

WHAT'S GOING ON IN....

Greenbrier

The newsletter for the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association

Fall 2007

Website: gnaweb.org

COUNCIL CANDIDATES' FORUM

The next association meeting will be **October 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenbrier Elementary auditorium.**

Three Democratic and two Independent candidates for City Council will attend to discuss issues important to our neighborhood—and to answer all of your questions. (Note: Mr. Huja, a Democratic candidate, and Ms. Haskins, an Independent, both live in our neighborhood. For more information about all of the candidates, go to www.action.cvilletomorrow.org and click on "Election Watch" under "Resources.") If you can't make it but have questions, email them to Ned Michie at NedMichie@aol.com.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Good news: The city has approved two capital projects for us over the next three years...

- 1) Putting a new sidewalk in at the "pinch point" where Meadowbrook Heights meets Kenwood.
- 2) Installing a handrail and paving the entrance into Greenbrier Park from Greenbrier Drive to the bridge (similar to the paved path on the Jamestown side of the bridge).

MEADOW CREEK PROJECTS

Over the next couple of months and years, two major projects will be in the works along our Meadow Creek:

- 1) As part of Virginia's efforts to improve the quality of the James River, the Nature Conservancy will be launching an initiative to return Meadow Creek to a more natural state. This reclamation project will focus on the creek between Hydraulic Road and the railroad tunnel—and perhaps all the way to Park Street.
- 2) The main city sewer, which travels along Meadow Creek from behind Bodo's all the way through the railroad tunnel to the Rivanna River, is

going to be replaced in the next two years. The Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) indicates that bids for the design work will be solicited in the next couple of months, and then the design phase will take about eight months. During that time you may see markings, flags, etc., along the creek; construction should begin by the end of 2008. RWSA is aware of the Nature Conservancy's restoration project and will work with them to avoid conflicts.

We had hoped that for this project RWSA would replace the pipe through the railroad culvert and encase it in cement, which would create an elevated sidewalk (an easier and safer way to walk through the tunnel). But the current thought is to avoid the culvert altogether and bore through the hill. Our neighborhood association and the Rivanna Trails Foundation, however, will continue to seek an elevated walkway during the confluence of construction going on around the culvert in 2008 (Meadowcreek Parkway construction will be on the east side of the culvert).

GETTING OUT OF THE TRAFFIC JAM

Members of the neighborhood association's executive committee are talking with city officials about slowing the traffic flow through our neighborhood. Various traffic-calming measures, including crosswalks and rumble strips, have been discussed. The issue gets complicated in some areas due to the need for handicap ramps at crosswalks and other considerations.

Unfortunately, pending projects around our neighborhood mean the traffic situation probably will get worse over the next few years. On the northern end, the new Belvedere development has begun; on the southern end, the huge retail complex at the corner of Hydraulic and 29 is imminent. Other smaller projects on Hydraulic and

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the proposed Hillsdale Extension (see “Hillsdale Extension Update” below), which will connect Hydraulic to Rio Road, may affect us too. Hopefully the Hillsdale Extension from the county’s Greenbrier (not our Greenbrier) to Hydraulic will help reduce cut-through traffic, but it seems likely to make Hydraulic even more of a problem.

A key concern arises with respect to the Meadowcreek Parkway. If this project goes through, as looks to be the case, it seems highly probable that the county portion (from Rio Road to Melbourne Road) will be completed before the city portion (from Melbourne to 250). In that case, any traffic taking the partially completed county section will wind up on Melbourne. This could have a substantial impact on the traffic through our neighborhood, at least around the CHS area.

It’s important that we bring these concerns to the attention of the city government. Please contact City Council and city staff to let them know your concerns about this (and any other issue); you can send one message to the whole council via council@charlottesville.org. By being vocal and active, instead of silent and passive, we may be able to minimize the negative impact these projects will have on our neighborhood.

HILLSDALE EXTENSION UPDATE

The City of Charlottesville has completed the location study concerning the Hillsdale Drive Extension Project and is currently in the design phase. The location study determined that this new roadway would connect Hydraulic Road to Greenbrier Drive through the Seminole Square Shopping Center. The Steering Committee is now working with the city to determine specific roadway features: width of sidewalks, landscaping features, feasibility of roundabouts, and locations of signalized intersections. This design plan has been shaped by the members of the Steering Committee (who represent different interest groups), by the 10 conditions developed during the location study, and by public comment.

The Steering Committee has a newsletter and website (www.hillsdaledrive.org) to encourage

participation. A citizens’ information meeting was also held for the general public in May 2007. Additional citizen information events will occur as the project progresses.

YMCA IN THE PARK

The city is currently considering a proposal by the YMCA to put up a new facility on the side of McIntire Park, most likely where two of the picnic shelters are currently located. This project, like most, has pros and cons: If it’s the kind of facility you might want to join, it would be convenient for our neighborhood. It also may save significant city taxpayer money because it’s a joint project with Albemarle County and the YMCA. On the other hand, it will take away some park land, and city councilors are concerned that it won’t be available to a representative cross section of residents. If you have an opinion, let City Council know via email (council@charlottesville.org) or otherwise. You can also attend the upcoming meeting (see “Council Candidates’ Forum” above) to question the new candidates about their views. This proposal will be considered during the next few weeks, with a final decision scheduled for October.

CITY BUSES FOR GREENBRIER?

Our neighborhood was cut from the active bus routes a number of years ago due to lack of riders. Instead, we can get picked up at a bus stop in the neighborhood and dropped off at a transit station. But we are often not picked up on time by the van, which may be scheduled for other stops around the city (thereby making it difficult to predict arrival time). Plus, we have to tell them in advance our return time, which limits flexibility. So the question is: Are we interested in having our neighborhood served on a regular basis by the city bus system? Pros would include environmental friendliness and cost savings. Cons would be potentially noisy buses navigating our streets (but maybe they could find smaller, quieter alternatives). And, of course, it would cost the city more to have a regular line through here.

So let us know what you’d like to see in the way of service—and how you’d use it. Would you

consider riding the bus? If so, how often (times and days), and where are you interested in going? How far would you be willing to go for a bus stop? Please send your thoughts to Ned Michie at NedMichie@aol.com or 296-6961, or via snail mail to 1704 Concord Dr.

NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE YARD SALE

Why not coordinate your yard sale with that of your neighbors? The date is September 22, from 8 a.m. to noon, and rain cancels. The neighborhood association will put an advertisement in the *Daily Progress* and provide signs at the main intersections (Rio and Greenbrier, Rio and Melbourne, 250 and Meadowbrook Heights, and Hydraulic and Brandywine). Within the neighborhood, add signs you need for your own sale; just remember to remove them afterward. For more info, contact Judy Looney at judylooney@earthlink.net.

KEEP ART-IN-PLACE IN PLACE?

Like all Art-In-Place sculptures, our neighborhood's whale tail is set to come down soon...unless the city buys it. If you love the tail and want it to stay (or don't), send your thoughts to City Council (council@charlottesville.org) and Mike Svetz with Parks and Rec (svetz@charlottesville.org).

NEWS FROM GREENBRIER ELEMENTARY

Dr. Faye Giglio has moved from principal of Greenbrier to director of human resources for Charlottesville City Schools. The students, staff, and community thank Dr. Giglio for her leadership over the past ten years. Thanks to her guidance, Greenbrier is regarded as one of the premier elementary schools in the state. Mr. Malcolm Jarrell, who is a longtime employee of the city schools and served most recently as the principal of Venable School, is the interim principal.

Greenbrier continues to attract a diverse student population. Students from the following countries are enrolled for 2007-08: Albania, Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Ghana, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Zambia, and, of course, the United States.

Greenbrier students continue to meet high academic standards. At the end of the 2007 school year, third graders had pass rates exceeding 90 percent in reading, mathematics, science, and history/social science. Fourth graders' pass rate in reading exceeded 90 percent, and the pass rate in math was above 80 percent.

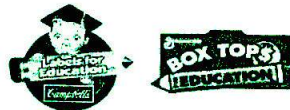
The Greenbrier School PTO (www.greenbrierpto.com) is very active under the leadership of co-presidents Lorie Craddock and Willa Neale. Many parents volunteer to plan and staff events that improve the learning environment.

The school's courtyard provides a natural learning place for students, with plants and a pond stocked with fish. Please come visit to see the great things happening. Or go online to www.ccs.k12.va.us/schools/greenbrier.

HELP THE SCHOOL AS YOU SHOP

You can help Greenbrier Elementary raise hundreds of dollars for the upcoming school year:

- 1) Link your Kroger, Giant, and/or Harris Teeter grocery cards to Greenbrier so that when you shop, a percentage of your grocery total goes to the school (this does not subtract from your personal card savings). A grocery cashier or the customer service desk can link your grocery affinity card for this school year (or you can link online).
- 2) Box tops and UPCs from many products can be remitted for cash or merchandise for the school. Greenbrier collects **(1) General Mills Box Tops for Education** and **(2) Campbell's Labels for Education**. Check the products you buy for the logos below.



Collection boxes are located outside by the front playground gate, off Kerry Avenue, and just outside the school office. For more information, contact Dana Patek at patek@comcast.net or 293-3905.

SIGN UP TO STAY INFORMED

Everybody with an email address should sign up for our neighborhood group email list. It does NOT

cost anything and does NOT result in commercial spam. Joining does result in a valuable exchange of information about our neighborhood. For example, you'll receive the crime report, which lists each verified incident from our neighborhood. The full "Use Policy" for our email group can be found on our website, gnaweb.org, but in summary it allows members to report lost and found pets and items, get recommendations for contractors/service providers, announce the formation of neighborhood clubs/groups, and discuss neighborhood news. We do not allow commercial or political emails, and every email must have a clear description in the title so you can decide if you want to open it. Our long-term plan for disseminating neighborhood info is to eventually replace the printed newsletter with the online group. So join us online. **Sign up at groups.yahoo.com/group/GNA_mail.** (You can remove your name at any time.)

THE STATE OF BASKETBALL

From Ned Michie

I continue to host basketball games for the 35-and-over crowd on Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. In good weather, we play at the outdoor courts at CHS; in inclement weather, we play at Greenbrier Elementary's gym. Our current group of players ranges in age from mid-30s to 50. Skill-level-wise, almost all of us are just longtime pickup ball players—a couple of people actually played on their high school team. The gym could also be available for other purely nonprofit neighborhood use, with a responsible adult willing to be the host. For more information, send an email to NedMichie@aol.com.

PERSONAL SERVICES

Massage Therapy or Feldenkrais Sessions for Improved Comfort—Melanie Lepper (434) 293-3488.

Do you have a service (e.g., babysitting, yard care, pet-sitting) to offer? Put an ad in the next newsletter. Children under 18 living at home in our neighborhood can place an ad for free. For the rest of us, the cost is \$5 per word, not including contact information. Send text to Natalie Russell (nermann@yahoo.com), and your check (made payable to Greenbrier Neighborhood Association) to Lise Dobrin at 2101 Tarleton Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

GREENBRIER GRIPES

Most popular gripe:

"Please slow down and observe stop signs!" Worst spots: Brandywine and Greenbrier, Brandywine and King Mountain; and speeding along Meadowbrook Heights, Greenbrier, and Brandywine.

Other gripes:

- "Please keep your section of sidewalk clear by cutting branches and bushes, and clearing snow. If you live on a corner, keep your limbs/bushes cut back so drivers at the intersections can see."
- "Some dog walkers don't seem to understand that etiquette (and in some cases, city code) dictates they pick up droppings."
- "A dog walker puts his or her dog droppings in my can, which has just been emptied. So we smell it all week in our garage. Take the droppings home."
- "Stacks of debris in front yards seem to wait a long time before they're disposed of."

Got a gripe? Email the newsletter editor (nermann@yahoo.com) and let the neighborhood know what's on your mind. Comments may be edited for clarity and space.

DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dues are \$10 per year (January 1–December 31). They will primarily go to pay for newsletter printing, but will also be available for other purposes, such as small CIP projects and neighborhood picnic supplies. Please support our efforts to have an active, useful neighborhood association by sending your check (made payable to the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association) to our treasurer, Lise Dobrin, at 2101 Tarleton Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901. Note that you are **not** required to pay dues to join the neighborhood group email.

GNA OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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