



**BARCLAY DOWNS**  
Homeowner's Association

## NEWSLETTER

January 30, 2017

### Message From the President

Happy New Year!

I would like to thank all of the BDHOA Members for allowing me to serve as your 2016 President. During the past year, I have met many neighbors and have had the privilege of representing our great neighborhood at several area events. South Park is in the midst of a lot of change and I feel we are well positioned to affect this change in positive ways. I want to also thank the 2016 Board and Rezoning Committee for their service over the past year. A lot of time and effort goes on behind the scenes and it should be noted. The 2017 Board is coming together nicely and they have several great ideas that will be coming to fruition in 2017. These are exciting times and we are very lucky to be in the heart of such a wonderful city.

Cheers to 2017!  
Bernie Gesing

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### Annual HOA Meeting

## Thursday, February 16th at 7pm AG Multi-Purpose Room

Come join us from 7:00pm - 8:30 pm

### Agenda

- Intro
- Finance Update
- Crime Update
- Breakout Sessions
  - SPAN
  - Zoning
  - HOA 2017 & Beyond
  - CNIP
- State of the Union
- Vote on Dues increase to \$25
- Nominate new Board 2017

Pizza and Beer (Root Beer), **Plus** \*\*\*Door Prizes and Raffles\*\*\*  
More detail on the above items will be sent out prior to the meeting.  
Stay tuned!

### **Dues Increase**

As you probably noticed above, the Board is recommending that we increase dues from **\$15 to \$25** per household. The 2017 Board has several projects they are planning and we feel an increase is warranted. Since we have not done an increase in quite some time, we did our research and pulled out the following excerpts from our BDHOA bylaws:

- **Per Article XI Annual Dues set in amount and at such time as determined at meeting of the Membership.**
- **Per Article XIII Amendments - Bylaws may be amended at regular or special meeting of Members by vote of majority of quorum of the Members.**
- **Per Article IV Section 4.5 Quorum = 10% of the Members entitled to cast votes.**

Although the official vote will be at our Annual Meeting, we fully expect this to pass so would appreciate you paying \$25 for your 2017 dues. If this increase does not pass, we will refund the \$10 difference.

We will include a link for payment in our detailed Annual Meeting pre-read that will be coming out prior to the meeting.

Thanks for your support in this change!

## **Zoning Update**

- Lending Tree is buying 2 buildings on Rexford. This will require a rezoning.
- Belk foundation is buying the white farmhouse on Fairview for their headquarters. No controversy and it will be approved.
- Paragon Bank - we will send in our support letter in exchange for \$2,500 towards median improvements.
- 29 townhomes on Runnymede near Selwyn. The Brightside: Existing homes are deteriorating and town homes will provide a new type of housing for those that don't want to live in condo or house. The downside: intersection is already congested at peak times. We probably will ask for a signal light study and perhaps relook at the

entire street in terms of speed, turn lanes and traffic.

- Barclay Downs sidewalks -meeting with CDOT staff next week to discuss how to set up neighborhood input meetings. More details will be coming soon!

## Postal Problems

Thanks for all your emails about the Postal concerns. We have filed a formal complaint and actually heard back just before Christmas. Below is the response:

*We are writing in response to your inquiry noted below. After careful review, we determined the U.S. Postal Service Consumer and Industry Contact Office is in the best position to help you. To ensure that your concerns reach the correct location, we have forwarded this inquiry to your local consumer affairs office for their review and direct response to you.*

*Should you wish to contact them, please call them at (704) 393-4443 or (800) ASK-USPS (800-275-8777), or you may write to them at:*

*2901 Scott Futrell Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28228-9976*

*Thank you for contacting the USPS Office of Inspector General Hotline. Your concerns are still valuable to help us to identify trouble spots within Postal Service operations.*

*Sincerely,  
The OIG Hotline Team*

If you are still having issues, please "deliver" them a nice phone call.

## Tree Banding Update

Tree bands will be removed in mid to late April...just after the eggs hatch and the worms are out. The banders will send out an email with exact dates once finalized.

## Kids to the Directory Update

So far we have only gotten a few submissions. In order to move forward, we would like to have more participants. Please email your children's info (Name & birth year) if you would like to be added to the directory.

## And Last But Not Leaves

A note from one of our very own tree lovers...

*Our homes in Barclay Downs were built about 60 years ago; husband, Sam, could tell us exactly by checking the Deed records, but 60 years is about right. The builder must have loved maples and oaks having planted very many of them when the homes were built.*

*Last week we saw another oak, about 60 years old, was cut down in its prime. As the chain saws sang their song, day after day until almost dark, I thought about the loss of another tree. Of course when you buy a house the house, the lot and all the trees belong to you and you can do as you*

*wish with everything.*

*We understand the trees are yours - topping trees is not always the best option. This practice is often sold to new owners who have little experience with tree ownership by "landscapers" needing income in the winter while grass cutting is not needed. There are other options.*

*Anyway, back to 60 year old oaks and maples, any mature shade tree is an asset in my view. I hope after you've read this plea for the Barclay Downs trees you will think long and hard before having a healthy tree removed to grow grass or because you are not keen on leaf raking, etc.*

*Trees serve many good purposes. They hold the Earth with their roots, even in rain storms no erosion occurs. Trees provide shade in the long, hot, humid days of summer. If on the western side of the house they protect the house from the mid-day sun and the setting sun, saving hundreds of dollars every year for air-conditioning you don't have to buy. Trees provide homes for song birds and beneficial insects. A resting place for small mammals. A science lesson for our small children and grandchildren, a place for a swing. On a windy day, something to sit and watch swaying in the breeze, tossing its glorious "curls" in the wind, or let your mind rest while you watch birds forage in the leaf litter for bugs.*

*What takes 60 years to become a glorious place to sit and enjoy a book or listen to the music of the natural world can be cut to large heavy pieces in just 6 or 8 days and painstakingly hauled away, leaving a place for a putting green, or a lap pool, or a patio and fire pit, or just grass. Grass that must be planted/seeded, fertilized, treated with pesticides (terrible for young developing brains and for bees, butterflies, etc. - those responsible for our food supply), and then, cut at least once a week for six months of the year, and watered liberally in the summer (or it will die and you will have to start over again).*

*On the other hand, a tree stands watch over the garden. It produces*

*oxygen for us to breathe, it sheds its leaves in the fall so that sunlight can reach the ground and the house (helping with the cost of heat in winter).*

*Some oaks hold some leaves until the new leaves push them off in the spring, producing a wonderful rustle in the garden when the winter winds blow through.*

*I hope you will think of this as a suggestion, from a trusted friend, or relative, someone who has been alive twice or perhaps three times as long as you have; think of it as a lesson for free, on the side of trees.*

*Sherry Williams*

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Barclay Downs Homeowners Association, Barclay Downs, Charlotte, NC 28211

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