



# THE HOUSE SPECIAL

Volume XXI, No.12

[www.shuoa.org](http://www.shuoa.org)

December 2001



## Board of Directors President, David Tilson

The November meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Thursday, November 15, 2001, a week earlier than usual because November 22<sup>nd</sup> was Thanksgiving Day. Several important decisions were made at that meeting.

### 2002 Budget

The Board approved a budget of \$3,089,287 for 2002. This requires a 2.5% increase in the regular assessment (i.e., condominium fees). This is slightly less than the consumer price index increase that the Social Security recipients will receive in January. Management and the Financial Management Committee worked very hard since last summer to produce this budget. It was an arduous and complex task. Their challenge was to hold down the condo fee increase to the smallest amount possible, consistent with having sufficient funds to cover all necessary costs, including contributions to our replacement reserve accounts. The approved budget will allow us to continue with the expensive major repairs and replacements that we must do with our 22-year old buildings and to maintain the quality of services to residents to which we have become accustomed. Staff salaries are at least competitive with comparable salaries in the area to help keep staff turnover as low as possible. All unit owners owe a vote of thanks to Gusbey Silva, our General Manager, and to Betty Weber, Chair of the

Financial Management Committee, and to Winifred Joshua, Chair of the Reserve Sub-Committee of the FMC, for their impressive achievement.

### Mandatory Inspection of Washer Hoses

The flexible hoses that connect the washing machines in every apartment must be checked annually and replaced periodically lest they burst and cause major flood damage in hallways and to units on floors below the source of the flood. Last year we had about eight such episodes. For some mysterious reason, washer hoses usually burst between midnight and 6 a.m. and, therefore, are not discovered until considerable flood damage has been done. Management has urged unit owners to allow our engineers to check all apartments every year on a voluntary basis but, unfortunately, many unit owners – especially those who do not reside in Skyline House – failed to respond. Accordingly, we have consulted with our attorney who has advised that the Board has the authority to make inspections of hoses mandatory. Accordingly, the Board has asked the Covenants Committee to propose a new rule, following the usual procedures, and recommend it to the Board for adoption as soon as possible. A draft resolution, prepared by the Association's attorney, was given to the Covenants Committee

### Leadership of Covenants Committee

David Kafka, long time Chairman of the Covenants Committee, died suddenly early in November. He was a fine man who served effectively in this very important and difficult role. We extend our condolences and sympathy to Mrs. Kafka

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 and Kurt Bedenbauh 1004 E 671-8930

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**EDITOR**

Louise Albin [lalbin@metronets.com](mailto:lalbin@metronets.com)

**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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We now are urgently seeking a Chairman for the Covenants Committee. This is a key committee in our governance structure. It has three important functions: (1) recommending changes in the rules and regulations affecting all Skyline House residents; (2) enforcing compliance with the rules and regulations through its hearings subcommittee, which has the legal authority to impose fines and other sanctions on unit owners who violate rules; and (3) appointing a nominating committee and organizing and recruiting election officers and volunteer staff to conduct the annual elections for members of the Board of Directors.

Anyone interested in serving, please contact me or Gusbey Silva. With the next election process starting soon – the annual meeting is in March – this is obviously a very high priority matter.

**Cable TV**

About 30% of Skyline House residents speak Arabic. Since the selection of cable channels supplied by Washington Cable does not – but could, if requested – include the Arabic language channel, ANA, the Board was asked to consider swapping another channel for ANA to accommodate the sizeable minority of residents. This matter was referred to the Physical Plant and Operations Committee for reconsideration at the October Board meeting. That Committee, by a 7-6 vote recommended that the Board not make a swap of channels that would result in including ANA and dropping another channel such as MTV. There was an extensive discussion at the Board meeting.

The Board concluded that it would be desirable to survey all unit owners to obtain their preference on the selection of channels that can be supplied by Washington Cable at the current amount they are charging for the channels now being supplied. Accordingly, Management was instructed to prepare such a survey with the assistance of Washington Cable, clear it with the Board, and then send it to all unit owners by first class mail with a reasonable response deadline. The results should permit selection of those channels that receive the most votes from residents. This is a complex process and may result in changes in the selection of channels now being offered. All residents are, of course, still able to sign up with Cox Cable if they wish to

receive channels not available through Washington Cable. Moreover, those on the south side of the buildings, also can install a small satellite dish antenna and sign up with one of the satellite TV services.

Finally, Management was also asked to further explore the possibility of having a large satellite dish installed on our roof and to use one of the satellite TV services to supply such services through our house TV antenna system in lieu of Washington Cable. Although this option had been explored several years ago and found to be infeasible, technology may have changed sufficiently in the last couple of years to merit further exploration.

### **Award to Muhammad Ibrahim**

Skyline House is exceptionally fortunate in having a talented 16-year old volunteer Webmaster in Muhammad Ibrahim, who lives with his parents in the West Building. Muhammad, who was recruited for the task of designing and maintaining the Skyline House website by Greg Grimm, our Chief Engineer, has done an outstanding job. He has designed and maintains what is far and away the best such website in the Washington area and probably one of the best in the country. A professional organization has already recognized Muhammad as the designer of the best website of its kind. It should be noted that he did this very extensive work as a volunteer and as a service to the Skyline House Community.

To recognize his contribution, I, acting on behalf of the Board, awarded Muhammad a framed certificate of appreciation and a check to purchase a new computer.

We are indeed fortunate to have such a talented and community-service oriented young man living at Skyline House.

### **Carpeting in Residential Corridors**

The carpeting in the residential corridors was replaced in 1994. Unfortunately, the last General Manager was responsible for having these carpets washed which resulted in serious damage to the carpeting and their pads. The wrinkles in these carpets cannot be removed by taking them up,

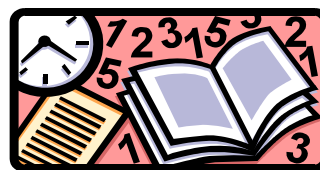
replacing the padding, and reinstalling them. The reason is that the backing of the carpeting has separated from the carpeting and, therefore, re-gluing is not an option.

There is enough money in the reserve account for replacing about eight (8) floors of residential corridors with carpeting of the same design. Management said that the wrinkling on seven of the floors constitutes a safety hazard and recommended that we replace the carpeting on those floors with the same design we currently are using. After considering alternatives, the Board voted to authorize Management to do so.

### **Deterring Speeding in the Garage**

The Committee on Fire, Safety and Security, as well as the Covenants Committee, has frequently complained about the number of residents who violate the speed limit while driving in the garage. This is a serious safety issue. There have been several near accidents.

At the recommendation of the Fire Safety and Security Committee, Management obtained a portable device ("speed bump") to test in the garage to see whether it will deter some of the speeders. The Board, after a discussion of the pros and cons concerning speed bumps in the garage, authorized Management to test the effectiveness of this device after notifying residents of its intent to do so.



**EDITOR**  
**Louise Albin**

### **SKYLINE HOUSE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MARCH 26, 2002**

Skyline House By Laws state that: "the notice of the annual election be published in the December issue of The House Special."

There will be two vacancies to be filled this year. Each is for a three (3) year term.

Nominations will open on January 2, 2002, and applications may be picked up at the front desk, but returned to the Management Office, on or before close of business February 6, 2002. Nominations will close on February 6, 2002.

It takes at least 50 helping hands to produce the election. We urge anyone who can possibly do so to give a few hours of help. It is our desire to have our new residents take an active part in this election. "Old Timers" are becoming a bit tired, and new enthusiasm from younger persons is needed. It has been suggested that we do some training of volunteers this year so that they will be able to take over next year. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be at the reception desk, so PLEASE give this your utmost attention, and you will be contacted to discuss your interest.

We need to establish two committees: The Nominating Committee and the Election Committee. At least three (3) unit owners are needed for each of the committees.

The Nominating Committee is charged with recruiting candidates. The Election Committee's objective is to provide all unit owners with formal, legal, sufficient, and timely notification of the annual election.

The Management Office staff gives administrative support, i.e., preparation of all forms and assistance to each Committee.

Please consider running for office, being a Committee Chairman, or just lending a helping hand.

*Submitted by Nadyne McKelvey.*

*Need to have a document notarized? Nadyne, at 703-379-2046, will be happy to help you. There is no charge for residents of Skyline House.*

**Alexandria Singers**

*And Director Roger Oliver*

*Presents*

*Christmas Around the World Holiday Concert*

*Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.*

*At the Bishop Ireton High School*

*201 Cambridge Road  
Alexandria, VA  
Call (703) 941-SING for Tickets.*

The Alexandria Singers have been performing American popular music in the greater D.C. metro area for more than 25 years. Their repertoire of pop, rock, show-tunes, blues, and jazz has distinguished them from the numerous choral groups in the area.

**Schlesinger Center Schedule of Events**

December 1<sup>st</sup> -- NVCC Holiday Concert, 8:00 pm, free; December 2<sup>nd</sup> -- Mt. Vernon Orchestra and NVCC Community Chorus, 7:00 pm, tickets required; December 8<sup>th</sup> -- Arlington Symphony, 7:30pm, tickets required; December 16<sup>th</sup> -- McLean Youth Orchestra, 3:00 p.m., tickets required.

For more information on the Schlesinger Center, including the availability for rental of other spaces in the center for recitals, lectures, seminars, dinners, etc., please contact Dr. Leslie White, managing director, at [lwhite@nv.cc.va.us](mailto:lwhite@nv.cc.va.us) or 703-845-6229. To learn more about the concert series for the Alexandria Symphony, call 703-548-0885 or log onto its website at [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org). The Arlington Symphony can be reached at 703-528-1817 or [www.arlingtonsymphony.org](http://www.arlingtonsymphony.org).



**General Manager  
Gusbey Silva**

Management wishes the residents of Skyline House Condominium a very peaceful season and Happy Holidays.

**Traffic Calming Device**

The Fire, Security and Safety Committee passed a motion during their October special meeting recommending the use of a portable rubber safety device to deter speeding in the garage. The Board of Directors approved the FS&SC recommendation. Management placed the safety device on the "C" level of the Garage on Monday November 19, 2001. A sign warning residents of a speed bump ahead has been placed a few yards before the device.

## **Towing From a Resident's Parking Space**

Management has established a new policy for residents who request Skyline House Management to have a vehicle towed from a parking space they own or rent. There is a new form at the Reception Desk that must be completed by the resident indicating if the resident is the owner or the tenant of the unit to which the parking space is assigned, or if the resident is leasing the parking space from another owner. The form must be signed in the presence of the Receptionist on duty. Upon completion of the form, the Receptionist will call the towing company and request the vehicle to be removed from the property as authorized by the resident completing the form.

## **Covenants Committee Jack Herzig, Chairman**

At the September meeting of the Covenants Committee, Mr. Darryl Hall listed the 13 violations of our rules that had been reported. Committee members and Management representatives noted that the majority of the violations were related to events in the garage, the area of most danger to people and property.

Final action by the Committee was taken at Management's request that a rule be prepared for the Board's approval that would require that vehicles leaking dangerous materials be removed from our property. A proposed version of that new regulation is contained elsewhere in this issue of the House Special.

Final Committee action was also taken on a new rule, which makes the resident host of a party on our property responsible for insuring that all guests enter through the front lobby in order to allow our staff to ascertain that their names are on the guest list and are verified by our staff. In addition, for security purposes, the host must make certain that guests not use the West lobby doors to enter our property. A proposed version of this new regulation is also contained elsewhere in this publication.

Another rule was developed which clarifies that only one automobile, which includes SUVs (which in some people's opinions are both more than and less than a car), and one motorcycle are allowed in

one designated parking space. That proposed new rule is also contained in this issue of the House Special.

Mrs. Grant was assured by Mr. Hall that there were no particular problems associated with enforcement of our regulations in the swimming pool area.

Mr. Hall stated that a moveable warning traffic sign is on order to be used in the garage as is a sign for the West lobby doors directing that all non-residents must sign in at the front lobby and which also requests that residents allow no one whom they do not know to enter through the West lobby doors.

It was suggested that the Committee, at the next meeting, consider modifying our rules to allow suitable decorations on resident doors. Suggestions from residents should be sent to the Covenants Committee.

Members expressed appreciation and admiration to Mrs. Tania Saib for her continued assistance.

It is with regret that we note that our much admired Chairman, David Kafka, recently passed away. We miss him.

**NOTICE:** Pursuant to our by-laws, the following changes/additions to our Skyline House Rules and Regulations are proposed and residents have 60 days from the date of this publication to submit comments to the Chairman of the Covenants Committee prior to action of the Board of Directors:

### **Parking/Vehicular Responsibilities:**

**New rule 18 para E 11** – Any vehicle on Skyline House property that leaks hazardous material (e.g., motor or transmission oil, gasoline or diesel fuel, etc.) is subject to being towed off the property by Management at the owner's or operator's sole risk and expense. Such vehicle shall not be returned to Skyline property until the cause of this violation is remedied. In addition, the owner/operator of such vehicle is responsible to the Association for any expenses incurred for the cleaning and removal of the hazardous material.

**New Rule 18 para E 12 – All parking spaces on Skyline House private property regardless of size are limited to a maximum of one vehicle per space. Vehicles in violation are subject to being towed without warning at the owner’s risk and expense.**

**Party Room:**

**New rule 23 para D 4 – Host Responsibilities –** For security reasons, the resident host shall be responsible to insure that only those guests who enter our property are those whose names have been furnished Management as prescribed in para A 1 above and that guests enter only through the main lobby. The host shall also be responsible to insure that their guests do not use the West lobby entrance to gain entrance to the building thereby violating the purpose of this rule and allowing unauthorized persons access to the condominium.

**Water Damage:**

The present para A is changed to para B; the current para B is changed to para C, and the new para A is as follows:

**Rule 21 para A – Water Damage –** In order to reduce water damage throughout the condominium, Management is authorized to inspect all hoses and connections in all units at least annually, and if needed, order their replacement or repair. Such repair or replacement, at the expense of the owner, shall be completed within 30 working days from the date of the notice for change.



**Financial Management Committee  
Betty Weber, Chair**

The Finance Committee met on November 20, 2001, with 8 of the 11 members present.

Topics addressed included:

- Review of September financials;
- Sub-committee reports;
- The 2001 Audit.

The review of the financial statements raised no issues. Financial statements reveal that our year-to-date income has exceeded our expected income by over \$60 thousand and our total operating expenses

through October 31, 2001, are approximately \$125 thousand under budget. Our reserve account stands at \$1,087 million after year-to-date reserve expenditures of over \$685,000. Year-to-date contributions to the Reserves totals \$856,972.

Management informed the FMC that the 2002 budget presented to the Board of Directors at the October meeting has been approved. Management is preparing letters to owners notifying them of the increase in Association fees for next year.

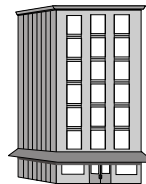
As we finish another year, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize all the FMC members who have toiled so diligently this past year reviewing the check registers, invoices, payroll records, conducting inventory of our housekeeping and maintenance supplies and a myriad of other tasks. Thank you...

- Sophie Anderson
- Helen Henderson
- Winnie Joshua
- Grace Krumwiede
- Helen Kumor
- Nadyne McKelvey
- Fran Price
- Charles Ruby, and
- Liza Ruiz

I would also like to extend a welcome to our newest FMC member, Mr. S. Omeish, and invite all homeowners to attend FMC meetings.

The FMC extends best wishes for the upcoming holiday season and is looking forward to a great year in 2002.

The FMC will not meet in December. The next FMC meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the WCR.



**Physical Plant  
And Operations Committee  
George Beams  
And Kurt Bedenbaugh**

The Committee met on November 8, 2001. The following subjects were discussed:

Elevator Modernization and Maintenance: The passenger elevator modernization contract with Delta elevator Service Corporation in the total amount of \$574,940 was signed on October 30, 2001. It will take about 16 weeks to receive all materials needed. The modernization is scheduled to begin in March 2002. Effective November 11, 2001, Delta is handling the maintenance of all Skyline House elevators.

Garage Exterior Walls Emergency Repairs: The contract with Al Chavies Construction Company was signed for a total amount of \$13,600 to perform the Garage Exterior Wall emergency repairs in 25 areas to the exterior walls. Work began on Thursday November 1, 2001 and was completed by mid November.

Regrouting and Replacement of Building Entrance Pavers: Replacement of the concrete slab and pavers at the entrance of the West mail lobby began on Monday, November 12, 2001. During this process, residents were required to use the main lobby to exit and enter the West building. Following this project, the pavers at the main lobby entrance will be regouted.

Traffic Calming Device: The Security and Safety Committee passed a motion during their October special meeting recommending the use of a portable rubber safety device to deter speeding in the garage. The Board asked the PPOC to address the issues of using the safety device.

The Committee voted not to approve installing the device in the garage. The request not to install the device was based on the fact that no accidents have occurred and that it may be an issue for those who are disabled to continually ride over an incline that may cause physical setbacks. Other Committee members who voted for installing the device felt that there is still a need for the device to deter speeders from speeding and respect the speed limitation, although the Committee agreed that 5 miles per hour (MPH) was just too slow. Gusbey noted that the Safety Committee voted not to change the 5 MPH speed limit.

Arabic TV Channel: Management received a proposal from Washington Cable which gave us the

option to add ANA, the Arabic TV Channel at no additional cost by substituting it for any of the following channels: AMC, Bravo, Lifetime, MTV, USA Network or TBS Superstation. Washington Cable suggests Lifetime as being the best choice. Management suggests MTV, as it's probably the less watched channel at Skyline House. A vote was taken and recorded to substitute the Arabic Channel ANA with MTV. The vote was seven (7) to four (4) against substituting ANA for MTV.

Hose Valve Device Replacement: Both Co-Chairs and Management received a request by a resident recommending the use of a hose valve device to install on the resident washing machine to improve on the failure rates that have been caused from leaky hoses. The cost for the device and installation is \$125 The General Manager said if the device were to be installed by Management to overcome possible water damage from leaky hoses, it was estimated the replacement cost to be \$55,000. The PPOC agreed that the device served a positive benefit to the community, but did not approve the request for funding the project.

Property Inspection: No property inspection will be made one will be scheduled when the PPOC Committee returns in January 2002.

**Fire, Safety and  
Security Committee  
Jack Herzig, Chairman**

The Fire, Safety and Security Committee membership determined, at its November meeting, that it will meet monthly now that there appear to be increased matters to be addressed by this Committee. We expressed our appreciation and admiration to Board Member Linda Council for her valuable support to the Committee in the absence of a permanent chairperson.

Mr. Daryl Hall explained the problem faced by Management when residents report that a "strange" car has been parked in a resident's reserved parking space. Since all parking spaces are limited common property and not the personal property of the resident to whom a space had been allocated, the responsibility of Management to have "strange" vehicles towed from a space is complicated. It has

caused “our” towing company to require that the “owner” of such space sign an appropriate release form, which authorizes the towing company and Management to take such action.

Mr. Hall also explained that the license plate numbers of cars entering the garage, which are not bearing resident decals, are detected by a guard at the entrance to the garage and reported to Management. These numbers are passed to our security guard force and when our guards note those cars in the garage, Management follows up with a letter to the owner of such car, requiring that owner to comply with our parking and registering regulations.

There was also a discussion on the services of our new guard force. Mr. Hall is encouraging the guard force to put the “golf” cart back in service, as called for in the contract that became effective in September.

A discussion was held relating to the security of our building from the now common perceived potential threats and reported solutions - anthrax, poisoned water and food, smallpox, gas masks, loss of electric power and water, etc. We determined that we would hold off making recommendations until after we residents receive a report from the County on its views of the security threats and solutions at the meeting to be held here on November 27th. This meeting was arranged through the work of our Committee

The Committee is preparing to discuss with Management a request to our attorney for clarification of the condominium's responsibility both to respond to legitimate investigations as well as insuring the privacy of our owners and residents if and when authorities, with or without appropriate court orders, request such information.

The Committee commended Management on acquiring and placing warning signs about speeding in the garage and procuring a traffic calming device in order to discourage such speeding and reduce the chance for an accident or dangerous incident.



**Recreation Committee**  
**Tony DiSalvo**  
**Chairman**

It is that time of the year SO mark Saturday, December 8, 2001, on your calendar for the Skyline House Annual Holiday Party, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the West Party Room. This is a semi dress-up night. No jeans. Residents outdo themselves in preparing hors d'oeuvres for that evening.

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 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., West Card Room. At this time, we will finalize plans for the Holiday Party.



The next TGIF, which we call the Post Holiday TGIF, is scheduled for Friday, January 4, 2002, at 6:30 p.m., in the East Party Room.

#### COMING EVENTS:

- Recreation Committee meeting, Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., West Card Room
- **Annual Holiday Party**, Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., West Party Room
- Post Holiday TGIF, Friday, January 4, 2002, at 6:30 p.m., East Party Room



#### Good Neighbor Committee Co-Chairs

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

#### Good Neighbors for December 2001

**Glendis Taylor** 703-998-7871  
**Judith York** 703-671-2267

As this holiday season, Toska and Virginia extend best wishes to all the Good Neighbors. They merit our appreciation for their contribution to the Skyline House community during the past year. We can look forward to another fine year for the Good Neighbors in 2002.

Anyone who would like to join in this worthwhile community endeavor or get more information about it, give Toska or Virginia a call



#### The Chief Engineer Greg Grimm

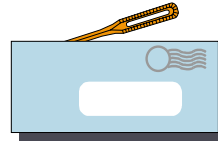
#### Water Heaters

We continue to have residents who have original water heaters that start to leak. These original water heaters are 21 years old and only have a ten-year lifespan. If you have an original water heater, you should have it replaced as soon as possible, until then you should check often for leakage and rust.

#### Smoke Detectors

Many units still have the original Honeywell smoke detector. As with the water heaters, they have a ten-year lifespan. Even if your smoke detector works when you test it, it may fail in an emergency situation.

In-unit services can replace both of these items. Please call the office to arrange for these items to be replaced.



#### Letters To The Editor



#### Mohammed Ibrahim Chief Web Developer

There is no article this month from the Skyline House Web Developer.



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

In response to the desire of some residents to continue to use the obsolete crinkle light fixtures in the ceilings of the galleries, the Board asked the Decorating Committee to put aside the recommendations of the condo's Chief Engineer and our Interior Designer, and to do some additional research. Our Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm, gave us the basic information: the fixtures have a back plate of molded fiberglass; the mold includes the fiberglass tabs that hold the glass globes in place. These tabs, small to begin with, have deteriorated sufficiently through the 22 years they have been in use, with the fixtures lit 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and have become fragile. This has led to the fall of one fixture, breaking the glass. Two other fixtures are also in danger of falling.

An attempt to find a fiberglass manufacturer to make 13 new back plates for the fixtures was a failure. Greg told us they could be made of metal. The Committee checked out several machine shops, most of which had no interest in such a small order. Upon the recommendation of one large shop, our Committee took a fixture out to RBM in Sterling, VA. A small specialty shop, RBM could do the work at a minimum cost of \$441 a fixture, a price based upon a verbal quote from the materials supplier. Should more material be needed, the cost could rise to \$530 per fixture. The employees of the shop make \$70 per hour, and it takes 6-7 hours to make the basic mold. In addition to this cost would be the cost, approximately \$20-25 for each light, for new wiring and sockets for the new bulbs. We also have an estimate of \$500-\$800 from Greg's contact, Derick Associates.

Our designer, Mrs. Clarke, has been unable to find complementary fixtures to the crinkle lights to replace the low energy efficient cut glass fixtures in the residential corridors. The crinkle style has long been out of fashion.

This information has been given to the Board for its decision.



**Neighborhood Watch**  
Judith York, Coordinator

This is the first report on the Neighborhood Watch Group and I'm pleased to report that the program is running smoothly thanks to the participation of our members and associates (associates are under-18 year olds). We are now settling in to an efficient routine. There are seven teams, one for each evening of the week. The groups within the team walk between the hours of 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. Each team has a group leader who decides on the time and coordinates the team. The team, consisting of six people, may walk in one or two groups, or split into three groups of two and walk for three different shifts of one hour. The team also decides on the route(s) to be taken. There is a minimum of two people in each team so that, in the event of an incident, there is another person to

verify what happened.

We encourage volunteers to wear their Neighborhood Watch T-shirts at any time so we have maximum exposure. At the beginning of the shift, the Neighborhood Watch team checks in at the front desk to collect their clipboards, walkie-talkies, and flashlights (some volunteers have whistles). The team checks in with the security guard during its shift and the security guards read through previous forms before they start their work. There has been less vandalism since the Neighborhood Watch was instituted. After the shift has ended, the team completes the form, puts the original form in the Coordinator's tray, and asks the desk attendant to make a copy for Darryl Hall, Deputy General Manager, Skyline Office. Darryl then follows up on any action needed.

Following is a summary of the main problems observed by the Neighborhood Watch volunteers since the program was instituted:

- There are several cars parked on Skyline House property without proper stickers, including one that has been badly scratched. Valuable items such as laptops computers are plainly visible in cars parked in the garage and outside.
- Doors near entrance and exit doors and outside doors have been left propped open, including D-level parking panic bar. In the West building on the penthouse level, doors to the billiard room, terrace, and etc., have been found unlocked
- Graffiti on the garage outside wall facing the campus (East building).
- A wrecked car has been parked at the back of the West building for several weeks.
- Trash rooms are untidy and full of items (newspapers, magazines for recycling, and boxes) that should be taken down to the G-level.
- Speeders in the garage are oblivious to speed limit or possibility of injuring someone, or of damaging property when driving faster than the speed limit.
- Several volunteers have listed the West building loading dock and newspaper recycling area as spilling over with trash and a strong odor.

Our program is going well but we still need more volunteers. Especially helpful would be 6 – 8 volunteers who would “float,” that is, they would

not be part of a team, but would offer to walk as a last-minute replacement, or to fill-in for people on vacations, overtime work, etc. If you are interested in becoming a "floater," please contact me, Judith York, at 703-671-2267, or email: [ebor@starpower.com](mailto:ebor@starpower.com). Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Officer Kivi, our community police officer ([alan.kivi@co.fairfax.va.us](mailto:alan.kivi@co.fairfax.va.us), or phone: 703-256-8035, recommends that we change our Virginia driver's license to one with a "T" number from one that shows your Social Security Number. This is to prevent "identity fraud" where someone uses your Social Security Number to obtain all sorts of information through the internet and then spends, spends, spends and the bills come to you. (This happened recently to a friend of mine and she is trying to sort out a volume of medical and other bills which do not belong to her.) If you are a victim of "Social Security Fraud," you need to contact the Secret Service and not the local police. This is a growing problem and a real nightmare for the victim.

The next training session will be held Thursday, January 24, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. at Skyline House (location will be posted later) and is open to everyone, including new recruits, and those already trained and in our program. Please attend and get an update from Officer Kivi on crime in our community. Volunteers must attend a training session in order to earn their certificate. We already have several volunteers who are not certified but who have been of tremendous help in keeping our program continuing in an orderly manner. The January session will enable them to earn their certificates and be fully-fledged members of the Neighborhood Watch Group.

Thanks to our volunteers for enabling us to continue to live in a safer and more beautiful and pleasant surroundings.

**Skyline House Unit Owners' Association, Inc.,  
3711 South George Mason Drive  
Falls Church VA 22041-3711**