

# The Greenbrier Gazette

The newsletter of the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association

Fall 2019



## Biking in and around Greenbrier

School is in session, and the weather is beautiful! It is time to dust off those bikes and get out and ride. We are so lucky to have several great bike and pedestrian path options in and around Greenbrier. Remember to always wear your helmet, ride with the flow of traffic, and obey all posted traffic signs for your safety; if you are riding in low light make sure to have a front and rear light. Drivers - please keep an eye out for cyclists too. More and more people are riding as the E-bike market grows and cycling is gaining in popularity. Let's make sure Greenbrier is safe for all modes of transportation!

Are you a YMCA member? A great way to warm up for exercise is a quick bike ride to the gym. A great route to the YMCA is via the path behind the CHS tennis courts. Follow Grove Road to Concord Drive. Turn into the CHS parking area and follow the lane along the track until you reach the path in between the tennis courts. Follow that path over the creek and up the hill to the YMCA. I prefer the left route on a bike as it is a little wider.

There is also a more direct (steeper) route to the right that is mainly geared for pedestrians. If you need a bike or need help with maintenance, Charlottesville Community Bikes in Belmont is a great local resource.

([charlottesvillecommunitybikes.org](http://charlottesvillecommunitybikes.org))



## Multi-Trail Plan Update

Finally, the first section of crushed stone multi-use path has actually been built along the Meadow Creek. Some basic design work has also been done for the planned tunnel under the railroad track to connect the trail to the paved path along the John Warner Parkway. However, there is no construction funding at all in the City budget for this critical connection. There is slow progress toward completion of the next little section of the project that will include a path leading upstream from Brandywine and crossing a bridge that will be built just upstream of the current "rock hop." This bridge was scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019, but a springtime completion is more realistic at this point. There is further funding from a VDOT grant for the next bridge upstream that will connect the multi-use path to Hillsdale around Greenbrier Drive where the Senior Center is currently located. The design phase for this bridge will apparently take into next summer with construction hopefully beginning before the end of 2020. It seems doubtful there is currently enough funding to connect the multi-use path between the two bridges.

There is no funding or design work presently for the planned section of the multi-use path leading from the second bridge to connect with Michie Drive. There was some hope that the new developer of the old Giant store would help create this section along with a connection point to the shopping center, but that project is stalled. The multi-use trail is also planned to go under Hydraulic and Rt 250 using existing culverts. When completed, the multi-use path will be a lovely and level, off-road path all along Meadow Creek starting from behind the English Inn and continuing all the way downstream to the John Warner Parkway. This multi-use trail project has been on City maps since 1972 and on every area adopted bike-ped plan as a high priority over the last 30 years. Greenway paths are also at the top of scientific local and national surveys of citizen desires.

The City is already starting its budget process for next year, so if completion of this path is important to you please send advocacy letters to Council members and Council candidates as well as Senior City staff. [cityman@charlottesville.org](mailto:cityman@charlottesville.org); [council@charlottesville.org](mailto:council@charlottesville.org). For more information, maps, pictures and source documents go to the "trail plan" page on our GNA website. <https://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com/trail-plan.html>

## Greenbrier Neighborhood Association Hosts City Council Candidates October 8th at 7:30pm Greenbrier School Auditorium

The Greenbrier Neighborhood Association will hold a City Council candidate forum at its fall meeting, Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> in the Greenbrier Elementary School auditorium at 7:30 PM. City Council Candidates Michael Payne, Lloyd Snook, Sena McGill and Bellamy Brown (and possibly Paul Long and John Hall) will be in attendance. The candidates will be asked one or two initial questions by a GNA moderator, and then will answer questions from the audience. **Three of these people will have a big influence on your life and how your tax dollars are spent, so come hear what they have to say and ask them your questions.**

The 2019 general election is Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition to electing 3 City Council members, City residents will elect 4 school board members out of 5 candidates. *All of the Virginia General Assembly including the House of Delegates and the State Senate are also up for reelection.*

For those that are new to the Greenbrier neighborhood, your local polling place is at Walker Upper Elementary School Gym located at 1700 Rose Hill Drive. Hours are from 6:00 AM until 7:00 PM. Voters must register twenty-two days prior to the election to participate in general elections and must bring a photo identification to their polling place.

For more information on voter registration or voting, visit <https://vote.virginia.gov> or <https://www.charlottesville.org/departments-and-services/departments-h-z/voter-registration-and-elections>. The Charlottesville Registrar's office is located at 120 7<sup>th</sup> St NE, Room 142 (next to the Pavilion and across from the Transit Station) and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

**Vote  
and Vote  
Often!**

*All politics  
are local.*





## 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 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

and (2) people who have not been accepted to join the e-mail list cannot access it. 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 troublesome 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.

*If you wish to be included, please email Ned Michie at [nedmichie@aol.com](mailto:nedmichie@aol.com). He will email you back with an invitation and instructions.*

**A full set of the rules about appropriate use of the GNA e-mail distribution list can be found on the Homepage of our GNA website: <http://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com>.**

Please review the rules before sending anything to the e-mail distribution list. The GNA website also has lots of other useful information and history about the Greenbrier Neighborhood. Please take the time to check it out!



## Keep your Pups Healthy

Many Greenbrier neighbors enjoy walking their dogs along the Rivanna Trail. This summer the **Leptospira** bacteria, otherwise known as **lepto**, was in the news. Lepto is not a new bacterium. If veterinarians know that a dog is around creeks and rivers, they recommend that the dog gets vaccinated. Local dogs that were not vaccinated have shown signs of lepto symptoms, and tragically a few dogs in the Charlottesville area have died from the bacteria.

Lepto infections occur most commonly in the fall. Dogs come into contact with the bacteria through infected water, soil or mud while swimming or drinking contaminated water. Lepto can also occur when a dog comes into contact with urine from an infected animal. This last method of contact might take place in the wild. Hunting and sporting dogs, and dogs that live near wooded areas are at an increased risk of acquiring the lepto bacteria. Also, at increased risk are dogs that have spent time in a kennel.

Dr. Allison Kramer with Old Dominion Animal Hospital states: "The best way to keep your dog safe is to use common sense. Keep dogs from drinking water that looks unclean, and if your dog rolls or swims in unclean water, bathe the dog."

Keep your pups healthy! If your dog enjoys time by the creek and in the woods in and around our neighborhood, you might consider the lepto vaccine for your pet.

## Storm Debris

A big thank you is given to Greenbrier residents who notified City officials about the extreme amount of tree damage the neighborhood sustained (primarily north of Meadow Creek) during the storm at the end of August. Some of our neighbors even appeared on the local news to advocate for a debris pick up by the City. Unfortunately, the City has not obliged, despite further advocacy by your GNA Executive Committee that sent pictures and storm debris pile counts to the City staff. The response from staff was sympathetic but pointed to the City's limited resources. The staff reply stated: "It is the current policy of Public Works Department that the event must meet a threshold before requesting to divert finite resources from roadway maintenance operations to debris removal." However, perhaps because of our group advocacy, the reply further stated that the "Policy on storm event response is currently under review by the administration, and your comments will be taken into consideration."  
Good work neighbors!

thank  
you!

## Support Your Neighborhood Association!



If you would like to support your Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) and its activities, please consider paying the suggested dues amount of **\$10.00 per calendar year**. Dues fund neighborhood meetings and printing the newsletters. In addition, they support activities such as the "**Lets Party!**" neighborhood social gatherings and the **Greenbrier School Frog Jog**. Your Executive Committee is always open to other ideas and projects that enhance and support your neighborhood.

**You may pay dues by check (paper or electronic) or digitally through Zelle:**

(1) If you pay by check, please make it payable to **Greenbrier Neighborhood Association** and mail it to Jane Tirrell at 1715 Meadowbrook Heights Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901. You may also set up a bill pay to GNA and have your online banking generate and mail a check to GNA C/O Jane Tirrell.

(2) If you would like to pay through Zelle, please establish a contact for GNA-Jane Tirrell and use the email address [GNADUES@gmail.com](mailto:GNADUES@gmail.com). The money will go straight to an account with SunTrust Bank that is linked to the Association's business account.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You are not required to pay dues to join the GNA e-mail list or to receive the newsletter. Many thanks to the **95 households** who paid dues in calendar year 2018 and the **28 households** so far that have paid dues in 2019!



At its August 29, 2019 meeting, the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) Executive Committee

approved the continued use of a portion of the GNA dues for the important purpose of building a sense of community among the people who live in the Greenbrier Neighborhood.

From October 2019 through September 2020, 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 for some immediate neighbors around them. Residents can invite neighbors who they already know, but the main point is also to invite others around them who they 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. Some of the events that your dues helped fund last year were: a Block Brunch, Hello Summer Party and Parade, and Halloween Parade and Pizza Party.

To apply for such funds **BEFORE** the event, please e-mail Heather Griffith at [heather@nestrealty.com](mailto:heather@nestrealty.com).

## 6th Annual Greenbrier Neighborhood Halloween Parade

Thursday, October 31 at 5:30pm  
2240 Banbury Street

Come to see your neighbors!  
Costume or not, all are welcome!



## Notes from Principal Pat Cuomo Greenbrier Elementary School

The mountain bike trail at Greenbrier Elementary is a collaborative initiative which took off last spring with a lot of help and support from the community and local organizations. While we've been able to lay out the path and break ground, the dirt trail was overtaken by weeds over the summer. United Way Day of Caring is providing volunteers to work on the trail 9/25/19. Using the trail regularly will help keep it dirt. The more foot traffic and bike traffic we have, the better!



We lost four pine trees along Greenbrier Drive in the late August storm. The division is assessing and reviewing the number of downed trees from the recent storm, as well as looking at other trees that have been removed over the past few years. I know that there have been a handful of trees that have been deemed unsafe, having fallen during storms or been struck by lightning. I will share when I know more, but it sure seems like we've lost a lot of the pine trees around the school perimeter in the past 3 years.

Greenbrier's gym and fields continue to be utilized by Parks and Rec as well as local organizations. Outside fields are used by our afterschool CLASS program during the week until 6pm. SOCA uses our fields during the week and on weekends until sunset. VABA uses our gym for basketball from November through February each year. Parks and Rec has a youth basketball league on Saturdays from December until March. The facility is pretty busy most of the year.



### Notice to Greenbrier Neighborhood Parents

Stay connected with other parents in the neighborhood. Join the Greenbrier Neighborhood Parents Facebook Group. This is a group for families in the Greenbrier/Meadowbrook Heights neighborhood to plan events, meet each other and share information. For the safety of the group, new members must be added by current members and then approved by the administration group. To be added ask a current member to add you or email Aven Kinley at [avenhormel@gmail.com](mailto:avenhormel@gmail.com).



### Greenbrier Elementary PTO News

submitted by Aven Kinley  
[greenbrierPTO@gmail.com](mailto:greenbrierPTO@gmail.com) <https://greenbrierpto.weebly.com/>

A HUGE thank you to the GNA for the 2019 Frog Jog sponsorship of \$250. The **Frog Jog Fun Run** raised over \$18,000 to support the PTO's efforts at Greenbrier School! If you have a business that would like to sponsor this great event, please send an email!

**The United Way Day of Caring** clean-up will be on Wednesday, 9/25/19 - all are welcome to help with the project. Please arrive at the school at 8:30 with work gloves! We are looking forward to cleaning up the two courtyards, vegetable garden, and mountain bike trail.

**Monthly vegetable garden work days** are planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 10am to noon. The 2019 dates are 9/21/19, 10/19/19, 11/16/19 and 12/21/19.

Keep an eye out for **Attraction Books Sales** - these are the awesome coupon books that we sell as a fundraiser for \$25. **Each book has over \$5,000 of savings!**

Also check out our website ([greenbrierpto.weebly.com](https://greenbrierpto.weebly.com)) to stay in touch or get involved. There is information on the website on how to link your Amazon account and your Kroger card to the Greenbrier PTO, so we can earn money each time you shop! Thank you for supporting your neighborhood school.



## Greenbrier Gripes and Gratitudes

*Below are compiled and edited versions of the 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.*

**Early Morning Walks** - Shhhhh! Now that the weather is cooler, many neighbors sleep with their windows open. Thank you so much for lowering your voices while walking and talking (in groups or on the phone) before 9 AM on weekend mornings.

**Deer** - The City needs to continue the culling program and to IMPROVE it, so that the deer population is lowered throughout our neighborhood and other parts of the City. Our flowers and shrubs will give thanks as well as the citizens that may have collided with a deer in their car.

**Porch and Decorative Lights** – some of the new LED lights are incredibly intense white and excessively bright - more appropriate for a factory than a friendly neighborhood. Please consider light pollution and tone it down a bit.

*Side note: Per Google, more burglaries occur during the day than at night, and automatic lights are not much of a deterrent.*

**Speed Limit** - Pedestrians, cyclists, children, pets, and wildlife thank you for driving the posted speed limit and obeying stop signs in our neighborhood. Speeding through the neighborhood will not get you to work or your next appointment on time.

**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, but please remove the signs right 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 making to their yards and homes.

**Dog Owners** - Thank you to all dog walkers that have been picking up their dog waste and keeping them from urinating on flowers and bushes. Please continue to control barking.

## Capital Improvement Budget Requests

For the first time last year, the City allowed neighborhoods to directly request projects for consideration to be included in the City's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budget. Our requests last year did not make the cut, so we will again be requesting funding this year in the five-year CIP to: (1) complete the long planned multi-use path along Meadow Creek, and (2) build our top priority sidewalk along the curvy part of Yorktown from Brandywine to Bunker Hill. The City staff has recognized that this stretch of sidewalk was under-ranked on their grand sidewalk priority list.

### Members of the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association Executive Committee

**Michael Barnes**, Past President  
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**Lise Dobrin**, At-Large  
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**Jane Tirrell**, Treasurer  
[teekjc@gmail.com](mailto:teekjc@gmail.com)

*Currently there are two open seats on the Executive Committee. Anyone potentially interested in serving as Vice President or an At-Large member should contact Ned Michie or one of the other Committee members. We'd love to hear from you!*

## Useful Local Apps

**"My Cville"** is a recently created phone and computer **App**. It can be used for a lot of useful functions including paying utility bills and reporting issues and maintenance concerns as well as just reading City news. It is free to download and use.

**"Parks & Rec Charlottesville"** is another local phone and computer **App** set up by the City. It has good information about park facilities and program offerings.

**"Code Red"** is a free national **App**, that has partnered with localities. You may sign up for Charlottesville specific warnings and notices about weather, police and other emergency type issues.

**Rivanna Trails** is a free **App** created by the Rivanna Trails Foundation (RTF). It puts a map of the whole trail system on your phone, and you can track where you are in real time. It also shows parking and other useful facilities along the route.

*There are of course other useful local **Apps** including those for local media outlets, as well as UVA sports.*



## Events

Ned Michie ([NedMichie@aol.com](mailto:NedMichie@aol.com)) hosts pick-up basketball games for aging hoopsters on Saturday mornings at 9:30 AM in Greenbrier Elementary School's nice, small, age-friendly gym. Enter at the back. The Group goal is just to have fun and get exercise. Players should be over 35 years old. Most of the current participants are in their mid-40s to upper-50s.

Our "Bylaws" state that eligible players shall meet the following criteria - "(i) none being so good as to embarrass the rest of the players and/or render his or her teammates unnecessary and (ii) none being so bad as to hinder play or be reckless and thereby increase the chance of injury for all."