



Communicator

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

HEADING TO VOTE? YOU MAY RECOGNIZE GHI MEMBERS

By Lauren Cummings

Whatever your political persuasion, the election of 2016 has been unprecedented in many ways. Finally, on Tuesday, November 8, GHI members will have the opportunity to cast their votes for President and Vice President, U.S. Senator and U.S. Representative and judges and questions. Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. GHI members will vote either at the Community Center or Greenbelt Elementary School. If you do not know your voting location, you can call (410) 269-2840 or visit <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch> to find your polling place. If you have a neighbor who may need assistance, lend a cooperative hand and offer to drive them to the polls. Early voting will be available from October 27th through November 3rd from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. The closest early voting location is College Park Community Center, 5051 Pierce Avenue.

Did you know some GHI members are trained as election judges? They may be at your polling location. Election judges administer voting procedures in their precinct and ensure a fair and accessible election for all eligible voters. Betty Ladas, a GHI member since 2013, is an election judge who has

worked at the Greenbelt Community Center. She has found the "atmosphere at the poll is very respectful and friendly." In order to be judge, you have to attend two 3-hour instructional sessions. Betty said that "even then, you are still not prepared for some of the situations that occur at the polls," and presumably that is why you see multiple people working together in a team.

"In spite of the huge time commitment, it is still kinda fun," says Betty. "Everybody is working together for a real purpose. We may disagree



Sylvia Lewis, with Robert Lewis, shows her "I Voted" sticker.

Photo Credit: Eric Zhang

on some of the poll procedures, and we certainly differ in our politics, but we all want the voters to have as short a wait as possible and to be able to cast their vote in peace. They trust their right to vote with us, and I believe the majority of the poll workers are aware of that and take this responsibility seriously."

Betty recommends voters "get a copy of the way the ballot will look so you don't spend a lot of time just getting oriented while you are in the booth." If you are interested in becoming an election judge for a future election, you can find more information at:

<http://www.elections.state.md.us>.

According to the Greenbelt News Review's November 8th issue, in the last presidential election year, 2012, there were 4,936 eligible voters in our two precincts, and 3,104 voted. That is more than 60 percent turnout. Will GHI members surge to the polls again this year? Only time will tell, but our cooperative nature leans towards "yes."

If you are interested in watching the election results, the Old Greenbelt Theatre will broadcast live coverage beginning at 8:00 p.m. Why watch alone when you can celebrate with friends and neighbors? See you there!

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GRANT WILL HELP GHI MEMBERS WITH EXCESSIVE CLUTTER

By Joan Krob, GHI Staff

Do you need help with the clutter in your home? The City of Greenbelt and GHI are pleased to announce that they are the recipients of a \$5,000 grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation.



The goal of this grant is to provide supportive services for GHI members with excessive clutter/hoarding tendencies; to provide up to 10 mini-grants to assist members to begin to de-clutter and organize or dispose of items identified by management or code enforcement as being a risk for fire, blocked egress, or other noted violations; to provide a monthly support group for families/friends working with GHI members; and to produce a list of resources for families and friends. It will also establish an interdisciplinary Hoarding Task Force that will help identify resources and protocol for working with City residents to avoid fines, displacement or loss of residence. Lastly, the grant will provide access to additional training for City and GHI staff.

Members who in the past, have been cited by GHI for too much clutter will be sent a letter of invitation inviting them to participate in the mini-grant and case management component of the program.

If you do not receive a letter but are interested in participating please contact Joan Krob at 301-474-4161 ext. 138. Members interested in attending the monthly support group that will begin in November should contact Tom Patota, LCSW/Case Manager from Greenbelt CARES at 301-345-6660 ext. 2038 for additional details.

Member Handbook Update

Parking Rules Revisions

The Board of Directors has adopted a revision to the GHI parking rules. Please remove pages 69-02 thru 70b-10, and replace with 69-16 thru 70d-16.

Unoccupied Units

Please remove the policy for Unoccupied Units in the front section of the Handbook and replace it with revised version dated 10/6/16. The change occurs in # 1 of the policy and changes two years to one year.

Member Handbook Available Online

Forgot a co-op rule or member responsibility? Check the up-to-date member handbook online at <http://ghi.coop/content/ghi-members-handbook-greenbook>

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	7:00 pm	Nominations & Elections Committee
3	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
3	7:00 pm	Communications Committee
4	--	OFFICE CLOSED
7	7:00 pm	Pre Purchase Orientation
8	7:30 pm	Legislative and Government Affairs Cmte.
9	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
10	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
11	--	OFFICE CLOSED (<i>Veteran's Day</i>)
14	7:30 pm	Storm Water Management Task Force
15	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
15	7:30 pm	Audit Committee
15	8:30 am	Yardlines Committee
16	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
17	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
18	--	OFFICE CLOSED
23	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee
24	--	OFFICE CLOSED (<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>)
25	--	OFFICE CLOSED
28	7:00 pm	Pre Purchase Orientation
28	7:30 pm	Storm Water Management Task Force
28	7:00 pm	Communications Committee (<i>tentative</i>)

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

Member Announcements

Volunteers Needed

For two new Task Forces:

1. To recommend changes to GHI by-laws.
2. To develop a new policy regarding units that are assigned back to GHI.

If you are interested in joining either of these groups, contact Member Services by email, mjohnson@ghi.coop or call 301-474-4161 extension 140.

Holiday Safety Tips

As the holidays approach, GHI encourages members to remember a few important safety tips:



- 1) Don't leave burning candles unattended;
- 2) Keep Christmas trees and decorations away from baseboard heaters;
- 3) Watch out for packages left outside for neighbors. Items left by delivery are easy targets for thieves;
- 4) Don't overload extension cords;
- 5) Keep live Christmas trees well-watered.