

Announcements

PROGRESS ON THE YMCA

The Brooks Family YMCA will host a community Open House on June 24 and June 25 with a Grand Opening on June 30! You can sign-up now for a Founders Membership, which is an annual membership and includes name recognition in the lobby, invitation to a Founders reception and soft opening 1-week prior to general public. A family membership is \$86/month; an individual membership is \$54/month. Scholarships available. Learn more at www.piedmontymca.org.

We look forward to being neighbors!

HELP CLEAR SNOW FROM SIDEWALKS

In the past, the city has directed those who are physically unable to clear their own sidewalk to the GNA for help. This year, GNA board member Bruce Gehle has offered to help coordinate these requests. If you find you need help shoveling your sidewalk, you can contact him at brucegehle@gmail.com. More importantly, contact Bruce if you (or your kids) are willing to help shovel for your neighbors, so that he can follow up with you if/when there is need.

Greenbrier Gripes.

We have brought back everyone's favorite section—Greenbrier Gripes. Below are edited versions of gripes which individual people in the neighborhood have expressly requested to put in the newsletter with the hope that we will all consider them and try to be even better neighbors to each other.

Motor Vehicles – Speeding and rolling/running stops signs is always the number one gripe in the neighborhood. Yes, you know the roads like the back of your hand – but that doesn't make it enjoyable for the pedestrians and residents you whiz by (and of course your inner feeling of being at a safe speed doesn't make it legal). Yorktown is particularly dangerous, with no sidewalks and blind hills and curves.

Please don't park in blind spots (i.e., over hills; on sharp curves). Also, campers on the street can dangerously block drivers' views in places; please consider storing in your yard if possible.

Sidewalks – Please remember to keep bushes and limbs fully cut back so that they don't encroach on the sidewalk next to your house.

Dogs – Please control barking, particularly early and late. Please remember to pick up after your dog, including on grassy areas where people walk, such as the hill off Grove at CHS down to the trails. One neighbor on Foxbrook has some tender laurel bushes being slowly killed by dog pee; others might have similar concerns about young growth. Please do not throw your dog's poop in neighbors' trash cans.

Cats – Please consider keeping them inside in fledgling season (April - June). Cats who go outside kill a very large number of birds. Please don't feed feral cats; instead, ask animal control to catch them so they can be spayed/neutered and placed in a good home (or perhaps re-released once fixed).

Deer – Please don't encourage them to come into the neighborhood by feeding them.

Political Signs – Please consider giving people a break from them, outside of election seasons.

Yard Care – Several people wrote in about neglected yards. They really do stand out in a bad way. Consider making it your goal to at least not be the "low man/woman" in your vicinity.

Power Equipment – While yard upkeep is important (see above), please remember that your power equipment noise goes way beyond your house. Leaf blowers are particularly harsh. So, be considerate when you use them, to the extent possible, and for leaf blowers: consider whether a little raking exercise might work in a given situation.

Mosquitoes - Remember no standing water (not even small amounts) = no mosquitoes!

Greenbrier Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Spring 2017

www.CvilleGreenbrier.Weebly.com

GNA Spring Meeting & GNA Candidate Forum

Please come out for the GNA Annual Meeting and GNA Candidate Forum! The meeting will take place on **Wednesday, May 24th, at 6:30 pm in the Greenbrier Elementary School Auditorium.**

Highlights will include:

1. Election of Greenbrier Neighborhood Association Officers
2. A brief update on happenings within our neighborhood.
3. A forum for the Democratic *and* Independent City Council Candidates to communicate their reasons for running and how they intend to make Charlottesville a better place.

Association Membership

If you live in the Greenbrier neighborhood, you are already a member of the GNA! You can support the GNA's efforts by sending \$10 annually (checks payable to the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association) to:

Lise Dobrin, Treasurer
2101 Tarleton Drive,
Charlottesville, VA, 22901.

GNA Email List

The GNA email list is a great way to keep up to date on your neighborhood! It is a low-traffic, ad-free, neighborly resource (lost dog, contractor recommendations, crime warnings, etc.). Email NedMichie@aol.com if you would like to be added to the list. (You do not need to pay dues in order to join the email list!)

Join Us on the GNA Board!

Interested in knowing what is going on in Greenbrier? Interested in working to enhance quality of life in our neighborhood? Interested in local government and making Charlottesville an even better place to live? If so, you are a great candidate for the GNA Board!

There are currently several vacancies. The work is fulfilling and the time commitment is relatively low. We are especially interested in volunteers who have ideas or interests that involve Greenbrier Elementary School and can help develop a stronger partnership between the school and the community.

If you are interested in Board service but cannot make the meeting, please email Michael Barnes: michaelbarnes456@yahoo.com.

GNA Executive Committee President: Michael Barnes, michaelbarnes456@yahoo.com – **Vice President: VACANT** – Secretary: Natalie Ermann-Russell, nermann@yahoo.com – Treasurer: Lise Dobrin, dobrin@virginia.edu –

At Large Members: Sheila Haughey, sheila.haughey@comcast.net – Eve Solomon, solomoneve@hotmail.com – Bruce Gehle, brucegehle@gmail.com – Ned Michie, nedmichie@aol.com

Oh Deer! What Can The Matter Be?

What should we do, if anything, about the burgeoning deer population? It has long been a topic of discussion and concern in our neighborhood. Some of you may remember in 2012, when GNA had a representative from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) come speak and discuss how fast deer multiply, and how destructive they can be to plants and property, as well as how they present safety issues for our drivers. However, many of our neighbors also expressed a more tolerant, "live and let live" attitude for the deer, and the GNA was unable to achieve a consensus one way or the other for a recommendation to City Council about what to do, or not do, about the deer population.

City Council has now acted. On March 20, 2017, Council passed a resolution directing staff to inform the DGIF that Council wanted to allow urban archery within City limits in 2017. Staff has also been directed to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) for professional bow hunting firms and set a preliminary budget of \$50,000. Consideration was given to using the City police force, but the costs of equipment and overtime were prohibitive. In addition to taking these steps, the City will also be preparing a new ordinance to allow for urban archery.

"Urban Archery Season" would not be unique to Charlottesville. A number of Virginia municipalities, including Danville, Lexington, Lynchburg, Richmond, Blacksburg and Staunton have these seasons. The season includes dates through most of September and January-March. Only "antlerless" deer may be hunted, and all meat must be processed and donated to charitable organizations. The GNA will keep you updated as we learn more specifics.

Plans for a Multi-use trail in Greenbrier Park!!!

The City is preparing to build an amazing series of multi-use trail in and around our neighborhood. The notes below update the City's progress on building these trails. The City's first trail construction will be in Greenbrier Park where it will run from Brandywine Drive downstream towards the railroad. At some point in the future, a tunnel will be built under the railroad to connect to the existing bike trail that runs along the John Warner Parkway. From here, users will be able to bike to head northwards towards Dunlora and Belvedere or Downtown. A future user who takes the John Warner Trail towards downtown, will be able to turn and go through McIntire Park westward towards Hydraulic Road along the Rt. 250 Commuter Trail. From Hydraulic, the multi-use trail will be extended downstream through the Meadow Creek Valley Park (the area behind Seminole Square Shopping Center) until it reconnects with Greenbrier Park at Brandywine. This 4.5 mile loop will be a great asset to our neighborhood.

1. **Greenbrier Trail** — *Plans for this trail are in final couple weeks of review by other City staff members. The intent is to begin construction of this trail by the end of year.*
2. **Tunnel Under the Railroad** — *Planning for the tunnel has not be started yet and the tunnel is not funded.*
3. **Rt. 250 Commuter Trail** — *The trail from the John Warner Parkway thru the McIntire Park to Hydraulic Road will be built as a series of projects. The section within the eastern half of McIntire Park Railroad likely will need to wait until Skate Park funding and timing figured out. The **McIntire Park Railroad** Bridge, which connects the two half of the park, has go out for *construction bids*. The goal is to complete this bridge by the end of 2017. The section of trail by YMCA will be completed this summer by the YMCA and it will link to the existing paved trail behind the fire department. Final the final section between Meadowbrook Heights and Hydraulic is funded, and the plans are mostly complete. The hold up appears to be the purchase of some right of way for the trail, but hopefully this will be resolved soon and construction might start next year.*
4. **The Botanical Garden in the eastern half of McIntire Park.** — *Several trails leading from Melbourne south into the park should be started in 2017. Staff is working with architects and volunteers around an approved effort to have a memorial section of this trail and contemplative walking and sitting area around big grove of oak trees at the top in honor of Jim Murray and Mitch VanYahees. Fundraising for this memorial is ongoing. The Skate Park bid came in way high and the City is in negotiations with contractor.*
5. **Greenbrier Park Foot Trail** — *Finally, the City continues to negotiate with property owners at the end of Kenwood so that a pedestrian trail can be open up from the cul-de-sac and into the park. While these talks have dragged on for years, hopefully the City will move towards a successful resolution by this summer...*

The New GNA Web Page

By Ned Michie

Over the last years, our web page fell into disrepair, as it were, and then fell off the Internet altogether. We now have a new one, which should be up by the time you get this newsletter. The web address is www.CvilleGreenbrier.Weebly.com. This is my first foray into creating a web page, and I'm open to suggestions on improvements and features. It will be a work in progress that I'll try to keep current, so please check back to see what's new. The page will have a picture gallery, so if you have any pictures of the neighborhood you would like for me to post (from any time frame), please e-mail them to me.

The goal is to make the website a useful resource for our residents. To that end, all web listing are **FREE** – but only available to neighborhood residents. To add a listing, contact me, Ned Michie, at NedMichie@aol.com. Below is a description of our already-existing website rules that we never implemented.

1. **Advertising Personal Services.** There will be a page on the website dedicated to **listing Greenbrier Residents who offer any personal face-to-face type professional services** (e.g., lawn care, pet care, babysitting; services of an accountant, barber, electrician, plumber, construction contractor, doctor, lawyer, housekeeper, chef...). The idea being that some people might like the notion of hiring a neighbor for these personal service jobs. We also will allow listing of a business you own, even if it is not a personal service, so that neighbors can choose to support a fellow neighbor's business if they want (i.e., buying very local). Parents who want to list their teens for services should keep in mind that this is a public website, even though it is aimed only at Greenbrier residents; the parent should likely be at least the initial contact.

The listing will just be a short description of your service or business or a listing under a category, along with contact information and a link to a web page.

So, remember to check our website when you are in need of services!!! Of course, the GNA does not guarantee our neighbors' work – but, hey, "you know where they live":)

2. **Neighborhood-Based Clubs and Groups.** **Groups such as Scouts, book clubs, political interest clubs, and athletic teams/groups) can be listed with contact information.**

Hydraulic Planning Advisory Council

Since the beginning of March, VDOT, the City and the County have undertaken a fast-paced planning study for major changes to the roads within the triangle of the Route 29, Hydraulic, and the Bypass intersections. Using a 12-member Advisory Council for guidance, VDOT's consultants are first examining the potential for major changes to land use within an area that extends along Route 29 from Bodo's northwards to Greenbrier Drive and extends from the Greenbrier Neighborhood westward into the County. To date, the basic concept calls for the redevelopment of the aging shopping centers into a denser, mixed-use shopping, employment, and residential center. The planning effort has also placed a heavy emphasis on being able to walk and bike within *and to this center*. The land use planning is scheduled to wrap up by late this summer. Then, the Advisory Council will work on developing a plan for new roads that will support this new center as well as resolve the existing congestion in this area.

Obviously, this project has an enormous potential to effect the Greenbrier Neighborhood. Outside affecting your driving experience during and after road construction, this project will probably have temporary and permanent impacts on the intersection of Brandywine and Hydraulic. A positive outcome is likely that it will be easier for us to walk and bike into this area. VDOT has promised a public meeting with our neighborhood before mid-June, but no date has been set. You can find out more at www.route29solutions.org.

The GNA will try to keep you up-to-date via the GNA email list serv. Be sure to sign up with Ned Michie (NedMichie@AOL.com) if you are not already on the list serv.