



## Between the Boulevards

October 2017

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

### Infrastructure Improvements

The BMCA transportation committee is tracking a current construction project and the decision process for a future effort. For additional information on either matter, please contact committee chair Paul Svercl at [PaulSvercl@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:PaulSvercl@boulevardmanor.org) or 703-243-8693.

In progress are modifications to the intersection of Arlington Boulevard at N. Manchester St., designed to improve safety for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit passengers. The old bus stops, positioned before the intersection, will be replaced by stops after the intersection. The 150-foot long ditch on the north side will be eliminated, replaced by underground concrete drainage pipes and earth fill.

Additional improvements will include new sidewalks with ADA-compliant curb ramps, new lane striping, signal upgrades, and high-visibility crosswalks. The project is scheduled for completion in spring 2018, at which time replacement trees will be planted. Neighbors should be alert to road and lane closures that will be implemented at different times during the project.

A future project is expected to address extensive erosion around a storm sewer outfall along the pedestrian/bike path between the Bluemont Park



Stormwater from this outfall in Bluemont Park has eroded the surrounding wall and earth, undermining the fence and the pedestrian/bike path.

### Boulevard Manor Civic Association (BMCA) General Meeting

**Monday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.**

**Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.**

Our meeting will begin promptly at 7:00, featuring:

- Introduction of the BMCA president, officers, and Board members
- A conversation with Ashlawn Elementary School's newly appointed principal, Breonna McClain
- A safety update from Arlington County Police Dept. District One Commander David Giroux
- Updates on neighborhood issues
- Reports from the BMCA treasurer and committees

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

playground and 1<sup>st</sup> St. N. Temporary repairs have secured the pathway over the discharge pipe. Yet the wing wall structure, the pathway embankment holding the concrete pipe, and the wood fence along the path have been seriously undermined (see photo).

Over the years, runoff from this part of the storm sewer system has spilled uncontrolled into a nearby dirt channel and caused much erosion in Bluemont Park, especially around the playground and picnic areas. Options for remediation include the possibility to extend the storm sewer piping to Four Mile Run. County staff will soon begin to evaluate the alternatives. BMCA will remain involved in the planning effort.

### October 14-15 is Fall Cleanup Weekend

BMCA encourages neighbors, during the second weekend of October, to join in beautifying our community with some outdoor cleanup activity. Especially in need of attention are weeds growing in sidewalks and in the strips between sidewalks and curbs. Please take the time to pull the weeds from these areas in front of your

house and anywhere else you care to attack the problem (it's all public space). Even an old fork can be effective in extracting weeds if you don't own specialized gardening equipment. Dispose of weeds in your yard waste cart.

Another suggestion for fall cleanup weekend: improve your property by planting native species of trees or other plants. Studies repeatedly show that trees improve the value of your home, have significant health benefits, help to conserve energy, absorb air pollutants, and attract songbirds and butterflies. You can order a free tree from Arlington County at [environment.arlingtonva.us/register-for-your-free-tree](http://environment.arlingtonva.us/register-for-your-free-tree). You can select Northern Virginia native plants to beautify your property by looking at the guide prepared by the Virginia Native Plants Society at [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org), under "Growing Natives."

If you want guidance on what to plant where to enhance the value of your home and attract wildlife, consider arranging for a free expert consultation offered by the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia at [www.audubonva.org](http://www.audubonva.org), under "Audubon at Home." The consultation will enable you to create a yard that is easier to maintain than most traditional yards.

### Seventh Annual Veterans Day Dinner

On Friday, November 10, BMCA and Arlington Community Church will co-host the 2017 Veterans Day dinner, with food service beginning at 6:00 pm. All neighbors are invited; there is nothing you need to bring. BMCA will provide beef and pulled chicken from Rocklands, as well as sides and beverages. We will also collect donations for two veterans' causes, Fisher House and the Wounded Warrior Project. If you have questions or would like to help set up or clean up, please contact Carlin Schwartz at [CarlinSchwartz@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:CarlinSchwartz@boulevardmanor.org).

### Bluemont Park Restoration Project Update

Progress continues in clearing invasive plants and trees in the Bluemont Park woodland adjacent to our neighborhood and the small wooded glen between 1<sup>st</sup> St. N. and Arlington Boulevard. Neighbors are eagerly anticipating the native woodland plants that may re-emerge in the cleared areas next spring. The county is planning to plant native shrubs and trees in the glen and in parts of Bluemont Park this fall, with more planting expected next year. Plans for the new sidewalk from the N. Manchester St./4<sup>th</sup> St. N. intersection to the Four Mile Run trail in Bluemont are being completed, with construction scheduled for later this year.

Neighborhood volunteers (see photo) on multiple occasions have come together to clean the area of the 1st St.



N. entrance to Bluemont Park. The effort dates back to ivy-clearing activities in December 2014 and includes a County-funded Neighborhood Conservation Plan project to chemically treat invasives.

The die-back of the invasives revealed an enormous quantity of trash, including dumped fencing materials and several hundred VHS videotapes. All neighbors are urged to remember that parklands and forested areas should not be used dumping yard waste, let alone trash. In addition to being unsightly and potentially toxic, such dumping may smother native plants and promote the spread of invasives.

### For a better, safer neighborhood...

- Save on your mobile phone the Arlington Police non-emergency number **703-558-2222** and report any suspicious activity or possible hazards you observe.
- Consider subscribing to Arlington Alert at [www.arlingtonva.us/alerts](http://www.arlingtonva.us/alerts), which enables you to receive notifications about emergencies, extreme weather, and traffic and transit disruptions.
- Remember that it is unlawful to dump anything, even yard cuttings, on park land. Use the county refuse or yard waste receptacles.
- Keep in mind that foxes and coyotes are a danger to your pets, so keep your dog on a leash when off your property and your cat indoors when you are not watching. And remember to clean up after your pets.
- Note neighbors who may need help when we have snow or other difficult conditions.
- If you use outdoor lighting, aim floodlights downward and away from your neighbor's property.
- Drive as if your kids lived here.
- Greet your neighbors at every opportunity.

## Letter from the New President

I'm honored to have been elected President of BMCA this past June. If you are a new resident to Boulevard Manor, it is also my honor to welcome you to the neighborhood. I may be biased, but my family and I do think that Boulevard Manor is the best neighborhood in Arlington!

There is no other neighborhood in Arlington that combines a highly rated elementary school (Ashlawn), the largest park in Arlington (Bluemont), a unique and interesting history (including Reevesland), and the most wonderful welcoming and helpful neighbors anyone could ask for.

Since my wife Megan, daughter Olivia, and I moved here in 2009, we have seen the utmost in generosity of spirit, time, and friendliness from fellow residents. Whether it be neighbors looking out for one another; house/cat/dog sitting, dinners, neighborhood block parties (2 this past summer!), Snow blowing/shoveling drives, etc., Boulevard Manor neighbors really do look out for each other. I know that if I needed anything all I have to do is put the word out and our wonderful Boulevard Manor neighbors will answer the call!

What is even more unique is our level of tolerance and welcoming of residents. No matter who you are, what you believe, or where you came from. Whether a conservative, moderate, or a liberal; whether a recent immigrant or lifelong Arlingtonian; whether an activist for a cause or not, residents of Boulevard Manor are accepting and welcoming. In these divisive times, it is truly wonderful to see and be a part of a neighborhood that does not just preach tolerance and civility on ALL sides, but truly walks the walk!

As President, I have an inherent responsibility (as does the rest of the Board) to represent and advocate for Boulevard Manor residents and issues to the County. The Board members and I take that role very seriously. However, we CANNOT do it without YOU. If you are not a member of BMCA, I strongly urge you to become a member. The more members we have, the more of a voice we have to the county to represent our general needs and welfare. The more of a voice we have to the county, the better responses we get. Since Arlington County is unique and works through its civic associations, we need a strong membership.

As a member, you can also become involved in REAL change within our neighborhood. Whether you're interested in environmental issues (park cleanup, invasive species removal), pedestrian safety/traffic calming (curb bump outs, speed humps, traffic lights), emergency management, hospitality (our WONDERFUL annual picnic, 4th of July celebration, and of course the yearly Easter Egg hunt), recreation (our wonderful park with its brand new beautiful ball field), education, housing, farm to table (Reevesland Learning Center, farmers markets) or even broader county issues, we need your voice, advocacy, and talent. Yearly membership dues are more affordable than three Starbucks grande/triple shot/cappuccinos, plus you get way MORE satisfaction and FEWER calories!

Finally, I wanted to let you know some of our priorities for this next year. We all will be:

- Continuing work on the future of the former Reeves farmhouse
- Examining electronic voting possibilities for BMCA issues (for members that cannot attend general meetings)
- Pushing for more traffic calming and road improvements
- Continue invasive species removal and green space improvements
- Improving communication of issues to residents
- Making sure we have a voice in Upton Hill park improvements

As always, I welcome YOUR suggestions, comments, feedback. I am always available for residents. My email is [Tighe1967@verizon.net](mailto:Tighe1967@verizon.net).

Thanks,

Chris Tighe  
President, Boulevard Manor Civic Association





### **Annual Caroling Party December 17<sup>th</sup>**

Neighbors of all ages are invited to sing holiday songs at Sunrise Retirement at Bluemont on Sunday December 17. The caroling will begin at 6:30pm, preceded by a potluck dinner at Claudia Maloney's house. If you are coming to the dinner, please bring a dish to share and come to Claudia's house, 5951 8th Rd. N., at 5:00 pm. At 6:30pm, the group will head over to Sunrise. If you plan to join the group there, please come to the James Building (the one closest to Wilson Blvd.) at 6:30. For more information, contact Claudia at [ClaudiaMaloney@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:ClaudiaMaloney@boulevardmanor.org).

### **Update on Arlington Boulevard Shoulder Beautification and Restoration**

The BMCA Conservation and Beautification Committee reports that the trees planted on the Arlington Blvd. shoulder are growing in nicely (see photo above). The young grove, intended to screen the neighborhood from U.S. Route 50, combines small saplings purchased from Earth Sangha, slightly larger ones received free through the Arlington County tree giveaway, and the largest trees purchased from Great Outdoors of Falls Church, who also did the planting.

Now that the County has begun construction of the Arlington Blvd./N. Manchester St. intersection, the committee can begin planning next steps for restoring and beautifying the area. Plans for later this fall include acquiring a few more saplings from Tree Stewards as part of the Arlington County free tree giveaway program. The new saplings will fill gaps in the screen, mainly in the untouched central portion of the shoulder. While planting the trees, the committee plans to clear invasives in that area. Work may also include turning up ground to create a butterfly garden while the trees are still small and there is plenty of sun.

The BMCA board recently sent a letter to the County Board thanking them for supporting Tree Stewards. The letter included a proposal that the County, State, and civic and/or educational organizations work together to restore and beautify the Route 50 corridor, putting in some butterfly gardens along the way.

### **New to the neighborhood? Welcome!**

The Boulevard Manor Civic Association is pleased to welcome all new residents to one of the friendliest communities in Arlington. BMCA promotes the common welfare, health, and safety of its residents and sponsors many social activities. The civic association would be pleased to give a small welcoming gift to new neighbors. If you moved into our neighborhood after January 1, 2017, please contact BMCA vice president Claudia Maloney at [ClaudiaMaloney@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:ClaudiaMaloney@boulevardmanor.org).