

# The Greenbrier News

"GNA" - the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association

October 11, 2002

## GREENBRIER ON LINE

We have a web page – thanks to the diligent work of Pete Brecht. Check it out [avenue.org/gna](http://avenue.org/gna) (note you must use lower case letters) and give Pete any suggestions you may have at [PJBrecht@yahoo.com](mailto:PJBrecht@yahoo.com). He would probably appreciate assistant web masters, also, and he has asked for people to send him comments or editorials to post regarding the neighborhood. Thanks for all your work, Pete!

## SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES

We are trying to create a neighborhood e-mail list so that neighborhood news and announcements can be spread around quickly and economically. In addition to sending out safety type alerts (e.g., "car stereo stolen on X street"), we could use an e-mail list to raise and discuss some neighborhood issues from the comfort of our homes, without the hassle of organizing and going to a meeting. So, send your name, street address and e-mail address to: [NedMichie@aol.com](mailto:NedMichie@aol.com).

**Do it now while you're thinking about it!** You can remove your name at any time if you want to go back to being uninformed.

## PARK AND LOCUST STREET BRIDGE CLOSINGS

The latest word on the bridge work is that it will not begin until March or April. Each bridge will be closed completely for four or five months. They will start with the Locust Street bridge, so the work on the Park Street bridge is not likely to begin until the end of next summer.

## GET UP TO \$300 FROM THE CITY

The City wants to pay you \$100 for each old water-guzzling toilet that you replace (up to three). Old toilets, such as those most of our houses have, use 5 to 7 gallons per flush. New toilets use only 1.6 gallons and they work fine. See the October, 2002 *Consumer Reports* magazine for ratings. The city estimates that the replacement will also save you \$50 - \$100 every year in water bills. The savings will really add up, particularly now that the city has started charging a premium for water use. Act now - save yourself money and all of us 3 ½ - 5 ½ gallons per flush.

## COMMITTEES

If you are interested in helping out on one of our committees, contact Ned Michie. The choices currently are: (1) Traffic and Sidewalk - involves considering specific traffic measures we should have in place for the Park Street bridge closing, considering possible future permanent traffic calming measures, and evaluating what sidewalk projects should be funded. (Note that work has started on the sidewalk we previously designated - on Greenbrier Dr. from Tarleton to Kerry Ln.) (2) Communications - writing, editing, and/or formatting this newsletter (the current goal is to put out 4 newsletters per year); helping with the web page and/or e-mail directory; possibly design a neighborhood brochure for real estate offices. (3) Recreation/Leisure and Greenbrier Park - considering ideas to improve the Park, considering organizing and sponsoring recreational activities such as having an Open Gym Night for basketball at the elementary school or a 5-K fun run through the neighborhood. (4) Security - If you check out our website, it provides a link to a city police webpage listing the crimes in each neighborhood. Greenbrier is a low crime neighborhood, but you will nevertheless be surprised and distressed at the numbers reported on the police web page. The function of this committee is to consider actions we can realistically take to make us all safer.

## THE ASSOCIATION'S JUNE MEETING

Elections - at our June meeting, we held elections for our officers, with the following results: Ned Michie - President ([NedMichie@aol.com](mailto:NedMichie@aol.com), 1704 Concord Dr., ph #296-6961); Lise Dobrin - Vice President; Judy Looney - Secretary; Jon Perkins - Treasurer. We then had a discussion about the pros and cons of the Meadow Creek Parkway. One of the main arguments against the parkway was that it is unlikely to meaningfully decrease the traffic on Rio Road (a purpose for which it is being sold to the public); rather, it is simply going to make it easier to have more high-density development in the urban ring – thereby adding car traffic to the city streets. On the pro side, it was pointed out that,

while the road will not solve the traffic problems on Rio Road, the Parkway is nevertheless needed because the urban ring is going to grow with or without the Parkway, and a city of this size needs another main-north/south artery for traffic to flow along. It was noted that the Parkway will also make it easier for people to get downtown. Some people pointed out that, in their view, what was really needed was an eastern connector to connect Rio Road to Route 20 – allowing another way for people to get to the booming Pantops Mountain area. It was further noted that it took only five years for the new “Free Bridge” to start having traffic back-ups just as bad as they were before the bridge was built.

### THE VOTE

After the discussion, a vote was held to find out people’s views on the Parkway. “Undecided” was not an option given. The vote results were: 30 people against (12 strongly against and 18 leaning against) and 20 in favor of (8 strongly and 12 leaning in favor of) the construction of the Parkway.

People, however, unanimously expressed the opinion that, if the Parkway is built, there should be a foot/biking bridge built through the existing tunnel for Meadowcreek, under the railroad tracks and connecting up with the path planned to run on the east side of the Parkway. These votes were reported to all members of City Council and the Board of Supervisors.

### GREENBRIER SCHOOL’S BOX TOPS, LABELS, ETC. PROGRAM

Greenbrier Elementary School like many schools is enrolled in reward programs with local and national merchants. It is important to re-link your grocery card ANNUALLY at each of the stores, in order to designate the school of your choice (hopefully our excellent neighborhood school - Greenbrier Elementary). This may be done via the program’s website or at the store’s customer service desk. Please encourage neighbors and relatives to enroll and support our school. It’s fast, easy & FREE and benefits the schools greatly. In the past, Greenbrier has purchased science equipment; computers, software, PE equipment, etc. with the points & cash accumulated over the school year from these programs. No need to change your shopping habits, but if you already shop at these stores or buy these products, please consider participating in these programs. Greenbrier Elementary also has collection boxes for the Campbell’s labels and the Box Tops for Education located in the school’s lobby, on Greenbrier Dr., and on Kerry Lane.

Below are totals from the 2001-2002 school year and some information to make your enrollment process easy.

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>WEBSITE</u>
Kroger	84,530pts	3720	<a href="http://www.shoppercredit.com/kroger">www.shoppercredit.com/kroger</a>
Giant	\$320.86	02463	<a href="http://www.giantfood.com">www.giantfood.com</a>
Harris Teeter	\$22.91	1015	<a href="http://www.HarrisTeeter.com">www.HarrisTeeter.com</a>
Kmart	\$22.45	Pin Code 89EH	<a href="http://www.KmartSchoolSpirit.com">www.KmartSchoolSpirit.com</a>
Target	\$33.66	103411	<a href="http://www.target.com">www.target.com</a>
Box Tops	\$94.10		<a href="http://www.boxtops4education.com">www.boxtops4education.com</a>
Campbell’s labels	11,714 pts	51363	<a href="http://www.labelsforeductions.com">www.labelsforeductions.com</a>
Food Lion	Newly enrolled		<a href="http://www.foodlion.com">www.foodlion.com</a>

If you have any questions, call our coordinator, Michelle Devine (974-9424) or email her at [mbdevine@planetcomm.net](mailto:mbdevine@planetcomm.net). Thank you for supporting our school.

Greenbrier’s Annual Fun Fair is Friday October 25, 2002 from 5:30-8:00 pm. As the name imply’s - it is great fun for elementary age kids and the proceeds benefit the school through the PTO. So bring some kids and enjoy.

### GREENBRIER GRIPES

I have received several requests to remind people that the beauty and appearance of our neighborhood and homes matters. It affects our aesthetic appreciation as well as the value of all our homes. So please be considerate to your neighbors in all ways, including making sure your house and yard are not an eyesore. Remember, the city will pick up brush and large items for free. All you have to do is call 970-3321. Also, be kind with your leaf blowers and other power tools - remember that all your neighbors a block or more away are hearing them.

### ASSOCIATION DUES

Dues are currently \$10.00 per year (January 1 - December 31). These dues will primarily go to pay for newsletter printing but will also be available for other purposes such as those described above. Please support our efforts to have an active and useful Neighborhood Association by sending in your check (made payable to “GNA”) to our Treasurer - Jon Perkins; 2411 Brook Rd, 22901.