

# The Greenbrier Gazette

The newsletter of the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association



## Fall 2020



## GNA Virtual Speaker Series In Lieu of In-Person Fall General Meeting

Given the COVID crisis, your GNA Executive Committee has decided not to hold a Fall in-person GNA general meeting. Instead of canceling the meeting completely as was done in the spring, the Committee has decided to host a series of virtual presentations this fall through Zoom. Most of the speakers will be the same as those who were on the agenda for the canceled spring meeting, as they have all indicated that they can do virtual presentations on their topics.

Neighbors, please put the series on your calendars and note that you will need to pre-register for each presentation. Registration is required so that our speakers know how many to expect and to prevent "Zoom bombing" (uninvited people inserting an offensive video during a Zoom meeting). Please find registration instructions after the presentation schedule.

### \*\*\*\* Presentation Schedule - All Begin at 7:30pm \*\*\*\*

#### Wednesday, September 30

Jordy Yager

Jordy Yager will share with us the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center's massive Mapping Cville project. In the summer of 2018, Jordy, a Digital Humanities Fellow at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center (JSAAHC) <https://jeffschoolheritagecenter.org/>, received a grant from the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation to develop a physical and online interactive exhibit illustrating how Charlottesville's patterns of discrimination in housing have had widespread effects that continue to the present day. Through mapping of the locations of properties transferred via deeds containing racially restrictive covenants, Jordy and his team will be able to show how this discrimination has perpetuated racial segregation and its resulting inequities through the years. Jordy will explain the phases of the project, which has involved volunteers to assist with sifting through the City's property records going back to the 1890s. He will walk us through some of our local history of discriminatory housing policies, as well as the lasting legacies we live with today. He will also provide information about how we can get involved.

#### Wednesday, October 7

Sean Tubbs and GNA Elections

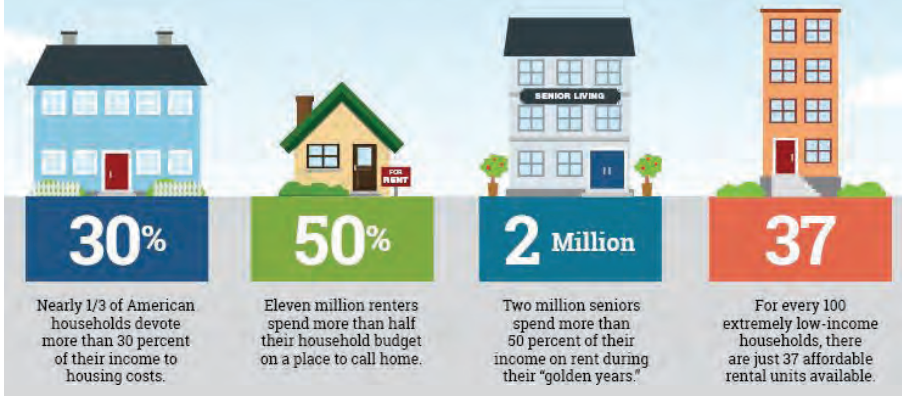
**Sean Tubbs** will give a presentation on his efforts to document and preserve Charlottesville history and current events through a new media outlet and other digital initiatives that are easily accessible to the public. "Can Charlottesville support more local journalism, and can it afford not to?"

**GNA Elections - Ned Michie, President of the GNA** - The annual election of the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) Officers and Executive Committee shall be held immediately after Sean Tubbs' presentation, as well as a discussion of other current GNA business. See separate article in this issue of GNA Newsletter for details.



# America's Housing Challenge

Affordable homes and rental properties are in high demand, but short supply. Too many consumers are spending far too much on rents, mortgages and utilities.



## Tuesday, October 13

**Michael Rodemeyer** (member of Albemarle Electoral Board)  
**& Anna Scholl** (Executive Director of Progress Virginia)

This forum will be about the redistricting amendment that will be on the ballot in November. Briefly put, the ballot question is whether the Constitution of Virginia should be amended "to establish a redistricting commission, consisting of eight members of the General Assembly and eight citizens of the Commonwealth, that is responsible for drawing the congressional and state legislative districts." For a full description of the amendment and more information see: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/proposed-constitutional-amendment-2020/>

## Wednesday, October 21

**Lloyd Snook**

Our longtime Greenbrier resident and first-term City Councilor, Lloyd Snook, will talk about steps the City will likely be considering in the near future to help create more affordable housing and housing equity throughout the City. Considerations include changing zoning to allow more density in neighborhoods like ours, which can be accomplished by allowing homeowners greater leeway to create/build accessory units and/or even by new construction of modest-sized apartment buildings. Lloyd will also describe the current process to create a new "Comprehensive Plan" which, when completed, will help guide such housing decisions. After discussing these issues, Lloyd will take any comments or questions on that topic or on any other City issues.

## Wednesday, October 28

**Jill Trischman-Marks**  
 (Executive Director, McIntire Botanical Gardens)

Building a public botanical garden is not an easy feat. So far, McIntire Botanical Garden (MBG) has been driven by the community's input, aspirations, insights, and desire to be a place of healing, unity, education and beauty. But the input phase of the garden design process is not complete and through reaching out to other organizations, we are hoping to gather more feedback to ensure the built garden will represent the hopes and dreams of the entire community. The design and construction of McIntire Botanical Garden is a very ambitious project. This presentation will briefly outline what has already been achieved in the process toward building this garden, give insight into the road map ahead, and provide information about how the Garden is responding to community needs in the time of COVID. <https://mcintirebotanicalgarden.org/>



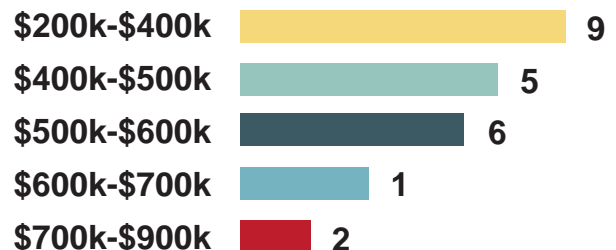
### \*\*\*\* Registration for GNA Virtual Programs \*\*\*\*

If you would like to attend any (or all) of the above virtual presentations, please visit the form at <http://bit.ly/GNA-Fall2020> to register your name and email address and to indicate which program(s) you plan to attend. To ensure that our virtual meeting space is safe, respectful, and effective, **registration is required**. You will receive an email with a virtual meeting link and additional instructions approximately 48 hours prior to each program.



**23 HOMES SOLD**

IN THE GREENBRIER NEIGHBORHOOD YTD

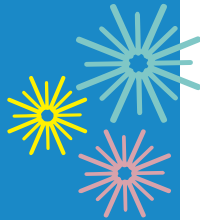




## COVIDWISE App from the Virginia Department of Health

VA is the FIRST state to use the COVIDWISE COVID-19 tracking app that is linked to the VA Department of Health (VDH). This is a very useful tool to let you know if you may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is available for Android or Apple phones and devices – you can download it from the App Store. The app uses continually refreshed tokens to protect users' identities and to ensure anonymity. The more people who use it, the better the data will be! Read more about it here: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covidwise/>

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO PARTYING AGAIN! (when it's safe)



Since 2017, the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) Executive Committee has approved the use of a portion of contributions to GNA for the important purpose of building a sense of community among the people who live in the Greenbrier Neighborhood. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the committee has suspended this program but hopes to bring it back in the future.

In the past, the **Let's Party Program** reimbursed expenses up to \$100 per party to neighborhood residents who hosted/organized a social gathering for their block or for some immediate neighbors around them. Residents invited neighbors they already knew, but the main point was to also invite others around them whom they didn't know or didn't know well. The funding was 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 gathering. A member of the GNA Executive Committee was usually invited so they could meet neighbors and answer questions about the association.

# Stay Connected

## by Joining the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association Email Distribution List

The Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) group email 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 email distribution list only if you ask to be added and (2) people who have not been accepted to join the email list cannot access it. We currently have about 375 members on the email list. Membership is a great way to stay informed about issues that are relevant to 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. **During this time of "SOCIAL DISTANCING" staying connected to you neighbors is even more important.** Below are two examples of recently sent emails that you missed if you are not a member of the GNA email distribution list:

### Neighbors email [GNA\_Mail] <GNA

*Our Neighborhood Puzzle Swap is tomorrow!! Come by our house on Kenwood Lane from 3:00 to 5:00. Bring a puzzle to swap or borrow one if you don't have one to swap. We've got lots of puzzles! Children and adult sizes. See you here!!*



### Neighbors email [GNA\_Mail] <GNA

*Saw a dog. Light color maybe part poodle wandering around the street on Yorktown near Bunker Hill. It wouldn't let me get close enough, at least while pushing my stroller to see if it had tags, but I saw a collar. It did look to go towards a house, but in case it wasn't its home I thought I'd post.*



### REPLY with good information sent by another neighbor to the GNA Mail Group

*That's Lenny. I don't know if his owners (our neighbors) are on here. They let him wander freely from time to time around that part of the neighborhood. FWIW, he's a very chill dog, doesn't approach other dogs or people, and doesn't seem to wander far from his home. Our dogs can be pretty dog-reactive, so a loose dog can be a major stressor on our walks, but Lenny always keeps his distance when my dogs spot him and get barky.*

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 & instructions.

A full set of the guidelines about appropriate use of the GNA email distribution list can be found on the Homepage of our GNA website: <http://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com>. Please review the guidelines before sending anything to the email 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!

# Support Your Neighborhood Association!

If you would like 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 printing the **newsletters**. In addition, they support activities such as the **Trail Signs** 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 contribute to your **Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA)** by check (paper or electronic) or digitally through Zelle or Venmo:

- (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 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.



## 2020 Treasury Activities

Balance 1/1/2020	\$3,451.27
Total Contributions YTD 2020	\$ 845.00
Total Distributions	<b>(\$1,146.07)</b>
<b>Balance 8/15/20</b>	<b>\$3,150.20</b>
<b>Explanation of Distributions</b>	
Donation to Greenbrier PTO Frog Jog	\$ 250.00
Printing 2020 Spring Newsletter (in color)	\$ 796.07
"Let's Party" Gatherings (pre-COVID-19)	\$ 100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,146.07</b>

**Note:** Your Executive Committee has committed up to \$500 to help erect informational and directional signs on the trails in and around our neighborhood.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A contribution to the GNA is not required in order to join the GNA email list or to receive the GNA Newsletter. Many thanks to the 41 households who have paid dues in calendar year 2020. There are over 900 households in the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association area!

## VOTE by Mail, Early Voting, and Voting Absentee Update

If you wish to skip the polls and vote by mail (or early or absentee) this NOVEMBER 3rd, please visit this site: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/>. It is very simple and easy to do. You can register online to receive a paper ballot request that is mailed to your home. You can make the request in paper or electronically through the website, and you no longer have to have any specific excuse for voting absentee. (Any registered voter can ask for an absentee ballot). If you have questions or need help registering, please reach out to Aven Kinley at [avenhormel@gmail.com](mailto:avenhormel@gmail.com).



## Greenbrier Neighborhood Parents Facebook Group



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 Admin Group. To be added, ask a current member to add you or email Aven Kinley at [avenhormel@gmail.com](mailto:avenhormel@gmail.com).

## Announcement of Upcoming GNA Elections

- Online During October 7th Virtual Speaker Series Presentation

As our Spring Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) meeting was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our annual spring elections were not held. Given that the Fall meeting will be replaced with a series of virtual speakers, the GNA Elections will be held in conjunction with Sean Tubbs' presentation on **October 7**.

As a result of our call for new **Executive Committee (EC)** members in our Spring Newsletter, we were fortunate to be contacted by two people who wished to offer their time and support to the neighborhood. There was room to appoint both applicants for the interim, as Kyle Lewis had agreed to be our Vice President (freeing an At-Large spot) and Lise Dobrin decided to retire from the EC after more than a dozen years of service (a big "Thank You" to Lise). This year we have the following full slate of candidates for available positions on the EC. If anyone wants to contend for a seat, please let Ned Michie know.

### Officers Up for Election

*(FYI - Ned tried to coax others to take over as President, but no takers)*

**President - Ned Michie** - Joined EC 2000  
Pres. since May 2017; Current Term 2018- 2020

**VP - Kyle Lewis** - Joined EC 2018  
Appointed Feb 2020 to fill open VP spot;  
Current Term 2018-2020

**Secretary - Karen Michie** - Joined EC 2019  
Current Term 2018-2020

**Treasurer - Jane Tirrell** - Joined EC 2017  
Treasurer since Dec 2018; Current Term  
2018-2020

### At-Large Members Up for Election (2-year terms)

**Sheila Haughey** - Joined EC 2016  
Current Term 2018-2020

**Greer Kelly** - Joined EC by appt. June 2020;  
Term expires 2020

**Holly Robertson** - Joined EC by appt. June 2020  
Term expires 2020

**Mary Ropka** - Joined EC 2017  
Current Term 2018-2020

**Eve Solomon** - Joined EC 2014  
Current Term 2018-2020

## Trails Update...

In 2013 the City Council adopted a Park Plan for the Meadow Creek Stream Valley to provide a crushed-stone multi-use trail. It runs 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 the John Warner Parkway. The proposed crushed-stone multi-use trail has been on City planning maps since 1972, and in 1982 the City acquired an easement in front of the Hearthwood Apartments on Michie Drive in furtherance of the plan. This long-planned path has additionally been listed in the highest tier of priority projects in every City and Regional Bike/Ped Plan since 1991. Such multi-use paths, which can be used for alternative transportation and recreation by all citizens regardless of income level, were listed as the top priority in scientifically valid surveys of Charlottesville citizens in both 2005 and 2018. Such paths are also entirely consistent with, and indeed supported by, all the City's Comprehensive Plans since at least 2001 and fully align with the City's current Strategic Plan goals. To see the documents backing up these statements, go to our **Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) webpage**: <https://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com/trail-plan.html>



The only completed section of the planned path is the one in Greenbrier Park, which was finished a little over a year ago. Though it is a nice recreational path, it does not connect to any businesses or other places people might want to go. Over half of the adopted plan is still unfunded and un-designed. For more than five years, the City has promised that the next bridge upstream from Brandywine (near the current "rock hop") will be built that year. This year is no exception, but it hasn't happened yet.

The second bridge needed upstream (near the old Senior Center location) will be designed in the next six months. However, it is unclear if there is funding to actually build the bridge, and there appear to be no plans or funding for a section of path to connect the bridges. Furthermore, there is no funding or design work to go beyond the "Senior Center" bridge to connect as far as Michie Drive, much less to reach Morton Drive behind the English Inn or to complete the long-planned tunnel under the railroad tracks on the other end.

Also unfinished is the paved Route 250 commuter path. There doesn't seem to be any visible movement this year toward completing the path to its connection point at the YMCA, despite representations that this was the year it would happen. The COVID-19 crisis has understandably disrupted life in most every way, yet other outdoor construction projects have been able to move forward.

The City has a lot of important capital expenditure needs, but with a \$25 to \$30 million ANNUAL Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget, it is concerning that this project continues to languish. The City and the Parks and Rec Department will be developing their new five-year CIP budget proposals over the next couple months. Please take a minute now to let them know your thoughts on this issue. <https://www.charlottesville.gov/formcenter/City-Council-7/Email-Contact-Form-for-City-Council-124;pandradvisoryboard@charlottesville.gov>



# Why a Garden?

Jill Trischman-Marks, Executive Director, McIntire Botanical Garden

<https://mcintirebotanicalgarden.org/>



## The McIntire Botanical Garden (MBG)

is located in the northern section of the east side of McIntire Park. MBG is a public-private partnership: The City of Charlottesville has dedicated the land to the project, but that is where the taxpayers' contribution ends. The funds needed to design, construct, and maintain the garden will be provided privately by MBG. Once built, like any public park, the Garden will be free and accessible to all.

MBG's mission is to be a sustainable, admission-free public garden in Charlottesville, destined to bring people & plants together in a natural, restorative environment. As this mission statement suggests, the modern botanical garden has evolved, and these gardens are actively embedding themselves in communities to deal with urban challenges. They serve as educators to connect children with natural environments, as well as working with schools to develop curricula. They grow food forests to help with issues of food inequity; develop programming for senior centers and residential communities; and provide training and certification in green-collar jobs to constituencies such as at-risk youth and disabled adults.

The recently completed award-winning Master Plan for the McIntire Botanical Garden was driven by our community's input about their aspirations for the site. It focuses on enhancing the existing ecosystems, while providing gardens for interactive and immersive learning. Natural play areas have been included throughout the design to increase the appeal and fun for children and their families.

As a 21st Century public garden, this Garden will be a relevant resource for the community – to promote inclusion, social cohesion, and positive community outcomes. **Environmentally** it will strengthen the local ecosystem, sequester carbon, and curb pollution & stormwater effects. **Socially** it will be a community hub, a safe gathering place for passive recreation, and enjoyment. **Educationally** it will serve as a discovery center offering healthful outdoor learning experiences for adults, families, and youth from the entire community.

Construction of the designed Garden is in the future. However, during times of acute COVID-19 stress, a walk outdoors is more important than ever. National

data show an increase in visits to outdoor spaces this summer. Public parks, including botanical gardens, were the top spot that visitors to cultural institutions planned to return to in the wake of pandemic closures.

We are acutely aware of the COVID-19 related need in our community for refuge in and enjoyment of our site, as demonstrated by the marked increase in visitors since March. In addition to the needs of the general public, we have reached out to our community partners to get feedback about how to make the Garden more useful now, when many of their indoor services have been limited by the pandemic. By providing access to a centrally located, safe, and public outdoor venue, these organizations have indicated MBG can allow them to better serve their clientele and students. We understand the relevance of the unbuilt garden now, and we are working on temporary measures to make the site more welcoming.

MBG had been actively stewarding the Garden site by removing invasive plants and enlarging the trail system. (These volunteer efforts continue with physically distanced workdays.) Before COVID-19, increased access to the site allowed us to develop a series of on-site educational tours identifying trees, birds, butterflies, and wildflowers. While our on-site educational tours are on hold for now, we are developing a series of virtual tours of the Garden site and its inhabitants.

Many volunteer positions are available now, including virtual opportunities. Anyone interested in volunteering for MBG may submit an application at our webpage: <https://mcintirebotanicalgarden.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Once built, the Garden will have terraced gardens, meadows, groves, wetlands, a canopy walk, a restored stream and a waterfall, a visitors' center, amphitheater, and a main event green. Our goal for your garden is to provide a community retreat where diverse people can come together, learn, and explore the beauty of the Piedmont area and the natural world. Until that time, we invite you to visit the Garden site to walk, sit, and find solace in nature. I also invite you to provide feedback on how you think the Garden can best serve the needs of our community at: [info@mcintirebotanicalgarden.org](mailto:info@mcintirebotanicalgarden.org)

## Members of Greenbrier Neighborhood Association Executive Committee

[greenbrier-exec@googlegroups.com](mailto:greenbrier-exec@googlegroups.com)

**Ned Michie**, President; Webmaster  
[nedmichie@aol.com](mailto:nedmichie@aol.com)

**Kyle Lewis**, Vice President  
[klewis@virginia.edu](mailto:klewis@virginia.edu)

**Karen Michie**, Secretary  
[KEMmichie@aol.com](mailto:KEMmichie@aol.com)

**Jane Tirrell**, Treasurer  
[teekjc@gmail.com](mailto:teekjc@gmail.com)

**Michael Barnes**, Past President  
[michaelbarnes456@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelbarnes456@yahoo.com)

**Heather Griffith**, Newsletter Editor  
[heather@nestrealty.com](mailto:heather@nestrealty.com)

**Donna Arehart**, At-Large  
[arehartdonna@gmail.com](mailto:arehartdonna@gmail.com)

**Sheila Haughey**, At-Large  
[sheila.haughey@comcast.net](mailto:sheila.haughey@comcast.net)

**Deborah Johnson**, At-Large  
[dgi7p@virginia.edu](mailto:dgi7p@virginia.edu)

**Greer Kelly**, At-Large  
[egk4r@virginia.edu](mailto:egk4r@virginia.edu)

**Aven Hormel Kinley**, At-Large  
[avenhormel@gmail.com](mailto:avenhormel@gmail.com)

**Holly Robertson**, At-Large  
[hollyrobertson@gmail.com](mailto:hollyrobertson@gmail.com)

**Mary Ropka**, At-Large  
[mropka@virginia.edu](mailto:mropka@virginia.edu)

**Eve Solomon**, At-Large;  
Newsletter Distribution  
[solomoneve@hotmail.com](mailto:solomoneve@hotmail.com)

