



THE HOUSE SPECIAL

Volume XXIV, No. 9

www.shuoa.org

September 2005



Board of Directors President, Budd Coutts

My first report as President of Skyline House Unit Owners Association will be relatively brief.

First, on behalf of the unit owners I want to thank Johnnie Moore for his service, both as a Board member and as past President of the Association for a job well done. We wish you and your family the very best in your new home in the Virginia countryside.

Next, thank you to long time resident and former Board member Charley Roberts for volunteering to fill the vacancy created on the SHUOA Board. Charley is an experienced individual, and we look forward to working with him for the benefit of the Association.

As you are aware, Skyline House is a wonderful place to call home and we need **your** help to keep it that way. Our Committees are falling short of participants; we need **you** to volunteer and be active in order to keep our community healthy. Committee meetings are advertised monthly in the calendar in the newsletter and on the bulletin boards in both buildings. **You** have an open invitation to attend and get active.

The next election for the SHUOA Board of Directors will be in March of 2006, and there will be a number of positions open at that time. Now is

the time to get involved so you can be better informed when you run for election to the Board.

As summer is coming to an end and the fall season approaches, perhaps now is the time to get acquainted with your neighbors. According to Recreation Committee Chairman Tony DiSalvo, an easy and fun way to do this is to attend the **TGIF** party, which rotates between the East and West party rooms, generally on the first Friday of each month. Notices are posted indicating the date, time, and location.

The safety and well being of our residents is one of my concerns. An area on the property that is particularly vulnerable to accidents is the parking garage. The posted speed limit in the garage is **5 miles per hour**; however, many have been observed exceeding that by **10 to 15 MPH** and **even more on occasion**. **Please slow down and turn your headlights on, the life you save may be mine, an elderly person, or some small child!!**



General Manager Gusbey Silva

Restoration of the North and South Façades of the West Building:

The mobilization to tiers 08 and 09 was completed in August, and the demolition phase of these tiers should be completed by the middle of November. Mobilization to the remaining tier 06

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DIRECTOR	Toska Prather jpral19055@aol.com	1003W	379-7849
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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 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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is scheduled for the last week of September, and the demolition phase on this tier should be also completed by the middle of November.

An unforeseen problem was found on the building expansion joint of the south wall located between tiers 02 & 03. The bricks on this location were found not properly pinned to the back wall, creating a safety issue. This is a construction defect that needs to be addressed immediately. The board of Directors has approved a Change Order for the Contract to proceed with the installation of anchors to pin the bricks on that location to the back wall. This task will be completed during the first week of September. This situation has delayed the mobilization to the last tier (06) on the North wall.

The contractor has committed to maintain a minimum crew of 14 workers on a daily basis in order to accelerate the final completion of the project, which has been delayed due to the excessive days lost due to weather conditions and to the additional quantities in concrete spandrel repairs, originally estimated at 750 square feet. The total square feet of concrete spandrel repairs completed as of the end of July 2005 is 935 square feet and there are still three more tiers to be done prior to the final completion of concrete repairs.

Residents have been taking advantage of the party rooms for peace and quiet while the drilling is going on. Management was informed by one of our residents that wearing head phones like the ones used for CD players and/or ear muffs like the ones sold at Home Depot that are used at construction sites (a \$10.00 item) will reduce the noise significantly allowing you to stay at home during the demolition time.

Guest Parking:

Due to the demolition being performed on the north wall, the guest parking spaces #6 to #11 and #19 to #24 will not be available on Thursday and Friday, September 1st and 2nd, and two weeks later, on Thursday and Friday, September 15th and 16th, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. This step was necessary to avoid damages to guest vehicles that could be caused by debris falling from the demolition being performed on the higher floors. Please advise your guests that when parked in any

of the above mentioned parking spaces they must adhere to the authorized schedule in order to avoid towing.

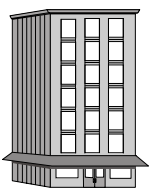
Restoration Pool Deck:

The pool deck restoration project will start on Monday, September 12, 2005. This project will include the concrete repairs needed in the garage underneath the pool, which will require some garage spaces located in the A level of the garage to be vacated during working hours. Please be aware that there will be loud noise generated by the heavy equipment that will be used to remove the coating currently in place. Management recommends that the units located next to the pool area keep their windows closed in order to avoid the dust that may be generated by the removal of the coating.



Financial Management Committee Wynfred Joshua

The Financial Management Committee did not meet in August; therefore, there is no written report. The next regular FMC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 19th, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. We urge all interested residents to join us at the meeting.



Physical Plant And Operations Committee George Beams And Kurt Bedenbaugh

The Physical Plant and Operations Committee did not meet in August; therefore, there is no written report. The next PPOC meeting will be Thursday, September 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. We urge all interested residents to attend.

Security, Fire and Safety Committee



The Security Fire and Safety Committee did not meet in August. We would like to remind everyone that school is now back in session, please obey the school zone speed limits and use extreme caution when driving near school bus pick up and drop off areas. You can be ticketed, fined, and assessed 6 POINTS on your driver's license for passing a school bus when its stop arm is extended while loading or unloading children.

We would like to remind you that security is everybody's business. Be involved in your neighborhood; introduce yourself to your neighbors; know your neighborhood and its surroundings, and report all suspicious persons and activity to the police.

We invite you to join your neighbors and help keep your community safe by joining the Security, Fire and Safety Committee. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. Please plan to attend. Currently the Security Fire and Safety Committee is without a Chairperson. If you would like to Chair this Committee, please contact the President of the Board of Directors, Mr. Budd Coutts, at the listed information. Your volunteerism is greatly appreciated.



Covenants Committee Joseph Livingston, Chairman

We were saddened by the news of the death of Jack Herzig on August 21, 2005 in Gardena, California. Many of you may remember Jack, ingeniously clever and very thoughtful. He was a hard working member and Chairman of the Covenants Committee. Both Jack and his wife Aiko were good neighbors who contributed greatly to our community and our nation.

Turning now to current business of the Committee, the revised Election Procedure for the

election of Association Board Members will be reviewed at the September meeting in order for the Board to act on it in time for the next election cycle.

While many of the changes were made to clarify the languages in the current procedure, the Election Committee also wanted to take every precaution to assure the accuracy of the election process.

All unit owners and Covenants Committee members are urged to attend the September meeting scheduled for Monday, September 26th, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.

We promise no door prizes but there will be food for thought.



Neighborhood Watch Judith York, Coordinator

We welcome our latest volunteer, Amare Sewde, to the Neighborhood Watch Program and are pleased that the August 2nd “National Night Out” event publicized our work and enabled us to recruit more newcomers to our program. The next few meetings at the Mason District Police Station are:

Neighborhood Watch Coordinators Tuesday, September 6th, at 6:30 p.m. –followed by Citizens’ Advisory Committee (CAC) at 7:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Watch Training session Tuesday, October 4th, at 7:00 p.m. followed by CAC at 7:30 p.m.

If you have concerns about security in the area, remember 2nd Lt. Christopher Cochrane of the Mason District Neighborhood Patrol Unit is the person to check with. You can e-mail him on Christopher.cochrane@fairfaxcounty.gov or phone him at (703) 256-8035. We are fortunate to have such a responsive group of police officers nearby. Officer Brendan Murphy (Brendan.murphy@fairfaxcounty.gov) of Mason District sent information on Little River Turnpike bank robberies and the destruction of property and graffiti, both in the Annandale area, the latter related to gang participation.

Now that the children have returned to school, please be aware that children are waiting for buses and generally nearer to our congested traffic. Keep them safe, especially with the days growing darker and their incredibly early morning starting hours, at least for high school students.

Volunteers continue to make notes of needed repair work, unlocked doors, vehicles without Skyline House decals, and several other items needing attention. These notes are given to the Management Office which implements needed action. Even if you are not a Neighborhood Watch volunteer, please report items needing repair in the maintenance book which is kept at the front desk.

Last but not least, I’d like to pay tribute to our in-house staff, whether Administrative, Maintenance, or Housekeeping. We see them at work every day and we sometimes take them for granted. We have benefited greatly from the number of years many of these staff members have been with us, and the upkeep and the appearance of our buildings are the result of hard work by these same people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication and loyalty.



The Chief Engineer Greg Grimm

We are still experiencing medicine cabinet mirrors falling off the medicine cabinets. This is caused by the glue holding the mirror onto the cabinet drying out over time and making it possible for the mirror to fall off the cabinet.

In-unit maintenance can replace the mirror for around \$30.00. Also, Home Depot has medicine cabinets that fit the existing opening of the current medicine cabinet. It is white painted wood with a mirror that cannot fall out, as it is framed into the door of the cabinet. This cabinet costs about \$40.00.

Fire Sprinkler System Information:

Several common misconceptions about sprinkler systems exist. Typical misunderstandings include:

- **When one sprinkler operates, all will activate.** *Only those sprinklers in direct contact with the fire's heat will react.* (Statistically, approximately 61% of all sprinkler controlled fires are stopped by two or less sprinklers.)

- **Sprinklers operate when exposed to smoke.** *The presence of smoke alone will not cause activation.* (Sprinklers function by thermal impact against their sensing elements. i.e. the heat melts the link and the water pressure pushes off the cap.)

- **Sprinkler systems are prone to leakage or inadvertent operation.** *Statistics indicate a failure rate of approximately 1 head failure per 16,000,000 sprinklers installed per year.* (Sprinkler components and systems are among the most tested systems in an average building. Failure is very unlikely.)

- **Sprinkler activation will not cause water damage to contents and structure.** *Water damage will occur when a sprinkler activates, in almost every single instance. This is better than the alternative of damage by fire.*



Recreation Committee
Tony DiSalvo
Chairman

Newcomers (new residents) where are you and where have you been? We look forward to meeting you at the next TGIF scheduled for Friday, September 9th, at 6:30 p.m. in the East Party Room. Also, where are the residents who have lived in Skyline for a long time? Come join us. You will certainly be welcomed.

The above statement was printed in the August Newsletter. We still await you at the next TGIF. 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 September TGIF is on Friday, September 9th, at 6:30 p.m. in the East Party Room. This TGIF is one week later than usual because of the Labor Day weekend.



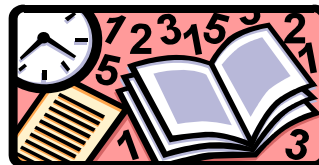
Good Neighbors Committee
Co-Chairs

Toska Prather 703-379-7849
Ernest Loyola 703-671-0384

Good Neighbors for September 2005:

Norma Anderson 703-931-0850
David Tilson 703-998-7254

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

A Penny for Your Thoughts
 News of Greater Falls Church
 From the: *Falls Church News Press, Aug 11-17, 2005*

“Household chemicals such as paints and varnishes, bug killers and plant food, and swimming pool chemicals are classified as household hazardous waste when they are thrown away. County Code prohibits Fairfax County residents from throwing away household hazardous waste in the trash. Customer service guidelines specifically state that household hazardous waste cannot be placed at the curb for collection. ...chemicals can mix together and become very dangerous – even lethal – and can threaten your life, your pet’s life, and life of the refuse collection worker. Disposing of household hazardous waste properly ensures that it will be handled and packaged to minimize exposure to potentially harmful chemicals.”

This is a partial reprinting of the article submitted by Jean Orben, Secretary to the Board of Directors.

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

2005 Fairfax County Farmers' Market:

The Farmers' Market returned to Mason District on Thursday, May 5th 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 5th to November 3rd, 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.

The George Mason Regional Library at 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, has used books for sale.

They have thousands of hardbacks and paperbacks, military history to science fiction to cookbooks and everything in between! They have a great selection of children's books. They also have CD's, tapes, videotapes and art for sale. For the collector, they can offer many old and rare books and music.

Previous book sales have provided funding for many Fairfax County Public Library projects that not included in the county budget. We are especially proud to sponsor the children's summer reading program.

Their book sales are also wonderful opportunities for community participation – sales, volunteers, donors of books, and pleased purchasers of bargains and treasures.

If you have any questions call Liz Clements at (703) 642-9487 or Friends of George Mason at (703) 256-3800, ext. 220.

Schedule as follows:

Thursday, September 29th, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Friday, September 30th, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 1st, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 2nd, noon to 5:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT SKYLINE HOUSE September 2005

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

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