

# The House Special



Volume 28 Issue 3

Skyline House

March 2008



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President, Norman Baker**

The Board met February 27, 2008 and approved a Management/PPOC recommendation to select Global Digital Satellite to flesh out a contract proposal to install/upgrade TV wiring in our buildings and two contracts to implement the Ad Hoc Front Circle Landscape Design Committee's design as approved by the Board in January 2008. On advice of the Covenants/Election Committee, the Board elected former Board Treasurer Wayne Krumweide, Inspector General of the March 2008 election. Finally, the Board adopted a policy recommended by the Association's attorney. The policy stipulates the Association shall not monitor nor report, disclose or disseminate to owners and/or residents information available at the Virginia State Police Offender Registry website. The Association will periodically remind owners/residents of this policy and that it is their responsibility, if concerned about these matters, to access the website themselves.

Ad Hoc Decorating Committee Co-Chairs Maria Elena Schacknies and Alina Gonzalez met February 20<sup>th</sup> with eight residents, seven of whom expressed interest in joining the committee. As President, I subsequently appointed Philip Cohen, Heide Fechtman, Virginia Fissmer, Evelyn Haught, Goldy Kamali, Cheryl Robertson and Bryan Stukes. Thank you all for your willingness to serve on this important committee tasked to develop a unified plan for the main lobby and east/west gallery redecoration projects. The first working meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup>. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We are fortunate four owners have volunteered to give of their time to be candidates in the March 2008 election for two seats on the Board and, if elected, to serve for three years. Immediately after this report, on the following page, is important information for YOU about voting in the election. I urge you to read it thoroughly. Even if you believe you know how to cast your vote you might discover it is even easier than you think. Your vote is critical. Without 25% of the owner's votes, the election is not official. You might say, "no problem!" Well, here are the surprising facts. In 2007 just under 40% of owners actually bothered to vote. Put otherwise, over 60% of owners chose not to play even a simple role, casting a ballot, in the important governance of our Condominium. Don't be one of those owners in 2008. Read the following page and learn how easy it is to cast your vote! **If you won't get involved any other way, at least CAST YOUR VOTE!**

# **ATTENTION ALL UNIT OWNERS**

## **Please Read The Following Important Information**

Your Association recently sent to you, via U.S. Mail, an important package containing materials for you to use to vote in the 2008 election for the Board of Directors. Do not discard it as it contains your **only** ballot and proxy (both weighted to the size of your unit) for this election. There is also a small envelope to ensure the secrecy of your ballot, and a pre-addressed envelope for submitting your ballot and **notarized proxy**.

### **ARE THERE ANY NOTARY PUBLICS AT SKYLINE HOUSE?**

**Five Management Office staff members (Gusbey Silva, Tycia Haight, LuzStella Gomez, Alice Rodrigues and Terezinha Shaw) are all Notary Publics and any one of them will notarize your proxy at no charge.**

There are two Board of Director positions to be filled, each for three years. Four owners have volunteered to run for those two positions. Please acknowledge their willingness to give of their time to serve you and your Association by taking just a few minutes of your time to cast your ballot for two of them. **YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED.**

### **HOW DOES ONE VOTE?**

**You DO NOT Need To Wait Until The March 25<sup>th</sup> Election to Vote.**

**It Is Preferable If You DO NOT Wait Until March 25<sup>th</sup> To Vote.**

**Vote As Soon You Are Ready.**

### **THREE EASY WAYS TO VOTE**

**(1) ANYTIME** -- If you are ready to vote after reading the four candidates' applications included in the mailing, simply **bring your ballot, proxy and a photo ID** to the Management Office **at any time, but as soon as possible**. Management staff will notarize your proxy (FREE) and you can place your completed and sealed ballot/proxy into the Accounting Office Drop Box off the main lobby. **YOU ARE DONE.**

**(2) At the Meet The Candidates Program (7 pm March 11<sup>th</sup>, West Party Room).** If you want to learn more about the candidates before you vote, attend this important program. **Bring your ballot, proxy and a photo ID.** Immediately following the program, Management staff will notarize your proxy (FREE) and you can submit your completed and sealed ballot/proxy. **YOU ARE DONE.**

**(3) Election Night March 25<sup>th</sup> between 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM in the West Penthouse.** Although helpful to your Association if you vote early, as a last resort, you can **bring your ballot, proxy and a photo ID** and vote the evening of the Annual Meeting/Election on March 25<sup>th</sup> between 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM in the West Penthouse. **YOU ARE DONE.**

**IF YOU ARE A NONRESIDENT OWNER** and unable to come to Skyline House. Take your ballot/proxy to a Notary Public as soon as possible. Cast your vote on the ballot, have the proxy notarized and mail both to Skyline House. **YOU ARE DONE.**

### **MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Isabel Cruz, Toska Prather, Charles Roberts, Maria Elena Schacknies**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008, 7:00 P.M. WEST PARTY ROOM**

Join your neighbors to hear the candidates' presentations, ask questions, and enjoy punch & cookies. Free notary service will be available. Bring your proxy, ballot and a photo ID.

Immediately following the program, have your proxy notarized and cast your vote.



# MANAGEMENT

General Manager, Gusbey Silva

## **Bike Rooms**

The locks on the interior access doors to the East and West Bike Rooms will be replaced during the first week of March, 2008 with the access control system in place for our common areas. The installation of the wiring needed for this purpose was completed by the building engineers. The key/fobs belonging to residents with registered bikes will be the only key/fobs that will be activated for using the bike rooms' key readers.

## **Cable TV –Wiring Upgrade**

Management received three proposals for the entire wiring of both buildings. An alternate price was also provided by two of these vendors, eliminating the wire installation from each unit to the disposal room in each floor. This was done based on a new FCC ruling that could allow us to use the additional wires installed and not being used by Cox. The Association's attorney sent a letter to Cox requesting access to these wires.

Due to the fact that not every unit was originally wired by Cox, all units must be inspected to determine if there are Cox wires inside the unit. We also need to know if the wires are in the utility room or if they were installed throughout the unit. This information is needed to determine how many units would need wiring from the disposal room, and how many would need wiring inside the unit only. All this information must be obtained prior to drafting the contract for the wiring installation.

The inspections of all units will be performed by the Association's Chief Engineer and his Assistant, Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., starting on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, in the East Building and on Thursday, March 20, 2008, in the West Building. Three floors will be completed per day starting on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor and going down. Residents will receive a notice under their door at least 10 days in advance. Each inspection will take 5 to 10 minutes at the most.

## **Garage Repairs and Maintenance Project**

This project is scheduled for April 2008. We are waiting for a response from NVCC regarding the availability of parking spaces in order to determine the start date for the project which will be completed in three phases: the entire A Level will be done first, followed by the West B/C levels and the East B/C levels. Each phase involves the removal of cars from about 150 spaces at a time for a term of three to four days, weekends included, for the preparation of the area, the application of the sealer and the cure time. Transportation will be provided to and from NVCC during specific times of the day while this project is being performed.

## **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 used to go up and down the garage. Please take into consideration that the car going up the center ramp has the right of 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 the yield and speed limit signs posted in the garage. Some residents have expressed their concern for the position of the yield signs being at the bottom of the ramp and not at the top of the ramp. Please take into consideration that not all the traffic goes up the ramp from the lower levels of the garage. Some cars go up the ramp and some go across the ramp. The cars that go across the ramp must yield to the cars that are coming down the ramp.

## **Upkeep of Common Areas**

Management would like to remind residents with children that they are responsible for their children's behavior at all times, not only when they are inside their unit but also

when they are in the common areas. Unfortunately, some of the children are not being supervised by their parents, resulting in extra work for the Housekeeping staff when trash (i.e., candy wrappers, seeds, cups, etc.) is being left on the floors of the elevators just after they have been vacuumed. Several residents have complained to the Management Office about children pushing all the buttons in the passenger elevators when they come home from school, forcing other residents to stop on each floor unnecessarily. It has also been brought to Management's attention that when parents do not allow their children's friends into their units, the children still allow their friends into the building, where they walk and run through the residential corridors and main floor galleries, sit on the window boxes and eat and drink and also play ball, etc.

Please refer to the Condominium By-Laws which state that the galleries and residential corridors are to be used strictly for the ingress and egress to and from the units. Children should not be loitering throughout the hallways and/or sitting on the window boxes while visiting with friends. Please be considerate of your neighbors.



## **INFO FROM THE ENGINEER**

**Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm**

### **Water Residue On Vehicles In The Garage**

Several residents have expressed concerns when water droplets leave residue on their cars parked in the garage, especially residents who park on the top level.

#### **Why and when this happens:**

Moisture is the underlying cause of sweating concrete in our garage. However, there are a number of factors that alone or in combination lead to this. The classic cause of moisture developing on interior concrete surfaces is dew point condensation. In this case, warm, humid air enters the structure through open doorways, windows, and vents. As the warm, humid air diffuses throughout the structure it condenses on any surface that is at or below dew point temperature, which is often concrete ceilings, columns, floors, and even cars.

Concrete condensation events most often occur with a rapid increase in ambient temperature and relative humidity. When warm, humid air enters a structure, it takes far less time to change the interior air temperature than it does the temperature of the concrete. With such a rapid change in conditions, the concrete temperature can easily be found at or below dew point. For example, ambient conditions within a structure have low temperatures and 50% relative humidity for several weeks, and the concrete surface temperature is also low. A weather front moves in with warm air and high relative humidity. As the warmer, moisture-laden air makes its way into the building, any surface that is at or below the outside air temperature will be at dew point.

At dew point, moisture from the air will condense on any surface where it is not readily absorbed, including glass, steel, floor coverings, coatings, and concrete surfaces. This happens a few times every year, and usually lasts only a few hours, either until the air temperature drops, or the air temperature stays warm and the garage surfaces slowly warm up.

#### **What we are doing:**

Management is in the process of insulating copper tubing over parking spaces and will also be insulating some of the drainage piping over parking spaces. This may help reduce some of the dripping onto cars. However, it cannot eliminate all dripping, especially where and when the humidity is extremely high.

#### **What you should do:**

If this happens to your car, you should have your car washed as soon as possible. The residue from the concrete can damage the finish on your car.

## **In-Unit Maintenance Policy: Owner/Resident Purchased Items**

As a reminder to everyone, the In-Unit Maintenance staff can only install items that you have purchased for your unit if they are in the original factory box and the box seal has not been broken. If the box has been opened, or does not have the factory seal, we cannot install these items. These might include microwaves, range hoods, faucets, light fixtures, and other items of that type. If you have something large, like a stove, dishwasher, refrigerator, washer/dryer, or range, do have your delivery person unpack these items to be sure there is no concealed damage, as often shipping of these large items can damage sides or fronts.

## **Fluorescent Light Bulb Disposal**

In industry today, bright, cool-burning fluorescent light bulbs are used. We see them everywhere! What most people don't realize is that these once thought to be harmless bulbs are, if not disposed of properly, indeed harmful to humans, other living beings, and the environment. Fluorescent bulbs do offer great environmental advantages. They convert electricity into illumination three to five times as efficiently as incandescent lights thus using much less energy. Lamp life is longer and, with improved technology these once irritating-to-the-eye lights are now acceptable for use anywhere an incandescent light is used. Still, while offering tremendous advantages to individuals, businesses and the environment by lowering energy consumption, fluorescent bulbs do contain items such as fluorine, neon, lead powder, and the toxic heavy metal, mercury, all of which can leach out in landfills and poison our drinking water and soil, and add toxic fumes to the air we breathe. **You can bring your used fluorescent light bulbs to the front desk for environmentally safe disposal.**

## **Battery Disposal**

People are using more and more household batteries. The average person owns about two button batteries, ten normal (A, AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, etc.) batteries, and throws out about ten batteries per year. About three billion batteries are sold annually in the U.S. averaging about 32 per family or ten per person. Batteries may contain cadmium, mercury, copper, zinc, lead, manganese, nickel, and lithium which may create a hazard when disposed of incorrectly.

**In addition to the fluorescent light bulbs, you can now also bring your batteries (only button, A, AA, AAA, C, D, and 9v), to the front desk for environmentally safe disposal/recycling.**

## **Daylight Savings Time**

**Don't Forget to Turn Your Clocks FORWARD one hour.**

**Beginning, Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> , 2:00 a.m.**

## **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 a 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.



# COVENANTS

**Chair, Joe Livingston**

The members of the Covenants Committee and the Election Committee have combined resources to conduct the 2008 election to fill two vacancies on the Board of Directors. We are working to make it the most successful in the Association's history. With the help of the Unit Owners, we can do it.

All Unit Owners should have received an election package. If you have not, please contact the Management Office as soon as possible.

The election package contained your ballot, proxy and other election information. It also included an invitation to the "Meet the Candidates" event on March 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Party Room. Please mark your calendar. Be a "good neighbor" by inviting him/ her/ them to attend with you and be prepared to query the candidates.

We look forward to seeing you March 11<sup>th</sup> to meet the candidates. We also remind you to reserve March 25, 2008 to attend the Association's annual meeting and election.

Lastly, our thanks to the dedicated members of the Covenants and Election Committees, and the Management staff for all their support.

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



## **Ad Hoc Committee Front Circle Landscape Design Project**

**Chair, Maria Elena Schacknies**

The octagon design was accomplished in time, and within budget, thanks to the tireless efforts of Phil Cohen and the expert horticultural advice of Evelyn Haught, who was not a member of the committee. Towards the end of April, we will be admiring a reproduction of a planter designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1896 for the Isadore Heller Residence in Chicago, Illinois. Inside the planter there will be a Chinese boxwood measuring 3 ft. high by 3 ft. in circumference. The octagon curb line will be bordered by a row of evergreen Korean boxwood. Most of the ground will be covered by pachysandra except that there will be a circle of red knockout roses equidistant between the planter and the boxwood around the curb line. The roses should be in bloom April to October. In November 2008, a planting of tulip bulbs will provide us with a beautiful display of red tulips early Spring of 2009 and every year thereafter. What this project has demonstrated is that when there is a will, there is a way to get the job done. As Chair, I want to extend my appreciation to all members of this committee for their contributions.



## **Ad Hoc Decorating Committee Co-Chairs, Maria Elena Schacknies and Alina Gonzalez**

The Ad Hoc Decorating Committee has been entrusted with the task of creating a décor that while implemented over a multi-year period, will result in a cohesive look that will remain attractive and welcoming for years to come.

An initial planning meeting was held on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the scope of the committee's responsibilities and to select additional committee members. Eight residents were present and seven who expressed an interest in joining the committee were selected to serve. The names of those selected were submitted to the President of the Board of Directors for consideration and approval. The Ad Hoc Decorating Committee will be comprised of the following members: Phil Cohen, Heide Fechtman, Virginia Fissmer, Evelyn Haught, Goldy Kamali, Cheryl Robertson, Bryan Stukes

The membership represents a good blend of young and new residents, and residents who have called Skyline House home for many years. Five residents are from the West building and four are from the East building.

Prior to the initial meeting, research was conducted using the American Society of Interior Designers Referral Services and other professional sources. Twelve designers/firms were selected from an extensive list and their websites were passed on to the members for their review and commentary. They were also encouraged to come up with their own additional sources for consideration.

The committee's first working meeting will be Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. At this meeting we will focus on outlining the work that needs to be done by the committee, assign tasks and set tentative work schedules and timelines.

It is our hope to run an open and inclusive committee and we welcome all interested residents to our future meetings.



## PHYSICAL PLANT & OPERATIONS

**Acting Chair, Al Lambert**

Greetings! On Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. the Physical Plant and Operations Committee (PPOC) convened for its monthly meeting. The maintenance log located at the lobby desk for residents to report repairs needed in our condo (home) had ten entries. Entries included soiled carpet, broken exit sign, and burned out light bulbs. Management had already taken corrective action on all the issues. Typically, reported problems are fixed within 24 hours which is why the environment and living conditions of our buildings are esthetically pleasing and safe each day. Please consider being a part of this mission the next time you notice something in need of repair or attention.

A visitor raised an issue of concern regarding the condominium being handicap accessible. This topic has continually surfaced and has been fully addressed by the Board of Directors and the Security, Fire & Safety Committee. Construction of the buildings in 1979/1980 only provided for two handicap entrances which are the main lobby door and at the bridge on Level A leading into the East Building. During the intervening years the Association has made every effort to make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. During the discussion a second issue surfaced related to an internal hallway entrance door between the West Building G-level and garage level A not having a visibility window. Management will investigate and take corrective action as necessary.

Thereafter, the committee reviewed bids by contractors for the installation of cable to replace existing TV antenna wiring used by Washington Cable. Management proposed and the committee concurred recommending to the Board that Global Digital Satellite be chosen as the vendor to install cable wiring. The company was the lowest bidder (\$178,135.90/35,000), demonstrated superb knowledge during a walk-through with the Chief Engineer, provided excellent references and possessed extensive experience installing cable in other high rise buildings. The bid by each contractor contained two projected costs. One price for complete rewiring and a second lower cost should we be able to use existing wiring installed by Cox. It is envisioned the contractor selected for installation of the TV wiring will be retained on a separate contract for maintenance requirements in the future. Completion of the wiring is scheduled for June and thereafter the association will review options for a service provider with a projected completion date November 1, 2008. The outcome will be 108 TV channels and all local channels broadcast in high definition. Provisions will be available for residents to contract separately with the service provider for any number of available channels greater than 108. The upgrade to the TV antenna wiring has begun and future meetings will address the aforementioned milestones of implementation. Everyone is a stake holder in this undertaking and your thoughts or concerns are important. This is your home! Thank You.

Due to the March Annual Meeting/Election in lieu of a Board meeting, the PPOC will not meet in March. Its next meeting will be **Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m.



# RECREATION

Chair, Betty Turner

The Recreation Committee met on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> as scheduled. The February 1<sup>st</sup> "TGIF" Social saw more than 20 residents in attendance. As usual there was lots of good food and plenty of friendly conversation. The 50/50 Raffle was \$32 with East Building resident, Dale Turner, holding the winning ticket. He generously returned his winnings to the committee. It seems that no matter what the committee plans or does, there are about the same number of people in attendance. It is not always the same 25 or so residents, but the numbers seem to always be in that ballpark. As a committee we question if it is worth it all to continue with this regular event. We would like to ask residents to sign up to host a TGIF. This method should help to share the workload as well as offer the possibility of more varied activities. The Host/Hostess will be responsible for making coffee, setting out the paper products and whatever else they want to include for that month, as well as cleanup. Committee members will always be present to assist with any needs that may arise.

The Super Bowl Party began promptly at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. It turned out to be the tailgate party of all tailgates with hoagie sandwiches, pulled pork, chili, and lots of other good foods (notice how we always seem to focus on the food!) There were more than 20 residents in attendance, both young and older. The Trivia Contest winner was newer East Building resident Tom Steinbrunner. Charley Roberts turned over the trophy from last year to Tom who will be the safe keeper until next year.

March will be a very active month for the committee with back-to-back activities on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The Friday night TGIF social will take place in the EAST PARTY ROOM on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Then, on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> the same room will host the very first TEEN EVENT. The committee asked for and received volunteer chaperones and will be paying to rent security guards for that evening. If you happened to miss the "Wanted Poster" on the bulletin board, I'm sure Gladys Manrique, coordinator for this event, will still be happy to have your help.

On March 15<sup>th</sup> the committee will sponsor a Wine Tasting Event in the East Party Room. The theme for the evening will be "Wine from Down Under." We will sample Australian Vineyard Productions -- Chardonnay through Cabernet. Cheese and fruits will be served. Committee member Cindy Judy is coordinating this activity. A registration form with additional details can be found in this issue.

A "Ladies Only" activity has been postponed due to the election committee using the West Party room for most of the month of March.

The Recreation Committee will next meet in the West Card Room at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 18, 2008**. All are invited.

## TGIF\* Gathering

**6:30 p.m., Friday, March 7, 2008**

**East Party Room**

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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

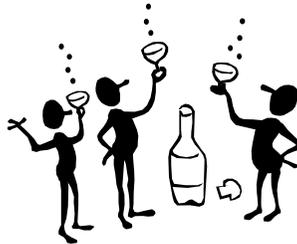


# New Skyline House Event! Wine Tasting

Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. is the date and time. The East Party Room is the place for the **SKYLINE HOUSE INAUGURAL WINE TASTING EVENT**. Details are currently being finalized. The cost will be \$10/person or \$15/couple. Please complete the reservation form below and drop it into the Accounting Office drop box, along with the corresponding funds, **not later than Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**. No money will be refunded and reservations cannot be cancelled after this deadline. The theme for the evening will be **“Wine from Down Under”**. Yes, Australian Vineyard Productions, Chardonnay through Cabernet, will be offered as well as a variety of cheese and fruit. Keep your eyes on the bulletin boards and Channel 12 for additional information.



## SKYLINE HOUSE WINE TASTING EVENT RESERVATION FORM



**SATURDAY MARCH 15, 2008 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

RESIDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT # \_\_\_\_\_

# ATTENDING (\_\_\_\_) @ \$10.00 Each ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# ATTENDING (\_\_\_\_) @ \$15.00/Couple ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Place check payable to “Skyline House” with this form in an envelope and drop it in the Accounting Office drop box in the front lobby area, **not later than Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**. Reservations cannot be cancelled and no money will be refunded and after March 7<sup>th</sup>.



## GOOD NEIGHBORS

**Good Neighbors assist residents in need of temporary help due to illness or emergency. Services provided are typically short term and in the local area. For example, picking up mail or prescriptions or making small grocery purchases.**

**Anyone experiencing a medical emergency should call 911 immediately.**

### MARCH GOOD NEIGHBORS

**DAVID SHANDLOFF 703-820-3673**

**ERNEST LOYOLA 703-671-0384**

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 (FMC) met February 25, 2008. Total income for the month of January was \$299,731 with expenditures of \$187,105. Total income less expenditures amounted to \$112,627. The monthly Reserve Contribution was \$100,789, leaving a net income before taxes of \$11,837. With only one month of experience in the new fiscal year, expenditures and other financial postings did not fuel any comments.

The FMC unanimously supported the Front Circle Landscape Design Committee's efforts. The Committee recommended to the Board to accept the proposal of Panoramic Landscape Services for removing existing plants in the circle and fixing the landscape, including the installation of new plants, as per directions of the Committee. Costs for this part of the project are not to exceed \$5410. It is our understanding that the proposed plants will be funded from the regular operating budget. The platform and urn for the center piece will be procured from another company. Total cost for the project is expected to be no more than \$10,000.

Much of the session was devoted to a discussion of the installation of TV wiring. The issue was raised by the FMC. Except for including potential costs in the 2008 budget, the FMC has not been involved in this project. This project was essentially started to give us more stations and better quality. We need to get new wiring in the building. Management is currently trying to obtain an arrangement with Cox whereby we would be able to use existing Cox wires. This would be quite an achievement of Management and would greatly reduce costs. We learned, however, that we would at the outset view only local stations in a digital mode; the remaining stations to which we would have access (roughly 100) would remain analog for the time being. Concerned that we may be buying obsolescent technology, the FMC urged the Board to review the issue and keep our options open. [Editors Note: Management assured the Board that installed wiring and/or Cox wiring will be digital capable.]

Because the Board does not meet in March and because there are no actionable issues, the next session of the FMC will be on **Monday, April 22, 2008**. We welcome all residents.



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Coordinator, Judith York

Although we live in a very safe and secure building with contract security guard services, many of us are still out and about in the community working or running errands during the day. Thus, in light of the recent attacks on women in our area (Falls Church, Alexandria and Springfield), this might be the time to think about taking a self-defense course or asking our local community police officer for advice on how to best look out for ones own safety. Officer Courtney Thibault can be reached at 703-256-8035, ext. 22256, or [Courtney.young@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Courtney.young@fairfaxcounty.gov) .

With regard to the security of our automobiles, I will repeat here the advice of the police:

Lock vehicle doors at all times / park vehicles in well lit areas / do not leave valuables in vehicles / do not leave keys in vehicles / items that must be left in vehicles should be kept hidden from view / participate in your neighborhood watch program / report any suspicious activity (Fairfax County Police Department, non-emergency 703-691-2131 and emergency 911).

## Fairfax Hospital's Trauma Services' Reality Check Program

Saturday, March 8, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This 2-1/2 hour program at Fairfax Hospital is for parents and children of driving age. There are two parts to the program -- one for the parents and one for the children. Sponsors/hosts are the INOVA Regional Trauma Center, the Fairfax County Public Schools' Drivers Education Program and the Fairfax County and Fairfax City Fire and Rescue Departments. Youths attend an educational program with slide presentation by a trauma surgeon, witness a mock resuscitation, tour an ambulance unit and have a question and answer session with the fire and rescue personnel, and also attend a presentation by teen crash survivors who share their experiences. Parents learn how to be effective role models for their teen drivers, how to coach and teach them, how to talk to their teens about decision-making and difficult subjects, and how to implement a parent-teen driving safety contract. The fee is \$40 and includes registration for one teen and up to two parents/guardians. For more information and to register, please call 703-776-3259 or e-mail [Ashley.elzein@inova.org](mailto:Ashley.elzein@inova.org) .

Neighborhood Watch Conference (9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – the Virginia Crime Prevention Association (VCPA) will host this at the Marriott Fair Oaks Hotel on Saturday, March 15. The program is aimed at neighborhood watch volunteer leaders and participants and staff of the law enforcement agencies that support them. Registration fee for the conference is \$25 per person, which includes refreshment breaks and lunch. Contact [vaprevent@aol.com](mailto:vaprevent@aol.com) or phone 1-804-231-3800.

The following day (Sunday, March 16) and at the same location, there is a Crime Prevention Fair from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., which is free. Several interesting programs included are: equestrian/K-9 officers, motors' display (the VA State Police H.E.A.T. racecar and different police vehicles from across Virginia), seat belt convincer, DWI awareness apparatuses, child train rides, and – very important – a child fingerprinting offered against a background of crime prevention displays.

All the above information is filed in the green Neighborhood Watch folder at the front desk. If you would like to join the Skyline House Neighborhood Watch Program please contact me at 703-671-2267. I will be happy to tell you about the program and go on an orientation walk-around with you. Thank you. Judith York



# SECURITY, FIRE AND SAFETY

Chair, Robert De Mayo

Your Security, Fire & Safety Committee (SF&SC) met on February 13, 2008. The *Management Incident Report* for the month included *three* reports: First, a report on a disturbance by teenagers who expected a party hosted by a resident teenager but were disappointed that it was cancelled. Our lobby staff and the on-duty Security Guard handled the incident with no difficulty and had the group leave the premises. Next, a report on a resident who locked herself out of her condo was discussed. She had to eventually call a second locksmith after the first was apparently unable to handle the Medeco lock; positive feedback was received that our new Security Guards ably assisted her in this difficult situation which reportedly stretched over 7 hours! Finally, a report was received on visitors parking their cars in the designated “Mail Truck” slot in front of the West Building during the reserved timeframes. Residents are reminded to warn their guests that this slot is reserved for both US Mail deliveries, Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and Saturday until noon. Our new CES Security Force has taken special note of these incidents and violators will be towed.

Committee business discussed the new yellow “**CAUTION, DRIVE SLOW**” sign on a 4-foot stand that is circulated around the parking garage. Management is pursuing purchasing additional, very visible signs such as these to encourage and remind residents to **DRIVE SLOWLY** in more areas of the garage. Since our new CES Security Force was previously mentioned, I am very pleased to report to you that Management indicates that CES officers continue to look sharp, act sharp and are doing excellent work in their first few months “on the job” at Skyline House. In case you didn’t know, our Deputy General Manager, Tycia Haight, routinely attends our meetings; both she and I would really welcome any feedback – positive or negative – from residents attending our committee meetings on the performance of the CES Security Force.

On a more somber security subject, April 2008 is “National Sexual Assault Awareness Month”, a national effort to increase citizen awareness of issues surrounding these heinous acts. Publicized statistics state that an American is sexually assaulted every two minutes! I’ll be posting a flyer on our bulletin board on county, state and national events, and leaving an information flyer at the front desk for you to read with informative internet website addresses on this important subject.

Finally, representing Skyline House interests last month, I attended the Fairfax County Citizens Police Academy (CPA) held at Annandale High School (12-hours over 3 meetings). About 40 Fairfax residents attended and received informative and interesting briefings on Fairfax County police structure, operations and activities. We also met with and had a lot of time to interact via Q&A with the Chief of Police, the area Captain-in-Charge, the K-9 Patrol Officers, the Chief of the Criminal Gang Task Force, and local patrol officers. Nothing was “off-limits” in the lively and spirited discussions that went on! It may surprise you, but the Chief is a huge fan of citizen contact by both himself and his officers, of open discussion forums like the CPA which is held every few months, and citizens participating as “citizens volunteers” in both the VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service) and as Police Auxiliary. I assure you the Fairfax County Police officers I met are a great bunch of high-quality, hand-selected (e.g., 1 out of 20 screened applicants), professional individuals who are dedicated to enforcing the rule of law to keep us all safe and secure from any criminal elements in our county. I urge you to attend.

Due to the March Annual Meeting/Election in lieu of a Board meeting, the SF&SC will not meet in March. Its next meeting will be **Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**.



# SKYLINE HOUSE CALENDAR

## MARCH 2008

(WWW.SHUOA.ORG)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	4	5 Ad Hoc Decorating Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	6	7 TGIF 6:30 p.m. E. Party Room	8 TEEN PARTY E. Party Room 7:00 p.m. To 10:00 p.m.
9	10 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	11 MEET THE CANDIDATES EVENT 7:00 p.m. W. Party Room	12	13	14	15
16	17 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	18 Recreation Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	19 Covenants Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	20	21	22
23	24 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	25 ELECTION 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. ANNUAL MEETING 7:30 p.m. All in the West Penthouse	26	27	28	29
30	31					
<b>GOOD NEIGHBORS: ERNEST LOYOLA (703-671-0384) AND DAVID SHANDLOFF (703-820-3673)</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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