

FALL 2021

The Greenbrier Gazette

The newsletter of the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association



Greenbrier Neighborhood Association Annual Fall Meetings

Hold these Dates/Times! September 29, 2021, 7:30 p.m. and October 20, 2021, 7:30 p.m.



The Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) traditionally holds a Fall Meeting at which invited guests speak on topics of interest to our neighborhood and the city. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the lack of appropriate outdoor gathering spaces, we are planning to meet via Zoom. The agenda will be covered in two separate Zoom meetings to allow ample time for questions and answers by the speakers.

The first Zoom meeting -- **September 29** -- will focus on Charlottesville's draft Land Use Plan. A new draft of the map has recently been released, which will likely be voted on by the Planning Commission in October and then by City Council by the end of the year. Invited speakers will include a representative from the City of Charlottesville and Lloyd Snook, a City Council member who lives in our neighborhood. Pre-registration is not required.

The Zoom link for the meeting on September 29 at 7:30 p.m. is: <https://1lpq.short.gy/GNA-Sept2021>

The second meeting -- **October 20** -- will focus on the upcoming City Council elections taking place on November 2, 2021. There are two City Council seats up for election and three candidates running. A live Candidate Forum in which all three candidates will have an opportunity to speak and respond to your questions has been arranged. The candidates are (in alphabetical order): Brian Pinkston, Juandiego Wade, and Yasmine Washington. Pre-registration is not required.

The Zoom link for the meeting on October 20 at 7:30 p.m. is: <https://1lpq.short.gy/GNA-Oct2021>

Prior to each meeting, a separate email reminder with the pertinent Zoom link will be sent to individuals who belong to the GNA email list.



Greenbrier Elementary PTO Update

Greenbrier Elementary welcomed students back to school on August 25. In-person students returned for five days a week, while students in grades 3 - 8 had the option to choose a virtual learning program. Parents and community members are encouraged to visit the Charlottesville City Schools (CCS) website at <http://charlottesvilleschools.org/returntolearn> for the latest information, including health and safety protocols for families.

Due to a shortage of school bus drivers, more children (and parents) will be walking or biking to school this fall. Please drive with extra caution as children make their way to and from school. Charlottesville City Schools (CCS) are in session during the following hours:

- **Greenbrier:** 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **Walker and Buford:** 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
- **Charlottesville High School:** 9:05 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.



There are several ways to support CCS schools during this difficult time, including:

Neighbors can support local elementary school students across the city by donating snacks (avoid peanuts) to any CCS school or by shipping directly to CCS via their Amazon Wish List: <https://bit.ly/CCS-snacks> Questions? Contact Bianca Johnson, Coordinator of Student and Family Engagement: JohnsoB2@charlottesvilleschools.org

Kroger, Harris Teeter, and Amazon shoppers can help raise much-needed funds for the Greenbrier PTO by simply ... shopping! Enrolling in these programs ensures that a percentage of your purchases goes to help the Greenbrier PTO.

To learn more, visit the website Greenbrier Elementary PTO website: <https://greenbrierpto.weebly.com/support-our-school.html>





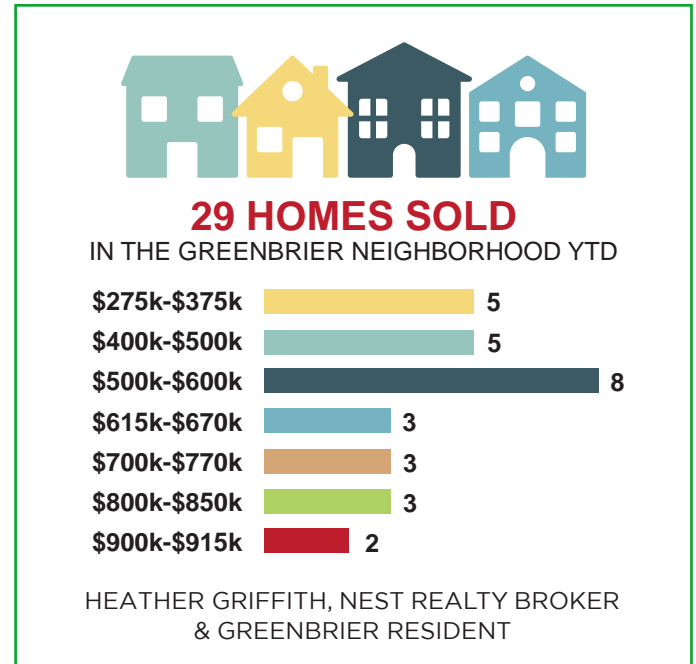
Neighborhood Survey Brief Report

Last spring the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) coordinated a brief online survey. The goals of the survey were to (1) better understand what topics and issues are important to our neighbors so that GNA might best plan its efforts and advocacy over the next four years and (2) identify what we can do as a community so that Greenbrier residents feel connected and inspired to take part in efforts to enhance our neighborhood. The complete survey report, *Greenbrier 2025*, is available online: <https://bit.ly/Greenbrier2025> What follows is a short summary.

Almost 200 Greenbrier residents from all sectors of the neighborhood participated in the survey. Almost 90% of survey respondents know at least half of their neighbors, whereas 40% know all of their neighbors. While over 75% of respondents felt very proud or extremely proud to live in Greenbrier, a sense of community is not shared as strongly across all demographics in the neighborhood. Participation in GNA activities is low (46% of respondents don't participate often; 23% not at all). However, many ideas to increase opportunities to build community in the coming years were shared, including block parties; volunteer opportunities; educational sessions; and groups devoted to kids' activities, reading, exercise, gardening, and pets.


Topics that were most important to Greenbrier residents were: safety and security, trails, parks, public works projects, and traffic. Least important topics were: GNA events, activities for kids, and local politics. Over 80% of respondents use neighborhood trails at least a couple times a month (23% use the trails daily). Sixty-three percent of respondents indicated the most important missing segment of sidewalks in Greenbrier is the stretch of Yorktown Drive from Brandywine to Bunker Hill. Sidewalks, trails, and a more walkable inclusive community rated highest as changes that would most improve the Greenbrier neighborhood.

We would like to thank all those who participated in the survey.




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Support Your Neighborhood Association!

To support your Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) and its activities, please consider a contribution of **\$10.00 or more per calendar year**. Your contributions fund neighborhood-wide meetings and forums. It also pays for printing the GNA newsletter that is hand-delivered to every residence in the Greenbrier Neighborhood (more than 900 households) twice a year in the spring and the fall. In addition, your contribution supports activities such as neighborhood parties and gatherings, as well as the Greenbrier School PTO.

Members of Greenbrier Neighborhood Association Executive Committee

greenbrier-exec@googlegroups.com

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Deborah Johnson	dgj7p@virginia.edu
Jake Mooney	jakemooney@gmail.com
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- (1) To 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) To pay through Zelle, establish a contact for GNA-Jane Tirrell and use the email address GNADUES@gmail.com. The money will go straight to an account with SunTrust Bank that is linked to the GNA business account.
- (3) To transfer money to GNA through Venmo, use [@Jane-Tirrell-GNA](https://venmo.com/Jane-Tirrell-GNA). All transactions on the Venmo account are private.
- (4) To contribute by debit or credit card, press the blue "Donate" button on the [Groups.io](https://groups.io) home page that you reach by signing into mail@gna.groups.io or use the subscription link at the bottom of any individual GNA email or daily summary of GNA emails.

A contribution to the GNA is not required in order to join the GNA group email list or to receive the newsletter. Many thanks to the 99 households that have contributed so far in Calendar Year 2021.

ONE AT-LARGE POSITION IS VACANT.

To volunteer to serve in that position, please email Ned Michie: nedmichie@aol.com

Stay Connected

with Your Greenbrier Neighbors

The Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) has maintained a group email list since the early 2000s. The list connects more than 400 Greenbrier neighbors. We recently moved from Yahoo to a new group email host called Groups.io, which is an easy-to-use platform that can archive all messages and make them instantly searchable. The group email list is an effective means of communicating with other neighbors about upcoming GNA meetings or important neighborhood developments. It can also be used to let your neighbors know about a lost or found pet, borrow a tool, report a troublesome activity, share recommendations for tradespeople or service providers, or find out if others are having utility problems.

Unlike the national social media app Nextdoor, the GNA email list is maintained and moderated by the GNA Executive Committee. Unlike Nextdoor, it has no advertising and is not monetizing a user's information in other less obvious ways. The GNA list is private, so only GNA members can send and receive email from the list.



It is also limited to households within our geographic neighborhood.

If you wish to be added to the list...

Email Ned Michie at nedmichie@aol.com
Once added, you will receive a welcome email with further instructions.

Group Email Guidelines

In order to keep discussions relevant and courteous, we have established guidelines for the appropriate use of the list. GNA has modified the guidelines over the years to meet our changing needs. During the pandemic the guidelines were loosened, in particular to allow for promotion of local businesses. Recently the Executive Committee further relaxed the guidelines. The current guidelines can be found in the Wiki section of our Groups.io website at <https://gna.groups.io/> and on our public website at <https://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com/> We ask that all new and existing members review and follow the guidelines. The most important guideline is to be a good and kind neighbor.

For more help using Groups.io, see the Groups.io Help Center: <https://groups.io/helpcenter>

Botanical Garden of the Piedmont Plants a Wildflower Garden

Jill Tischman-Marks, Executive Director
Botanical Garden of the Piedmont

In spring of 2021, the Staff and Horticultural Committee of the Board of the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont (BGP) made the decision to plant a Wildflower Garden parallel to Melbourne Road to provide a natural buffer to the road and, most importantly, to attract more pollinators and birds to the Garden site. A wildflower garden evolves as it ages. During the first growing season a meadow depends on annuals for structure, flowers, and seasonal interest. When you visit the site now you can see the Garden's annual plants: partridge pea, cosmos, zinnias, and annual coreopsis (shown in photo). At the end of the first season some of the perennial flowers and grasses will only be between one and six inches tall. The second growing season is the gangly adolescence of a meadow's evolution. Annual flowers are limited to those plants from the prior year which re-seeded in the meadow, such as partridge pea. Therefore, biennial plants were added into the seed mix to fill in the second-year gap. Queen Anne's Lace and some coreopsis were selected. By the third year, the perennial plants will be mature enough to take over the show. This wildflower meadow is to be enjoyed not only today but in growing seasons to come.

The Garden is currently designing an educational pollinator program that will attract mason bees, one of the best non-stinging, native pollinator bees. We hope to raise funds to install bee houses (a joint effort with CATEC), purchase starter cocoons, and educate youth in our community about these fantastic creatures.



The Wildflower Garden, like all the trails and gathering areas in the Garden, is maintained by volunteers. Our Garden Guardians meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month. For more information or to volunteer, visit our website: www.piedmontgarden.org

Come and enjoy the ever-changing natural landscape the Garden site has to offer. Remember, even when the gate is closed, the Garden is open from dawn to dusk. Parking is available on Melbourne Road near the high school football stadium. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended. You can find a trail map at this URL: <https://piedmontgarden.org/about/trail-map/>



Multi-Use Trail Update

Only one section -- and significantly less than half -- of the City Council-approved and long-planned multi-use path along Meadow Creek has been finished. For more details, see the GNA website <https://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com/trail-plan.html> The completed part is a nice little recreational path, but it does not connect to any businesses or places people want to go. And, unfortunately, it was damaged in recent flooding. For each of the last five or more years, the City has told us that the next bridge upstream from Brandywine (near the current "rock hop") would be built soon. This year was no exception, but it has not happened yet. Apparently, the planned site of the bridge needs to be moved from upstream of the "rock hop" to downstream of it. Fortunately, the property owners have agreed to the move. Once again, the word is that the bridge will be built in the coming year, hopefully in Spring 2022.

A bit of important progress is that the Parks and Recreation Department (Parks and Rec) is aiming to make the trail

corridor from Brandywine to Michie Drive the subject of a VDOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant application to be submitted in October 2021. If the application is successful, the money would be available in October 2022. The City would need to match just 20% of the requested amount. The City has already received several hundred thousand dollars from the State for this trail corridor, and this grant proposal aims to raise the amount of state money in the project to about \$1 million. Because of the high cost of bridges, Parks and Rec estimates that it will require another \$500,000 to \$600,000 from the City to get the trail segment built.

The City has a lot of important capital expenditure needs, but with a \$25 to \$30 million annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget it seems reasonable to expect that the City will move forward on the completion of the crushed stone multi-use trail. It will run the entire length of Meadow Creek, from a connection to Morton Drive behind the English Inn all the way to a connection point on the paved path next to John Warner Parkway.

Also unfinished is the planned paved Route 250 commuter path. No money is in the pipeline to complete this project from Meadowbrook Heights Road to McIntire Park.