

Between the Boulevards

February 2010

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

BMCA Presses County for Action on Reevesland

In 2001, Arlington County purchased the Reeves family property at 400 N. Manchester St., ostensibly to incorporate the land and its 110-year old house into Bluemont Park. No decision-making for use of the property has even begun because the County Parks Department has linked such determinations to the long-delayed revision of the Bluemont Park master plan. BMCA has repeatedly drawn the County government's attention to the former Reeves property. Civic Association action led to the designation of Reevesland as an Historic District in 2004 and to remedial maintenance for the former Reeves home and other structures on the property.

Last year, BMCA began urging the County to the end the delay. In August 2009, BMCA Reevesland Committee chairman Larry Goldschmidt met with County Board Chairman Barbara Favola, joining other Arlingtonians to express concerns about the property. In November, BMCA president Phil Klingelhofer sent a letter to the County Board to bring attention to new maintenance problems at Reevesland. Parks staff did respond, addressing some of the problems.

In January 2010, the Reevesland Committee met with Michael Leventhal, Arlington County's Historic Preservation Program Coordinator, to discuss the possibility of installing interpretive signs at the site. Mr. Leven-

Boulevard Manor Civic Association General Meeting

Monday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.
Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.

Featured speaker: Representative from the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV)

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV) is a group of volunteers who work with the Virginia Cooperative Extension to encourage and promote environmentally sound gardening practices. A volunteer from MGNV will help us get ready for spring, explain how to best use of native plants in our gardens, and answer questions.

Featured speaker: Detective Charles Clark, Arlington County Police, Criminal Investigation Division

Detective Clark will present information and answer questions related to crime and safety.

Also at the meeting, we will have reports from BMCA standing committees, vote to appoint the 2010 Nominating Committee, and celebrate two retiring board members, Merwin Liss and Dori Byron.

For more information, contact BMCA President Phil Klingelhofer at president@boulevardmanor.org or (703) 524-5438.

thal agreed that such signage would be welcome at the site, promising to begin drafting text and visuals. The committee also communicated to Mr. Leventhal neigh-

Have You Subscribed to the New Neighborhood E-Mail List?

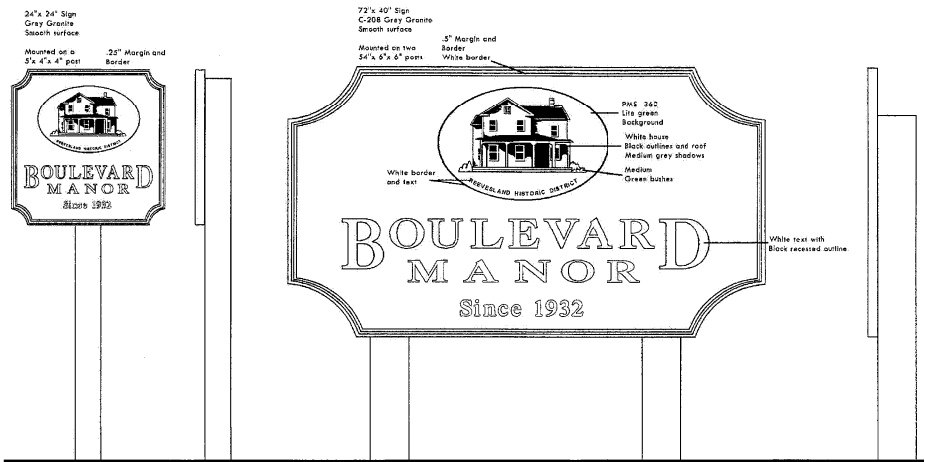
BMCA maintains a Yahoo! Groups mailing list, where members can exchange neighborhood news and other important information. To join, simply send an e-mail to blvdmanor-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You will receive an automated reply with instructions for confirming your membership.

Once subscribed, you may post messages to the list by sending e-mail to blvdmanor@yahoogroups.com. Only members may post messages to the list. If you choose not to post messages, your e-mail address will remain anonymous.

bors' unease with the current status of Reevesland, specifically the continuing deterioration of all structures, the worsening visual character of the Historic District, and the absence of County planning for the property.

Following up these discussions, the Reevesland Committee prepared a letter to the County Board expressing BMCA's many concerns. The letter, which can be viewed at www.boulevardmanor.org, urges the County to initiate a study of possible uses of the Reevesland house and provides suggestions for completing the study most cost-efficiently.

Phil Klingelhofer has requested meetings with County Board members to express neighbors' concerns personally. The Reevesland Committee will continue pressing the County Board for action, following up on the project for interpretive signs, and monitoring conditions at the Reevesland Historic District.



would like to go the extra mile and be recognized for their extra support. See the form for details. Dues will also be accepted at the February meeting.

Neighborhood Signs to be Installed

As described in the October 2009 *Between the Boulevards*, a BMCA committee prepared designs for neighborhood signs (see illustration) and presented them at the neighborhood picnic. Funding for the signs was approved by the County's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee in December 2009.

The Signs Committee has been working with the County to move toward production and installation, which are subject to County Board approval that is anticipated in February 2010. Signs will initially be installed at three neighborhood entrances: Wilson Blvd./Livingston St., Wilson Blvd./Manchester St., and Manchester/1st Street/Arlington Blvd. A fourth sign location - somewhere near the Arlington Blvd./Montague St./ Nottingham St. entrance - remains under discussion.

Signs are part of Arlington's Neighborhood Conservation Program, which is funded by special bonds. With our Neighborhood Conservation Plan finalized in 2009, Boulevard Manor will join most other Arlington neighborhoods that have signs welcoming residents and visitors and generally denoting boundaries. The County funds the initial landscaping for sign installation; the neighborhood is responsible for maintaining plantings thereafter.

Nominating Committee to be Appointed

In accordance with BMCA bylaws, at the February 22 general meeting, the membership will elect a nominat-

Please Shovel Snow from Sidewalks

BMCA is grateful to neighbors who promptly remove snow and treat ice on sidewalks in front of their homes. All are urged to follow their example. Uncleared sidewalks create dangerous situations, forcing pedestrians to choose between slip hazards or the risk of walking on streets that are narrowed by snow piles.

2010 Membership Drive Begins

BMCA is kicking off our annual membership drive. To renew or establish your membership in the civic association, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and follow the instructions for submission to the BMCA Membership Committee. Please send in the form and your dues right away!

After leading the committee for years, Dori Byron has now passed the baton to Judy Norton. If you would like to serve on the Membership Committee or to help with any other BMCA activity, please note it on the membership form. Some of our members have been generous in making additional contributions over the years. This year we are providing an opportunity for those who

Upcoming BMCA events

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

Monday, February 22 Church of the Brethren
BMCA General Meeting, 7:00pm

Saturday, April 3 Church of the Brethren
Easter Egg Hunt and Adult Social, 10:30am
Coordinators: Claudia Maloney and Dori Byron

Monday, June 7 Church of the Brethren
BMCA General Meeting, 7:00pm

Sunday, July 4 Church of the Brethren
Independence Day Ice Cream Social, 7:30pm
Coordinator: Judy Norton

Sunday, September 12 Upton Hill Regional Park
Neighborhood Picnic, Noon
Coordinator: Tony Ermovick

Monday, October 18 Church of the Brethren
BMCA General Meeting, 7:00pm

Such efforts to improve the overall look and feel our neighborhood will continue. BMCA invites residents to suggest beautification projects. Please send ideas to Mike McComis at mikemccomis@boulevardmanor.org. We also need volunteers to help perform these efforts. Watch for notices of upcoming projects on the BMCA web site, www.boulevardmanor.org.

Re-Constructed Bluemont Park Playground to Open Summer 2010

In October 2009, the County Board approved a \$650,000 contract for reconstruction of the playground in Bluemont Park. The selected construction firm has worked successfully with Arlington County on past projects. Initial construction activities have begun. Park users can expect to see construction signs and fencing up in the next weeks. The delivery schedule projects that the playground will be available for use this summer.

The new playground will feature separate themed play areas for tots and school-age children, a sandbox with a hand pump, benches, picnic tables, paths, a drinking fountain, a ground hydrant and landscape boulders. Designs for these features (see illustrations) are based on community input developed in a collaborative conceptual design process that began in October 2008. Participants sought to honor Bluemont's heritage by theming the new tot playground around Torreyson-Reeves Dairy Farm – which used to operate where the park now stands – and by including trains in the elementary-age playground to honor Bluemont Junction.

ing committee to choose a slate of candidates for the 2010-2011 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 Margaret Core, Kathi Overton, John Pomeranz, and Ann Wilson. If you know anyone show is interested in serving as a civic association officer or board member, please contact the nominating committee members.

Beauty in Progress

BMCA's Conservation and Beautification Committee has been hard at work to enhance the visual quality of sites around Boulevard Manor. You may have noticed the cleanup and mowing efforts at the corner of N. Manchester St. and Arlington Boulevard. BMCA board members donated funds to hire a landscape contractor. In addition, the committee worked with VDOT to complete the removal of dead trees and invasive species at the intersection.



Letter from the President

Dear neighbor:

BMCA has wrapped up a very successful 2009 and we are starting off the year with many initiatives and activities planned. The civic association was founded more than 50 years ago “to promote a sense of community and the common welfare, health, and safety of the residents of the area.” Ever since, BMCA has maintained its focus on that mission.

In that spirit, I invite you to join the association if you have not already done so. The 2010 membership form is on the opposite side of this page and we have provided an addressed envelope for your convenience. By joining, you demonstrate to the county government and to other Arlingtonians that we are a community of concerned citizens. BMCA members enjoy many opportunities to meet with neighbors for discussing issues or simply socializing and building community.

Most importantly, by joining and financially supporting BMCA, you become a valuable part of programs run by volunteers who are working for the good of our neighborhood. In 2009, BMCA volunteers:

- ▶ Finalized our Neighborhood Conservation Plan, which was approved by the County, making BMCA eligible for bond-financed improvements such as street lights and pedestrian safety elements
- ▶ Completed traffic calming projects, with others under development with County staff
- ▶ Designed neighborhood entrance signs which will be installed this year
- ▶ Participated actively in the design of the new Bluemont playground, which will be built this year

- ▶ Communicated neighborhood news and other information via a redesigned civic association web site, www.boulevardmanor.org, a neighborhood e-mail list, and three issues of *Between the Boulevards*
- ▶ Established a Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee and distributed our “emergency preparedness” brochure to every household (if you need another copy, it’s available on the web site)
- ▶ Led cleanup efforts to address trash and overgrown vegetation at the Manchester Street/Arlington Boulevard neighborhood entrance, with further beautification projects planned
- ▶ Coordinated with County Board members, staff, and historic preservation groups to address the upkeep and future uses of the former Reeves farm property at 400 N. Manchester St.
- ▶ Hosted four social events – the Easter Egg Hunt, July 4 Ice Cream Social, Neighborhood Picnic, and Holiday Caroling – to engage neighbors, with plans to add a fifth event in 2010

While volunteers have done an amazing job, we need help. If you are interested in becoming active in our work to better our community, please join one of our committees (see below) or consider becoming a member of our Board of Directors.

I look forward to seeing you at our February 22 neighborhood meeting. If you have questions or concerns, or want to help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Phil Klingelhofer
President, BMCA Board of Directors

BMCA – working together, we make a difference!

BMCA Standing Committees

- ▶ Conservation and Beautification – Chair: Mike McComis; contact: MikeMcComis@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Hospitality – Co-Chairs: Claudia Maloney and Dori Byron; contact: ClaudiaMaloney@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Membership – Chair: Judy Norton; contact: JudyNorton@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Parks – Chair: Phil Klingelhofer; contact: PhilKlingelhofer@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Safety and Emergency Preparedness – Chair: Chuck Norton, contact: ChuckNorton@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Zoning – Chair: vacant

BMCA Ad Hoc Committees

- ▶ Neighborhood Conservation Plan – Chair: Matt Doyle; contact: MattDoyle@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Neighborhood Signs – Chair: Steve Schwartz; contact SteveSchwartz@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Reevesland – Chair: Larry Goldschmidt; contact: LarryGoldschmidt@boulevardmanor.org

Street Improvements Planned

When BMCA's Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NCP) was approved by the County Board in June 2009, Boulevard Manor became eligible for (1) neighborhood signs and (2) neighborhood conservation program funding for approved projects from the list in our NCP. Our NCP Committee has gained experience in the county's design process and in obtaining residents' approval for proposed projects. BMCA will be forwarding a revised request for Carlyle street lights and pedestrian safety elements for Montague and First Streets in spring 2010. In accordance with affected residents' wishes, the county design team will be directed to avoid project elements that reduce street parking.

Affected residents along Montague and First Streets will be asked to review the revised plan and to provide a survey response that demonstrates neighborhood concurrence with the design. If all requirements are met, the project will move through an approval process that includes two advisory commissions and, finally, the County Board by June 2010. If you want more information about the NCP or this proposed project, please contact NCP Committee chair Matt Doyle at MattDoyle@boulevardmanor.org.

Longest-Serving Board Members Retire

This winter marks the end of an era for BMCA as the two of the civic association's longest-serving contributors have retired from the Board of Directors. Merwin Liss, who has served various terms as a BMCA officer and board member spanning approximately 47 years, will soon relocate. Dori Byron, a leader in the civic asso-



Byron D. and Dori Byron at the 2008 BMCA July 4 Ice Cream Social

ciation since coming to the neighborhood more than 30 years ago, has moved to a nearby condominium.

Merwin and Polly Liss came to N. Livingston Street in 1961 and raised their three children. The kids attended Ashlawn, Drew, Hoffman-Boston, Kenmore and Washington-Lee, where Merwin was PTA president. During his five decades in the civic association, Merwin completed a term as BMCA president, several terms as treasurer, and many years on the Board. He is proudest when recalling the civic association's efforts to block proposed commercial development of the portion of the neighborhood that eventually became Upton Hill Regional Park. In March, Merwin and Polly will move to a community in Ashburn, Va.

Dori and Byron D. Byron moved to N. Madison St. in 1978. Four years later, Dori became BMCA president. Accomplishments during her term included establishment of a Neighborhood Watch program. Dori has continued to serve the civic association since then in many vital roles. Her service has included chairing the Membership Committee for more than a decade and taking the lead in many of BCMA's social events. Dori and Byron have moved from Boulevard Manor to a condominium in Arlington to "downsize and make life easier."

BMCA joins hundreds of past and present neighbors whose lives were touched by the Liss and Byron families in expressing gratitude for Merwin's and Dori's leadership, service, and friendship. Though we will miss them dearly, we wish them joy and ease in retirement.



Merwin and Polly Liss chat with neighbors at the 2008 BMCA picnic.

Boulevard Manor Civic Association

www.boulevardmanor.org

Annual Membership

Reasons to Join

- ✓ Support programs run by volunteers who are working for the good of our neighborhood
- ✓ Send a message to the Arlington County that we are united as a community of concerned citizens
- ✓ Participate in community meetings and hear great speakers
- ✓ Enjoy social events such as Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th Ice Cream Social, and Fall Picnic

Recent Accomplishments and Ongoing Projects

- ✓ Neighborhood Conservation Plan completed and approved by County, implementing projects
- ✓ Traffic calming projects completed and others under development with County
- ✓ Neighborhood entrance signs designed and to be installed this year
- ✓ Bluemont Playground design participation, with project completion due in 2010
- ✓ Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee established, "emergency" brochure distributed
- ✓ Manchester Street entrance cleaned up, with further beautification for neighborhood planned
- ✓ Committee to address future uses of Reeves property established and working with County
- ✓ Communications provided through newsletters, website, and e-mail
- ✓ Social events held to engage neighbors, seeking ideas for a new event to add to calendar

I would like to join my neighborhood civic association in 2010

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E Mail Address(es): _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

I would like to volunteer my time or talents in the area of _____

Membership Category	Cost
Individual Members	\$10
Couples (Two Adult Members)	\$20
Voluntary extra contribution of any amount (Help us grow our Civic Association!)	\$_____
Special Membership opportunity \$50 Gold Member/ \$100 Platinum Member	\$_____
Total Dues and Contribution	\$_____

Please make out your check to BMCA and mail your dues promptly to

BMCA Membership
c/o Judith Norton
5944 2nd Street N.
Arlington, VA 22203

On receipt of dues, BMCA will publish list of those who have contributed in the newsletter and on our web site. _____ Please check here if you do NOT want your name included in the honor roll.