



Communicator

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

SPRING CLEANING: HOW TO GET RID OF UNWANTED ITEMS THROUGH DONATION & RE-GIFTING

By Lauren Cummings

In February, we gave you some tips on how to clear the clutter to help you think small and live large. Far too often GHI members leave items they no longer want outside their homes or in common areas with “free” signs on them. While the saying “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure” is true, there are better ways to get rid of your stuff that won’t make our community an eyesore. Prospective new members drive through our co-op all the time, and rained-on couches left in common areas aren’t a welcoming sight. Also, leaving items out makes additional work for our Public Works department as they have to scan the community for items left in random places.

Respect your co-op and neighbors by following these simple steps.

- 1) Place item(s) out the night before bulk trash pick-up, not days in advance.
- 2) Use one of the resources below to get rid of items.

3) Talk with your neighbors if you see them leaving items out in common areas and inform them of the resources listed below. Contact GHI’s Member Services Department if the problem is persistent.

Here are a few easy ways you can get rid of stuff for free:

City of Greenbelt Bulk Trash Pick Up – If it’s trash or yard waste (leaves, branches, etc.) the city will pick it up for free on Fridays. Call 301-474-8004 by noon on Thursday to schedule a pick up. Keep items in your serviceside yard by your trash container.

Freecycle – This local listserv allows you to post offers to give away your stuff to neighbors for free. You post the item and the taker picks it up from your front porch. You can even give away broken items for the people who like to tinker and repair items; be sure to disclose this information in your listing. Create an account at

www.yahogroups.com/freecyclegreenbelt.



GreenDrop - A semi-monthly drop off is held by the City of Greenbelt on the 2nd and 4th Saturday each month from 9am to noon in the parking lot behind City Hall. You can also drop donations off at the College Park donation center located at 8900 Baltimore Avenue (next to Rita’s) M-F 8-8/Sat 8-6/Sun 10-6. Donations benefit several non-profits. Visit <http://bit.ly/1QZQgK7> for more local donation centers and several will pick up from your home.

Greenbelt On-Line Yard Sale - A Facebook group with more than 1,700 members where you can post pictures and prices of items to sell. You can also give away items for free in this group. Log into Facebook and visit <http://on.fb.me/1SnmZ3V>.

Craigslist Classifieds – This website allows you to sell items to anyone willing to come to Greenbelt to pick it up. Make a safe transaction by scheduling the exchange at the Greenbelt Police Department. Visit <https://washingtondc.craigslist.org/>.

Community Forklift - Located in Hyattsville, this non-profit accepts donations of surplus, gently-used, and salvaged home improvement supplies. Visit <http://communityforklift.org/>.

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Greenbelt Homes

GHIgmt

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CAN YOU HELP LEAD GHI'S FUTURE?

By Tom Jones, Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee

GHI is a corporation owned by its 1,600 members. On May 12 and 13, we the members will hold elections to select our representatives in three different groups:

1. The **Board of Directors** consists of 9 members who serve 2-year terms. These terms are staggered, so 4 members are elected in even years and 5 elected in odd years. The Board selects the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer from its members. The Board is tasked with managing the property, business, and affairs of GHI.
2. The **Audit Committee** consists of 3 members who serve 1-year terms, who independently review and evaluate finance and other operations.
3. The **Nominations & Elections (N&E) Committee** consists of 5 members who serve 1-year terms, responsible for managing elections.

These 17 people are crucial to ensuring GHI operates effectively, especially as the multi-year Homes Improvement Program gets under way. Tasked with identifying candidates, the Nominations and Elections Committee will be talking to members who currently volunteer in GHI. However, any member at least 21 years old is also welcome to declare their candidacy. It's easy to get on the ballot: just complete the "consent to serve" form and provide it to a member of the N&E Committee, or submit a petition with at least 10 members' signatures to GHI Secretary Ed James.

The candidate packet explains how to run and provides a detailed timeline. You can obtain the packet from <http://ghi.coop/election> or the GHI office. You are welcome to ask any member of the N&E Committee for more information. The current N&E members are Tom Jones (Chair), Alex Barnes, Theresa Henderson, and Terry Kucera. You are welcome to email the N&E Committee at GHI.NominationsAndElections@gmail.com or contact the chair directly at tom@spril.com.

A Word of Thanks

Many members expressed gratitude to the GHI staff who spent the night at the office or trekked through Winter Storm Jonas to plow streets and sidewalks in January. We all thank you!

Member Announcements

Save the Date – Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, March 13 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Greenbelt Fire Station

New Fee Deferral Program for HIP Costs

The Fee Deferral Program allows deferral of the payment of the part of the monthly coop fee associated with the cost of the work done in the crawl spaces during the Homes Improvement Program. Visit <http://www.ghi.coop/content/fee-deferral-program> or the GHI office to learn more or obtain an application.

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.

March

3	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
5	11:00 am	Pre-Purchase Orientation
8	7:30 pm	Historic Preservation Task Force
8	8:30 am	Yardlines Committee
9	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
10	6:30 pm	Investment Committee
10	7:30 pm	Finance Committee
11	- -	OFFICE CLOSED
13	2-4 pm	GHI Town Hall Meeting (<i>Greenbelt Fire House</i>)
15	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
16	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
17	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
21	7:00 pm	Pre-Purchase Orientation
23	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee
25	- -	OFFICE CLOSED
28	7:00 pm	Communications Committee

Call 301-474-6011 for emergency maintenance outside of normal hours or when GHI is closed.

Member Announcements

5 Year Schedule for Homes Improvement Program Released

Are you wondering when your unit will receive building envelope and optional improvements? What about the timeline for crawl space work? Using a randomized list, GHI staff created a proposed five year court schedule for HIP improvements. Please note that the schedules shown may be subject to change due to unforeseen contingencies. The top of the document lists the timeline for envelope and optional improvements as well as crawl space work for masonry homes. The bottom of the document indicates the schedule for crawl space work on frame units only. Check it out online at bit.ly/1QX8Xpg.

Share Your Ideas for Soundproofing GHI Homes

The Buildings Committee is discussing the issue of soundproofing in GHI homes, and wants to hear from you. If you have done improvements in your home to reduce sounds from your neighbors, or if you have ideas about how best to keep sounds from your unit reaching your neighbors, please consider contributing to the discussion. You can write your story and your ideas by email to committee chair Jim Cohen at jimcohen@umd.edu. Members are welcome to attend Building Committee meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.