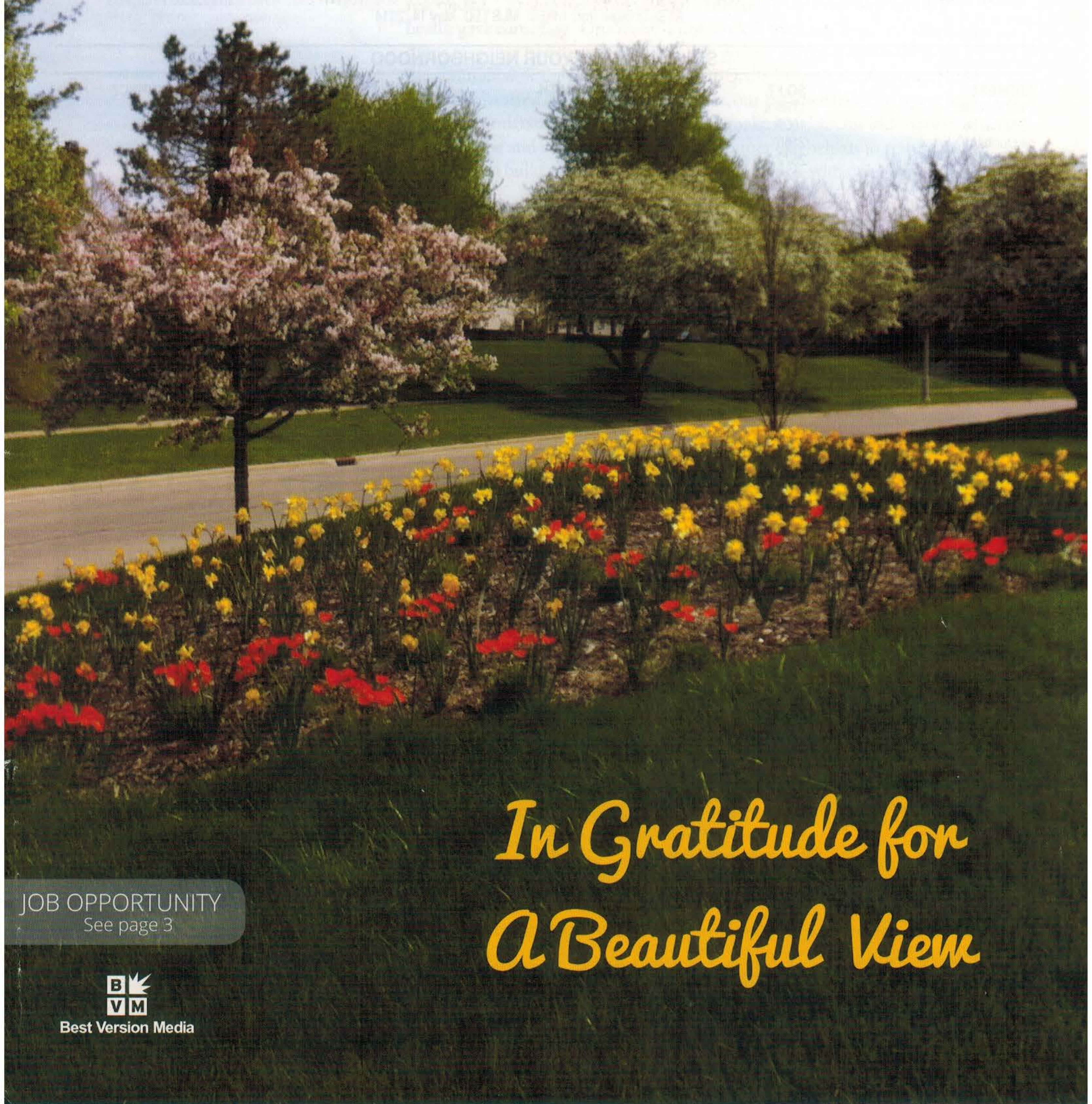


Friends of **Fox Chase**

June 2014



*In Gratitude for
A Beautiful View*

JOB OPPORTUNITY
See page 3



Best Version Media

In Gratitude for A Beautiful View



Board Members of Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation, Bob Walters, Chris Naese and Connie Thullen

Large stone pillars, bronze plaques, lush greens and colorful flowers entice you to enter the Fox Chase Subdivision. Once inside, wide, mounded medians with bright blooms and luscious textured greens give you the feeling you are someplace special, remote and off the beaten path. A place meant for just a few. The special feel these medians and luxurious entrances give to the linked subdivisions doesn't happen by accident. A dedicated group of individuals banded together to ensure that these features create this kind of welcome into Fox Chase and all subdivisions linked together by Fox Chase Boulevard.

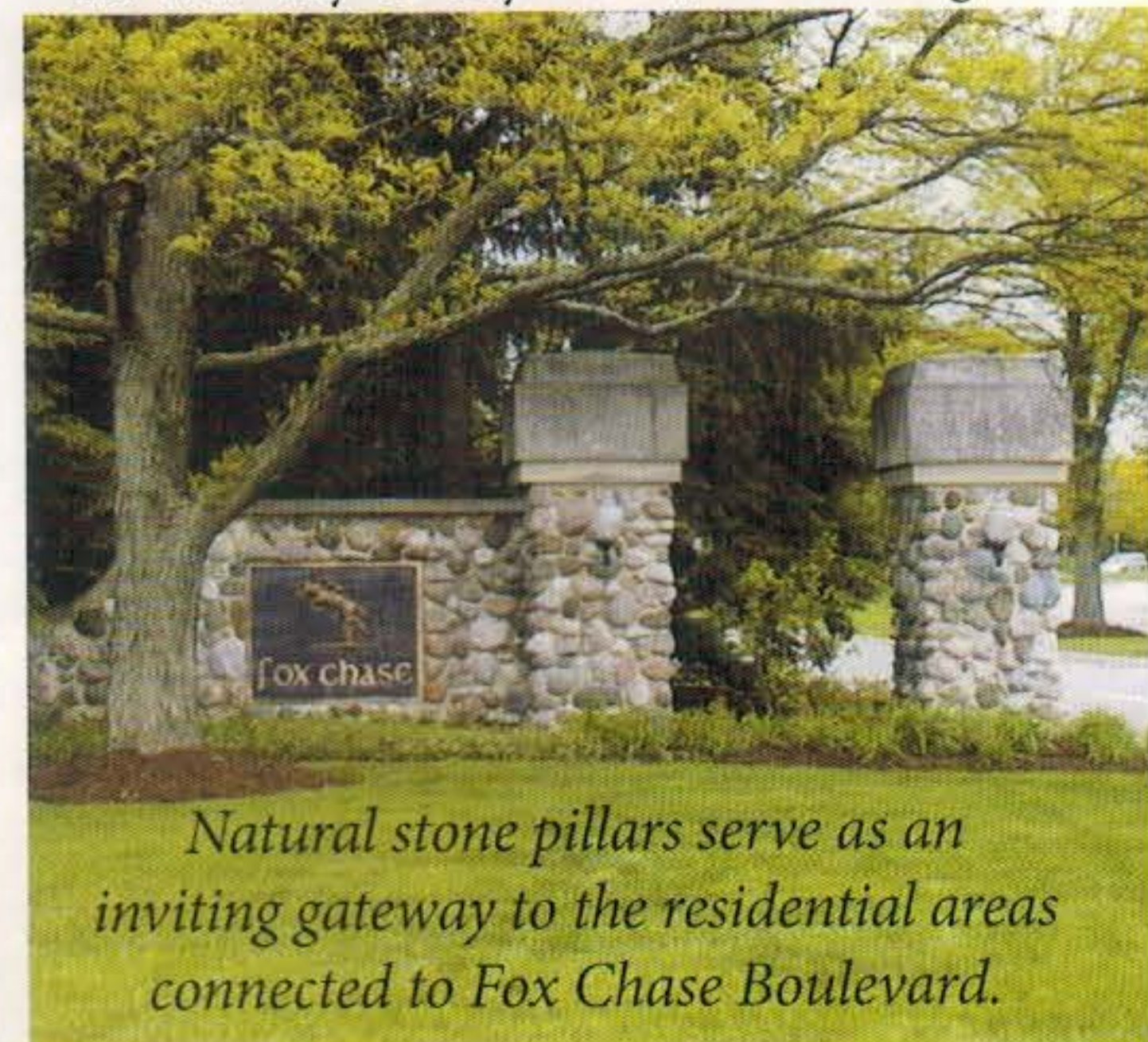
A little history might help clarify the need for the Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation. Collins Development planted trees, shrubs and flowers in the medians back in 1974. The Aintree Community Association used a portion of their funds to maintain these areas until the maximum annual dues per the Association's protective covenants were reached. Aintree no longer had enough funds to maintain the medians. Additional neighborhoods began to spring up, but the City of St. Charles didn't create homeowner associations in

them, so there were no additional funds coming from them. The burden of maintaining the medians remained on Aintree until some neighbors on Bridle Court got together to help. In 1997, they began collecting funds from neighbors, and caring for the three islands west of Aintree. This went on for a number of years, but it became apparent this was not a permanent solution.

Late in 2008, Bob Walters, Chris Naese, Todd Henning, Lynne Helper, and Connie Thullen, all from surrounding neighborhoods, joined to form Fox Chase Boulevard Median Foundation. Todd Henning was instrumental in helping attain non-profit corporation status, and securing our 501C3 status with the Internal Revenue Service - which was no small task! Todd also takes care of the annual federal and state non-profit filings. Lynne was instrumental in the group's communication efforts. Bob started working closely with the city to figure out alternatives for funding some upgrading and guarantee a revenue stream for continued maintenance. Chris had contacts at the City and the Park District that proved to be very helpful in many aspects of their mission.

After holding information meetings within each neighborhood, the group concluded that the neighbors preferred that funding be voluntary. At this point, progress was slow, but neighborhood feedback and encouragement among the group's members kept them going, and still provides the biggest reward today.

Bob recalls, "Getting the story out was the most interesting experience. Fun wouldn't be my first choice of words, but it certainly allowed us to meet a lot of the neighbors and people who work for, and do the day-to-day work, of making St.



Natural stone pillars serve as an inviting gateway to the residential areas connected to Fox Chase Boulevard.

Charles function.”

Today, in addition to major support by the Aintree Community Association, adjoining homeowner associations, such as Hunters Woods Homeowners Association (informal group representing homes near Southgate Course and Chasse Circle), the Manorhouses of Fox Chase on Whittington Course and the Townes of Fox Chase on Waverly Circle all contribute financial support and provide input to the collective efforts of the Board.

It takes about 1,000 plants to fill in each hillside! So the foundation is extremely grateful for all the donations they receive. There are about 450 homes that use Fox Chase Boulevard as a main access Road and thoroughfare. They typically receive voluntary, tax-deductible donations from 170-180 residents each year. Most donors live on the streets and cul-de-sacs that directly connect into Fox Chase Boulevard. However, you never know where donations are going to come from. In fall of 2012, all of the Ash trees in the Median were lost, and along some Park District land near the Dunham Gates. A couple from a Northern Chicago Suburb happened to drive through, and then called

the city to anonymously donate a tree to us. That was cool! They didn't even live near here and appreciated what we needed to do to replace all those trees. Heart-warming!

The group sends out annual solicitation letters and tries to email contributors and keep current issues on their website for everyone to have access. The Board meets at least twice a year to discuss budgets, plans and coordinate other activities with neighbors and the City.

They are happy to have neighbors share their thoughts with them and are renewed by the letters they get every year from people who appreciate the transformation on the Median. They hope that they can begin some plant sharing this year. They may be willing to take some divided plants this year and divide some of the existing plants in the years to come to share with neighbors.

The Fox Chase Median Foundation encourages any interest from neighbors who would like to participate on the board of the Foundation. Write the Foundation through the website and offer help for the few hours a year that it takes to plan and organize the annual drive, plan the year's plantings, over see the budget, aid in com-

munications, or update web information. It's really not a very large time commitment. Perhaps 30-40 hours annually. Then each spring, when you see all the green, the flowers and the grasses and it all looks great, you'll feel even better, knowing you were a part of the beauty and tradition of the Fox Chase Boulevard Medians!

Check out foxchaseblvd.org for more information, photos and an opportunity to share your gratitude or offer your assistance.



The St. Charles Park District plants and maintains the flowers at the Dunham Road Entrance.