Announcing the “Think small/Live LARGE” Campaign!

By Melissa Ehrenreich

Have you ever caught yourself thinking, “This house is too small. There is not enough space. No attic. No basement. If only I just had another room…”

But what if we told you that you were actually living in a palace?

Last month, 30 GHI members ventured out to tour the 210-square foot Minim house in downtown Washington, DC. The tour was the official kick-off for the Think small/Live LARGE initiative launched by GHI’s Member Outreach Committee. And, quite frankly, it blew our socks off thinking about the potential for living larger in our own 1000 square foot GHI homes.

Nestled between three alleys, the Minim house sits on a tenth of an acre and defies reality. Imagine a sprawling 10 foot fully functional kitchen overlooking a veranda, a living room with a 60 inch projection screen, a music room, a work studio, a bedroom, a bathroom, and a dining room all ingeniously designed in the space of a 10 foot by 20 foot room. Out the large picture window we had a sweeping view of the edible landscape complete with a mini-orchard, a bee hive and bat house, a micro-meadow, native pollinator plants, and a booming garden overflowing with fruits and vegetables. An 800 gallon rain barrel provided all the water needed. Minim house founder Brian Levy shared some of his secrets with us and now we are bringing this information back to the GHI membership through this new campaign.

As part of this GHI initiative, members will develop resources, educational programs, and new ideas to share with our community. We will explore and highlight space saving innovations to help all of us maximize our footprint in three key areas:

1) Helping GHI members RECLAIM their space by highlighting sources and opportunities to use right-sized appliances, multi-functional furniture, and storage ideas for double smart usage of your space.

2) Inviting others to inspire us to REINVENT our space by soliciting ideas on smarter layouts, design, and innovations that members can adopt to make our units more functional, beautiful, and future-forward to raise the value of our homes and quality of living.

3) Thinking creatively about how we might better SHARE our indoor and outdoor common areas to create new opportunities to play, live, garden, and work in GHI.

We need you! Send an email to thinksmallGHI@gmail.com to become part of the working group to power the Think small/Live LARGE Campaign. Your participation and ideas can help us all think small!

See more Minim home images at http://minimhomes.com/photos/ and watch the GHI website for resources to come on ideas, innovations, and member engagement opportunities to learn and live large by thinking small.

Subscribe to our eNewsletter for the most up-to-date information!
Visit www.ghi.coop and click on “I Want To...Subscribe to GHI E-News”
HOMES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE  
By Sheri Swaim, Special Assistant to the Mgt. Office

The big decisions about GHI’s Homes Improvement Program (H.I.P.) were made by the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 14th, but there are still plenty of details that need to be ironed out. The Building, Finance and Architectural Review (ARC) Committees have been very busy working on recommendations to give to the Board of Directors on many of these details.

During meetings from March through May, the Board decided that all optional H.I.P. components, except kitchen exhaust fans, will be maintained by GHI and will include these items in the reserves program for future replacement. It was also decided that members will be responsible for the re-installation and maintenance of existing storm doors. Also, the Board determined the colors of siding which will be offered. (Details of these decisions can be found in the March 12 and May 7, 2015 Board minutes on GHI’s website.)

The Finance Committee has been deliberating on several items: the details of the crawlspace loans; what happens to crawl-space and optional item loans at resale; and the feasibility of a loan deferral program. The Architectural Review Committee, with input from the Historic Preservation Task Force, is discussing options for entrance doors. All of these recommendations will be coming before the Board at July and August meetings.

GHI’s weekly E-News advertises committee and Board meetings with H.I.P. related content. These meetings are open for members to attend. Members can also view minutes of Board meetings at http://www.ghi.coop/about-ghi/board-of-directors/minutes. Questions about H.I.P. activities can be emailed to hip@ghi.coop, or written and dropped off at the GHI offices. Staff will respond to questions within five business days.

Member Announcements

Guest House Closure  
The Board of Directors recently decided that it was in the best interest of Greenbelt Development Corporation (the subsidiary owned by GHI which runs Parkway Apartments) to convert the guest house back to a leasable 1-bedroom apartment. The conversion will be complete on or before September 1, 2015.

Social Media Policy  
The Board of Directors approved a new Media Policy for staff and elected or appointed GHI representatives. This new policy also addresses social media. To see a copy of GHI’s new Media Policy, go to: http://www.ghi.coop/content/board-policies-procedures-0.

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  
3 — OFFICES CLOSED  
6 7:00 pm Pre-Purchase Orientation  
8 7:30 pm Architectural Review Committee  
9 7:30 pm Board Meeting  
13 7:00 pm Member Outreach Committee  
13 7:30 pm Marketing Committee  
14 7:30 pm Historic Preservation Task Force  
15 7:00 pm Woodlands Committee  
16 6:30 pm Investment Committee  
17 — OFFICES CLOSED  
18 11:00 am Pre-Purchase Orientation  
19 TBD Board Strategic Planning Retreat  
21 7:30 pm Companion Animal Committee  
22 7:00 pm Buildings Committee  
23 7:30 pm Board Meeting  
27 7:00 pm Communications Committee  
31 — OFFICES CLOSED  

Aug  
1 11:00 am Pre-Purchase Orientation  

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

Member Announcements

GHI staff has some new faces!  
Please welcome:  
Jonathan Clark, Master Electrician  
Greg Eck, Accounting Manager  
Kenny Hardman, Master Plumber  
Ronnie Sookram, Maintenance Manager  
Bijan Khorsand, Director of Technical Services  
Tom Sporney, former Director of Technical Services, is taking over as Manager of the Homes Improvement Program.  
To see photographs of our new employees, visit http://www.ghi.coop/content/new-faces-ghi-staff.

Garden Contest  
The Architectural Review Committee has begun a year-long garden contest. See the insert in this issue for more details.

New Look for Monthly Communicator  
Special thanks to Communications Committee member Ken Shields for designing our new look!