



THE HOUSE SPECIAL

Volume XXI, No. 11

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November 2001



Board of Directors President, David Tilson

The October 25, 2001 Board meeting discussed and/or acted on a number of significant issues:

Elevator Modernization

Management, with the support of the PPOC, recommended that the Board approve contracting with Delta Elevators, which had submitted a bid of \$501,540 to complete the modernization of all of the elevators in both buildings. This bid was the lowest of four submitted. Management and the PPOC carefully investigated the reputation of Delta and concluded that they are considered outstanding for technical competence and reliability. The Board approved signing a contract with Delta.

The PPOC also recommended that we expand the scope of work to install a sprinkler system in the elevator shafts. The codes did not require installation of sprinklers in elevator shafts at the time these buildings were built, but they are now required in new construction. Apparently, sprinklers in elevators are an important fire safety feature even though the building code does not require us to install them. In view of the fact that we had originally allocated \$600,000 for elevator modernization in our reserve budget, and we have approved a bid of about \$501,000 for this work, we have the funds available to pay for the approximately \$80,000 it will cost to install the sprinklers. Accordingly, the Board also approved

installation of the sprinklers by Delta, which also had submitted the lowest bid for installing sprinklers. Thus, the overall modernization job will improve fire safety as well as improve the performance and reliability of our 21-year old elevators.

2002 Budget

The Financial Management Committee and Management have worked very hard since mid-summer to put together a realistic budget for both our operations and reserves. This is a difficult and complex task, which they have just completed. Copies were given to Board members. Betty Weber, Chair of the FMC, who had presided over the budget preparation process, made a summary presentation about the key issues and judgments made by Management and the Committee in completing this task. The bottom line is that the condo fee increase has been held to 2.5%. Since the cost-of-living increase for the year exceeds this amount, this was an impressive achievement, particularly since we must incur some unavoidable increases in some expenses. The Board will approve the 2002 budget at its next meeting, which will be on November 15th. Letters to all unit owners informing them of the increases in condo fees effective January 1, 2002, will be mailed by December 1st.

All unit owners owe a vote of thanks and deep appreciation for the tremendous job done by Betty Weber and the other volunteers on the FMC who worked on the budget. They toiled for many hours over many weeks to complete this huge and very important task.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE HOUSE SPECIAL welcomes brief comments from its readers. Limit your letters to 250 words or less and include your name and unit number. The Association Board reserves the right to refuse incorrect or improper statements.

Information for *THE HOUSE SPECIAL* may be sent by e-mail to the Editor, dropped off at the Management office or the reception desk.

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Redecorating

The lobby furniture and other materials needed to redecorate the main lobby have been ordered and should be installed in January so as not to interfere with the holiday decorations that will go up in December. There are two major matters that remain: what to do about the lighting on the first floor, and whether to replace some of the carpeting on residential corridors where the carpeting has loosened.

The original charge given to the Ad Hoc Decorating Committee was to ask the interior designer to make recommendations for replacing all of the lighting in the first floor. She did so. But the Board heard from a number of residents who objected to replacing the handsome fixtures we have in each of the galleries. Unfortunately, the company that manufactured those fixtures has gone out of business and the glass globes – which were made in Mexico – are no longer available. There would appear to be some alternatives that should be explored more fully, so it was decided to refer this matter back to the Decorating Committee for further exploration before the next Board meeting.

The residential corridor carpeting, which is not too old, is a problem because the previous General Manager had them washed improperly a few times. The carpeting is glued because of the geometric design, so that it cannot be stretched. The washing destroyed the glue and the backing, which resulted in the ridging that is so unsightly and annoying. Unfortunately, the amount of money now in our reserves for replacing this carpeting is insufficient to replace it everywhere. Management has found that the manufacturer is able to replicate the existing carpet at a price that would enable us to replace about eight corridors with the funds we now have in the reserves for this item. However, the Board felt that rather than using the same pattern to replace the existing carpeting over a period of years, it might be preferable to have our interior designer draw up a plan for refurbishing the residential corridors and then implement that plan as quickly as our funds allowed. This matter also is being directed to the Decorating Committee for their consideration.

Computers

The Board and Management have been concerned for some time about our computer situation. We have been relying entirely on our very talented Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm, to be our computer guru. He is the only person who is completely familiar with all the hardware and software, and he serves as our sole resource and troubleshooter. No one else on the staff knows anything about our system as a whole. We are very dependent on our computer system and its data bases on which our accounting system, maintenance logs, resident and unit-owner information, etc. are installed. Our vulnerability is, therefore, too great to be acceptable. We must obtain some third party information management support so that we are no longer completely dependent upon Greg.

The Board voted to establish an ad hoc committee of Board members to do the following things:

1. Work with Management to develop a request for proposals, including a Scope of Work, for a consulting firm to:
 - Survey our computer systems, resources, and procedures to determine their adequacy and appropriateness to meet Skyline House's needs for management information.
 - Develop a plan to effect the necessary changes to optimize our computing capabilities and to ensure effective management and maintenance of our management information systems.
 - Provide continuing information technology management and troubleshooting services as required by Management.
2. Share this document with—and invite comments and suggestions from—the PPOC and FMC.
3. Identify at least three qualified firms and invite proposals from them.
4. Together with Management, interview representatives from each of the responding firms to determine which of them is most likely to provide the quality of service we need at a reasonable cost. Recommend that the Board approve a contract with that firm.

The work of the Committee should be completed by mid-December, if possible, so that the

contract can be signed and implemented in January 2002.

The Board deeply appreciates the tremendous service that Greg Grimm has provided to the Association in serving as our IT manager and computer technician for so many years. But it is time to remove some of this pressure from him. The job is now large enough to require more expert help. Greg will continue to play a key role in this area, but he should not have to carry the load alone.



General Manager
Gusbey Silva

Passenger Elevator Modernization Project

Delta Elevators has been selected to perform the passenger elevator modernization project. It will take about sixteen weeks to receive all parts needed. The modernization is scheduled to start in March 2002 with one elevator at a time. Each elevator will be out of service for eight to ten weeks.

Effective November 1, 2001, Delta will handle the maintenance of all elevators at Skyline House. References checked indicated that Delta performs a highly qualified maintenance service.

Re-grouting and Replacement of Building Entrance Pavers

During the month of November the concrete slab and pavers located at the entrance of the West mail lobby will be replaced. During this process, residents will be required to use the main lobby to exit and enter the West building. Following this project, the pavers located at the main lobby entrance will be re-grouted. This project will be accomplished in two phases to allow continued entrance through the main lobby.

Redecorating Contract

The contract with Clark Design Associates was signed and the down payment forwarded to them. The order of the lobby furniture, and draperies for the lobby and galleries has been placed. The

re-decoration project will be accomplished in January 2002 when all items are received on site and after holiday decorations are removed from the lobby.

Please be considerate of your neighbors

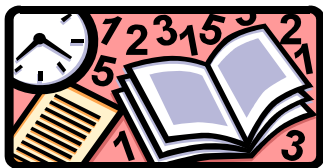
Following is a list of items that continuously create problems for our residents. It does not take a lot of effort to follow our rules and regulations, or Management advice, to avoid causing a problem to a fellow resident:

- Trash Rooms – Leaving trash in the disposal rooms not only creates a trip hazard for other residents, bad odors also travel causing discomfort to residents in units close to the disposal rooms.
- Suds Back up – Using high-sudsing soaps or large amounts of soap when doing your laundry creates a suds back-up in units below damaging kitchen fixtures and floor covering, not to mention the inconvenience of having to clean up after the back-up is cleared.

Please be considerate of your neighbors and place all trash in the trash chute and bring all large items to the loading dock. Do not leave any item on the disposal room floors. When doing your laundry please remember to use only low-sudsing soaps, such as ARM & HAMMER. DO NOT wash plants in the kitchen sink because dirt and soil also cause drain back-ups.

Reminder from the Accounting Office

Please remember that if you are on Automatic Debit for your condo fees and sell your unit, you need to drop a note or e-mail me at tycia@shuoa.org to advise when to discontinue the deduction from your checking account. Thanks!!!



EDITOR
Louise Albin

I encourage anyone who has an article he or she would like to share with other residents to send it to me by e-mail or put a printed copy in my box at the Reception Desk.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Weekly Agenda has provided us with some useful information, which you will find after the Committee reports.

*Many of you may be familiar with **Old Angler's Inn**, but do you know its history? I've included that bit of history for you, also at the end of the Committee reports.*

*Have you visited the **Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center** on the Alexandria Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College? Mark your calendar for two free events coming up soon, the **NOVA Holiday Concert, December 1st**, and the **Mt. Vernon Orchestra and NOVA Chorus combined concert on December 2nd** both at 8:00 p.m. The general public is invited. There are no reserved seats, so get there early.*



Financial Management Committee
Betty Weber, Chair

The Finance Committee met on October 16, 2001 with 9 of the 11 members present.

Topics addressed included:

- Review of September financial statements
- Sub-committee reports
- Review of three proposed expenditures
- The 2002 Budget

The review of the financial statements raised no issues. Financial statements reveal that our year-to-date income has exceeded our expected income by nearly \$63 thousand and our total operating expenses through September 30th are approximately \$101 thousand under budget. Our reserve account stands at \$1.01 million after year-to-date reserve expenditures of over \$672,000. Year-to-date contributions to the Reserves totals are \$771, 275.

The Committee reviewed two proposed contract awards recommended by the PPOC. Contracts included:

- Proposals for the 2nd phase of elevator modernization (to begin the first of the year).
- Bids for the re-grout and replacement of the main and west lobby entrance pavers.

Finally, the full committee reviewed and approved the 2002 budget as recommended by the budget subcommittees.

A comparison of the CY2001 and proposed CY 2002 budgets are as follows:

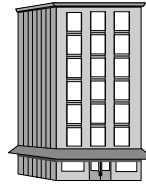
| Account | CY 1001 Budget | CY 2002 Proposed Budget |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Payroll | 868,752 | \$874,881 |
| Admin. Exp. | 194,572 | 189,735 |
| Utilities | 423,000 | 414,000 |
| Maintenance | 103,000 | 93,100 |
| Supplies | 76,800 | 78,000 |
| Contracts | 306,350 | 335,906 |
| Reserve Contrib. | 1,028,366 | 1,100,665 |
| Taxes | 2,200 | 12,000 |
| Inc. Required | \$3,003,040 | \$3,098,287 |

Obviously, the largest increase in expenditures is our contribution to the reserve accounts. Our operating expenses have been held in check by management's aggressive control of costs, largely through negotiations with vendors and contractors. The overall recommended budget, if approved by the Board, will result in a 2½ percent increase in association fees.

Reserve maintenance expenditures required and planned for next year include:

| Action | Estimated Cost |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Façade Maintenance, West End | \$100,000 |
| Garage Exterior Repair | 140,000 |
| Roof, Exercise Room | 31,000 |
| Waterproof Roof Planters | 100,000 |
| Security Cameras | 48,000 |
| Garage Doors | 89,000 |
| Elevator Overhaul (con't) | 590,000 |
| Total Repairs for 2002 | \$1,098,000 |

The next FMC meeting will be held on November 20th at 7:00 pm in the WCR.



Physical Plant And Operations Committee George Beams And Kurt Bedenbaugh

The Committee met on October 11, 2001. The following subjects were discussed:

Passenger Elevator Modernization Project: Four bidders submitted their best and final proposal for the modernization of the passenger elevator project. The Association consultant from Lerch Bates responded to questions and analyses from the proposals submitted by Otis, Delta, Kone, and Millar. Based on the references and cost, PPOC recommended that Delta Elevator be awarded the contract in the amount of \$501,540. Savings to the Association will yield \$188,460.

An "Add Alternate Proposal" to retrofit the hoist way with sprinklers was included in the elevator package. The amount budgeted for this item is \$85,000.

Seal Coating of Balconies and Patios: The seal coating on the patio on the T Level was found to be separating from the concrete slab. Jeff James of Commercial Roofing has inspected the area and recommended removing the coating and replacing it with pavers.

Garage Exterior Walls Repairs: Commercial Roofing informed Management that emergency repairs would be needed in 26 areas of the garage exterior walls. Specifications for these repairs will be completed by early next week.

Washington Cable: Management will receive a new proposal from Washington Cable with options for the Board to review. The Board will discuss options and respond whether to drop MTV or another channel (i.e. ESPN).

Painting of the Garage: The painting was started on the lowest level of the West building. The painting has stopped due to the painter having surgery. The painting will resume next year. The goal of painting the lower level was to address areas

where the lighting levels had been known to be too dark.

The East Bridge Garage Crossover Floor Covering: The Management office has received three different prices from Floors, Incorporated to furnish and install a floor covering at the East garage bridge using carpeting, ceramic, and rubber tile. The PPOC recommends that the Board approve the ceramic tile in the amount of \$1,617. The ceramic tile was accepted. It has a non-skid surface, will provide a longer life than the carpeting, and has better traction than the rubberized tile with a raised circular pad surface.

Main Lobby/West Lobby Entrance Pavers Re-Grout/Replacement: The Management office issued proposals to NVM Contractors, Culbertson Company, and R.C. Services to provide a cost estimate to re-grout the mortar joints between the brick pavers at the main entrance and replace the brick pavers at the walkway of the West building. The PPOC recommends that the Board approve the main entrance re-grouting work and the West building paving work to NVM Contractors in the amount of \$9,609.

Carpet Replacement at the Residential Corridors: Management has obtained two price quotations from Floors Incorporated and Storm Flooring to remove the existing corridor carpeting and replace with new. The change request is due to safety. The glued down carpeting is not fastened with a tackless strip because the carpet pattern has several sections that makes it impossible to have fewer seams. The PPOC recommends discontinuing the discussion and moving the matter to the Board for review and direction.

Other Items: A motion was approved and carried by the PPOC to send the 2002 Reserve Schedule Budget to the Financial Committee for approval and then to the Board.

The next PPOC meeting will be November 8, 2001, at 7:00 p.m.

Security, Fire
And Safety Committee
Acting Chair, Linda Council

The Security Committee did not meet in October. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 12, 2001, in the West Card Room at 7:00 p.m. The Security Committee is still seeking a Chairman.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE SECURITY COMMITTEE.

Parking Decals – Rule 18E6: All residents and their guests are responsible for having the proper identification displayed on their vehicles. There are three (3) different means of identification of vehicles authorized at Skyline House: Gold decals for owners, blue decals for renters, and a temporary permit pass for rented cars and guests cars using the spaces of owners. This means that all vehicles parked on Skyline House property have an authorized means of identification.

We hope that this will make the use of vehicles here more orderly and improve our quality of life.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

On Tuesday, October 30, 2001, we held our second training session for volunteers of the Neighborhood Watch Group (NWG). Again, we had a good turn out with 24 people in attendance. Certificates and T-shirts were given out. All volunteers must undergo training before participating in the NWG. Officer Alan Kivi has offered to hold a training session in January 2002 for new recruits; further information will be posted early in that month. The NWG will start patrolling on Friday, November 2nd. Each shift, a team of six volunteers (with one volunteer designated as the team leader) will walk the East and West buildings, three volunteers for each building. Remember you can wear your T-shirt at any time, not just for your specific shift. This way, they will be a visual reminder of our neighborhood watch program. If you have been trained and have not received your T-shirt or certificate, please contact Mrs. York at 703-671-2267 or at ebor@starpower.net. Guideline information and a master list of NWG volunteers

will be delivered to the volunteers' apartments on Thursday night November 1st.

SPECIAL THANKS to our younger members. Since full membership in the Neighborhood Watch Group is limited to those 18 years or older, our younger members have been given the title of "Associate." Thank you Alex, Bill, Haitham, Ibrahim, and Tara for your help and we hope you will continue to help us. All are students of from J.E.B. Stuart, our local high school, except Haitham, who attends Glasgow, our local middle school.



**Covenants Committee
David Kafka**

The Covenants Committee did not meet in October. The next meeting will be held on November 21, 2001, at 7:30 p.m., and the Covenants Hearing will be on November 27, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will be in the West Card Room.

Although the Committee did not meet this month, we need to warn residents that violation of sensible speeding limits and tailgating in the garage continue to be reported at an alarming rate month after month. Despite notices to drive more slowly, too many drivers persist in exceeding safe speeds thereby endangering pedestrians and flirting with the real catastrophe of a fire which could be extremely dangerous among our closely packed vehicles, each containing highly explosive gasoline. We are all only too aware of what disaster resulted from flaming fuel. We repeat that old saying: "The life you save may be your own."

An annoying phenomenon continues to be caused by drivers who ignore Skyline's parking restrictions. In an increased enforcement campaign to make our limited parking spaces more available to the maximum number of residents and visitors, more than TWENTY (20) illegally parked vehicles were towed during the previous period. This should, but may not, make drivers more aware that it is wiser to comply with our regulations than to pay \$120 to the towing company that helps us keep order in our parking areas. Although this money may help to increase the US economy, there really

are better ways to do so, particularly since our condo realizes none of the profit. But then there is the taxi fare to get to the towing company lot, and the insurance company to respond to claims for damages to your car by the tow truck, and the lawyer to try to prove that the damage to your car was not there before the tow truck came and towed your vehicle away.



**Recreation Committee
Tony DiSalvo
Chairman**

The TGIF in October was well attended, and the residents provided lots of good hors d'oeuvres. A number of regulars were out of town, but we welcome back Nadyne M. who spent the summer in California. Audrey W., who was not well, is now back in action ever so slowly, and Nancy D. was also out of action in September but is now on the mend.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 8th, 7:00 p.m., in the West Party Room – date for the Annual Holiday Party. This is always a big night. Residents really go all out when preparing hors d'oeuvres

If you are a resident and have not attended the monthly TGIF, make this your first and meet your neighbors, and to make it easier, you are requested NOT to bring a plate of hors d'oeuvres, just your own liquid refreshment.

The Recreation Committee will meet on December 5th, 7:00 p.m., West Card Room. At this time, we will finalize plans for the Holiday Party.

The next TGIF is scheduled for Friday, November 2nd, 6:30 p.m., in the East Party Room.

COMING EVENTS:

TGIF: Friday, November 2, 2001, at 6:30 p.m., in the East Party Room.

Recreation Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 5th, in the West Card Room.

Annual Holiday Party: Saturday, December 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Party Room.



Good Neighbor Committee
Co-Chairs

Toska Prather 703-379-7849
Virginia Wallace 703-671-7648

Good Neighbors for November 2001

Jerry Hudson 703-845-8141
Ernest Loyola 703-671-0384

The Good Neighbors are available to assist all residents who are in need of temporary help due to illness or an emergency. Please call on them if a need arises. We need new members. If anyone wishes to join the Good Neighbors, please call one of the Co-Chairs and join us.



The Chief Engineer
Greg Grimm

Garage Remote Control:

In the past few days several residents have come to the Management Office with non-working garage remote control problems. Almost every one has needed a new battery. If your remote control is more than a couple of years old, and you have never changed your battery, I suggest you do so soon in order to prevent being left stranded outside the garage entrance door. The **remote control uses a standard nine-volt battery**, the same type we used in transistor radios.

Smoke Detectors:

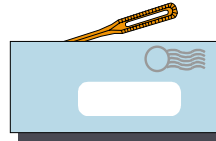
Many residents have not changed their smoke detectors. Again let me remind you that if you have an original Honeywell smoke detector, it could fail.

Heating season is upon us. Please test your heat pump in heat mode, so you don't wake on the first cold morning without heat.



Mohammad Ibrahim
Chief Web Developer

The Chief Web Developer submits a single page insert in order for you to have it handy when you log on to the SHUOA Web site.



Letters
To The Editor

Notes From The Library

I'm expecting a group of novels in Spanish on Monday, October 29th. We urgently need children's books in good condition. We also have books for sale in all categories. Come up and browse. Submitted by Barbara Michelman.

FREE FREE FREE

There's not much that is free these days except some opinions that appear to be free but really are not. Anyway, Skyline residents do actually have access to a service that is of value to the residents and/or owners and the condo itself. This is the service of a company named H₂O that will check and stop water leaks in all faucets and toilets and give – yes give – shower heads that conserve our water use and reduce our water bills. You should phone them for an appointment at 703-242-2201 and they will respond quickly at your convenience. How can you beat that for a bargain?

Submitted by Jack Herzig

Fellow Residents: *While the following article submitted by Dr. Joshua will not reflect the opinion of everyone, this is your newsletter and I feel everyone who wants to be heard, should be heard.*

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GEORGE W.
BUSH

“My fellow American,

In these important times, I ask you to do something important for our nation: Please vote in Virginia's elections on November 6th.

By voting, you reaffirm our nation's commitment to democracy and show the world that

America is strong. I also encourage you to support Mark Earley, Jay Katzen, and Jerry Kilgore. Mark Earley, Jay Katzen, and Jerry Kilgore are experienced leaders with a positive agenda to keep Virginia moving forward – with lower taxes, better schools, and more jobs. They understand it is better to cut taxes than to raise them. They understand we must continue to improve the education opportunities for our children by making sure students have good teachers, smaller classes, and accountable schools. And they understand in times like these, experienced and steady leadership will keep Virginia's economy strong and the Commonwealth safe.

This Tuesday, Mark Earley, Jay Katzen, and Jerry Kilgore have the chance to lead Virginia to a better future and a brighter tomorrow - but only if you vote. Please take time this Tuesday, November 6, to vote for these good men. They deserve your support, and as your leaders, they will make all of us proud. Thank you, and God bless you, your family, and America.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush,
President”



Ad hoc Decorating Committee
Jean Orben, Chair
Carroll Thompson & Louise Albin

Our designer reports that her work is progressing on schedule. She and her carpet and drapery staffs were in Skyline House on October 24th and 30th for final measurements.

History of Old Angler's Inn, 10801 Mac Arthur Boulevard, Potomac, Maryland 20854, Tel. 301-299-9097 or 301-365-2425

The Old Angler's Inn, with its over a century-old tradition as a center of comfort for travelers, bonhomie and gracious living, embodies in its location and legend much of what an historian meant in writing that the Potomac Valley “was a region which is distinguished, for here men and events fashioned design for the nation to follow and act upon.”

Near the site of the Inn, the Indians of the Algonquin Nation maintained a post for their "traveling traders" after whom the Potomac River is named. Not far from where the Inn stands, Captain John Smith made camp on his canoe trip up the river in the summer of 1608.

Young George Washington, as aide to General Braddock during the French and Indian Wars, crossed the Potomac nearby on his way to fight the French at Fort Duquesne. Washington also designed the locks on the canal, which can be inspected from various nearby points along the canal.

On July 4, 1828, President John Quincy Adams shoveled the first earth at nearby Little Falls to mark the beginning of the canal, which made the Valley a main artery of ante-bellum commerce and travel. The Old Angler's Inn was opened in 1860 to serve those journeying to and from the Nation's capital and also to serve the gentlemen and ladies of the capital and the great estates that graced the Maryland countryside.

During the Civil War, couriers with urgent dispatches from the Capital and officers and men of units of both North and South found respite at the Inn.

In 1864, gold was discovered by a California soldier who returned after the War to operate a mine successfully there until 1880. One of the owners of the gold mine was so appreciative of the fine food and the many hours of good company he found at the Inn that he presented the proprietor with a set of solid gold fishing hooks fashioned from the ore of the mine. (It is after these hooks that the “Order of the Golden Hook,” which makes its headquarters at the Inn, is named.)

Teddy Roosevelt stopped here to hunt and to fish at wide water, a naturally-formed link of the canal lying at the foot of the slope on which the Inn rests. Its rugged rock formations give it the appearance of an unruffled mountain lake.

The Inn was restored in the spring of 1957 to make available once again the Inn's charming setting, the hospitality, the fine foods and carefully-

chosen beers, wines and liquors, in the same tradition which has made the Inn a Capital landmark.

Deer In The Headlights: What To Do To Avoid A Tragedy

White-tailed deer are one of the most beautiful examples of wildlife remaining in Fairfax County. However, they are also one of the most troublesome. You may have had a run-in or heard from neighbors about their experience with a deer on the road or in the garden. This time of year drivers need to be particularly alert.

Road incidents are becoming more frequent as the herds of deer increase in number. While Fairfax County has lost much of its woodlands and open spaces to development, there are more deer here today than in the early 1900s. Experts attribute this growth to the deer's ability to adapt to urban environments and feed on ornamental plants and lawns, their high reproductive rate, the absence of predators, and restrictions on hunting in populated areas.

This is a particularly active time for deer and consequently a dangerous time for drivers. The annual rut period, October to December, is when bucks become less cautious as they search for does, paying significantly less attention to their surroundings.

The deer's lack of attention is generally not a problem for it in Fairfax County until it comes to crossing roads. During 1998 there were between 4,000 and 5,000 deer-vehicle collisions in the county. Two motorists were killed in the last three years, and many others have been injured. Over 1,000 deer have been killed, and vehicle damage has averaged \$1,982 per vehicle.

The birthing period, beginning in late March, is another time when drivers need to be very alert to deer on the roadways. The white-tailed deer gestation period is approximately six months, during which deer are paying less attention to their surroundings.

Driving tips that will help you avoid colliding with a deer:

- Slowdown, anticipate deer when driving through wooded and densely vegetated areas.
- Watch for deer crossing at locations where you have seen them before.

- If one deer runs across the road, slow down and look for others (deer seldom run alone).
 - Be especially cautious at dusk through the early evening hours and in the hours prior to sunrise when deer are most active.
 - If you encounter deer on the roadways, flash your headlights at the deer and blow the horn to scare them away.
 - If you hit a deer, don't touch it. If it's alive, it may be dangerous. Call the police.
 - Keep your eyes moving; don't just focus on the middle of the road.
 - A deer is visible less than 200 feet from your vehicle; it takes a car about 317 feet to stop at 55 MPH under optimum conditions.
 - Buckle your safety belts. Most people seriously injured in deer crashes are not buckled up.
- More information is available at county parks and recreation areas and on the Web at: www.co.fairfax.va.us/comm/deer/deermgt.htm

ATM Safety

ATM transactions are generally fast and easy but potentially could end in disaster. Follow these simple guidelines to avoid being the victim of a robbery at the ATM machine.

- Look around before conducting an ATM transaction. If you see anyone or anything suspicious, go to another ATM.
- Before you arrive at the ATM, have your card and anything else you need for your transaction ready as you approach the ATM.
- Make sure you have memorized your PIN (personal identification number). Never tell anyone else what your PIN is and never have someone else enter your PIN for you.
- If you are at a walk-up ATM, stand between the ATM and anyone waiting to use the terminal so they can't see your PIN or your transaction amount.
- Do not count your money at the ATM. Put withdrawn cash away immediately before leaving the ATM.
- If anyone follows you after making an ATM transaction, immediately go to a well-lighted, crowded area and call the police.

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