



Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

# COMMUNICATOR

Monthly Publication of the Communications Committee



## Is 2015 Your Year to Serve as a GHI Office Holder?

*By The Nominations & Elections Committee*

As we enter this new year of 2015, many of us turn our thoughts towards what we would like to accomplish and, in particular, to what new ways we might find to serve the various communities that are so important in our lives.

One of those communities, of course, is our own GHI housing cooperative. As you know, the cooperative model is now and always has been founded on a base of dedicated volunteer members. In the case of GHI, these volunteers, together with our professional staff, ensure that our cooperative is managed and operated in ways that best serve the needs of our membership.

While there are many ways to serve, particularly important to the governance of our cooperative are those members who agree to serve on the Board of Directors, the Audit Committee, and the Nominations and Elections Committee. Their commitment of time, energy, effort and, very likely, some patience, is rewarded many times over in the benefits all of us receive.

Could 2015 be the year in which you feel called to this kind of especially dedicated service? The members of your current Nominations and Elections (N&E) committee hope so! We will soon be contacting many of you who have in the past expressed the possibility of interest in serving with one of these three groups. If you are new to our cooperative or not so new but are now thinking of a more involved leadership role, please contact the GHI office or any N&E member for more information.



2014-2015 Board of Directors

Briefly stated, the Board of Directors sets policy and oversees the operation of GHI; the Audit Committee oversees the general operations of GHI in accordance with the governing documents of the corporation; and the N&E Committee identifies candidates and conducts elections. More information on terms of service, particular responsibilities, and details of the election process are available at the GHI website [www.ghi.coop](http://www.ghi.coop), the GHI office, or from N&E Committee members, including chair Kandis Wyatt, who may be reached at [ghi.nominationsandelections@gmail.com](mailto:ghi.nominationsandelections@gmail.com) or 301-538-5715.

Volunteer service to our cooperative can be challenging and demanding, but also immensely rewarding. We hope you will give serious consideration to serving.

### 2014/2015 BOARD of DIRECTORS OFFICERS

**Steve Skolnik, President**  
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## What Is a Swale and Why Is There One In My Yard? *By Beth Chandler*

You may have seen the word “swale” in discussions of yards or plantings in the Members’ Handbook, or you might have heard about swales at a GHI meeting, but do you know exactly what it is? A swale is a natural or constructed channel or depression in the landscape that directs storm water runoff. In GHI, swales often lead to a storm drain. Swales are intended to drain surface water away from homes so it does not flow into crawlspaces or basements. Water in crawlspaces or basements can cause mold to grow and spread up into the homes—something no one wants. Members experiencing ponding, wet areas, or other indications of swale interruption should report it as soon as possible to the Maintenance Department.

Some current and past GHI residents might not have recognized a swale or its purpose. Therefore, some swales have been filled in with dirt or plantings, or otherwise made less effective. If you think you might have a blocked swale, are not sure where yours is, or have any other questions regarding swales, please call GHI at 301-474-4161.

## Member Announcements

### New Policy for Electric Vehicle Charging

The GHI Board of Directors recently adopted a policy to allow members, at their individual expense, to install an Electric Vehicle Service Equipment (EVSE) at their GHI unit. To learn more about the conditions that must be met prior to installation, visit <http://ghi.coop/content/electric-vehicle-service-equipment-policy>.

### 2015 GHI Budget

To see the budget passed by the Board of Directors for 2015, visit <http://ghi.coop/content/2015-ghi-budget>.

### GHI’s Long-Time HR Director Brenda Lewis to Retire

Brenda Lewis has been working at GHI for 18 years. She began as the Executive Assistant to the General Manager in 1996, was promoted to the position of Assistant to the General Manager in 1999, and then to Director of Human Resources in 2004. Her plans now are to take a long nap, do some traveling, and spend time in her garden and with her family.

Maesha McNeill is the new Human Resources Manager and she started on December 15. We look forward to her contributions to GHI.



## 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.*

January		
1-2	--	OFFICE CLOSED*
5	7:00 pm	Pre Purchase Orientation
6	8:30 am	Yard Lines Committee
8	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
12	7:00 pm	Member Outreach Committee
12	7:30 pm	Marketing Committee
14	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
15	6:30 pm	Investment Committee
15	7:30 pm	Finance Committee
16	--	OFFICE CLOSED*
19	--	OFFICE CLOSED*-MLK Day
20	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
21	7:00 pm	Nominations and Elections
21	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
22	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
24	11:00 am	Pre Purchase Orientation
<b>25</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Town Hall—Greenbelt Fire Dept.</b>
26	7:00 pm	Communications Committee
27	8:30 am	Yard Lines Committee
28	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee
29	7:00 pm	Board Work Session
30	--	OFFICE CLOSED*

\* Emergency maintenance service is available outside of normal hours or when GHI is closed. Call 301-474-6011.

### Christmas Tree Disposal

The City of Greenbelt recycles Christmas trees into mulch. Please take your *completely undecorated* tree to one of the locations in our community indicated by the small wooden Christmas trees. Please direct questions to Public Works at 301-474-8004.



### Comment on Proposed Changes to Rules for Privacy Screens

The Board would like your input on proposed rules changes regarding privacy screens. An insert with the details is enclosed with this newsletter. Please submit your comments via email by Jan. 23 to [rseecharan@ghi.coop](mailto:rseecharan@ghi.coop) or you can drop off written comments at the Admin. Office, Attn: Rean.

### Town Hall Meeting

**January 25, 2015, 2-4:15 pm** at the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (125 Crescent Rd). See the enclosed flyer for more information.

### New Year, New Chance to Volunteer for Your Co-op

Our co-op needs each of us to participate in the decision-making that makes this community great. We have several committees that need additional volunteers. Consider how you can volunteer 1-2 hours a month for YOUR co-op. For a list of all GHI committees and to volunteer, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/committees> or visit the GHI office.