



The

House Special

VOLUME XVI

MAY 1996

NO. 5

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gordon Frank, President

Good Health

A warm welcome back to Jim Littles who disappeared for a few days for a surgical procedure at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Jim seems to be recovering nicely if his sprightly gait as he walks the halls for exercise is any indication. Best wishes for a healthy 1996 and beyond from all of us, Jim.

Community Items

On Saturday, April 13, several Skyline House residents joined Dick Noonan and residents of Skyline Plaza in a Neighborhood Clean-up. Caps and trash bags were provided by the Fairfax Clean-up Council. Fortunately, we had beautiful weather and high spirits. We were able to rid the community of a significant amount of litter. The one thing that disgusted some of us was the large number of cigarette butts left, presumably, by thoughtless motorists who do not choose to use their ash trays. In a recent recycling publication, I learned that the cellulose in a typical cigarette filter takes a minimum of five years to deteriorate. Littering smokers - shame on you!

Residents of the lower level are occasionally having soap suds back up in sink drains. This problem can be eliminated if all residents used a low-suds detergent in clothes washers and reduce the amount of detergent used. Front loading washers are more efficient in the use of

water and detergent. It is only necessary to use about half the amount of detergent in a front loading washer that would be used in a top loading machine. Some brands have this information printed on the box; some do not. Save money and do your neighbor a favor; please use LESS low suds detergent in your machine. We all thank you!

Personnel

In March I received a copy of a letter to our General Manager from a resident, asking that a guard be commended for his honesty and efficiency. Our resident had left a gym bag with clothes, credit cards, and money in a wallet in his garage parking space. Everything was returned intact! Although I do not recommend leaving valuables unguarded in the garage or anywhere else on our property, I am sure that you share my delight at the honesty and integrity displayed. Thank you again Tony!

Governance Items

On the morning of Saturday, April 20, the Board, Committee Chairs and Management met in the Brian Le Bert Francis (West) Party Room to listen to presentations by the Association's General Manager, attorney, auditor, consulting engineer and insurance agent. After a working lunch, the Board and Management met for an afternoon "retreat".

The proposed agenda included discussions led by a professional (and paid) facilitator on: the Role of the Board of Directors (Continued on Page 3)



The House Special

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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.

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Director	Richard Noonan
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

This year, my school, Ellen Glasgow Middle School, collected a total of around \$400,000 worth of Giant receipts and \$100,000 of Safeway receipts. With this amount, we were able to purchase two computers, one Magnavox VCR and some software for the school and this equipment will be a great help to the students and the staff at Glasgow.

Since I started at Glasgow three years ago, you've helped me collect receipts and my school has benefited from this equipment bought through the receipts program. I will be starting J.E.B. Stuart high school in September and therefore will not be collecting Giant and Safeway receipts any more. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your help during these last three years. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Andrew York

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An Apology

Virginia Legislative Session Highlights

A Personal Message

After living in her own unit in the East Building for six years, our younger daughter, Sally Phillips, sold her unit last year and moved to North Carolina with her new husband, Dave. After a wonderful sixteen years at Skyline House, Mim and I have decided to follow Sally and Dave's example. Although I am willing to continue to serve as President of the Board of Directors until we sell our unit, I recognize that some may worry, with perhaps some justification, about the possibility of diminished effectiveness from a "lame duck" President. At the conclusion of the April 20 Board retreat, I asked Dolores Littles, our Vice-President, to caucus the remaining Board members and select which of the following actions they prefer that I take. The three choices are: (1) continue to serve as President until our unit is sold, (2) resign as President to allow the Board to select another as Acting President but continue to serve as a Board member until our unit is sold, or (3) resign completely from the Board to allow the selection of another Board member immediately. I shall be guided by the Board members' wishes. Whatever their choice, it has been a pleasure and an honor to be of service to the Skyline House community. Thank you all for the opportunity.



It has been said that Winston Churchill was approached one evening by Lady Astor who said to him, "Sir, you are drunk!" To which he reportedly replied, "Madam, you are ugly but I'll be sober in the morning".

PHYSICAL PLANT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Robert Lowry, Chair

The more important actions taken by the PPOC during the past year include the following:

1. Recommend Board approval of roof repairs over the lobby and exercise room and the pool building roof;

2. Conducted a survey of remaining warranty items and proposed how they should be acted upon;

3. Was instrumental in facilitating the hiring of a Consulting Engineer to survey garage deterioration. The engineer's report has been approved and bids are being solicited to recommend testing to determine what repairs and maintenance measures should be done to extend the life of the garage;

4. A start has been made to correct the long-standing problems of leaking expansion joints in the garage. A test seal has been installed at the A Level which is working. It will be evaluated by our Consulting Engineer this summer when PPOC will be involved in the decision as to whether or not to finish the job with this type of seal;

5. The Board appointed a Pool Committee, chaired by Nilda Vigueira, which became a Subcommittee of PPOC. This committee prepared a comprehensive report covering upgrading, repair, and replacement of pool furniture, over time, and recommends improved maintenance practices. These were reviewed by PPOC and recommended to the Board;

6. During the last two PPOC meetings, we have been considering changes in garage traffic signage proposed by Mike Moore and Ken Grant.

This is a subject that requires more coordination with the Safety Committee;

7. PPOC has discussed the need to expand our exercise facilities. Management is now making a resident survey on the use and interest in these facilities to be used as a basis for further action;

8. PPOC monitors the Common Area Maintenance Log, which is working well but very few residents take advantage of it.

In the future, PPOC will be discussing issues that have the potential to be very important and expensive, such as:

1. Garage deck repairs; 2. Renovation of the East Garage roof patio area; 3. Waterproofing windows on the ends of West and East buildings; 4. Conversion from electric to gas heating of common areas for a potential long range saving;

Finally, PPOC will be involved with FMC and Management to prioritize and schedule the expensive maintenance and cost saving improvements. So if you are interested in being involved with big picture issues, join PPOC.

THE ELECTRIC FACELIFT

Through the years we have been told that skin wrinkling and sagging are the result of weather, sunlight's ultra violet rays, soap, etc. To some extent all these contribute to the variable signs of aging. Now research has shown that, with age, the muscle fibers become less effective in supporting the skin.

The face sags, eyes become puffy, and a "double chin" begins to appear.

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This computerized muscle reprogramming system uses a soothing, mild electrical current to lift facial muscles, tighten the skin and improve the complexion. Often remarkable results can be seen in the first treatment. An initial series of two treatments per week for six weeks is recommended. This will tighten the facial muscles and put them back where they used to be. Additional benefits include a younger and healthier appearance, a reduction in excess fluid, a sparkle to the eyes as toxins are eliminated, and a healthy glow to the skin. Most clients return once a month to keep the muscle tissue and skin firm and healthy.



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Skyline Court Townhouses
3508 Forest Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302

General Manager's Corner

Vacations and Travel

As you make your wonderful plans to travel this year, please take a moment to advise the management office when you plan on being away. This helps to give us a "heads-up" on any emergencies that may arise during your absence. Thank you!!

Swimming Pool News

With Memorial Day just a little over four weeks away, the swimming pool season gets closer and closer. Our opening day for the **main pool** is scheduled for Saturday May 25th at 11AM.

If you have been up on the garage deck lately, you may have noticed that the main pool has new coping stones around its edge. The smaller "wading" pool will also have new coping stone as soon as some concrete repair work is completed. **This work will delay the opening of the smaller pool until the second week in June.**

To enhance the pool area, the Association has purchased some new pool furniture which includes chaise lounges and umbrellas. In addition, some of the existing furniture has been re-strapped in the new colors. Management wishes to extend its appreciation to Nilda Viqueira and the rest of the Swimming Pool Committee for their tremendous effort and assistance during this project. Over the next several years additional pool furniture will be purchased as was approved by the Board last year.

Please make plans to pick up your pool passes beginning on Monday May 13th in the Management Office during normal business hours. For your added reading pleasure please take a moment to read the pool rules.

Have a safe and enjoyable swimming season!

Soap Suds

One of the "ogres" that high-rise living may manifest is the phenomenon of soap suds backups. Because this is a concern that has affected a number of residents, the topic merits discussion and your consideration.

Many high rise residential buildings experience soap suds. They can emerge from your kitchen sink, bathtub or in some instances from a commode. The residents of the lower floor units are particularly prone to this problem. Plain and simple, ***backups from soap suds are a result of the use of too much laundry detergent in the washing machine.***

To help reduce if not eliminate the suds backup phenomenon it is strongly recommended that you consider using (if you are not already) a low suds laundry detergent. The Association has taken a survey to determine which brands of detergents are acceptable or otherwise "high-rise friendly." Regardless of which detergent you select, it is very important that you read the labels carefully for the proper soap quantity.

Many brands are labeled "concentrate" and thus require much less detergent added to the wash. Particularly relevant to Skyline House is the fact some brands offer specific directions for front loading machines. Typically, front load machines use much less detergent. Here are a few examples of "low sudsing laundry detergents" which you might consider using:

AMWAY SA-8	ARM & HAMMER
IVORY SNOW	ALL (powder only)
FAB (powder & liquid)	

Perhaps you have picked up a tip that you did not know about. Please check your current product and see if it is a low suds type. If it is not, you might consider changing brands and/or reducing the amount of soap that you use when you run a load of wash. Your neighbors all around you will appreciate your consideration. For additional information please contact the Management Office.

Trash, Trash & More Trash

➤ take great pride in this building particularly concerning the cleanliness and upkeep. Although there are always "opportunities" for improvement, we try to stay on top of the presentation of our condominium. Recently we have been experiencing a great deal of trash and boxes left in the trash rooms and loading dock areas.

Please help us out by placing your trash down the chute in the trash rooms or if appropriate using the cans provided on the ground floor in the West Building. All cardboard boxes should be broken down and placed in the marked areas in the loading docks. We really appreciate your help with this!!

Power Outage in West Building

➤ On Friday April 26th around 11:30AM, electrical service was interrupted to the West Building and Main Lobby. Within several hours partial power had been restored to the Lobby and half of the West Building. The reason for the outage was a result of old, decayed cabling that in some sections had literally melted down into ash. Management is working with Virginia Power to come up with a solution that would deter and perhaps prevent future incidents of this kind from occurring.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR
YOUR PATIENCE!!**

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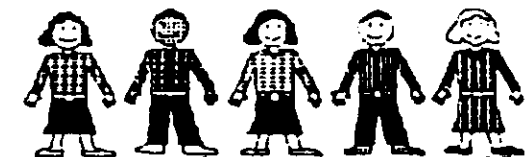
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THE GOOD NEIGHBORS GROUP

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



Skyline House Good Neighbors
April 1996

Jerry Hudson 845-1841
Bilen Eliot 671-7045

The Good Neighbors are pleased always when residents are well and not in need of help. If you find that you do need us, please don't hesitate to call on our services.

We responded recently to a first-time request from a resident for a daily phone call. She was accustomed to a daily call from a relative who would be out of town for several weeks. Because of her heart condition, the daily check is important for her comfort.

There will be a Good Neighbor table in the main lobby sometime soon. Do stop and chat - we are there to answer questions and publicize the program. If you would like to join us, just call Geraldine or Irene.

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RECREATION COMMITTEE

Tony DiSlavo, Chair

The Committee met on Wednesday, April 10 in the East Card Room. Future activities were discussed but no decisions were made. There will be no meeting in May.

Atlantic City, Thursday, May 30. Seats are still available. Mark your calendar for our annual trip to Atlantic City. Destination is TROPWORLD. The cost is \$25.00 per person and upon arrival at TROPWORLD, you will receive a \$14.00 rebate so the actual cost of the trip will be \$11.00. Donuts will be served, just bring along your own liquid refreshment. Sorry, no minors are allowed. See the reservation form for additional details.

If you are a new resident and have not yet attended the monthly TGIF, make the next one your first and meet your neighbors. YOU are more than welcome, and to make it easier, you are requested NOT to bring a plate of *hors d'oeuvres*, just bring your own liquid refreshment.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, July 10 in the East Card Room.

The next TGIF is scheduled for Friday, May 3, at 6:30 pm in the East Party Room. Please join us!

TGIF	Fri	May 3	EPR	6:30 PM
Atlantic City	Thur	May 30		
TGIF	Fri	Jun 7	WPR	6:30PM
TGIF	Fri	Jul 12	EPR	6:30PM
Rec Com	Wed	Jul 10	ECR	7:30PM
TGIF	Fri	Aug 2	WPR	6:30PM



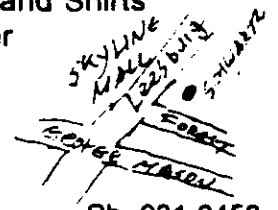
Bob Edelman, the local radio financial advisor, commented recently that it occurred to him a person could become financially secure very easily. If he would spend as much time and money on his portfolio as he does on sports he would soon be financially secure.

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Richard Noonan

On Saturday, April 13th, members of the Building and Grounds Committee from Skyline Plaza and volunteers from Skyline House participated in a neighborhood spring clean-up. Nineteen people from both condominiums did a great job sprucing up the grounds around our buildings and the nearby neighborhood.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals who volunteered their time to help in this clean-up.

Geraldine Naveau
Virgil Naveau
George Beams
Gordon Frank
Marguerite Miller
Laurie Lakey

Thanks again for all your support.

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Jeremy L. Redmon and Gordon Lubold

Northern Virginia Community college officials say they will open a new performing arts center on the Alexandria campus in about two years after receiving their largest private donation from former U.S. Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger.

Schlesinger's gift of at least \$1 million dollars will help pay for the 46,000-square-foot building, which will include a 1,000-seat concert hall, space for art exhibits, a recital area, four seminar rooms and administrative offices. Arts performances will be held in the building, which will be open to use by local music and arts groups.

The projected cost is \$9 million, which has largely been paid for by private donations and money from local governments. College officials say they are planning to break ground for the building in the fall.

The Alexandria arts community reacted with pleasure and excitement to news about the new cultural center.

"I think it's much needed and absolutely wonderful that there would be such a home for the arts in Alexandria," said Marcia Speck, executive director of the Alexandria Symphony. Naturally, she said, the symphony has its eye on the 1000-seat concert hall. "The Alexandria Symphony is definitely interested in the possibility of making a home there."

Currently, the symphony usually performs at T.C. Williams High school for lack of a better space.

Alexandria Journal

Open Windows

With the arrival of pleasant days and cool nights we all look forward to opening our windows to let in fresh air. Along with an open window comes an increased safety risk for children. An open window can lead to a fatal fall.

Many parents and caretakers of young children do not realize the potential danger of an open window or how easily a child can fall out of it. Each year several children in our community fall from windows.

In several cases young children have climbed on to furniture that is placed too close to an open window, and fallen out.

Remember, children are top-heavy; they can be looking out an open window one minute and falling through it the next. A screen offers little protection when the weight of a child pushes against it. Here are some important safety tips to prevent children from falling from open windows:

⇒ Always supervise young children. Life-threatening injuries can happen in seconds to a child left unattended.

⇒ Close and lock windows whenever young children are around. If you need ventilation, here at Skyline House, it is possible to open a window only a few inches by placing a one-yard by 5/8 inch dowel rod in the window track. This permits an opening of four inches. It is inexpensive and safe.

⇒ Keep furniture and beds away from windows. Children can quickly climb onto window ledges and fall.

⇒ Do not depend on window screens to keep children from falling out. These screens are made to keep insects out - not children in.

For additional information on injury prevention, contact Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Life Safety Education Section at 246-3801.

— GET INVOLVED ~ ~ ~
~ ~ ~ PLEASE ~ ~ ~