



# THE HOUSE SPECIAL

Volume XXVI, No. 6

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

June 2005



**Board of Directors  
President, Johnnie Moore**

Management reported that the swimming pool work is completed and will open on schedule. Management also reported that there is a two week delay in the façade repair due to rainy weather. Those of us who assumed the jackhammer work was complete...not so. Break out your earplugs as the weather is improving.

We still are actively looking for someone to volunteer to lead the Security, Fire and Safety Committee. This Committee serves a very important and critical function for the SHUOA that you should consider becoming involved with as a member or as the Chair. We need your active participation and support.

I informed the Board and residents present that my family and I have made the decision to move permanently to our home in the country. It was a tough and difficult decision. I will continue to serve the SHUOA until our unit is sold. While we will miss all of the comforts of living here, I will leave knowing that Skyline House is well governed and managed and will continue to be one of the premiere places to live inside the beltway.



**General Manager  
Gusbey Silva**

## **Restoration of West Building, North & South Façade:**

The second phase of the façade repair is two weeks behind schedule due to inclement weather. The demolition of all five tiers that the contractor is currently working on has been completed, except for some spot demolition that may occur due to the dissatisfaction of the depth of the current demolition, once the tiers are inspected by the consultant engineer. Demolition of the remaining tiers of this phase, tiers 06, 08 and 09 are scheduled to start the beginning of July 2005 and should be completed by the end of August 2005.

The party rooms on the penthouse level of both buildings are still available for your quiet enjoyment while the demolition drilling occurs.

## **Swimming Pool:**

The pool overhaul project was completed on time, and the pool was cleaned and prepped by our pool company. On May 24, 2005, the pool underwent its annual Fairfax County inspection and was passed with no discrepancies. The pool will open on time for the pool season which starts on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, and runs until Monday September 5<sup>th</sup>. Pool passes are available for pickup at the reception desk.

### OFFICE DIRECTORS

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS/CO-CHAIRS

#### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

COVENANTS,	Joseph Livingston	814 W	931-6923
FINANCIAL MGT,	Wynfred Joshua	1414W	820-4471
	<a href="mailto:diawin@metronets.com">diawin@metronets.com</a>		
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,

### MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Gusbey Silva, General Manager	<a href="mailto:gusbey@shuoa.org">gusbey@shuoa.org</a>
Darryl Hall, Deputy General Manager	<a href="mailto:darryl@shuoa.org">darryl@shuoa.org</a>
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Tania Saib, Resident Services Coordinator	<a href="mailto:tania@shuoa.org">tania@shuoa.org</a>
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### CHIEF WEB DEVELOPER

Joyce Routt [jlroutt@metronets.com](mailto:jlroutt@metronets.com)

### EDITOR

Louise Albin [lalbin2@metronets.com](mailto:lalbin2@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 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.

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### Traffic Signal:

In November 2004, we suffered a tragic accident that took the life of one of our oldest and dearest residents, Ms Sophie Anderson, a faithful volunteer to Skyline House. Upon the completion of the investigation of the accident, we requested that modifications be made to the traffic signals to assist our residents to be able to cross the street more safely. Although the left turn signal requested to be added was denied, we are pleased to announce that the pedestrian countdown indicator has been approved for installation and will be added very soon.

### Lobby Entrance Doors:

On Wednesday, May 11, 2005, the West mail lobby door and the main lobby guest entrance doors were modified with the addition of automatic door closers. These door closers were installed to prevent the doors from slamming shut due to high wind causing glass breakage, poor door alignment, and damage to the hinges and aluminum frame. Additionally, the forced closure of the doors offer a measure of security by forcefully **closing after residents pass through them to prevent any security breach.**



### **Financial Management Committee Wynfred Joshua**

The Financial Management Committee met on May 17, 2005. Total income for the month of April was \$291,861 with expenditures of \$186,932. Total income less expenditures amounted to \$104,929. The total Reserve contributions were \$94,746 leaving a net income before taxes of \$10,183. We had increased expenditures for the security contract because of the need for additional guard duty at the garage entrance door during the weeks the door did not function. Our higher than expected legal fees reflected the use of our attorney for handling the claims for repairing the damaged garage entrance door, and for investigating the legality of turning the West building entrance door into an exit door only.

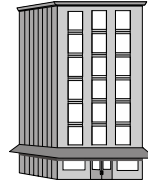
The Committee discussed the lighting of the swimming pool. The General Manager explained that four battery-powered floating lights at \$160 each will be placed at 8:00 p.m. each night in the pool. They are supposed to last five hours and will be recharged every day. The pool company will bear the cost of the four lights. Committee members were invited to inspect the effect of the lights that evening. While Committee members did not have an opportunity to discuss their reactions, the Chairman noted the dim effect of the lights and the greatly reduced brightness compared to what we used to have. She strongly urged that the Board approve at least two more lights, allowing one light in each corner and two floating in the center.

The FMC joined the PPOC in accepting the proposal from our consulting engineering company to handle the front entrance circular drive project by providing the repair design (for \$4625), handling the bidding (for \$2250), and managing the contract and monitoring the construction activities (for \$3000). Some 40% of the driveway deck was damaged. The General Manager assured the FMC Committee that the specifications and estimates would cover: repair of the damaged areas only, replacement of the current cover with a vehicular rated brick pavers system, and replacement with concrete.

However, the FMC requested that the Board permit proceeding with the first part of the proposal only, i.e., the design of the specifications for the repairs/replacement until we were assured that there would be sufficient electrical power to increase the lighting around the driveway or implement other options requiring electricity. The Committee was concerned that the existing wiring under the driveway was old and would not be able to accommodate anything beyond very modest additional lighting, nor would it be able to handle a larger water pump if the Board decided to replace the present fountain with a more modern one when the renovation of the circle comes up for consideration. The task of upgrading or installing additional circuits should be completed prior to replacement of the driveway. Members of the FMC also raised the advisability of proceeding with the circular driveway project prior to the renovation of

the circle itself in light of possible damage to the driveway.

The next meeting of the FMC is scheduled for June 20, 2005. The Committee welcomes all interested owners to attend and become involved in the financial issues of Skyline House.



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

The Committee met at 7:00 p.m. on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The main item of business was the approval of Gardner Engineering's proposal for new surfacing of the concrete drive circle pavement at the front entrance to Skyline House. The proposal is for providing repair design, contract management, and construction observation related to the project.

The consensus of the Committee was that the engineering proposal was reasonable. However, the need to do the project this year was questioned. It was felt additional reserves should be built-up prior to work being done.

The swimming pool is ready to open on time. The Contractor made errors re-doing the steps into the pool and the ceramic tile is not straight. Both items do not represent a danger to pool operations. The Contractor will make the necessary corrections after the pool closes at no cost to Skyline House.

The Committee meets the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome.

**Security, Fire and  
Safety Committee**



Since the Security, Fire and Safety Committee is still without a chairperson, the meeting was chaired by the Board of Directors liaison Mrs. Toska Prather. If you are interested in chairing this Committee, please contact the President of the Board of Directors, Mr. Johnnie Moore, at the

listed information. Your volunteerism is greatly appreciated.

The automatic door closer added to the West mail lobby door will enhance security in that area. Previously, because it remained ajar after residents passed through, it allowed others to enter.

We would like to remind everyone DO NOT give access to the building to persons unknown to you; this is an immediate SECURITY BREACH that puts the entire building at risk. Please direct them to the main lobby entrance so they can be properly screened prior to being granted access.

We would like to extend an invitation to all residents to join the SF&S Committee. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. Please plan to attend.



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

The Covenants Committee met on May 18, 2005, but as previously noted, the Committee continues to suffer from poor attendance. Despite less than satisfactory support, we were able to take action on the recent recommendations of the Election Committee following the March 29, 2005 election of the Board of Directors.

The Election Committee in its recommendation indicated two procedures as prime candidates for review and possible change: the notarization requirement for absentee ballot voting, and the manual counting of ballots.

The Committee focused its review and consideration on the present requirement for notarization for absentee ballot voting for the election of the Board of Directors. The issue of manual counting of ballots will be addressed later.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Board that the requirement that absentee ballots be notarized be discontinued. At its May 25, 2005

meeting, the Board approved the recommendation. The Board also approved the recommendation that the Election Committee Manual be updated.

As we have said so many times, we need your help. Any ideas or suggestions you may have to improve the Committee are welcome. If time constraints preclude attending meetings, please send your suggestions in writing. They will be appreciated.

The next meeting of the Covenants Committee is scheduled for July 20, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



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

We continue to have erratic weather but thanks to warmer days, we have Neighborhood Watch volunteers observing outside the two buildings. The upside is that we can admire the beautiful flower arrangements and the attractive landscaping surrounding us; the downside is that we are using the flower beds near the lobby and bus stop to discard our unwanted trash.

General incidents reported by our Neighborhood Watch volunteers found several doors open on the Penthouse levels, storage rooms, and East Building bicycle room, and several cable boxes in the disposal rooms. If you see any doors left open, please close them. If you can't close them or have a feeling there's a problem, please report it to the Management Office or the Reception Desk if it is after hours, also write it in the maintenance log. Do not hang any items, such as rugs, over the balconies. Items that fall from balconies could seriously injure people walking below so please be considerate – and, thereby, prevent any accidents.

Our next few meetings at the Mason District Police Station are:

(a) the Open Training Sessions on June 7<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup> – all at 7: 00 p.m.,

(b) the Neighborhood Watch Coordinators' Meetings – September 6<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., and

(c) the Citizens' Advisory Committee on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

The meetings are open to the public, and it is a good idea to attend one of these, if not more, to ask questions, check on security in our area, and generally to meet these dedicated officers who are always working long hours and stretching themselves to the limit to keep us safe. As I mentioned previously, Officer Cochrane has taken over the Neighborhood Patrol Unit (NPU), and you may e-mail him on [christopher.cochrane@fairfaxcountry.gov](mailto:christopher.cochrane@fairfaxcountry.gov) or phone him on 703-256-8035 with your concerns.

Enjoy this warmer weather and don't forget to pick up your swimming pool passes that are at the reception desk. Anyone interested in joining the Neighborhood Watch Program, please contact me at 703-671-2267, and I'll be more than happy to give you an overview of the program. It is very rewarding. You donate a minimum of one hour a week (more if you want to), set your own time schedule, and enjoy the exercise. You can feel justifiably proud of keeping your home and community safe and more attractive by participating in this worthwhile program.



**Recreation Committee  
Tony DiSalvo  
Chairman**

Once again I repeat the following message. Emergency!!

The Recreation Committee is looking for a co-chairman. Speak to Tony at the next TGIF to see if you want to get involved.

The next TGIF is Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Party Room.

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.

The July TGIF is on Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in the East Party Room. This is one week later than the first Friday because of the July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend.



**Good Neighbors Committee  
Co-Chairs**

**Toska Prather 703-379-7849**

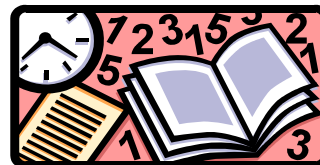
**Ernest Loyola 703-671-0384**

**Good Neighbors for June 2005:**

**Christine McCaskie 703-931-2605**

**Virginia Fissmer 703-379-2901**

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.



**Editor  
Louise Albin**

**"Alexandria Singers"  
Present Retro Revue or  
Everything Old is New Again.**

*New Time, New Place. Same Great  
Entertainment!!!*

*Saturday, July 9 at 8:00 p.m. &*

*Sunday July 10 at 2:00 p.m.*

*Bishop Ireton High School*

*201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria*

*(703) 941-7464*

Reserved seats (all ages): \$20 each  
 Adults (general seating): \$15 each  
 Seniors (60+) Students, Groups  
 (15+) Or Active Military: \$10 each  
 Children (age 6 & under): \$5 each.

**Hear Yesterday's and Today's Greatest Hits from Broadway and the Movies, featuring Music from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Hairspray*, *Sweet Charity*, *Mamma Mia!*, AND Songs by George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Rogers & Hammerstein, and MORE!!**

**Upcoming Performances**

**June 16 – Market Square, Alexandria – 7:30 p.m.**

**August 12 - Kingstown Town Center – 7:30 p.m.**

**September 10-11 – Alexandria Arts Festival Market Square, Alexandria**

Visit our web site for more concert information, photos & sound bytes!

News from Supervisor Penny Gross  
 Mason District  
 6507 Columbia Pike  
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 Tel. 703-256-7717, Fax 703-354-8419,  
 Email: [mason@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mason@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**2005 Fairfax County Farmers' Market:**

The Farmers' Market returns to Mason District on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, with some new features! This year the Market has added dairy products, eggs, and meat. Along with these new additions, residents will continue to find fresh vegetables, fruits, baked goods, potted plants, and cut flowers. The Market also features a Master Gardener Plant Clinic from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. You can visit the Annandale Farmers' Market at the Mason District Park at 6621 Columbia Pike every Thursday from May 5<sup>th</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. For information and directions call 703-642-0128 or visit the web at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm).

Mason District Park Amphitheater reopens with another season of **Spotlight by Starlight**. It is my

pleasure to announce that the rebuilding of the Mason District Park Amphitheater, which burned down last October, will be completed in time for another season of Spotlight by Starlight. Please come and enjoy another season of open-air concerts from June 5 to August 31, 2005 at the Mason District Park amphitheater. All performances are on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday beginning at 7:30 p.m. Children's performances begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. For a listing of events, go to [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/md/mm\\_spring\\_2005.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/md/mm_spring_2005.pdf). Please note that shows are cancelled in the event of rain.

**The following thoughts was submitted by Ernest Loyole:**

*The secret of happiness is not doing what one likes, but in liking what one has to do.*

*In youth, anything goes; with age, everything goes.*

*The smallest kindness may be remembered forever.*

*Don't do everything today – save some mistakes for tomorrow.*

*The best solution to a problem is always prevention.*

*Swallowing your pride seldom leads to indigestion.*

*Learning to enjoy inexpensive things can be just as gratifying as being rich.*

*If you are trying to carry too many items, you will only drop the most breakable one.*

*Taxes are the Government's way to keep you from wasting your money – a job best handled by professionals.*

*The trouble with lawyer jokes is lawyers don't think they're funny, and nobody else thinks they're jokes.*

*It is a victory if we did better than we thought we could.*

*Nobody's too fat – they're just too short.*

*One of the problems with living on the edge is that there so very little room for error.*

*Laughter is the best medicine – and the cheapest.*

# ***SPECIAL EVENTS AT SKYLINE HOUSE June 2005***

<b>SUN</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUE</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THU</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  TGIF 6:30-8:00 WPR	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  LIBRARY OPEN 700-8:00 ECR	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  RECREATION 700-8:00 WCR	<b>9</b>  PPOC 700-8:00 WCR	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  FINANCIAL 700-8:00 WCR  LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  BOARD 7:00-8:00 WCR	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

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