

## Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> Clean-up & Firewise Project in Greenbriar

Dear 94803 Neighbors,

Today the Greenbriar Neighborhood Council held a successful Green waste Clean-up Day for the residents of five streets that comprise their neighborhood council. They filled a 32 cubic yard dumpster with dry vegetation, dead pine needles, and leaves as well as overgrown tree and shrub branches. This was an amazing amount of vegetation! Fifteen neighbors volunteered to help other neighbors in this one-day event. Residents were asked to trim their yards of potential wildfire fuel. A volunteer mobile crew did curbside pickup for those unable to transport the vegetation to the dumpster. In addition, volunteers swept and cleaned up neighborhood sidewalks to beautify the area, and widen sidewalk access for walkers. But how did this all come about?

We are proud to be recipients of a City of Richmond LOVE YOUR BLOCK grant through the City Manager's Community Services Development Department. Want to know how these grants are available? What's the process?

In January 2022 our neighborhood council president emailed residents about a City of Richmond Community Development mini-grant opportunity. He and three residents combined ideas to submit a proposal by February 25<sup>th</sup>. In April, we were notified that our proposal for a sidewalk/yard beautification and firewise education project was funded. After lots of planning, there was an Information Table to proudly announce and describe the grant objectives to the 125 households of Greenbriar at the Annual National Night Out on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Later, the grant team designed flyers and doorknob hangers and walked the five streets to remind residents of the September 10<sup>th</sup> event. A dumpster was ordered from REPUBLIC Services and placed in a readily accessible location on Kipling Court. On Sat. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, volunteers gathered at the dumpster site to assist residents in unloading armloads and pick-up truckloads of their yard and sidewalk vegetation. Thankfully, Saturday's weather miraculously cooled after that record-breaking heatwave. Greenbriar residents and volunteers were able to safely and comfortably work outside, gather their vegetation trimmings and get it to the dumpster. Longtime residents, some who have lived in their homes for more than 30 years, chatted and welcomed new neighbors who deposited landscape

trimmings on this one-day event. What a busy day it was, but so worth it, to beautify our neighborhood and make it safer from wildfire by simply reducing vegetation in the zones around our homes.

If you would like to replicate this event in your area, we serve as a pilot project and would gladly provide further details. We welcome your questions.

Sincerely,

Greenbriar Neighborhood Council LYB Grant Team