

Between the Boulevards

October 2018

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

Boulevard Manor Civic Association (BMCA) General Meeting

Monday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.

Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.

- Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey will discuss community issues.
- Charlotte Gallant of Children's Sake of Virginia – a therapeutic foster agency – will speak about the need for foster parents in Arlington
- Phil Bresee, Manager of the Arlington Environmental Management Office and other representatives of the Department of Environmental Services will share information about matters such as recycling and sewer service.
- BMCA members will discuss and vote on proposed amendments to the civic association by-laws.

For more information, contact BMCA President Chris Tighe at president@boulevardmanor.org.

Changes to BMCA By-Laws Proposed

At the October 29 general meeting, proposed changes to the Association's by-laws will be presented for approval by voting members. The proposed changes are shown on a mark-up of the current bylaws available at the BMCA web site, www.boulevardmanor.org. The changes would:

- ▶ Establish justifications and procedures for removing from office a Civic Association officer, board member, or committee member
- ▶ Change the voting rules to allow use of electronic ballots in Civic Association elections and other votes.

The proposed by-law changes were first communicated in a September 15 post to the BMCA Yahoo! group by BMCA President Chris Tighe. See our web site for the full text of Chris' post explaining the changes.

Veteran's Day Dinner on November 12

Everyone is invited to the 8th annual BMCA Veteran's Day dinner on Monday, November 12th, beginning 6:15 pm at the Arlington Community Church (on the corner of Wilson Blvd. and Livingston St.). There is no need to bring anything; BMCA will provide beef and pulled chicken from Rocklands, as well as homemade side dishes. We will collect voluntary donations for two important Veteran's charities, Fisher House and Wounded Warriors. If you have any questions or you would like to help, please contact Claudia Maloney at vicepresident@boulevardmanor.org.

Powhatan Springs Park Woodland Work Day December 2

Neighbors are invited to Powhatan Springs on Sunday, December 2, from 2:00-4:00pm for the continuing rehabilitation of the woodland. The address is 6020 Wilson Boulevard (parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/powhatan-springs-park). The group will meet at the end of the path between the soccer field and the skate park's construction site. There is usually street parking and available spaces near the street in the park's lot. Please do not cross into the construction site.

You can now find many new native plants growing in the park, including heath aster and mistflower, which sprouted widely this past summer. The rehab project got a huge boost this fall when County staff effectively treated the invasive Japanese stiltgrass, honeysuckle, smartweed, and English ivy.

The work will include picking up trash, removing some of the more troublesome nonnative invasives, and hopefully planting new trees. Please mark your calendar and watch for additional information on the BMCA listserv.

Holiday Caroling on December 16

Neighbors of all ages are invited to sing songs at Sunrise Retirement at Bluemont. No experience is necessary; lyrics will be provided. The caroling will be preceded by a potluck dinner at Claudia Maloney's

house at 5:30pm. If you want to attend the dinner, please bring a dish to share and come to Claudia's house, 5951 8th Road N., at 5:30pm. At 6:20, the group will walk over to Sunrise. If wish to join after the dinner, please come to the James Building (the Sunrise building that is closest to Wilson Blvd.) at 6:30pm. If you have questions, please contact Claudia at vicepresident@boulevardmanor.org.

Bluemont Park Restoration Update

The long-awaited sidewalk connecting Manchester Street and the Four Mile Run Trail in Bluemont Park has been completed. The project has improved safety for pedestrians and bikers at the Bluemont Park entrance near 4th Street N.

Later this fall, 17 new native trees will be planted beside the path, creating a buffer and adding to our tree canopy. The woodland restoration continues as planned, with spot treatment applied to the few remaining nonnative invasive plants and additional trees and shrubs will be planted. Plans also call for new benches near the new sidewalk and adjacent to the Four Mile Run Trail, along with new trash and recycling receptacles. The 1st Street N. glen will receive new native trees and replacements for earlier plantings that died.

Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors,

When you get this, we will be less than a week from Halloween, one of my favorite events. BMCA residents certainly do Halloween well! I encourage all to be safe, with trick-or-treaters using flashlights and wearing reflective clothing. Drivers need to be especially alert. On my street every year, I see kids sprint across the street without looking and I hold my breath!

As we move from the crunch of leaves under our feet into winter, I urge you to look out for each other during winter events. Be aware of neighbors who may need help when snow and ice make travel hazardous and please, please, PLEASE clear your sidewalks. Regrettably, not everyone obeys the County snow removal ordinance, which can create hazards for school children and other pedestrians.

I am truly excited on all the great things happening in BMCA! Membership in the civic association is at an all-time high and the Board has collaborated with the County and other organizations to make positive change. The skate park is getting a wonderful overhaul, Upton Hill Park will soon start major renovations that will benefit the community, and a new ADA-compliant sidewalk connecting Manchester St. to the W&O trail in Bluemont Park was completed. Reevesland has a new driveway and a new parking pad, while BMCA continues to work with the County and Habitat for Humanity on the proposed reuse of the farmhouse as a residence for adults with special needs. We can also look forward to the new restaurant/pub opening in Dominion Hills Shopping Center and DHARA's pool renovations. BMCA is working with DHARA, Ashlawn/APS, and County government to plan safety improvements to the stairs connecting 8th Rd. to Wilson Blvd.

A BMCA Board member was recently called by one of the Arlington County Board, who wanted to express his gratitude for our commitment to civic (and civil) engagement. I am very proud of and grateful to our Board members and officers for all that they do.

Speaking of, a special thank you to the Ermovick family! Every year, Tony, Laura, and their sons work incredibly hard to put on the amazing BMCA picnic. They spend countless hours preparing, organizing and, yes, turning 30 lbs. of ground beef into handmade burgers. Tony spends all year thinking of the next clever icebreaker; this year's was beyond hysterical! If there was a BMCA family of the year award, the Ermovicks would have a full trophy case!

Don't forget our annual Veteran's Day dinner on Nov. 12. We will honor all that have served and still do, while enjoying great food and even better company.

Finally, I want to thank ALL OF YOU! This past year I have seen more "neighbors helping neighbors," more engagement, and more bringing issues to BMCA's attention. We may not be able to solve every problem, but we do strive to be responsive and take effective action. Boulevard Manor is a wonderful community because of YOU!

Chris Tighe