



Between the Boulevards

June 2018

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

New Use Proposed for Reeves Farmhouse

After more than 16 years of ideas, studies, and discussion regarding the former Reeves home (400 N. Manchester St.), an apparently well-funded plan is moving forward. Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia (HabitatNOVA) has proposed to acquire the old farmhouse and to repurpose it as a residence for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

BMCA has been in discussions for the past year with HabitatNOVA and with Arlington County Board member Christian Dorsey. At the Civic Association general meeting on June 18, the proposal will be formally presented and a motion for community support of the idea will be considered by BMCA members. Some specifics of the proposal:

- ▶ In partnership with a team of corporate and individual donors, HabitatNOVA plans to acquire the former Reeves home from Arlington County. The County purchased the property from the Reeves family in 2001.
- ▶ HabitatNOVA proposes to adapt the farmhouse as a home for 4 to 6 high-functioning adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. A team of construction professionals and volunteers will rehabilitate the existing house and will construct a visually compatible one-story addition.
- ▶ The restored farmhouse will function as the main social/communal space for resident activities. An updated kitchen will provide space where residents can assist with daily meal preparation. The addition will contain bedrooms and bathrooms for the residents and accommodations for on-site support staff. Each resident will have his or her own bedroom.

Join the BMCA Listserv

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

Boulevard Manor Civic Association General Meeting

Monday, June 18, 7:00 p.m.

Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.

- We will discuss the proposal of Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia to acquire and adapt the Reeves farmhouse for reuse as a residence for developmentally disabled adults (see article). A motion of community support will be considered.
- Annual elections will be held for BMCA officers and for open BMCA Board positions.
- BMCA committees will present information about ongoing efforts and future plans.

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

- ▶ Daily on-site support will enable residents will to live safely and independently. Life skills coaching and other services coordinated by the support staff will afford each resident opportunities to work in a paid job or in a vocational training setting, to increase social skills, and to practice money management.
- ▶ HabitatNOVA has been providing quality affordable housing in the Northern Virginia area since 1990. For the past 10 years, all HabitatNOVA's newly constructed homes have been certified by EarthCraft, a green building certification program serving the Southeastern United States.
- ▶ To date, the design team has been joined by Wiencek + Associates Architects + Planners, an award-winning firm specializing in historic preservation; Linton Engineers, which conducted the existing conditions assessment of the Reeves house for Arlington County in 2011; and land use attorneys Venable.

BMCA Officer and Board Member Elections at June Meeting

The Nominating Committee appointed by the BMCA membership presents the following candidates for the June 18 election. The nominees for election to a two-year term (2018-2020) as officers of BMCA are:

Secretary	Alex Cumana	Arlington Blvd.
Treasurer	Rob Pilot	3 rd St. N.

BMCA President Chris Tighe (5th St. N.) and Vice President Claudia Maloney (8th Rd. N.) will continue in their terms, which conclude in 2019.

Nominees for new two-year (2018-2020) terms on the BMCA Board of Directors are:

John Bloom	N. Manchester St.
Tony Ermovick	1 st St. N.
Phil Klingelhofer	1 st St. N.
Rachel Lucas	5 th Rd. N.
Matt Smith	3 rd St. N.

Board members elected last year and continuing in their terms until 2019 are:

Rob Piester	3 rd St. N.
Paul Svercl	3 rd St. N.
Jon Van Lare	N. Manchester St.

BMCA is grateful for the service of outgoing board member Sandy Horwitt.

July 4 Neighborhood Celebration

All neighbors are invited to **the Independence Day Ice cream social on Wednesday, 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 social to watch the fireworks above the National Mall, which typically begin around 9:15pm. If you would can help at the event, please contact Claudia Maloney at VicePresident@boulevardmanor.org.

Bluemont Park Neighborhood Conservation Project Update

The Neighborhood Conservation Project selected in 2016 by BMCA for priority funding is proceeding. Restoration of the woodland area of Bluemont Park continues, with a fourth pass by professionals to remove invasive plants that have for years smothered the native woodland plants. English ivy (often invading from adjoining residences), Porcelain Berry, multiflora rose, and invasive honeysuckle and trees are gone; ferns, may apples, jack in the pulpit,

and other native plants are beginning to take their place beneath the trees. Additional native tree, shrub and understory plants will be planted in the fall.

In April, the first trees and shrubs were planted done in April at the glen on 1st Street, an area that had been thickly smothered by invasives until last year. Look for the Red Maple, Sweet Pepperbush, American Holly, Spicebush, Sweetbay Magnolia, Swamp White Oak, Willow Oak, American Elderberry, and American Plum.

Construction of a path connecting N. Manchester St. and the Four Mile Run Trail, providing safe access to Bluemont Park adjacent to the south parking lot, is scheduled for completion in the few weeks. The project has been delayed by complications in meeting requirements under the American with Disabilities Act.

Other infrastructure elements will be installed this summer, including 3 park signs, 5 benches along the new path and in the disc golf area, and 8 sets of trash/recycle cans.

Powhatan Springs Park Update

The skatepark will close on June 18 for construction, with completion expected in the first quarter of 2019. See projects.arlingtonva.us for details.

Neighborhood volunteers continue efforts to clean up the Reeves Run stream valley south of the skate park, collaborating with members of the Arlington Regional Naturalists and Skaters for Arlington Skatepark. Work in the wooded area has included removal of invasive species and some planting of native shrubs. Natural vegetation is beginning to re-emerge, providing habitat for songbirds in the woods and amphibians along the stream. The BMCA Conservation and Beautification Committee will continue to hold a workday each month, even during the reconstruction of the skatepark. Please watch for the notices and join in the effort.

Please, No Dumping

It is unlawful to dump anything in Arlington County park lands, including yard waste, lawn clippings, dirt, building materials, and construction debris. The dumping problem affects all County parks, including Powhatan Springs and Bluemont Parks. The dumped materials smother native plants, encourage growth of invasive plants, and create safety hazards. Although neighborhood volunteers have removed massive amounts of refuse from the parks in recent years, continued dumping thwarts their hard work. Please use your green bin for free weekly pickup of yard waste by the County.

Letter from the President

Dear neighbors,

I wanted to provide you an update on some of our accomplishments in the year since I was elected President of our civic association. We have done GREAT things and are only getting started! For example, BMCA leaders and members have:

- ✓ Presented to the Environment & Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) on the snow-melting operation in the Bluemont Park south parking lot and the effects of diesel fumes on vulnerable neighbors. We reported an inadequate response to residents' concerns by the Arlington Department of Environmental Services. Seeing merit in our arguments, E2C2 recommended that the County Board impose a moratorium on snow storage and melting at the parking lot.
- ✓ Coordinated with Arlington County on constructing improvements to neighborhood sidewalks to enhance pedestrian safety, including safe routes to schools.
- ✓ Removed massive amounts of invasive species and trash in our wooded areas and streams.
- ✓ Urged the County to remove a plaque honoring confederate dead that was gaining unwanted attention. We also worked with the County to replace the Civil War historical marker that had been damaged. A new plaque with proper historical text will be installed in the coming weeks.
- ✓ Worked with Arlington Public Schools to install in Ashlawn Elementary School a pottery kiln that had been sitting unused in the Ashlawn's boiler room for three years. The kiln will be installed this summer.
- ✓ Served on the interview panel for the new Principal of Ashlawn, Breonna McClain, who is finishing up her first year at our neighborhood school.
- ✓ Provided input on the final design and imminent construction of a new sidewalk at the entrance to the Bluemont Park south parking lot. The sidewalk provides safe access for pedestrians who previously had to walk in the traffic lanes of the parking lot entrance.
- ✓ Represented BMCA in Arlington Public Schools discussions of high school and middle school redistricting.
- ✓ Worked with Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority on plans for upgraded facilities and a new hickory forest in Upton Hill Regional Park. The proposed project will include removal of some trees, planting of native species to maintain/increase the tree canopy, expanded parking to increase safety, and new amenities such as a ropes course. Construction is scheduled to begin in Fall 2018.
- ✓ Participated in the civic association roundtable with the County Manager and County Board Chair. At the meeting, we challenged other civic association presidents to add more diversity to their leadership ranks and communicated important issues of concern to BMCA.
- ✓ Represented BMCA on various county advisory commissions, working groups, and committees.

I look forward to doing even MORE in the next year. I'm especially excited about the proposed plans for the Reeves farmhouse, a project that I believe will bring the neighborhood and other stakeholders together to accomplish something that will make us all proud. I'm grateful for the hard work and dedication of the BMCA officers and Board members, the committee chairs, and all our neighborhood volunteers.

We are proud of our efforts, but know that we can always do more, working collaboratively with the County government and others. I hope that, like me, you are inspired by our community between the Boulevards!

Chris Tighe

Arlington Boulevard Buffer Planting

The native trees planted along the western stretch of the area between Arlington Boulevard and the access road are beginning to thrive. The young trees will provide screening for residents and a more attractive border for our community. Josh Handler, chairman of the BMCA Conservation and Beautification Committee, has spearheaded this effort over several years. Supported by BMCA funding for purchase of the trees, Josh leads volunteers to perform the field work. Additional planting will be made by Arlington County along the area cleared for the rebuilding of the N. Manchester Street / Arlington Boulevard intersection later this year.

Arlington County Tree Canopy Fund (TCF) Program

The TCF offers county residents free native trees, planted on your property by TCF-paid installers. The goal of the

program is to plant more trees on private property within the county, and the Boulevard Manor goal is 25 new trees this year. Please consider joining the program.

The benefits are many: adding beauty and value to your property, reducing your heating and cooling costs, providing habitat for birds and butterflies, and cleaning the air you breathe. Your commitments are simple: properly care for the TCF trees, watering them consistently for two years while they get established, then watering in following years whenever rainfall is inadequate.

The deadline to apply for the TCF program is June 22. You can apply at www.ecoactionarlington.org/trees. Additional information is available at environment.arlingtonva.us/trees.

Boulevard Manor Civic Association Membership Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E Mail Address(es) _____

Telephone Number(s) _____

Please do not add my e-mail address to the BMCA listserv

Please contact me about volunteering for activities related to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation and Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Reevesland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality and Social Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Projects under the Neighborhood Conservation Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety and Emergency Preparedness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter and Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as a BMCA Officer or Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks | |

Membership Category	Cost
Individual Members	\$10
Couples (Two Adult Members)	\$20
Voluntary additional contribution of any amount (Thank you!)	\$____
Total Dues and Contribution	\$____

Please make out your check to BMCA and mail this form and the payment to:

BMCA Membership c/o Matt Smith 5911 3rd Street N., Arlington CA 22203