



October 2015

# Communicator

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

## JACK O' LANTERNS AND OTHER HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS IN GHI

By Beth Chandler



I love crafting and working with children, and I'm not squeamish about pumpkin guts, so, not surprisingly, my first volunteer experience in Greenbelt was helping out at the annual Pumpkin Festival Carve-Off in Roosevelt Center. I had a blast helping kids with their designs, chatting with other GHI

members, and even cleaning up! Also, I loved that many of those pumpkins—large and small, scary or funny or simply weird—were destined to decorate and light the Pumpkin Walk held in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, right in GHI's backyard. I've volunteered at two pumpkin carving events since then (this year's Pumpkin Festival Carve-Off is on October 23rd). I haven't made the walk yet but maybe this year will be the year. For more information about the carving, walk or the Pumpkin Olympics, Google the "Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival"

Facebook page.

Of course, trick-or-treating is the ultimate Halloween activity. Like many other GHI members, I've turned on my light and had treats on hand for the ninjas, superheroes, and historical figures who rush from unit to unit. Many GHI residents have more elaborate greetings for their young visitors. A few decorate their yards with fake cobwebs, skeletons, and other scary objects. Some dress in costume themselves to greet (or scare) trick-or-treaters and at least one

member includes creepy noises and music to add to the atmosphere. A group of neighbors on Laurel Hill sets up fire pits to socialize with each other in between handing out candy to trick-or-treaters. Last year, residents of 65 court Ridge also had a fire pit and roasted s'mores, and held a "Trunk or Treat" for kids: decorating their cars and providing treats from the open trunks.

A very creative GHI family, the Moore's, regularly win the Roosevelt Center Costume Parade and Contest with their friends the Novick's. Each year, the families get together to watch a movie and then hand-make costumes based on the characters. Johanna Moore says, "It takes a lot of late nights working on costumes, but it's all worth it when we walk together through the little parade. The adults enjoy it as much as the kids!"

GHI members definitely know how to make Halloween creative, community oriented, and fun!



*Johanna Moore and her family at the Roosevelt Center parade and costume contest.*

### 2015/2016 BOARD of DIRECTORS' OFFICERS

**Steve Skolnik**  
President

skskolnik@gmail.com  
301-503-0815

**Susan Ready**  
Vice Pres.

suready@verizon.net  
301-345-1612

**Chuck Hess**  
Treasurer

Chuckhess1040@netzero.com  
301-474-3670

**Ed James**  
Secretary

edward.james@gmail.com  
301-345-8479

### STAY CONNECTED



Greenbelt Homes GHImgmt

**Subscribe to our e-Newsletter for the most up-to-date information!**  
**Visit [www.ghi.coop](http://www.ghi.coop) and click on "I Want To...Subscribe to GHI E-News"**

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

By Sheri Swaim

Nationwide Insurance founder Murray D. Lincoln said: "In cooperatives, men and women have in their hands the tools to fashion their own destiny."

Each October, cooperative businesses across the United States celebrate Co-op Month. A co-op is a business operated and democratically controlled by its membership of owners to meet their common needs. You know, of course, that Greenbelt Homes is a housing cooperative. Many businesses that GHI members patronize are also co-ops including the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, Greenbelt News Review, Greenbelt Nursery School, the New Deal Café, Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket (and many grocery products come from co-ops, e.g., Land-O-Lakes and Ocean Spray). There are other cooperatives based in Greenbelt you may not know as much about, like Rapidan Camps and Evergreen Health Care.

Greenbelt Cooperative Alliance (GCA) was formed in 2008 so that local co-ops could work together to educate and promote the cooperative business model in the Greenbelt community. The Alliance's work has been successful, because there are currently six new groups referred to as "Incubators," meaning they are in the process of becoming co-op businesses.

There are several opportunities to learn more about cooperative businesses coming up this month. Watch the Greenbelt News Review for a calendar of events throughout October. You can also check out GCA's webpage at: <http://www.greenbelt.coop/cms/community/co-op-alliance/>.

**Additionally, as part of the Old Greenbelt Theatre's celebration of co-op month, GHI's new pre-purchase orientation video will premiere on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> with a showing of "The City" and other cooperative films. We hope to see you there!**



### Member Announcements

Be sure to attend the City's Annual Health Fair, co-sponsored by GHI: Tuesday, October 20th from 10am to 2pm at the Community Center.

## 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.*

### October

1	7:30 pm	<b>Board Meeting</b>
5	7:00 pm	Pre-Purchase Orientation
8	7:00 pm	Board-Finance Committee Joint 2016 Budget Work Session
8	8:00 pm	Member Input Session: 2016 Budget
9	—	OFFICE CLOSED
12	7:00 pm	Member Outreach Committee
12	7:30 pm	Marketing Committee
13	7:30 pm	Historic Preservation Taskforce
14	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
15	7:30 pm	<b>Board Meeting</b>
17	11:00 am	Pre-Purchase Orientation
20	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
21	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
23	—	OFFICE CLOSED
26	7:00 pm	Communications Committee
28	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee

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



### Member Announcements

#### HIP Survey FAQ

Read answers to questions recently asked by members who are beginning the 2016 Homes Improvement Program at <http://www.ghi.coop/content/2016-hip-survey-faq>

#### HIP Website Updated

Watch for up-to-date information in the weekly E-News or check <http://www.ghi.coop/content/homes-improvement-program> for new and archived information.

#### Inserts with your Communicator newsletter:

- Recent Board Actions and Committee Activity Information
- Homes Improvement Program: Loan and Crawlspace Financial Information Flyer