



Between the Boulevards

July 2022

The newsletter of the Boulevard Manor Civic Association

County Invites Feedback on Concepts for Redevelopment of Upper Bluemont Park

arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Parks-Projects/Upper-Bluemont-Project

The Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation has prepared two conceptual designs for the northern portion of Bluemont Park – the area encompassing the tennis courts and the parking lot at the corner of Wilson Blvd. and N. Manchester St. You can view information about the project by on the county web site (type “Upper Bluemont” into the search bar or follow the link above).

Both concepts provide for reconfiguration of the nine tennis courts, addition of a practice court, replacement of the auxiliary building, installation of retaining walls in the slope between the Courts and N. Manchester St. to create a terrace area, and relocation of the parking lot entrance further south on Manchester, adding distance from the Wilson Blvd. intersection. The concepts differ in design choices such as layout of the parking lot, number of “event” courts, amount of impervious surface area, and removal and new planting of trees.

There is a feedback opportunity at the project web site (or go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFNWHN9). All are invited to share thoughts about the design concepts. The deadline to provide feedback is August 1.

Update from the BMCA Conservation and Beautification Committee

Joshua Handler, Committee Chair

After a COVID break, we are starting up some beautification projects. Dominion Energy took out some cedars at the northeast corner of the N. Manchester St. and Rt. 50 intersection to maintain their lines. We now are taking advantage of that to clear more invasives and plant native bushes and flowers. Wildflowers from seed have started to bloom on the Manchester side of the corner and we also put in some [common milkweed](#) and [Jerusalem artichokes](#), the latter should flower late summer-fall.

At the corner we dug out the invasives, trimmed back branches and planted native bushes, [southern arrowwood viburnum](#), and [butterfly weed](#) flowers under the cedars (both types of milkweeds good for monarch butterflies). It will take year or two for them to get established and fill in the space. It will look a lot better then. We put a [button bush](#) and some [red chokeberries](#) on the Rt. 50 side, along with some native flowers including milkweed. I’m encouraged the milkweed we planted last year as an experiment was already working away earlier in the summer attracting

Boulevard Manor Civic Association

General Meeting

Monday, August 8, 7:00 p.m.

Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.

Annual elections will be held for BMCA officers and for open BMCA Board positions.

BMCA committees will present information about ongoing and future efforts, likely including discussions of:

- Conceptual plans for Upper Bluemont Park
- Reconfigured traffic signal at Arlington Blvd. and N. Manchester St.
- Arlington County government’s Missing Middle Housing Study
- Reevesland Learning Center

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

butterflies. Looking forward to what next year will bring with our additional plantings.

A big thanks goes to Kenny Sutter of Environmental Outdoor Solutions for donating his team’s time. We would not have made it this far without them – let alone have the good mulching around the beds! A reminder for those of you considering some landscaping or updating the yard, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia has a good guide on native plants that are substitutes and better alternatives to invasives: [Invasive Plants and Better Alternatives](#) (see mgnv.org). I hope we can move on to planting native plants and flowers on the NW corner in the planting season next year. If you have ideas for beautification projects, feel free to reach out to me at JoshHandler@boulevardmanor.org.

Reevesland Learning Center Report

Joan Horwitz, President

The Reevesland Learning Center, a school and community partnership supported by Arlington County Parks & Recreation, manages four locations growing organic produce with the help of many enthusiastic volunteers: two garden areas at Ashlawn Elementary School, one at the Church of the Brethren and the original, The Reevesland Learning Garden, reviving the three-generations Reeves’ family garden near the historic Reeves’ farmhouse.

During the school year, students and teachers take numerous walking field trips to plant, harvest and observe a wide variety of crops and enjoy hands-on lessons in math, science and language arts.

The highlight this spring was the return of our Fiesta Salad-bration as the culmination of our **LAWNS 2 LETTUCE 4 LUNCH** project. What makes **LAWNS 2 LETTUCE 4 LUNCH** unique is the involvement and dedication of so many community members to partner with Ashlawn Elementary School to **promote healthy eating**. Our Spring of 2022 Fiesta Salad was the result of months of nurturing organic lettuce plants with an intense week of harvesting, triple-washing our organic, very locally grown

Join the BMCA Listserv

In the BMCA Google Group, neighbors share information on community news, events, and issues. To join, simply email a request to LeeDioso@boulevardmanor.org. Once subscribed, you can select how often you want the group emails delivered. If you do not post messages, your email address will remain anonymous.

lettuce, chopping vegetables and serving a fabulous, multi-ingredient salad to **700 excited students and staff** on June 10.

In addition to organizing experiential learning activities in the gardens for both children and adults, The Reevesland Learning Center takes **weekly donations of our organic vegetables and herbs** to the food pantry at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church.

This spring and summer, the Reevesland Learning Center has benefitted from the talents of some of our Ashlawn graduates when they reach middle school, high school and even when home from college. We want to thank our younger partners: **Lily Watson, Marie Zenzie, Ella Snyders, Charlie Blanchard, and Noah Johnson, in addition to the many hard-working Boy Scouts** who have

rebuilt our garden beds to achieve their rank of Eagle Scout.

We have "Garden Hours" Thursday afternoons between 3:30 - 4:30 when the garden is shady. Stop by to meet some of our volunteers and see what's growing! Sample "lemon lettuce" and look for cucamelons and ground cherries to eat.

Joan Horwitt, President, shorwitt@aol.com

Board Members:

Chair, Sandra Kalscheur

Vice-Chair, Mary Ann Penning

Treasurer, Judy Norton

Secretary, Nancy Fitzgerald

PTA Liaison, Danielle Blanchard

Ashlawn Liaison, Lauren Walsh

Student Participant-Observer, Marie Zenzie

watch the BMCA listserv for location and other details Are you new to the neighborhood? Or a longtime neighbor interested in becoming involved in BMCA? Please Draft join us by using the electronic form available at boulevardmanor.org (click "Civic Association" then "Membership") or by completing this form and mailing to the address shown below.

Boulevard Manor Civic Association Membership Form

Household Address _____ Arlington, VA 2220__

Member 1 Name _____

Member 1 E-mail Address _____

Add me to the Listserv Yes ___ No ___

I am interested in (see list of volunteer opportunities below): _____

Member 2 Name _____

Member 2 E-mail Address _____

Add me to the Listserv Yes ___ No ___

I am interested in (see list of volunteer opportunities below): _____

Membership Category	Cost
Individual Member	\$10
Couple (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 Rob Piester, 5907 3rd Street N., Arlington, VA 22203

Volunteer Opportunities

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and Beautification • Hospitality and Social Events • Membership • Newsletter • Web Site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks • Reevesland • Projects under the Neighborhood Conservation Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and Emergency Preparedness • Serving as a BMCA Officer or Board Member |
|--|--|--|

Upcoming BMCA Events

Neighborhood Picnic: October 2

Veterans Day Dinner: November 11

Watch the BMCA listserv and boulevardmanor.org for location and other details.