

Between the Boulevards

February 2001

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

Traffic Calming News

Success! The diligent efforts of concerned members of our community, including the Ashlawn PTA, paid off when the County installed three-way Stop signs at the intersection of N. Manchester St. and 8th Rd. N. The new signage is intended to help slow traffic at that dangerous intersection, which is a major crossing point for Ashlawn students and park users, including many elderly neighbors.

Neighbors Meet with County In December, members of the BMCA Traffic Calming Committee met with the County Public Works staff responsible for Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program. Committee members John Bloom, Alex Sens, Steve Stewart, and Phil Klingelhofer expressed our neighborhood's many traffic-related concerns and gained a better understanding of how the County decides which neighborhoods' traffic calming requests will be met. They learned how the County uses traffic data to rank streets and neighborhoods, and how these ranking scores ultimately are used to determine eligibility for traffic calming assistance. Among the points the County made:

- Based on recently collected data, Boulevard Manor has a ranking score of 58, which places us second among the three neighborhoods the County has so far considered for traffic calming assistance this year.
- Because of the installation of the new stop sign, the County will collect data from Manchester St. north of 4th Rd. Our committee members urged them to monitor when the park is in full use.
- Because the Service Road along Route 50 is within the State's right of way, the staff assert, we will need to go through VDOT to get traffic calming assistance.
- The staff recommend that we do not begin drawing up specific traffic calming plans until we are selected for assistance. They offered their expert advice in setting parameters and developing plans for traffic calming.
- Separate funding mechanisms are available for the "Safe Routes to School" program, which can fund crosswalks and other measures to help pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

At its January 8 meeting, the County's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Commission, decided to focus their efforts on individual streets, changing their initial plan to implement traffic calming on neighborhood-wide basis. Streets will be considered for traffic calming assistance in the order of their ranking scores. Our top-ranked streets are (in priority order based on score): N. Manchester St. near the school (although the County still plans to collect new data because of the new

Boulevard Manor Civic Association Meeting

Monday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.

Our guest speakers will be:

- ✓ Upton Hill Regional Park Manager Brian Hennesy, who will discuss the new playgrounds being constructed and other park matters.
- ✓ Robert Capper of the County Parks Department, who will update us on the progress of the new park on Wilson Boulevard.

We will address the following new business:

- Formation of a Nominating Committee to develop a slate of nominees for all four BMCA officer positions and at least four of the Board positions.
- Reexamination of BMCA boundaries that are somewhat unclear in our Bylaws.
- Proposal to form a committee that will study suggestions for installing "Boulevard Manor" signs at the entrances to our neighborhood.

In addition, there will be reports from our Traffic Calming and Parks Committees. Please call Paul Svercl at 703-243-8693 if you have any questions about the meeting or if you are interested in serving as a BMCA officer or Board member.

All neighbors are welcome!

Stop sign), the Route 50 service road, N. Livingston St., 4th Rd. N. and N. Montague St. These streets remain our best bet for action in the next cycle.

If you would like to become involved in traffic calming efforts, contact Steve Stewart (703-276-0030) or John Bloom (703-276-0517).

Coordination with VDOT The BMCA has contacted the State about the confusing situation involving turning movements at the intersection of N. Manchester St. and Arlington Blvd. and about the speeding situation on the Route 50 service road. We also requested assistance in preventing traffic on Arlington Blvd. from using the service road westbound as a bypass. In cooperation with the County, VDOT will conduct a traffic survey and evaluate options for improving the Manchester intersection to make clear which lanes should be used for drivers heading straight across, and which lanes are for turning traffic only. They have agreed to discuss options at our May meeting.

Boundary Changes Planned for Ashlawn

Discussions are being held to determine whether the subdivision across on the south side Arlington Boulevard currently within the Ashlawn Elementary School boundaries should be transferred to the new school being built next to Kenmore Middle School. The Ashlawn PTA has asked the County to be flexible in dealing with the affected families. Because Ashlawn is currently operating below capacity, the school is not subject to the overcrowding that usually drives the need for redistricting.

The PTA has recommended that: (1) students residing in the affected area who are currently in the 3rd or 4th grades be allowed to stay at Ashlawn if they so choose, (2) bus

The Community Welcomes Its Youngest Members

There are three new neighbors on N. Longfellow St.: James Patrick Core, born Jan. 30, to parents Margaret & Lyndell; Leah Rose Edgar, born Nov. 22, to Sherri & Robert, joining siblings Benjamin & Rachel; and Kyle Joseph Heaton, born Nov. 10, to Kathleen & Joseph, joining Tricia, Kristin & Katie. Just around the corner on N. Madison St. are two more newcomers: Marisa Anne Leo, born Nov. 1, to parents Naina & Kevin, and brother Christopher; and Isabella Schneck, born in October to Gisella & Christopher, joining sister Amanda.

transportation be provided to Ashlawn from the affected area for the 2001-02 and 2002-03 school years, and (3) transfers to Ashlawn be based on capacity available by grade, rather than a strict 4% of population (according to County rules), to more fully utilize the facility, with siblings of current and past Ashlawn students given priority.

County Schools Superintendent Robert Smith will make a final determination by February 22. The matter will then go to the School Board for final approval by vote on March 15. The boundary changes will take effect this Fall.

Wilson Boulevard Park Update

Removal of all existing structures in the new park property is underway. This Spring, earthwork and tree removal will begin to make room for the junior-sized soccer field and the skateboard/rollerblade area. A children's interactive nature learning area is also planned.

The process of selecting a name for the park has also begun. The BMCA Executive Board has submitted four names to the County, in order of preference: (1) Reeves Park or Reeves Farm Park, (2) Powhatan Springs Park, (3) Boulevard Park or Boulevard Manor Park, and (4) Wilson Park. Mr. Robert Capper, of the County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources will discuss park plans at our February 26 meeting.

Code Enforcement Action

The County Code Enforcement Office took action to address overgrown vegetation and an inoperable vehicle parked at a home on N. Montague St. The homeowner received a Notice of Violation and will be required to pay the costs of the clean up.

Upton Hill to Add Playground

You may have seen the signs announcing the Spring 2001 opening of a new children's playground at Upton Hill Regional Park. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is replacing the fish ponds near Wilson Blvd. with playground equipment for children ages 2-5 and 6-12. Mr. Brian Hennesy, Manager of Upton Hill, will discuss the plans at our February 26 meeting.

New Water Main Installed

Construction crews have been working through the winter to install a 16-inch water main to service our community. Disruptions have been minimal, but sinking of materials in the trenches may require additional street repair. The installation activities around Ashlawn Elementary School should be completed soon.

In Memoriam

Clarence C. Hanks of N. Longfellow St. died January 15, 2001. He is survived by his wife Louise V. Hanks and daughters Sandy Gholson and Debbie Charnley.

John F. Nicholas, Jr. passed away on October 25, 2000. Mr. Nicholas served as BMCA President and Board Member, President of the Wakefield High School PTA, delegate and Treasurer of the Arlington County Civic Federation, and member of the Arlington County Finance Committee. He led the opposition to the proposed Cross County Expressway and fought to preserve the wooded land that is now Upton Hill Regional Park.

Sidewalk Safety

In December, the Arlington County Civic Federation, of which BMCA is a member, voted to recommend that the County Board enact an ordinance requiring residents and businesses to clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their properties. The Civic Federation also recommended that the County clear high priority trails and walkways, including access to County buildings. You can view the Civic Federation's resolution at <http://www.civfed.org/snow0012.htm>

Assistant County Manager Richard Bridges has expressed opposition to such measures. What do you think? Let the County Board know your opinion by calling 703-228-3130 or by sending e-mail to countyboard@co.arlington.va.us.

Your Civic Association Officers and Board Members

President: Paul Svercl, 3rd St. N.
Vice President: Lee Dioso, N. Livingston St.
Secretary: Carol McGinnis, N. Livingston St.
Treasurer: Rich Massabny, 4th Rd. N

Board Members

John Bloom, N. Manchester St.
Dori Byron, N. Madison St.
Larry Goldschmidt, N. Livingston St.
Phil Klingelhofer, 1st St. N.
Jim Landrum, 4th St. N.
Merwin Liss, N. Livingston St.
Claudia Maloney, 8th Rd. N.
Alex Sens, 6th St. N.
Steve Stewart, 3rd St. N.
Larry Taft, 1st St. N.

Please support your Civic Association

We need your participation and your support. There are ample opportunities to get involved. Please join us by filling out this form. Annual dues are only \$6.00/couple and \$3.00/single. Association dues fund this newsletter, distributed to 500 homes, and other activities intended to benefit the whole community.

Neighborhood issues that interest me:

Transportation & traffic safety Hospitality/social events Other:
 Parking Conservation & beautification
 Parks Zoning

Name(s): Telephone Home:
Work:

Address: E-Mail address:

Return to Dori Byron (703-243-4025), 524 N Madison St., Arlington, VA 22203