

The Greenbrier Gazette

The newsletter of the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association

Fall 2018



Stay Connected

by Joining the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association E-mail Distribution List.

The Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) group e-mail distribution list is a **non-public "Yahoo Group"** that is free. It is monitored and maintained by your GNA Executive Committee. This means that: (1) you will be included in this e-mail distribution list only if you ask to be added; (2) people who have not been accepted to join the e-mail list cannot access it; and (3) e-mails posted to the e-mail list are reviewed and approved before they are circulated to list members. We currently have about 350 members on the e-mail list. Membership is a great way to stay informed about issues that affect our neighborhood. It can be used to let your neighbors know about a lost or found pet, borrow a tool, report a worrisome activity, or find out if others are having utility problems. Some people find that it is a useful source for recommendations about tradespeople and services. A full set of the rules for appropriate use of the GNA e-mail distribution list can be found on the Homepage of our GNA website: <http://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com>. The GNA website also has lots of other useful information and history about the Greenbrier Neighborhood. Check it out!



Future Greenway Walking Tour

The GNA will host 2 guided trail walks the weekend of October 27th / 28th to explain the City's future plans for greenway trails in and around the Greenbrier Neighborhood. The walks will start at 9:45 a.m. on both Saturday, October 27th, and again on Sunday, October 28th. The walks will start at the Jamestown Pedestrian Bridge (the bridge in the park between Greenbrier School and the Jamestown cul-de-sac). If it rains, the walks will be held regardless. Attendees will get an "on the ground perspective" of the future trail system and learn how they can help support the construction and maintenance of trails in our area. If you need more information, please email michaelbarnes456@yahoo.com or post your questions on the GNA List serve.

Request for Dues to Support Greenbrier Neighborhood Association

If you would like to support the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) and its activities, please send in your dues for the calendar year. There is no set amount, however **\$10 per Calendar Year** is suggested. The money has supported activities such as printing this newsletter, grant funding for neighborhood social gatherings described in the "Let's Party!" section, and the Greenbrier School Frog Jog.

Make your check payable to:
Greenbrier Neighborhood Association.

Please mail your dues soon to:

Lise Dobrin
2012 Tarleton Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Please Note: You are not required to pay dues to join the GNA e-mail list. Joining the list is free. Many thanks to the 50 people who paid GNA Dues in Calendar Year 2018!!



Trail Plan Update and Request for Funding Advocacy

Last month the City finally started construction on part of the long-awaited Meadow Creek Stream Valley Park plan. This plan was created through a series of meetings with our neighborhood, and thereafter approved by City Council in June of 2013. The plan's main feature is an eight-foot-wide multi-use greenway path made of compact stone dust. The path will parallel Meadow Creek, and when completed it will extend from Morton Drive (behind Bodos) all the way to connect to the existing paved path next to the John Warner Parkway.

Over the next year the greenway trail section will be worked on, supported by existing funds. It will start a few hundred yards from the railroad track in Greenbrier Park. Next, they will construct it upstream to Brandywine Drive, and then upstream from Brandywine across two bridges to a connection point with Hillsdale Drive near the Senior Center. However, it is unclear if there is enough funding to complete this stretch.

We welcome the progress and understand that many of the delays have been caused by other agencies needing to approve the work (e.g., FEMA). Nevertheless, our park plan is less than half-way designed and funded, while other parks in the City have been fully funded and completed within five years of Council adoption. Right now, no additional funding is even designated for work on our park plan in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget for the next five Fiscal Years (i.e., no funding for the long stretch from the Senior Center to Morton Drive behind Bodos, and no funding for the critical tunnel needed under the railroad tracks to connect the path to the John Warner Parkway paved path).

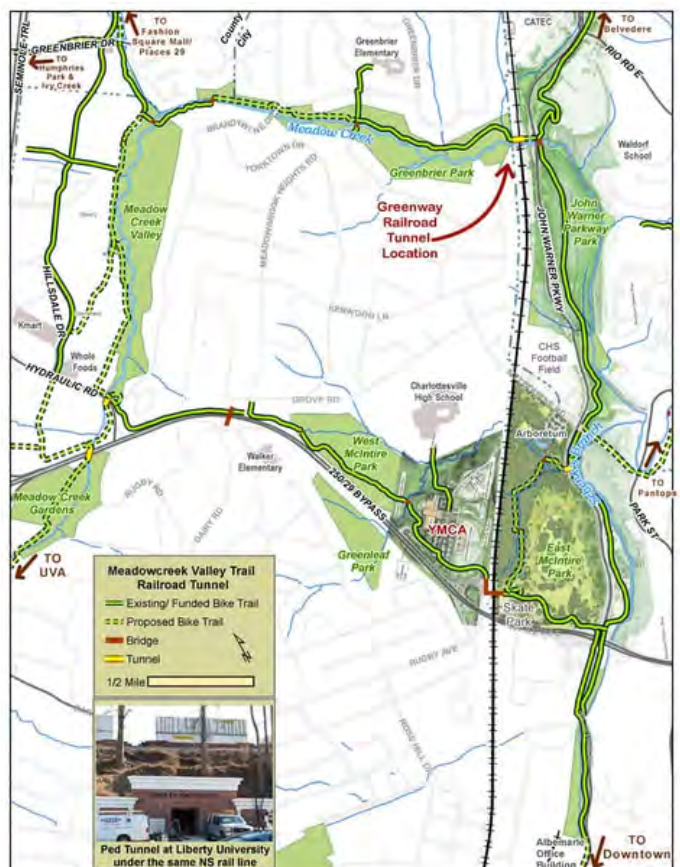
The City does modify its 5-year CIP plan every year to adjust for changing circumstances. For the first time, the Parks and Rec Department is requesting funding for all the remaining trail segments in need of completion for our park plan. And the City is, for the first time, asking neighborhoods to directly submit requests for CIP projects. The GNA Executive Committee voted unanimously to make such a direct request for complete funding of the Meadow Creek Stream Valley Park plan in the next 5-year CIP budget. We think our request will help amplify Parks and Rec's request, as we don't know how high a priority Parks and Rec is putting on our greenway path compared to the rest of Parks and Rec's CIP wish list.

The City always gets many more CIP requests than it can fund despite recently devoting \$20-25 million toward CIP projects each fiscal year. **We need advocacy from the neighborhood to help get the City to prioritize finishing our Park Plan.** Our greenway path has been on City maps since at least 1972 and approved by

multiple City Councils in multiple bike-pedestrian plans (in addition to our adopted Park Plan). In addition, scientific surveys of Charlottesville citizens document that such greenways are definitely the top priority among desired amenities. Connected greenways also offer appealing alternatives to motor vehicle travel, and they are important avenues for those without vehicles or drivers' licenses to get to work, school, or shopping. Completing greenway trails aligns very well with both the City's Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan. Go to the Trail Plan page on our GNA web site for detailed information and citations to source documents. <https://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com/trail-plan.html>.

Please take a couple minutes to write City Councilors to advocate for funding. Their Group e-mail address is council@charlottesville.org, or individual members can also be e-mailed. (<http://www.charlottesville.org/departments-and-services/departments-a-g/city-council/council-members>). **It is also important in the coming two months to write Senior City staff** who will essentially be making the initial decisions among all the CIP requests as to which ones will be presented to City Council in the draft CIP budget.

Mike Muphey - murphym@charlottesville.org,
Leslie Beauregard - Beauregard@charlottesville.org,
and budget@charlottesville.org.





At its September 12th meeting, the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) Executive

Committee approved continued use of some of our GNA funds from dues for the important purpose of building a sense of community among the people who live in the Greenbrier Neighborhood. From October 2018 through September 2019, the **Let's Party Program** will fund up to ten (10) neighborhood parties and reimburse expenses up to \$100 per party to neighborhood residents who will host / organize a social gathering for their block or just some immediate neighbors around them. You can invite neighbors who you already know, but the main point is to also invite others around you who you don't know or don't know well. The funding can be used for things such as beverages; food; table and chair rental; disposable cups, plates, napkins, silverware; or any other communal resource or amenity for the party. It is desirable for a member of the GNA Executive Committee to be invited so they can meet neighbors and spread good will. In order to apply for such a grant, please e-mail Heather Griffith **before the event** at: heather@nestrealty.com.

Annual Halloween Parade

Please join friends and neighbors on Wednesday, October 31st, at 5:30 PM for the 5th Annual Halloween Parade. Gather at 2240 Banbury Street and then travel the loop of Banbury Street to Tarleton Drive and back to Banbury Street. A huge thank you to Ladi and Sean Carr for hosting! Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) will help fund pizza and snacks for this party.



Little Free Libraries

Along the trail to Greenbrier School, there is a Little Free Library with books of all kinds, but there are many just for children. Andy Johnson and Jodi Wolff-Coussoulos, whose children advocated for the library, said, "We have bunches of kids walking to the local elementary school along the path next to our house. Our children decided one day to make it easy for those kids and families to have access to more books every day by making a little free library. It also is in the perfect spot for those looking for a quick read by the creek on a beautiful day". Neighborhood children as well as adults have a good time browsing the selections and choosing books. Bridget Prince, age 4 said, "I take a book and put one back." Her favorite selection by far is **Caillou**. Bridget's sister Mallory, age 6, loves the Franklin books she has found.

The Little Free Library on Essex Road has an interesting assortment of books. A steamy Jackie Collins novel from the sixties as well as a copy of **Easy Riders, Raging Bulls** are just a few of the selections. The library isn't limited to novels, as there is a great selection of cookbooks and a **Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway**.

Across the bridge on Dairy Road is yet another library. The *Literate Hedgehog* is the brainchild of Rachel Beling who built the library when she was in the seventh grade at Buford Middle School. Now a senior at CHS, Beling said the mission of her library is to give books to the community. "When I first started the library, I had a log so that people could write comments. The log was in the library for two years, and one day it suddenly disappeared. One day a picture appeared with a grandmother and her two grandchildren standing in front of the library; however, the log has never reappeared." Customers at the *Literate Hedgehog* include children walking home from Walker School, neighbors and joggers. The *Literate Hedgehog* has a fair number of children's books including Harry Potter and other classics as well as popular best-sellers. According to Beling, books that come from someone's grandmother's basement are often hard sells, as are self-help books and AP study guides. "However, a 5-year-old child really wanted the AP Calc study guide, but his parents dissuaded him."

To find the closest Little Free Library visit <https://littlefreelibrary.secure.force.com/mapPage>.

No doubt you will discover a good book!



Greenbrier Elementary PTO News

Thank you to the GNA for sponsoring the 1st Annual Frog Jog in April 2018. With the community's support, we were able to raise more than \$18,000 for our school's PTO. The PTO funds many things, including teacher grants, field trips, after school clubs, community events, and teacher appreciation initiatives. Also, we are now officially a 501(c)3 organization. This new status with the IRS will allow for many new fundraising opportunities, and all donations will be tax deductible. If you'd like to get involved, there are volunteer opportunities for the **Fall Fun Fair** on October 19th, the **Frog Jog** on April 26th, the **International Picnic** on May 3rd, and other smaller events in between. Thank you for your interest and support of our neighborhood school!

If you would like more information about volunteering or donating, please email greenbrierpto@gmail.com or visit greenbrierpto.weebly.com

Best Regards,
Aven Kinley and Andrea Trimble, PTO Co-Presidents
Pat Cuomo, Principal

Greenbrier Gripes and Gratitudes

*Our hood is a very, very, very fine hood with 2 parks in our zone
Life can be so easy in our 900 plus homes*

"Our House" - Graham Nash



Below are compiled and edited versions of suggestions that were sent in by your neighbors. The hope is that all of us will consider them and potentially be even better neighbors to each other.

Dog Owners – Please pick up your dog’s waste from sidewalks, yards, and trails, and please dispose of the filled bags in *your* trash can (not in your neighbor’s bushes). Be considerate of your neighbors’ plantings. Urine kills, especially boxwoods. Please control barking.

Our Streets - If possible, please keep campers, trailers, and recreational equipment in driveways and off the streets. They are a hazard for turning views, backing out of driveways, and walking where there are no sidewalks.

Power Equipment - It would be wonderful if we could all stop using power tools -- including lawnmowers, chainsaws, and leaf blowers -- before 9 AM on the weekends. Their noise is harsh and goes way beyond your home.

Other Noise – Please be considerate and do not play noisy games or party outside late into the night.

Motor Vehicles - Pedestrians, cyclists, children, pets, and wildlife thank you for driving the posted speed limit and obeying stop signs in our neighborhood. A big thank you to all drivers who stop at cross walks and avoid water in the roads that can drench a walker. These courtesies bring a smile to our faces. Drivers are reminded that the school zone (15 MPH) runs from the 3-way stop at Greenbrier/ Brandywine/ Trail up and round the school to Brook Road.

Sidewalks - It would be very helpful if neighbors would keep their sidewalks clear of debris and trim bushes and trees that hang over the sidewalks. Winter is coming, and we are all responsible for shoveling the snow off the sidewalks on our property. Please clear the entire sidewalk rather than just a shovel width to allow a clear pathway for strollers and wheelchairs. Consider helping out an elderly neighbor with this task.

Political Signs - By all means show your support for your candidates, please take your signs down after election day. PLEASE VOTE!

Take a Walk - It is so much fun to walk around and see all the additions, enhancements, and improvements that neighbors are doing to their yards and homes.

Parks - Please do not dump yard debris at the entrances of Greenbrier Park. It is unsightly and attracts snakes.

Don't Forget to VOTE!

ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

If you live in Greenbrier Neighborhood, you vote at **Walker Upper Elementary School Gym** located at 1700 Rose Hill Drive (northern end of Rose Hill). Voting will take place from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm.

If you are already registered to vote and can't get to the polls on election day, you can vote by absentee ballot either in person or by mail. For information on absentee voting please go to <http://www.charlottesville.org/departments-and-services/departments-h-z/voter-registration-and-elections/absentee-voting>. You have through Saturday, November 3rd to absentee vote in person, but you can only request an application to vote by mail though Tuesday, October 30th.

Below is what will be on the ballot:
[Vote for only one per seat]

Member, United States Senate
Corey A. Stewart - R
Timothy M. Kaine - D
Matt J. Waters – L



Member, House of Representatives, Fifth District
Denver L. Riggelman, III - R
Leslie C. Cockburn – D

There is also a Special Election for a School Board Member for an unexpired term. Only one name is on the ballot, James Edward Bryant.

In addition, there are two Proposed Constitutional Amendment Questions. One has to do with counties, cities, or towns having the authority to provide tax exemptions for property subject to recurrent flooding. The other has to do with a real property exemption for surviving spouses of veteran.

Members of the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association Executive Committee

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