

The Greenbrier News

"GNA" - the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association

Winter 2003 (snow delayed)

Web Pg. avenue.org/gna (send Pete Brecht any editorials or comments you wish to post regarding the neighborhood.)

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SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES

We now have a neighborhood e-mail list so that neighborhood news and announcements can be spread around quickly and economically. We are actually maintaining two lists. One is a list of e-mails of people who want to receive neighborhood announcements but wish to keep their e-mail addresses private; the second list is designed to be more of an electronic community which helps us communicate with each other and foster a better sense of community. So far, the open list is by far the largest list, and I hope that continues to be true. Send your name, street address, and e-mail address to: 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.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION HELP NEEDED

The distribution of the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association newsletter depends on many faithful volunteers who hand carry it to each house in the neighborhood. A very special thank-you to all these wonderful folks!

We can always use more volunteers to distribute the newsletter - many hands, or in this case, feet, make light work! The following areas are in particular need of volunteers:

Brandywine Drive, Bunker Hill area, Yorktown Drive, Keith Valley Road, St. Anne's Road

Grove Road, Melbourne Road, Grover Court, Kenwood Dr., Galloway, Carter Lane, Brandywine Ct.

Please call Linda Seaman (973-8753) or email her (linda_seaman@hotmail.com) to volunteer. We need your help, and it can be a great addition to your fitness plan! So please call now.

GREENBRIER SECURITY ISSUES

I contacted the police to learn whether they would/could notify us about crimes in our neighborhood. I was told that they now have a computer call system which could be used for that purpose. Police Chief Timothy Longo suggested having a meeting to explain the system to us. Since it is too hard to call a quick meeting by written notice (via foot mail), I notified those on our Security Committee and those on the e-mail lists. The result was a well-attended and informative meeting with Chief Longo, the two officers primarily in charge of crime in our neighborhood, and the officer in charge of the call system.

CRIME IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD - We live in a safe neighborhood; nevertheless, crime does happen more than most of us realize. In 2002, our neighborhood had 4 reported burglaries, about 10 larcenies, about 15 incidents of vandalism, 4 assault and batteries, and 1 robbery.

CITY WATCH CALL SYSTEM - This call system, located in the Barracks Road Shopping Center, is currently being used primarily to notify businesses about crimes involving other businesses and to warn of fraud and scam schemes to watch out for. The officer in charge believes the system can be adapted for use by neighborhoods and has now instructed our two primary police officers on how to use it. The system can call everyone in a designated geographical area or from a designated list of telephone numbers. It can make up to 1,200 phone calls per hour and can be accessed remotely by our neighborhood police officers. The call will be a human voice describing the type of crime, the date it occurred, and the general location (e.g. street name, not an address). Rather than have everyone called for every crime, I proposed that our Association provide to the police a list of those interested in receiving such announcements. The list of crimes that will generate a notice is as follows: burglary, larceny, vandalism, a crime involving violence (non-domestic), scams, and other important events (e.g., a missing child). So, if you are interested in being on this list, call or e-mail me (NedMichie@AOL.com, ph 296-6961) with your name, telephone number, and

address. It will be up to you to keep this information up to date. I will also be sending out the information I receive from these police calls via e-mail to those on the lists. So, again - join the e-mail lists now. The police may be adding an e-mail feature to the system in the future.

POLICE CONTACT INFORMATION - For emergencies, call 911. For non-emergencies where time is not of the essence, it is very helpful to the police and the emergency call center if you do not call 911 but instead call 977-9041 – or, better yet, report the incident/crime at the police website, www.Charlottesville.org, and an officer will be assigned to the case and file a report. Below is direct contact information for our police officers:

Ronnie Roberts - traffic (e.g., requesting more speed limit enforcement): Roberts@charlottesville.org, ph # 970-3294,
Catherine Burch - daytime officer for Greenbrier - Burch@Charlottesville.org, cell ph # 989-9035,
Lynn Childers - evening officer for Greenbrier - Childers@Charlottesville.org, cell ph # 989-9068.

PARK AND LOCUST STREET BRIDGE CLOSINGS

The latest word on the bridge work is that it will begin the second week of March on the Locust St. bridge. Each bridge will be closed completely for four or five months. Work on the Park Street bridge is not likely to begin until mid- or late summer. We anticipate increased traffic cutting through from Rio Road to the Bypass at Meadowbrook or to Hydraulic at Brandywine, although the cut-throughs should not be as severe as when Rio closed a couple years ago.

ASSOCIATION MEETING

The next meeting for the full Association will be **7:30 pm - Wednesday, April 2, 2003** at the Greenbrier School Auditorium. At the meeting, we will discuss possible temporary traffic calming measures to use during the Park St. bridge closing, including a stop sign on Greenbrier at the intersection with Banbury and increased law enforcement. We will also discuss how the association should allocate this year's \$30,000 from the city (assuming we get it). Most of the last two years' worth of city money we put toward the sidewalk on Greenbrier between Tarleton and Kerry Lane, which is now under construction.

The Traffic and Sidewalk Committee has met and suggested that we give priority, as far as sidewalk work is concerned, to completing sidewalks around CHS – specifically, filling in the stretch on Kenwood from Melbourne to Concord; then the short length on Concord over to Kenwood; and then the block on Kenwood between Concord and Yorktown. This priority ranking is up for further discussion, but the bigger question perhaps is what part, if any, of our allocation we should spend on sidewalks at all. We could spend the money on other projects, such as paving the path to the creek from the entrance at Greenbrier and Kerry down to the bridge and putting in some steps and/or a guardrail at the steep part; working with the Meadow Creek Trails Foundation to build a circuit nature trail around the large unused south side of the Meadow Creek park area, with wood tread over the wet spots; building a raised crossing at Greenbrier and Kerry to make that crossing safer and also to further “calm” traffic on Greenbrier; building a bridge under the railroad trestle to connect with trails on the other side; or putting in other crosswalks or traffic calming measures.

So, mark your calendar and plan to come give us your input. We hope to have present at the meeting a member of City Council as well as our representative from the Neighborhood Development Office, to discuss funding and any other issues of interest.

FOUR-WAY STOP SIGNS

Speaking of stop signs ... now that we have a number of four-way stop signs, it is clear that not everyone is clear about the right-of-way rules. Please have all drivers in your household review this refresher below:

1. Stop your vehicle at the sign – yes, you are actually supposed to do this, even at four-way-stop intersections.
2. Yield to any pedestrians crossing the road.
3. If you are the first one to arrive at the sign, you get to go first – no matter which way you are going.
- 3(a) Corollary to rule “3” – If you did not arrive first, you do not get to go first – no matter which way you are going.
4. If you arrive at the same time as other vehicles, signal for any turn you intend to make. The car on the right gets to go first. Note: if there is no car to your right but there is one to the left, then YOU are “the car to the right.”
5. If you arrive at the same time as a car directly across from you, then both cars can go at the same time UNLESS one of you is turning left. In that case, the car turning left must give the right of way to the other vehicle.
(Similarly, a person coming out of the Chevron on Rio Road who is going straight onto Greenbrier has the right of way over the person coming out of Greenbrier and turning left onto Rio Rd.)

GREENBRIER SCHOOL NEWS

March 3rd was the celebration of **Read Across America Day**. Sponsored by the National Education Association, this day is set aside to focus attention on how important reading is to young people. The day is celebrated on or near Dr. Seuss's birthday (March 2). Greenbrier students celebrated with a breakfast of "Green Eggs and Ham" and by reading their poetry and/or short stories to classmates and guests. Also, parents and special visitors were invited to help with the celebration.

Look for Greenbrier parents selling pizza kits at the end of March. The Joe Corbi pizza kits are very popular and very tasty. This annual sale is Greenbrier's main fund raiser. If you are not a pizza eater, you may chose to make a donation instead of a purchase. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for students attending Greenbrier will be on Thursday, May 1 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Information will be in the local paper or you may call the school to be on the Kindergarten Registration mailing list. Mark your calendar and plan to attend with your child.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL COMES TO THE GREENBRIER AREA

The Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation (ACCT), a local community-based organization, is proud to announce that it is piloting a Safe Routes to School program at the Greenbrier Elementary School. ACCT's Safe Routes to School program was recently awarded funding by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and focuses on the safety of streets from a child's perspective. Its objective is to integrate health, fitness, traffic relief, environmental awareness, and safety under one program. Such a program reaches beyond creating safe routes to school by putting the bricks and mortar in place to shape a better community for all.

ACCT is working closely with Greenbrier School to promote pedestrian and bicycle safety for all students, working with students and parents to determine the safest routes to walk and bicycle to school and suggesting safety improvements to those routes. The program teaches children traffic safety, looks at ways to reduce traffic congestion around the school, and develops fun ways to encourage more children to walk and bicycle safely to school. Programs such as Walking Wednesday and Walking School Bus – a community-based walking program that connects parents and neighbors together to provide supervised walking groups to and from school one day a week – will be introduced. ACCT will continue to keep the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association informed of program developments, and interested members are encouraged to be involved in the Safe Routes to School program.

For more information on the Greenbrier Safe Routes to School program, or to help make our neighborhood safer for walking and biking, please contact Tobin Scipione at 295-6554 or info@transportationchoice.org. For more information on ACCT, please visit their website at: www.transportationchoice.org.

GREENBRIER SCHOOL GYM ACCESS

Our neighborhood association now has access to the school's gym at no cost. The gym is currently available on Saturdays and potentially also on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. I will be hosting a competitive basketball game for adults (21 years and older) on Saturday mornings from 9:30 am to about 12:30pm until the weather warms up enough to play outside, and thereafter on rainy mornings. If there is enough interest for other times and/or other age groups (with a responsible adult to supervise), we can arrange it. Call or e-mail me if you are interested.

GET UP TO \$100 FROM THE CITY

Not only will the City pay you \$100 for each old water-guzzling toilet that you replace (up to three), it will also pay you up to \$100 to replace your old style thermostat with a digital one that can be programmed. These digital thermostats cost between \$45 and \$125 and will save you money by automatically adjusting your temperature settings at pre-programmed times (the setting can also be overridden on unusual days). Make sure you get the right one for your system (e.g., just heat, or heat and central air conditioning). These thermostats are easy to use and can be programmed to make it already warm in your house when you first get up. Call the utilities office for more info – 970-3211.

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 possible future 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

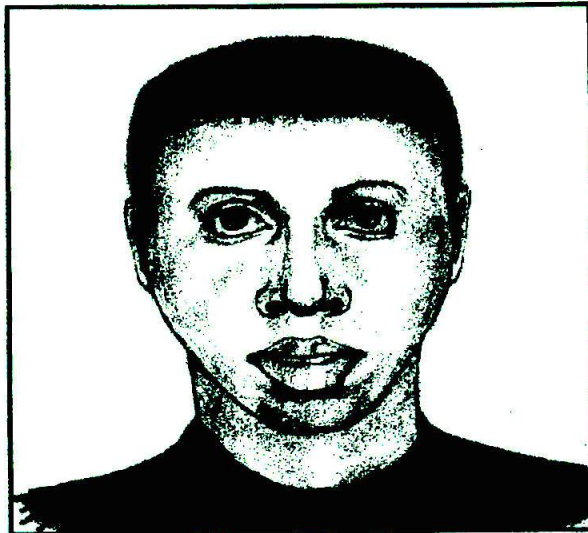
to put out 4 newsletters per year); helping with the web page and/or e-mail directory; possibly design a neighborhood brochure for real estate offices. (3) Recreation/Leisure and Greenbrier Park - considering ideas to improve the Park, considering organizing and sponsoring recreational activities such as an Open Gym Night for basketball at the elementary school or a 5-K fun run through the neighborhood. (4) Security - The function of this committee is to consider actions we can realistically take to make us all safer.

GREENBRIER GRIPES (If you have a gripe let me know NedMichie@AOL.com or 296-6961)

Cigarette Butts – During our adopt-a-street clean-up, we found 351 cigarette butts on a one-mile stretch of Kenwood Lane. Those of you who smoke, please be considerate and use your car's ashtray so that the burden of seeing and cleaning up this trash is where it belongs. Of course, it's not just inconsiderate; throwing trash out of your car window is also illegal (i.e., it's littering). Please pass this reminder on to anyone in your household who smokes. By the way, anyone interested in adopting a street can call the folks in charge at 970-3362.

Meadow Creek Parkway – A couple people have raised a concern about the noise the proposed Parkway will create for our neighborhood, particularly in the Tarleton and Banbury Road area. They suggest that the road should have a sound barrier, either natural (trees) or man-made (like you see in Northern VA). If this or any other issue about the Parkway concerns you, be aware that there will be a **public design hearing on Meadowcreek Parkway on March 20th from 5-7pm in the Albemarle County Office Building**. For more info, call 540-829-7519.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT – Below is a composite of the man suspected of being a Serial Rapist in the area. Until he is caught it is recommended that you keep your doors locked at all times, even when you are home (at least if you are home alone). In his prior attacks, it seems he must have been watching his potential victim before acting. If you see anyone matching his description, on foot or in a car, please notify the police.



DESCRIPTION

Race: Black
Sex: Male
Age: Mid 20's
Height: 5' 8"
Weight: Approximately 170 pounds
Clothing: Long-sleeved, black t-shirt with white lettering on the back and baggy, khaki pants

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.