



September 2017

Communicator

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

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

by Carol Griffith, Co-Chair of the Communications Committee

Welcome to the first issue of the GHI Communicator since our June 2017 issue. No, the Communications Committee didn't take the summer off to enjoy the lazy days – we've decided, with Board approval, to publish the Communicator quarterly.



This decision was made as the Communications Committee is beginning to work with the Board and staff to make sure we're providing members with the best and most current information while

making the best use of our co-op's resources. Over the next few months, the committee and the Board will be planning ways to focus our resources on the most useful ways to achieve these goals:

Communicate GHI information to all members; Help members find the information they need quickly and efficiently; and Provide helpful information about living in our great cooperative.

Specifically, we will be examining whether the paper Communicator, which is costly to print and distribute, meets members' needs.

As we work through this process, staff will continue to mail certain information to members, such as annual reports and information about special meetings. The information printed in the Greenbelt News Review will continue. The weekly GHI electronic newsletter, the GHI e-News, is a great resource for information about Board activities, HIP, general news, and volunteer opportunities, and provides a calendar of upcoming meetings. Currently the eNews is sent to more than 1200 email addresses! To sign up for the e-News, please use the sign-up form on the website or contact the office. (To save money on our e-newsletter service subscription, GHI sends the e-News to only one email address per household. Please share the information with your family members or housemates.) The GHI website will remain members' best resource for information needed routinely. While using the website, please browse previous issues of the Communicator for our past informative articles.

The Communications Committee needs and values your input. Please consider how you would like to receive GHI news and information. You can come to a committee meeting (check the calendar for day, time and place), contact the Committee directly, or provide your comments at a Board meeting or any upcoming town hall meeting. Thanks for your help in making communications between GHI and members easier and more effective.

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A Neighborly Reminder

by Cindy Cutright

As I drive and walk around GHI I notice how great it looks this time of year. I enjoy seeing the ideas that members have for landscaping our small yards and the home improvements look great. But wait, is that a couch I see on the side the road? And look, there are leaf bags there too! Don't these members know we have rules to follow to get items like this picked up?

Disregarding these rules can affect our community in negative ways. Some of us may think there is a good reason for ignoring the rules. For example, we may think we are recycling if someone else picks up items we left on the side of the road. However, this isn't the way to handle the issue. Your neighbors might be having company, or may be trying to sell the house. Discarded items on the side of the road make our community look bad. So, here are the simple processes for yard waste and bulk/special trash pickup.

Yard Waste Pickup

Purchase some paper yard waste bags (no plastic bags!) from Home Depot, Lowe's, Costco, or the Co-op. Call the City of Greenbelt Public Works at 301-474-8004 and press 1 to leave your address, a brief description of what you want picked up (yard debris bags) and your phone number so they can call you if they have questions. You need to call before 3pm the day before the Friday you want the item picked up. Place the filled bags in your service side yard (where your trash cans are) by Friday morning. Please resist the temptation to drag them to the court entrance, common area, or the public street. Even if you got your yard all cleaned up and you don't want to look at the bags, you could keep them off to the side and move them to the front on Thursday evening.



Bulk/Special Trash Pickup

Most bulk trash items (like a couch) will be picked up on your trash day. Just call 301-474-8004 before 3pm on the day before your trash pickup day. Large appliances or other large metal items such as grills will get picked up on a Friday separate from yard debris, so you need to call 301-474-8004 before 3pm the day before you want them picked up.

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		
4	--	OFFICE CLOSED
6	7:00 pm	Addition Maintenance Program Task Force
7	10:00 am	Storm Water Management Task Force
7	7:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting
7	8:00 pm	BOD/Finance 2018 Preliminary Budget
8	--	OFFICE CLOSED
12	7:30 pm	Legislative Government & Affairs Committee
13	7:00 pm	Member Outreach Committee
13	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
14	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
19	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
20	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
21	7:30 pm	Board of Directors Meeting
22	--	OFFICE CLOSED
25	7:00 pm	Pre-Purchase Orientation
27	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee

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

School is Open— Drive Carefully

AAA offered the following tips to prevent accidents this school year.

Slow down: Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason.

Eliminate distractions: Children often cross the road unexpectedly and may emerge suddenly between two parked cars. Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. Put down the phone.

Reverse responsibility: Every vehicle has blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, driveway and around your vehicle before slowly backing up. Teach your children to never play in, under or around vehicles—even those that are parked.

Brake for buses: It may be tempting to drive around a stopped school bus, but not only is it dangerous, it's against the law, no matter which direction you're approaching the stopped bus from.

Come to a complete stop: Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.