

# The Greenbrier News

**"GNA" - the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association**

**October 2004**

**Web Pg.** [avenue.org/gna](http://avenue.org/gna) (send Pete Brecht editorials or comments you wish to post regarding the neighborhood.)

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**GENERAL FALL MEETING — OCTOBER 26, 2004 at Greenbrier School Auditorium at 6:30 pm.** After extensive research, study, polling and discussion, the Executive Committee decided last spring that we would plan to have two general meetings a year – one in the Fall and one in the Spring. We had not settled on a topic for our fall meeting when the City Neighborhood folks wrote to inform us that they need us to have a general neighborhood-wide meeting to talk about the possibility of implementing traffic calming measures on Grove Rd. You may recall that, at the two city-held meetings last year (one in April and the other in May) for neighborhoods to decide how to spend their three-year \$60,000 allocation, the top three priority projects that we listed (based on the wishes of the people who showed up) were: a sidewalk segment on Kenwood from Melbourne to the existing bit of sidewalk around the intersection with Concord Dr.; Traffic Calming on Grove Rd.; and a sidewalk on Meadowbrook Heights from Grove to Kenwood (this one would be for consideration for funding from the city's big project list and would not come out of our \$60,000 allotment).

The city wants a neighborhood-wide meeting to determine the general level of support for traffic calming on Grove and to consider the various possibilities. So, that is going to be at the heart of our October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, but we also wanted to have a topic of more general interest, so we are going to try to have a City Councilor or two come to the second half of the meeting to talk to us about other issues and/or take questions from the audience. So please try to come to the meeting, which, again, will be on **Tuesday, OCTOBER 26, 2004 at Greenbrier School Auditorium at 6:30 pm.**

**HILLSDALE DR. EXTENSION** Speaking of meetings – there will be a public meeting concerning the proposed Hillsdale Dr. Extension on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center (1180 Pepsi Pl.). The doors open at 5:30 for a “pre-hearing” which I think is a chance to look over the plans for the possible alternatives. Then the hearing officially begins at 7:00 pm. I think the idea to extend Hillsdale from its current end at Pepsi Place to Hydraulic road is a good one for our neighborhood in that it hopefully would give county folks a better option to 29 than cutting through our neighborhood, which seems more and more common now. But I would not want them to adopt the alternative that puts the road next to the creek (which would be bad for our Brandywine residents and for those who like to use the trail next to the creek).

**LOOP TRAIL ON SOUTHERN SIDE OF MEADOW CREEK IN GREENBRIER PARK** Speaking of trails (boy, these segues are working out better than I thought), the city seems quite open to the idea of the construction of a loop nature trail on the South side of Meadow Creek in Greenbrier Park. (That's the side that currently has no trails but is a surprisingly wide swath of land.) We have also established that the Rivanna Trails Foundation is happy to be a partner with our neighborhood in constructing a trail. The plan is to map out the trail this winter when the vegetation has died and then hopefully begin building it in the spring or summer – assuming we can get the materials either through donations or with some funding from the neighborhood, RTF or the possibly the City (I think this source is unlikely). So what we are looking for is some people from the neighborhood to help with the planning and organizing of this project. If you are interested, please contact either me ([NedMichie@aol.com](mailto:NedMichie@aol.com) or 296-6961) or Rick Seaman ([afs@virginia.edu](mailto:afs@virginia.edu) or 973-8753). We may also enlist support from local Boy Scout troops. The game plan is to hold a series of work days where volunteers from the neighborhood, RTF and the Scouts would come out and construct the trail, which we envision as having long sections of raised wood tread over and around the marshy areas.

**GREENBRIER SCHOOL** Speaking of Greenbrier (okay that was a weak transition), our wonderful elementary school always appreciates it if you will link your VIP-type grocery card to benefit the school. It costs you nothing but nets the school hundreds of dollars each year in cash and equipment. You must relink your card every year and it can be done at the customer service counter, or it can be done online with the codes listed below. In addition, collection boxes for Campbell's labels and Box Tops for Education are located in the school's lobby, on Greenbrier Drive, and on Kerry Lane.

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>TOTAL 2003-04</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>WEBSITE</u>
Kroger	65,171pts	80371	<a href="http://www.shoppercredit.com/kroger">www.shoppercredit.com/kroger</a>
Giant	\$220	02463	<a href="http://www.giantfood.com">www.giantfood.com</a>
Harris Teeter	\$37.69	1015	<a href="http://www.HarrisTeeter.com">www.HarrisTeeter.com</a>
Target	\$19.39	103411	<a href="http://www.target.com">www.target.com</a>
Box Tops	\$215.00	385370	<a href="http://www.boxtops4education.com">www.boxtops4education.com</a>
Campbell's labels	1,966 pts	51363	<a href="http://www.labelsforeducations.com">www.labelsforeducations.com</a>
Food Lion	\$16.00		<a href="http://www.foodlion.com">www.foodlion.com</a>

If you have any questions, contact Michelle Devine (974-9424 or [mbdevine@planetcomm.net](mailto:mbdevine@planetcomm.net))

**Greenbrier's Annual Book Fair** will begin on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and will continue through Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The Book Fair will be open late on Thursday and will remain open through noon on Saturday to accommodate parents and other shoppers who cannot visit during the work week. The book fair provides an opportunity to shop for children's books. There also is a section for adult readers. Greenbrier PTO sponsors the book fair to help parents select books as gifts, to provide books for Greenbrier students, and to support the school library. Friends and neighbors are welcome to visit and shop during the book fair hours. For more information about the Book Fair, contact Greenbrier school at 245-2415. Book Fair hours will be as follows:

- Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – 8 a.m. until 7p.m.
- Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> – 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – 9 a.m. until noon
- Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> – 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – 8 a.m. until noon

**GREENBRIER SCHOOL GYM** Our Neighborhood Association still has access to the school's gym for neighborhood activities (depending on availability), and I am still hosting a competitive basketball game for adults (25 yrs and older) on Saturday mornings from 9:30 am to about 12:00 pm. We use the gym when its raining or when the temperature is unfriendly (i.e., less than about 55 degrees); otherwise, we are outside. If there is enough interest for other times and/or other age groups (with a responsible adult to supervise), we can probably arrange it. Call or write me.

**MEADOW CREEK PARKWAY UPDATE** I was at a meeting recently which had a Meadow Creek Parkway presentation by VDOT types, and it appears the County is still planning to move forward with its section of the Parkway (Rio next to the CATEC ending at Melbourne Rd) even though the City section (Melbourne to Rt. 250) remains up in the air. It has now been decided that the intersection at Melbourne will be a regular traffic light and not a traffic circle or an over/under pass. The plan is to start purchasing right-of-way in the winter of 2006 and break ground in Fall 2008. So there you have it.

**SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES** Our neighborhood e-mail list is continuing to grow (over 150 names). It is, of course, free, and it allows neighborhood news and announcements to 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 just neighborhood announcements from the Executive Committee; the second list is designed to be more of an electronic community which helps us communicate with each other and fosters a better sense of community. We have set up a members-only Monticello/Ave Group which will mean you just have to type in one e-mail address to send an e-mail to the whole

group. So far, the open list is by far the largest list, and I hope that continues to be true. I am the “manager” of the GNA Group, 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!**

The Executive Committee has adopted a use policy which was published in full with the last news letter. It is also sent to new list members. Since the last newsletter, we have made one change to the policy. Previously, we had prohibited using the list to recruit members to a group or organization. The newly amended rule now states as follows:

You may use the e-mail list to form neighborhood clubs or groups such as: book club, bridge club, craft groups (knitting, embroidery, etc.) running/jogging/walking groups. Really, any kind of group that involves neighborhood folks getting together is okay. Do not recruit people for your non-neighborhood groups and clubs (e.g., Buffalo Lodge #2500). However, non-neighborhood groups like SOCA, Boy Scout/Girl Scout/Cub Scouts can use the list to form a neighborhood unit (e.g., team, pack, den, gaggle, herd . . .). Don’t notify us of your regular meetings but you may send out a recruitment notice 2 or 3 times a year. Neighborhood groups can also “advertise” on the web page and in the newsletter for free, space permitting.

The other permitted topics under the current policy are:

1. You can **ask for recommendations for services** (e.g., handymen, lawn care, accountants, foot doctors . . .). One may also ask if anyone has had experience with a given service provider that one is considering hiring.
2. You can notify all of us of **Lost and Found** pets or items of significance, but please make sure he/she/it is really lost before e-mailing. (We have been credited with finding two cats already)
3. Please notify us of **Crimes in the neighborhood**. Just give the basic description of the crime and the name of your street or some other general geographic descriptor - e.g., “near CHS.” I also hope to be sending out a monthly report on crimes in our neighborhood, collected and provided by the police department.
4. We can **discuss neighborhood issues**. These discussions should be initiated by the Executive Branch of the Association, but feel free to send us your thoughts for consideration. The Executive Branch may also decide to send notices of governmental/civic type meetings of particular interest, and we will happily consider requests people send us regarding particular meetings which may fit in this category.
5. The Executive Committee will also send out **notices of neighborhood news**, including upcoming events or meetings of possible interest. Again, everyone should feel free to ask us to consider sending out notices of any events/meetings you hear about that could be of interest to our neighborhood.

There is also a list of Prohibitions for the e-mail list which you will get when you sign up.

**WEB PAGE/NEWSLETTER OFFERINGS** – All Web listing are **FREE** but only available to neighborhood residents. To add a listing, contact our web master, Pete Brecht - [PJBrecht@yahoo.com](mailto:PJBrecht@yahoo.com).

**So, remember to check our web site when you are in need of services or interested in any of these other items.**

**Advertising Personal Services.** Our Web host, Monticello Avenue.org, has notified us that we **cannot** use the web page for any profit-seeking purpose such as listing neighborhood people offering personal services for or in our homes (e.g., lawn care, pet care, baby sitting). These listings can, however, be placed in our **newsletter** (space permitting) for free to kids under 18 and living at home in our neighborhood, and for \$5.00 per word (excluding name, phone #, and e-mail) for adults looking to make a few bucks.

**Lost & Found** – listing for pets and items on the web page and as space permits in the newsletter.

**Puppies, kittens** and other pets for free can be listed on the web page.

**Neighborhood Clubs** and/or group formation or meeting dates (Scouts, book club, political interest club) can be listed for free on the web page and in the newsletter as space permits.

**Other advertising** – will be considered by the Executive Committee for placement in the newsletter but not on the web page.

**Commentary/Editorials** – from neighborhood residents regarding neighborhood issues – send your idea or editorial to the Executive Committee for consideration for inclusion on the web page and/or in the newsletter.

**Help Wanted** – The Executive Committee will consider listing Help Wanted messages in the newsletter, space permitting.

**COMMITTEES** We still need some more people for a welcoming committee to greet people moving into our neighborhood. Please consider helping out with this committee. Contact me if you are interested. Our other committees are: (1) Traffic and Sidewalk; (2) Communications – writing, editing, and/or formatting this newsletter (the current goal is to put out 3- 4 newsletters per year) or helping with the web page and/or e-mail directory; (3) Recreation/Leisure and Greenbrier Park – considering ideas to improve the Park and our enjoyment of it; (4) Security – The function of this committee is to consider actions we can realistically take to make us all safer.

**ADOPT A PLOT** Still calling all gardeners: Use your talents and energy to help beautify our neighborhood and possibly even calm traffic. If we pick a plot of land on City property for a flower bed, the City will provide all bulbs, plants, and bed design help. Possible flower bed plots include an area on the hill at the intersection of Meadowbrook Heights and the 250 Bypass, or the spot of land on the neighborhood side of the CHS entrance on Melbourne. The City will also provide new annual bulbs and mulch yearly and provide pest control. “Your mission, if you choose to accept it” would be to provide the labor for installation and maintaining the garden: i.e., weeding and watering as necessary. We could also use some of our neighborhood allotment to put up a welcome sign like the Rose Hill neighborhood did on Rose Hill Drive. Those interested should contact me (NedMichie@aol.com).

**GREENBRIER GRIPES** (Have a gripe? Let me know: NedMichie@aol.com; 1704 Concord Dr.; 296-6961) A gripe I’ve heard from a few of our residents is that a significant number of people are essentially ignoring our stop signs, particularly the one on Greenbrier at Tarleton and the ones on Brandywine at the creek and at King Mountain). Hopefully, it is just the cut-throughs, but if it’s you – please knock it off. It’s annoying and dangerous and may lead to the last thing you want (i.e., more traffic calming). The same goes for you speeders out there. For your own self interest’s sake, be aware that our new daytime officer tells me he tries to station himself in our neighborhood at least once a day for some time period. For those who want try to get more enforcement in a particular area, his e-mail is Thorton@Charlottesville.org and the officer in charge of all city traffic enforcement is Roberts@Charlottesville.org .

I have also been asked to remind people to keep sidewalks bordering your property clear of overhanging limbs and other debris. In the coming months, please remember also that the city code requires shoveling the snow on the sidewalks after a snow.

#### **DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Dues are **\$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.