

SPRING 2022

# The Greenbrier Gazette

The newsletter of the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association



## Greenbrier Spring Picnic

Mark your calendars for Greenbrier Neighborhood Association's (GNA) Spring Picnic on **Saturday, June 4\* from 5-7pm** at Greenbrier Elementary! Bring your water bottle, camping chairs or a picnic blanket and gather with neighbors to enjoy dinner and support two great local food trucks: Bavarian Chef and Mobilee Delicious. Thanks to the neighbors who have supported GNA through contributions, we are able to organize a festive gathering featuring live music, inflatable slides for kids, carnival activities, a raffle, and more. We will post updates through the GNA group email list, so please join if you are not already a subscriber. See **"Stay Connected"** on page 2.

**\*Rain date: Sunday, June 5 from 5-7pm at Greenbrier Elementary.**



If you enjoy the opportunity to gather our community through events like the Spring Picnic and Santa's tour of Greenbrier, or if you help advocate for our neighborhood in local and regional forums, consider joining the GNA Executive Committee (see **"GNA Elections"** on page 5). The 2022 GNA Election will take place at the Spring Picnic.

**One more thing...we're going to need help!**

Please contact organizer  
Holly Robertson at  
[hollyrobertson21@gmail.com](mailto:hollyrobertson21@gmail.com)  
if you are able to help with  
activities, set-up, or clean-up.

## Kindness Café + Play Check Out This **Neighborhood Gem!**

**Open Monday - Saturday, 8am to noon**

A wonderful surprise awaits you when you visit Kindness Café + Play, located in the Brooks Family YMCA at McIntire Park. The Café is a short commute away, or you can easily walk there using the paved path located behind Charlottesville High School. Dine at tables inside or out. They have many family-oriented games to keep you amused during your visit. You can also order online for curbside pickup. Most importantly, while you are there, you will have the opportunity to interact with the delightful Team Kindness staff, who are very special people.

According to the founder, Katie Kishore, the mission of Kindness Café + Play is "to employ adults with cognitive disabilities, while creating a joyful, inclusive community space." More information is available on their website, so be sure to check it out - including their menu. [kindnesscafecville.com](http://kindnesscafecville.com)





## STAY CONNECTED with Your Greenbrier Neighbors

Join your neighbors on the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) group email list! The list connects more than 450 Greenbrier households. The group email list, hosted by Groups.io 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.

If you wish to be added to the list, email Ned Michie at [nedmichie@aol.com](mailto:nedmichie@aol.com) Once added, you will receive a welcome email with further instructions.

Unlike Nextdoor, the GNA email list is maintained and moderated by the GNA Executive Committee. 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. You can control the number of emails you receive by adjusting your settings or mute an individual topic completely. To set your preferences, go to the bottom of any group email and click on the "Your Subscription" link. For help using **Groups.io**, visit [Help Center](#).

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. The current guidelines can be found in the Wiki section of our Group.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.**

## Let's Be GOOD Neighbors

If you could use some neighborly assistance with a defined project like shoveling snow, moving a heavy item, or changing a smoke alarm battery, please consider contacting your Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) Executive Committee (EC).

We hope to develop a list of neighbors willing to help with these and other small tasks, free of charge. If you are interested in offering your assistance to help others in our neighborhood, please contact the EC by emailing [exec@gna.groups.io](mailto:exec@gna.groups.io)

Many hands make light work.



As a reminder, the GNA also maintains two "wiki" pages on the **Groups.io** website to help neighbors obtain needed services. If you are on the GNA group email list, click on any link in the footer of a group email and it will take you to the website. On the left is a list of options, scroll down to the "Wiki" link to see:

- 1) [Listings of Adult Neighbors Who Own or Manage Businesses or Who Offer Professional Services](#)
- 2) [Listings of Neighborhood Children Available for Odd Jobs](#)



### The Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA)

would like to thank Michael Barnes, Sheila Haughey, and Heather Griffith for their active and valuable service to our neighborhood since 2009, 2016, and 2018, respectively.

They will be stepping off the EC this spring and will be missed. **We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ned Michie** for his outstanding dedication, hard work, and leadership on behalf of our neighborhood. Ned grew up in Greenbrier and in 1991 moved back and raised his family here. Ned joined the GNA Executive Committee (EC) in 2000 and has served in many capacities, the latest as GNA President since spring 2017. Fortunately, Ned will remain an active member of the EC in the Past President position continuing to provide support, continuity, and historical context to the association.

# Road Construction Projects to Affect the Greenbrier Neighborhood

There are 2 major road construction projects that recently have been approved, fully funded, and will affect our neighborhood. VDOT proposes to construct multiple transportation improvements in the **US 29 and Hydraulic Road area**, and the City of Charlottesville will replace the **Dairy Road Bridge over the 250 Bypass**. Obviously, this construction, while welcome and sorely needed, may lead to periods of significant inconvenience for Greenbrier residents.



Currently, the building of the Dairy Road Bridge is planned to start in the first half of 2025. The goal for the US 29 and Hydraulic Road area project is much more aggressive with the aim being to hire a firm by the end of the year and to begin construction as early as the end of 2023.

The current US 29 and Hydraulic Area plan is a scaled down version of what was proposed a few years ago. The five components and the benefits of the project have been posted on the VDOT website: [www.virginiadot.org/projects/culpeper/us29-hydraulic-road-improvements.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/culpeper/us29-hydraulic-road-improvements.asp)

The first Design Public Hearing will be held on [US 29/ Hydraulic Road Transportation Improvements - Projects](#)

During January through March 2022, the **City Deer Culling Program** harvested a total of 63 deer (22 antlered bucks, 14 button bucks and 27 does), providing 2,180 pounds of meat for Hunters for the Hungry.

### NUMBER BY LOCATION:

- 3 Azalea Park
- 7 Greenbrier Park
- 8 Mcintire Park
- 9 Meadowcreek Disk Golf
- 13 Riverview Park
- 23 Pen Park



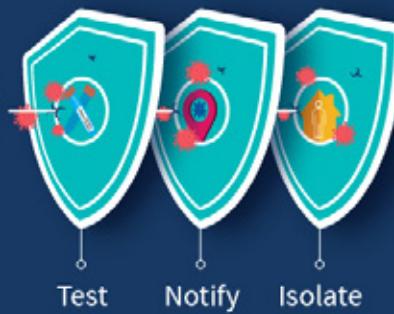
May 25, 2022 from 5-7pm at the Hillsdale Conference Center, 550 Hillsdale Drive. Likewise, the City plans to hold public input sessions on the design and functionality of the Dairy Road Bridge, dates and times to be announced.

As we learn of opportunities to submit your input on either one of these projects, we will keep you informed. Join our GNA group email list to keep up with the progress of these road projects as well as other important news.

# Every Layer Protects Us

## PREVENT

## CONTAIN



YOU

PEOPLE YOU LOVE



## 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 contribution funds neighborhood-wide meetings and forums. It also pays for printing the GNA newsletter that is hand-delivered to every residence (more than 900 households) in the Greenbrier neighborhood twice a year, in the spring and the fall. Additionally, your contribution supports activities such as neighborhood parties and gatherings, like the upcoming picnic on June 4, 2022, as well as the Greenbrier School PTO.

- (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](mailto:GNADUES@gmail.com) The money will go straight to an account with Truist 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) homepage that you reach by signing into [mail@gna.groups.io](mailto: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 households that have contributed so far in 2022. If you would like to know when you last contributed to the GNA, please email Jane Tirrell at [jcteek@gmail.com](mailto:jcteek@gmail.com) Our financial records date back to 2006.

For the calendar year 2021, our treasury's ending balance was \$5,140. During the year, we received contributions of \$2,785 from 137 neighbors and spent \$1,421 on newsletters, credit card fees, and a donation to the Greenbrier School. We have currently committed \$1,000 to the **Let's Party Program** (see below) and were a Silver Sponsor for the Greenbrier School Frog Jog held on May 6, 2022.



The Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) Executive Committee renewed the continued use of a portion of our GNA dues for the important purpose of building a sense of community among the people who live in the Greenbrier Neighborhood.

The **Let's Party Program** will fund up to ten 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 to also invite others around them who they don't know or don't know well. The funding can be used for food, rentals, paper products, or any other communal resource or amenity for the party. Consider inviting at least one GNA Executive Committee member, so they can also meet neighbors and spread good will.

The **Let's Party** funding is available through the end of December 2022. In order to apply for funding **BEFORE** the event, please contact Jane Tirrell at **434-981-5172** or email [jcteek@gmail.com](mailto:jcteek@gmail.com)



## GNA Elections During the June 4, 2022 Spring Picnic

The spring Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) Executive Committee (EC) elections will be held during the picnic on June 4, 2022 (see front page article). All four GNA officers, as well as four At-Large positions are up for election for two-year terms. Below are your neighbors who have offered to serve and are standing for election.



### Officers - 2 Year Terms (2022-2024)

#### Co-Presidents:

**Aven Hormel Kinley** - Joined EC in 2018

**Holly Robertson** - Joined EC in 2021

#### Vice President:

**Mary Ropka** - Joined EC in 2017

#### Secretary:

**Jake Mooney** - Appointed 2021  
to fill open secretary position

#### Treasurer:

**Jane Tirrell** - Joined EC in 2017  
Treasurer since 2020

### At-Large Members - 2 Year Terms (2022-2024)

**Eve Solomon** - Joined EC in 2014  
handles the newsletter distribution

#### Seeking nominees for 3 At-Large Members

If you are interested in serving,  
please contact Ned Michie at  
[nedmichie@aol.com](mailto:nedmichie@aol.com) or anyone on  
the GNA Executive Committee.

## Trail Update

The Charlottesville Parks and Rec Department has recently submitted a proposal to City Council for \$750,000 to build a bridge next to the current "rock hop" near Brandywine Drive, to construct a second bridge further upstream, and to complete a path that would connect Michie Drive to Brandywine Drive. Although



City Council has not yet approved Parks and Rec's request, the Greenbrier Neighborhood Association (GNA) Executive Committee (EC) believes funding from a variety of sources is currently available to the City, including approximately \$9 million in federal government funds designated for pandemic relief, which has not been allocated for use by the City. The federal rules for using this money make it clear that one acceptable use is the creation and enhancement of green space, parks, and exercise options for underprivileged communities. The Michie Drive path falls squarely within this definition.

The EC has prepared an advocacy document in support of the Parks and Rec request with background information and a map. We recommend that Greenbrier residents who support this project make their voices heard. There are several ways in which to do this. If you are willing to speak during the public comment portion of any upcoming City Council meeting held on the first and third Monday each month starting at 6:30pm, you may request a three minute time slot at <https://www.charlottesville.gov/692/Request-to-Speak> The advocacy document provides talking points you can choose from to make during your presentation. It can be found along with other information and source documents on the trail plan page of our website at <https://cvillegreenbrier.weebly.com/trail-plan.html> or accessed directly via this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FQSXR6VKDfpQhPQVhUZKXBuWZLyFvCZYRFTsIpl4v0Y/edit?usp=sharing>

Emails to City Council are also encouraged, but speaking publicly at a Council meeting is preferable. The City Council and senior staff group email address is available at: <https://charlottesville.org/former/City-Council-7/Email-Contact-Form-for-City-Council-124>

## The Botanical Garden of the Piedmont



The Botanical Garden of the Piedmont (BGP) has recently expanded to nearly 15 acres as a result of a land lease granted by the City of Charlottesville. BGP volunteers have been hard at work laying mulch-lined trails throughout the site. Later this fall, work will begin to restore the stream which currently bi-sects the Garden, and a bridge will be added to facilitate access to both sides of the park. A printable trail map is located on the website at <https://piedmontgarden.org/about/trail-map/> Be sure to check out the educational events and other programming on the website as well.

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



# Saving Trees From Clinging Vines

Did you know that Charlottesville's tree canopy coverage declined from 50% to 40% in the last 14 years? Plus, the rate of decline has more than doubled in the last four years. Neighborhoods below a 40% tree canopy are considered "heat islands" leading to higher energy costs and more heat related illnesses. ReLeaf Cville (<https://www.releafcville.org>) is a project initiated by the City's Tree Commission to plant, preserve and educate the public about the importance of trees. Greenbrier is fortunate to have a 55% tree canopy, but we must do our part to preserve the beautiful trees in our neighborhood. Controlling vines that can severely damage our trees is a good place to start.

If allowed to run rampant, unwanted vines can eventually engulf tree trunks, weakening the tree over time and leaving it susceptible to pests, disease, and wind damage as well as robbing it of sunlight and essential nutrients. Broken limbs from a weakened or dying tree can cause injuries to people and pets and have the potential to lead to costly home or car repairs.

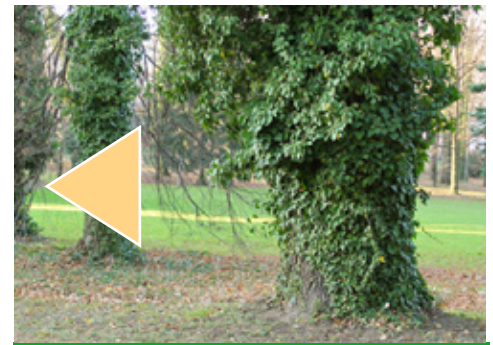
There are several types of invasive vines found in Central Virginia, the most common being English Ivy. Vines growing up your trees or shrubs should be cut as low as possible with pruners or a saw. The vines above the cut will eventually shrivel up and die, exposing the tree to more sunlight. Pulling the vines off the tree above the cut is not advisable, as this could damage the bark. The vines below the cut should be hand pulled from the ground or removed through digging. If not, the stems below the cut will form new growth, and the vine will start climbing the tree once again. Once an invasive vine has been eliminated, trees are quick to recover. However, it is important to keep a watchful eye, as damages may be more extensive and hidden by the vine's foliage. Do not wait for cooler temperatures, as vines grow rapidly particularly in the summer months. Should you need assistance in removing vines from your trees, please contact a professional arborist or email the neighborhood at [mail@gna.groups.io](mailto:mail@gna.groups.io) We have many kind neighbors willing to help.

## Future Land Use/Zoning Changes Update

After much passionate discussion and citizen input last fall, the City Council adopted a new Future Land Use Map (FLUM): <https://www.charlottesville.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7029/Chapter-04-Appendix-1---Future-Land-Use-Map-Appendix-PDF?bidId=>

The map envisions significantly more residential density throughout the City, however, the map is only a guideline. The redrafting of the City Zoning Ordinances will actually determine what development is and is not allowed throughout the City, and that redrafting has begun.

In late May or early June, the City will release a report that describes the changes suggested by the FLUM to the current zoning ordinances and how these proposed changes could affect development. Over the summer and into the fall, the City planning staff/consultants will simultaneously seek input from the public through various channels and from the Planning Commission and City Council. Based on that input, the aim is to have a draft of the rewritten zoning ordinances made available sometime in October, followed by more input from the public and decision-making bodies. It is anticipated that the draft will undergo changes as it moves through the approval process first by the Planning Commission and then by City Council. The ultimate approval should come in the Spring of 2023. Keep an eye out for information about this important process and sign up for our Greenbrier Neighborhood Association Group Email list to stay informed. We received a lot of thoughtful emails regarding the FLUM process and will likely experience that again during the Zoning rewrite.



## CURRENT MEMBERS OF Greenbrier Neighborhood Association

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

**Deborah Johnson**, Vice President  
[dgj7p@virginia.edu](mailto:dgj7p@virginia.edu)

**Jake Mooney**, Secretary  
[jakemooney@gmail.com](mailto:jakemooney@gmail.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)

**Holly Robertson**, Webmaster  
[hollyrobertson21@gmail.com](mailto:hollyrobertson21@gmail.com)

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

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

**Aven Hormel Kinley**, At-Large  
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**Mary Ropka**, At-Large  
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**Eve Solomon**, At-Large  
[solomoneve@hotmail.com](mailto:solomoneve@hotmail.com)

\*Stepping off the EC this spring 6