

**Contact: Ms. Connie Thullen, President Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation
(630-762-9447); Lynne Hepler, Communications Director, 312-752-6389**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GRASSROOTS EFFORT BY FOX CHASE BOULEVARD MEDIAN FOUNDATION
GARNERS APPROVAL OF ST. CHARLES' CITY COUNCIL**

When a beautiful community focal point in St Charles was in desperate need of renovation and restoration, a group of caring neighbors took action to form a nonprofit foundation...

(ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS) April, 2011- The Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation is pleased to announce that it entered into a license agreement with the City of St. Charles on March 7, 2011, allowing the Foundation to continue a grass roots effort that has spanned over four years to preserve and renovate a unique community focal point and today relies on voluntary contributions from homeowners to ensure the boulevard's continued beauty.

In the face of dwindling local budgets and a general unwillingness to add to tax bills, Fox Chase Boulevard, a lovely winding gateway to several schools and neighborhoods on the city's east side, had become overgrown and unsightly and in desperate need of renovation and restoration. In response, a small group of concerned volunteer homeowners decided it would work to solicit voluntary contributions from neighborhoods adjoining the boulevard in order to expand the basic and limited level of care provided by the city and make improvements to plantings originally installed in 1974.

In 2010, over 175 donors generously contributed well over \$10,000, with the Aintree Homeowner's Association having contributed an additional \$4,000 in matching funds. To formalize the grass roots efforts of prior years, the Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation was incorporated in October, 2010, as a non-profit entity for the sole purpose of promoting horticultural beautification, maintenance and improvement of the boulevard, using sound ecology, sustainable plantings and indigenous flora, cost efficiency and close cooperation with the city of St. Charles.

"The license agreement with the City of St. Charles allows the Foundation to proceed, as voluntary funding allows, with a comprehensive plan for the renovation of the boulevard in cooperation with the city. In the coming months, a comprehensive plan for additional plantings will be posted at the Foundation's website, www.foxchaseblvd.org, along with a plant list that incorporates specimens that are tolerant of the harsh median environment and easily maintained, yet beautiful," explained Ms. Connie Thullen, Foundation President. "This project is an excellent example of the good things that can be accomplished through the grass roots efforts of those who care about their community," added Ms. Thullen

Several significant accomplishments have already been made, including the removal of invasive weeds and plants, the pruning of trees for their continued health and beauty, the removal of shrubs and trees in poor health or where they were impacting vehicle and pedestrian safety, and the beginnings of a more extensive restoration of the landscape beds as funds allow. Working in cooperation with the city of St. Charles and its Arborist, several new trees have been planted by the city to replace those removed. “These were all essential initial steps in the renovation and restoration process and have made a positive visual impact,” noted Christopher Naese, Vice-President and Foundation board member.

"We will be starting our 2011 Funding Campaign shortly. The continued support of residents in the area will be needed to sustain this unique effort, whether it is through contributions of funds, time or enthusiasm. 2010 donors have provided everything from mailing costs to mulch, allowing for immediate improvements to a lovely community gateway that contributes to the overall beauty of the City of St. Charles," added Bob Walters, Foundation Treasurer.

About the Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation: We are a group of volunteers concerned about maintaining and improving the quality of the landscape areas in the median and entrance area of Fox Chase Boulevard.

The Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation was created in October, 2010 to formalize prior "grassroots" efforts to maintain the median areas. The Foundation is currently pursuing non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Officers for the Foundation include:

- President, Connie Thullen
- Vice President, Christopher Naese
- Secretary/Treasurer, Bob Walters

Committee Chairs:

- Corporation, Todd Henning
- Publicity/Communication, Lynne Hepler
- Landscape Adviser, Charlotte Thayer

For Additional Information: www.foxchaseboulevard.org, or contact Ms. Connie Thullen, President, Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, 630-762-9447; cthullen@aol.com

###