



Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

COMMUNICATOR

Monthly Publication of the Communications Committee



Beautifying GHI Common Areas Together

By Susan Harris, Woodlands Committee member

GHI's Woodlands Committee, which oversees our common areas, is looking for members interested in greening and beautifying nearby common areas, and in brainstorming with the Woodlands Committee about spots that could be improved.



Plants donated by court members beautify a common area adjacent to their parking lot.

Would you like to see more plants, more biodiversity, more sustenance and shelter for pollinators and birds, and, of course, more natural beauty around your neighborhood? We can achieve this by planting perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees in our common areas. Such plantings also reduce storm water runoff and improve water quality.

In some areas, a single member may get permission to improve and maintain a small plot. In other areas, several neighbors may volunteer to adopt a spot as a team. Either way, it can be a fun way to learn more about gardening! A few members have already begun common area gardening, but there are plenty of additional sites available throughout GHI.

Even non-gardening neighbors enjoy the attractive appearance and extra color that result from small gardens in the more visible places in our neighborhood. A common area garden could even include a bench for quiet reflection, or a spot for croquet. And wouldn't it be great if we could find a good spot for a Monarch butterfly way station? Nature lovers of all ages could get involved.

The Woodlands Committee will assist and support this effort in the following ways:

- Offer design ideas and suggest plants that are likely to thrive in that environment.
- Teach members new to gardening how to plant, water, and maintain the plantings using easy and eco-friendly gardening methods.
- Provide markers with volunteer gardeners' names to give recognition for your work.
- Teach pruning. (It's hard to learn from a book or online, so hands-on training will be available for everyone.)

In the future, the Woodlands Committee may compile online photos and descriptions of common area gardens to inspire creativity, create an online resource list of gardening information and determine a "wish list" of items for which GHI could seek donations.

To find out more, contact the Woodlands Committee Staff Liaison at gbachman@ghi.coop to set up a time for you to share your ideas with the committee or for committee members to visit the spot you have in mind for a common area garden.

2014/2015 BOARD of DIRECTORS OFFICERS

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GHI Needs You! Attend our Ice Cream Social and Candidates' Forum

By GHI's Nominations & Elections Committee

The Nominations and Elections (N&E) Committee is hoping many GHI members will be willing to stand for election to the Board of Directors, the Audit Committee, or our Committee itself.

We invite you to an Ice Cream Social, to be held on Sunday, April 12th from 2 to 4 pm at the GHI Administration Building to learn more about these opportunities for service to our community. Please feel free to bring guests and your families! N&E members will be available to discuss any questions or issues you may have with serving as an elected leader of GHI.

We are also offering you the chance to meet the candidates and hear their views on a variety of matters of importance to our community at a Candidates' Forum, to be held on Tuesday, May 5 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

The election itself will be held following the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 pm in the gymnasium of the Community Center, and on Friday, May 15th at the GHI Administration Building.

You may obtain the candidate packet, with all the pertinent information for registering as a candidate, from <http://www.ghi.coop/content/2015-candidate-packet>. You may also get more information from www.ghi.coop, the GHI office, or from the N&E Committee, including chair Kandis Wyatt at ghi.nominationsandelections@gmail.com or 301-538-5715.

Thank you, and please consider running for elective office in GHI or suggesting fellow members for the Committee to contact.

Member Announcements

Town Hall Meeting Q&A and Video



In case you missed it, or just want to relive it, check out all of the resources available from the January 25th Town Hall Meeting. The scripts and Q&A from the meeting are available online at <http://www.ghi.coop/content/homes-improvement-program> (bottom of page). The video will be broadcast on Comcast channel 77 and Verizon channel 19, and can also be viewed on GHI's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/Greenbelthomes>. Learn more about where the Homes Improvement Program stands and the decisions that the Board of Directors has already made regarding mandatory versus member opt-in components. The Homes Improvement Program begins next year – get informed!

Save the Date — GHI Annual Meeting - May 14th at 7:00 pm

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the GHI Administration Offices on Hamilton Place, and are open to all GHI members. Dates are subject to change.

April		
7	8:30am	Yardlines Committee
8	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
9	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
10	--	OFFICE CLOSED*
12	2-4 pm	N&E Ice Cream Social
13	7:00 pm	Member Outreach Committee
13	7:30 pm	Marketing Committee
14	7:30 pm	Historic Preservation Taskforce
15	7:00 pm	Nominations and Elections
15	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
16	7:30 pm	Finance Committee
18	11:00 am	Pre Purchase Orientation
21	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
22	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee
23	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
24	--	OFFICE CLOSED*
26	10:00 am	Woodlands Plant Swap
29	7:00 pm	Nominations and Elections
30	7:00 pm	Communications Committee
30	6:30 pm	Investment Committee
* Emergency maintenance service is available outside of normal hours or when GHI is closed. Call 301-474-6011.		

Update to the GHI Member Handbook

Included with this newsletter are revised pages to the Member Handbook: Section V Planting – Hedges, Trees, etc. You will find the change in Paragraph E, number 5 (b). Please remove pages identified as 39f-05/39g-05 and replace them with inserts 39f-14/39g-05. The Member Handbook can also be viewed at <http://ghi.coop/content/member-handbook-greenbook>.

Board Reinstates Policy to Collect Working Capital Contribution

On February 26, 2015, GHI's Board of Directors approved the reinstatement of the policy of collecting from each new member a contribution to working capital that is equivalent to 1 percent of the purchase price of the unit. This requirement will apply to all sales contracts that are established after March 31, 2015. Working capital contributions are refunded to members without interest upon re-sale of their units. For more information, go to: <http://www.ghi.coop/content/board-reinstates-working-capital-contributions>

Board Actions & Committee Reports

Insert highlights recent board decisions and committees' work.

Plant Swap

Plant Swap on April 26th at 10:00 am
GHI Administration Building.