



COMMUNICATOR

Monthly Publication of the Communications Committee



Don't Dump Yard Waste; Call For Pick Up

By Members of the Woodlands Committee

The Woodlands Committee and the Grounds Crew have been informed that some of our neighbors are dumping yard waste in the common area woodlands. While this may seem a "natural" thing to do, it really is not a good idea. Besides being unsightly, piles of debris, even vegetative debris, block sunlight from the forest floor and hamper or even stop the growth of desirable woodland wildflowers and seedling trees. The invasive vines (English Ivy, Honeysuckle, Wisteria, and so on) crawl over the debris - and yes, they hide the debris, but they further damage the natural cycle of the woodlands when they reseed or reroot themselves. Already, some of our woodland areas are just a shroud of climbing and suffocating vines.



The City of Greenbelt is very good about picking up yard waste - from grass clippings (which are really better left on the lawn to provide added nitrogen to the grass) to hedge trimmings, old flowers, and tree limbs. Please, when you have yard waste, call 301-474-8004 for pick up. You can call any time before noon on Thursday for a Friday pick up. Outside work hours, you can leave a message with your address and stating that you have yard waste for pick up. Yard waste is collected every Friday, except during holiday weeks.

Yard waste, except for invasive species, should be put into in paper bags or bins specifically marked as yard waste. Free labels indicating a bin is for yard waste are available at the City Public Works Office. Invasive species such as Bamboo, English Ivy, Poison Ivy, etc. should be put in plastic bags and will be picked up on your regular trash day. Put the bags and/or bins in your service side yard by 7 a.m. Friday for collection.

Please set a good example, be a good neighbor and a good Woodlands steward. Don't dump in the woods. If you would rather take your own yard waste to the composting area, call the same phone number to request a permit to do so.

City pick up is already paid for in our taxes. When GHI staff has to spend time on extra clean up, it costs time and other resources and the additional costs become part of our monthly fees. Your help can keep our fees down!

Remember to call 301-474-8004 for yard waste pick up.

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Rain or Shine, Snow or Sleet, GHI Carriers Bring You Co-op News

By Susan Walker

Have you ever wondered who delivers your monthly Communicator newsletter to your door? One of your GHI neighbors is your carrier.

Until June 2013, the GHI Communicator was a quarterly publication. In October 2013, GHI's Communications Committee received board approval to switch to a two-page monthly format in order to help keep members informed in a more timely manner.

From inception to your door, there is a detailed process that concludes with member carrier delivery routes. Deliverers come to GHI's office each month to pick up the door hanger bags, newsletters and any inserts for that month. At their home, carriers then collate and stuff the door hangers for delivery. For some of the carriers, stuffing the door hangers is a family project. The goal is to have the Communicator in each resident's hand by the first of the month.



Mary-Denise Smith delivers the August Communicator
(Photo by Lauren Cummings)

Mary-Denise Smith said that she decided to become a carrier because it seemed like a good way to participate in the co-op. She has loved discovering different parts of GHI on her route and she has also enjoyed meeting people that she might not have normally met. She has 134 houses on her route and it usually takes about an hour to complete her route.

There are a total of eleven routes and they range in size from 64 homes to 196 homes. Besides the eight carriers, there are five backup carriers, in case someone cannot do their route that month. Keristen Keifline is a backup carrier who has only delivered once, but she enjoyed doing it and enjoyed people calling out to say hello.

To be a carrier you need to be at least 12 years old, have time to make the deliveries and be able to carry the bag with the stuffed door hangers. GHI puts out an announcement when they need additional carriers. For their time, GHI pays carriers 15 cents per door hanger or 25 cents per door hanger for the Annual Report delivery. It's a nice way to earn a little extra money. For GHI, it is much cheaper than using the U.S. Postal Service. It also is a neighborly way to get information out to each resident. Next time you see your Communicator carrier, say hello and thank them for bringing your Communicator to your door.



GHI's Labor Day Booth – Come Say Hi!

Visit GHI's booth during the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, August 29-September 1, to say "Hi" to friends, get information about our co-op's activities, buy a 50/50 raffle ticket, and let the kids have some crafty and bubbly fun. **See you there!**

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.

September

1	--	OFFICE CLOSED* Labor Day
4	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
6	11:00 am	Pre Purchase Orientation
7	12-3 pm	GHI Open House
8	7:00 pm	Member Outreach Committee
8	7:30 pm	Marketing Committee
10	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
11	6:30 pm	Investment Committee
11	7:30 pm	Finance Committee
12	--	OFFICE CLOSED*
16	8:30 am	Yard Lines Committee
16	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
17	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
18	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
22	7:00 pm	Communication Committee
22	7:00 pm	Pre Purchase Orientation
24	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee
24	7:00 pm	Nominations and Elections
26	--	OFFICE CLOSED*
28	10-2 pm	Are You Ready? Disaster Prep Event at the Roosevelt Center

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

Member Announcements Homes Improvement Program Planning Meetings

Want to know what's happening with the Homes Improvement Program planning process? All members are welcome to attend the Board, planning task force and committee meetings that are happening each month. Meetings are advertised in the weekly E-News. Be sure you are subscribed to get the most up-to-date information and schedules: <http://www.ghi.coop/content/ghi-goes-greener-e-news>.

Addition Renovation Contest

The Addition Renovation Contest is underway! Entries are due by October 31, 2014. Entries are judged on functionality, best use of space, attractiveness, and innovative designs. Prizes will be awarded for frame, brick and block home categories. More details and the entry form is included as an insert with this newsletter, and are also available online at www.ghi.coop or from the Administration Office lobby.

Save the Date!

GHI Annual Picnic—October 19, 2014
More details in the October *Communicator* and in future E-Newsletters.