



The *house special*

Volume XXIV, No. 2

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February 2004



Board of Directors President, David Tilson

At the January 28th meeting of the Board of Directors, the following major matters were discussed and/or decided:

Governance:

I called attention to a matter that should concern all unit owners: we will have three vacancies on the Board to be filled by candidates to be elected at the Annual Meeting in March. As of January 28th, no unit owners had filed applications to be on the ballot. Unfortunately, this dangerous circumstance occurs almost every year. I find it very disturbing – as should every unit owner – because it reflects underlying attitudes toward governance that are both risky and irresponsible.

As a self-governing community of 556 units and over 1000 residents, we unit owners of Skyline House are very dependent on those among us who volunteer their time and energy to do the many tasks involved in ensuring that our condominium is well managed, financially sound, well-maintained, and attractive. Our community is made up of many well-educated and experienced resident unit owners whose skills, insights and experience could be very valuable in helping to govern this community. Unfortunately, most resident unit owners have a passive attitude toward participating in the affairs of the Skyline House Unit Owners Association. They assume that others will volunteer. Well, this

assumption is not entirely false, of course, but it is risky and ultimately irresponsible.

Good governance requires active participation by many residents with the talent, qualifications, and experience to contribute to the community's decision-making. Our volunteers are conscientious and thoughtful, but we clearly need new blood. Many of us are growing a bit long in the tooth.

What do I mean by governance? The decisions made by our elected Board of Directors are critical for the life of this community. The Board is responsible for hiring and overseeing the general management, approving the budget (which, of course, entails setting the condo fees), setting the rules and regulations which bind all residents, approving all but the smallest contracts, and ensuring that there is a policy framework for management that ensures that the quality of service to the residents is as high as possible, that the maintenance of our buildings and grounds is excellent, and that our finances and financial records are handled properly and competently.

The Board cannot do all of these things without relying on the work of several key Committees: the Physical Plant and Operations Committee, the Financial Management Committee, the Covenants Committee, and the Fire Safety and Security Committee. The work of these committees is the heart of the decision-making process in Skyline House governance.

Getting qualified candidates to volunteer to be a candidate for the Board is never easy. This year, with three vacancies to fill, I hope we will have at

OFFICE DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Dave Tilson	805W	998-7254
	dtilson@metronets.com		
VICE PRESIDENT	Budd Coutts	1607 E	931-3165
	bcoutts@metronets.com		
SECRETARY	Linda Council	1716 E	998-7519
	Linda.Council@usdoj.gov 202-307-9477		
TREASURER	Wayne Krumwiede	606 W	998-0251
	waynek@metronets.com		
DIRECTOR	Norman Baker	915W	671-6759
	nbaker@fjc.gov		
DIRECTOR	Johnnie Moore	1105 W	998-5650
	johnniemoore@worldnet.att.net		
DIRECTOR	Judith Peterson	1707 E	671-4543
	peterson@metronets.com		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS/CO-CHAIRS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

COVENANTS,	Joseph Livingston	814 W	931-6923
FINANCIAL MGT,	Wynfred Joshua	1414W	820-4471
	diawin@metronets.com and Chuck Ruby 1006W 578-0896		
PHYS PLANT/OPS,	George Beams	710 E	578-9507
	and Kurt Bedenbaugh	1004 E	671-8930
RECREATION,	Tony DiSalvo	502 E	824-1958
SEC/FIRE & SAFETY,	Terry Sakellos	204 E	820-0455

MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Gusbey Silva, General Manager	gusbey@shuoa.org
Darryl Hall, Deputy General Manager	darryl@shuoa.org
Greg Grimm, Chief Engineer	gregg@shuoa.org
Tycia Haight, Bookkeeper:	tycia@shuoa.org
Tania Saib, Resident Services Coordinator	tania@shuoa.org
Terezinha Renosto, Admin. Assistant	terezinha@shuoa.org

CHIEF WEB DEVELOPER

Joyce Routt jlroutt@metronets.com

EDITOR

Louise Albin 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. Committee reports must be submitted to the Editor by the 23rd 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.

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least five well-qualified candidates to choose from. With only two weeks to go before the applications deadline on February 13th, we need immediate help in recruiting candidates. This is an emergency! Help!

Financial Report:

The calendar year ended in good shape. Our operating budget shows an after tax net surplus of about \$39, 000, which is about 2% of the approved budget. Management has done an excellent job of staying within budget. (Of course, the actual end-of-year figures are tentative until they have been audited.) The reserve balance is \$1.6 million.

Garage Wall Repairs:

A contract with Alfred Chaves Construction for \$186,000 to repair the exterior walls of the garage was approved. Work will start when weather permits.

Passenger Elevator Cab Renovations

A contract to repair/renovate the passenger elevator cabs was approved. This contract is primarily to replace the panels in the six passenger elevators. Replacing the flooring will require a separate contract.

Database Conversion:

A contract to convert our rather large databases from the antique DOS format to a modern software program (Microsoft Access) was approved. This is the first step in a series of steps planned to update our computer systems. Costs for doing so are in the approved budget.

Suds Backup Solution:

The engineering advice received by Management is that the problem of suds backup in the lower level apartments is attributable primarily to the volume and speed of the water being discharged from large capacity washing machines in upper level units. The building Chief Engineer has demonstrated that installing a very simple flow constrictor in the hose of high capacity washers can eliminate this problem. This does not affect the ability of the washer to function effectively, it simply slows down the water discharge time slightly, but enough to reduce the suds generated in the lower floor units. Management was asked to

address this problem initially by seeking voluntary cooperation from residents with newer, high capacity washing machines. The flow restrictors can be installed very quickly and would be done by in-house staff at no cost to the residents.



General Manager Gusbey Silva

Suds Back Up:

For several years units located in the lower floors have experienced suds back-up in their kitchen sinks, sometimes causing damages to their kitchen counters and floor tiles, inconveniencing the residents of these units with the need of constant cleaning and water removal. During the last four years, Management has implemented several options to include the detouring of the horizontal pipes located in the basement and installing check valves in some of the units where there were constant back-ups. We were able to resolve the problem in some of the units but, unfortunately the problem remains and for about 10 tiers it is happening very often.

After consulting a Mechanical Engineer we obtained the following advice:

“My understanding is that the major problems appear to be 1) the flow of discharge water from the newer washers is greater than that of the older model washers, and 2) the amount of detergent being used may be more than is recommended by the detergent manufacturer. This is not allowing the soapsuds to dissipate to a reasonable level before the washers are going to their drain/rinse cycle. The best solution is to try to limit the amount of clothes washer discharge, which is placed into the risers. This can be done in several ways. People purchasing new washers can be required to install lower capacity washers than the ones now being installed. The existing clothes washer discharges can be equipped with some type of check valve and/or smaller hoses to slow the flow of water into the vertical stack.”

Management has sent many notices to the residents of the tiers where the problem persist requesting them to use only a low suds laundry detergent – without success.

According to the Engineer's advice, installing restrictors may be the best option we have. In two units on the same tier with top loader washers, we installed restrictors. There have been no more back ups on that tier, nor any complaints from the unit owners about their washer's performance.

According to the Association's attorney's advice, we can restrict the water capacity of the unit owner's washers, but this would not be necessary if the installation of restrictors do the job.

We are asking cooperation from the residents who currently own a large capacity washer (top loaders are considered large capacity washers) to allow our maintenance crew to install a restrictor (small device) in their washer drain hose, at no cost to the resident, to slow the flow of water into the vertical stack. If this solves the problem there will not be a need to restrict owners to purchase lower capacity washers only.

New Security Company:

The contract with AmGuard Security and Patrol Services, our new security company, was signed at the end of December 2003 with a start day of Thursday, January 29, 2004.

Storm Damage:

A total of 10 trees and 26 bushes were planted and paid for in 2003 with the funds received from Travelers Insurance. The balance left over, about \$33,000, will be used to pay for the remaining landscaping replacement planned for the spring.

Garage Beams/Deck Repairs:

The contractor completed the garage deck and beam repairs on December 13th with the exception of the repairs included to install four beams on the soffit of the East lower D level of the garage. The work required to correct large cracks encountered in that area of the garage (north to south along the whole soffit) will be completed during the first week of February.

Elevators Modernization:

Lerch Bates performed a progress review of the freight elevator modernization on December 30, 2003. The installation of the new interior cabs is scheduled for the first week of February. Both elevators are expected to be back in service by the middle of February.

Immediately after the freight elevator modernization is completed, the modernization crew will be performing the necessary repairs and adjustments to the passenger elevators. This adjustment is required to solve the problem encountered with the hallway call buttons getting stuck causing the elevator to stop on one floor with the doors opening and closing until the elevator is reset. In order to do these repairs, the passenger elevator #2 will be out of service for approximately one to two weeks. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your cooperation.

Valid ID Requirement:

Please remember that each time a resident signs out any piece of Association property at the Front Desk (i.e. keys, luggage cart, etc.) a valid ID must be left at the Front Desk until the item is returned. This is one of the policies and procedures listed in the Front Desk Manual, which each receptionist is obligated to consistently enforce. It has been brought to Management's attention that in some instances the receptionist working at the Front Desk has been given a hard time when trying to enforce the valid ID requirement procedure.

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION

Nominations for the Board of Directors will close on **February 13th**.

Detailed information on the upcoming election, March 30, 2004, will be mailed to all resident and non-resident owners on February 27th. Please read all the information, including the bios of the candidates, so that you will be prepared to attend the **MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT, MARCH 16th**, at 7:00 P.M. in the West Party Room.

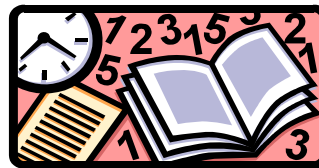
As *The House Special* goes to press, we have had two residents pick up an application, but have not returned them. A few residents have indicated they would be willing to help in the election process. We have three vacancies and need at least three candidates — preferably four or five, to submit an application. If we do not have three, we cannot hold an election and the present board must continue.

It is your condo and we need a Board of Directors to operate it. It is really serious now! We must close the applications on February 13th. There is much work to be done after we receive the applications.

Please dig deep into your soul, pick up an application and return it to the Management office by close of business February 13th.

With 556 apartments, surely we can find three, four, or five available candidates.

Election Committee



**Editor
Louise Albin**

Dear Skyline House Friends,

The pain of my son Tommy's sudden death was devastating to our family. However, your presence, cards, calls and other expressions of caring helped soothe the hurt.

Prayers you offered have given me the strength to face each day and know that Tommy is at peace.

Thank you for being there.

*Fondly,
Carroll Thompson*

Thank you!!

Thanks to everyone who made a contribution to the families adopted by Skyline House!!

We had a tremendous response and both families were very happy at Thanksgiving as well as the Christmas holiday!!! With your support the holiday season for the families was full of good

food and wonderful gifts. They were truly grateful for your generosity!!!

Tycia Haight, Accounting Office

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Media only: Franklin Odo or Noriko Sanefuji
(202) 633-3595

Public only: (202) 357-2700

Day of Remembrance: The Rewards of Historical Research on Japanese Americans and World War II

The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program and the National Museum of American History will present a discussion to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. Panelists include Aiko Yoshinaga Herzig and Jack Herzig, advisors to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Franklin Odo, director of the Asian Pacific American Program and a curator in the Division of Cultural History, museum will moderate. The event will take place at the National Museum of American History's Presidential Reception Suite, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W., on **Thursday, February 19, 2004, at 6:30 p.m.** The event is free and open to the public.

In the wake of America's entry into World War II, 120,000 Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes, possessions and friends behind and report to assembly centers and internment camps. This federal action, authorized on February 19, 1942 by President Franklin Roosevelt, led to the suspension of civil liberties for Japanese Americans. Forty years later, in 1983, a Presidential commission called the internment program an act of racism and wartime hysteria.

In 1988, President Reagan signed legislation that officially apologized and provided each surviving internee with \$20,000. Every February 19th, the anniversary of Executive Order 9066, the internment of Japanese Americans is remembered both for the hardship it caused and the lessons to be learned. Aiko Yoshinaga Herzig and Jack Herzig played critical roles documenting the government's

role in these actions. Their contributions were vital to the eventual success of the redress effort.

Northern Virginia Senior Softball:

Northern Virginia Senior Softball (average age 65) seeks men 50+ and women 40+ to play two 7-inning slow-pitch softball games on Tuesday and Thursday mornings mid-April to mid-August on Fairfax County fields, followed by Fall-Ball. NVSS has 29 teams organized into 3 skill-level Conferences. You are assigned to a team at the skill level you meet. 2004 Fee is \$60 for Fairfax residents, \$80 for non-residents, and includes team hat and T-shirt. For more info, phone Joyce, 703-860-1876 or Dave, 703-524-5576.



Financial Management Committee

**Wynfred Joshua & Chuck Ruby
Co-Chairmen**

The Financial Management Committee (FMC) met on January 26, 2004 to review the December 2003 financial statements and other issues. Summary figures for the month of December are as follows:

Total income: \$ 272,570.

Total Expenses: \$185,600.

Reserve Contributions: \$131,107.

Net Income before taxes: -\$44,137.

Note that the Reserve contributions include an additional \$40,000. This represents redeemed NCB shares of the deposit that was required when we took a loan in 1999 to pay for major repairs.

The FMC endorsed two proposals of the PPOC and recommended these to the Board. The first one was to award the contract for the garage wall repairs to Alfred Chavies Construction in the amount of \$186,730. The contract includes a provision for protecting residents' cars so that we do not have to request residents to remove their cars. There is a two-year warranty for workmanship and materials. For technical details we refer you to the PPOC report. Funding is provided in the budget.

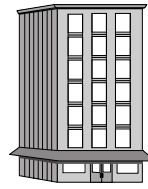
The second proposal involved the renovation of the passengers' elevators cabs. Rather than opt for a full renovation, the decision was made to repair the wall panels by replacing them with the same type of plastic laminate and refinish/re-polish the metal parts. The FMC recommended to the Board to award a contract for this work to Artistic Elevator Interiors Inc. for \$7,800 per elevator. According to the General Manager, the cabs will remain the same, except that we will get a handrail and new telephone box cover plates. Floors are not included in the current contract. Funds are in the budget.

The FMC supported the Management's requirement to convert the current system for our databases, which is built on the old DOS system, to a new database program based on Microsoft Access. This change-over is necessary because of the limitations and obsolescence of the DOS environment. The new Access-based system will give us more flexibility, functionality, and security. It will also be more user-friendly. The General Manager has identified an expert with the required background to handle the conversion of the current system to a new Access-based one. The FMC endorsed the proposal to hire Wayne Jackson as the developer consultant to perform the task in 60 to 100 hours for a total not to exceed \$8,000.

The FMC has been very fortunate in having very dedicated members, who have spent a great deal of their time to the financial aspects of the House operation. For example, Sophie Anderson, a member since she came to the House, has been a key participant of the Document Review Subcommittee. Sophie now needs the time for other activities. Thanks for a great job. Fran Price has done a super job for years by taking the minutes and handling the records of the FMC. Fran will still handle the file work, but has stepped down from being the FMC's recorder. We are most grateful for her contribution. But who will take over?

Together with the PPOC and the other committees we do much of the legwork for what needs to be done to ensure a healthy and viable condo operation. In the final analysis the determination of our condo fees is the result of the budget process, which the FMC oversees. We are urging other residents to become involved. We need

help. Please come to the next FMC meeting on Monday, February 23rd at 7:00 PM in the West Card Room.



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

The Committee met on January 8, 2004. The following subjects were discussed:

Property Inspection:

The next property inspection by the PPOC Committee will be postponed until the weather is warmer.

Garage Façade Repair:

The contractor completed the garage deck and beam repairs on December 13, 2003 with the exception of the repairs included in Change Order # 1 to install four (4) beams on the soffit of the East lower D level of the garage, to match the existing ones previously installed in 1999 in the same area.

Management presented three bids to the PPOC for the repair and seal of the garage façade plus other miscellaneous items. The Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Directors that Alfred Chavies Construction be awarded a contract in the amount of \$186,730.

Party Room Occupancy Limits:

Fairfax County has issued maximum occupancy limits for Skyline House party rooms as follows:

- With table and chairs – 149 people,
- Chairs or standing only – 320 people.

Skyline House has a policy of limiting the size of parties held in these rooms to 100 people. The Committee agreed to recommend no change in this limit. Therefore, the PPOC recommends to the Board of Directors that the limit of 100 people occupancy for parties held in the Party Rooms be maintained, whether given by residents or outside renters.

Suds Back-up Solution:

Some lower levels in some tiers of apartments are experiencing suds back-up in their sinks. According to the consultant that Management contracted with the problem arises from the turbulence in the wastewater after it falls down the vertical shaft. The Committee discussed several solutions. The final results were to educate the residents. Therefore, the PPOC recommends to the Board of Directors that an education campaign to inform residents of the problem and possible solutions, such as type of detergent used, and quantity used as well as the possibility of placing a restriction on the speed with which waste water is discharged in top loading washers, be undertaken.

Passenger Elevator Cab Renovation:

The Committee opted not to do a full renovation of the passenger elevators in favor of repairing what we currently have. Several of the glass or plastic panels at the back of the elevators have been damaged. They are no longer manufactured; therefore, another solution is needed.

Management asked a firm that does elevator cab renovations to look at the problem. Their recommendation was have two panels, the same color as the side panels, installed on the rear wall with a slight space in between and also to redo the elevator cab floors with tiles. By repairing instead of renovating the elevator cabs the cost will be approximately \$20,000 less than budgeted.

PPOC recommends to the Board of Directors that the passenger elevator cabs be repaired instead of renovated by installing new panels on the back wall and redoing the cab floors at an estimated saving of approximately \$20,000 (less than funds budgeted).

Freight Elevators' Modernization:

The modernization of both East and West freight elevators began on Monday, November 17, 2003 and will be completed by the middle of February 2004. The new controllers, hoist motors and hoist cables have been installed.

Lawn Irrigation System Replacement:

The replacement of the Lawn Irrigation System will start on January 20, 2004 and is expected to be

completed by March 5, 2004, weather permitting. The temperature must be above 40 degrees to glue the piping.

Security, Fire and Safety Committee Terry G. Sakellos, Chairman



The Security, Fire and Safety Committee met on Wednesday, January 14, 2004.

Skyline House has a new paid Security team. Management hired the Security Firm of Am Guard to start January 29, 2004. You can expect to see a more professional and friendly security group.

There is a new free service available through Arlington County. You can now sign up at www.arlingtonalert.com or call 703-228-3000. This service will allow you to receive information on changes to our color coded home security program. If an incident happens and there are changes with the national security code you can be alerted on your computer, cell phone, palm pilot and it is a free service. Sign up today.



Covenants Committee Joseph Livingston, Chairman

The Covenants Committee met on Tuesday, January 20, 2004. We were very pleased that two Board members attended the meeting, and I take this opportunity to welcome other Board members, as well as unit owners/residents to attend our meetings.

Two item of business were discussed that may require action by the Board:

The first item is to determine what action, if any, the Committee should recommend with respect to the problem of water backing up in certain units on lower floors. We understand that the PPOC is also addressing this matter and may have recommendations for the Board. We decided to defer any action until the PPOC has addressed the matter. Our Committee determined that in the

event the correction action will require access to affected units, Rule 21c of the Rules and Regulations apply.

The second item directed our attention to the existence of a number of units with a second doorbell. The Committee, with Management's assistance, will attempt to determine the number, type, and reason for the additional bell, excepting where it was installed as an accommodation. Rule 16, pertaining to decorations, does not appear to address this matter. When the Committee reviews its findings, we will also consider whether to recommend amending the Rules and Regulations. We intend to provide this information to the Board at its next meeting.

The next Covenants Committee meeting will meet on Tuesday, February 24, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



**Neighborhood Watch
Judith York, Coordinator**

First, I thank the Board of Directors and Management for the warm reception and the generous selection of food at the January 22nd party for Skyline House volunteers where the volunteers were presented with Certificates of Appreciation. Unfortunately, attendance was light and probably generally reflected the fact that just a small handful of people are volunteering with the Committees. Please consider offering your services to keep our community running smoothly and costs down.

Some of our Neighborhood Watch volunteers questioned if the contractors are having an impact on the amount of trash left in various hallways and doors left open on different floors. This may be the case, or it may be that with the increasing cold weather, and taking for granted the past low crime incidence in the East and West Buildings, we are becoming nonchalant about our need to take trash to the trash rooms (to put trash in the chute and not leave it on the floor), and to secure doors behind us. The accumulation of trash can create a fire hazard and open doors can encourage crime. Please take

those extra few seconds to keep our community safe and clean.

I would greatly appreciate your cooperation in writing in the maintenance log or reporting events that need attention to the receptionist at the Front Desk. Neighborhood Watch volunteers are already doing this and it enables action to be taken quickly and possible problems to be avoided.

Finally, our community officers, Chip Conner and Alan Kivi, are keeping Skyline House current on security events through their monthly Mason District Newsletter. Some of this information is also contained in the Thursday issue of the Washington Post's "Fairfax Extra" section. If you would like to see recent newsletters from the Mason District Police Station, you may look at these issues in the blue book kept at the front desk. There is always a catch-up period between when our own "House Special" newsletter is printed and when the police newsletter is received here, but that gap can be covered by Thursday's "Fairfax Extra" section of the newspaper.



**Recreation Committee
Tony DiSalvo
Chairman**

Apparently, there was a great deal of partying going in December because the attendance at the January 9th Post Holiday TGIF was small. There was some discussion that maybe the TGIF should be scheduled every other month or every third month. Just a discussion!

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 any hors d'oeuvres, just your own liquid refreshment.

COMING EVENTS:

The February TGIF will be Friday, February 6, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Party Room. Come join us.

The next meeting of the Recreation Committee will be Wednesday, February 11, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.

MAGAZINES FOR ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL

For those new residents who may not be aware that the Skyline House residents have been contributing their used magazines to the Alexandria Hospital for many years, all that is required is that you drop them off at the front desk. Desk personnel will know what to do with them. If you are unable to bring them to the front desk, please give Tony DiSalvo a call at 703-824-1958, he will arrive with shopping cart to pick them up. Again the hospital thanks you.



Good Neighbors Committee Co-Chairs

Toska Prather 703-379-7849
Ann Preston 703-931-7679

Good Neighbors for February 2004

Alina Gonzales 703-379-5391
Christine McCaskie 703-931-2605

The Good Neighbors are available to assist all residents who are in need of temporary help due to illness or emergency. We always welcome new members to assist those in need. If you are interested in serving your neighbors, call one of the co-chairs listed above and join us.

From the Editor:

Mostly a Volunteer Effort:

Someone left an article from *The Washington Post* in my box at the reception desk. I found it most interesting and appropriate for me to tell you what it takes to put together our newsletter.

The House Special consists of reports from:

- The Board Presidents' report,
- Committee reports,
- Association Rules and Regulations,
- Social events,
- Volunteer appreciation,
- Welcome to newcomers,

- Status reports on repairs and renovation,
- Budget and financial reports,
- News of the neighborhood.

It would be helpful if you Committee Chairs would send me your Committee reports within a week after your meetings. Frequently, I don't get your report until the last minute and that causes me to work many late nights to put the information into the newsletter. My aim is to get the newsletter out as close to the first of the month as possible. After I have a draft newsletter together, I give it to Virginia Fissmer for proofing. She always finds things I have missed. I appreciate a second pair of eyes!!

Fat, Muscles, and Cancer:

It is reported that if you are overweight, you are at a greater risk for several kinds of cancer. This should scare you into exercising more and eating less. More than 50% of the fat in your body is located underneath your skin and over your muscles, so you are obese if you can pinch more than an inch when you place the skin of your abdomen between your thumb and forefinger.

As you age, you lose your ability to kill cancer cells and germs because of lack of muscle. A groundbreaking study shows that lack of exercise, not aging, causes muscles to get smaller.

Information extracted from an article submitted by one of our residents.

There is little excuse for us to skip exercising with the Sport and Health Club across the street, Gold's Gym a short distance away, and our own exercise room in the building.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alexandria Campus
3001 N. Beauregard St.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR

NAME OF EVENT: "Recognizing the African-American Community through Art, Culture and Fashion," a celebration of Black History Month,

Alexandria Campus, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 N. Beauregard St.

“Harlem!” Feb. 2, 7 a.m.-10 p.m., \$35.00. A private bus tour of New York City’s Harlem, one of America’s greatest treasures, with a long, rich history, Harlem has been home to Dutch settlers, Jewish immigrants, and African-Americans coming from the south in the 1920s. Today, the area boasts shops, restaurants, clubs, and retailers, as well as the restored Apollo Theater. To register, download and complete the form at: www.nvcc.edu.alexandria.bhm/BHM2004application.htm and send to Brenda Robinson-Baptist, room 362, Bisdorf Building, NVCC, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311.

“The Back Forty, Part One,” February 3, 2-3 p.m., Wachovia Forum, Rachel M. Schlesinger Center. Artist Michael Platt, a Washington native, taught art at NVCC from 1973 to 2002. Professor Platt is known for printmaking, charcoal drawings, installations and computer-generated images. A reception follows the artist’s talk.

“Affirmations of Natural African Hair w/Humor & Mission,” February 9, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Bisdorf Building, Room 158. Award-winning journalist Linda Jones discusses her organization, A Nappy Hair Affair, founded to promote a positive image among people of African descent. In her writing, Jones works to dispel stereotypes and negative perceptions.

“The Threads of Time, the Fabric of History,” February 17, 1:30-2:00 p.m., Bisdorf Building, Room 158. Rosemary E. Reed Miller, owner of the Dupont Circle fashion boutique Toast and Strawberries, will read and discuss her book, *Threads of Time, the Fabric of History: Profiles of African American Dressmakers and Designers, 1850 to the Present*. A fashion show of her distinctive styles will feature faculty and staff as models.

Career Panel: February 24, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Bisdorf Building in Room 158. Learn about the “journeys to success” of five dynamic NVCC graduates who are currently thriving in varied careers from nursing to real estate to human

resource development. NVCC grad Clinton Parker, an accomplished writer of fiction, nonfiction, and plays, will moderate. A question and answer session follows.

CONTACT: Keith Wynn, 703-845-6207 or 703-845-6301, e-mail: ewynn@nvcc.vccs.edu.

News from Supervisor Penny Gross, Mason District, 6507 Columbia Pike Annandale, VA 22003 Tel. 703-256-7717, Fax 703-354-8419, Email: mason@fairfaxcounty.gov.

February/March 2004

A few items of information for your association newsletter: FY2005 Budget: The County Executive will present his FY2005 budget recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on Monday, February 23, 2004. Budget Public Hearings begin the evening of March 29 and continue March 30 and March 31, 2004. The Board of Supervisors will mark up the budget on April 19, 2004. You may watch the proceedings live on cable Channel 16. The Mason District Town Meeting on the budget is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, at 7:30pm at Weyanoke Elementary School, 6520 Braddock Road.

Getting involved in your Mason Community: There are a number of opportunities for participating in the development and redevelopment process of our community. The Baileys Crossroads Revitalization Corporation meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The Mason District Land Use Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. More information regarding the agendas of this group can be obtained by calling Supervisor Gross' Office at (703) 256-7717; for a monthly calendar of meetings go to:

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/md/md_cal.htm.

Receive News and Updates by E-Mail:

To receive information and updates about Mason District by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov. For District calendar of public meetings and other info, go to the Mason District web page at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/md/homepage.htm.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT SKYLINE HOUSE February 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6 TGIF 6:30-8:00 WCR	7
8	9 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	10	11	12 PPOC 7:00-8:00 WCR	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day LIBRARY CLOSED	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 FIN MGT 7:00 PM WCR LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	24	25 BOD 7:00-8:00 WCR	26	27	28
29	 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR					