



# Communicator

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

## New Rain Garden at 20 Court Ridge Will Manage Storm Water

by Tom Taylor

In early November, GHI installed a demonstration project that features best management practices for treating storm water runoff and reducing water leakage into GHI crawl spaces at 20 Court Ridge Road.

Discussion and study about crawl space problems, including water intrusion, has been ongoing in GHI in recent years. The 2014 report of the GHI Crawl Space Task Force included this recommendation: "Preventing bulk water intrusion into crawl spaces is one key to the long-term maintenance of GHI crawl spaces. High priority should be given to identifying damaged passive drainage systems in the community and install new systems where appropriate."

GHI has a long-term program of identifying drainage issues and prioritizing the worst cases for contract work in each year's operating budget. A Storm Water Management Task Force to study runoff issues and recommend improvements also was established by the GHI Board of Directors in 2016. The task force obtained a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for this project.

The project features a new system that will capture water running off the hill between the street and the 20 Court units and from the parking lot, and channel it into a rain garden, located behind the parking lot. The work also includes installation of a stone diaphragm



Photo taken by Beth Olsen

near the bottom of the hill and around the parking lot perimeter, a new swale, and new drains. The improvements are designed to reduce storm water runoff problems and to intercept rain water that sometimes has leaked into the crawl space under units A to D. The rain garden will facilitate greater infiltration of rain water into the ground. This not only will keep storm water away from the homes, but also will help filter out polluting substances from any runoff that does not remain in the ground before it discharges into the woods and eventually into Still Creek, one of the streams that flows through Greenbelt. The rain garden will improve the health of both the stream and the Anacostia River watershed, of which Still Creek is a sub-watershed.

The Storm Water Task Force will continue to study ways to improve drainage issues throughout GHI and make recommendations that reduce water intrusion into homes and improve stream health in Greenbelt.

### 2017/2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' OFFICERS

**Steve Skolnik**  
President

sdskolnik@gmail.com  
301-503-0815

**Stefan Brodd**  
Vice Pres.

s.brodd@verizon.net  
301-474-3183

**Chuck Hess**  
Treasurer

Chuckhess1040@cpa.com  
301-474-3670

**Ed James**  
Secretary

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



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## Who Leads GHI?

*Tom Jones, Nominations & Elections Chair*

GHI members probably understand that GHI is a cooperative with 1,600 homes. Each home is assigned to one membership, and all 1,600 members together own GHI. Running the GHI community requires many decisions. Instead of trying to gather all of us to make every decision that arises, we have a representative democracy. At the annual meeting every May, we elect a group of fellow GHI members willing and able to spend the time needed to understand complex issues and make decisions on behalf of all of us.

Almost everyone has heard of the Board of Directors. This group of 9 elected members are volunteers we've chosen to run our corporation. As a whole, they are responsible for making the ongoing decisions to manage our co-op. Each board term lasts 2 years; 5 directors are elected in odd years, and 4 in even years.

The 3 members of the Audit Committee ensure the Board does its job correctly. They monitor and speak up during Board meetings and report directly and independently to the membership. Audit Committee members serve 1-year terms.

Finally, the Nominations & Elections Committee (N&E) has 5 members whose job is to find qualified members to run for all 3 groups, and to conduct elections.

GHI members elect representatives to all three of these bodies; all other committees report to the Board of Directors and are appointed by the Board.

The next election for the Board and Audit Committee will begin immediately after the May 10, 2018, annual meeting, and continue the following day. GHI will elect 4 Board members, 3 Audit Committee members, and 5 N&E members to represent all of us.

If you have ideas that can help GHI, maybe you should attend a board meeting; these meetings are almost always held Thursday evenings at the GHI office. Check the [ghi.coop](http://ghi.coop) website or News Review for the next one; open sessions start at 7:30 pm and are open to all members. There's never a bad season to talk to your neighbors about what GHI topics currently matter or who would be a good candidate for elected office. Perhaps you know a fellow GHI member you'd vote for, or would consider running for office yourself? If you have any questions about elected office, you're welcome to contact the Nominations & Elections Committee at [GHI.NominationsAndElections@gmail.com](mailto:GHI.NominationsAndElections@gmail.com) or call chair Tom Jones at 301-474-6001.

Whether you run or not, remember GHI is not some far-off corporation seeking profit for anonymous shareholders. GHI is you and 1,599 of your neighbors, working together to make our homes the best we can and ensure our cooperative community benefits all of us.

## 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.*

December		
1	--	OFFICE CLOSED
6	7:00 pm	Addition Maintenance Program Task Force
6	7:30 pm	Audit Committee
7	7:00 pm	Board of Directors
9	11:00 am	Pre-Purchase Orientation
12	7:30 pm	Legislative Government & Affairs Committee
13	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
14	10:00 am	Storm Water Management Task Force
14	6:30 pm	Investment Committee
14	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
15	--	OFFICE CLOSED
19	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
19	7:00 pm	Nominations and Elections
19	7:00 pm	Pre-Purchase Orientation
20	7:00 pm	Bicycle Task Force
20	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
21	7:30 pm	Board of Directors
25	--	OFFICE CLOSED
29	--	OFFICE CLOSED

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

## Member Announcements

### This Winter, Be Warmer In Your Home

*By Jo-Anne Fournier*

In January 2012, the **GHI Buildings Committee** sponsored a workshop to provide hands-on demonstrations on a number of topics to keep your GHI unit warmer, including:

- Getting the most out of your electric baseboard heaters
- Insulating your attic hatch
- Preventing cold air from coming into your home
- Other low-cost strategies to be warmer in winter

This useful information can be easily found on the GHI website at [www.ghi.coop](http://www.ghi.coop). Using the Search feature, type "Being Warmer" and you find information on **Tips and Resources for Being Warmer in Your GHI Unit This Winter**, as well as instructional videos.

All members should take a few minutes to review this information and make plans to be warmer this winter, save energy and cut down on your electricity bills.

