

Newsletter March 2016  
Volume XLVII, Issue 1

# Barristers Place

## *Special Interest:*

- Annual Meeting  
April 12th
- Prior  
commitment?  
Return your  
proxy today!

## *Individual Highlights:*

Treasurer's Report  
For 2015

### **Mailing Address:**

PO Box 1192  
Vienna Virginia 22183

### **Email:**

barristersplaceHOA@gmail.com

### **Website:**

[http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Barristers\\_Place](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Barristers_Place)

## Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors,

Hopefully, as you receive this message, winter will be losing its grip on the community and we will be easing into spring.

Even with the cold and the snow, the board has been meeting monthly to plan for the annual meeting and the theme this year will be "What do you want your community to look like in 2030?" It may sound crazy, but the board thinks that "now" is the time to begin the discussion on that important topic. Speaking of 2030, I want to begin by thanking Andy Cassells for his leadership in reinventing the Abbotsford traffic calming. The bike lane is a small thing, but Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria, and DC all have transportation plans that include bicycle routes, so the bike lane definitely adds a contemporary touch to our little neighborhood. Great job, Andy!

In the spirit of planning for 2030, the board has also been reviewing the community's governance and business practices in the context of "best practices for homeowner associations." We have reviewed the association's insurance coverage, financial reserves, and covenants and restrictions. All of the Barristers Place documents and plans are woefully out of date and need to be updated. These updates will cost money, so a big topic of discussion at our meeting will be the financing required to make these changes. Please come and participate in this discussion.

Finally, speaking of changes, Nancy Korenkiewicz, the association's longstanding secretary, has indicated that she will be stepping down after the annual meeting in April 2016 and I will be stepping down as president in April 2017.

(Continued next page)

**President's Letter** (continued from Page 1)

Members of the community need to step up to these important roles or we will be forced to turn over the management of the association to a management company. Make no mistake, this will result in a substantial increase in dues. The jobs only take a few hours per month and it is a great way to get to know your neighbors and your community. Please say yes to this important request!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting in April and hearing your thoughts on what you think the community should look like in 2030.

Sincerely  
Mike Van Woert  
President, BPCA

PS - With spring comes an abundance of greenery and flowers. However, note that with the arrival of spring also comes "spring clean-up and repairs." We want our neighborhood to be a model community, so please take a look around the yard and see if anything needs mending, painting or trimming.

## Annual Dues

The BPCA Annual Dues covers the costs of operation, including landscaping the Abbotsford entryway and median, liability insurance, tree removal in the park area, and other operational costs. Because many of the community's bills are due early in the year, we appreciate that so many of our residents pay their Annual Dues on time. We'd like to encourage all of our residents to do so! The Board made the decision to send out the Annual Dues notice, mandated in our Bylaws, on a postcard to save money on paper and postage. Sometimes these postcards can be overlooked, but if there is any question about the due date, amount due, or who to make your check out to, you can always drop us a line at [barristersplacehoa@gmail.com](mailto:barristersplacehoa@gmail.com).

# Annual Meeting

**Date:** April 12, 2016

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Place:** Louise Archer Elementary School cafeteria, Nutley Street, Vienna

The Annual Meeting is mandated by the Barristers Place Community Association covenants. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum for the Board of Directors and the residents to discuss concerns of the Barristers Place community.

## Quorum

Proxy cards for BPCA homeowners for the annual meeting are attached to this mailing. Please plan to attend. Our goal is to run an efficient meeting and we usually finish within an hour. However, in the event that you are unable to attend, please return the proxy cards. Without a quorum, we have to schedule another meeting.

***Please return the proxy today.***

## Agenda

7:30 pm-

- Call to Order
- Introduction of the Board of Directors
- Approval of the 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report for 2015
- Review/Approval of 2016 Budget
- Old Business
- New Business
  - Call for Volunteers
  - Community Vision for 2030
- New Business from the Floor
- Nomination and Election of Officers
- Adjourn

### 2015 Financial Statement

#### Cash Received

Dues Received in 2015 for 2015	\$7,350.00
Disclosure Packet Fees	<u>\$60.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$7,410.00</u></b>

#### Expenses Paid in 2015

Median & Entrance Maintenance	\$7,696.95
Newsletter/Postage/Printing	\$262.29
Entry Electricity	\$00.00
Annual Corporate Fee	\$00.00
Insurance Premium - Annual	\$719.00
2015 CIC Annual Fee	\$90.00
U.S. Postal Service P.O. Box	\$128.00
Bank Maintenance Fees	\$60.00
Entry Way Lighting Maintenance	\$504.00
Tree Removal and Maintenance of Common Area	\$3,775.00
Picnic	<u>\$00.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,235.24</b>

**Cash Receipt deficit for 2015 Expenses** **\$5,825.24**

(\$4,575 in 2015 Annual Dues received in 2014)

**Beginning Balance on Hand 1/1/2015** \$6,919.66

**Total Cash on Hand 12/31/2015** **\$1,094.42**

## Spring Clean-Up

The long winter of 2015-2016 was tough on our area. Now that spring is here, it's time to spruce up your property! Here are a few things to check:

- Fencing – repair or replace damaged or failing fencing.
- Trees – collect fallen branches. These can be put out for pickup. Fairfax County Yard Waste pickup requests that branches be no more than 4 inches in diameter, and bundled in lengths that do not exceed 4 feet.
- Shrubs – make sure that shrubs do not encroach on the sidewalks, and tree branches are trimmed back to allow free passage for pedestrians.
- Water collection spots – mosquitos can breed in the water collected in a bottle cap. Make sure any unused planters or other yard decorations are not collecting standing water.
- Mulch – Get those bags of mulch into the flower beds!
- For those properties that back up to Abbotsford, take a moment to walk the sidewalk behind your home, too.



Be a good neighbor, clean up after your dog and keep him on a leash

Be a good neighbor. If you think your neighbor would appreciate some help in the yard, volunteer!

## Exterior Changes

The covenants require all changes to the exterior of your home be approved by the Board of Directors. The changes include but are not limited to fences, driveways, sheds, and additions. Proposed changes should be submitted at least thirty days before you plan to start work. Submit requests for exterior changes to [BarristersPlaceHOA@gmail.com](mailto:BarristersPlaceHOA@gmail.com).

The BPCA Board has 30 days after receipt of your request to approval or decline your proposed change.

Remember, the BPCA covenants that you agreed to when you purchased your house explicitly forbid posting signs with the exception of a single sign advertising the sale of the property. This means that home improvements signs are permitted only while the contractor is working. Political signs are not permitted.

## Want to Add “Community Activist” to your Resume?

Here are a few ways you can volunteer and help your community:

- Serve on the Board- it's a fun way to meet one's neighbors
- Start a “Welcome Committee “for new residents
- Organize the annual BPCA picnic
- Start a BPCA website that mimics Craigslist but is limited to BPCA neighbors selling or swapping “stuff”
- Coordinate volunteers to assist neighbors with shoveling snow and yard work

## Be a Good Neighbor

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*A good neighbor  
increases the value of  
your property.  
- Czech proverb*

- Advise your neighbors of your plans If you are having work done
- Put out trash, including yard debris, no earlier than late afternoon (4pm) before pick-up
- Stow the trash bins out of sight
- Ask someone to pick up newspapers & mail if you are away from home
- Leave a light on timer if you will be away
- Let the BPCA Board know if you experience a break in, so we can alert residents via email

## Community News

The Little Free Library at 2101 Statute Lane (the corner of Statute and Center) had an excellent 2015. People contributed 270 books and took 257. Please feel free to stop by and take a book, leave a book, or just talk.

## Stay connected!

Do we have your current email address on file? We limit email to items of importance to our community, such as security alerts, snow removal and trash collection updates, and Annual Meeting/Annual Dues reminders. We do NOT sell any information.

If you haven't received a recent email from [BarristersPlaceHOA@gmail.com](mailto:BarristersPlaceHOA@gmail.com), please drop us a line with your info.

Thanks!

**Barristers Place Community Association**

**Proxy**

2016 Proxy Form



If you **cannot** attend the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Barristers Place Community Association on April 12, 2016 at 7:30 PM at Louise Archer ES, please sign and return this proxy form. You may:

- give the signed form to anyone attending the meeting
- return it to any Board Member
- mail the form to the BPCA address
- or scan & return the signed proxy form to [barristersplaceHOA@gmail.com](mailto:barristersplaceHOA@gmail.com).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, property owner of \_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address

Hereby appoint B.P.C.A. President Mike Van Woert or \_\_\_\_\_ the power to vote in my behalf on all items  
Print the name of the Individual

Except \_\_\_\_\_  
Name the Item or Write "None"

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Homeowner Signature

This proxy is for the 2016 Annual Meeting, April 12, 2016 only.

Please note any change in your email address or contact information:

\_\_\_\_\_

PO Box 1192  
Vienna VA 22183

WEBSITE:  
[http://www.neighborlink.com/Barristers\\_Place](http://www.neighborlink.com/Barristers_Place)

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