



## Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, Inc.

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### Foundation Officers

Bob Walters  
President  
2014 Bridle Court

Christopher Naese  
Vice President  
12 Highgate Court

Todd Henning  
Treasurer  
2010 Bridle Court

### Committee Chairs

Lynne Hepler  
Communications  
1010 Thoroughbred Cir

Dear Neighbors,

Ten years ago a group of volunteer homeowners launched a grass roots effort to rescue Fox Chase Boulevard, the lovely winding gateway to our homes and schools, from invasive weeds, overgrown and unsightly shrubs, and trees in poor health. In the face of dwindling local budgets and a general unwillingness to add to tax bills, this caring group of neighbors took action in 2010 to formalize their efforts by creating the Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation for the sole purpose of preserving and renovating the unique and beautiful gateway to our community, all in partnership with the City of St Charles. In the years since, a transformation of the median has been accomplished!

Through your continued annual donations and the collective efforts of many residents, we have completed our planting plan, and we are in the second year of seeking your support to cover on-going costs for maintenance, watering, and the removal and replacement of damaged plants if needed.

This year we believe a \$25 donation will allow us to continue to adequately maintain this great asset to our community. We hope you urge your neighbors to contribute as well, and ask that you share the story of how just a few years ago the median was in desperate need of renovation. It is an excellent example of the good things that can be accomplished through the efforts of those who care about their community.

Generous autumn rains and a fairly mild winter will surely enhance the spring display of hillside tulips, the newly replaced poppies, and all of the flowering trees that grace our median. We will watch to see if the forsythia has matured enough to give us its splendor. With the new growing season, you will see more purple perennial geraniums being added and all the beds being edged and mulched, using free mulch provided by the City of St. Charles to greatly reduce costs.

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 City ordinance requires that brush must be placed on the address side of the property for pick-up. This ordinance has been changed to now include a fine for dumping brush on the boulevard. We continue to be vigilant and the City promptly responds when we see infractions.

Looking forward, we know the various groves or clusters of aging trees along the median will require replacement in the coming years, and we have established a Tree Grove fund for this purpose. We feel total replacement of a cluster of aging trees allows us to maintain the grove appearance that adds to the boulevard's beauty. While this will be done one cluster at a time, as needed, we will continue to discuss with the City the potential for removal and replanting, allowing us to achieve the grove look we love at a reasonable cost.

We extend our sincere appreciation and best wishes to Connie Thullen who retired as President of the Foundation in 2015. Connie's commitment, tireless dedication and inspiring

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vision for beautification and improvement of the boulevard has spanned over ten years, through her work with the Community of Aintree, the creation of the Foundation and the establishment of close cooperation with the City of St. Charles. Her generous contributions on many levels are reflected in the beauty of our median! Bob Walters has assumed the role of President, Christopher Naese as Vice President, and Todd Henning as Treasurer/Secretary with Lynne Hepler remaining our Communications chair. These individuals have been dedicated to this project for many years and look forward to sustaining this important effort.

We also wish to recognize and thank Christopher Naese for his efforts this year in identifying the need for additional lighting at the northwest corner of Dunham and Fox Chase Boulevard, and then enlisting the assistance of the city to address the issue with the installation of a new, LED street light. This additional lighting allows for enhanced safety and visibility for all pedestrians and drivers alike.

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.

We continue to be grateful for all the 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 again thank Jeff Sitarz for his work and reasonable rates to us. We thank Midwest Groundcover for their consultation and great plants. We thank Aintree Community Association and the Townhomes of Fox Chase for their continued support. Most importantly, we thank you for continuing to share our vision and interest in maintaining this beautiful feature of our community. Donations can be made directly through the website or by mail using the enclosed donation form and return envelope.

Sincerely,

Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation Board Members