



The

House Special

VOLUME XIV

MAY 1994

NO. 5

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Tilson, President

Volunteer Recognition Night

○ The dinner party for unit owners, held on April 21, was a great success. About 150 unit owners attended, many of whom received awards for service on various committees of the Association in the past few years. The food was excellent, the liquid refreshments ample, and the flowers and the newly decorated West Party Room and penthouse corridors provided an exhilarating atmosphere. A good time was had by all.

Board Meeting

○ At the first regular meeting of the 14th Board of Directors, the following major items were discussed:

○ **1993 Audit Report.** Our auditors, Goldklang and Cavanaugh, completed their audit of our Association's financial records and submitted a favorable report. The report was accepted by the Board.

○ **Delinquencies.** The diligent work of our accountant, Kathleen Bailey, and our attorneys, has produced very positive results: The total amount of delinquent payments of condo fees and fines is down to the lowest amount in many years. The amount is \$13,000, almost half of which is

short-term. This is less than one percent of our annual budget, and is considered quite a low figure for condominiums of our size.

○ **Repaving of asphalt around the West Building.** On May 11-13, all outside parking areas will have to be vacated by residents, staff, and visitors to permit the repaving of the entire asphalted surfaces around the West Building. Arrangements have been made to allow those using private parking spaces to park temporarily at Build America shopping center. **The Board has authorized management to have any vehicles towed that are parked around the West Building when the contractor arrives on May 11 to start repaving the area.** So please do not forget to move your car in time if you normally park in one of the outside spaces.

○ **Redecorating.** The work on the penthouse corridors and the party rooms in both buildings is almost complete. Area rugs and upholstered chairs should be delivered in the next couple of weeks to complete the job except for window treatment. Window treatment is being explored with the help of the interior designer retained by the committee, and will be added in the next month or two. As almost everyone who has seen the West penthouse will agree, the ad hoc decorating committee, chaired by Carroll Thompson, has done an outstanding job.

○ Another ad hoc decorating committee, chaired by Roy Cahoon, has completed its work of selecting the carpeting. (Continued on page 3)



The

House Special

Editor: Law Henderson

Advertising: Skyline House
Business Office
(703) 578-4855

Copy Due Date: 20th of the month
preceding issue date

Published: Monthly

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: *The House Special* welcomes brief comments from its readers. Please limit your letters to 250 words and include your name and Unit Number. The Association Board reserves the right to refuse incorrect or improper statements.

ADVERTISING: A rate card, showing the costs and sizes, is available from the Business Office. If there are services and/or tradespeople with whom you have dealt, let the Business Office, 578-4855, know so that we may pursue them as advertisers. The appearance of advertisements in *the House Special* does not constitute endorsement by the Association.

PUBLISHED BY: SKYLINE HOUSE UNIT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., 3711 South George Mason Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041-3713, (703) 578-4855.

PRINTED BY: Curry Printing and Copy Center
Alexandria, VA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	David Tilson
Vice President	Dolores Littles
Treasurer	George Beams
Secretary	Ron Mullvain
Director	Barbara Michelman
Director	Sam Blumberg
Director	Michael L. Moore

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

The proposed redecoration for the halls is on display in the lobby. I fully understand and appreciate the work the Redecorating Committee has devoted to this project, but I respectfully request that before the materials are being ordered, the owners of Skyline House be given the opportunity to express their views and be given an alternative.

While it is difficult to get a consensus on what the halls should look like, I submit the following:

The proposed floral-like design of the rug does not reflect the trend of the nineties, but throws us back to the pre-1950 days. Skyline Plaza, Savoy Park, and other apartment buildings have gone into more modern and attractive designs for the hall carpets.

The proposed rug and entry hall colors are drab and dark and will cast a depressing and somber pall over the halls and entries to our homes.

The proposed colors of the rug and dark green of the entry halls are not coordinated with those of the corridors on the lobby floors.

Our halls have always been one of the most attractive parts of the common elements and have solicited many a favorable comment from our visitors. This is our home and we will have to live with the halls for quite a while. I trust that the Board and Committee can arrive at a more cheerful design.

Wynfred Joshua	Unit 1414W
Ruth Ballard	Unit 905W
Mr & Mrs Damon Manton	Unit 1314E

(Continued from page 1) wall paper, and wall colors for the residential corridors in both buildings. The Board authorized Management to proceed to implement their recommendations as soon as possible, starting with the West Building. Completion of the work will probably take until late fall. The Board authorized expenditures of up to \$200,000 to cover the costs. This is well within the amount now available in the replacement reserve accounts for redecorating.

- **Changing the employees' pension system.** The Board is exploring ways to improve and strengthen the Skyline House employee pension arrangements. An ad hoc committee, chaired by Ed Bisgyer, is studying the matter. The committee recommended that the Board change the current pension plan, which we inherited from the Smith Companies, to a 401(k). The latter is a much better deal for the employees. Since we want to make Skyline House an attractive place to work, it is important that we have a good pension plan as one of the fringe benefits. The committee was asked by the Board to continue its work and to come up with a detailed plan for Board approval. Since the plan is for the benefit of the employees, it will be discussed with them to insure that they favor the proposed changes before the Board votes to install the new plan.

- **Appointments.** The Board voted to reappoint Frances Blumberg as chair of the Covenants Committee. The Covenants Committee must organize a Hearings Committee as soon as possible. It is not necessary that the chair of the Hearings Committee be a lawyer (though it is desirable). We can arrange to have the Association's attorney attend any hearing to advise the chairperson on legal and procedural matters.

Helen Drivas has agreed to chair the Community Relations Committee. This important committee has not been functioning for more than two years. We look forward to its revitalization under Ms. Drivas' leadership.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Tony Di Salvo & Dave Harvey, Co-Chairs

- The trip to Atlantic City and the Sands Hotel is set for May 19. The cost is \$22 per person and includes donuts on the bus and a \$7.50 bonus from the Sands Casino. See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

- A dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24 in the East Party Room. BYOB at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. The menu will be:

Fennel and Mushroom Salad w/Parmesan
Rosemary and Garlic Chicken
Rice and Pecan Pilaf
Broiled Tomatoes
Dessert
\$12.00 per person

- Seating, as usual, will be limited, so get your reservation in early. A flyer will be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

- A reminder for those who have not attended the monthly TGIF, make the next one your first and meet your neighbors. YOU are more than welcome and to make it easier for you, you are requested NOT to bring a **plate of hors d'oeuvres**. Just bring yourselves and your own liquid refreshment.

- The next TGIF is May 6, 6:30 p.m. in the East Party Room.

- The next meeting of the Recreation Committee will be May 11, 7:30 p.m. in the East Card Room. Why don't you join us!!!

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

TGIF	Fri. May 6	EPR 6:30 p.m.
Rec Com	Wed. May 11	ECR 7:30 p.m.
Atlantic City	Thu. May 19	
Dinner	Tue. May 24	EPR 6:30 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT DINNER

TUESDAY, MAY 24

Cocktails: 6:30 p.m. (BYOB)

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

EAST PARTY ROOM

\$12.00 Per person

Checks must be received no later
than FRIDAY, MAY 20 OR SOONER. Reservations
will be limited to 30 persons

MENU

Fennel and Mushroom Salad
w/Parmesan
Rosemary and Garlic Chicken
Rice and Pecan Pilaf
Broiled Tomatoes
Dessert
Coffee

SPONSORED BY THE SKYLINE HOUSE RECREATION COMMITTEE

International Night, Tuesday, May 24

Make non-refundable checks payable to: Skyline House Recreation Com.

Name(s) _____

Unit # _____ Phone # _____ No. in party _____

My check is enclosed for \$_____ (\$12.00 per person)
Place reservation slip and check at front desk for Tony DiSalvo, 502E.
Any questions call 824-1958. No reserved tables.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**Bill Miller, Chair**

○ Members of the Financial Management Committee desire to extend their congratulations to the Thirteenth Board of Directors and the Association Management Staff for an outstanding Volunteer recognition award affair, held in the Brian Le Bert-Francis Room on April 21, 1994. The six active members of the committee were honored for their excellent voluntary service to Skyline House Unit Owners' Association. Members honored were Sophie Anderson, Gladys Frank, Grace Krumwiede, Helen Kumor and Lisa Ruiz along with the committee chair. Owners who attended had the opportunity to view the newly decorated Brian Le Bert-Francis Room, the west penthouse corridor and enjoy dining from an excellent buffet.

○ Our next meeting will be held on May 19, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. in the East Card Room. Advanced planning for the 1995 Association budget will be one item on the agenda. Requirements for committee membership and quarterly financial reviews performed by our auditor are also scheduled for review.

AMVOX (202) 310-2818



CHARLEY ROBERTS

Authorized Distributor, A.D.A. No. 800247

5119A Leesburg Pike, Box 260

FAX (703) 845-0174

Falls Church, VA 22041

REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE

BILL ROBINSON BRUCE BROTHERS

OVER 85 TRANSACTIONS COMPLETED IN SKYLINE!

FOR SALE

Skyline House

- * 1BR, Den, 1.5 Baths. 10th floor view. Move-in condition.
- * 1BR, Den, 1.5 Baths. 16th flr. Many upgrades & extras. New paint.
- * 2BR, 2Baths. Lowest priced 2BR/2BA unit in Skyline House.
- * 2BR, Den, 2.5 Baths. 4 walk-in closets. Best buy this size.

Skyline Square

- * 2BR, 2Baths. 12th floor view, all neutral carpet & walls.

WHEN PERFORMANCE REALLY COUNTS
BILL, PH# 256-7932 BRUCE, PH# 256-0778

Weichert
Realtors



THE GOOD NEIGHBOR GROUP



Co-Chairs: Irene Wolgamot 998-1715
Geraldine Naveau 931-4643

o The volunteer Good Neighbors for May are:

May 1994

Judith York 671-2267
Martine Langley 931-1325

o On April 11, the Good Neighbors had a table in the East Mail Room Lobby. Questions about the Good Neighbor services were answered and residents had an opportunity to pick up a copy of the Good Neighbor brochure.

o The Board of Directors has invited the Good Neighbor volunteers to the Volunteer Recognition Awards evening on April 24.

o There will be a Good Neighbors table in the West Mail Lobby from 5-7 p.m. on May 10. We hope you will stop to chat and pick up a copy of our brochure if you do not already have one.



IRA KERN
REALTOR®
Condominium Specialist
Long & Foster Executives Club

LONG & FOSTER, REALTORS®
Alexandria/Landmark
5140 Duke Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Office: (703) 823-3800
Res.: (703) 578-1666

MAGIC MAINTENANCE

**Minor Plumbing and Electrical
Kitchen Appliances
Water Heaters
Washer/Dryers
Heat & Air Conditioning
Clogged Drains Cleaned**

YOUR HOME'S BEST FRIEND

ED BARSTOW
10 years Chief Engineer
at Skyline House

(703) 803-9395

 **Happy Home**
Child Learning Center
Specializing in Children
Our #1 Priority

5001 Seminary Road
Suite 109
Alexandria, VA 22311

Southern Towers Apartments
Sherwood Building
(703) 931-1051



STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES
HOME OFFICES BLOOMINGTON ILLINOIS

LYNN K. VAUGHAN
Agent

4900 Leesburg Pike Suite 207
Alexandria Virginia 22302

Bus (703) 845-1092

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Don Fenton, General Manager

○ **Incoming Faxes**

As a test program Skyline House will, through July, no longer charge for incoming faxes. When a fax is received it will be time & date stamped, a call made to the unit, via intercom, and then placed in the unit mail slot at the front desk. **NO FURTHER CALLS WILL BE MADE.** Please check for non-post office mail and packages daily.

○ **1994 Pool Passes**

Shortly after the 15th of May we will be issuing pool passes for the 1994 season. Watch Channel 12 on Skyline Cablevision and local bulletin boards for information.

○ **Handicap list.** Any residents having problems that might hinder their evacuation during an emergency, such as fire, should be listed on the **HANDICAPPED EVACUATION LIST**. If you wish to be listed please contact the Management Office.

○ **Pay Phones**

You might have noticed that there is no longer a pay phone in either penthouse. Because of the lack of use the phone company would only continue them at an exorbitant rate. Replacing both the old House Phone and pay phone is one princess style instrument which you can use to contact the front desk, the management office and all residential UNITS. The front desk extension is "0", management office is "301", to call a unit you must use a 5 digit number. The first number will be either a "1" or "2". Use "1" if you wish an East Building Unit or a "2" for the West Building. Then enter the unit number using 4 digits, for example 1713W would be 21713, 1713E would be 11713. If you want a unit having less than four digits add leading zeros; 106W would be 20106, T16W would be 20016.

The G-Level Administration pay phone is still in

operation.

○ **Vehicle Registration**

All vehicles that are owned or operated by Skyline House residents and regularly parked here are required to display a current Skyline House decal. Please advise us when you get new plates from DMV so our records may be updated. Also if you get rid of a vehicle please let us know so that we may mark the record from our current database. We recommend cutting off the name "Skyline House" from the decal before application.

○ **DUES & DUE DATES**

Skyline House monthly assessment payments are due the **1st** of every month at our lockbox at the Horizon Bank in Merrifield. There is a grace period of ten days before the late charge is applied. Skyline House is NOT responsible for late delivery by the Post Office or any other agency. It is the unit owner's responsibility to forward its payment so that it arrives at the lockbox before the expiration of this period. Remember our dues are due on the **1st** of the month not the 10th of the month.

○ **SUDS, SUDS AND MORE SUDS.**

One of the problems that condominium residents face is the sudden appearance of soap suds in their sinks. The power of suds can be overwhelming. Did you know that suds can block the flow of water through a drain pipe, especially if there is a dip or sag in a pipe? Many residents of units on the lower floors of a tier have entered their kitchen to find their sink and floor covered with the products of washing machines, dishwashers, sinks and garbage disposals. Not a pleasant experience. What can we do as good neighbors to eliminate this nuisance of over-sudsing?

First, front loading washing machines, which represent the majority of washers in Skyline House require only 1/2 the amount of detergent as a top loader machine. Second, only A **LOW**

SUDSING DETERGENT should be used. Look for and purchase only "low sudsing" detergents. If the box doesn't state "low sudsing" you shouldn't be using the product. Please follow the directions on the box or the machine for front loaders. Do the same for your dishwasher and sink detergents. A little trick to get rid of extra suds as a result of too much detergent, sprinkle some table salt on the suds. This will knock them down dramatically. Third, always continue to flush your garbage disposal with water after you finish grinding. By following the above we should be able to reduce, if not eliminate, waste water backflows into units.

Also if you hear a gurgling sound from the pipe holes where your washing machine hoses empty into the wall it usually means your drains are backing up. It's time to have your drain "snaked out". Give a call to In-Unit maintenance.

Rule 21 reads as follows:

B. Unit Owners/Residents shall use only low-sudsing soaps and detergents which will not cause overflow of water and suds into other condominium units.

o FIRES

Tis the season, and once again we have experienced our springtime mulch fire caused by CIGARETTES probably coming off of a balcony. If you see someone disposing smoking materials incorrectly let us know. We were fortunate to catch it before any substantial damage was done. Remember Skyline House is officially a NON-SMOKING BUILDING. This of course does not include the units or balconies but everywhere else is non-smoking.

We have also had two instances where food was left cooking unattended and cremated, causing not only a danger but considerable smoke and concern.

o PAVING

ON MAY 10TH AND 11TH WE WILL BE

REPAVING THE ASPHALT FROM THE GARAGE EXIT TO THE MAIN LOBBY AREA. ON BOTH DAYS THERE WILL BE NO GUEST OR RESIDENT PARKING PERMITTED IN THAT AREA. ON MAY 10TH, TUESDAY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE GARAGE EXIT NORMALLY BUT ON THE 11TH, WEDNESDAY, GARAGE TRAFFIC WILL BE TWO-WAY USING THE ENTRANCE DOOR. WE EXPECT THAT THE AREA WILL REOPENED AND THE GARAGE RETURNED TO NORMAL OPERATION BY 6PM ON WEDNESDAY.

ALL VEHICLES MUST BE REMOVED AND NO DELIVERIES, MOVE-INS, OR USE OF THE LOADING AREA WILL BE ALLOWED.

WATCH THE BULLETIN BOARDS, MAIL BOXES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION INCLUDING SUGGESTED ALTERNATE PARKING SOLUTIONS.

this summer i'm going to computer camp!

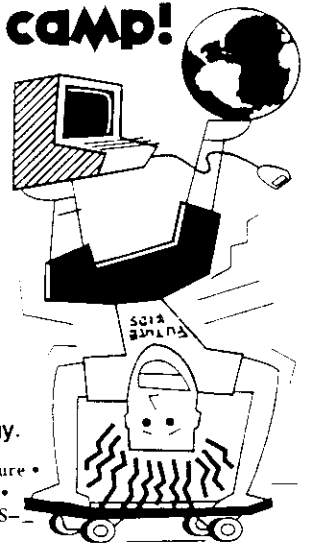
Give your child a head start on the coming school year at Futurekids where they'll discover learning is the most exciting entertainment.

- It's a blast!
- Programs for ages 4 - 15.
- Accelerates math, reading & creative skills.
- Develops self-confidence.
- Master computer technology.

Cartoon Camp • Dinosaur • Space Adventure •
Megabyte Zoo • Robotics • Music Makers •
Keyboarding • TEEN & ADULT CLASSES—
Intro. to Microcomputers & MS Works

FUTUREKIDS OF ANNANDALE
7891 Heritage Dr., Annandale, VA
Phone: (703) 750-9820

FUTUREKIDS®
Children's Computer Classes



Tune to Channel 12

**SKYLINE HOUSE
BULLETIN BOARD**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ms. Wynfred Joshua
APT. 1414W

Dear Ms. Joshua:

I just received your letter to the editor of the newsletter concerning your views on decorating.

You make the following points in your letter:

1. Before we proceed with the committee's recommendations, "the owners be given an opportunity to express their views and be given an alternative."
2. It is your opinion that the "proposed floral design of the rug does not reflect the trend of the nineties, but throws us back to pre-1950 days."
3. You believe that "the proposed rug and entry hall colors are drab and dark and will cast a depressing and somber pall over the halls and entries to our homes."
4. You assert that "the proposed colors of the rug and dark green of the entry halls are not coordinated with those of the corridors on the lobby floors."

I disagree with all four points.

--Seeking a consensus among the owners of 552 units is clearly infeasible. The Board entrusted the aesthetic judgements to a committee of the unit owners who retained the services of a professional interior designer with outstanding experience and credentials. The committee agreed unanimously on the final choices of color and design and so recommended to the Board. They had worked for over a year, had had innumerable meetings, and had considered over 100 samples of carpeting and many color combinations. These recommendations were accepted at the April 27 meeting of the Board which authorized management to implement the recommendations.

--The assertion that floral designs went out in the fifties has no foundation in fact. You may not like floral designs, but many people do. Moreover, there is a reason for the choice of a floral -- rather than geometric -- design: a floral design tends to make narrow residential corridors look wider.

--The "earth tones" in the new carpeting and the matching green wallcovering around the apartment entrances set against the bright white of the hallway walls and ceilings -- further brightened by slightly higher wattage daylight florescent bulbs in the hallway ceiling fixtures -- will, in the opinion of the decorator and the committee, give an effect of quiet elegance.

I regret that you do not agree with the decorating committee's recommendations, but I am confident that when they are implemented, most residents will be delighted with the results.

Sincerely,

David Tilson, President
Skyline House Unit Owners' Association