



Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, Inc.

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September 2020

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Dear Neighbors,

We hope this letter finds you all safe and healthy during these challenging times. While we have all experienced fear, isolation and the disruption of normalcy in our lives due to the pandemic, our neighborhoods along the Fox Chase Boulevard have been a place to enjoy the beauty and peace of nature for the last several months. We hope you have enjoyed the unique beauty of our renovated Boulevard Median. Adults and children alike have been able to find a respite in walking, biking, jogging and more along this beautiful gateway to our community. Some would say it is like having a park right within the roadway!

First and foremost, thank you for your continued support for the renovation and maintenance of the Fox Chase Boulevard median. If you are new to the area, you may not know that it has taken 10 years and the efforts of many to fully complete the transformation of the median which was once overrun with invasive weeds, unsightly shrubs and canopied with trees in poor health.

This year we are again asking for a \$25 donation to cover on-going maintenance costs and the replacement of damaged plants. The Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation relies on voluntary donations from area residents to maintain the landscape areas along Fox Chase Boulevard. While the City provides the essential needs for the boulevard by mowing the grass, replacing some trees, and maintaining the perennial flowers at the Dunham Road entrance, the Foundation focuses its limited resource on maintenance and all landscaping on the median.

In 2019, 194 residences contributed to our fundraising campaign, with continued financial support also from the Aintree Community Association and the Townhomes of Fox Chase. It should be noted that Aintree continues to maintain the landscape, lighting and signage at the Dunham entrance, allowing for enhanced visibility and safety. This collective public support is a wonderful reflection of the pride residents have in the appearance of their neighborhood. Your donation covers the on-going costs for maintenance and the replacement of plants as needed along this lovely winding half-mile median.

This past year we completed extensive tree pruning, replaced struggling hosta plants near the entrance, trimmed shrubs and grasses to improve motorist visibility, repaired bare spots in the lawn, spread wood chips provided at no cost by Sitarz Landscape and edged all landscape beds. Perennials on the north portion of the "hill" near Aintree Road will be supplemented later this fall.

In early June, we received approval from the City to plant red bronze leaf begonia flowers in a small portion of the Dunham Road entrance. These hardy annuals require infrequent watering and add a splash of color at this busy intersection. We appreciate Sitarz Landscape Maintenance for their work and reasonable rates in accomplishing these efforts.

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We requested and the City agreed to remove two diseased/dying trees from the median and will replace both in the fall. Longer term, we continue to work with the City to care for existing trees and eventually replace the clusters of multi-stem flowering trees scattered throughout the median. Thus, we continue to set aside funds to augment what the City will cover to maintain the grove appearance as existing trees decline due to age or disease.

Our ongoing partnership and dialogue with the City continues to be key to our efforts to control unsightly brush from being placed along the boulevard. Please note that local ordinances require branches and leaves for pick-up to 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 responds by contacting offending property owners.

The Foundation's website (www.FoxChaseBoulevard.org) provides neighbors with transparency and information, current and historical, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. 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. Your contribution of funds, time and enthusiasm are needed to sustain this unique effort.

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. When it was in desperate need of renovation and restoration thirteen years ago, a caring group of neighbors launched a grassroots effort to transform and preserve it. It truly is a story of what can be accomplished through those who care about their community.

Again, we are grateful for your continued interest and support of the median. Tax deductible donations to the Median Foundation can be made online 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