



# Between the Boulevards

June 2016

Published by the Boulevard Manor Civic Association for the residents of Boulevard Manor, including Spy Hill, Stone Ridge and Park View

### Wilson Boulevard Resolution Considered

At the June 13 general meeting, we will consider this proposed resolution: *The BMCA recommends that the County extend the Wilson Boulevard lane reconfiguration project from North Manchester Street westward to the County Line, or at least past North Livingston Street.* The BMCA membership will discuss whether to send the resolution to the County government.

See the BMCA website ([www.boulevardmanor.org](http://www.boulevardmanor.org)) for the rationale offered by proponents of the resolution. The proposed extension is intended to mitigate higher speeds observed on Wilson Blvd. west of the segment that was repaved/restriped in 2015. Intended benefits also include improving pedestrian safety at the N. Livingston St. crosswalk.

### Elections to be Held at BMCA Meeting

The Nominating Committee appointed by the BMCA membership presents the following candidates for the June 13 election. The nominees for election to a two-year term (2016-2018) as officers of BMCA are:

Vice President	Sandra Spear	6 <sup>th</sup> St. N.
Secretary	Tony Ermovick	3 <sup>rd</sup> St. N.

Phil Klingelhofer (President) and Rob Pilot (Treasurer) will continue in the second year of their terms. Nominees for new two-year (2016-2018) terms on the BMCA Board of Directors are:

John Bloom	N. Manchester St.
Nicole Frost	5 <sup>th</sup> Rd. N.
Sandy Horwitt	5 <sup>th</sup> Rd. N.
Claudia Maloney	8 <sup>th</sup> Rd. N.
Matt Smith	3 <sup>rd</sup> St. N.

The following will continue to serve on the Board, completing the second year of their terms in June 2017:

John Eckrote	Wilson Blvd.
Josh Handler	N. Livingston St.
Chuck Norton	2 <sup>nd</sup> St. N.
Molly Flynn Stevens	4 <sup>th</sup> St. N.

BMCA is grateful for the service of outgoing board members Courtney Collard-Meltzer, Paul Svercl, and Darcy Reid Trick.

### Boulevard Manor Civic Association General Meeting

Monday, June 13, 7:00 p.m.

Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.

- Arlington County Board chair Libby Garvey will discuss questions about county government and neighborhood issues.
- Captain Patrick Donahue, Arlington Police Department First District Commander, will address recent crimes in the neighborhood and traffic law enforcement.
- Tom Bruccoleri, Arlington Transportation Planning Bureau Chief, will discuss measures to improve pedestrian safety and turning access on Wilson Blvd.
- A proposed resolution on Wilson Boulevard realignment will be considered (see article).
- Annual elections will be held for BMCA officers and for open BMCA Board positions.

For more information, contact BMCA President Phil Klingelhofer at [president@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:president@boulevardmanor.org).

### Upcoming BMCA Events

All neighbors are invited to **the Independence Day Ice cream social** on **Monday, July 4**, beginning at 7:30pm at the Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St. A neighborhood tradition since 2002, the event is co-sponsored by BMCA and the Church. Free ice cream, toppings, and water are provided. Neighbors may choose to bring a lawn chair or blanket, soft drinks, snacks, and mosquito repellent. Please do not bring fireworks or alcoholic beverages to the event.

Many neighbors stay after the ice cream is gone to watch the fireworks above the National Mall, which typically begin around 9:15pm. If you would like to help at the event, please contact Lee Dioso at [LeeDioso@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:LeeDioso@boulevardmanor.org).

The Boulevard Manor **annual community picnic** will be held on **Sunday, September 18**, at Upton Hill Regional Park, noon-3:00pm. All neighborhood residents are invited. BMCA will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and soft drinks, as well as plates, napkins, and utensils. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will be activities for neighbors of all ages. To help plan and run the picnic, please contact Tony Ermovick at [TonyErmovick@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:TonyErmovick@boulevardmanor.org).

On **Friday, November 11**, BMCA and Arlington Community Church will co-host our sixth annual **Veterans Day potluck dinner** beginning at 6:30 pm. At last year's dinner, we raised \$890 for two veterans' causes, Fisher House and

### Join the BMCA Listserv

In the Boulevard Manor group at Yahoogroups.com, neighbors share information on community news, events, and issues. To join, simply send an e-mail to [blvdmanor-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:blvdmanor-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). You can select how often you want the group emails delivered. If you do not post messages, your email address will remain anonymous.

the Wounded Warrior Project. If you'd like to help, please contact Claudia Maloney at [ClaudiaMaloney@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:ClaudiaMaloney@boulevardmanor.org).

The **fall BMCA meeting** is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 24, beginning 7:00pm at the Church of the Brethren. Watch for a confirmed date and additional details in the October newsletter.

### Reeves Farm Conservation Society (RFCS) Coda

From the RFCS President:

The Reeves Farm Conservation Society regrets to announce that we have abandoned its attempts to save the Reeves Farmhouse for public use. Several factors led to this decision.

First, as we have made clear from early in this process, we needed to make the property operationally self-sufficient. The only way to maintain public access while bringing in reliable revenue was by renting out the property by the hour, day or week. Renters would expect professional service, so we quickly concluded that we would need to have paid staff to ensure an adequate level of service. Paid staff substantially raises the costs and therefore the frequency of the rentals to ensure self-sufficiency. The only real path to self-sufficiency was through wedding rentals, but close neighbors expressed concerns about noise, parking overflow, and intoxicated guests. Neither the County nor we were willing to proceed in the face of this opposition.

Second, although the County indicated a willingness to contribute to the capital costs of the project, our best estimates of those costs came in higher than the County or we were willing to pay. We went back to the drawing board to come up with programming that could justify the County's share, but the opposition to rentals was enough to short-circuit the effort.

Third, we are deeply grateful to Ferro+Ferro Graphic Communication, who designed our logo pro bono, and to Bob Strunk and his team at Commonwealth Restorations, who provided patient, expert guidance all along. We were not, however, able to get support or assistance from other non-profits with aligned interests or from the greater community, amateur or professional. We were fully prepared to undertake an unprecedented fundraising effort, but such an effort would have been pointless before we had a firm proposal to put before potential donors. We had hoped to obtain pro bono assistance in putting together the designs, but, perhaps understandably, once people understood that this was to be at least a \$2 million project, they rationalized that they should get part of that money in order to help us.

We were able to accomplish a great deal, however. Not least, we were able to determine what laws would govern use of the site. Of potential interest to the community, we determined that we would have been able to restore the house as an historic house museum and be in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) even though the second floor would be open only to fully mobile visitors. Unfortunately, if the County operated the house, it likely could not take advantage of that provision.

We also determined, however, that any formal programming that highlighted direct pedestrian access from the house to the gardens or to Bluemont Park would have been problematic under the ADA. The ADA requires a slope no greater than 5% for pedestrian access; the slope

### WELCOME, NEW NEIGHBORS!

Welcome to Boulevard Manor, one of the friendliest communities in Arlington. The Boulevard Manor Civic Association (BMCA) sponsors many well-attended social activities, which includes an Easter egg hunt, July 4th ice cream social, fall picnic, Veterans' Day dinner, and Christmas caroling. Visit [www.boulevardmanor.org](http://www.boulevardmanor.org) for instructions on subscribing to the list serve and joining the Civic Association. You can join by mail or by PayPal.

If you moved into our neighborhood after January 1, 2016, BMCA would like to present you a welcome gift. Please contact me at [ClaudiaMaloney@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:ClaudiaMaloney@boulevardmanor.org).

Again, welcome to the neighborhood!

Claudia Maloney  
BMCA Hospitality Committee

from the gardens to the farmhouse, for example, is almost 14%. Accessibility would probably have required a switchback sidewalk up the hill, permanently destroying the sledding hill. Although there are exceptions for historic facilities, extensive County involvement in a program, such as through extensive funding, makes it more difficult to take advantage of such exceptions. The RFCS proposal had not included pedestrian access to the park or gardens as an element, so would not have required such a sidewalk.

At this point, we have suggested to both the County and the Arlington Historical Society (AHS) that they negotiate an agreement whereby the AHS would raise money to restore the home as an historical house museum and to operate it as such. In exchange, we have suggested, the County would provide an annual supplement to AHS's fundraising in recognition of the quasi-official role that AHS plays as Arlington's attic. Restoring just the house and the milk house as historic buildings would be by far the least expensive way to restore the property (cheaper even than bringing it up to code as a private residence) and would not incur the added costs of converting the garage or building a barn. RFCS would donate our remaining funds to that effort should it come to fruition.

If either AHS or the County declines to pursue such an arrangement and the County chooses to sell the farmhouse as a private residence, we hope the County will install public benches in front of the property line so as to replace the "front porch" of Bluemont Park.

We had proposed a wide array of programming to celebrate Arlington's agrarian past and to highlight the farm-to-table movement. We have proposed that the County incorporate that programming in the rebuilt Lubber Run facility. That facility will have much more parking, has no accessibility issues, and is far enough removed from neighbors that it should not meet the kind of opposition we met here.

I want to thank the neighbors who donated to our efforts and those who hosted or attended informational meetings.

Sandra L. Spear, President  
Reeves Farm Conservation Society, Inc.