



Summer 2020

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Barrister's Beacon

Metro Church Project Approved

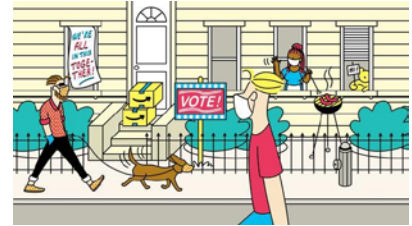
On June 9th, the Mayor and Council of the City of Fairfax, VA unanimously approved the Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Rezoning sought by EYA for the development of 50 townhomes at 3500 Pickett Road. The project is anticipated to start construction in late May / early June of 2021. Since bringing this residential proposal to the Council last year, EYA representatives had many meetings with the Board and residents of Barrister's Keepe. Many modifications recommended by your HOA Board were incorporated in the final design.



The plan for the project is shown in the drawing above.

The approved project also includes a park along Pickett Road for community gatherings, but open to the public, too. There's a sidewalk on the new neighborhood's private street, right-of-way dedication for a multi-use path on Pickett, a 5-foot-wide pedestrian trail along the northern property line and two access points to Pickett.

Sweetening the deal further, EYA will also contribute \$122,000 toward the construction of the Daniels Run Trail extension. This trail will eventually connect Daniels Run Park to both Pickett Road and Main Street.



Flattening the Curve

Even at a distance, life continues here at BKC. It is surprising the number of people who come and go in the neighborhood during the day. Deliveries, post office, CLS and other workers are in and out.

Quarantine or total isolation is recommended if you or your family member have Covid-19. Otherwise, use social distancing techniques to keep yourself and your family safe.

There have been many conflicting advisories. How can we best protect ourselves and our neighbors? Keep the BK community healthy by following these CDC guidelines:

- ✓ It's safer to engage in smaller outdoor gatherings where individuals remain at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come from the same community.
- ✓ Enjoy patio seating, use delivery, drive through or pickup options. Avoid eating or drinking inside bars and restaurants.
- ✓ Each point of contact increases risk. Reduce unnecessary travel, shopping and social visits.
- ✓ Be conscious of your contact "bubble" (the people and groups you often see) and reinforce good practices among people with whom you come into close contact.



- ✓ Remember to wear a mask anytime you'll be close to others and wash your hands frequently.
- ✓ Spritz sanitizer on door handles and other frequently touched surfaces daily.
- ✓ The sky is the limit! You are generally safer outdoors.

President's Corner

I want to give a huge BK Thank You to ALL the neighbors who have stepped up to help improve our neighborhood's appearance in projects over several months. We have made significant progress. I encourage everyone to join in keeping this a great place to live.

There have been multiple changes in our HOA Board and Committee members recently.

Exiting > Stage Right

We want to extend big thanks to Aaron Fox for his many years as our Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors. Big thanks to Annie Patenaude who successfully led the Covenants Committee for several years. Big thanks also to Artie Andreson for her service on the Grounds Committee.

Entering < Stage Left

Sincere thanks to Brian Knapp and George Prattes for stepping up to new Board roles as Treasurer, and At Large, respectively. We also welcome three new committee members: Bonnie Burrell has joined Grounds, while Angela Bédard and Bob Hunzinger joined the Finance Committee. We welcome volunteers on any of our committees: Budget, Covenants, Grounds, Social, and Facilities. Please consider giving back to your community. Join a committee today!

- ❖ David Herrington, President
- ❖ Frank McGann, Vice President
- ❖ Brian Knapp, Treasurer
- ❖ Jim Meyer, Secretary
- ❖ George Prattes, At Large

You know, we are all being tested in ways that were unimaginable at the beginning of this year. During a crisis, we must project optimism and look for opportunities and possibilities. The people who will survive this crisis and



come out of it stronger are the ones who strengthen their community ties, demonstrate resilience, focus on what's most essential, and identify opportunities that others miss.

Reconsider your priorities. Whatever plans you had in January have gone out the window. What goals can you still accomplish, even if you need to go about it differently? You can exercise without going to the gym by exploring the outdoors or online YouTube classes. Have you always wanted to learn to play an instrument or study another language? Many of us have received the gift of 10 hours each week since we're not commuting. Take advantage of this extra time to improve your quality of life.

Re-connect with your friends and family. Hiding, hoping and waiting is not a winning strategy. No matter the size of our personal network, humans need to have meaningful and open conversations with the people who matter most. This is the perfect time, while our fast-paced lives have taken a pause. FaceTime or ZOOM today with someone you know.

Pay it forward. If you're in a position of strength, try to find ways to help family and friends. Consider providing services, advice, or support. Don't wait for others to ask for help. Check in with

your network and offer what you can: a phone or video conversation, a walk together, groceries picked up while you're already out shopping. These small gestures will help others and enrich your life beyond measure. What are you doing to find the silver lining in this crisis?

Committee Updates

Budget & Finance

The Budget & Finance Committee is at work on several issues: The 2021 HOA budget, HOA dues for 2021, and a potential change in management agent for our Community. In the coming weeks, the Committee plans to make several recommendations to the Board on these key issues.

Please remember that our HOA fees are due on the first of the month of every quarter. Next deadline: October 1st.

Covenants

The primary responsibility of the Covenants Committee is to protect property values by ensuring that properties are well maintained and in visual harmony with the rest of the community. Thank you from the Covenants Committee for all you have done to improve your homes this summer. You may have had an issue related to replacing landscaping that was removed, or that your garage door or deck was not the specified color. There are two documents, in addition to our Declaration, that provide a wealth of



information. Both of them are available on the BK HOA website.

Remove and Replace *Barristers Keep Design Standards (IV (3))* If you remove a permanent planting, whether it is

diseased or overgrown, you must replace it in kind with items substantially the same as the original. This applies to general landscaping, and trees are covered in a separate paragraph.

Painting *Barristers Keepe Community Reference* There is only one color acceptable for painting garage doors. If you need to paint your front door or shutters, you must paint the same color they were originally painted. The approved colors can be found in the *Community Reference Document*. If you use another paint brand, ensure it is an exact match to McCormick’s paint.

Parking There are still occasional issues when residents are parking in the visitor lots. If your vehicle is towed for a parking violation, you can recover it through Fairfax Towing (703) 273-1104.

Social Committee

It continues to be a lean year for social activities at BKC. To date this year all structured events have been cancelled due to Covid 19. We are not sure how the Fall/Winter will play out for planned events, but if conditions permit, you can be sure we will organize something! We will notify you via email and through the *Barrister’s Beacon*, so stay tuned.

What IS on tap? The Watering Hole has remained an active impromptu gathering place for residents following social distancing guidelines with no sharing of drinks or snacks. Often a last minute plan depending on weather, if you see the Watering Hole flag in the Fountain area you are welcome to join. Sometimes we start shortly after 5:00pm, and sometimes we gather at 9:00pm to enjoy the cooler temperatures and ambiance of the fountain which now has spectacular rotating colored lights once darkness arrives (thank you to Tom Burrell).

Don’t wait for a notification, invite neighbors and do your own thing! The

Fountain/Park area is for all our residents to enjoy. What ideas do you have for how we can keep our community ties strong while observing appropriate Covid measures? Talk to a Social Committee member and see your idea come to life.

Remaining on the BKC calendar are several charitable endeavors that we have participated in annually, so make a note of the following dates:

Oct 4 - 10: Food Drive Donate nonperishable canned and packaged goods to be contributed to the Prosperity Avenue Food Bank; please, no glass items. Donation boxes are located on the Burrell (3484) and the Prattes (3466) front porches for that week.

Sept 1 - Dec 11: 2021 Calendar Drive Many of us receive numerous calendars in the mail from various organizations and they usually get thrown away. The Lamb Center for homeless men & women collects these calendars to distribute to those in need. Please place calendars you would like to share on the front porch table of the Prattes home (3466). They will be delivered to The Lamb Center the week of December 15.

Dec 6 - 12: Toys for Tots Donate unwrapped gifts for children of all ages which will be delivered to the Fairfax Fire Station for distribution through the Toys for Tots program. There will be a box for donations located on the Burrell (3484) and the Prattes (3466) porches for that week.

We look forward to planning future gatherings without endangering the health of any of our neighbors. In the meantime, let’s stay safe and optimistic!

Grounds Committee
“Gee, Toto, I don’t think we’re in Kansas anymore!” No, we certainly aren’t, the way we go about our daily routines has changed globally!

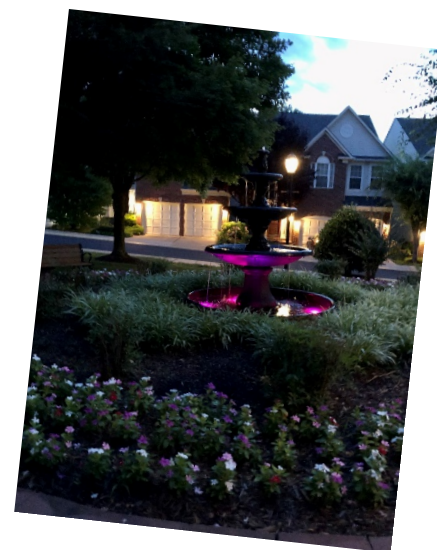
While trying to maintain some form of normalcy inside the gates of Barrister’s

Keepe, the focal area of attraction has become the refreshed fountain area. With its newly painted fountain, power washed cement and beautifully thinned plantings, the area has become the social distancing spot of the community. Stop by to enjoy the heart of our community day or night. It’s a tranquil spot to meet, relax and refresh!



Early summer brought flowers and common area cement cleaning. Tree and shrub trimming, as well as continued turf buildup in some common areas will occur as we near fall. Keeping the overall tree canopy at uniform height helps enhance the look of the community.

The Grounds Committee will send a notice of when the fall mulching will take place and an email with information about shrubs in individual yards.



A gentle reminder to pet owners to clean up after Toto when walking.

Facilities

We want to recognize the team of dedicated volunteers who successfully completed the Exit Gate and Electrical Service upgrades. This took 7 months of planning, coordination... and a lot of digging! Without their efforts, BK would have spent over \$10K on each of these projects. Thank you to all the volunteers on the committee and some walk-on good neighbors who just wanted to help out in spite of getting muddy.



Shown above are Tom Burrell, George Prattes, Larry Machabee (in the hole), Frank McGann and David Herrington. Shon Copeland provided excellent relief digging a couple of times and without Curtis Bartell's posthole diggers, it would have been an even longer project.

Recently, the Facilities Committee walked the BK property specifically examining those items that are common property to assess how they are holding up. There are a few tweaks that will be necessary in the coming year but for the most part, we're in pretty good shape. The spotlights on the Barrister's Keep brick wall at the entrance are on their last legs and they'll be replaced in the coming months with new LED spotlights. Some of our retaining walls are in need of some minor repair and possibly repainting.

Finally, the most overworked tool used was the powerful water removal pump generously provided by Ray Inman. Often times, the ditch would be filled with rain water and scheduled work couldn't be done until the water was removed. The little pump drained the entire ditch in an hour or less and the work was completed!

The Facilities Committee is looking for a few dedicated volunteers who don't mind getting their hands dirty occasionally. Please let us know if you're interested.



Nuts & Bolts

FIRE PREVENTION SPRINKLERS:

As you know, most of our homes in BKC have fire prevention sprinklers located in the ceiling and closets of our houses. These sprinkler heads are designed to activate by high temperature breaking the glass tube inside when there is a fire present and do not work with smoke, they work only if fire (high temperature) is present.

Fire sprinkler systems such as ours are actually quite sophisticated and are designed to be heat sensitive so that sprinklers only activate when the temperatures rise to fire-induced temps, usually somewhere between 155 to 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

To ensure proper working order of these Sprinkler Heads, you need to ensure that the glass 'bulb' has NOT been painted or that any major dust or debris surrounds it. Often times during holidays, tape finds its way around this glass (from decorations, crepe paper, streamers, etc.) and could cause problems later.

Most of these sprinkler water pipes run in the ceilings of our homes, but they are also in the un-heated, un-protected attic. Originally these pipes were carefully insulated because of cold weather, BUT if you have had any work in the attic, upstairs bedrooms or bathrooms, you should ensure that this insulation has not been disturbed and that the fire prevention pipes are still completely covered and well insulated.

A burst pipe in the cold attic can cause major problems (as they are pressurized

Local Events

What CAN we do in these COVID times?

[International Spy Museum](#) is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. You must get [advance tickets](#) and abide by social distancing guidelines and mask requirements.

[Smithsonian's National Zoo](#) is open to 5,000 people per day, face coverings required for guests 6 and up and guest passes required for entry ([free timed entry pass](#) or [paid parking pass](#)).

[U.S. National Arboretum](#) has [reopened](#) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-5 p.m. and will limit the number of guests. [Learn more.](#)

[National Gallery of Art's Sculpture Garden](#) will [reopen on Saturday](#) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with limited capacity requiring social distancing and masks for kids ages 2 and up. [Learn more.](#)

Outdoor Restaurants

Dining Al Fresco in Arlington, Clarendon and Vienna.

<https://northernvirginiamag.com/food/food-features/2020/08/04/5-outdoor-restaurants-our-food-critic-suggests-you-try-this-summer/>

Alexandria Drive-In

For a Retro twist, check out this new venue for six weeks of outdoor movies.

<https://northernvirginiamag.com/things-to-do/things-to-do-features/2020/08/12/new-alexandria-drive-in-theatre-to-host-six-weeks-of-outdoor-movies/>

from 85 to 100 psi dispensing hundreds of gallons of water quickly) in the upstairs level, in addition to the main and basement level. Be sure you take the time to find out where the Fire Prevention shut-off is in your home... NOT just the main water shut-off, but the Fire Prevention one which is different. It is usually located near the main water shut-off and works separately from that main shut-off.

Should you decide to clean the sprinkler heads, you can very carefully use a vacuum to remove any dirt and debris, just be careful around the glass bulb.

If you completed your basement level and did not move the sprinkler heads below the ceiling they serve no real purpose.....to be effective, they must be in the room and not above it. Should you have a fire and the sprinkler head is above the ceiling, it will take additional time for it to reach the 'bursting' temperature. By then a great deal of damage has occurred.

If there is a place in your home where you are concerned that you may accidentally hit or activate a sprinkler head, there are sprinkler guard cages that can be easily installed.

Places to look for are at the top of the lower level (basement) steps, sprinkler heads located near doorways or in the lower level where the HVAC and Water Heater is kept.



(4 Pack) Happy Tree Fire Sprinkler Head

Anywhere you are concerned that moving furniture, making improvements, etc., could accidentally hit a sprinkler head.

BKC Book Club

Are you tired of sitting at home in front of the television? BKC has a book club that meets on the second Tuesday of

alternate months: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Currently there are twelve members but it's open to everyone in the community.



In the past, we have gathered in each other's homes, but we started social distanced meetings at the fountain in March and so far, the weather has cooperated!

We have read best sellers, as well as less known works: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles; *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens; *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn; and most recently, *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins.

Each year, members volunteer to host the club for a specific month. As that month approaches, the host selects a book and emails the name of the book, date and time the Book Club will meet. The host leads a lively discussion of the book and we often discuss related topics, followed by dessert. What could be better than that?

Vicki Herrington is our hostess for the next meeting on September 8 at



7pm. The book Vicki has chosen is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Annie Barrows and Mary Ann Shaffer. If you have any questions, contact Bonnie Burrell and she'll be happy to answer them. We hope you'll consider joining us!

What's Cooking?

Garlic Butter Baked Salmon

You know salmon is good for you, but preparing it may not be high on your list. What if it was super easy? Even your kids could help prepare this...read on!



This recipe makes it simple to cook and easy to clean up. Bake the entire meal in just one pan, especially when you need something quick. Plus an incredible garlic butter sauce!

Our test kitchen subbed Trader Joe's frozen potatoes and peppers for the raw potatoes: No peeling! And everything went into the oven at the same time. A foil liner made this a quick clean up, too.

Find all the delectable details at this link: <https://cafedelites.com/sheet-pan-garlic-butter-baked-salmon/>

ZOOM Board Meeting

The next Barrister's Keepe HOA meeting will be held virtually on **September 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

A link to the meeting will be sent via email prior to the event. We look forward to seeing all of you online!