



NEWS IN REVIEW

October is Co-op Month!

October 6, 2011



GHI participated with other Greenbelt co-operatives in the National Co-op Month booth at the Farmers Market on October 2. Seven co-ops now are active in the city. Among the GHI members on hand were, from left: Patricia Novinski, Kathy Jones, Ginny Jones, Sylvia Lewis, Johanna Jones and Tom Jones.

Greenbelt has always been a town of co-ops. Some of the original enterprises—the grocery store, drug store, gas station, barber shop, movie theater, valet shop, beauty parlor, variety store, and tobacco shop—didn't survive as co-ops. But others did, and over the years more were added. Greenbelt now enjoys the services of: the Greenbelt News Review and Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, both established in 1937; Greenbelt Nursery School, 1941; Greenbelt Homes, Inc., 1952; Rapidan Camps, Inc. 1953; Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy, 1984; and the New Deal Café, 1995. Read more about the co-operative movement and Greenbelt co-ops in the *Greenbelt News Review* throughout October. For more information on Greenbelt's history visit the Greenbelt Museum or go to www.greenbeltmd.gov/about_greenbelt/history.



Working Toward a Smooth Transition

Consulting firm, Transition Guides, is assisting the GHI Board of Directors and staff with organizational assessment, goal setting, and other activities as we prepare for the upcoming change in the General Manager position. Gretchen Overdurff, (retiring GM) is preparing the transfer

of manuals, procedures, and documents to Eldon Ralph (incoming GM), which will be followed by the physical office exchange in November. The Board of Directors will meet in December to finalize 2012 goals. Eldon will officially assume the General Manager position on December 12.

Save the Dates

Sunday, December 11, An afternoon Retirement Reception for Gretchen, Greenbelt Marriot (\$20)

Thursday, December 29, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Open House to bid farewell to Gretchen and welcome Eldon Ralph as new General Manager.

GHI Members Picnic

Reminder: Sunday, October 9, 1:00-3:30 p.m. at the GHI building on Hamilton Place. Rain or Shine. Remember to bring your donation of non-perishable items for a local food pantry.

Health Fair

The City of Greenbelt, GHI, and Doctor's Community Hospital collaborate on a Health Fair each year. This year's fair, with the theme "Fall into Fitness," is on October 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mark your calendar now to enjoy many vendors, activities, and to even win door prizes.

Greenbelt City Council Candidates' Forum

GHI will be sponsoring a Candidates Forum on Thursday, October 25, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building. The Forum will be televised and shown on the Greenbelt Municipal Access cable channels, Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Leaf Bag Distribution

Leaf bags are now available at the GHI warehouse between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and alternating Fridays when the offices are open.

Leaf bags will also be available between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays: Oct. 22nd, Nov. 5th, and Nov. 19th, at garage #42, in 2 Court Gardenway.

GHI Committee Notes

The Bylaws Committee will reconvene on Monday, October 17th at 7:00 p.m. Members are welcome to attend.

GHI Fall Maintenance Schedule

Oct: Addition Roof Repairs
Oct - Nov: Parkway Garage Door Replacement
Nov-Dec: Gutter Cleaning
Nov-Dec: Concrete Repairs

Graffiti Woes in Old Greenbelt Your Help is Needed

Greenbelt Homes, Inc. and the City of Greenbelt seek assistance from community members to help identify the individual or groups that have been increasingly vandalizing public and private property in the City Center. The moniker "Big Tom" and other statements have regularly been seen on buildings, signs, sidewalks, and other surfaces. The graffiti is most prevalent in the areas from 18 to 32 Court on Ridge Road, but it has also

appeared near the Roosevelt Center and along Gardenway. If anyone observes the vandal in the act, please contact the Greenbelt Police at 301-474-7200. Please also report instances of graffiti or other information as soon as possible to the GHI Maintenance Department at 301-474-6011. Remember, graffiti investigations and removal cost GHI members and Greenbelt taxpayers money!

Real Estate Tax Seminar

At the Real Estate Tax Seminar on September 15, William Monks, GHI's tax attorney, addressed the changes facing members in 2012. For the first time members' real estate tax will be based primarily on their home's individual invoice. Most GHI members will still have the benefit of the Home Owners Tax Credit and will be invoiced significantly below the assessed value of their homes.

GHI members who have sold or subleased their homes since June 30, 2010 have probably lost their Homestead Tax Credit. Such members may well profit from appealing their assessment.

Members can get information from the seminar, including links to find your account number, your current assessment, and appeal forms from the GHI website at www.ghi.coop. This information is also available in printed form in the lobby of the GHI administrative building.

The deadline to appeal your assessment is January 3, 2012, but please do not wait until the last day. For questions regarding GHI real estate taxes and your assessment, e-mail Kathie Linkenhoker at klinkenhoker@greenbelthomes.net or call 301-474-4161.

Hurricane Clean-up, Repairs Nearly Complete

Hurricane Irene and subsequent storms caused significant damage to homes and yards. GHI has been working diligently to repair damage to homes, clear debris from yards and common areas, and respond to flooding-related issues. Tree damage was reported at more than 200 sites around town - most notable were three large trees that fell on GHI units. All major tree hazards have been addressed, but considerable work remains and member patience is appreciated.

All GHI units damaged by the storms are habitable. Repairs to electrical equipment and roofs at 20 Court Hillside, and

electrical repairs at 46 Court Ridge have been completed. Interior repairs at 20 Hillside and one unit at 46 Ridge are also complete. Some minor interior and exterior repairs remain in those courts. Staff continues to work on resolving drainage and ponding issues at dozens of sites following torrential rains, with priority given to the most severe problems. Members can minimize drainage problems by clearing debris and obstructions from yard drains and swales. If you have questions or concerns, contact the GHI Maintenance Department at maintaa@ghi.coop, or 301-474-6011.

Pre-Purchase Orientation: Know someone who is interested in living in GHI? Be sure to tell them of the upcoming Pre-Purchase Orientation on Monday, October 17 at 7:15 p.m. at the GHI Administration Building on Hamilton Place. (There is no obligation to buy). To check out homes for sale go to www.ghi.coop and click on "Join Our Community".



"Like" us on Facebook: "Greenbelt Homes"



Follow us on Twitter: "GHlmgmt"

Journey to the Ancient World through a Walk in the Woods

Join the GHI Woodlands Committee on Saturday, October 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a fun walk in the woods and a journey back into the ancient world in the GHI woodlands and Greenbelt Forest Preserve. Enjoy stories, games and ancient lore on wild edibles and medicinal plants to survive for months in the wilderness with nothing but your wits. A great time for parents and kids. Bring water and a snack. Meet at Northway fields by the mulch piles.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

OCTOBER

Thu	6	7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
Sun	9	10a.m.-2p.m.	Member Picnic
Mon	10	--	OFFICES CLOSED (Columbus Day)
Tue	11	8:30 a.m.	Yard line Committee
Tue	11	7:00 p.m.	N & E Committee
Wed	12	7:30 p.m.	Architectural Review Committee
Thu	13	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
Fri	14	--	OFFICES CLOSED
Mon	17	7:00 p.m.	Bylaws Committee
Mon	17	7:15 p.m.	Pre-Purchase Orientation
Tue	18	7:30 p.m.	Companion Animal Committee
Wed	19	7:00 p.m.	Woodlands Committee
Thu	20	7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
Sat	22	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Leaf Bags @ garage # 42, 2 ct.Gdnwy.
Mon	24	7:00 p.m.	Communicator Task Force
Tue	25	7-9:30 p.m.	City Council Candidates Forum
Wed	26	7:00 p.m.	Buildings Committee
Thu	27	10a.m.-2p.m.	Health Fair @ Community Center
Fri	28	--	OFFICES CLOSED

NOVEMBER

Tue	1	8:30 p.m.	Yard Line Committee
Thu	3	7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
Sat	5	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Leaf Bags @ garage # 42, 2 ct.Gdnwy.
Mon	7	7:15 p.m.	Pre Purchase Orientation
Wed	9	7:30 p.m.	Architectural Review Committee
Fri	11	--	OFFICES CLOSED

(Dates are subject to change)

Maintenance service is available—for real emergencies only—outside of normal maintenance hours or when offices are closed. Call 301-474-6011.