for us to remain a safe



community is to lock our cars if we park them outside the garage, ensure our doors are closed and locked when we settle in the for the evening, and remain vigilant. Some have made the argument that too many police calls will impact our home values. Our homes don't turn over that often and to the best of my knowledge, Barristers Keepe has only made the police blotter once, maybe twice since Bonnie and I moved here in 2009. I get a copy of the police reports every day and check to see if we're on there. So, let's keep our eye and ears open. I'd rather stay safe through what we can do at no cost rather than install cameras that could be a very costly affair. Besides, if we have cameras, we may become too complacent thinking all is safe. Cameras mean we have a better chance at catching the bad guys after the fact. Our vigilance will do more to prevent anything from happening. If you

see something, say something! If there is any interest in starting a Neighborhood Watch Program, let me know. Don't be shy. We'll need someone to head it up and work with the police to implement it. I got the following from the City's web site. "Neighborhood Watch operates in several ways:

- Neighborhood Watch members conduct citizen patrols in their community on foot or by car. Watchers keep a lookout for any suspicious activity and also help by reporting other issues which may affect the community such as burned out street lights, dangerous road conditions, damaged or missing road signs, abandoned cars, or other concerns.
- When any suspicious activity is observed, members immediately contact the police department to report the incident. Many Neighborhood Watch groups have a cellular telephone dedicated to the group's use or members use their own phone. Minor problems such as vehicles with expired license plates, are phoned in to the department's program coordinator during regular business hours.
- Neighborhood Watch members also frequently work with their neighbors to monitor the homes of residents who are away on vacation, to keep an eye on seniors in their neighborhood who may have serious medical problems, and to provide adult oversight for kids at playgrounds or on their way to or from school."

As you can see, a lot of this we can do on our own – as individuals or as a community.

The Planning Commission is continuing to do their work on rewriting the Comprehensive Plan. I hope you took the opportunity to go to the web site and provide your thoughts. By the time you read this the site will have closed. Fear not, there will be many opportunities for citizens to provide input as things progress.



If you want some interesting information about the demographics of our great city, check out the Fact Book at <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/community-development-planning/major-projects-plans/comprehensive-plan-update/announcements>. It's going to be updated this week so give it a day or so from the time you read this issue of the newsletter.

That's it for this time folks. As we come out of hibernation and get the opportunity to spend a little more time outside –take a walk around the neighborhood. When you see a neighbor – stop and say "Hi." If you don't know them, introduce yourself

Tom

<http://www.barristerskeephoa.org/>