

Between the Boulevards

February 2014

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

Improvements at Arlington Blvd. Intersection

Progress continues on improvements at N. Manchester St. and Arlington Blvd. A new traffic signal and supplemental signal have been installed. In late 2013, the Virginia Dept. of Transportation approved Arlington County's plan for improvements to the sidewalks, bus stops, and crosswalks. Due to recent changes in County staff, design work for the project has been put on hold. Current estimates are for design to be complete by the end of the summer 2014. BMCA will continue to monitor the design activity and will report the construction schedule when it is known.

Washington Gas Begins Pipeline Improvements

Over the past few months, Washington Gas (WG) has been screening our neighborhood for gas leaks. Using special instruments, WG has identified tiny leaks in steel pipes installed under streets and properties nearly 60 years ago. WG has sent letters to 26 residences where pipeline improvements are indicated.

Contractors for WG have begun installing new yellow plastic piping within steel pipes where leaks were found. This procedure avoids the need for extensive excavation. In rare circumstances, the installation of plastic piping is not feasible. At each work location, the contractor determines the least invasive replacement option available. All service replacements are performed at no cost to the homeowner and are due to be completed by mid-March 2014, weather permitting.

WG has planned a replacement project for mains and services that will include portions of 3rd Street N. This project is currently in the design phase. Installation will begin no earlier than 2015. BMCA Board Member Paul Svercl communicates with WG on behalf of the civic association. You may reach Paul at PaulSvercl@boulevardmanor.org or 703-243-8693.

Reevesland Update

In 2001, the County purchased the 19th century farmhouse and the 2.4 acres at 400 N. Manchester St. from

Boulevard Manor Civic Association General Meeting

Monday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.
Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St.

Guest speakers will include William Roberts from the Arlington County Division of Transportation. Mr. Roberts will discuss the updated plans to extend 8th Road N. to Wilson Blvd. The proposed extension would provide Arlington Public Schools buses direct access to Ashlawn from Wilson Blvd.

Also speaking will be Maraea Harris, a member of the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. Ms. Harris will discuss the restoration of the Bluemont Bird & Butterfly Garden.

We will have reports from BMCA standing committees and will vote to appoint the 2014 Nominating Committee.

For more information, contact BMCA President Claudia Maloney at 703-237-8721 or president@boulevardmanor.org.

the family of Nelson Reeves, who died in 2000. The farmhouse has been vacant for 13 years, despite continuing expressions of concern about the deterioration of the property. The Reevesland Learning Center steering committee, comprising residents of Boulevard Manor and neighboring areas, has demonstrated widespread community support for the farmhouse to be rehabilitated so it can be used as a learning center. The Reevesland Learning Center is intended to build on Mr. Reeves' legacy of growing healthy food and community. In November 2013, the Arlington County Board appropriated \$500,000 to begin work to "stabilize" the farmhouse. This procedure would be the first step in a full rehabilitation of the farmhouse by the County and its use as the Reevesland Learning Center. For more in-

formation, contact Joan Horwitt, Reevesland Learning Center president, at shorwitt@aol.com.

Bird and Butterfly Garden at Bluemont Park

Several years ago, park rangers established the Bluemont Bird and Butterfly Garden in an effort to create a "way station" for pollinators and birds. The garden site, formerly a mere parking lot island, was brought to life by plantings of primarily native plants. Although the garden has served as a useful educational site, it has recently fallen into disrepair due to park staffing changes.

The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV), an organization of volunteers who work with the staff of Virginia Cooperative Extension, have taken on the restoration of the Bird and Butterfly Garden. They intend to revitalize the garden and provide opportunities for park visitors to learn about native plants, pollinators, and the interactions between them. The MGNV invites community members to participate in the restoration project. Maraea Harris of the Master Gardeners will speak at the BMCA general meeting on February 24. For information about the garden restoration, you may contact her at maraea@gmail.com.

Nominating Committee to be Appointed

In accordance with BMCA bylaws, at the February 24 general meeting, the membership will elect a nominating committee to choose a slate of candidates for the 2014-2015 officers and 2014-2016 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 Tony Ermovick at 703-586-8254 or TonyErmovick@boulevardmanor.org.

Updating Membership Records and Dues

BMCA membership has gone green! With our new PayPal membership dues option you can save a stamp and help to save a tree. If we have your email address in our membership records, you should have received an email in January with a link to the PayPal option. If you didn't receive the message, please email your email address to MattSmith@boulevardmanor.org. After Matt updates the database, you will be able use the online dues paying feature that is accessible on www.boulevardmanor.org through the "Membership" link. If you prefer not to pay online, please use the form in this newsletter and the attached envelope.

Dues and additional contributions from members are the sole source of funding for BMCA activities. See the attached membership form for a summary of recent civic association events and accomplishments. Thank you for your support!

Cub Scout Host Spaghetti Dinner on March 28th

Cub Scout Pack #126, composed of 65 scouts from Ashlawn and McKinley elementary schools, will hold its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, March 28th, at the Church of the Brethren (300 N. Montague St.) fellowship hall. Beginning at 5:00pm and ending at 7:30pm, the dinner will include all-you-can-eat spaghetti, salad, bread, desert, and drink. The cost is \$5 per person; tickets may be purchased from a scout or at the door. Proceeds will help fund Cub Scout programs.

This event provides an opportunity for the scouts to learn about earning money (each scout has a target of selling 5 tickets) and paying for scouting activities. Moreover, the scouts will learn about customer service as they perform various jobs (ticket taker, food line server, table attendant, etc.) during the dinner. If you wish to purchase tickets from a neighborhood Cub Scout, please contact Tony Ermovick at 703-586-8254 or TonyErmovick@boulevardmanor.org.

Remember to Clear Snow/Ice from Your Sidewalk

Neighbors are reminded that Arlington County ordinance requires property owners and residents to remove snow or ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property (or to treat it with sand or proper substance) within 24 hours of snowfall or freezing. Please help keep the neighborhood safe for pedestrians.

Annual Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

Co-hosted by BMCA and the Church of the Brethren

Saturday, April 19, 10:30am at the Church (300 N. Montague St.)

Egg hunt for children 10 and under
Refreshments and fun for all

If you would like to help at the event, please contact Carlin Schwartz at CarlinSchwartz@boulevardmanor.org.



2014 Membership Drive – Please Support the Civic Association!

Now is the time to renew or establish your membership in the civic association. Please complete the form below and mail it with your dues to BMCA using the attached envelope, or bring them to the February 24 BMCA meeting. Alternatively, you may join or renew your membership (paying dues via PayPal) at our web site, www.boulevardmanor.org.

Dues and additional contributions from members are the sole source of funding for BMCA activities. In 2013, member dues and donations supported the full range of civic association activities, including:

- ▶ Advocacy in addressing community needs such as:
 - Representation in the Ashlawn Elementary School expansion Public Facilities Review Committee
 - Maintenance and beneficial use of the former Reeves farm and home
- ▶ Multiple social events:
 - Easter egg hunt
 - July 4 ice cream social
 - Neighborhood picnic
 - Veterans Day potluck dinner
 - Holiday caroling party

- ▶ Communication via:
 - The civic association web site, www.boulevardmanor.org
 - The Yahoo! Groups e-mail list
 - Four issues of *Between the Boulevards*

Much of the effort of the Civic Association is carried out by BMCA’s standing committees:

- ▶ Conservation and Beautification – Chair: Josh Handler; contact JoshHandler@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Hospitality – Chair: Carlin Schwartz; contact CarlinSchwartz@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Membership – Chair: Matt Smith; contact MattSmith@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Newsletter and web site – Chair: Lee Dioso; contact LeeDioso@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Parks – Chair: Phil Klingelhofer; contact PhilKlingelhofer@boulevardmanor.org
- ▶ Safety and Emergency Preparedness – Chair: Chuck Norton, contact: ChuckNorton@boulevardmanor.org

Neighbors who are interested in joining Civic Association activities should contact any of the committee chairs.

Boulevard Manor Civic Association Membership Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E Mail Address(es) _____

Telephone Number(s) _____

Please contact me about volunteering for activities related to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation and Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Reevesland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality and Social Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Projects under the Neighborhood Conservation Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety and Emergency Preparedness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter and Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as a BMCA Officer or Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks | |

Membership Category	Cost
Individual Members	\$10
Couples (Two Adult Members)	\$20
Voluntary extra contribution of any amount (Thank you!)	\$ ____
Total Dues and Contribution	\$ ____

Please make out your check to BMCA and mail this form and the payment to:

BMCA Membership c/o Matt Smith 5911 3rd Street N., Arlington, VA 22203