



## Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, Inc.

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April 2013

### Foundation Officers

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### Committee Chairs

Lynne Hepler  
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Todd Henning  
Corporate  
2010 Bridle Court

Dear Neighbors,

We wish 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.

Our annual request for support this Spring is going to be adjusted for the lack of planting last year. We have some residual funds to spend, and so we are asking that the donation for 2013 be \$30 per household (see enclosed contribution form or [donate online](#)). This will help us with water and maintenance (weeding, pruning, etc.), and we will continue the 2012/3 planting plan with 2012 dollars this year. We will be adding several beds of annuals and removing the existing forsythia, replacing it with a variety that is more compact and requires less pruning. We will also be assessing how the plants did through the mean freeze/thaw cycle this winter, which is never easy on plants and certainly not young, less established plants.

The 2012 planting season was exceptional and not in a good way. The weather caught us off guard with Spring in February and then proceeded into desert conditions throughout the summer. We were afraid to continue planting, as moisture proved to be at a premium and watering existing plants became our priority. We did get a couple of beds in early, and in late fall, we put in a stand of grasses at Aintree and added some height to the Chasse bed. We added some Junipers where tree roots inhibit the planting of perennials.

We lost a few trees due to storm damage and Ash Borer both in and along the Median. We were the recipient of a donated tree by people driving through the neighborhood during the time several trees were being felled. We will have a new Red Oak this spring, replacing the tree at Highgate, thanks to these kind visitors.

We have also continued working with the city to keep unsightly brush to a minimum along the Boulevard. The new city policy is that brush must be placed on the address side of the property for pick-up. Letters informing residents, who back up to the median, of the new policy were sent by the city this spring. Hopefully with continued vigilance, we will have an even better looking right-of-way in 2013!

We are also working with the city to guarantee our mulch supply. Many of you may not know that the city is outsourcing its tree removal and chipping. Along with that goes the free mulch. We are working with public works to make sure that the city holds back enough mulch to include our median, along with the other city areas that it will continue to mulch. We will still be responsible for hauling and labor, but the mulch itself is \$10K+ if we need to buy it through some other vendor for 2014. If we cannot secure free mulch through the city, then we believe that we will move to a bi-annual mulching cycle, except for brand new plantings.

We have decided to expand our budget to a 3 year view to account for work that doesn't take place every year. In order to plan and keep everyone informed, tasks like pruning and mulching will now be more easily accounted for in the 3 year view. You can continue to find

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plans, budgets, pertinent information and frequently asked questions and answers at [www.foxchaseboulevard.org](http://www.foxchaseboulevard.org).

There will also be an addition to lighting at the Dunham Road entrance. Since it is very dark on the West side of the columns, Aintree, Southgate and individuals will be contributing to install lights mirroring what has been done on the East side. You may have noticed that the lights were out of service for a couple of months and recently repaired. A faulty underground cable was the culprit, and the electrician had to wait for the ground to thaw to replace it.

We continue to be grateful for all the support and interest in the median. We appreciate the feedback, and hope we are being responsive to your concerns. We again want to thank Jeff Sitarz for his work and reasonable rates to us! We thank Midwest Groundcover for their consultation and great plants. We have had no losses in our previous 2 years of planting, which is a great track record for all that we have done! The city continues to be supportive, and we look forward to a good relationship with the new Mayor. We thank Aintree Community Association and the Townhomes of Fox Chase for their support again in 2012 and hope they continue for 2013. We also thank all of you who have written and stopped us in the street to let us know how much you like the way the median looks. It is encouraging to us, and we appreciate that you notice our handiwork!

Sincerely,

The Fox Chase Median Foundation Board