

**Boulevard Manor Civic Association
Neighborhood Meeting:
Neighborhood Conservation Project for Bluemont Park**

**Monday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.
Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.**

This special neighborhood meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm with the following agenda:

- 1. Neighborhood Conservation Project for Bluemont Park** – Kathy von Bredow, RLA, Arlington County Parks and Recreation, will present final design details and schematics for our NC project for our review and formal approval.
 - Background: The Boulevard Manor Civic Association voted to make the Bluemont Park woodlands restoration project our first priority Neighborhood Conservation (NC) project. This NC project will be a multi-year program that will:
 - Provide safe pedestrian access to the woodland area and nature trail, by building sidewalk along the entrance roadway for the parking lot at N. Manchester Street and 4th Street N. to connect with the paved park trail.
 - Restore the natural woodland area in Bluemont Park (in the area west of Four Mile Run between Carlin Springs Road, Arlington Boulevard and the south parking lot and continuing south across 1st Street N. to Arlington Boulevard) by working in partnership with park staff, using a contractor for removal of invasive plant species, conducting a comprehensive survey of the flora and fauna, planting native plant species, encouraging and protecting wildlife diversity, and creating a nature trail with plant identification markers, and installing benches and some fencing to protect the natural area from the actively used disc golf course.
 - Install historical signage on the Reeves Farm property.
- 2. Wilson Boulevard reconfiguration** – We will review results of County meeting of April 14, including assessment of the pilot project, traffic counts, and BMCA participation in working group for future plans.
- 3. Reeves Farm Conservation Society** – Sandra Spear, RFCS President, will provide an update on plans for the restoration of Reeves Farm.

Note that BMCA will hold our regular Spring meeting on June 13. Watch for another newsletter in advance of the June meeting. For more information, contact BMCA president Phil Klingelohofer at president@boulevardmanor.org.

Safety Improvements in Boulevard Manor

You may have noticed that signage has changed at three intersections in our neighborhood to improve pedestrian safety and slow traffic. At 4th Street N. and N. Manchester St., at 2nd Street N. and N. Manchester, and at N. Madison St. and N. Nottingham St., YIELD signs were replaced with STOP signs. These

small changes are intended to make neighborhood streets safer and quieter by requiring cars coming down steep hills to move more slowly in preparation for stopping at the intersections. Please remember the Arlington Police non-emergency number 703-558-2222 should you observe any problems in compliance with traffic laws.

June BMCA Meeting

Mark your calendar for the June 13 general meeting starting at 7pm. Meeting plans include Libby Garvey, Arlington County Board Chair, a presentation on Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Gardens, and the annual election of BMCA Board members and officers. Watch for more details in the June newsletter.

BMCA Event Benefits Veterans' Charities

At the BMCA annual Veterans Day dinner last November, neighbors donated nearly \$900 to the Wounded Warriors Project and the Fisher House Foundation. BMCA thanks all who contributed to honor our nation's veterans.

Wilson Boulevard Demonstration Project

At the April 14 County Board meeting, staff presented an analysis of the impacts of implementing the lane reconfiguration for Wilson Boulevard between N. Manchester St. and N. Edison St. Staff provided an update on the observed impacts, after implementing the "road diet," on key measures such as safety, cut-through traffic, congestion, and multi-modal considerations. Data were collected prior to and following the project implementation. Based on the data:

- Traffic volumes remained constant.
- Traffic speeds through the project area have slightly decreased.
- Cut-through traffic has not increased as a result of this project.
- Travel times have increased slightly in the peak direction along the project segment.
- Travel times have decreased slightly in the off-peak direction along the project segment.
- There has been no significant change in the accident rate.

There was considerable input from the people attending the meeting. Most supported the project and appreciated the increased safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Many concerns were also raised, including complaints about difficulties in turning onto Wilson during in either direction from cross streets in and near the realignment test area peak traffic times, difficulties for pedestrians attempting to cross Wilson

Boulevard during peak traffic, and safety issues on Boulevard Manor streets from cut-through traffic.

The entire report – including accident information, traffic speed counts, and detailed traffic counts – can be found on the Arlington County web site www.arlington.us by searching for "Wilson Blvd Improvements." The county staff will be working with surrounding neighborhoods to identify options for further enhancements to Wilson Boulevard in coming years. Note that no funding has yet been allocated to Wilson Boulevard in the current Capital Improvement Plan.

Update on Reeves Farm Project

The Reeves Farm Conservation Society continues to negotiate with Arlington County over the terms of a potential partnership for the former Reeves property. Plans include restoring the farmhouse and milk house and adding other features to the site to make it operationally self-sustaining. The Society is exploring options for ownership, funding, operations, and programming. RFCS president Sandra Spear will present updated information at the May 2 BMCA special meeting.

Arlington Neighborhood Village May Social Gathering

The members and volunteers of Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV) who live in Glencarlyn, Arlington Forest, and Boulevard Manor are planning a social gathering on May 1 at 2:00 pm. The event will include hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and beverages.

Neighbors are invited to join in the fun and learn more about ANV. If you are interested in attending the gathering, please call our neighborhood contact, Gail Kutner, at 703-524-8540 or email her at gaillkutner@arlnvil.org.

ANV is a non-profit organization serving Arlington residents aged 55 and older. Through ANV, neighbors help neighbors to live in their homes and stay engaged in their communities as they age. There is an annual membership fee; financial assistance is available. To find out more about becoming a member or volunteering, visit www.arlnvil.org, call the office 703-509-8057, or email info@arlnvil.org.