



The *House Special*

VOLUME 11

MAY 1982

ISSUE 19



Spring is Here
Summer is Coming!

MAY 1 - KENTUCKY DERBY

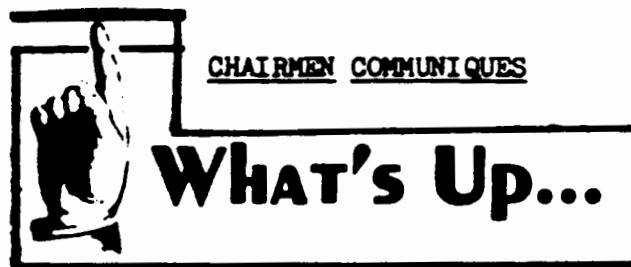
MAY 4 - VOTE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MAY 6 - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

MAY 9 - MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 30 MEMORIAL DAY (Traditional)

Flowers of May - Hawthorn and Lily of the Valley
Birthstone - Emerald



Community Relations Committee

COMMUNITY NOTES

There has been a good response to the appeal for volunteer blood donors, but the number is still inadequate, even combined with those who have signed up at Skyline Plaza, to provide the guarantee needed to meet the Red Cross Blood Service's requirement of a minimum of 40. For this reason, our Community Relations Committee and that of Skyline Plaza have postponed our joint effort until a later date. In the very near future, specifically Wednesday, May 12, the Red Cross Bloodmobile will be nearby at J. E. B. Stuart High School, at 3301 Peace Valley Drive, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. Anyone who can give blood then is encouraged to do so, but please call 591-8091 to confirm this date and place, because the schedule is subject to change. Our thanks to all of you who have put your names on the list. We are keeping it for future reference.

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The enthusiastic response to the survey about co-ed use of the exercise room and the steam and sauna baths has prompted a request to the Board of Directors to authorize their use by all residents every day during the hours of 6:00 to 12:00 in the morning and from 8:00 to 10:00 in the evening. Individuals, singly, would not be denied the use of any of these facilities during the hours noted above. However, the hours from 12:00 noon until 8:00 in the evening every day would continue to be available to men or to women on alternate days as presently approved and used. There are 87 names on the list, representing 94 individuals who wish to use these health facilities if such co-ed use is approved. Watch for an announcement.

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Fairfax County Meals on Wheels is a community service that is coordinated through area hospitals and Fairfax County Public Schools Food Service Centers. Two nutritious meals, one hot and one cold bag supper, are delivered by volunteers in the early afternoon Monday through Friday. Any home-bound person who is ill, handicapped or elderly and is unable to shop for and prepare meals which are adequately nutritious is eligible for this service. The minimum service period is one week and the cost to each client ranges from \$12.50 to \$17.50 per week, collected every Friday. Meals may be ordered for short-term convalescents, as well as for those whose needs are for an extended period of time.

Do you have some time you can devote to this community service as a volunteer? Assistance is needed in searching for clients in the community, coordinating the delivery of meals and in the collection of fees. If you can volunteer your time or if you are in need of this service or know someone who is, please call Fairfax County's Information and Referral at 691-3253.

* * * * *

Besides the library services that we all are accustomed to receiving from our nearby public library branches, here are some with which you may not be acquainted:

The Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch of the Alexandria Library System, located at 4701 Seminary Road, just east of Route 395, has an extensive collection of Large Print books, both fiction and non-fiction. It also has a large record collection, mainly classical, and its language records include those in Romanian and Serbo-Croatian, as well as other more familiar languages. Also at this branch there is a movie every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. More information on these and other activities and services may be obtained by calling the Burke Branch at 370-6050.

If you have a home video-recorder you can borrow cassettes and discs through the nearby Woodrow Wilson Branch of the Fairfax County Library. A brochure on procedures for borrowing these kinds of materials is available at the library, located at 6101 Knollwood Drive, back of the Culmore Shopping Center, telephone number 820-8774. In addition to movies and video classics, other subjects covered in this format are children's programs, business and management, music, sports, drama, dance, recreation, how to. . . In order to choose the materials you wish, you will need to know the format of disc or tape that is used by your video-recorder, since not every program is available in all formats.

The Fairfax County Public Library also has more than 32,000 Talking Books in its collection, since it is a Sub-Regional Library for the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

* * * * *

Remember the primary election on June 8, 1982. It is to elect a Democratic Party candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from the 10th Congressional District of Virginia. The Skyline community is in the 10th District, which is currently represented by Frank R. Wolf (R). If you are not registered to vote in Fairfax County, please do so before May 8, 1982. Registration is permanent unless you move or fail to vote at least once in four consecutive years. You may register every Wednesday night from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. at any Fairfax County Library branch. Our nearest branch, as noted above, is the Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive.

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IN MEMORIAM

William Thomas Carter
603-W
April 14, 1982

SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY

by Les Boykin, Chairman
Security and Fire Safety Committee

It is about an hour and a half into April's TGIF party in the East Party Room; everyone is enjoying snacks, booze and camaraderie. A motor in an elevator overheated. It caused a smoke detector to go off triggering the whole fire protection alarm and voice warning system in the Party Room and on the floor below. There is no smoke, gas or odor and most TGIFers decide to continue the party. They call the front desk -- along with some 25 other residents who want to be reassured that it is a false alarm.

Adrianne at the front desk, fortunately by this time assisted by Debra, already has her hands full with calling the Fire Department, the engineer-on-call, our resident manager; getting keys for the firemen; and trying to answer the phones and the people in the lobby. Her answer to all the calls is that she does not know whether there is a fire and won't know until the firemen have gone to the Penthouse and report back.

Meanwhile a small number of party goers and some other residents start the long way down to the first floor via the staircase as they are supposed to do. On the 12th floor they find a gentleman with a cane. He tells them that it has taken him 10 minutes to get down 3 floors and that he cannot go any further. He is worried and in considerable pain because he has an artificial hip joint and is not supposed to take the stairs. In this emergency he tried to use the stairs anyway. He was told to wait where he was and that the firemen would come to get him in a few minutes. Another guest, a lady, was also found struggling to get down the stairs; she is suffering from a heart ailment and has to rest at each landing for a few minutes.

It turned out that there was no fire. The party in the Penthouse continued. This experience points to the following:

-- The county experts tell us to EVACUATE PROMPTLY when an alarm is announced. Let's do this without all the discussion and rationalization that went on at the party about "our building has sprinklers and is safe; it is just another false alarm; you cannot smell smoke, etc." We need to make a mistake only once in assuming that it is a false alarm and then it is too late.

-- Do not call the lobby desk in case of a fire alarm to get information. The receptionist does not have accurate reports. By calling and distracting the receptionist YOU BECOME PART OF THE PROBLEM. Call only if you have information to give about a fire or its location.

-- REGISTER A GUEST WITH A HANDICAP at the lobby desk, so the firemen will know where they are and you can tell your guests to stay in your unit. Avoid the suffering which two of our guests experienced. The gentleman had to go to the hospital to get a pain killer that night; the lady had to be hospitalized for several days.

Remember also that only the floor with the purported fire, the floor above it and the floor below it will hear the alarm; only those 3 floors are expected to evacuate. For your own safety and that of other residents, know what you are supposed to do in an emergency. If you do not, ATTEND A SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING on the third Tuesday of each month.

The Fairfax Journal has recently reported that there have been instances of purse snatching from women in the parking centers at Big Boy on Route 7 and Landmark Center on Duke Street.

Always Think Prevention

Avoid carrying large sums of money. If you must carry a large sum try to conceal it on your body. Leave credit cards, checkbooks, and all valuables at home in a locked desk or file cabinet drawer. Carry only the items which you will need immediately.

Make it a practice to carry your keys in your coat pocket rather than in your purse so they will be readily accessible. In the event you are the victim of a purse snatching you won't be locked out.

You should also carry some small change in your coat pocket so that it will be readily available for emergency situations.

If you plan to ride the bus you should know the bus schedule so you will not have such a long wait at the bus stop.

Have your fare ready and in your hand when you board the bus.

Keep your purse tightly tucked under your arm. Do not wrap the strap around your arm or wrist as this could prove dangerous if you are the victim of a purse snatching.

Keep your purse with you at all times when shopping. Never leave it unattended on a seat or counter.

If you are threatened by a purse snatcher DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RESIST IN ANY WAY. OBEY HIS COMMANDS AND MAKE HIM THINK THAT YOU ARE SO TERRIFIED THAT YOU FULLY INTEND TO COMPLY WITH HIS DEMANDS. PUSH THE PURSE TOWARD HIM WITH BOTH HANDS. IF YOU HAVE PREPARED YOURSELF PREVENTIVELY THERE IS NOTHING IN YOUR PURSE OF VALUE AND EVEN YOUR DOOR KEY IS IN YOUR COAT POCKET.

Be alert. Be observant. Call the Police Emergency Telephone Number 911 immediately if you are suspicious of any unusual circumstances, are threatened, see someone else threatened or who has been the victim of a criminal act, or are yourself the victim of a criminal act.

Never attempt to investigate any circumstances yourself.

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NOTICE: Advertisements appearing in this Newsletter do not constitute endorsement nor reflect approval thereof by Skyline House Condominium Association or its Board of Directors.

WRAP-UP FROM YOUR TREASURER

Ken Gresko


I'd like to take this time to briefly summarize the financial condition of our condominium association since our first official year is over.

Our assets as of 3/31/82 are \$561,647, our working Capital Fund is \$94,953 and our Replacement Reserve Fund is \$92,498. Our year-to-date gross operating income is \$248,570 and our year-to-date total operating expenses equal \$283,087, for a net year-to-date operating loss of (\$34,517). Expenses should be stabilizing enough during the next quarter to bring us back to within our budget. A very cold winter has our electricity expense over budget, as well as the high cost of our security, since both garage doors were inoperable during the entire first quarter. Some very good news is that from June 1, 1981 to the present, our investments (money-market certificates, jumbo certificate, and treasury bills) have more than tripled, going from \$145,000 to over \$475,000. Our interest income should exceed \$65,000 for 1982.

The calendar year 1981 audit report, being done by the Certified Public Accounting firm of Turner, Vance, and Moss, will be completed and discussed within the Financial Management Committee and forwarded through to the Board within the next two weeks. A 1981 audited surplus of approximately \$125,000 is anticipated. Your Board must decide on its disposal.

As I wrap up my short (but at times very long) tenure with the Board and the Committees, I'd like to thank everyone for the help and cooperation given to me: to each Executive Board member (past and present), as well as the Management Agents, all Skyline House employees, and to the current members of the Financial Management and Administration Committee and Architectural Planning and Control Committee.

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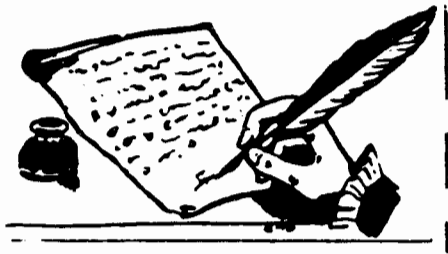
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LETTERS

The Editors of "The House Special" welcome letters from residents of Skyline House. Let the Letter Editor, Elizabeth Grant, 1408-W, know if you have a question; want to express an opinion, or simply have something of interest you would care to share.

* * * * *

On March 24, 1982 I inadvertently put my car in the wrong parking space in the basement parking garage. The owner of the space had my car towed, which is his/her prerogative. The cost of the incident breaks out as follows:

Taxi to 5605 Vine Street	\$ 6.00
J.D. Towing Service, Inc.	78.00 (\$8. day storage)
Irate car pool	Incalculable
Parking in D.C.	4.25
1 hour lost work	<u>20.98</u>
Total	\$109.23 +

Aside from the obvious moral to this story, there are a number of observations I made during this adventure, some of which might be worth consideration as suggestions.

When you wander into the garage early in the morning, bleary-eyed, and your car is missing; three things pop into your mind in the following order:

1. I lost it (haven't done that in years)
2. It was stolen? (the easiest of the three)
3. Someone had it towed away!

So you wander around in the garage until you convince yourself that, in fact, you did not lose your car. Then you go to the front desk and say "did you tow my car?" There is a file kept behind the desk in which all the receipts from the towing services are kept. They are uncatalogued, so you must sift through about fifty of them to find yours.

If someone is in your parking space, there is data at the Lobby Desk, which allows you to correlate the Skyline parking pass number (behind the rear view mirror) with the residents' unit number and name. You can then call them from the lobby desk.

When someone parks in my space by mistake, I like to say something like "Hey dummy, you parked in the wrong slot today! What is the number of your slot; I'll park in your's tonight." This is a good way to get rid of aggression and the normal ebb and flow of traffic will usually correct the situation the next day. You can also leave a note in their box at the desk or even tape it to their door.

The fundamental problem is that the garage is dim and the yellow numbers in front of our spaces are faded. When my parking neighbors are in, its easy to find my slot because I recognize their cars. My system is to reference from a post which holds up the building. Therefore I suggest we, in some way, make the posts distinguishable.

When one is in a hurry and someone has invaded your parking space; it will happen; the simplest thing would be, is the owners could use the guest parking spaces for a short period of time, say one night, or for a few hours during the day.

Ed Fleischman
1610 W

ATTENTION:

ELECTION ALERT! ELECTION ALERT! ELECTION ALERT!
IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED



DATE: MAY 4, 1982

TIME: Polls open 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.

PLACE: Main Lobby, Skyline House

See bulletin board for details

Picture I.D. or Deed of Trust required to vote.

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Condo living takes a bit of common sense

By Michael J. Nosanov

Special to The Christian Science Monitor

As a new condo buyer, you should be aware that only you and your fellow owner-partners are responsible for the financial strength of your complex.

This means that any extraordinary expenses are still your responsibility. If necessary, the board can assess each owner his pro rata share of these expenses.

In other words, it really doesn't matter that much what your monthly fee is. When it comes to maintenance, you can pay it now or you can pay it later.

This brings up the matter of the board of directors. Any condominium board of directors has growing pains as it tries to cope with new situations. This is why many associations have staggered terms for their directors. In that way, there will always be at least one or two experienced hands on the board.

All too often a new condo owner believes that a meeting of the owners, or their representatives, is nothing more than a meeting of all the partners, for the exclusive purpose of staying up into the wee hours of the night fussing about every little detail of the complex.

The typical board of directors means well. They *always* mean well. But your board is managing a business with many partners.

The board meetings are frequently well attended, especially whenever controversial items are to be discussed. At the board meeting, the board must manage a crowd as well as its business.

The board member-homeowners may be new residents themselves. Often the future of a million-dollar enterprise is in the hands of board members who have no training in managing people, money, or property.

Fortunately, there are several simple steps that condo owners can take to help the board:

- Elect members that have management experience. If no such candidates exist, elect someone willing to learn how well-run businesses operate.

- Insist that Roberts Rules of Order are followed, even if this means the appointment of a parliamentarian.

- Be sure the board adopts and lives up to rules of procedure. For example, some boards insist that all motions must be in writing, even if they are handwritten on the spot.

- Stick to the business at hand. Demand an agenda in advance of the meeting, and avoid inflammatory or emotional language when you're there.

People basically have enough common sense to do a good job as board members as long as they can take a disciplined approach to running a business and a human approach to dealing with people.

Help the board concentrate on its duties by giving it a chance to do its job.

FOT POURRI by Jan Flynn

It must be Spring! I've had this terrible urge to CLEAN everything in sight! (Thankfully, this urge is short-lived.) And even tho' nary a soul has asked for this, I plan to share some of my favorite "easy-to-do, quickest-way-possible, exert-the-least-energy" type of household hints. (I'm sure you already know these things, but I have to fill up space in this column.)



1. Don't wash windows on a sunny day - they'll dry too fast & show streaks. (Of course you don't wash them on a rainy day, so therefore you can avoid window washing forever if you want to.)
2. For those of you with grimy glass shower doors, rubbing with a sponge dampened in white vinegar will give a quick bright shine. (For those of you with grimy shower curtains, it's time to buy a new one!)
3. Sluggish bathroom sink & tub drains? Pour in a cup of undiluted bleach, followed by very hot water. More-than-sluggish? Don't use the "crystal" product; try 1/2 cup baking soda followed with a cup of white vinegar. (This mixture will "fizzle".) After a few minutes rinse with very hot water. (If these home-brews fail, well..... I think you have a problem.)
4. For difficult scuff marks on white shoes, apply white typewriter correction fluid before applying polish. (Actually, anyone wearing over a size 6 shouldn't wear white shoes .. they make your feet look bigger!)

Daffy-nitions:

Sensitivity session:	feel trip
Anesthesia:	aroma coma
Hangover:	the wrath of grapes
Lingerie:	gay nighties
Drop-out:	quiz skid
Diet:	a four-letter word

Birthday Greetings for the month of May go to these lovely people: JOHN PADLELLA (on the 1st) LEE DICKASON-at the desk (11th) MAUREEN LESCROAT (12th) BOB LOWRY (13th) ALAN LUND (16th) LUCY TROXELL (17th) GLADIE MCCARTHY (21st) DICK ATCHISON (22nd) ELEANOR JACKSON (26th) and VERA CHURCH (29th).

** VOTE ** VOTE ** ELECTIONS COMING UP SOON! ** VOTE ** VOTE **

Quip-for-the-day: Altho' the cost of living is high, do you know anyone who wants to stop his payments?

'Til the next time

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The HOUSE SPECIAL	Board Member Liaison	-	Barbara Bear
	Editor	-	Marden D. Kimball 513-W
	Secretarial Editor	-	Kathleen Jeck
	Letters Editor	-	Elizabeth Grant 1408-W

Items for The HOUSE SPECIAL must be submitted to the Editors before the 20th of the month preceding publication.

From Management



STORAGE ROOMS

We have had upon occasion, kitchen drain sewer backups in the storage rooms. This occurs when the drain lines become clogged by grease and other food debris.

We have instituted a maintenance program of cleaning the sewer lines on a regular basis, and hope this will help to prevent further backups. However, when these backups do occur, the storage room bins take on some water. In order to protect your belongings, we suggest that all items be stored in plastic bags or covered with heavy plastic and to place some sort of platform within the bin so that items on the floor do not become water soaked.

PIGEON CONTROL

Last month the Newsletter advised that pellets to repel pigeons were available in the Management Office. We regret that we do not have pellets, because pigeon control must be done by a licensed exterminator. We have requested the services of an exterminator to treat the roof area of our buildings. This will help keep the pigeons away from the entire building and balconies.

GARAGE SPEED LIMIT

The speed limit in the garage is 5 MPH. Please adhere to this so that there will be no accidents with vehicles or pedestrians. Please turn on your headlights so that others will be aware of your approach. It has been brought to our attention that some persons are going the wrong way in the garage, because it is more convenient for them to exit the garage or take their groceries in on another level and then park their vehicle. This is very dangerous and we request that those of you who go the wrong way on a one way ramp will discontinue this practice. Your cooperation will be appreciated by all.

