



Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, Inc.

2014 Bridle Court • St. Charles, IL 60174 • (630) 443-0305

www.FoxChaseBoulevard.org • email: foxchaseboulevard@gmail.com

September 2023

Foundation Officers

Bob Walters
President
2014 Bridle Court

Jayne Muenz
Vice President
27 Southgate Course

Todd Henning
Treasurer
2010 Bridle Court

Members at Large

David Jones
2018 Bridle Court

Marti Rossdahl
218 Chasse Circle

Dear Neighbors,

We hope this letter finds you all safe and healthy. We trust that 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 (even with the ongoing street and sidewalk construction this summer).

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. Check out our website to learn more about the Foundation's history.

We are again asking for a \$25 donation to cover on-going maintenance costs and plant replacements. The Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation relies on voluntary donations from area residents to maintain the landscape areas within the Fox Chase Boulevard median. We work in cooperation with the City, which provides essential needs for the median by mowing the grass, replacing some trees, and maintaining the perennial flowers at the Dunham Road entrance.

In response to several donor comments about the length of our incorporated name, the Foundation secured a dba (assumed name) using the initials FCMF, which can now be used when writing donation checks.

Last year, 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!

Several improvements are planned this fall. In addition to routine landscape maintenance, tree/shrub trimming and weed control, all the landscape beds will be edged. Struggling perennial plants on the north side of the "flower hill" will be replaced. New plantings will also be added to the island between Aintree and Keim Trail, replacing a pear tree that was knocked over during a spring storm. Where possible, new plantings will incorporate perennials that are attractive, sustainable and pollinator friendly.

We hope you agree that the red bronze leaf begonia flowers at the Dunham Road entrance look stunning again this year! These hardy annuals require infrequent watering and add a splash of color at this busy intersection. This fall we will again replace the begonias with a seasonal combination of mums and kale which should provide a colorful display through early November. We thank the City for the opportunity to plant flowers in this prominent area and appreciate Sitarz Landscape Maintenance for their work and reasonable rates.

(over)

Median Foundation Board members will again display traditional fall decorations at the Dunham Road entrance in conjunction with the Park District's annual Gallery of Ghoulish Homes, which begins October 13th and concludes on Halloween. Decorative holiday wreaths are also planned for late November through New Year's. Let us know what you think of these seasonal displays at the entrance.

The City replaced a dead tree in the boulevard in early spring. Longer term, we will 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.

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.

Last fall, in response to resident concerns, we removed and trimmed back several shrubs in the center median areas that were hindering motorist visibility at the Southgate Course and Chasse Circle intersections. We will continue to monitor these areas. Please contact us immediately with any concerns about visibility restrictions caused by plantings in the median.

We have added a Facebook page and welcome you to follow the Fox Chase Median Foundation page online.

Anyone with an interest in horticulture or just a desire to get involved is welcome to join us. 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.

Sincerely,
The Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation Board

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or visit www.FoxChaseBoulevard.org