



Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, Inc.

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September 2019

Foundation Officers

Bob Walters
President
2014 Bridle Court

Lynne Hepler
Vice President
1010 Thoroughbred Cir

Todd Henning
Treasurer
2010 Bridle Court

Member at Large

Jayne Muenz
27 Southgate Course

Dear Neighbors,

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over! The brilliant colors of the Black-eyed Susan flowers and emerging seed heads on the native prairie grasses remind us that fall is fast approaching!

We want to thank you for your continued support for the renovation and maintenance of the Fox Chase Boulevard Median. The collective efforts of so many residents in our area have transformed and preserved a unique and beautiful gateway to our community.

This year we are again asking for a \$25 donation to cover on-going maintenance costs and the replacement of damaged plants. If you are new to the area, you may not know that the Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation relies solely on voluntary donations from area residents to maintain the landscape areas along Fox Chase Boulevard. The City of St. Charles mows the grass, cares for the trees in the median and perennial flowers at the Dunham Road entrance but does not support any landscaping.

We are pleased that 196 residences contributed to our fundraising campaign last year – a record number of donors that with your help we hope to surpass this year! Your support covers on-going costs for maintenance, edging of the landscape beds, watering and the removal, and replacement of plants as needed.

This spring the City planted two Cornelian-cherry Dogwood trees in the median near the Dunham Road entrance, replacing a pair of diseased crabapple trees. Two additional trees in the median between Aintree Road and Chasse Circle will be replaced this fall. Longer term, we are working with the City to eventually replace the clusters of multi-stem flowering trees scattered throughout the median. We continue to set aside funds to augment what the City will cover to maintain the grove appearance as existing trees succumb to age/disease.

The brutal cold winter followed by a wet spring has taken its toll on a few plants. Several of the burning bushes near Chasse Circle were recently cut back to remove dead wood, and we expect these plants to recover next year. Some of the larger native grasses are a bit thin this year and will need extensive pruning in the spring. At the entrance, the hosta plants are struggling and will be replaced in the fall. Flowering perennials at the entrance and near Aintree will be relocated and refreshed as they are looking a bit rugged.

Ongoing dialogue and partnership with the City continues to be key to our efforts to control unsightly brush from being placed along the boulevard. A reminder that local ordinances require branches and leaves for pick-up be placed on the parkway in front of your home or along the frontage where refuse/recycling is collected. We continue to be vigilant in reporting infractions, and the City promptly responds by contacting offending property owners.

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We are thankful for the continued support of the Aintree Community Association and the Townhomes of Fox Chase. Aintree continues to maintain the landscape, lighting and signage at the Dunham entrance, allowing for enhanced safety and visibility for all pedestrians and drivers alike. We again thank Sitarz Landscape Maintenance for their work and reasonable rates to us.

In our fall meeting, Lynne Hepler accepted the Vice President position, replacing Christopher Naese who relocated last year. Lynne created and distributed a press briefing to the local media, resulting in the Median Foundation being featured in the Daily Herald and St. Charles Living magazine. Links to the press release and these informative articles are available on our website at www.FoxChaseBoulevard.org. Many thanks to Lynne for helping to raise the awareness of our history and mission!

We also welcome Jayme Munez to our board as a Member At Large. Anyone with an interest in horticulture, communication, administration or just a desire to get involved in community work is welcome to join us. Let us know through the website, and we will include you as a Member At Large. It is helpful to keep each neighborhood represented as we continue to move forward.

Again, we are grateful for your support and interest in the median. Your feedback allows us to be responsive to your concerns and provides plenty of encouragement to continue our work together. We hope you enjoy the beauty of the boulevard with all of the flowering bulbs, native grasses, trees and plantings that grace this lovely feature of our community. Tax deductible donations to the Median Foundation can be made directly through the website (www.FoxChaseBoulevard.org) or by mail using the enclosed donation form and return envelope.

Sincerely,

The Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation Board