

Greenbrier News

The Newsletter for the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association

Winter 2006

Website (new!): gnaweb.org

This issue of the Greenbrier News is dedicated to the memory of Jon Perkins, GNA Treasurer, who passed away September 13, 2005 after a lengthy illness.

New Webmaster and Website

The GNA has a new webmaster and website! Welcome to Matt Jenks, who has taken over the job of organizing the neighborhood's website and the information that goes on it. Matt's first task has been to create a new website at www.gnaweb.org. He'll be posting the newsletters, as well as other news of interest to all of us.

Speaking of news that is important to all of us, join the GNA email news group and receive occasional email updates about what's going on in the neighborhood. Membership is free and does not result in spam. The use of the list is governed by our policy, which has previously been printed in the newsletter. To join, go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GNA_mail or email Ned Michie.

Crime Log

There has been a wave of petty crime in the Greenbrier neighborhood this fall. During the last weekend of September, a number of items were stolen from unlocked cars on Glenn Court and Brandywine Drive. In one case, the owners' car was parked right up next to their house, which is on the top of a hill and has a long driveway.

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Glenn Court was hit again. Again, the thief was right up next to the house, underneath the owners' screened porch. The thief stripped a bike (which was locked to the house) of some of its components and scattered other inexpensive items on the ground. When contacted, the police surmised that, based on the low-yield nature of the crime, the fact that the bike was not visible from the street, and that school was out for the holiday that the thief was very likely a teenage resident of the neighborhood who knew the bike would be there and who would not look suspicious being spotted in the area.

Residents on Greenbrier Drive, near the school, have also been the victims of high audacity/low yield crimes in recent weeks. Unlocked cars have been entered and items removed.

Neighbors, remember to lock your cars! Try not to leave anything of value in your car. And, parents, if you notice that

your teenagers have some new "toys" of an unknown origin, please ask where they got them.

Finally, graffiti is becoming a problem down at the park. There has been spray painting in the tunnel, some of it obscene, as well as spray paint on some trees.

If you have any information about the crimes mentioned above or other crimes in our neighborhood, please email Ned Michie or send out the information using the GNA email news group:

Snow Season is Here

Since we've had some snow already, now is a good time to remind everyone to keep your sidewalks clear of snow and ice throughout the winter. This is a city ordinance that makes it safer for everyone, including children on their way to and from school, runners and walkers, and anyone else out and about.

Rivanna Trail Update

According to Rick Seaman, President of the Rivanna Trails Foundation, the City Parks Department has enthusiastically approved the Foundation's plan to develop a handicap-accessible pathway on the south side of Meadow Creek (the side closest to Jamestown). The boardwalk will start near the bridge and will be sensitively designed so as to disturb the marsh area as little as possible. Hopefully, many Greenbrier residents will pitch in and help when construction begins. The GNA will also consider providing some funding for the project. For more information about the Rivanna Trails Foundation, go to www.rivannatrails.org.

Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child entering Kindergarten in the fall, registration is Thursday, May 4 from 3:30-6:30 at the school. For more information, call Greenbrier E.S. at 245-2415.

***** GNA DUES ARE DUE NOW *****

Dues are \$10/year (1/1/06 – 12/31/06). PLEASE support our efforts to have an active and useful neighborhood association. Make your check payable to GNA and send it to Lise Dobrin, GNA Vice President, 2101 Tarleton Drive.

Neighborhood Funds Update

As you may recall, in the spring of 2004, the city held meetings for each neighborhood to decide how to spend its three-year \$60,000 capital improvement money. Those in our neighborhood who attended the meeting voted for traffic calming on Grove Road and a new section of sidewalk on a dangerous spot on Kenwood. After working with interested Grove Road residents on designs for possible traffic calming measures, the city polled the residents and found that there was not enough support to implement the traffic calming measures at that time. Consequently, the CIP money will be used for a new section of sidewalk on Kenwood, which will allow CHS students and residents to safely travel along Kenwood from Melbourne, over the hill, and almost connecting to the existing sidewalk along Kenwood. For more information on neighborhood improvements, go to the City's website at www.charlottesville.org.

Scouting News

Two new Girl Scout troops have formed at Greenbrier Elementary School: A Daisy (kindergarten) troop and a first-grade Brownie troop. The kindergarten troop performed its first community service project in November, when the girls planted daffodil bulbs around the star-o-meter in front of the entrance to the school. The first grade Brownie troop contributed their efforts to the area's needy by filling Christmas stockings for the Salvation Army. And, the second grade Brownie troop sang Christmas carols for the residents at Heritage Hall.

There are active Cub Scout dens in Grades 1-4 at Greenbrier, and we'd love to hear from them. To submit your information, please email the newsletter editor at the email address at the end of this newsletter.

Basketball at Greenbrier School

Ned Michie will once again be hosting a weekly basketball game during cold and inclement weather at Greenbrier School's gym at 9:30 on Saturday mornings. These will be competitive but friendly games for those folks 30 and older. Just show up when you can. If there is enough interest for other times and/or other age groups (with a responsible adult

to supervise children and teens), we can probably arrange it. Contact Ned Michie at the email or phone number at the end of this newsletter with any questions.

Personal Services

Do you have a personal service (e.g. babysitting, lawn mowing, pet care) to offer our neighborhood? Feel free to contact the newsletter editor with your information. Children under 18 and living at home in our neighborhood receive free listings. The fee for others is \$5/word, excluding your name, phone number, and email.

Greenbrier Gripes

Some thoughts our neighbors have had lately:

Cat owners, please keep your pets inside. Roaming cats pose a risk to birds, as well as spread disease by using other people's yards as litter boxes.

Drivers: Please be aware of the speed limit as you go through the neighborhood. Many children ride bikes and scooters and should be able to play safely without fear of being hit by a car. (Related to this, parents, please watch your children when they play outside, as they are not always visible to drivers.)

Please park your cars in front of your own yard and house. If you have company over and need more space, then we more than understand. On a daily basis, however, you should park in front of your own property.

Got a gripe? Email the newsletter editor and let everyone know what's on your mind. Comments might be edited for clarity and/or space reasons.

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