

# Between the Boulevards

February 2011

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

## Learning Garden Proposed for Reevesland

On January 19, 2011, Arlington County approved a proposal by neighborhood residents for a Learning Garden to be planted on the historic Reevesland property at 400 N. Manchester St. After many meetings, the County responded favorably to a letter signed by more than 220 neighbors requesting permission for a Learning Garden on the County-owned property. The proposal was also endorsed by the BMCA board.

The Reevesland Learning Center Steering Committee, chaired by Joan Horwitt, helped shepherd the Learning Garden proposal through the County's decision-making process. Boulevard Manor neighbor and County Park Service Area Manager, Lyndell Core, provided extensive assistance.

The Learning Garden is an expansion of the highly successful "LAWNS 2 LETTUCE 4 LUNCH" project that was organized in 2010. Last year, more than 125 people volunteered to grow lettuce for celebratory lunches at Ashlawn Elementary School in June and again in November. Volunteers included families of Ashlawn students, neighbors, and Ashlawn staff. A sizeable portion of fresh lettuce was donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center. The Washington Post and Sun Gazette featured news stories about this innovative, community-school program.

Beginning in March 2011, Ashlawn students, teachers and neighbors will plant the new Reevesland Learning Garden. Comprising eight raised growing beds, the Learning Garden will be planted exactly where our late neighbor, Nelson Reeves, maintained his iconic vegetable garden for decades. This project represents the first official use of the property since the County purchased it from the Reeves family in 2001.

The goals of the Learning Garden and LAWNS 2 LETTUCE 4 LUNCH are to promote positive attitudes among our children about growing and eating healthy foods and, equally important, to build new,

## Boulevard Manor Civic Association General Meeting

**Monday, February 28, 7:00 p.m.**

**Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.**

We will have reports from BMCA standing committees, including Neighborhood Conservation, Parks, and Reevesland. The membership will also vote to appoint the 2011 Nominating Committee.

For more information, contact BMCA President Mike McComis at [president@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:president@boulevardmanor.org) or 703-624-6825.

collaborative relationships among neighbors in our community. The motto of the Reevesland Learning Center Steering Committee is "Growing food, knowledge and community."

Neighbors are invited to join the Reevesland Learning Center Steering Committee as it continues plans for the constructive use of the Reeves property and farmhouse. Volunteers are also needed to help with the Learning Garden and to participate in this spring's LAWNS 2 LETTUCE 4 LUNCH. For information, contact Joan Horwitt at [shorwitt@aol.com](mailto:shorwitt@aol.com) or 703-528-2646.

## Time for 2011 Membership Dues

BMCA is kicking off our 2011 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 mail in the form and your dues, or bring them to the February 28 BMCA meeting.

Dues and additional contributions from members are the sole source of funding for BMCA activities. In 2010,

## Have You Subscribed to the 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@yahoo.com](mailto:blvdmanor-subscribe@yahoo.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@yahoo.com](mailto:blvdmanor@yahoo.com). Only members may post messages to the list. If you choose not to post messages, your e-mail address will remain anonymous.

member dues and donations supported the full range of civic association activities, including:

- ▶ Design of the Boulevard Manor signs that were posted at the four neighborhood entrances
- ▶ Engagement with the Arlington County Board on the Neighborhood 25 program to promote safe driving in neighborhoods where children play and walk to school
- ▶ Social events for all neighbors:
  - Easter egg hunt
  - July 4 ice cream social
  - Neighborhood picnic
  - Reception at Washington-Lee football game
  - Holiday caroling party
- ▶ Communication of neighborhood news and other information via
  - The civic association web site, [www.boulevardmanor.org](http://www.boulevardmanor.org)
  - The Yahoo! Groups e-mail list
  - Three issues of *Between the Boulevards*
- ▶ Advocacy with the County Board, County staff, and the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board to address the upkeep and future use of Reevesland

Much of the effort of the Civic Association is carried out by BMCA's active committees. These include:

### BMCA Standing Committees

- ▶ Conservation and Beautification – Chair: Mike McComis; contact: [president@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:president@boulevardmanor.org)
- ▶ Hospitality – Chair: Claudia Maloney; contact: [ClaudiaMaloney@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:ClaudiaMaloney@boulevardmanor.org)
- ▶ Membership – Chair: Judy Norton; contact: [JudyNorton@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:JudyNorton@boulevardmanor.org)
- ▶ Parks – Chair: Phil Klingelhofer; contact: [PhilKlingelhofer@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:PhilKlingelhofer@boulevardmanor.org)

- ▶ Safety and Emergency Preparedness – Chair: Chuck Norton, contact: [ChuckNorton@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:ChuckNorton@boulevardmanor.org)
- ▶ Zoning – Chair: vacant

### BMCA Ad Hoc Committees

- ▶ Neighborhood Conservation Plan – Chair: Matt Doyle; contact: [MattDoyle@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:MattDoyle@boulevardmanor.org)
- ▶ Reevesland – Chair: Larry Goldschmidt; contact: [LarryGoldschmidt@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:LarryGoldschmidt@boulevardmanor.org)

If you are interested in volunteering for any BMCA activity, please note it on the membership form.

### Nominating Committee to be Appointed

In accordance with BMCA bylaws, at the February 28 general meeting, the membership will elect a nominating committee to choose a slate of candidates for the 2011-2012 officers and board positions. The positions will be filled by an election held at the June meeting. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or in serving as a civic association officer or board member, please contact BMCA President Mike McComis at [president@boulevardmanor.org](mailto:president@boulevardmanor.org) or 703-624-6825.

### BMCA Urges County to Move Forward with Neighborhood Conservation Projects

BMCA President Mike McComis has written a letter to the County Manager's office urging the continuation of a traffic calming project on 1<sup>st</sup> Street N. that neighbors have pursued under the Boulevard Manor Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NCP). The letter and supporting data can be viewed at the BMCA web site, [www.boulevardmanor.org](http://www.boulevardmanor.org).

As has been described in previous newsletters, neighbors worked for more than a year to build a consensus for changes that will make 1<sup>st</sup> Street N. and N. Montague St. safer and more attractive. In October 2010, County staff informed the neighborhood that studies had confirmed that traffic calming measures ("speed humps") were indicated. Early this month, however,

the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Commission informed residents that the traffic calming project for 1<sup>st</sup> Street was being held up. The next step of the project – a petition that must be approved by a supermajority of affected residents – cannot proceed because an anonymous individual outside the neighborhood has challenged the validity of the underlying traffic data.

With the support of the Civic Association Board, BMCA President McComis has sent a letter to Deputy County Manager Marsha Allegier. The letter asserts that the County's reaction to the challenge represents an impermissible departure from established procedures. BMCA will continue to advocate for neighbors' right to pursue appropriate NCP projects, including those that have been demonstrated to meet the requirement of the county's Neighborhood Traffic Calming program.

### **Reevesland Working Group Reports to County Board**

In addition to expressing support for the Reevesland Learning Garden proposal (see page 1), BMCA has continued to actively pursue commitments from Arlington County for maintenance and acceptable future use of the former Reeves home. Neighborhood representatives participate in the Reevesland Working Group, tasked with providing solutions to the County Board for the reuse of Reevesland. On December 2, 2010, the working group forwarded a report to Jay Fiset, who at the time was chairman of the County Board.

In their report, the working group identified the following options (as well as combinations of these options):

- ▶ Lease the house and garage to a non-profit organization.
- ▶ Develop Reevesland as an agricultural demonstration project.
- ▶ Develop Reevesland as a sustainability /green building demonstration project.
- ▶ Allow BMCA to use the house as a community center provided that the BMCA can secure Neighborhood Conservation funds for the renovation of the house.
- ▶ Lease to a private Individual for residential use.
- ▶ Leave the house mothballed indefinitely.

Although the last option is considered unacceptable to the BMCA community, the working group chose to include it within the range of possibilities in order to

explicate why it is an untenable solution. The BMCA Board has voted to advance the restoration of Reevesland and surrounding property as its next NCP-funded project and is currently working through the Neighborhood Conservation process.

BMCA has not been able to confirm that the County Board has yet reviewed the report of the Reevesland Working Group. BMCA will continue to advocate for more rapid progress in decisions for Reevesland with the goal of again making the former Reeves property a valuable part of the community.

### **Upcoming Washington-Lee High School Events**

The Washington-Lee High School (W-L) Jazz Pyramid Festival will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2011, beginning at 7:00pm in the auditorium. There is no charge for admission.

W-L will present "Frankenstein" in the auditorium on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 7-9, 2011, beginning at 7:30pm. \$5.00 advance tickets may be reserved by calling the main office at 703-228-6200.

The W-L Spring Band and Orchestra Concert will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2011, beginning at 7:00pm in the auditorium. There is no charge for admission.

The W-L Talent Show will be held on Friday, May 13, 2011, beginning at 7:00pm in the auditorium. There is no charge for admission.

The W-L Spring Choral Concert will be held on Friday, May 20, 2011, beginning at 7:00pm in the auditorium. There is no charge for admission.



3rd Street N. after the January 26 Snowstorm  
*Photo courtesy of Paul Svercl*

# 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 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 installed with plantings planned for 2011  
Bluemont Playground design participation  
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

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### *I would like to join my neighborhood civic association in 2011*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Individual Members	\$10
Couples (Two Adult Members)	\$20
Voluntary extra contribution of any amount (Help us grow our Civic Association!)	\$____
Special Membership opportunity for households \$50 Gold Member/ \$100 Platinum Member (in addition to regular dues)	\$____
<b>Total Dues and Contribution</b>	<b>\$____</b>

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

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

BMCA will publish names of members who are current on their 2011 in the newsletter and on our web site.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you do NOT want your name included in the honor roll.