

# *The House Special*



*Volume 28 Issue 2*

*Skyline House*

*February 2008*



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President, Norman Baker**

The Board of Directors met on January 23, 2008 and, during its meeting,

approved the Physical Plant and Operations Committee's recommendation that the Board establish an Ad Hoc Decorating Committee to help develop a unified plan for the main lobby and east and west gallery redecoration projects budgeted to be completed this year and next (additional information on the formation of this committee and its mandate can be found in the announcement immediately following this report);

approved an amendment of Rule 25 to require appropriate attire be worn by those using the Exercise Room and its facilities;

and, approved a recommended landscape design for the front circle developed and presented (during the meeting) by the Front Circle Landscape Design Ad Hoc Committee (the committee's report elsewhere in this issue describes in detail the approved design).

The Front Circle Landscape Design Committee has done an incredible amount of work and spent many hours on the project and continues to do so as the design plan is implemented. I offer thanks to all the committee members for their interest and involvement and a very special thank you to committee member Phil Cohen and Chair Maria Elena Schacknies for their incredible efforts. Our community is fortunate to have all of them involved in this project.

Again, I remind everyone, the 2008 election for two (three-year) seats on the Board of Directors is March 25<sup>th</sup> and applications to be a candidate are due by 6:00 p.m. Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. A notice of the important dates related to the election (including Meet the Candidates Night and Election Night) can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Finally, for those residents whose units face the community college, you no doubt have been hearing the noisy construction going on in the parking lot. According to the school's business manager, the work is maintenance and upkeep on the lot's expansion joints. The work is occurring simultaneously on top of and below the upper deck and will continue for some time until the entire parking lot is completed. We can only hope for constant good weather so the job can be completed as quickly as possible.

## **Have Decorating Ideas for Skyline House? Board Establishes Ad Hoc Decorating Committee**

**First meeting February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room**

As noted in the President's report above, at its January meeting, the Board unanimously approved the establishment of an Ad Hoc Decorating Committee to provide direction for redecoration of those public areas budgeted to be addressed during the next four years.

The Board President has accepted the generous offers of Maria Elena Schacknies, Board Vice President, and Alina Gonzalez to serve as co-chairs. Ideally, the committee will be comprised of about 7 members. At, or after, the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the President will, on the co-chairs' recommendations, appoint five other volunteers. Whether appointed to the committee or not, all interested residents will be welcomed at future meetings.

The committee is seeking additional volunteer members for this very important project. "If you have a decorating background, an eye for color and proportion, or a practical understanding of creating attractive décor for public residential spaces within strict budgetary limits, you are a candidate for our committee," said Ms. Schacknies. "We need several more members. Interested Skyline House residents should attend an initial planning meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room." During that meeting the scope of the committee's responsibilities will be outlined, "but an initial focus," President Baker noted, "will definitely be the recarpeting of the main floor and galleries this year and the replacing of wall covering in the lobby and galleries in 2009." Other possible projects the committee will consider include the renovation of the wooden cabinets in the East and West galleries and refurbishment of the mailbox area wood wall paneling. The committee may also give attention to the recarpeting of the main lobby budgeted for 2011, and refreshing of the lobby furniture in 2012.

According to Ms. Schacknies, "The committee's mandate is to carry out the long-term vision of PPOC: to create a décor that, while being created over a multi-year period, will result in a cohesive look that will remain attractive and welcoming for many years to come." She and Ms. Gonzalez encourage participation by new residents along with those who have called Skyline House home for decades.

For questions, contact Maria Elena Schacknies at [cultura@att.net](mailto:cultura@att.net) or 703-820-2239, and Alina Gonzalez at [agonzal@metronets.com](mailto:agonzal@metronets.com) or 703-379-5391.



## **MANAGEMENT**

**General Manager, Gusbey Silva**

### **Bike Rooms**

The East and West Bike Rooms were renovated in January 2008. The renovation was needed to improve the existing racks to allow the bikes to remain standing. New registration is mandatory. This is necessary due to recent vandalism reports including bikes and bike parts stolen from both Bike Rooms. The door locks have been recoded and the new code for the East or West room will be given, via the Front Desk, **only** to residents for the room where they have a registered bike. These locks will be recoded on a monthly basis. As an additional measure, security cameras were installed in both rooms.

### **Cable TV**

The TV Cable Upgrade is scheduled for completion this year and it consists of two phases. The first is the installation of the wire needed for this project. We are currently in the process of selecting the contractor who will complete this task. The second phase will be the selection of the service provider. Pricing for bulk programming is being obtained from Dish Network, DirecTV and Washington Cable. The current contract expires at the end of October and requires a 60 day cancellation notice. The new system could be in place as soon as November 1, 2008.

## Visitor's Log and Guest Parking Registration

It is very important that residents make their visitors aware of the procedures that must be followed when registering at the Front Desk. We have noticed that some of the visitors are under the impression that if they are not driving they do not need to register at the Front Desk. All visitors must register at the Front Desk and their entry must be approved by the Front Desk Receptionist after obtaining the resident's consent.

If your visitor drives and park his car in the Association's guest parking, he/she must register the car entering the correct information, i.e. license plate number. Please take into consideration that some days may be up to 10 pages of the registration log, entering the tag number incorrectly, even if there is only one digit missing or incorrect, will result in your visitor's car being towed. The Receptionist does not have the time to go over the entire list trying to find a similar number just in case there is a mistake in the registration.

## Driving in the Garage

The traffic in the garage is one way only, with the exception of the East and West Upper A levels and the West Upper and Lower D levels of the garage. The ramps are one lane only including the center ramp which is used to go up and down the garage. The car going up the center ramp has the right a way. Please use the mirrors located right in front of the center ramp on the upper levels to see if a car is entering the ramp before you proceed down the ramp. Observe all yield and speed limit signs posted in the garage.



# INFO FROM THE ENGINEER

Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm

## Smoke Detectors

In the past few weeks we have found that several units still have original Honeywell smoke detectors installed. These smoke detectors are almost thirty years old, being in operation nearly twenty years past their expected lifespan. If you still have one of these smoke detectors, you should replace it as soon as possible, even though it may test ok, it could possibly fail in the event of a fire.

## HVAC\* Filters

Winter has finally arrived, and again this heating season, most problems with heat not working turn out to be because the filter in your HVAC was not replaced. Please check your filter monthly and change as needed. We recommend that you also have your HVAC unit serviced at least one time a year, either the spring or fall, to insure proper operation. Most sizes are available at the front desk, and the 3M Filtrete Filters are available, in several sizes, for sale in the management office.

\*The HVAC system, or heat pump, is the unit in your utility closet, next to your water heater, that produces your heat and air conditioning.

### Is Your Unit Adequately Insured?

Submitted by Resident and Board Member Evelyn Haught

While Skyline House's *common areas* are insured against damage, your individual unit is not covered under this master policy. You should purchase an HO-6 policy to protect against damage which occurs *inside your unit* and/or to your *personal property*.

Renters should consider purchasing *renters insurance* for damage to personal property.

In addition, consider purchasing "*loss assessment*" insurance. It would provide coverage for a special assessment, should the Skyline House Unit Owners' Association ever find need to impose one for an emergency or special need to the building as a whole. This very inexpensive insurance can be purchased at different coverage levels. Many homeowner insurers offer up to \$50,000 coverage for less than \$20 per annual premium.

## **“HOUSE” HINTS**

### **YOUR NOISY CHAIRS**

Please be aware that when chairs are pulled back and forth across uncarpeted flooring, the noise of that chair being dragged on the floor can be heard loudly not only in the unit below you but also in the units all around you. This IS quite annoying to your neighbors. Please remember to lift chairs when you move them and instruct children to do the same.

Another solution is to obtain small pieces of felt or other material and glue them to the bottom of the chair legs so the chairs slide across the floor smoothly and QUIETLY.

**Your neighbors will appreciate your attention to this matter.**

### **NEVER AGAIN INCUR A CONDO FEE LATE CHARGE**

Why have to remember to mail your condo fee payment every month? Why have to risk the payment arriving late and incurring a late payment fee? Almost half of Skyline House owners take advantage of the Association's simple electronic funds transfer (EFT) system to have their condo fee automatically drafted from a designated account, on a specific day, every month. It is so easy to setup. Stop by the Accounting Office and do so today.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

### **NEW SHOPS AND SERVICES AT SKYLINE PLAZA**

In addition to a well-stocked and well-run convenience store (now under new management), Skyline Plaza's commercial area (with external access on the ground floor of the Plaza building bordering NVCC) now boasts (1) a full service United States Post Office facility, (2) a new barber shop and (3) a doctor (Ulrich Prinz) who is General Practitioner as well as a Gerontologist. Make time to stop by and explore and patronize these new neighborhood conveniences just a short walk from Skyline House.

### **IN-HOUSE DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM**

Long-time Resident and former Board Member Wayne Krumwiede will once again be conducting an American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Driver Safety Program here in Skyline House on February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in the West Party Room. The program runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day with a one hour break for lunch.

Those who took the course 3 years ago are welcome back.

#### **The key objectives of the program are:**

understand the effects of aging on driving skills;  
learn driving strategies that take into account the changes we experience as we age;  
identify the most common crash situations we face. and reduce chances of having a crash;  
update knowledge and understanding of today's roads, vehicles and other road users;  
think about how they drive;  
and, identify when driving may no longer be safe.

Although the focus of this course is for those 50 and older, anyone can take and learn from the course.

Virginia law requires insurance companies to give a reasonable discount on insurance premiums to those over age 50 who complete the course. The amount is up to the insurance company. (e.g., recently GEICO gave a 10% discount)

Contact Wayne at 703 998 0251 to register. Leave a check for \$10.00 (covers cost of books and material) payable to AARP at the front desk for unit 606W. A minimum of 10 people are needed to teach the course. Please Register as soon as possible.



# COVENANTS

Chair, Joe Livingston

The Covenants Committee met on January 16, 2008. At the meeting, we discussed among other things, the 2008 election for two vacancies on the Board of Directors. Noting that the February 8, 2008 deadline for submission of applications was drawing near, we urged those interested in running for the Board to submit their applications as soon as possible

We noted that the Election Committee was already at work on the election, and that through correspondence, notices on bulletin boards, the House Special and Channel 12, we hope to provide as much publicity as we possibly can on the election. In the last election, about 38% of the Unit Owners voted. Our goal this year is to increase that percentage substantially. That means we need you to help get out the vote.

Another item discussed at the meeting was a plan to provide some internal training for members of the committee to be able to serve as members of our Hearing Subcommittee. If any Unit Owners who are not members of the Covenants Committee wish to participate, please contact me at (703) 931-6923.

Another subject--- several residents have brought to our attention instances of apparent infractions of the Rules and Regulations of the Association. While they provided no specific information upon which the person(s) could be contacted, there is no reason not to be concerned. Among the complaints were instances of observed speeding in the garage, eating/drinking in common areas, trash left on the floor in the Trash Disposal Room, and some acts of vandalism. Despite recent efforts to have all residents with TV antennas keep them within the balcony railings, some appear not to be in compliance with the regulation. Except for the vandalism item, all the other alleged infractions are addressed in the Association's Rules and Regulations. Copies of the Rules and Regulations may be obtained from the Management Office.

Finally, too often, we forget to say thanks to the many dedicated residents who volunteer to work on behalf of the Association. Therefore, at the risk of omitting some, at the outset I say mea culpa. My thanks to: Salem Omeish, Nadyne Mc Kelvey, Liza Ruiz, Marilyn Baker, Helen Weiner, Judith York, Robert Orben, Rose Bravo, Sonya Livingston, and Tosca Prather (Board Liaison).

The Covenants Committee will next meet in the West Card Room at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 19, 2008**

## 2008 Election Calendar

### The Skyline House Annual Election for the Board of Directors

**Nominations Close** Friday, February 8, 2008

Applications can be picked up at the Management Office or the front desk.

**Applications must be returned to the Management Office by 6 p.m., February 8**

Mail Out To Owners Friday February 22, 2008

Meet The Candidates Night Tuesday March 11, 2008

Annual Election Tuesday March 25, 2008

### HOW DOES ONE VOTE?

**All owners will receive their election package in late February via the U.S. mail.**

**The election package will include a ballot and proxy, voting instructions, an announcement of the Annual Meeting at which your vote can be cast, and biographies of the candidates for the Board of Directors.**

**Owners wishing to vote before the Annual Meeting may cast proxy ballots as soon as they have made their election decisions and have their proxy notarized.**



# Ad Hoc Committee

## Front Circle Landscape Design Project

Chair, Maria Elena Schacknies

The Ad Hoc Committee was given the responsibility for developing a design for the circular driveway octagon. To fulfill its objective the committee developed and implemented a resident survey. The results of the survey were then used to issue a Request for Proposal soliciting designs based on very specific requirements from four professional architectural landscapers. We received only one bid. Fortunately, the committee had enough internal resources and ideas to develop its own design that met all the specifications within budget.

The committee therefore presented its design proposal to the Board for approval. With Board approval of the design with all its specifications, the committee will submit an RFP for the installation of the design to four bidders, i.e., Merrifield, Burke, Meadows Farm and Panoramic Landscape. If everything works as planned, Skyline House will have, in April 2008, an installed landscape design that is elegant, simple, low cost to maintain, attractive in all seasons and most importantly, a design that demonstrates the spirit of Skyline House as a welcoming and caring community.

### The Design:

The octagon will be **bordered** with evergreen dwarf boxwood, which generates small red berries seasonally. The border will upon maturity be trimmed to a height of 1 to 1.5 feet.

In the **center** will be a Frank Lloyd Wright circular urn planter 44 inches in diameter x 40 inches at base x 36.5 inches high. This will be in a color called "limestone" by the manufacturer; this is a mid-to-light shade of grey that will blend well with both the pavers immediately surrounding the octagon and the brickwork of the buildings. The **planter will be filled** with an evergreen boxwood or yew, which will be trimmed periodically to maintain the overall sculptured effect of the design. (The possibility exists of planting flowers seasonally around the boxwood or yew within the urn.)

**Between the border and the centerpiece** will be a **circle of flowers**. The diameter and width of the flower circle have yet to be determined in consultation with the winning bidder for the installation contract. Each floral installation will consist of flowers of only one color so that color complements, rather than competes with, the design. The flowers represent the only recurrent cost independent of our current landscape maintenance contract and miscellaneous services that may from time to time be provided by building staff. Flowers will be changed a specified number of times per annum, and an effort will be made to maintain a floral planting for as many months of the year as weather and cost considerations permit.

The **ground cover** for the area not occupied by the boxwood border, flower circle, and centerpiece will be planted with a dense low, glossy-leaved and compact evergreen plant called pachysandra, which seasonally presents a very small white flower, or a similar dense, low-lying year-round plant.

With the exception of the flower circle, which will be barren for as few months of the year as weather and cost considerations permit, the entire circle will be **green year-round**.

The design **may** also incorporate limited and unobtrusive **lighting** automatically controlled to shut off at a specific hour each night.

**Preparation for installation:** The ground within the octagon will be leveled, and the topsoil may need to be improved. (The building Manager has assured us that leveling can be accomplished easily and without fear of damaging electrical wiring or water pipes.) Finally, metal borders--i.e., shallow metal sheets placed just below ground level and not visible--will run along the inside and outside of the flower circle in order to prevent the pachysandra (or other ground-fill plant) from overrunning the space reserved for the flowers.



# PHYSICAL PLANT & OPERATIONS

Acting Chair, Al Lambert

On Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. the Physical Plant and Operations Committee (PPOC) held the first monthly meeting for the New Year. The committee reviewed projects from the year 2007 that had carryover actions into 2008 as follows: After the garage inspection, minor repairs and the ionization test (determine level of salt penetration into the concrete) it was decided to apply a sealant to the garage floor. This task will occur in the March/April timeframe with warmer weather and our consultant engineer will be providing a long term maintenance program to ensure structural integrity of the garage into the foreseeable future. It is anticipated a component of the maintenance program will be incorporation of supplemental floor washings of the garage in the winter months to significantly reduce the risk of salt penetration. Painting the garage walls and columns has been ongoing for the past several months and all Levels excluding Level A are complete. There is one half of a ceiling beam on Level B and additional stenciling required on Level C & D for finalizing the project. This will be accomplished with the synchronization of warm weather and coordination with appropriate residents. Painting of Level A will be dependent on Resident input on security issues associated with improved illumination by painting, aesthetics and other considerations. On the issue of energy conservation and ways to reduce our utility bill along with a moral requirement to conserve energy we are awaiting information on building code requirements before possible consideration of potentially dimming or turning off selected lights at certain times.

Each year the committee has a responsibility to inventory all non-expendable items (moen faucets, hot water heaters, and so forth) having a value of fifty dollars or greater. The inventory was accomplished in early January and all material items were in the storage room and labeled by the Chief Engineer (Mr. Gregg Grimm) who has a commendable program.

Over the holidays a few of the exterior lamppost lights had bulbs burned out and during the ordering of replacement bulbs it was learned the company providing a ballast for the lamps has gone out of business. Hence, the association has ordered additional ballasts which should last about five years based on a historical usage of single ballast being replaced per year. Replacement of the lampposts will be added to the Reserve Budget as a line item to be budgeted for accordingly.

On the topic of new business the replacement of carpet for the main floor and galleries is scheduled this year. In 2009 wall covering for the lobby and galleries is scheduled for replacement and in 2011 the main lobby carpet is scheduled for replacement. The committee felt a unified decoration would be in the best interest of aesthetics. It was also suggested to investigate the possible refurbishment of the wood cabinets in the corridors the wood paneling in the mailbox areas. Management indicated adequate funds are in the budget for the carpet and wall covering. Costs would have to be determined for refurbishing of the wood box frame and paneling on the mailbox walls which could possibly be addressed in the operating budget. Hence, the committee approved a recommendation to the Board of Directors as follows: Create an ad-hoc decorating committee to investigate the feasibility, sequence and timeframe to consolidate replacement of the carpet, wall covering along with possible renovation of the corridor wood boxes and wall paneling. Additionally, to review all redecoration items on the main floor such as lobby furniture and drapes with the option to provide recommendations on future dates of replacement. Committee output would have management concurrence that any project could be implemented based on budget, scope of work and time period.

Should anyone feel motivated to participate in the redecoration undertaking the opportunity exists via this committee or the Board of Directors. Everyone is here for varying periods of time and should consider blooming where planted. These initiatives affect your home. Thank You!

The committee will next meet in the West Card Room at 7:00 p.m. on **Thursday, February 14, 2008.**



# RECREATION

Chair, Betty Turner

The Recreation Committee met on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> as scheduled. We reviewed both the Thanksgiving Dinner and the Holiday Party. The \$5 per person charge for the Thanksgiving Dinner was a little too low, but there was food left over. The committee will consider some type of dinner for next year but is not, at this time, willing to make it an annual event. Perhaps catered food will work for future dinners with a small increase in the charge. The December Holiday Party will continue to be an annual event and the potluck seemed to work out very well. This year's event was the most attended in recent times and there was plenty of delicious food.

Activities in the planning stage for this quarter include a Wine Tasting Event, a Teen Night, and a Ladies Only event. Our next meeting will focus on more details for these events. We solicit your involvement in planning as well as attending these events so mark your calendars for our next meeting on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

February 1<sup>st</sup> is the next TGIF social -- a time for relaxing and unwinding with friends and neighbors. Bring an appetizer to share and your own beverage. The committee will provide paper products and coffee. We have enjoyed meeting some new residents at the last few TGIFs. Invite your neighbors and start the weekend off relaxing with friends.

## TGIF\* Gathering

**6:30 p.m., Friday, February 1, 2008**  
**West Party Room**

Bring a plate of hors d'ourves to share, and your own liquid refreshments.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**\*Thank Goodness It's Friday**

On Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the committee will host a SUPERBOWL PARTY in the West Party Room. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Game time is 6:30 p.m. Details can be found on the lobby bulletin boards and Channel 12. The committee will provide paper products and coffee. We encourage residents to bring "Tail-gate" type food; i.e. sloppy joes, chicken wings, ribs, chili, etc. Last year's trivia contest trophy winner will be returning the trophy for some lucky winner to take home this year.....so make your plans to attend.

## HOUSE SUPERBOWL PARTY

**5:30 p.m. (game time 6:30 p.m.)**  
**Sunday, February 3, 2008**  
**West Party Room**

**CHEER ON**

**THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS OR THE NEW YORK GIANTS**  
**WITH SKYLINE HOUSE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.**

**BRING SOME "TAIL-GATE TYPE FOOD TO SHARE WITH ALL**  
**(sloppy joes, chicken wings, ribs, chili, etc.)**

**(paper products and coffee provided)**

**OH, AND DON'T FORGET YOUR OWN LIQUID REFRESHMENTS.**

## GOOD NEIGHBORS

Good Neighbors will assist residents in need of temporary help due to illness or emergency.

### FEBRUARY GOOD NEIGHBORS

**OFELIA LEONOR 703-645-2702**

**VIRGINIA FISSMER 703-379-2901**

Good Neighbors always welcomes new members to assist those in need. If you are interested in serving your neighbors, please call Coordinator Toska Prather or Ernest Loyola. Their contact information is listed in the newsletter directory.



## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

**Chair, Wynfred Joshua**

The Financial Management Committee met on January 22, 2008. Total income for the month of December was \$293,154 with expenditures of \$195,015. Total income less expenditures amounted to \$98,139. The monthly Reserve Contribution was \$98,331, leaving small deficit of \$192.

We note that as of the end of 2007 our reserves, including our working capital account, are \$910,950. We expect to have for the year a modest income surplus of some \$5,200 which will be added to our reserves. We will be concluding 2007 with less than \$1 million in our reserves which are low for a condominium of our size. Based on our projected income and expenditures for 2008, however, we expect to end this year with more than \$1 million in our reserves, while we will be approaching \$2 million by the end of 2009.

Reviewing our expenditures for the past year, you will note that most were generally within our budgeted range. Our water bill was higher than expected, but this reflects the drought we had when water use can be expected to go up.

The FMC received a presentation by the Ad Hoc Committee that handled the Front Circle Landscape Design Project. FMC members were impressed with the thoroughness and speed with which the committee had handled the project. The committee had clearly sought to arrive at a design that reflected the preferences of the majority of residents who had responded to the opinion survey. While at this point we do not yet have a recommendation endorsing a particular landscaper, we expect to do so at our next meeting. We can report to the Board, however, that funds for this project are available in the 2008 budget.

Because of a holiday on the third Monday in February, the next FMC meeting will be held on **Monday, February 25, 2008**. As always, we welcome all interested to join us.



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

**Coordinator, Judith York**

If you are interested in our Skyline House Neighborhood Watch Program and can spare an hour a week, call me at 703-671-2267. I will be happy to tell you about our program, which was started again in 2001 and has continued to the present time. Thank you.

There was recently an incident of a young man impersonating a police officer and our community police officer Courtney Thibault said that while incidents of police impersonation are not commonplace, citizens should always use care when stopped by police. She suggested the following tips if you are stopped by the police:

(a) activate your vehicle's emergency flashers; (b) drive carefully and immediately to the nearest well-lit, populated area for the driver's, as well as the officer's, safety; (c) ask for the officer's official identification, if questionable; and (d) dial 9-1-1 if necessary and give your precise location – ask the call taker to verify the traffic stop.

Neighborhood Watch Meetings – Below is the schedule for all Mason District 2008 Neighborhood Watch meetings which are open to the public. they are conveniently located at the Mason District Police Station at 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. (If you would like more information on these meetings you can contact me at the above number or Mary Weaver, 703-256-8035, ext. 2381 or [mary.weaver@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mary.weaver@fairfaxcounty.gov)).

### **2008 Meeting Schedule**

**Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month & all community members are welcome**

**February 5<sup>th</sup> , April 1<sup>st</sup> , June 3<sup>rd</sup> , September 2<sup>nd</sup> , November 4<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**6:30pm Neighborhood Watch Coordinators**

**7:00pm Neighborhood Watch Training**

**7:30pm Citizens' Advisory Council**

**March 4<sup>th</sup> , May 6<sup>th</sup> , and October 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm Citizens' Advisory Council**

Citizens Police Academy – If you are interested in a free, unique “behind the badge” overview of the Fairfax County Police Department, please contact the Citizens Police Academy on 703-280-0713 or by e-mail on [CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov). Contact either Tracey Ryan, Director of the Program or Second Lieutenant David Cox..

2008 Virginia Neighborhood Watch Conference will take place on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> , from 9:30am to 3:30pm and will be hosted by the Virginia Crime Prevention Association (VCPA) at the Fair Oaks Marriott Hotel. Cost of this one-day event is \$25 per person with refreshment breaks and lunch included.

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Statewide Crime Prevention Conference will take place (also at the Fair Oaks Marriott Hotel) Sunday, March 16 through Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

If you are interested in attending either or both conferences, phone the VCPA at 1-804-231-3800 or e-mail [vaprevent@aol.com](mailto:vaprevent@aol.com). You may also register via [www.vcpa.org](http://www.vcpa.org) where additional information on both conferences can be found.



## **SECURITY, FIRE AND SAFETY**

**Chair, Robert De Mayo**

The Security, Fire & Safety Committee met on January 9, 2008 (five members present).

Management Incident Report for the month included: A report on main foyer glass top table broken by teenage horseplay, and a report on a glass dome to a hallway light also broken by teenage horseplay; both incidents were handled by Management Office follow-up action. One accident -- a car running into the garage door -- was reported, and the person responsible contacted, as well as their insurance company, for reimbursement.

Safety of garage pedestrian areas was discussed, specifically, the ramps, the curbing, and possible need for railing. During the 35 minute discussion that followed, topics/issues discussed ranged from curb height, why the ramps were installed, legal issues, the American Disability Act, handicap friendliness of Skyline House and more. Bottom lines: no clear and apparent safety or security issues exist with the garage pedestrian entrances; ramps were installed only for shopping carts, and provisions have been made in our building for handicap access. Finally, residents will continue to be encouraged to submit safety and security issues to the committee in writing, by memo or e-mail, along with recommended solutions, which we will always take under deliberation.

A resident raised observed incidents of “Right of Way” and speeding in the garage; both are recurring issues. We again urge precautions on speeding and the fact that, if dutifully observed and reported to Management, such recurring speeders could eventually face a \$50 fine under our covenants. We encourage all residents to report blatant speeders in a very timely manner, and hopefully, if two people observe the same speeder and report them, firm action can be taken. On “Right of Way” - Management Office will publish their view on proper vehicular courtesy in the garage, with specific direction on how to exit and what ramps to use.

Signage on our grounds was again raised as a concern. The Security, Fire and Safety Committee believes that we have too many redundant and/or excessive signage, potentially causing confusion, and we will make future and constructive recommendations in this regard. A specific recommendation was made to remove two of the twenty-four “Fire Lane” signs (front and back) as being excessive/redundant; the committee concurred. In addition, the Security, Fire and Safety Committee will make recommendations to the Management Office to replace old/worn/weather-beaten, signs and encourage the standardization of other signs pertaining to safety and security.

The Security, Fire and Safety Committee (SF&SC) will next meet in the West Card Room at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 13, 2008.**

### **Slow Down and Use Your Lights**

Please use extreme caution when driving in the garage. Also, ALWAYS use your headlights. The illumination helps pedestrians as well as other drivers see you sooner which will allow them more time to exercise additional caution so you do not meet one another by “accident.” The posted speed limit in the garage is 5 miles per hour. Since the average vehicle weighs 3,000 lbs, the faster it moves the longer it takes to stop. We are asking all drivers to please SLOW DOWN while driving in the garage and outside around the property. If a child darts out from between parked vehicles he/she can be struck and killed and if a vehicle backs out of a space it will be struck in the rear where the fuel tank is located and may cause an explosion/fire. These are the catastrophic consequences we face by speeding in the very limited driving space of which we all make daily use.

### **Overhead Mirrors in the Garage**

Slow down and you will notice that there are overhead mirrors located on the garage ceiling at the up/down ramp. Please use these mirrors to check for pedestrians and oncoming vehicles as you approach the ramps. These mirrors are a great safety device and allow you to see areas not directly in front of you. Slow down and use the mirrors!!

### **Reporting Concerns and Problems**

Your Board and Committee members are all volunteers, many with full time jobs. When you observe or encounter anything out of the ordinary in our community you believe requires attention, please, first, report it to Management. You can do so in two ways:

(1) There is a Maintenance Log at the Front Desk for you to report items in need of correction in any of the common areas. The Log is an excellent tool for residents and Management. Every morning it is checked and a work order is scheduled for every item reported in the log. Your input is always appreciated.

(2) Go directly to someone in the Management Office. They are available in person, by phone and by email. You can always find a directory of these individuals and their contact information on the last page of the newsletter underneath the calendar of events. Management is here to serve and is as interested as you in enforcing the rules and regulations of our community and preserving and enhancing the quality of life and value of our homes. If all else fails, your Board and Committee members are also here to help.



# SKYLINE HOUSE CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 2008

(WWW.SHUOA.ORG)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> <b>TGIF</b> 6:30 p.m. W. Party Room	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>SUPER BOWL PARTY</b> W. Party Room 5:30 p.m. Game 6:30 p.m.	<b>4</b> <b>Library Open</b> 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Library Open</b> 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	<b>12</b> <b>Recreation Committee</b> 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	<b>13</b> <b>Security, Fire &amp; Safety Comm.</b> 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	<b>14</b> <b>Physical Plant &amp; Operations Committee</b> 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Library Closed</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Ad Hoc Decorating Committee</b> 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Financial Mgt. Committee</b> 7:00 pm W. Card Room <b>Library Open</b> 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>BOARD MEETING</b> 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>GOOD NEIGHBORS: OFELIA LEONOR (703-645-2702) AND VIRGINIA FISSMER (703-379-2901)</b>						

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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 inappropriate statements. Information for THE HOUSE SPECIAL may be sent by e-mail to the Editor, dropped off at the Management office or the front desk attention EDITOR.

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