



Between the Boulevards

October 2021

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 Online General Meeting

Monday, November 1, 7:00 p.m.

JOIN THE ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE AT

<https://zoom.us/j/92617292563>

The agenda for our fall meeting:

- Introductions—new BMCA board, and new officers
- Picnic report
- Update on Manchester/Route 50 changes
- Veterans Day celebration update
- Conversation with Reid Goldstein, Vice Chair, Arlington School Board
- Arlington Public Schools 2021 bond referendum
- Treasurer's report
- Arlington County plastic bag tax
- Reevesland update

For more information, contact BMCA President Matthew Phillips at president@boulevardmanor.org.

A Greeting from the New BMCA President

As this will be the first newsletter with me serving as head of the Boulevard Manor Civic Association, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am a native Arlingtonian, having grown up on the south side of Arlington in the late 1970s-early 1980s. After living overseas for most of the past decade, my family and I have been in Boulevard Manor for just under one year.

Arlington is quite different today than when I was a boy. The old shops at Shirlington have been supplanted by modern restaurants. Gone is Bob Peck Chevrolet and the putt-putt golf course that was across the street – had I only invested in property back then! Still, Arlington, in many ways, has managed to retain much of its small-

town charm where communities grow and develop together; and I am happy to raise our two children here and call Boulevard Manor home.

I look forward to advocating for our community on substantive issues that impact us and continuing to create opportunities for us to engage with our community in our preferred ways. See you at our coming General Meeting.

Warmly,

Matthew Phillips

Update from the BMCA Conservation and Beautification Committee

Though we have been reluctant to organize events due to COVID-19 precautions, there have been **opportunities to work with Arlington Regional Master Naturalists** on their projects clearing invasives and replanting with native species at **Upton Hill and Powhatan Springs** parks. To get involved, contact Jill Barker crosswell2630@verizon.net for Upton Hill and Bill Browning browningwh@gmail.com for Powhatan Springs. They have made a lot of progress. Jill organizes multiple work days each month, as well as Black Latin birder/naturalist walks [Oct. 30 and Nov 6]. Bill is organizing a major planting this fall with the help of Arlington Parks and Rec and the Boy Scouts.

Last spring, the Arlington County Forestry and Natural Resources Commission wrote a letter to the County Board to urge NOVA Parks to hire professional invasive

Join the BMCA Listserv

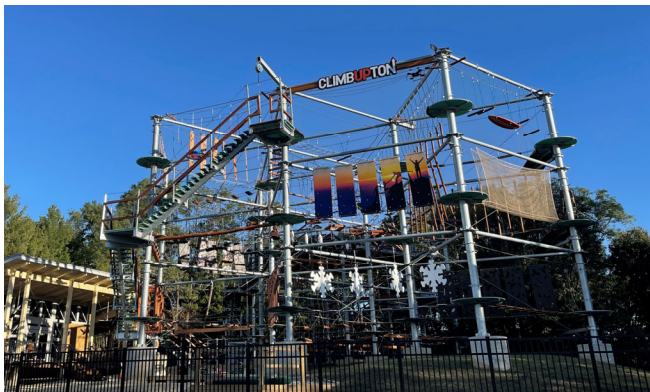
In the Boulevard Manor group at [Googlegroups.com](https://www.google.com/groups), neighbors share information on community news, events, and issues. To join, send a request to Lee Dioso at LeeDioso@boulevardmanor.org. You can select how often you want the group emails delivered. If you do not post messages, your email address will remain anonymous.

plant removers to work in **Upton Hill** and Potomac Overlook parks. Subsequently, NOVA Parks has issued a request for proposals for work in two of Upton Hill's five sections. Hopefully, the winning bidder will accelerate progress toward restoring the park's natural landscape. We will continue to engage with NOVA Parks to address trash and water runoff issues at Upton Hill.

On **Arlington Blvd/Rt. 50 beautification**, we have mulched the trees and will replace one that died. We hope neighbors have noticed the small patch of Jerusalem artichokes that bloomed on the shoulder east of N. Madison St. We planted those more than a year ago. If the artichokes get established, they will add some color and pollinator-friendly plants to the area.

After assessing the difficulties in improving the overgrown, sloped shoulder between Manchester and Montague, we asked the County to allocate funds for restoring and beautifying **overgrown or treeless blocks of Arlington Blvd.**'s shoulder between the County line and Washington Boulevard. To date, the County has referred us to VDOT and VDOT has replied that they have no funds to address these needs. We have been corresponding with County Board member Libby Garvey to urge that Arlington take the lead in this matter. If you would like to join that conversation, please contact Committee Chair Josh Handler at JoshHandler@boulevardmanor.org.

We also have reminded VDOT of re-landscaping needs at the **corner of Rt. 50 and Manchester**, where trees were removed for utility work last year. VDOT says they are working on it. A walk-through of the area with a Dominion Electric arborist is tentatively scheduled for the week of October 25. E-mail Josh Handler if you would like to join. VDOT has also reported that they will be contacting the County about replacing the dead tree on the shoulder next to the new bus stop.



The "Climb Upton" ropes course recently opened at Upton Hill Regional Park.

Consider subscribing to Arlington Alert at www.arlingtonva.us/alerts, which enables you to receive notifications about weather emergencies and traffic and transit disruptions.

Arlington Police Non-Emergency Number: **703-558-2222**

Neighborhood Conservation Project: Bluemont Park Woodland Restoration

BMCA's five-year project in the county Neighborhood Conservation (NC) program is reaching its conclusion. The NC project has restored the woodland area and made other improvements to Bluemont Park on the west side of Four Mile Run. The project has included:

- ▶ Removal of a thick layer of nonnative invasive plants from the wooded areas, allowing native plants to re-establish
- ▶ Planting of more than 100 young trees along the edges of the ball fields and disc golf course, on the banks of Four Mile Run, and in the woodland area
- ▶ Addition of many new benches, trash cans, and recycling receptacles
- ▶ Construction of a new wide sidewalk to provide safe passage for pedestrians between Manchester Street and the Four Mile Run trail

The final steps in the NC project will include:

- ▶ One more pass by professionals to address the growth of new invasives that will have sprouted by next spring
- ▶ Planting of over 100 more native trees and shrubs, plus groundcover, in the woodland area
- ▶ Installation of split-rail fencing to delineate the habitat restoration area from the active disc golf course to protect the plants and wildlife.

BMCA will schedule volunteer workdays to bring together neighbors, the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, and other park lovers to help with planting and periodic trash pickup. Such efforts foster the wonderful natural areas in Bluemont Park, Powhatan Springs Park, and Upton Hill Regional Park. For more information or to get involved, please contact BMCA Parks Committee Chair Phil Klingelhofer at PhilKlingelhofer@boulevardmanor.org.