



COMMUNICATOR

Monthly Publication of the Communications Committee



Do You Know Where Your Yard Line Ends?

By Robin Everly

Does your unit have a yard plat, certified by the Board of Directors, that clearly defines your yard lines? If so, it is the result of a Board decision made in 2004 and ten years of dedicated service by the Ad Hoc Yard Lines (YL) Committee working with GHI staff. While all land in GHI belongs to the cooperative as a whole, each unit has a yard which the member is responsible to maintain. That yard is defined by a plat. Before the YL Committee began its work, many units had plats with no dimensions, more than one plat, or no plat at all. The YL Committee has completed review of more than three quarters of the yard lines in the co-op. Close to 1300 of our 1600 units now have board-certified yard plats. The committee is still going strong and will not stop until the project is completed and plats have been certified for every unit.

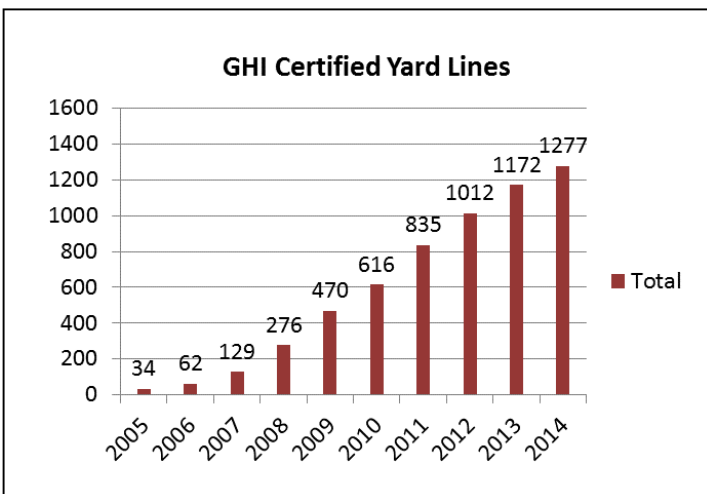
Yard boundaries are determined by what the yard has traditionally been and by using natural and man-made boundaries such as open drainage ditches, paved walkways, driveways and parking areas. Over the years, the

process of certifying yard plats has become standardized. Staff measures the yard from the original home or footprint, even if a permanent structure like an addition or porch has been added. To save on postage, a YL committee member tapes a letter to each member's door a few weeks before their court is up for review, informing them of the review. The YL committee then visits each unit and reviews staff's recommendation for a particular court's yard boundaries. After the review, staff sends a letter which includes a recommended plat to each member. When you receive this letter, this is the time to provide feedback to the YL Committee if you are not satisfied with the boundaries being recommended for your yard. The YL Committee and GHI staff asks for you to do this in writing, either by regular mail, email, or dropping your written comments off at the GHI office. You will also be invited to attend the Board meeting when your court's yard lines are being certified. It's important to note that if you have a structure such as a fence or shed outside of the boundaries, you only need to move that structure within the yard line when you replace that structure.

This has been a huge commitment for a volunteer committee, and YL committee members should be commended for their service and dedication for staying with this project for so many years.

To learn more about Ad Hoc Yard Line Review and Yard line descriptions go to <http://ghi.coop/content/ad-hoc-yard-line-review-committee-fags>. To find out if your yard plat has been certified and to print a copy for your records go to: <http://ghi.coop/yard-boundaries2>.

The author thanks Dianne Wilkerson for her time and help with this article.



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Are You a Good Neighbor?

By Joan Krob, Director, Member Services

GHI's motto touts that we are "A Community for People Who Value Community." A community is not about the buildings, but is created by neighbors who know how to get along. We all want to have good neighbors, but we must start by *being* a good neighbor. Being a good neighbor requires tolerance, communication, and respect. Here are some tips on being a good neighbor:

- **Greet Your Neighbors** - If someone new moves in, take them a plate of cookies or a small house-warming gift. Or just stop by and introduce yourself – that may be the best welcome gift of all!
- **Respect Boundaries** - We all live very close to one another, so it is of utmost importance to think about our neighbors when we do activities that may impact their yard, home, or parking.
- **Be Helpful** - Keep an eye out for neighbors that may be ill or need help digging out after a winter storm. Offer to water plants and collect mail when your neighbor travels.
- **Mind Your Pets** – Ensure that your pet's behavior or noise isn't a nuisance. Clean up after your dogs on a daily basis – no matter where they do their business. And keep cats inside, as per City and County laws.
- **Host a Court Party** - Casual get-togethers of neighbors offer great opportunities for building community. You can have them inside, or in the yard, or even in a common area in the court.
- **Remember the Golden Rule** - Treat your neighbor as you would want to be treated. If you have a complaint, talk with your neighbor first to try and resolve the issue. They may not even know there is a problem.

Being a community takes work, and occasionally issues arise where you may need additional help to resolve an issue. If you get to that point, contact Joan Krob, Director of Member Services, who may have more ideas for problem solving. (jkrob@ghi.coop or 301-474-4161, ext.138)

Member Announcements

Magnet Enclosed with Important Phone Numbers

Wonder who to call for yard waste and bulk trash pick-up? Can't recall the phone number for GHI's Maintenance Department? Keep the enclosed refrigerator magnet handy so when needed, you can make the call.



Holiday Recipe: Sticky Buns

We know we have some members who are great cooks! We asked members to share their favorite holiday recipe. Thanks to Jon Bell of 13 Court Ridge for sharing his Sticky

Buns recipe. Visit <http://www.ghi.coop/content/holiday-recipe-sticky-buns> to get the complete recipe!

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.

November		
1	11:00 am	Pre Purchase Orientation
6	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
7	--	OFFICE CLOSED*
10	7:00 pm	Member Outreach Committee
10	7:30 pm	Marketing Committee
11	--	OFFICE CLOSED* Veterans' Day
12	7:30 pm	Architectural Committee
13	6:30 pm	Investment Committee
13	7:30 pm	Finance Committee
17	7:00 pm	Pre Purchase Orientation
18	7:30 pm	Special Membership Meeting @ The American Legion
19	7:00 pm	Nominations and Elections
19	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
20	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
21	--	OFFICE CLOSED*
24	7:00 pm	Communications Committee
26	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee
27	--	OFFICE CLOSED* Thanksgiving
28	--	OFFICE CLOSED* Thanksgiving

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

Bathroom Renovation Contest Photos

See the entries and winners online – lots of great ideas! Visit <http://ghi.coop/content/bathroom-renovation-contest-winners>

Leaf Bag Collection

The City of Greenbelt is no longer selling leaf bags. Members should purchase paper leaf bags at local hardware & grocery stores. All leaves should be bagged and left in your service side yard for pick up. To schedule a bag collection, call 301-474-8004.



Correction to Handbook Replacement Pages – We Apologize!

The inserts distributed with last month's issue of the *Communicator* for placement in your Handbook had page number errors. The corrected pages [63f-14/63g-04](#), and [63j-14/63k-13](#) are enclosed. Staff regrets the inconvenience this error has caused.