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Communicator

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

A FAREWELL: CULTIVATING COMMUNITY FROM GHI TO SOUTH AFRICA

By Benjamin Skolnik

Greenbelt is an essential part of my identity as a global citizen with a strong sense of home. The undeveloped woods and hidden pathways throughout town were my stomping grounds. I grew up in these green spaces. Outdoor play shaped my love for wild places and study of biology that led to my career in conservation biology. I am also a product of cooperative living (grocery store, bank, babysitting, nursery school, home, gas station), and I have taken comfort in raising my children in the warm embrace of this community.

While Greenbelt has cultivated in me a sense of close community, I have also developed a curiosity for exploration. Like the migratory birds I observe taking refuge in our forests, Greenbelt has been my jumping-off point to explore the globe. Growing



L to R: Maddie, Benjamin (with baby Beau in backpack), Libby and Eleanor Skolnik

up, our family took long road trips to my mother and sister's Canadian homeland. The nation's capital is only miles away, and we are within a weekend's striking distance of mountains and ocean. Via public transport, we can reach three international airports. Everyone in Greenbelt should have a passport! I have been fortunate to have adventures and return home, be it Peace Corps in Peru, travel to the

Arctic, or our family's upcoming work assignment to South Africa.

Working for the United States Agency for International Development, Libby and I will be tasked with supporting President Obama's Power Africa Initiative, an effort to double energy access by 2030 (60 million new household connections and 30,000 megawatts of cleaner energy). This experience will not be without hardship for us and for our dearest loved ones. Fortunately, I am from Greenbelt and I was raised to cultivate community in the broadest, most global sense. To all of you who help make Greenbelt great and allow us to aspire to our dreams, thank you!

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STAY CONNECTED



Greenbelt Homes



GHIgmt

Member Announcements

Be sure to read the Board Actions insert included with your newsletter.

**Subscribe to our weekly E-Newsletter for the most up-to-date information!
Visit www.ghi.coop and click on "I Want To...Subscribe to GHI E-News"**

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

By Sheri Swaim, Special Assistant to the General Manager/
Communications Coordinator

Living in GHI provides many benefits to residents, but learning who to call when you need something can sometimes be a bit overwhelming, especially when added in to the chaos of moving into a new home. GHI staff is here to help! Below is a list of GHI's departments, their phone number extensions (after dialing 301-474-4161), and a few of the things their department can help members with:

MEMBER SERVICES (extension 140)

- Receives all visitors and directs them to the appropriate person when visiting or calling the office
- Handles member complaints (e.g., noise, pets, parking, neighbor issues)
- Coordinates where committees meet; maintains committee records
- Garage, parking space and boat/RV lot assignments
- GHI sublease permits
- Parkway rental apartments

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (extension 136)

- All matters related to co-op payments and taxes
- Questions about insurance; providing master policy info to lenders
- Purchase/sales contract processing and settlements
- GHI & GDC budget

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT (extension 127, or call 301-474-6011 for emergencies)

- Maintenance requests for work on homes
- Fee-for-Service requests
- Common areas and woodlands maintenance
- Warehouse supplies available to members (e.g. grass seed, trim paint, loaner tools)

TECHNICAL SERVICES (extension 143)

- Permits for any modifications to GHI units, e.g. additions, decks, etc.
- Mold issues
- Home inspections
- Questions regarding work being done on or near your unit (e.g. gutters, sidewalks, parking lot)

HOMES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (extension 160)

- All things related to the HIP program

MANAGEMENT OFFICE (extension 148)

- Complaints which have not been resolved by other departments' Directors
- Newsletter production and communications
- Coordinates GHI volunteers

Member Announcements

Stormwater Rebates Available to Members

Install a rain barrel or create a rain garden. Learn more at www.ghi.coop.

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.

July

1	--	OFFICE CLOSED
4	--	OFFICE CLOSED (<i>Independence Day</i>)
5	7:30 pm	Storm Water Management Taskforce
7	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
9	11:00 am	Pre Purchase Orientation
13	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
15	--	OFFICE CLOSED
18	7:00 pm	Pre Purchase Orientation
19	8:30 am	Yardlines Committee
19	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
19	7:30 pm	Legislative & Gov't Affairs Committee
20	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
21	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
24	Noon-6pm	Board Strategic Planning Session
25	7:00 pm	Communications Committee
27	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee
29	--	OFFICE CLOSED

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

Member Announcements

Historic Preservation Task Force Report Released

In October 2014, GHI's Board of Directors established an ad hoc task force to recommend ways to foster the preservation of historic elements for the GHI community. The Task Force met regularly from January 2015 through May 2016. The Board reviewed and accepted the Task Force's report during its May 19, 2016 meeting. Read the report at <http://bit.ly/1PXsMhX>.

Join the Member Outreach Committee

Do you want to increase member engagement, provide member education, and organize member events? Then the Member Outreach Committee (MOC) is for you!

The MOC is responsible for fostering the Cooperative Spirit, encouraging member participation, and providing avenues for members' input on issues. Contact Maesha McNeill at mmcneill@ghi.coop or (301) 474-4161 x128 to volunteer.

Task Force on Yards Seeks Members

The Board has established a task force to study "Yard Solutions for a 21st Century Garden City" and now seeks participants in this short-term process. The task force will survey members about needs and wants for their yards, then make recommendations to the Board for solutions and possible rules changes. Topics include privacy screening, fencing, hedges and other plants, sheds, and stormwater management. Email Susan Harris (susan20912@verizon.net) to help or learn more.