



Between the Boulevards

October 2008

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

New Playground Planned for Bluemont Park

The children's playground at Bluemont Park is one of the oldest such facilities in Arlington. BMCA and neighbors have repeatedly urged the County to update the playground equipment and make other needed improvements. The Parks Department has begun the process to design the new playground.

The Bluemont playground project will be a full replacement with new equipment, new surfacing, accessible pathways compliant with ADA, and the appropriate storm water management for the site. The entire project, from the beginning of the design process through the end of construction is expected to take approximately 18 months. In response to Parks Department efforts to gather community input, a number of neighbors have formed a working group to develop design suggestions.

Bernadette Grullon, the Parks Department's Landscape Architect Supervisor, will discuss the playground design process at the BMCA general meeting on October 20.

BMCA Emergency Preparedness Committee Stands Up

BMCA has formed an Emergency Preparedness Committee, with five members including chair Yvonne Caruthers. The mission of this committee is to develop and initiate plans and programs that will enhance the safety and well being of the residents of Boulevard Manor in times of neighborhood crisis and emergency situations.

The committee has been exploring better ways to communicate emergency preparedness issues to the community, ways that the community can be better prepared for emergency situations, and also several other new initiatives such as block captains and increased participation in Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) training. The committee will provide a briefing on status and initiatives at the October 20 BMCA general meeting.

Thanks, by the way, to Yvonne Caruthers for obtaining the Poison Control contact information attached to this newsletter. Be sure to post it prominently!

Traffic Calming Planned for 4th Road N.

As announced in the June newsletter, the County Department of Public Works (DPW) determined that 4th

Boulevard Manor Civic Association General Meeting

Monday, October 20 at 7:00pm
Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.

Featured speaker: Bernadette Grullon, Landscape Architect Supervisor, Arlington Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources

Ms. Grullon will present information on the process to design the new playground for Bluemont Park.

Also on the agenda is a presentation by BMCA's new Emergency Preparedness Committee. The committee will brief neighbors on the initiatives planned to enhance community safety and well being.

The meeting will also include a vote on the Neighborhood Conservation Plan, other committee reports, and fellowship with old friends and new neighbors.

For more information, contact BMCA President Chuck Norton at president@boulevardmanor.org or 703-527-2430.

Road N. between N. Manchester Street and N. Montague St. is eligible for traffic calming funds. The determination was based on measurements of traffic volume, average speeds, and other factors. In accordance with the established neighborhood traffic calming (NTC) process, affected residents formed a working group and participated in four meetings under the guidance of Ron Hicks of DPW. BMCA vice president Paul Svercl served as point of contact for the project.

The working group meetings established consensus on proposed traffic calming measures based on the 2007 NTC Manual and recommendations of DPW's design team. A petition circulated among the affected residents on 4th Road N. and the 400 block of N. Manchester St., resulting in 100 percent approval for the proposed plan.

The BMCA Board has reviewed the 4th Road N. NTC

Cut out and post this reminder near your telephone

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Arlington Police Non-Emergency Line	703-558-2222
County Dept. of Environmental Services, Solid Waste Division	703-228-6570
Report missed trash/recycling pickups and request special pickups, including appliances, heavy metal items, and unbundled brush. Note that many services can be ordered online at www.arlingtonva.us .	
County Office of Code Enforcement	703-228-3232
Report violations of codes governing land use/zoning, building maintenance, condition of private property, and noise control.	
Animal Welfare League of Arlington	703-931-9241 (select option 1 for animal control)
Call for retrieval of shopping carts abandoned in the neighborhood:	
Safeway: 703-241-4131	Petsmart: 703-536-2708 Target: 703-237-8118

For more frequent community news, join the BMCA e-mail listserv at <http://lists.topica.com/lists/bmca> or just send an e-mail to BMCA-subscribe@topica.com.

Have you paid your civic association dues for 2008?

Your support for BMCA activities, including the recent picnic and this newsletter, is urgently needed. Please use this form to submit annual dues, only \$10.00/couple and \$5.00/individual (cash or check payable to BMCA). Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Name(s):

Telephone:

Address:

E-mail address:

Please mail this form with your payment to Membership Chair Dori Byron (703-243-4025) or drop it off at her house, 524 N. Madison St., Arlington, VA 22203.

proposal and has endorsed the planned project. The next steps in the process are approval by the NTC Commission and funding by the County Board. These steps are expected to be completed by December. Construction is anticipated for fall 2009.

Are You Signed Up for Arlington Alert?

Arlington Alert is a proven system that enables the County to contact you during an emergency by sending text messages to an e-mail account of your choosing or to your mobile phone, text pager, or Blackberry. In an emergency, the County uses the alert system to provide instructions, contact information, situation updates, and other important information. Arlington Alert is a free County service, available to all County residents, commuters, and visitors. To sign up, please visit www.arlingtonalert.com.

VDOT Removes Graffiti from Arlington Boulevard Noise Barrier

Responding quickly to a request from BMCA, the Virginia Department of Transportation addressed graffiti that had been painted on the noise wall between U.S. Route 50 and 1st Street N. VDOT directed a contractor to remove the apparently gang-related markings that covered approximately 1,000 square feet on both sides of the wall. The Arlington Police are investigating the potential gang activity.

Draft Neighborhood Conservation Plan Reviewed by County Staff

Earlier this year, BMCA presented our draft Neighborhood Conservation Plan to county staff for comment. Their reaction was positive and they offered some recommendations for simple improvements to help ensure approval of the plan. The plan is now ready for final refinements before presentation to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission, the Planning Commission, and finally, the County Board. At the October 20 BMCA general meeting, a motion will be presented for the membership to endorse the draft plan so that BMCA may proceed through the County's approval process. The draft plan is available for viewing or printing at www.boulevardmanor.org. It is anticipated that the plan will be approved early in 2009 so that Boulevard Manor may participate in neighborhood conservation projects expected to be funded in late 2009.

Halloween Parade Planned

The families on N. Longfellow Street invite young children and their families to participate in a Halloween parade and games on Sunday October 26th at 4 pm. Children should wear a costume and gather at the corner of Madison and Longfellow Streets.

If you would like to assist in games or activities or to bring cupcakes for the event, please contact Margaret Core at mecore@gmail.com or 703-741-3788.

Neighborhood Gatherings Continue

On July 4, BMCA and the Church of the Brethren co-hosted the annual Independence Day Ice Cream Social.

Neighbors shared dessert, live music, and a view of the Capital Mall fireworks display.

The annual BMCA Neighborhood Picnic was held on September 14 at Upton Hill Regional Park. Neighbors enjoyed food, games, prizes, a moonbounce, and a visit from Arlington County firefighters. Photos of the picnic may be viewed at the BMCA web site, www.boulevardmanor.org.

Free Golf on Halloween and Other Announcements from Upton Hill

Upton Hill Regional Park is repeating their popular Halloween celebration: anyone who wears a costume to the park on Friday, October 31st, will receive a free round of mini-golf.

The park is planning to replace the batting cage pitching machines, which will likely result in the facility ceasing operations earlier in the fall than usual. The park manager believes the cages will stay open through the end of October.

On October 25th, Upton Hill will participate in national Make-A-Difference Day. As part of the celebration of community volunteer service, the park invites neighbors to help with some land-improvement projects. If you are interested, please contact park manager John Sims at 703-534-3437 or uptonhill@nvrpa.org.

Annual Soup & Pie Bazaar

The Arlington Church of the Brethren will be holding its annual Soup & Pie Bazaar on Saturday, November 1, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. All neighbors are invited to the church at 300 N. Montague St. to enjoy homemade soups, pies, and sandwiches. Gifts, yard sale items, baked goods and crafts will be sold. For further information, call the church office at 703-524-4100 weekday mornings.



Neighbors gathered on Sunday, September 14, the 2008 BMCA Neighborhood Picnic.



For neighborhood news, photos, and more, visit BMCA's web site at www.boulevardmanor.org.