

WHAT'S GOING ON IN....

Greenbrier

The newsletter for the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association

Spring 2008

www.gnaweb.org

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD...

Would you like to know what's going on in Greenbrier? Want to report a lost pet, get contractor recommendations, or receive a police report on recent incidents in our neighborhood?

Then join our Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) e-mail group. You'll receive the above information, plus notices of meetings and events and an online version of our newsletter.

It's completely free and does not make you subject to more spam. We monitor what's sent out to our list, and we don't permit commercial or political emails. (To check out the full "Use Policy" for our email group go to our website at www.gnaweb.org.)

Signing up is easy at groups.yahoo.com/group/GNA_mail. (You can remove your name at any time.) Note: If you thought you were signed up but didn't receive any group emails in March, you're not on the list—please try again.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

By Ned Michie

It's time for our annual spring meeting—to be held **Wednesday April 16 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Greenbrier School auditorium. It's an important meeting, as we will be discussing the Verizon proposal to put a cell tower on Greenbrier School (see below for more info) and to elect the new GNA officers and executive committee.

I am pleased to announce that this meeting will also be the end of my reign of terror as GNA president. If you wish to nominate someone or yourself for a position, contact me at NedMichie@aol.com. I note with relief, however, that Grant Brownrigg has agreed to run for president and Bruce Gehle for vice-president, both of whom have been on the executive committee for the last year or two. In addition, our current treasurer, Lise Dobrin has offered to re-up for that

position, and our current newsletter editor Natalie Russell is willing to serve as secretary if elected. Many thanks to Andrew Gilmore our outgoing VP, and Judy Looney our outgoing secretary for their valuable help and service over the years.

Looking back, I gain the most satisfaction from the fact that under my administration, no terrorist attacks have taken place in Greenbrier, and peace has generally prevailed. On lesser notes, I am pleased with the implementation and the growth of our e-mail group list that has provided a conduit for passing on useful information and connecting to each other despite our busy lives and the fact that we live in separate houses. And I believe the "monthly" crime reports via e-mail are a good thing and would be even better if they actually were monthly. I also think it is good that we 1) adopted bylaws, 2) have had fairly regular meetings with interesting topics, 3) and had fairly regular printed newsletters (which I still hope we can supplant in the future with just e-mails).

Over these years we also had a couple enjoyable neighborhood picnics, a couple "successful" traffic-calming measures (crosswalks, stop signs), a couple not-so-successful neighborhood yard sales, and an "unsuccessful" try at traffic calming on Grove Rd. Finally, I note that I greatly enjoy walking on our sidewalk additions on Greenbrier and Kenwood and am particularly looking forward to seeing neighbors walk safely on a sidewalk through the "pinch point" on Meadowbrook Heights leading into the intersection at Kenwood. So thank you to all those who have supported us—and thanks particularly to those 12 or so people who actually came to the meetings where my team and I were elected.

VERIZON AT SCHOOL?

Verizon Wireless wants to amend residential zoning so it can put a cell tower on Greenbrier School and in other residential areas, but the GNA

Visit the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association website at www.gnaweb.org!

Executive Committee has several questions and concerns:

- Would the towers present a health hazard short term or long term to children at the schools or nearby neighbors?
- Is there even enough good research on the safety issue to make an informed decision? And if not, does that fact alone dictate a decision?
- Why is Verizon looking at schools, when there presumably are many non-residential areas of the city that could accommodate these towers?
- What are our options, if any, to remove or change the location of a cell tower once it is up?
- What will be the effect on residential property values due to aesthetic and health concerns?

The GNA Executive Committee would like to hear what other GNA members think about this topic at the April 16 general neighborhood meeting (see first page for details). We also hope to hear from a Verizon representative and other experts who would be knowledgeable about potential health issues.

It's important to hear your opinions that night so that we may forward a formal letter reflecting our neighborhood's views to the Planning Commission, City Council, and City School Board after the meeting. If you are unable to attend please forward your comments via e-mail to Andrew Gilmore: lagilmore@embarqmail.com

HOW'S IT COMING ALONG?

As you may recall the City approved our two capital improvement project (CIP) grant requests. Paving the path to Greenbrier Park from Kerry Lane (thereby matching the paved path on the other side of the footbridge over the creek) is on hold until the Meadow Creek Restoration Project and the sewer line replacement project (see below) are finished later this year. The sidewalk through the "pinch point" on Meadowbrook Heights is on the City's to-do list and will hopefully be completed sometime this year.

Larger CIPs: Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) is planning to replace one of the city's main sewer lines that runs along Meadow

creek—from near Bodo's on Emmet St. all the way through Greenbrier Park. RSWA is planning to time their work with the big stream restoration project, and it is all supposed to happen later this year. At the end of this year the County is also planning to break ground on its section of the Meadowcreek Parkway (MP) leading from Rio Road to Melbourne. It is our hope that during this work, the Rivanna Trails Foundation and the City will be able to create a bridge through the railroad tunnel for pedestrians and bikes to connect up with the multiuse trail along the MP, as well as improving the connection to the Rivanna Trail. A concern for us is that the County might finish its section of MP connecting to Melbourne Rd. before the City does, thereby dumping lots of traffic into one of our neighborhood entrance corridors. Stay tuned.

MEADOW CREEK RESTORATION

A major project is coming to the Greenbrier Neighborhood later this year. Meadow Creek flows through the heart of our neighborhood and provides a green corridor that we enjoy as we walk the Rivanna Trail. This fall a major restoration project will begin on Meadow Creek. This intensive \$3.2 million project is funded by the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund.

Meadow Creek restoration will involve restoring 7,000 feet of degraded stream and preserving 11 acres of wetlands, one mile of the Rivanna Trail, and a total of 62.5 acres. To do this, the project will reduce the steep height of the stream banks, add meanders and habitat structures to the stream channel, and plant trees to enhance the forested buffer along the stream.

Right now project design work is underway, and it will be ready for review on May 15, after which a special meeting of the Greenbrier neighborhood will be called so you can learn more about the project, talk with officials and design consultants, and make comments. So please watch for notices of the Meadow Creek Restoration Design meeting.

In the meantime, you can learn more by going to www.Charlottesville.org. Click on

“departments and services,” then “public works,” then “environmental administration,” then “programs and projects.” Scroll down until you find the Meadowcreek Restoration Project.

...AT THE Y-M-C-A...

As you probably know, the City has a long-term lease with the YMCA for a facility in McIntire Park. The City is now in the process of deciding where in the park to put the building and is interested in citizen input. Basically, the options are the area where the picnic shelters are (it would take the space of one shelter) or one of the softball fields. They are not considering the Little League baseball fields at the back of the park. Apparently only 20% of the users of the softball fields are city residents, so Parks and Rec is open to considering other uses for the space (e.g., a rectangular sports field that potentially could be an all-weather artificial turf). In any event, they want to hear your thoughts at one of the two scheduled public meetings: April 12 and May 6—look for announcements for time and location. You can also send your comments to Feedback/RecServices@Charlottesville.org. City Council intends to vote at its May 19 meeting.

A CROSSWALK FOR GREENBRIER

The City has tentatively scheduled crosswalk markings and curb ramps at numerous street intersections along Greenbrier Dr. Hopefully this will make it more pedestrian friendly and may even prompt some drive-through traffic to slow down. Similar crosswalk marking were requested for Brandywine Dr., but unfortunately won't happen because there are no sidewalks to cross from and to. If you would like to see crosswalks on other streets in Greenbrier and have questions about how to do it, contact Andrew Gilmore, GNA VP, at lagilmore@embarqmail.com.

NEWS FROM GREENBRIER SCHOOL

In February 2008 Greenbrier Elementary was recognized by Governor Timothy M. Kaine with the **Governor's Award for Educational Excellence**. This award was presented to 89

schools in the state out of a total of about 1,800 schools.

The Greenbrier community should be very proud: Congratulate the students for their hard work, the teachers for their skills that inspire students to learn, parents for encouraging their children, the community for making education a priority in Charlottesville, and especially Dr. Faye Giglio for her leadership as principal.

In other news, a new principal has been selected for Greenbrier. Effective July 1, 2008, Mr. Jim Kyner will take over. Mr. Kyner has been the assistant principal at Agnor-Hurt Elementary School in Albemarle County since 2005. He was a fourth grade teacher at Greenbrier from 1996 to 2005. Prior to 1996, Mr. Kyner taught in the Louisa County Schools for three years.

Mr. Kyner is excited to be back at Greenbrier and looks forward to having each child work toward reaching his or her full potential. His goal as leader is to empower and equip staff members and families to meet the needs of all students. Mr. Kyner remembers some lines from one of the songs his fourth graders used to sing—“Reading star, you'll go far, just you wait and see.” He believes that Greenbrier students will go far.

Please welcome Mr. Kyner. Mr. Malcolm Jarrell will continue as interim principal until Mr. Kyner begins work.

HILLSDALE DRIVE EXTENSION

Since the May 2007 citizen information meeting, the design team has been moving forward, performing tasks associated with both plan development and continued communications with key stakeholders along the corridor. The design public hearing will be held within a few months. For further information, visit the project website at www.hillsdaledrive.org.

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:

•“Would love for our neighbors on Grove Road and Kenwood to please not let their dogs bark incessantly in their backyards. It has become such a problem that several of us have thought about signing a petition, but hope it doesn't come to that.”

•“We are concerned with the decline in the appearance of some of the property in our neighborhood over the past year. Can we do some spring cleaning so ‘stuff’ is no longer piled up outside the house and visible from the street? It is very unsightly. Please call the City to have piles of branches and other debris removed.”

•“Barking dogs that are left out in the yard have been a problem. At times several dogs in the neighborhood start up an endless chorus of barking that is very annoying.”

•“Advertising in our neighborhood newsletter is way too expensive. I think \$0.10/word is more reasonable, and actually might generate more revenue!”

•“When walking on the sidewalk, I keep having to dodge branches hanging down, ivy covering a third of the sidewalk, bushes with the occasional brier encroaching. If everyone would just take a walk down their own sidewalk and cut back the offending growth, it would be wonderful.”

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.

PERSONAL SERVICES

Do you have a service (e.g., babysitting, yard care, pet-sitting) to offer? If so, you can 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 \$1 per word, with a \$10 minimum. 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.

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.

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