



# THE HOUSE SPECIAL

Volume XXII, No. 6

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

June 2002



## Board of Directors President, Johnnie Moore

The Board of Directors meeting took place on Thursday, May 30, 2002. The following issues were discussed:

### Skyline House Main Street Sign

Art Display Co., the manufacturer of the original main entrance and lobby signs located at the bus stop, was awarded the contract to construct both newly designed signs. They were awarded the contract based on comparable bids and the recommendation of the PPOC.

### Swimming Pool Rules and Regulations

Rule 24: Swimming Pool, para D. states that: "Tuesday and Thursday evenings (between 5:00 p.m. and closing) use of the pool area should be restricted to individuals 16 and over." An appeal was made to the Board of Directors to review and consider a revision for the sake of the children at Skyline House. The Board will ask the Covenants Committee to review this rule for revision and report back to the Board. Until such time, the lifeguards, with the supervision of Management, will use their discretion in enforcing Pool Rule 24D.

### Parking

The Board of Directors has instructed Management to aggressively enforce the parking rules and regulations and ensure that every vehicle parking on Skyline House Property displays a valid parking decal. If you have not done so, please

register your vehicle and receive your decal at the reception desk.



## General Manager Gusbey Silva

### Lecture Held On Islamic Culture

We appreciate the effort made by the Muslim Community at Skyline House to introduce their culture to our residents. The event took place in the West Party Room on Thursday, May 23, 2002. About 75 residents attended the lecture and had the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful middle-eastern dinner. The lecturers answered questions posed by residents. This event was filmed, and it will be broadcast on channel 12 in the near future. We hope to continue to have these types of events more often.

### Planters' Waterproofing

The waterproofing of the planters located on the south and east side of the plaza has been completed and these planters have been backfilled. A new leak was detected on the north side of the plaza; this area has been excavated and the waterproofing will be completed by June 14, 2002.

Al Chavies Construction Co. has completed the repairs of the garage exterior walls on the south side of the plaza and will complete the remainder of the project by the end of June.

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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. Committee reports must be submitted to the Editor by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month or NLT 3 days after mtg.

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

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

Printed by: Curry Printing and Copy Center  
Alexandria, Virginia

**Skyline House Main Street Sign**

The Board of Directors approved the proposal received from Art Display Co., manufacturer of the original signs, at the May Board of Directors meeting.

Art Display Co. will replace both, the main entrance and the lobby street signs with a new design. It will take approximately four weeks to build the new signs.

**West Passenger Elevators Modernization**

The elevator modernization began in April 2002 with elevator number one in the West building. It takes eight to ten weeks per elevator to complete the modernization project.

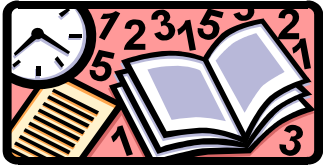
There will be only two passenger elevators working in the West building until the end of September 2002. During the month of May we experienced some delays with the elevator service due to problems that the modernization crew encountered while trying to get a twenty-year-old system to work with the new system being installed in elevator number one. We do not expect further delays in the future.

We appreciate your cooperation and apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

**Fire Lane - Towing Enforcement**

You are reminded that parking in any area designated as a "Fire Lane" is strictly prohibited and towing will be enforced at the vehicle owner's expense. We have experienced an increase of violators, especially at the back of the East building. We understand that this may sometimes represent an inconvenience for some of the contractors working for unit owners in the East building.

Please explain to your contractors that they have 30 minutes to park at the loading dock to unload all their materials and tools. They must then park their vehicles in guest parking and register their vehicle at the Front Desk.



**EDITOR**  
**Louise Albin**

The summer book sale continues! We have received more than 30 children's books. Please encourage your children to read.

**FASTRAN Bus**

The new FASTRAN bus service started on April 23, 2002 (replacing the GIANT bus service), providing service transportation to residents of Skyline Towers, Skyline House, Skyline Square, and Goodwin House West.

Copies of the FASTRAN bus service can be picked up from the reception desk. The information shows bus times, routes and phone numbers. If you have specific questions, call (703-222-9764, TTY 703-324-7079, or fax 703-803-8150). FASTRAN is fully committed to the Americans With Disabilities Act that guarantees nondiscrimination and equal access for persons with disabilities in all services, programs and activities.

Please use this new service as much as possible to prevent any cutbacks or cancellation of service. It is very helpful to residents unable to drive or those new to the community, and it also helps you become acquainted with your neighbors.

**Nice and Handy Neighbors**

One day recently, I was distressed to observe that my car's left rear tire was notably low. Since I was right in our neighborhood, I drove into the little side road that parallels Route 7 where the newly opened Skyline Automotive service center is located. That street's entry is just across the road from the City Diner, also recently opened, just before we Skyline residents come to the Columbia Pike intersection as we head toward Seven Corners. It's a little tricky to get to, but believe me, it's worth the effort.

At Skyline Automotive, they prove that not all auto service centers have to be dingy; that all mechanics don't have to wear greasy coveralls; where all desk personnel don't have to smoke Camel cigarettes; and where the air hose does not have to give a reading of tire air pressure on some

microscopic, yellow device resembling the bottom of an old Coca Cola bottle. Sidney Moore, the store manager, listened to my layman's description of my car's problem (which was really my problem), drove my car into one of the clean, sunny bays where a mechanic immediately started to work on my \$180 Michelin tire.

Twenty minutes later, the mechanic informed me that he had removed and inspected the nasty tire, found no punctures, replaced the valve that had caused the problem, checked that the proper air pressures were contained on the other tires and pronounced my jewel of a car ready for the road.

Sidney informed me that the charge was \$10 (ten US dollars) plus some pesky 48 (or something) cents tax for all this, warned me to keep an eye on the tire and be certain to bring it back if further problems developed. None have, but I know where to go for further excellent car treatment. Now if I could find a dentist with that quality dental service...

*Submitted by Jack Herzig*



**Financial Management  
Committee**  
**Betty Weber, Chair**

The Finance Committee met on May 21, 2002, with 9 of the 11 members present.

Topics addressed included:

- Review of April financials
- Sub-committee reports
- A review of bids for replacement of Skyline House Street Signs

The document review committee reviewed expenditures for April and reported no issues.

The Committee reviewed three bids submitted to the PPOC for replacement of the Association's street signs. The FMC concurred with the PPOC's recommendation that the contract be awarded to Art Display, to replace both signs for \$8,680. \$2,200 is in the operating budget and is available from the Signs Maintenance Account. Since our insurance policy carries a \$10,000 deductible, the cost to replace the signs must be paid by the Association.

The FMC noted that our reserve for Bad Debt of \$41,742 is greater than the total amount of all delinquent accounts (\$18,500). The FMC recommended that adjustments be made to the Reserves for Bad Debt account. Management advised that adjustments to the Reserve for Bad Debt account will be made based on auditors' recommended changes.

Our year-to-date income totals \$1,033,750. Year-to-date operating expenditures total \$655,917 and reserve contributions total \$366,854, leaving us with a net income before taxes of approximately \$11,000.

For the month ending April 30, 2002, the Reserve Account balance stands at \$1,555,555 with total year-to-date reserve expenditures of \$127,409. Please note that reserve expenditures do not include payments for elevator renovations or for planter waterproofing which are currently under way. The Association has yet to receive bills for the work done thus far on these items.

The FMC will not hold a meeting in June due to travel plans of many Committee members. The next FMC meeting will be held on July 16, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the WCR.

### **Security, Fire and Safety Committee**

**Terry G. Sakellos, Chairman**



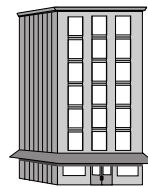
A friendly reminder: please check your vehicle and the vehicle that parks next to you to insure all vehicles parking on Skyline House property have a proper Skyline House decal. If you should discover any vehicles parking on Skyline House property not displaying a decal, please report that vehicle and space number to the reception desk. This does not include guest parking. All vehicles parked in the guest parking spaces are required to be registered at the front desk.

Be advised there are three different decals in use at Skyline House: gold for owners, blue for renters, and a temporary permit pass that would facilitate a different vehicle in your space with your acknowledgment.

If you are parking a vehicle on Skyline House property, and it is not properly registered with Skyline House Unit Owners Association, and the

appropriate decal is not displayed, you are in violation of the condo rules and regulations.

The next meeting will be June 13, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



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

The May meeting of the PPOC was held on Thursday, May 9, 2002. The main topic of the meeting was the approval of a vendor to build a replacement sign for the Skyline House street sign. It was mysteriously damaged and beyond repair (probably hit by a car or truck).

After considering proposals from Art Display (who made our original sign) and three other companies, Management recommended and the Committee approved a proposal from Art Display Company to make a new sign per the sketch they had submitted. The new sign will cost \$6,930. Unfortunately, our insurance has a \$10,000 deductible, which means we have to bear the cost of replacement.

In addition to the street sign, we also have the sign at the bus stop that states "Lobby" with an arrow pointing the way. The question was raised as to the need for this sign. After some discussion, it was agreed that we should have this sign and that it should match the new sign and add the identifying words "Skyline House" to indicate what the "Lobby" refers to. The cost for this sign is estimated at \$1,750. Both signs will be lighted. The Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the Board award the contract for both signs to Art Display Company.

Each month the Committee, in conjunction with Management, conducts a "walk-a-round" of some aspect of Skyline House. Last month, we visited the refurbished water pumps in the East Building and the new garage doors at the entrance of the garage. An amazing statistic of the garage doors was that, as of April 29<sup>th</sup>, they had opened and closed more than 10,000 times. One beauty of the new doors, besides their speed, is the little maintenance required. Management was asked about the installation of a

proposed gate. It seems that there is not sufficient area in front of the door to install a gate.

Other topics discussed were the crows, which have for the most part, left the area until fall.

The waterproofing of the planters is about finished and repair of the garage outside walls will commence shortly.

The PPOC meets the second Thursday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2002. All are welcome to attend. The "walk-a-round" is posted on the bulletin boards and on Channel 12. The walks start in the lobby at 7:00 p.m. on the day indicated.



**Covenants Committee**  
**Joseph Livingston, Chairman**

The May 2002 meeting of the Committee was held at the new starting time, 7:00 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The Committee received and discussed the summary of reported rule infractions, which occurred between March 4 and April 14, 2002. The summary indicated that Management contacted and discussed each reported infraction with the resident cited and was satisfied with the response. About one half of the incidents involved speeding in the garage. The remaining involved the misuse of balcony space. At this time, I want to take the opportunity to remind the residents that the safety and well being of residents, staff and visitors in our community require our adherence to all applicable rules and regulations of the Association.

At the meeting, certificates of appreciation were presented to Messrs. Salem Omeish, Terry Sakellos, and Felipe Turina for outstanding service to the Covenants Committee.

The next Covenants Committee meeting will be held on July 17, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



**Neighborhood Watch**  
**Judith York, Coordinator**

At the May 7, 2002 Open Training Session for Neighborhood Watch Patrol Members held at the Mason District police station, Officer Alan Kivi, Crime Prevention Officer, stated that crimes such as vandalism and robberies has been reduced by about 80% in our local area because of the Neighborhood Watch Programs. There are 120 Neighborhood Watch Programs in Fairfax County.

The Skyline House Neighborhood Watch Program has been effective in reducing vandalism and cleaning up the building, although this could not have been done without the constant follow-up of our hard-working Management (housekeeping) team. As the program completes its first year of operation, reports still include lights left on in the billiard rooms and rest rooms of both penthouses. Beer bottles and trash have been cleared from the fairly inaccessible area outside the fence line on the West building. Valuable items are still being left in full view on the seats of parked cars. Ground level access doors have been found ajar or propped open, including doors to the storage rooms and doors on the south side of the building facing the college. Some drivers are still exceeding the speed limit in the garage. I would like to repeat what my wise boss told me when I first came to this country, "save a minute and take a life," a powerful statement that I have remembered vividly through the years.

I would like to take this time to again advise those with driver's licenses displaying your social security number to visit the nearby DMV and change that number to a special customer ID number. The procedure took me 20 minutes (10 minutes in line, 5 minutes waiting for my number to be called, and another 5 minutes for the DMV staff member to process my request). "Identity fraud" is increasing rapidly. Fairfax County police department strongly recommends that you have your social security number removed from your driver's license. This greatly reduces the chance of your suffering insurmountable financial loss and many hours of administrative work, not to mention

the feeling of violation from someone using your identity for unlawful purposes.



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

The Flea Market tentatively scheduled for June, has been postponed to a later date.

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

There will be no Committee meeting in June.

**COMING EVENTS**

The next TGIF is scheduled for Friday, June 7, 2002, 6:30 p.m., West Party Room.



**Good Neighbor Committee**  
**Co-Chairs**

Toska Prather 703-379-7849  
Ann Preston 703-031-7679

**Good Neighbors for June 2002**

**Virginia Fissmer 703-379-2901**  
**Ann Preston 703-931-7679**

The Good Neighbors are available to assist all residents who are in need of temporary help due to sickness or emergency. We need new members. Please call one of the co-chairs and join us.



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

The new residential corridor ceiling and apartment door light fixtures have been delayed through a supplier error. The smaller lights for over the residential doors have been discontinued, and we have had trouble finding ones to match the

residential corridor ceiling lights that we had selected. After several tries, Mrs. Clarke, our designer, has acquired two new styles for us to look.

We apologize for the length of time this project has taken, but we want to be pleased with the final outcome.

**FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT**

**The Alexandria Singers**  
**“Jukebox Saturday Night”**

The Alexandria Singers will perform “Jukebox Saturday Night,” a Pops Song & Dance Spectacular, with Guest Host J.J. Kaczynski, featuring the music of Frank Sinatra, the Brian Setzer Orchestra, Irving Berlin, Faith Hill, Baha Man, and more on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King Street, Alexandria.

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.

Under the direction of Roger Oliver, the Singers have received praise and recognition over the years. Joseph McLellan of *The Washington Post* noted that the Singers “combine a professionalism with their obvious and spontaneous love of what they do.”

*Intermission Performing Arts Magazine* wrote: The Alexandria Singers are “a top notch show chorus that are a pleasure to both listen to and watch...”

**Cost for admission:**

- Orchestra seats (all ages): \$25.
- Reserved seats (all ages): \$20.
- Adults (general seating): \$15.
- Seniors/Students/Groups/
  - Active Military: \$10.
  - Children (age 6 and under) \$ 5.

**For tickets call (703) 941-SING.**

**Check out their Web site at:**

**[www.alexandria-singers.org](http://www.alexandria-singers.org)**

**The Alexandria Harmonizers**

The Alexandria Virginia Chapter is one of 800 chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA). Founded in 1948, the

chapter currently has approximately 235 members throughout the world and is SPEBSQSA's largest chapter. The performing chorus is made up of between 90 and 120 men.

The chorus performs about twice a month, including benefit shows for the City of Alexandria. The Harmonizers have performed at numerous prestigious venues including the White House, the Supreme Court, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Constitution Hall, Wolf Trap, the Washington Convention Center, and the Virginia Gubernational Inaugural Gala.

The Harmonizers' next performance is **FREE** and will be held on **June 25<sup>th</sup>** at **7:00 p.m.** at T.C. Williams High School. For more information please visit: [www.harmonizers.org](http://www.harmonizers.org) or call 703-836-0969.

### **Spotlight By Starlight Summer Concert Series**

The free summer concert series, "Spotlight by Starlight" at Mason District Park, will begin on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The following schedule is sponsored by the Friends of Mason District Park. You'll find no better way to spend a summer evening!

"Spotlight by Starlight" is a free summer concert series. All performances at the amphitheatre, located at 6621 Columbia Pike, will be performed on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays and begin at 7:30 p.m. Performances for children on Saturdays (not listed below) begin at 10 a.m. Shows are cancelled in the event of rain. The park telephone number is 703-941-1730.

#### **June**

- 2 – Washington Balalaika Society
- 5 – Air Force Band
- 7 – Young & Rollins Band
- 9 – Navy Band "Sea Chanters"
- 12 – Brook Tegler's Hot Jazz

### **SENIORS-ON-THE GO!**

The new Seniors On-The-Go! Program sponsored by the Fairfax County Department of Transportation is a superb pilot program that continues to expand with demand! In just over a year, the program has provided much needed transportation alternatives for citizens age 65 and older who qualify for discounted taxicab coupons. If you think you may qualify for this subsidized program, call the Mason District Supervisor, Penny Gross, at 703-256-7717, or find it online at: [www.co.fairfax.va.us/comm/trans/seniors.htm](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/comm/trans/seniors.htm).

*From: "Mason Matters! Spring 2002*

### **TRAVEL:**

**NARFE CHAPTER 232** (Alexandria) in 2002 invites your friends, neighbors, and family to join us. Members of other NARFE chapters, current Federal employees, and their friends and family are also welcome. Call Jann Masterson (703) 548-0396 for more information or to make reservations. Both the Niagara Falls and the Fall Foliage Cruise involve travel to Canada, so a passport or a certified (with raised seal) or original birth certificate is required.

**LAST CHANCE! NIAGARA FALLS, TORONTO & LANCASTER, PA. July 21-25, 2002.** Includes: 4 Nights Hotel, 4 Full Breakfasts and 4 Wonderful Dinners. Try your luck at Casino Niagara. See all the sights on both the American and Canadian sides of the Falls. Guided Tour of Toronto. Guided Tour of Amish Countryside. Live Production of "Daniel" at Sight and Sound Entertainment Center. All Standard Taxes, Meal Gratuities, Transportation are included. A more detailed itinerary available on request; \$499 pp/double occupancy; \$599 pp/single occupancy. \$50 deposit due by June 15, 2002.

### **AN ART FOR ART...**

While the **Schlesinger Center** may be best known for its emphasis on the performing arts, the facility also features ongoing exhibits of visual arts displayed in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery.

The gallery, located on the second floor of the Center, was named for noted local artist Margaret Fisher and her late husband. It was only fitting that Mrs. Fisher be the first artist to exhibit in the gallery. She proudly opened her show to the public on September 29, 2001, to coincide with the opening performance of the Arlington Symphony.

The Fisher Gallery features monthly exhibits of local artists' works. For more information on the gallery, please contact Managing Director Leslie White at [lwhite@nvcc.vccx.edu](mailto:lwhite@nvcc.vccx.edu) or 703-845-6156.

# ***SPECIAL EVENTS AT SKYLINE HOUSE June 2002***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 FCR	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  TGIF 6:30 P.M. WPR	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 FCR	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  PPOC 7:00 P.M. WCR	<b>14</b>  Flag Day	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>  Father's Day	<b>17</b>  LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>  <b>30</b>	<b>24</b>  LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	<b>25</b>  COVENANTS HEARING 7:00 P.M. WCR	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  BOARD OF DIRECTORS 7:00 P.M. WCR	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>



**Skyline House Unit Owners' Association, Inc.,  
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