



July 2015

Communicator

GREENBELT HOMES, INC. | A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Announcing the “Think small/Live LARGE” Campaign!

By Melissa Ehrenreich

Have you ever caught yourself thinking, “This house is too small. There is not enough space. No attic. No basement. If only I just had another room...”

But what if we told you that you were actually living in a palace?

Last month, 30 GHI members ventured out to tour the 210-square foot Minim house in downtown Washington, DC. The tour was the official kick-off for the **Think small/Live LARGE** initiative launched by GHI’s Member Outreach Committee. And, quite frankly, it blew our socks off thinking about the potential for living larger in our own 1000 square foot GHI homes.

Nestled between three alleys, the Minim house sits on a tenth of an acre and seemingly defies reality. Imagine a sprawling 10 foot fully functional kitchen overlooking a veranda, a living room with a 60 inch projection screen, a music room, a work studio, a bedroom, a bathroom, and a dining room all ingeniously designed in the space of a 10 foot by 20 foot room. Out the large picture

window we had a sweeping view of the edible landscape complete with a mini-orchard, a bee hive and bat house, a micro-meadow, native pollinator plants, and a booming garden overflowing with fruits and vegetables. An 800 gallon rain barrel provided all the water needed. Minim house founder Brian Levy shared some of his secrets with us and now we are bringing this information back to the GHI membership through this new campaign.

As part of this GHI initiative, members will develop



GHI members toured the Minim House in May

resources, educational programs, and new ideas to share with our community. We will explore and highlight space saving innovations to help all of us maximize our footprint in three key areas:

- 1) Helping GHI members **RECLAIM** their space by highlighting sources and opportunities to use right-sized appliances, multi-functional furniture, and storage ideas for double smart usage of your space.
- 2) Inviting others to inspire us to **REINVENT** our space by soliciting ideas on smarter layouts, design, and innovations that members can adopt to make our units more functional, beautiful, and future-forward to raise the value of our homes and quality of living.
- 3) Thinking creatively about how we might better **SHARE** our indoor and outdoor common areas to create new opportunities to play, live, garden, and work in GHI.

We need you! Send an email to thinksmallGHI@gmail.com to become part of the working group to power the Think small/Live LARGE Campaign. Your participation and ideas can help us all think small!

See more Minim home images at <http://minimhomes.com/photos/> and watch the GHI website for resources to come on ideas, innovations, and member engagement opportunities to learn and live large by thinking small.

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HOMES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

By Sheri Swaim, Special Assistant to the Mgt. Office

The big decisions about GHI's Homes Improvement Program (H.I.P.) were made by the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 14th, but there are still plenty of details that need to be ironed out. The Building, Finance and Architectural Review (ARC) Committees have been very busy working on recommendations to give to the Board of Directors on many of these details.

During meetings from March through May, the Board decided that all optional H.I.P. components, except kitchen exhaust fans, will be maintained by GHI and will include these items in the reserves program for future replacement. It was also decided that members will be responsible for the re-installation and maintenance of existing storm doors. Also, the Board determined the colors of siding which will be offered. (Details of these decisions can be found in the March 12 and May 7, 2015 Board minutes on GHI's website.)

The Finance Committee has been deliberating on several items: the details of the crawlspace loans; what happens to crawlspace and optional item loans at resale; and the feasibility of a loan deferral program. The Architectural Review Committee, with input from the Historic Preservation Task Force, is discussing options for entrance doors. All of these recommendations will be coming before the Board at July and August meetings.

GHI's weekly E-News advertises committee and Board meetings with H.I.P. related content. These meetings are open for members to attend. Members can also view minutes of Board meetings at <http://www.ghi.coop/about-ghi/board-of-directors/minutes>. Questions about H.I.P. activities can be emailed to hip@ghi.coop, or written and dropped off at the GHI offices. Staff will respond to questions within five business days.

Member Announcements

Guest House Closure

The Board of Directors recently decided that it was in the best interest of Greenbelt Development Corporation (the subsidiary owned by GHI which runs Parkway Apartments) to convert the guest house back to a leasable 1-bedroom apartment. The conversion will be complete on or before September 1, 2015.

Social Media Policy

The Board of Directors approved a new Media Policy for staff and elected or appointed GHI representatives. This new policy also addresses social media. To see a copy of GHI's new Media Policy, go to: <http://www.ghi.coop/content/board-policies-procedures-0>.

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.

July

3	—	OFFICES CLOSED
6	7:00 pm	Pre-Purchase Orientation
8	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
9	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
13	7:00 pm	Member Outreach Committee
13	7:30 pm	Marketing Committee
14	7:30 pm	Historic Preservation Task Force
15	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
16	6:30 pm	Investment Committee
17	—	OFFICES CLOSED
18	11:00 am	Pre-Purchase Orientation
19	TBD	Board Strategic Planning Retreat
21	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
22	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee
23	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
27	7:00 pm	Communications Committee
31	—	OFFICES CLOSED

Aug

1	11:00 am	Pre-Purchase Orientation
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Call 301-474-6011 for emergency maintenance outside of normal hours or when GHI is closed.

Member Announcements

GHI staff has some new faces!

Please welcome:

Jonathan Clark, Master Electrician
Greg Eck, Accounting Manager
Kenny Hardman, Master Plumber
Ronnie Sookram, Maintenance Manager
Bijan Khorsand, Director of Technical Services

Tom Sporney, former Director of Technical Services, is taking over as Manager of the Homes Improvement Program.

To see photographs of our new employees, visit <http://www.ghi.coop/content/new-faces-ghi-staff>.

Garden Contest

The Architectural Review Committee has begun a year-long garden contest. See the insert in this issue for more details.

New Look for Monthly Communicator

Special thanks to Communications Committee member Ken Shields for designing our new look!