



Between the Boulevards

June 2019

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

Welcome to New Members, Thanks to Returning Members

The Civic Association is most grateful to the 275 Boulevard Manor residents who are 2019 BMCA members! Your contribution, through dues and much-appreciated donations, provides the funding for events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Independence Day Ice Cream Social, and Community Picnic. We also appreciate BMCA members who donate their time performing stream cleanups, removing invasive species, cutting the grass at the Rt. 50 and Manchester entrance to our neighborhood, and volunteering for other activities that help make our community a great place to live.

Although our 2019 membership drive has concluded, you can join the association or renew your membership at any time. Visit www.boulevardmanor.org/membership for more information.

BMCA Officer and Board Member Elections at June Meeting

The Nominating Committee appointed by the BMCA membership presents the following candidates for the June 10 election. The nominees for election to a two-year term (2019-2021) as officers of BMCA are:

President	Chris Tighe	5 th St. N.
Vice President	Claudia Maloney	8 th Rd. N.

BMCA Secretary Alex Cumana (Arlington Blvd.) and Treasurer Rob Pilot (3rd St. N.) will continue in their terms, which conclude in 2020.

New to neighborhood? Welcome!

The Boulevard Manor Civic Association (BMCA) 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.

BMCA would like to give a small welcoming gift to new neighbors. If you moved into our neighborhood after January 1, 2019, please contact Claudia Maloney at VicePresident@boulevardmanor.org.

Boulevard Manor Civic Association General Meeting

Monday, June 10, 7:00 p.m.

Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.

- Representatives of the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Master Naturalists will deliver a presentation about mosquito and tick control.
- Information about the Lubber Run Farmers Market will be provided.
- 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.

Nominees for new two-year (2019-2021) terms on the BMCA Board of Directors are:

Greg Branch	5 th Rd. N.
Maia Curtis	N. Manchester St.
Bruce Gibbs	N. Manchester St.

Board members elected last year and continuing in their terms until 2020 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.

BMCA is grateful for the service of outgoing board members Rob Piester, Paul Svercl, and Jon Van Lare.

July 4 Celebration

All neighbors are invited to the Independence Day ice cream social on Thursday, July 4, beginning at 7:30pm at the Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St. A

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. You can select how often you want the group emails delivered. If you do not post messages, your email address will remain anonymous.

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. Volunteers are needed to help at the event; please contact Claudia Maloney at VicePresident@boulevardmanor.org.

Parkland Updates

Following are reports by the BMCA Parks Committee.

Bluemont Park: We have seen much progress in our Neighborhood Conservation Plan project to restore the woodland area of Bluemont Park and connect Manchester Street at 4th Street to the Four Mile Run trail with a safe pedestrian sidewalk. Non-native invasive plants – including English ivy, bush honeysuckle, and Norway maples – have been killed, though follow-up treatments will be needed in some areas. More than 80 new trees and shrubs have been planted in the woodland area, in areas within the disk golf course, along the new connector path, and on the sides of the Reeves Farm sledding hill.



Sadly, we witnessed the felling of what was likely the oldest tree in our neighborhood, the majestic oak on the slope in front of the Reevesland farmhouse. In the past century, this neighborhood landmark had withstood so many events and changes, from destructive storms to the pressures of development. The loss was all the more painful when we saw how truly immense the tree was as it lay on the grass after the storm passed.

What is to come? We will ask for more trees to be planted along both sides of the sledding hill, leaving the center portion clear of obstacles for continued winter recreation, while restoring more natural habitat. We will also see new benches and trash/recycling receptacles installed later this year, and a tree and shrub planting will be conducted as part of our woodland restoration program in and around the more natural areas of the park. We will also have several opportunities for neighbors to join in trash pickup and removal of non-native species from the woodland areas. Please watch the BMCA listserv for requests for volunteers!



Powhatan Springs Park: Monthly workdays, led by Josh Handler (BMCA Beautification Committee Chair) and Bill Browning (Arlington Regional Master Naturalists), have attracted volunteers to clean up trash, remove invasives, and plant natives in the woods around Reeves Run. The woodland area is much healthier than before; more native plants are growing from the long buried seedbank.

More than 50 native trees, shrubs and grasses have been planted in the past year. All the trees in the park have been identified and mapped in the county geographic information system for tracking purposes. More bird species are being observed, as well as salamanders in Reeves Run. With continued help of volunteers and supported by Arlington County, this lovely park will be a place to appreciate the bountiful natural resources of our neighborhood.

The renovation of the Powhatan Springs Skatepark has been completed. The facility reopened in early April with a new combination of retro and modern elements including two bowls, snake zone, and a street area. Come and see the skaters and motocross enthusiasts show off their skills!

Upton Hill Regional Park: NOVA Parks has developed and begun implementing a plan to update this heavily used park. A mostly wooded space of about 14 acres, UHRP features meandering trails, a water park, mini-golf, and batting cages. See www.novaparks.com for details about the UHRP update, which will include improvements to the active area and planting almost 200 trees and bushes to expand the oak/hickory forest.

This project will expand the habitat value of the park and the opportunities for learning about forest ecosystems. The parking lot will be enlarged to better serve park users. The parking lot design will feature new techniques to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff, such that the new lot will have a smaller ecological footprint than the old lot. The wooded areas will be cleared of invasive plants, improving the environment for native plants and animals.

With our leadership and help, the wooded area of this park can become part of an important natural wildlife corridor running from Upton Hill down along Reeves Run through Powhatan Springs Park, DHARA, Ashlawn Elementary School, and Bluemont Park to Four Mile Run. This is how our natural spaces should work, connecting habitat areas for the benefit of wildlife. We can maintain and improve these connections by working in partnership with NOVA Parks, Arlington County Parks, DHARA, and APS.

What is to come? We will work with Arlington Regional Master Naturalists and park staff to schedule opportunities for neighborhood volunteers to assist in habitat restoration.

BMCA Community Picnic: September 15

Our annual picnic will be held, rain or shine, from noon to 3:00pm on Sunday, September 15, 2019 at Upton Hill Regional Park, picnic shelter #1. All neighborhood residents (i.e., the Boulevard Manor, Spy Hill, Park View, Stone Ridge areas) are invited. We especially want to welcome neighbors who are not yet BMCA members.

There is no cost for the picnic, which will feature hot dogs, hamburgers, and soft drinks. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Paper plates, napkins and utensils will be provided.

There will also be plenty of activities for the young and young at heart, including a moon bounce, old fashioned picnic games (water balloon toss, tug-o-war, etc.), paper airplane toss competition, a candy-filled piñata, and a trivia contest.

If you are interested in helping with this event (set-up/clean-up crew, B-B-Q crew, games, kids crafts, host desk), please contact the event coordinator, Tony Ermovick, at TonyErmovick@boulevardmanor.org.

Wanted: More Trees

While neighboring parks have seen a great deal of habitat restoration with more than 330 native trees and shrubs planted in the past year, we continue to have a loss of mature canopy trees in our community. You can help to rebuild the canopy that has long been one of our neighborhood's best features. The County offers free trees through two different programs. Last year, the Tree Canopy Fund enabled at least four BMCA neighbors to improve their properties with good-sized, native trees planted professionally at no cost. To learn how you can take advantage of the giveaway, visit environment.arlingtonva.us/tree-canopy-fund-program.



Letter from the President

Dear neighbors,

As I write this, it has been only a few days since the sudden felling of the 120-year old oak in Bluemont Park/Reevesland. For me, that tree always brought to mind Shel Silverstein's beloved book, *The Giving Tree*. And boy, did that historic oak give so much to this community. Through my daughter's mere 10 years, she has adventured in the tree's majestic beauty. At first, she would beg me to boost her up to enable her to swing from a low branch. Later, when the base of the tree served as a cache for geocaching hobbyists, we delighted in finding its treasure and making our entry in the log book. Many of our strolls included a pause to rest in the oak's ample shade. And of course, it provided a most opportune setting for photos we will always cherish, such as the one shown here. That was merely what the tree gave my daughter . . . what did it give to you and your family?



At this time of melancholy reflection, it more important than ever to celebrate the happy news in our community:

- Habitat For Humanity and their partner L'Arche International have submitted a proposal to the County to refurbish the Reevesland farmhouse and to use it a group home for adults with mental disabilities. If the proposal is accepted, community engagement sessions will be scheduled.
- Much-needed sidewalk and street repairs have been completed across the neighborhood.
- The crime rate in the BMCA neighborhood remains very low.
- The Manchester/Route 50 intersection sub-committee has completed an evaluation of that very dangerous intersection and has provided recommendations to the Arlington County Board.
- Neighborhood volunteers continue very cleanup and replanting in the Bluemont Park woodland, along the Route 50 buffer, and in Powhatan Springs Park. They are removing trash and invasive species, while enabling native species to re-establish and proliferate.
- Meridian Pint, our new neighborhood pub/restaurant, has opened in Dominion Hills Shopping Center and is already becoming a favorite gathering place.
- Arlington County Parks has begun planning a major refurbishment of the Bluemont Tennis Courts (more information to come).

There are many other great things that are in the works, so stay tuned!

Finally, I would like to encourage all members to please come to our June 10th general meeting. We will have some informative presentations and, most importantly, elections for BMCA officers and board members. The Nominating Committee has recruited some new contributors who will bring even more energy to BMCA's diverse and active Board. Please vote and participate in the meeting, which may include beginning discussions about online voting in the future.

Have a phenomenal summer!

Chris Tighe