



Between the Boulevards

February 2009

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

Bluemont Playground Planning Proceeds

A working group of neighborhood volunteers have been working with the Arlington County Dept. of Parks and Recreation to plan much-needed improvements to the playground at Bluemont Park. Later this month, the county's landscape architect for the Bluemont Park playground project, Bernadette Grullon, will be presenting the final concept plan for the new playground to the BMCA Board and the playground working group. The concept reflects the county's planning efforts and community input the county received from the working group in meetings held this winter.

The county has designated approximately \$1 million to execute this project and is prepared to move to the next phases - soliciting bids, obtaining other necessary county approvals, etc. - following the upcoming meeting. County staff have indicated that, under the current project schedule, the new playground will be ready for use in the Spring or Summer of 2010.

Police Investigate Local Crimes

Arlington County police are investigating repeated instances of tire dumping in our neighborhood. The police have asked that neighbors pass along any information that may help them resolve these cases. Officer Joseph Lutz is our community police liaison. He can be reached by phone at 703-228-3600 Ext. 9774 or by e-mail at jlutz@arlingtonva.us. In addition to tire dumping, police have investigated instances (not in our neighborhood) of harmful wastes discharged into Four Mile Run. If you observe illegal dumping in progress, call 911.

Police are also investigating recent car break-ins in the neighborhood. The crimes occurred at night and involved cars that were not locked. Neighbors are reminded to remain alert, to lock all cars, and to remove all valuables from parked cars. To report suspicious activity, call Officer Lutz or the police non-emergency number 703-558-2222.

Upcoming BMCA events

Supported by member dues, BMCA is planning the following neighborhood events. **All neighbors are invited to participate, free of charge.**

Saturday, April 11 Church of the Brethren
Easter Egg Hunt and Adult Social, 10:30am

June (date to be announced) Church of the Brethren
BMCA General Meeting, 7:00pm

Saturday, July 4 Church of the Brethren
Independence Day Ice Cream Social, 7:30pm

September 13 Upton Hill Regional Park
Neighborhood Picnic. Noon

Boulevard Manor Civic Association General Meeting

Monday, February 23 at 7:00pm
Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.

Featured speaker: Sarah O'Connell, Energy Outreach Coordinator - Fresh AIRE, Arlington County Department of Environmental Services

Ms. O'Connell manages outreach activities to Arlington businesses and residents regarding energy efficiency. She also works closely with other team members to bring resources on green buildings, transportation alternatives, recycling, and water conservation to the community. Learn how some simple, low- to no-cost action items can help protect and improve the environment.

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.

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

Appeal to All Residents of Boulevard Manor, Spy Hill and Stone Ridge

BMCA urges neighbors to support our membership campaign. We appeal to all current members to renew for 2009 and are eager to welcome new members. Approximately 28 per cent of our 476 homes have been loyal supporters of BMCA services and programs. Our membership goal is 100 per cent, but realistically we need at least 200 more households to support our programs. In addition to organizing and hosting social events throughout the year, BMCA spearheads many neighborhood improvement efforts, from beautification projects to emergency planning.

We hope that you can be proud of your neighborhood and will support the efforts of your civic association to improve our community. We urge you to mail or drop-off your membership dues of \$10.00 a couple, (\$5.00 for singles) using the coupon on the other side of this newsletter.

Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NCP) under County Review; Preparations for First Funded Project to Begin

After the BMCA membership approved the draft NCP and County staff offered initial comments, BMCA volunteers prepared a final draft and submitted it to the County for approval. The NCP will be reviewed by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission, the Planning Commission, and finally, the County Board. Once the plan is approved and published, projects recommended by the civic association will be eligible for Neighborhood Conservation funds.

In anticipation of the first round of funding for which BMCA will be eligible, we are seeking neighbors who might be willing to take the lead in our first neighborhood conservation project. If there is particular improvement you would like to see at a specific location, you can help to make that project a reality by serving as champion for the project. The position will involve coordination with County staff and presentations before the various commissions that must approve the project for funding. For more information, please contact BMCA's neighborhood conservation committee chairman Matt Doyle at matt.doyle@raytheon.com.

Going Green

You've likely been hearing much about government, businesses, schools, and neighbors increasingly adopting "sustainable" or "environmentally friendly" practices. A presentation at the February 23 BMCA meeting will help demystify the topic of going green: what it means, how to do it, and why to do it.

Sarah O'Connell of the County Department of Environmental Services (DES) will discuss sustainable practices from recycling and energy-efficient light bulbs to vampire loads and farmers markets. Ms. O'Connell is DES's Energy Outreach Coordinator for Fresh AIRE (Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions). For information about the initiative, visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Portals/Topics/Climate.aspx>.

Join the Arlington CERT Team

Do you want to be better prepared for emergencies? Are you interested in helping others in times of need? Consider joining the Arlington County Emergency Response Team (CERT). Training encompasses several classroom and field exercises and covers such topics as disaster preparedness, light search and rescue, fire suppression and utility turn-off, and basic medical operations. Training is free and open to any Arlington resident over 18 (16 if accompanied by an adult) and can meet basic physical requirements. Classes are forming now for the March 2009 training session. If interested, please e-mail ArlingtonCERT@aol.com.

Nominating Committee to be Appointed

In accordance with BMCA bylaws, at the February 23 general meeting, the membership will elect a nominating committee to choose a slate of candidates for the 2009-2010 officers and board positions. The positions will be filled by an election held at the June meeting.

Subject to the membership approval at the meeting, the nominating committee will comprise Dori Byron (703-243-4025), Phil Klingelhofer (703-524-5438), and a third member to be named at the February meeting. If you know anyone who is interested in serving as a civic association officer or board member, please contact the nominating committee members.

Tenth Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Adult Social

Saturday, April 11 from 10:30am to noon

Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.

Co-hosted by the Church of the Brethren and BMCA, this event will feature candy and games for kids up to 10 years old, with refreshments and fellowship for everyone else. Arrive by 10:40 to participate in the hunt.

County Offers Trees for Free

The Arlington County Parks and Natural Resources Division is once again offering small tree whips, approximately 3-5 feet in height and potted in gallon plastic containers to be given to homeowners on Neighborhood Day (May 9). The larger shade canopy tree available this year is the Burr Oak, a majestic, slow-growing tree that can grow to more than 100 feet high and live several hundred years. The smaller under-story tree being offered is the American Filbert which grows to about 12 feet high.

Both trees are good choices for this area and favorite habitat for birds and squirrels. To reserve trees for your yard, e-mail Kate Donohue at Kdonohue69@yahoo.com or call her at 703-532-3245 before April 18th. Trees will be available for pick up on or before Saturday, May 9. A Tree Steward volunteer for the County, Kate is always willing to talk about trees and to answer questions about tree care.

Updates from Upton Hill Regional Park

The following updates come to us from John Sims, Park Manager at Upton Hill. Information about the park is always available at www.NVRPA.org.

- The mini golf and batting cages will be opening on March 14.
- The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 9th, the Thursday before Easter.
- Contacting park staff during the winter: The park's Maintenance Supervisor is in the park Monday through Friday. The Park Manager is typically at Upton Hill daily except Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. For routine matters, send e-mail to uptonhill@nvrpa.org. You can also call 703-534-3437 extension 101 to leave a message for the park manager.

Emergency Planning Guide Prepared

As a service to the neighborhood, BMCA has sponsored the development of the attached brochure. The brochure is meant as an aid for emergency preparedness and a way to help build community. Please fill in contact information for your immediate neighbors and post it in a readily accessible location such as on your refrigerator. BMCA thanks Lois Trumble for the leading the efforts to prepare the guide.

Please send your 2009 BMCA dues today.

Annual dues for Boulevard Manor Civic Association are only \$10 per couple, \$5.00 for singles (no need to pay for missed years). Please send cash or check payable to BMCA. Thank you for your support!

Name(s):

Telephone:

Address:

E-mail address:

I am interested in:

Planning neighborhood social events

Helping to develop the Neighborhood Conservation Plan

Emergency readiness planning

Other:

Return to Dori Byron (703-243-4025), 524 N Madison St., Arlington, VA 22203 (send by mail or drop in Dori's mail slot)