



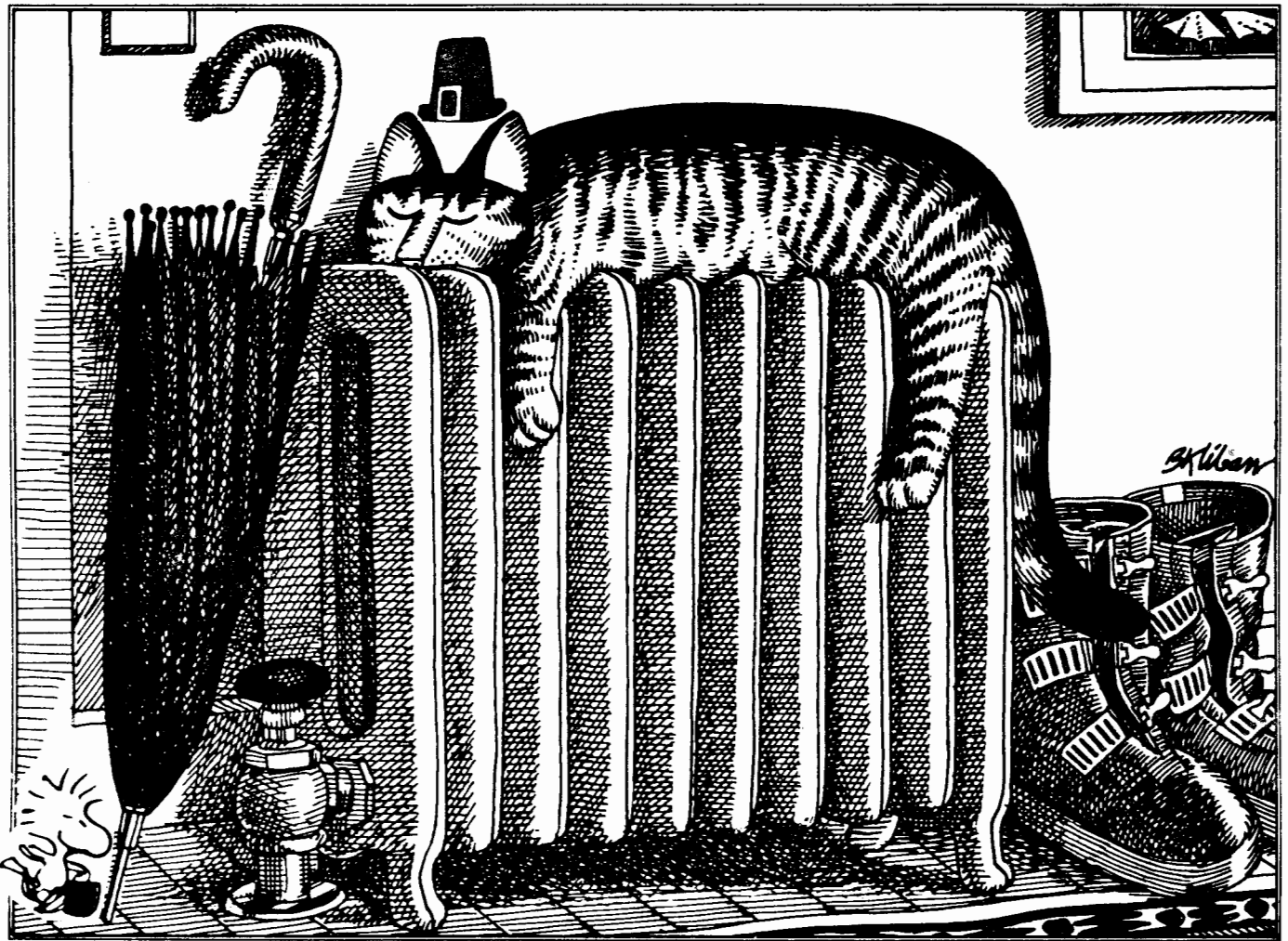
The

# House Special

Vol. VI

March 1986

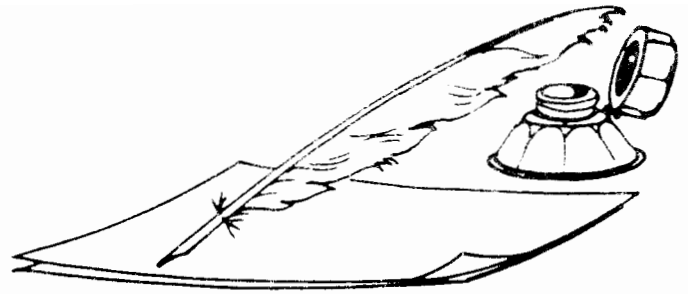
Issue 3



SPRING <sup>☘</sup>s <sup>☘</sup>a comin'!

# *From the Board*

WYNFRED JOSHUA, VICE PRESIDENT



President Ed Stolarun started the February session with noting that Howard McClennan has resigned as chairman of the Covenants Committee for personal reasons. Mr. McClennan has been a fine and able chairman and the Board hopes that he can soon participate in our community affairs again.

Further included in the President's report were: (1) the developer will be repairing the cracks in the C-deck of the garage, although he claims that this is a maintenance item; (2) the proposal to establish a childcare facility in Skyline Towers has been withdrawn; and (3) the very useful reference guide we have in the compendium of Board decisions and resolutions since the Board's establishment which Board Secretary Ken Grant and Resident Manager Sandy Ziegler prepared.

The Board then discussed the request from Skyline Plaza submitted by Mrs. Elizabeth Grant of the Community Relations Committee. Plaza would like House support in requesting our representative to the Virginia House of Delegates to pressure Northern Virginia Community College into building a stairway on the embankment behind the House East Building. There are already steps behind the parking area of the East Building on House property. Building of stairs and subsequent use would involve access through Skyline House grounds. The Board's rejection of the Plaza request reflected several concerns, including: supporting the request would benefit largely third parties who come by bus to the College and get off and on on George Mason Drive. This would violate the Board's policy of protecting as much as possible our grounds against trespassing. Furthermore, the House would be responsible for maintaining the stairs on House property and would be liable in case of accident, as for example could occur with icy conditions. At this point the House is following all the necessary procedures to avoid legal liability. Finally, the building of steps would undercut any possibility of beautifying and landscaping the embankment east of the garage.

The Board subsequently considered several priority tasks for this year and decided that these tasks would be discussed at the special Board session with Committee Chairpersons after the March elections. These tasks included: the issue of owners/renters ratio; insurance, switchboard options; beautification of embankment behind the East building; and options for reception of satellite TV broadcasts.

Treasurer Joe Strahs presented the financial report which he concluded with commenting that Skyline House continues to enjoy a healthy financial condition due to the combined efforts of the Board, the Property Manager and Resident Manager, and the Committees, all of whom serve our community in a dedicated and unselfish manner.

The Board accepted the Property Manager's recommendations to award a contract for \$1,200 to Arlington Air Ways for steam cleaning the trash chutes, and a contract for \$3,990 to American Window for the annual washing of unit windows (excluding the balcony windows). Washing will be scheduled for May.

The Property Manager then explained that he had finally found a contractor prepared to check the leakages from the planter boxes on the sundeck. King Waterproofing had removed dirt and plants from 2 planters and recommended ways to repair the cracks and holes in the boxes. The Board approved the repairs which would run some \$1,300 for the two; there are, however, 4 other boxes with the same leaking problem.

The Resident Manager announced that we have had a second fire in an apartment. The fire was put out seconds before the water sprinklers were to go off. The Manager stressed the importance of having a fire extinguisher in the kitchens. The Board endorsed her recommendation that she order fire extinguishers which unit owners could then buy from her office. She would check with the Fire Department on the recommended size. The Board also asked that a meeting be held for residents to explain the use of extinguishers and to discuss how to cope with specific fires.

The request from the Washington Chapter of the Community Associations Institute to hold a seminar in a party room of Skyline House for condo volunteers was rejected. The Board was concerned about setting a precedent for other outside organizations to use our party rooms.

The advice of the attorney was accepted that a unit owner is responsible for the insurance deductible (\$1,000) if a window of the owner's apartment is broken.

The request of the owner of the commercial unit C-1 in the West Building for some architectural changes, such as installing a doormarker and a peephole on the door as on other unit doors was accepted.

Because of election night in March, the Board decided to dispense with the regular Board meeting next month.

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#### THE HOUSE SPECIAL

Editor: Mary Jo Long 301E

Advertising: Tony DiSalvo 502E

Copy Due Date: 20th of each month

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COMMUNITY NOTES  
MARCH, 1986

Elizabeth Grant 1408

There was a gratifying response to the request for a volunteer to attend the meetings of the Federation of Citizens' Associations as a representative for Skyline House. The plea was made in last month's "House Special" and a resident of the East Building, Darryl Graham, came forward. He will be advising residents of matters which could impact our community through this column; items for possible Board action will be brought to the Community Relations Committee for discussion and formulation of recommendations. A heart-felt "thank-you" to Mr. Graham for offering to shoulder this responsibility which will benefit us all!

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On February 19th there was an audience of about thirty people to hear the talk on "Lifetime Weight Management" given by Dr. Dianne Lindewall, Director of Behavioral Medicine at the Cardiovascular Risk Management Center in Falls Church. Dr. Lindewall presented a calorie-balancing system...one not based on diet, giving up favorite foods or even making great changes in one's eating-style. Rather, it was based on the principle that calorie in-take matters; that one must learn how to compensate for over-eating by under-eating and regular exercise. It was emphasized that the biggest villain in the struggle against overweight is the consumption of fats. It is easy to fail to recognize many of the hidden sources, such as the fat value in nuts, seeds and crackers.

We are grateful to the Center and to Jefferson Memorial Hospital (our neighbor around the corner on Route 7) for arranging this interesting and informative presentation.

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If watching calories and brisk exercise is not your "thing", perhaps the program our committee has arranged for March will interest you more! At 8:00p.m. on March 12th in the East Party Room, Ms. Sheri Loop will speak on the subject of "Taxes". This is not a medical discussion, but maybe a headache or two can be cleared up! Come along and bring your questions.

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You may wonder why space is being taken in this column to mention something which did NOT happen. But, perhaps, some of you are unaware that our Skyline House Association is represented by three of its residents (Verna Gura, Brian LeBert-Francis and Elizabeth Grant) in a task force organized by Supervisor Tom Davis to deal with matters relating to Skyline Center. Along with representatives from the other residential buildings, a concerted, successful effort was made to keep the public parkland between the Towers and the Square from being fenced in and used, during business hours, exclusively by a child care center, which would have been located in commercial space at the Towers.

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It doesn't exactly pay to get old.....but some things cost less. In an item from the February "Skyline Towers Civic Association Newsletter", it is stated that all AMC theaters in the Skyline Mall give a discount price of \$2.25 for ANY show if the person is 60 years old...or over. When buying the ticket/s, it is necessary to say that you request the "discount fare".

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Another bit of information from the Towers' monthly newsletter, also, bears quoting; it concerns transportation for Seniors: "On January 1st, 1986, FASTRAK replaced ASSIST as the organization providing complimentary transportation for Fairfax County senior citizens to visit doctors' offices, shopping malls, hospitals etc. The new system operates within the Beltway in Fairfax County and in Arlington County to Northern Virginia Doctors' Hospital and Arlington Hospital.

Pick-ups in the Baileys Crossroads area are on Tuesdays but may also be scheduled on Mondays, if time permits. Persons desiring to use the service must call 24 hours in advance for a reservation. The number is : 321-7400.

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Please note that there will be NO MARCH MEETING of the Community Relations Committee. This will provide the opportunity for all residents to attend a special presentation on Fire Prevention, which, unfortunately, could only be arranged for our usual meeting night, the first Tuesday of every month.

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Learn About Educational Opportunities at Northern Community College

Want to brush up on your Shakespeare, Russian, Spanish or French?  
Take a history course and travel? Be proficient in Data and Word Processing?

On Tuesday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Skyline Plaza South Party Room, representatives from our nextdoor neighbor, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus, will visit the Skyline Community and talk about their numerous course offerings and exciting activities available to students of all ages.

There will be a brief presentation, followed by a question and answer period.

Please plan to attend and bring your questions and/or suggestions regarding courses at NVCC.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

AND YOU CAN REGISTER, TOO!

M E M O R A N D U M

February 23, 1986

FROM D. M. Graham, 1616E

TO: Skyline House  
Owners and Residents

SUBJECT: Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations  
(FCFCA)

1. Skyline House Condominium is now a member in good standing of subject organization. I recently responded to a request in the SKYLINE HOUSE for a volunteer to represent our condominium at meetings of the FCFCA. The organization meets the third Thursday of each month, and I shall endeavor to attend these meetings faithfully in order that our common interests are represented. Should any of you have any questions concerning issues I will raise in my reports to you, please feel free to drop me a note at the front desk.
2. I do not intend to produce lengthy reports as a result of these meetings. My intent is to provide either information provided at the meeting which might be of interest, or to alert you to issues which should be of interest to each of you as responsible Fairfax County citizens and which you might want to track in county publications or the media.
3. The first meeting I attended was on Thursday, 20 February 86. It was of particular note because the FCFCA had Mr. J. Hamilton Lambert, Fairfax County Executive, as a guest speaker. His presentation provided status information to the FCFCA on current County activities.

A. General Information of Interest.

- (1) The only County priorities against which the Board of Supervisors is willing to incur debt are SCHOOLS and ROADS.
- (2) The 1984 - 85 real estate tax cut was a true cut because there were no significant increases in assessed valuations. There had been real estate tax rate cuts in years prior to 1984, but taxes paid out actually increased because of higher assessed valuations.
- (3) Fairfax County planning is against projections of a County population of 800,000+ by the year 2015. It is expected that, despite planning, the problem of crowded roads will persist.
- (4) The new County budget to be released the week of 24 February is balanced regarding revenues versus expenses, and no tax increases have been requested by the County Executive.
- (5) County management is closely monitoring activities on Capitol Hill regarding the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill to reduce federal budget deficits. The County currently receives federal funds amounting to approximately \$45 Million per year. The County Executive is more concerned about secondary cuts affecting Fairfax

County as a result of cutbacks in aid to the Commonwealth of Virginia. These will in turn have impacts on Fairfax County, and no one really knows what the extent of them could be.

(6) Fairfax County continues to have a bright economic future given the interest of corporations in locating their operations in the County. The next major area of development is the area in and around Centerville.

B. Issues.

One issue about which everyone should be aware is that of the County's intent to build a new Government Center. Much discussion was generated on this issue as there is concern about how the County intends to finance such a building. Basically the County is intending to build a 500,000 square foot complex expandable to 1,000,000 square feet on land near the intersection of Rts 50 and 66. Citizen concern centers primarily on the feeling that insufficient information on this project has been disseminated to the general population. This is notwithstanding the fact that public hearings have been held on this project. The County is currently evaluating seven responses against a Request for Qualification which was issued by the County to determine what firms will be allowed to submit a proposal against a Request for Proposal concerning the design and construction of the Center. I supported a resolution calling for the County Board of Supervisors to promote greater public awareness of this project and Board deliberations on how it will be funded.

Respectfully submitted,

  
D. M. Graham



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE HOUSE SPECIAL welcomes brief comments from readers. Please limit your letters to 250 words. Of course the condominium board reserves the right to refrain from publishing incorrect or improper statements.

On Wednesday evening, 29 January, some time between 6:00PM and 9:15PM, a car ran into mine near the card machine entrance to the Parking Garage. I was parked in Space SP69E.

The person who hit me drove off and didn't report the accident to anyone or leave a name or phone number on my car.

It had snowed that afternoon and skid marks in the snow showed this vehicle skidded about thirty feet, hit my car, backed up, and then entered the garage.

If anyone saw this accident, please notify the building Manager or put a note in my box.

Thank you,

J. H. Gelenter  
Unit 1308-East

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## Let us help you with your Condo Sales, Purchases, & Property Management....



--- Irene Hedrick ---

--- Beatriz Carroll ---

--- Munira Kazma ---

## MBI Real Estate, Inc. 931-4114

WE ARE LOCATED NEARBY AT 5881 LEESBURG PIKE, SUITE 101, FALLS CHURCH, VA

As those of you who read our bulletin boards may have observed, we put a Mason Police District notice on them and distributed it to active Watch members in February. This notice reported sporadic daytime burglaries having occurred in Mason District (a very large area) in December and January and described a suspect. NO BURGLARIES OCCURRED AT SKYLINE HOUSE. But this situation brings up a number of points we must communicate to as many residents as possible:

1. We don't wish to scare anyone, but anytime we notify residents of crimes occurring in Mason District we run the risk of upsetting a few of our residents who either don't wish to hear unsettling news or who may think it affects property values.
2. But if we don't publicize police reports of burglaries or other crimes in our general area, we are subject to criticism from a much larger group of residents for not keeping them apprised of what they have a right to know to protect themselves.
3. We have not had any response to our repeated request for a resident volunteer to hook up his or her personal computer to the Crime Prevention Office computer. While we are not required to hook into this system to keep our Watch operation viable, it would accelerate the receipt and dissemination of such news to the Watch and all residents much quicker than a monthly police letter.
4. The method often used by burglars in apartments has been vice grips or pliers on the doorknobs. The police state "dead bolt locks usually stop entry." So we caution you again to throw those deadbolts in place.
5. Good News!! A recent survey of both buildings by Arlene Burbank reflects that the number of pick-resistant cylinders has increased substantially since our last survey 3 years ago. If a few more of you would call our Engineer Ed Barstow and install these devices, we would be approaching excellent shape in our main line of defense against burglaries!

#### KITCHEN FIRES

Please read the commentary on this subject in the Management report this month (back page) and mark your calendar reserved for TUESDAY NIGHT, MARCH 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the WEST PARTY ROOM. As stated, you will learn exactly how to use a small fire extinguisher!

Since most of us wouldn't be human if we hadn't left a pot heating on the stove on a number of occasions long after we intended, let's face it - we're all vulnerable to this kind of fire. So now you can at least be prepared to put it out by ordering a small extinguisher. The Committee agrees with the Board and Management that it is a great idea to bulk purchase these extinguishers. Remember that if the temperature gets high enough, it will trigger your sprinklers!!



**HEAR YE!  
HEAR YE!**

**MEET THE**

**CANDIDATES**

**NIGHT**

- Talk with candidates for  
Skyline House Board
- Enjoy wine, punch  
cheese and crackers
- Get your proxy notarized  
free of charge

**TUESDAY**

**MARCH 11, 1986**

**7:30 P.M.**

**WEST PARTY ROOM**



# ELECTIONS

for your  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

# VOTE

-7:15 Ballots available

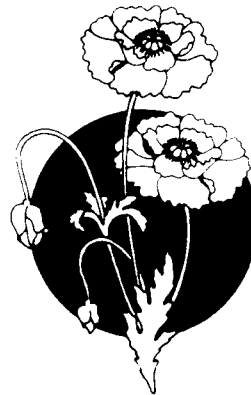
-7:30 ANNUAL MEETING-  
VOTING

Wine and cheese served in the lobby

YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED

Questions: Contact Ross MacAskill, 206E

# From Management



## KITCHEN FIRE

We had a second kitchen fire on Sunday evening, February 9, 1986. This fire was snuffed out with the lid of the pan by the unit owner before the sprinkler was activated. However, the fire caused enough damage from flames so that the stove, kitchen floor and kitchen cabinets have to be replaced as well as painting to the living room, dining room and kitchen walls and ceilings. Due to the quick reaction of the resident the fire was put out very quickly thereby saving other units from water damage.

## HOW TO HELP PREVENT KITCHEN FIRES

Sgt. Tom Wolf, Public Affairs and Education Officer, Fairfax County Fire Department will present a program to Skyline House Residents on Tuesday, March 4, 1986 at 7:30 PM in the West Party Room on how to help prevent kitchen fires. Since there have been two kitchen fires at Skyline House in recent weeks, we feel that education in helping to prevent fires is a good topic for discussion at this time. We will also ask Sgt. Wolf to demonstrate a fire extinguisher and speak directly about our particular fire alarm system. Please attend. Refreshments will be served.

## STORAGE ROOMS

When our insurance company made their tri-annual inspection of our building for our fire insurance policy, the inspector requested the following:

- 1) No items may be stored outside your cage in the storage room (also see House Rules #16B).
- 2) None of the following flammable items may be stored in the storage room: (a) oil base paint, (b) cleaning fluids, (c) camp stove fuels, (d) gasoline, (e) any other flammable materials (also see House Rules #19B).

ANY AND ALL ITEMS MUST BE STORED WITHIN YOUR CAGE. ANY  
ITEM LEFT OUTSIDE THE CAGE WILL BE CONSIDERED ABANDONED  
AND WILL BE DISPOSED OF.

SP

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS



The Insurance Inspector also advised that it would be of benefit to all for each unit owner/resident to purchase a fire extinguisher for their own personal use within the unit.

The management staff will have fire extinguishers available for sale if we receive enough request to purchase in quantity. We will be able to buy a 5 lb. dry chemical ABC fire extinguisher for \$21.50 (includes tax) and a 2½ lb. extinguisher for \$13.50. The five pound extinguisher is preferable but the 2½ lb. would be of use to those of you who may have difficulty with the filled weight of the five pound one. Please advise the office staff if you wish to purchase an extinguisher and which size you would like as soon as possible. The extinguisher should be wall mounted somewhere near the kitchen, not too close to the stove. Perhaps in the pantry. You will be advised when the extinguishers will be available for purchase.

INJURY TO PEDESTRIAN

1a  
2a

On Monday evening, February 24, 1986, during a snow storm, a gentleman from the east building was walking along the sidewalk on George Mason Drive from Skyline Plaza to Skyline House and was hit with an object on the side of his head, thrown from an east balcony facing George Mason Drive. The resident bled profusely and his coat and shirt were covered with blood, but fortunately there was no serious injury. The resident thought he was hit with a snow ball with something hard inside it and he was not sure which balcony it was thrown from.

We hope that all of you will advise all residents or guests of the danger in throwing any object from the balcony. Serious injury will someday occur if residents continue to throw objects from their balconies.

THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
PRESENTS  
SHERI LOOP.....ON " TAXES"  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12...8:00p.m.  
EAST PARTY ROOM