

SPRING 2021

The Greenbrier Gazette

The newsletter of the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association



Greenbrier 2025 Survey

What issues and topics are important to you as a resident of the Greenbrier neighborhood? The Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) is sponsoring an online survey (“**Greenbrier 2025**”) open to all residents of Greenbrier between now and June 1, 2021. The GNA wants to hear from you! Over the next four years, we want to direct our efforts and advocacy to the issues that are most important to Greenbrier residents. How do you envision your life in this neighborhood over the next four years? Are you proud to be a resident of Greenbrier? Do you feel connected to our community? Are you inspired to do things to enhance our neighborhood?

Help us become a more inclusive and connected neighborhood. Visit the “Greenbrier 2025” survey and share your thoughts today!
<http://bit.ly/greenbrier2025>



Greenbrier Neighborhood Association Spring 2021 Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 7:00pm

GNA will host our Spring 2021 Meeting via Zoom. It will include general GNA and neighborhood updates, GNA elections, and preliminary results of the “Greenbrier 2025” survey.

To assure the security of our virtual meeting, you must register in advance: <http://bit.ly/GNA-spring>.

On the morning of May 12, an email with information about how to join the Zoom virtual meeting will be sent to those who have pre-registered. We hope to “see” you there!

Greenbrier Elementary PTO Update

The Greenbrier Elementary PTO seeks corporate and individual support to fund canopies and tents for the school courtyard and picnic tables in order to increase opportunities for outdoor learning. You can support our neighborhood Greenbrier Elementary School in a number of ways:

- Make a donation directly to the Greenbrier PTO.
- Participate in monthly restaurant nights - part of the proceeds go directly to the PTO.
- Make sure your Kroger, Harris Teeter, and Amazon Smile accounts are linked to the PTO because retailers donate to the PTO each time you shop.

To learn more about these opportunities, visit the Greenbrier PTO website: <https://greenbrierpto.weebly.com>



Upcoming GNA Elections During May 12th Spring Zoom Forum Detailed Inside



STAY CONNECTED

with Your Greenbrier Neighbors in A New Way!

The Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) has had a group email list since the early 2000s, and it has grown to over 400 members. We now have a new host for our group list, **Groups.io**, which is an easy-to-use email group service that GNA launched in December 2020, after Yahoo shut down all groups. 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. It is also a useful source for recommendations about tradespeople and services.

The GNA membership list is maintained and moderated by the GNA Executive Committee. The list is private so only GNA members can send to and receive email from the list.

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. Let's maximize the number of neighbors in the group to both enhance our sense of community and increase our ability to get information out to the neighborhood.

Guidelines

In order to keep discussion relevant and neighborly and to maximize the number of people on the list, we have always had guidelines for appropriate uses of the list.

GNA has modified the guidelines over the years. During the pandemic, the guidelines were loosened, in particular to allow for promotion of local businesses. Recently, the Executive Committee further relaxed the guidelines. These new guidelines can be found in the Wiki section of our Groups.io website at <https://gna.Groups.io/> and on our public website: <https://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com/>. We ask that all new and existing members review and follow the new guidelines. **Remember that the most important guideline with the group email list is to be a good and kind neighbor.**

New GNA Group Email Features:

It's Easy to Control the Amount of GNA Mail You Receive

All emails have clear subject lines, so you can just decide not to open emails that don't interest you. Moreover, one of the reasons GNA decided to loosen the guidelines is that our new mailing list host, Groups.io, has a number of features to "protect" your inbox, based on your individual likes and dislikes.

When you sign up, or at any time thereafter, **you can adjust your settings** to receive all emails, summaries or digests, or no emails (viewing them on the website instead). You can also **mute a topic or a whole subject** via the use of "hashtags."

For more information about hashtags and generally controlling your inbox, go to Groups.io Help or see the relevant "Wiki Page," referenced below, on our Groups.io web page.

Wiki Pages

Groups.io allows us to set up **Wiki Pages** or "informational pages" on our Groups.io website. Unlike our world wide web page, these Groups.io wiki pages can be seen only by members of our GNA group email. Currently, GNA has set up the following pages:

- Free Listings of Adult Neighbors Who Own or Manage Businesses or Who Offer Professional Services* -- As the list grows, we will be able to create business categories. If you need a service, check here first and support your neighbors!
- Free Listings of Neighborhood Children Available for Odd Jobs* - An ongoing list of neighborhood youth who offer services such as lawn care, babysitting, pet sitting, pet walking, etc.
- GNA Bylaws
- GNA Email List Rules
- Ways to Control Your GNA Group Email Inbox.

**To get yourself, your business, or your child listed, just contact NedMichie@aol.com.*

Subgroups Within the Main GNA Group List

We have just created a **parents' "subgroup."** This is a private group that allows our GNA parents to communicate with each other, independently from the main GNA list. It works just like the main list but is private to the subgroup members. **Sign up for this subgroup through our Groups.io website.**

Polling

We can set up polls for members of our group list.

Signing into the Groups.io Website

Go to the bottom of any group email and click on the "Your Subscription" link, or go to our Groups.io website (<https://gna.groups.io/>) and use the "Log In" link at the bottom of the page. There is no "account" to create other than just picking a password, or you can choose to sign in using an existing Facebook or Google account.

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

City's Five-Year Master Plan Update

In a growing area such as Charlottesville, it is advisable to plan the best way to accommodate inevitable growth. In addition, localities are required to have a five-year master plan. The City of Charlottesville's five-year master plan update process has moved very slowly; however, there is now a formal draft of a future land use map. Once the map is finalized and adopted by City Council, it will then guide decisions on updating the City's zoning ordinances and maps. Adopting a land use map does not itself change the zoning. There is an overarching drive to make more population density possible throughout the City in order to accommodate the growth that is coming. A related goal is to create a more mixed-income workforce and affordable housing opportunities, and to make a more vibrant city. For example, the proposed land use changes would make it easier for single-family homeowners to create accessory apartments, thereby increasing housing stock and creating more affordable housing opportunities. This could also produce an income source for homeowners. Zoning changes could also allow owners to transform single-family homes into duplexes or triplexes. One concern is whether the new structures fit in with the neighborhood's character and quality. A similar concern is that zoning that encourages density could lead to affordable houses that are of historic character and older and smaller being torn down in favor of new multi-unit buildings.

Another reason cited for increasing density in urban areas is to help preserve rural areas by directing where population growth occurs, as opposed to allowing urban sprawl. In turn, urban population density theoretically cuts down on commuting from beyond the urban area. There will, however, always be people who, by choice or necessity, want to live outside an urban area regardless of the housing stock available. Moreover, increasing population density in an urban area is bound to increase local traffic. If a locality is serious about cutting down on individual commuting within the urban area, it is important to invest in mass transit options, as well as in alternative transportation infrastructure such as our long-planned but not finished multi-use path along Meadow Creek.

Zoning changes can also allow for local shops to develop in residential areas, making it possible for people to walk or bike to those shops instead of driving. The idea of being able to walk to a store or coffee shop in the neighborhood is quite appealing in many ways. However, in a built-out neighborhood

such as ours, the creation of such businesses would mean someone's house was torn down or modified by the owner to allow for a shop which close neighbors may or may not like.

Under the current draft land use map, you will see that, as with all other residential areas currently zoned R1 (primarily for single-family homes), most of our neighborhood would be changed into a future land use category described as follows: "A range of housing types scaled in context with the existing single-family character, such as 2-unit, 3-unit and accessory dwelling units (ADUs), where appropriate. Building heights range up to 2.5 stories. Allows limited ground floor active uses at select locations."

The draft land use designation along Dairy Road on the Greenbrier Neighborhood side of the bridge, all of Grove Road, around Greenbrier School, and on Greenbrier Drive from the school to Rio Road is described as follows: "Medium density housing types, including rowhouses, townhouses, and smaller multi-unit buildings, compatible with adjacent low intensity neighborhoods. Building heights range up to 2.5 stories. Allows ground floor active uses at select locations."

Along Melbourne, from the railroad tracks to Kenwood (along with a short segment of Kenwood), the draft designation is: "Compact neighborhood centers that encompass a mix of land uses arranged in smaller scale buildings compatible with surrounding low- and medium-intensity residential areas. Development of vertical mixed-use buildings is encouraged. Building heights range up to 4 stories."

The City is continuing to accept and encourage comments regarding its master planning, land use, and zoning. You can follow the latest on the master planning process and see recommended ways and opportunities to share your thoughts with decision makers on the City's web page set up for that purpose: <https://cvilleplanstogether.com/>.

We have posted the more detailed draft map on our Greenbrier web page: <http://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com>.

We may also try to set up a neighborhood Zoom presentation or meeting in late May or early June to learn more about the master plan and to discuss the issue. We will announce any such meeting on our Groups.io email list and on Nextdoor.

SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE COVID-19 VACCINE

[Vaccinate.Virginia.gov](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov)

Or call 1-877-VAX-IN-VA 7 days a week, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Available in English and Spanish. Call-back service in 100+ languages. TTY service.



**VACCINATE
VIRGINIA**

- ✓ **GET INFORMATION** on how vaccines work and why they are safe.
- ✓ **GET PRE-REGISTERED** to put your name on the list.
- ✓ **GET VACCINATED** —when it's your turn, we'll contact you to schedule your vaccine.

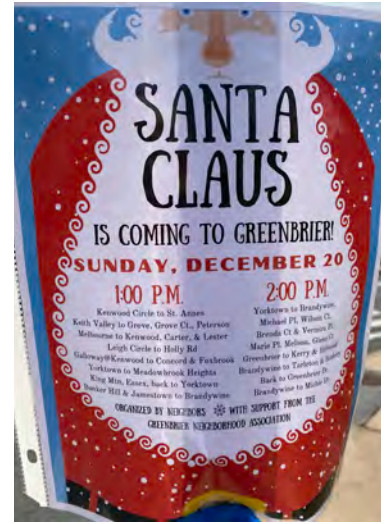


Support Your Neighborhood Association!

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 printing the newsletter that is hand-distributed to every residence in the Greenbrier Neighborhood in the Spring and the Fall. In addition, they support activities such as the Trail Signs and the Greenbrier School Frog Jog. The Executive Committee is always open to other ideas and projects that enhance and support the Greenbrier Neighborhood. Please complete the **"Greenbrier 2025 Survey"** to share your thoughts and opinions.

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. 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.

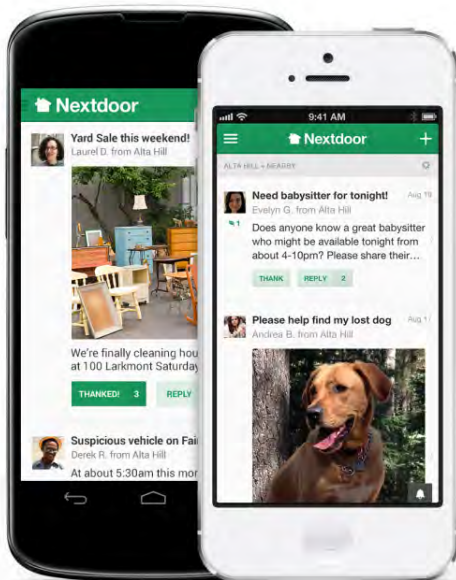


In addition, neighbors who have joined the new email group through Groups.io can now make a contribution using any debit or credit card. Sign in to your Groups.io account and select "Donations" in the navigation list. Select "GNA Contributions", then enter your card information and amount in the "Donate Now" section of the contribution page.

Our end-of-year balance was \$3,650.20, after having received \$2,385.00 in contributions and spending \$2,186.07 (mostly for the newsletters). We also have committed \$500 toward improving trail signage around our neighborhood. We further have committed \$1,000 for our "Let's Party" sponsorship program which has been suspended due to COVID.

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 103 households who contributed in calendar year 2020 and the five additional households that have given in 2021!

GNA Groups.io Compared to Nextdoor



Nextdoor is sometimes confused with our private GNA email group list, and both are used for many of the same purposes. Nextdoor has a modern social media feel (like Facebook) with associated phone Apps, and it is used and enjoyed by many Greenbrier residents. Like Facebook, Nextdoor is an advertising-supported, for-profit corporation with a lot of advertising on its platform. Presumably, clicking on the ads or other links helps Nextdoor generate revenue and/or gives their algorithms some data about your preferences. Not surprisingly, Nextdoor regularly urges its members to invite others to join.

Nextdoor's settings can of course be adjusted in various ways, including whether you want to allow posts to and from other area neighborhoods. The default is to be part of over 60 Charlottesville-area neighborhood discussions. As new neighborhoods are added by Nextdoor, you are automatically looped in with them until you manually turn off the new neighborhood. Nextdoor's "Greenbrier neighborhood" boundaries do not quite match what GNA considers our neighborhood boundaries to be.

Guidelines for use of our GNA Groups.io email list recently have been loosened but are tighter than those of Nextdoor. Moreover, although it hasn't happened, we can actually remove from our group email list anyone who is considered to be a rules violator. Our list is just basic email exchanges with no advertising. The website associated with our GNA group list also has no advertising but does have some useful features as described above.

Announcement of Upcoming GNA Elections

Online During the May 12, 2021 Zoom Forum

To continue to practice COVID-19 protocols, the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) will not hold an in-person spring public neighborhood meeting. Four (4) At-Large members' terms are expiring in the spring of 2021, and they are up for election for additional two-year terms.

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

Donna Arehart - Joined EC in 2019

Aven Hormel Kinley - Joined EC in 2018

Noah Bolton - Joined EC in 2021

Vacancy

Anyone interested in serving should contact Ned Michie or one of the other current committee members.



Looking for Host Families

The Charlottesville Tom Sox won the Valley League championship in 2019. After a season off due to COVID-19, the reigning champs hope to play their 2021 season opener on June 5 at home right here in our neighborhood. However, the team needs to find host families for their players.

Mike Paduano, President and General Manager, says, "Our season depends on finding hosts for our players. Once we have housing in place, we can begin looking at camps for children and other activities."

Members of the Tom Sox team are elite collegiate players from around the country. In addition to college players, the Tom Sox organization works with high school and college interns. The team's mission is to promote the game of baseball in Central Virginia by providing a high-quality collegiate summer team, a memorable fan experience, and opportunities for players and interns to grow in the game and in character.

Happy Trails Still To Come

We now have a lovely small recreational section of multi-use trail in Greenbrier Park that was built a couple years ago. When completed, the planned multi-use path in and around the Greenbrier Neighborhood will run along the creek from Morton Drive, continuing all the way to the John Warner Parkway's paved path, and go just beyond where the creek goes under the railroad tracks at that end of Greenbrier Park. See Trail Plan page on our GNA website: <https://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com/trail-plan.html>.

The plan for the path first appeared on City planning maps in 1972. In order to move the plan forward, in 1982 the City acquired an easement in front of the Hearthwood Apartments. The path has been listed as a high priority on every bike-pedestrian plan adopted by Charlottesville and regional partners for decades. It was adopted into a formal park plan by City Council in June of 2013. Unfortunately, most of the path still remains undesigned and unfunded.

Every year for about five years we have been told that the first planned bridge will be built just upstream of Brandywine near the current "rock hop." For one reason or another, the bridge has not been built despite the fact that funding has been set aside for the project. The delays have usually been caused by the need for some additional governmental approval. The word from the City Parks and Rec Department again is that the bridge will be built by the end of 2021 (likely starting construction in the Fall). There is more reason for us to be optimistic of it happening this year than in some of the past years.



The City Parks and Rec Department is then hoping to be able to complete the second needed bridge upstream as well as the trail to connect to Michie Drive within a couple years. Another unfinished planned multi-use path is the paved commuter path along Route 250 which still needs to be connected from Dairy Road to the YMCA through the woods behind CHS. Completion of that path may be a few years off depending on funding availability.

The City has compelling, competing needs for its capital improvement spending - such as affordable housing and school modernization/reconfiguration. However, the yearly Capital Improvement budget is \$25 - \$30 million, and more commitment to planned and approved "green infrastructure" is overdue. The long planned multi-use trail will provide a pleasant, easy, alternative way to travel from the Greenbrier Neighborhood to downtown, Barracks Road, UVA, Whole Foods, and the Fashion Square Mall area for a lot of people, including those who live at the end of Michie Drive

If you are interested in hosting a member of the Tom Sox, contact Paduano via email directly at mpad71@gmail.com or through the Tom Sox at info@tomsox.org.



Update: Botanical Garden of the Piedmont (formerly McIntire Botanical Garden)

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

<https://piedmontgarden.org/>

You have an old neighbor with a new name at the corner of Melbourne Road and John Warner Parkway. Last summer, McIntire Botanical Garden invited the public to suggest a new name. After receiving over 200 responses, the name was changed to **Botanical Garden of the Piedmont (BGP)**.

Lots has been happening at BPG:

- Even though the gate may be closed, the **BGP** site is **open during daylight hours**.
- We started to provide stewardship to the site a couple of years ago by removing invasive plants and using the chippings to **create trails**. Until COVID-19, we were also offering **educational programs** and look forward to doing so again.
- After the onset of the pandemic, we met with local community partners to find out how to make the **BGP** site more accessible and to provide solace and comfort in the outdoors. We added rustic log “benches” along trails and created four **gathering areas** to accommodate three to 12 people safely. The gathering areas are available on a first come first serve basis.
- An **information kiosk** was built by the Building Goodness Foundation, where you can find information about the **BGP** site, as well as volunteer opportunities for BGP.
- On February 3, 2021, the TomTom Foundation sponsored a panel session via Zoom, “Community Designed Public Spaces,” which provided interesting **information about the design and development of the BGP**. Watch this on YouTube here: <https://piedmontgarden.org/>.
- Within the next year, the City plans to build a **bridge over the creek** that divides the Garden site. It will allow access to the half of the garden space that is currently not able to be cared for. This access will provide volunteer opportunities to remove invasive plants, build new trails, and create more seating and gathering areas. The bridge will also connect the **BGP** with the rest of McIntire Park East.
- To help maintain the site, we have a **Garden Guardians volunteer program** on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings of the month from March through December. To volunteer or subscribe to our newsletter, please go to our website: www.piedmontgarden.org.

In order to build the best Garden we can, we are seeking public input about future Garden features and programs with our on-line survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9w60QAdbnR1RLkKawDF7MDB48B2XeMH4XSGKgDL2aF5Fgyw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&gxids=7628>

I look forward to seeing you in the Garden soon!

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