

# The Greenbrier News

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

**May, 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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**NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC** We are having our first annual Neighborhood Potluck Picnic on **Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 to 7:30 PM at Greenbrier School** under the overhang. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!** The picnic is for all ages and we plan to have activities available to kids and adults (e.g., volleyball, softball, water balloon games). We also hope to have an real antique fire truck on hand for the kids to see and sit in. The school will be providing some tables and chairs, and anyone wanting to use the traditional picnic blanket should bring it. The neighborhood association will be providing soft drinks, bottled water, paper plates, utensils, and napkins. Everybody who comes should bring a main dish. In addition, those with last names beginning with A - L should bring a side dish or salad and those with last names beginning with M - Z should bring a dessert (in addition to a main dish). As far as quantities – bring enough to feed a few more than just you or your family/group. In the potluck tradition, all dishes will be shared. Please remember to bring enough serving spoons for your dishes.

**NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE** We are going to try having our first annual neighborhood yard sale (could be biannual if people like the idea) on **Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm**. So, everybody who wants to get money for your junk should save up stuff and put it out that morning. Neighbors can and indeed are encouraged to combine stuff in one yard to create a larger selection with which to lure in shoppers. The Association will advertise this neighborhood-wide sale in the local newspapers and with some signs.

**\$60,000 TO SPEND FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD** The City has changed the way it is handling the neighborhood CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) allotments. The City had been meeting with each neighborhood one time each year to allocate \$30,000 for neighborhood projects of our choosing (though every third year the City has started keeping all the money and using it on big CIP projects of its choosing). Under the new plan, the City is going to meet with neighborhoods only every third year, to divvy up all \$60,000 of the neighborhood's three-year allotment. **The decision of how we should spend our \$60,000 three-year budget will be made by those Greenbrier residents who show up at a City sponsored meeting on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Walker School Cafeteria.** No proxy voting. There will be other neighborhoods there at the same time, but we will split into groups by neighborhood to make our decisions. There was already one meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> – at which time those present decided which projects to list for consideration at the upcoming May meeting. We did not have time to send out a newsletter about that meeting, but we did send out notice via the e-mail list. The idea is that once the projects are selected, they will be completed within the three years. As I recall, the projects listed at the meeting were as follows:

## **SIDEWALKS**

Kenwood Lane: Melbourne to Concord

Kenwood Lane: Concord to Yorktown Rd

Concord Drive: Foxbrook Circle to Kenwood Lane

Meadowbrook Hgts: Grove to Kenwood and maybe through the skinny part leading into the 4 way stop

## **OTHER WALKING/BIKING PATHS**

- Paving the path into Greenbrier Park leading from Greenbrier Dr. at Kerry Ln down to the bridge over creek (the path is already paved from Jamestown Rd. to the bridge), and possibly a railing at the steepest part.

- Creating a circuit nature trail in conjunction with the Rivanna Trails Foundation on the large unused part of the Park on the south side of the creek, with wood tread and bridges over wet areas (with the labor being supplied by volunteers from our neighborhood and RTF). We are in preliminary and encouraging talks with the City and RTF about this project.

## **NORMAL WHITE-LINE CROSSWALKS**

Yorktown and Grove (crossing both Yorktown and Grove)  
Dairy Road - the missing link at the intersection with Meadowbrook Heights.  
Dairy Road, crossing to St. Anne's

## **FAKE BRICK CROSSWALK**

Crossing the entrance ramp to the 250 Bypass (leading from the sidewalk over to Walker school near the mailbox) - This is a dangerous spot for our neighborhood kids going to Walker.

## **TRAFFIC CALMING**

Grove Road  
Meadowbrook Heights  
Greenbrier Drive  
- Perhaps a raised crosswalk at Kerry Lane

## **OTHER PROJECT IDEAS**

Welcome sign(s) at entrances to neighborhood  
Security phone near CHS track

The City is supposed to present us some cost estimates at the meeting, but I think we will see that just one of the sidewalk projects will probably cost more than \$60,000. So, my thought is that we should allocate money toward some smaller projects that can be fully funded and completed within the three years and then put the remainder to be saved up toward one of the priority sidewalks. Right now I'm thinking my personal choice will be to (1) pave the path down to the creek from Greenbrier Dr. with the railing; (2) do probably all the crosswalks; (3) put, say, \$500 - 1,000 toward construction of the circuit nature trail; (4) put several thousand toward traffic calming on Grove (depending on the cost estimates); (5) put the rest toward a sidewalk - either the section of Concord starting at Melbourne or start the long process of saving up toward the sidewalk on Meadowbrook Heights. I am actually hoping that if the Meadowbrook Heights sidewalk is real expensive, we can get the City to put it on their big project list for the third year's money it is keeping.

**McINTIRE PARK MASTER PLANNING PROJECT** is underway with ideas for trails, a pond, a botanical garden, concession stand/restaurant, and **an entrance off Melbourne**. You can vote on the plan and its funding priorities up until June 1<sup>st</sup>; contact Parks & Rec. Director Mike Svetz: Svetz@charlottesville.org, ph 970-3596.

**SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES** Our neighborhood e-mail list is continuing to grow (over 120 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. SEE THE NEW USE POLICY BELOW. We have just set up a members-only Monticello/Ave Group which will mean an end to having people's e-mail addresses displayed in the header. 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!** You can remove your name at any time if you want to go back to being uninformed.

NOTE TO EXISTING LIST MEMBERS - I sent e-mails in April. If you did not get e-mails in April, then you are not on my list or not on it correctly, so please re-send me your e-mail address, and sorry for the trouble.

The Executive Committee has adopted the following use policy for the open e-mail list. We will, of course, have to see how it goes and may need to make changes to it. We will also be interested to hear any comments you have. ( Note that no rights are vested by this document - the Executive Committee retains the right to amend it at our whim - so there)

## **GENERAL RULES FOR THE "OPEN" E-MAIL LIST**

1. The e-mail list is only available to Greenbrier neighborhood residents. Others (e.g., former or soon-to-be residents) may be granted permission to join by the Executive Committee. To join the list, send your name, street, and e-mail address to [NedMichie@aol.com](mailto:NedMichie@aol.com).
2. You must state the subject of your e-mail clearly in the subject heading - this is critical so that people can decide whether or not it is a topic they want to take the time to read more about by opening your e-mail.

3. Keep in mind that the e-mail group is large and diverse (currently 120+ addresses), so just use your judgment when sending out an e-mail that is not in one of the categories below. You can also send questionable e-mails to me, and I will let the Executive Committee decide.
4. All responses should be directed just to the one requesting the information – **NOT to the whole list** (I think this will happen automatically under our Monticello/Ave Group Listing). Those who are also interested in the requested information can ask the requestor for a copy of the answers received. The exception to this rule is if an issue was opened up to neighborhood discussion by the Executive Committee.

### PERMITTED TOPICS

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.
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.

### PROHIBITED USES OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD E-MAIL LIST

1. Do not e-mail us about kittens/puppies/other pets for sale or for free; but a web listing is available and free.
2. Do not tell us about yard sales or specific items for sale (**exception:** you can tell us about significant usable items you want to give away for free - e.g., a couch, working appliances, or electronic gadgets or components). We will consider listing items for sale on the Web page if Monticello/Ave will let us.
3. Do not send us offers of personal services for or in our homes (e.g., lawn care, pet care, baby sitting . . .) But these offering from neighborhood folks can be posted on our web page at no charge. These offerings can also 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.
4. Do not send offers of professional services (accounting, contracting, doctoring, lawyering, etc.). The current decision of the Executive Committee is not to allow these to be listed anywhere else, either.
5. Do not notify us of a Neighborhood Club or Group formation or meetings (Scouts, book club, political interest club) – but these items can be placed on the web page and in the newsletter for free, space permitting.
6. No other advertising of any sort. Oh yea, and no political messages/endorsements (though I can foresee that sometimes a given neighborhood issue may have political overtones).

### THE “PRIVATE” NEIGHBORHOOD E-MAIL LIST - WILL BE USED ONLY FOR E-MAILS EMANATING FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**WEB PAGE/NEWSLETTER** – 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.** There will be a category listing neighborhood people offering personal services for or in our homes (e.g., lawn care, pet care, baby sitting). These can be posted on our web

page at no charge. These offerings can also 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 sale or 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 posting on the web page Help Wanted messages, and we may also consider them for inclusion 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.

**GREENBRIER GRIPES** (Have a gripe? Let me know: NedMichie@aol.com; 1704 Concord Dr.; 296-6961)  
The only gripe I’ve heard this time around is that there is too much speeding on Greenbrier Dr. Slow down, particularly if you don’t want traffic calming. For more radar enforcement contact-Roberts@Charlottesville.org

**NEIGHBORS FOR HIRE** Mary Anne (296-6485); mgcm@earthlink.net): Pet sitting/walking; Gardening.  
Robin (296-6485): House cleaning.

**HELP WANTED IN NEIGHBORHOOD** Scriptor Services, LLC home office on Concord Drive seeks part-time helper for filing, shredding, shelving books and similar office work. Pay would be about \$8.00/hr., negotiable. Estimate no more than five hours/week, scheduled when convenient. For more details contact Jonathan Hine, PhD at hine@scriptorservices.com, ph 960-1344.

**KIDS’ NEWSLETTER?** – I’m considering launching a kids’ page for the Newsletter or a separate Newsletter, written by neighborhood kids for neighborhood kids. Let me know what you think, and if you have a kid who is interested in contributing to, writing for, or receiving a kids’ Newsletter/page.

### **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.