



Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, Inc.

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September 2021

Foundation Officers

Bob Walters
President
2014 Bridle Court

Jayne Muenz
Vice President
27 Southgate Course

Todd Henning
Treasurer
2010 Bridle Court

Member at Large

Vacant

Dear Neighbors,

We hope this letter finds you all safe and healthy during these challenging times. We trust you enjoy the unique beauty of the boulevard with all the flowering bulbs, native grasses, trees and plantings. 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 took 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. We work in cooperation with the City, which provides essential needs for the boulevard by mowing the grass, replacing some trees, and maintaining the perennial flowers at the Dunham Road entrance.

In 2020, 205 residences contributed to our fundraising campaign, with continued financial support from the Aintree Community Association and the Townhomes of Fox Chase. This collective public support is a wonderful reflection of the pride residents have in the appearance of their neighborhood. Thank you again for your support!

In addition to routine landscape maintenance and weed control, perennials on the north portion of the "hill" near Aintree Road were also supplemented with new plantings. Shrubs in the median near Highgate/Southgate had a rough start this spring and were cut back. They seem to be doing well and are expected to fully recover next year. Soon all the shrubs in the median will be trimmed, landscape beds edged and fresh mulch spread on the beds at the entrance.

With approval from the City, this spring we again planted 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.

The City planted two new Oak trees this spring as replacements for trees removed last year. Unfortunately, one of these new trees may have succumbed to the high heat and will need to be replaced. The City also cut down an Austrian Pine tree near Chasse Circle that had died; the remaining tree stump will be removed this 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 maintain a contingency fund to augment what the City will cover to maintain the grove appearance as existing trees decline due to age or disease.

(over)

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.

On an administrative note, we would like to welcome Jayme Muenz as our Vice President, replacing Lynne Hepler who relocated to Wisconsin. We thank Lynne for her significant contributions to the Median Foundation over the years and wish her well. With Jayme's move to Vice President, we now have an open position for a Member at Large. Anyone with an interest in horticulture or just a desire to get involved is welcome to join us. This position only requires a commitment of a few hours a year. If you are interested, let us know by sending an email or calling. Your contribution of funds, time, and enthusiasm are needed to sustain this unique effort.

Again, we are grateful for your continued interest and support of the median. Tax deductible donations to the Median Foundation can be made online using the scan code below or through the website (www.FoxChaseBoulevard.org) or by mail using the enclosed donation form and return envelope. The tax deduction is now available to almost all taxpayers. The Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act allows Single taxpayers who don't itemize their deductions a deduction of up to \$300 (\$600 Married filing joint) for cash contributions made during 2021.

Sincerely,
The Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation Board

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or visit www.FoxChaseBoulevard.org