

The House Special



Volume 28 Issue 8

Skylines House

August 2008



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Norman Baker

The Board of Directors met Wednesday, July 23, 2008. Although there were no action items on the Agenda several items were raised under “New Business.” Information on those matters is summarized in this report.

As in past years, there will be no Standing Committee meetings nor a Board meeting in August. The Board will next convene on Wednesday, September 24th.

Still much work will be ongoing in August. Members of the Financial Management Committee will meet to develop the 2009 reserves and operations budgets. I offer in advance, my, the Board’s and the community’s thanks, to the hard-working volunteers who will grapple with the intricacies of those budgets during long August evenings.

Also, the hard-working Ad Hoc Decorating Committee will meet again August 6th. The Committee met not just once, but three times, since the June Board meeting.

The evening of **Tuesday, August 5th is National Night Out**. This is an annual event during which neighborhood watch volunteers and community residents throughout the nation gather together out of their homes to show a unified front against crime. Our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Judith York, will conduct a Neighborhood Watch recruitment drive that evening. Check bulletin boards for more information on this event.

Remember, if you need good summer reading material, our library will be open Monday evenings in August. “Check out” the library’s amazing “free-to-residents” inventory.

Finally, although I am happy for Secretary Evelyn Haught and her husband Jack, I regret to announce that a wonderful opportunity for them at St John’s University, means Evelyn will be unable to serve out the remainder of her term. Unfortunately, the July 23rd meeting was her last. I know I speak for the entire Board and Association when I say, we have been lucky to have reaped the many benefits of Evelyn’s incredible efforts while serving on the Board over the past two and half years. I, and the entire community can only hope she will once again, when her time permits, get involved by running for the Board or serving on one or more committees. The knowledge, skills, qualities, values and

work ethic Evelyn brought to the Board, the position of Secretary, and other Association activities will be greatly missed. Thank you Evelyn for your service.

Also, congratulations to Evelyn Haught for an article she wrote which was published in the Washington Times July 24th and congratulations to Vice President Schacknies because the article is about the 'Lincoln At The Crossroads Alliance', a non-profit she has founded to celebrate (in 2011) the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's review of 70,000 Union Troops at Bailey's Crossroads in 1861 and thus draw attention to the to historic significance of the Baileys Crossroads neighborhood. (The entire article can be found under "Neighborhood News" elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.)

As "New Business" during the July 23rd meeting:

(1) The Board elected former Board member Toska Prather to fill the vacancy created by Evelyn Haught's departure (discussed above) to serve out the remainder of her 3-year term until the March 2009 election. The appointment is effective Friday, August 1, 2008.

(2) The Board elected Director Charles Roberts to succeed Evelyn Haught as Secretary of the Board effective Friday, August 1, 2008 and until the March 2009 election.

(3) With regard to reviewing and approving editorial changes to the Association's Rules and Regulations as recommended to the Board by the Covenants Committee. This item was tabled and will be placed on the Agenda for the September 2008 meeting.

(4) With regard to the Covenants Committee's recommended additional Rule 18 E. 13. Consideration was tabled and to be placed on the September 2008 Board Agenda.

(5) With regard to the FMC recommendation (see FMC report in this issue) to the Board to investigate the possibility of establishing an over-occupancy assessment policy and procedure. The Board referred this matter to the Covenants Committee. The Committee is asked to review a local condominium assessment policy and compare the relevant By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of that and other local condominiums with those of Skyline House. Management was asked to contact the Management of a local condominium and seek enforcement data and other relevant information related to its over-occupancy assessment policy and provide that to the Covenants Committee which will, upon completion of consideration, report to the Board on its findings along with any conclusions or recommendations.



MANAGEMENT

General Manager, Gusbey Silva

Attention Owners Who Rent Out Their Units

Please contact the Management Office for reference on all prospective tenants before you approve a new lease. Doing so might help you avoid problems and save you money.

Lower Floor Units - Drain Back-Ups

We have encountered several drain back-ups in lower floor units as a consequence of laundry over-sudsing or resident/contractor negligence while performing plumbing repairs and replacements.

Washers If you have replaced your washer or are planning to do so, please contact the Management Office and the engineers will be scheduled to visit your unit at no charge to you to inspect all hoses and connections and ensure that your new appliances have been properly installed. Owners/Residents shall use only low-sudsing soaps and detergents which will not cause overflow of water and suds into other units or common areas.

Owner/Resident Hired Contractors Please instruct contractors to protect all drain pipes when they are working in your unit. As a result of negligence by a resident or their contractor, we experienced a very serious sewage backup in one of the lower level units in July. The plumbing contractor used by the Association to solve the problem found several pieces of rags and wipe-cloths in the drain system that resulted in the drain obstruction which caused the sewage back up.

Garage Trash Containers

The garage trash containers located in each garage level in front of the East Garage elevators and in front of the door accessing the West Building are there for your convenience. Please ensure your trash is being deposited inside the containers, not on top of the container or on the floor next to the container. Lately, it has been noticed that some residents have opted for leaving the empty boxes from large purchases on the floor by the container.

If you have a bag with trash and you find the container full, please be considerate of your neighbors who do not appreciate finding trash on the floor and around the door. Instead, take your trash bag to the trash chute on your floor or to another container.

IMPORTANT CABLE TV NOTICE

Skyline House Cable Television Switching to Cox Cable November 1st.

Your Unit Must Be Wired To Receive The New Cable Service.

The Agreement to receive Skyline House Cable Television from Cox Communications will be effective November 1, 2008. Cox has scheduled the installation of the wiring needed in all residential corridors and inside each unit to begin in the East Building on Monday, August 18, 2008 continuing through to the West Building, with an estimated final completion date in mid-October. It will take approximately one day on each floor to complete the wiring needed in the hallway and inside all units on that floor. Please remember the Agreement includes two locations per unit free of charge. Additional rooms other than the two locations included in the Agreement will be wired by Cox, at your request, for the low price of \$10 per additional location as long as this is completed the same day Cox is performing the wiring on your floor/unit.

Notices will be posted at least two weeks in advance with the specific dates assigned to each building and floor. Memos will be placed under each unit door 48 hours in advance reminding you of the date when you need to be home or make the necessary arrangements to allow the Cox representatives to enter your unit and complete the wiring installation. It is in your best interest to allow the wiring to be completed in your unit in order to receive Skyline House Cable Television after October 31, 2008.

Residents who currently receive Cable Television services provided by Cox can also request the wiring of additional rooms in their unit for the same low rate as long as it is done the date your floor and unit are being wired.

Cox provided us with a DVD that has very good information for all residents who are not familiar with their service. This DVD was broadcasted on Skyline House Channel 12 on Thursdays, July 16th and July 31st, at 7:00PM. If you did not have a chance to view it and would like to do so, please contact the Management Office.



INFO FROM THE ENGINEER

Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm

KEEPING COOL

Some residents are complaining that the air conditioner systems in their units do not work well when the outside temperature is very high. This is in particular happening with the older or original units, as they are slightly undersized. Also these old units have a very small SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio), which is around 5 or so and they can be very costly to operate. Any newer unit that may be purchased from us usually has a SEER of 13 or greater, resulting in about one third the operating cost.

Charging and Freon. In-unit maintenance will check the charge of your unit's Freon when we do a preventative maintenance, and add Freon if it is low. However we cannot overcharge, or add more Freon to make your unit cooler. Overcharging will make your unit not run at all, or could result in compressor damage, resulting in a failed unit. Also

note that we cannot go to a unit that has a Freon leak and recharge over and over, as this is called “willful venting” and is against the law, and can carry a fine of up to ten thousand dollars.

Keep in mind that that when the outdoor temperature gets really high that your heat pump cannot keep the inside temperature much less than twenty degrees below the outdoor temperature.

Close Your Curtains and blinds. Many people seem to think that curtains and blinds were invented just for privacy or to make rooms look pretty. But consider their alternative name: “shades.” In the summer, put up light-colored window coverings, and close them when the sun is shining through. When the window frame is shaded, open them up.

Seal Against Drafts. A lot of people remember to mind the drafts in the winter, when you can feel the cold air thrusting through cracks like daggers. But it’s also important in the summer to make sure your home is good and tight, especially if you run an air conditioner. Weather-stripping and caulking are easy and cheap to install.

Run Appliances at Night. Few people enjoy slaving over an oven when it’s really hot. However, many of us forget that dryers, refrigerators, computers and unneeded lights all release considerable amounts of heat. Use them sparingly during summer’s swelter.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Chair, Wynfred Joshua

The Financial Management Committee (FMC) met on July 21, 2008. Total income for the month of June was \$298,412 with expenditures of \$191,785. Total income less expenditures amounted to \$106,627. The monthly Reserve Contribution was \$100,789, leaving a surplus of \$14,925 before taxes. The General Manager was asked to check why our utility company classifies our condo as commercial. The response was that any meter not connected to a residential unit is automatically categorized as commercial.

The FMC noted that at times issues come up that have been raised before and have been thoroughly vetted previously. A recent case in point was the possibility of making the ramps in the garage suitable for wheelchairs. It was put before our consulting engineer and our attorney, both of whom charge for their services. It also required additional work for our Manager and the PPOC. A simple check with some of the long time residents who had been or are still active in House activities could have saved time and money. We investigated this matter before in great detail and concluded that this was not possible. We urge that with future such projects Management first checks with some of the long time residents who had been or are still active in House activities.

The FMC was impressed with the progress of the Ad Hoc Decorating Committee. Where needed, accounts will be established for the various parts of the renovation of the first floor galleries. We expect, however, to be able to provide eventually a single figure for the entire project. We are confident that the project can be funded.

Recent reports that some local condos charge monthly fees per person for occupants beyond authorized limits brought this issue into the limelight again. The House faces a similar problem which affects our water usage, trash collection, wear and tear of our facilities, etc. The FMC unanimously recommends to the Board that it instruct the General Manager to investigate the possibility of an assessment for over-occupancy.

There will not be an FMC meeting in August, but subcommittees on the Operations Budget and the Reserve Budget will meet on August 5th and 12th respectively to review the relevant parts of the budget for 2009. We expect to recommend a 2009 budget to the Board at its September meeting.

As always, we welcome interested residents to attend our meetings and join in to help with the financial oversight of our condominium.

The FMC will next meet in the W. Card Room at 7:00 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22, 2008.



PHYSICAL PLANT & OPERATIONS

Acting Chair, Al Lambert

Greetings! The PPOC meeting convened on July 10 and had a comprehensive discussion regarding signage and an Ad Hoc Front Circle Landscaping Committee lighting proposal for the octagon (circle) in front of the lobby.

The discussion on signage was restricted to Skyline House unique signs that describe parking restrictions around the exterior of the buildings. The signs are brown in color with white lettering and the top portion being in the shape of an arc for the West Building. The East Building signage has a commercial appearance being rectangular in shape with a white color background and blue letters. Most of the signage was installed with the construction of the buildings and hence is approximately 28 years old which explains why the narrative on some are faded, a few are bent and, in at least one case, missing, with only a sign post still in place. A close inspection reveals some are improperly mounted with the sign post protruding above the sign. During the discussion it was mentioned there could be a situation with too many signs causing a cluttered appearance and distracting from enjoying the attractive grounds and landscaping of our home. Management was asked to create and provide to PPOC at its September meeting, a schematic depicting the location of all Skyline House signage. During that meeting committee members will formulate a recommendation to the Board on an appropriate course of action. Along with the possibility of reducing the number of signs, the idea of having reflective signs was surfaced along with ensuring signage for handicap spaces is appropriately positioned on sign posts for visibility. It is anticipated the cost to the Association for approximately 40 -50 custom made signs will be approximately \$2500.00 from the operating budget and installation can be accomplished by in-house personnel. Details and exact costs will be available during the September meeting should a recommendation for accomplishment be forwarded to the Board.

The second topic for discussion occurred after receiving a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Front Circle Landscaping Committee on the type of illumination for the urn/planter in the octagon (circle). The proposal is to illuminate the planter with three accent halogen lights positioned in a triangle. The lights' bulbs are relatively low wattage (50w) and energy efficient. The PPOC recommended the lighting be purchased (\$343.35) and our Chief Engineer will accomplish the installation. In September, having the benefit of observing the octagon lighting the committee will have a discussion on the 2005 landscape lighting which was never implemented. On behalf of the PPOC we would like to acknowledge and express our appreciation to the Ad Hoc Committee along with the technical assistance of our Chief Engineer in providing a timely turn around and recommendation on the circle lighting initiative.

One can infer from these monthly reports the Association is an entity undergoing continuous change through replacement and maintenance of grounds and building components. Everyone's input has value and helps to ensure the Board of Directors is provided the best substantive recommendation on a course of action. As always, I welcome your feedback on the article or any other issue pertaining to the PPOC. This is your home! Thank You!

The PPOC will next meet on Thursday, September 11, 2008 in the W. Card Room.



COVENANTS

Chair, Joe Livingston

The Committee met on July 15th and reviewed the recent update of the Association's Rules and Regulations. Our changes for the most part were editorial; however, one substantive change was made with the addition of Rule 18 E 13. The proposed changes have been forwarded to the Board for its action. The Committee recommended the Board's approval. The table of contents and the index will follow the Board's action.

There is a procedural requirement that the proposed Rule 18. E. 13., pertaining to the garage and privately owned parking spaces be considered separately by the Board, and if

approved, the proposed rule must be published in the House Special, as required. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of this additional rule.

Management has requested the Committee revisit Rule 18. C. 1. A recent incident has given rise to the need to address this rule as it relates to owners of commercial units. The Committee will consider the matter at its September meeting.

The Committee was alerted that a Covenants hearing had been scheduled for August 26th. A panel will be assigned as soon as possible.

On a happier note, we can announce that Mr. Frank Szumilo, an East resident unit owner has asked to become a member of the Covenants Committee once he attends two more Covenants meetings (a unit owner must attend three consecutive meetings to be eligible to join a committee). We welcome him and take this opportunity to invite all owners to follow his example. Come visit with us and consider becoming a member.

The Committee agreed to conduct a semi-annual "walk around" to observe aspects of the buildings/grounds which would not normally come to our attention. Our observations or concerns will be shared with Management, the Board or the appropriate Committee.

The members also agreed each would make an individual, one-on-one contact, with at least one neighbor before our next meeting to extend an invitation to join the Committee.

The Covenants Committee will next meet September 17, 2008 in the W. Card Room.



SECURITY, FIRE AND SAFETY

Chair, Robert De Mayo

The Security, Fire & Safety Committee (SF&SC) met July 9, 2008. Members present were Mr. De Mayo, Ms. Ruiz and Ms. Miller. Ms. Haight. represented Management.

Monthly Incident Report:

(a) On 1 June, after observing a group of at least ten teenagers roaming the East Penthouse on the security camera at the front desk, our Security Officer went to investigate. The teenagers appeared to be led by a female teen with whom we have experienced prior security problems; the group also included a teen who has been banned from the property. The Officer told them they must immediately leave the premises; as they were leaving the teen verbally abused the Officer and proceeded to the Front Lobby area where they again became very loud. The Officer again requested they leave; the lead teen advised they were waiting for an adult. After the adult arrived, some of the teens went to a unit with the adult; those remaining were again asked by the Officer to leave the premises and finally adhered to the request. This was the 3rd incident with this teen concerning her behavior. The unit owner was sent a letter requesting the termination of the lease to these tenants. June 15th Management received a copy of notice from the owner to terminate the tenant lease agreement and gave the tenants 30 days to vacate.

(b) Skyline Plaza recently experienced some break-ins of vehicles in their garage. The vandals apparently cut through fencing to gain access. In response, our Management posted a notice for our residents to be alert and report suspicious activity to the front desk, our Security Officer on-duty, and the Fairfax County Police.

(c) The garage door repeatedly malfunctioned during the weekend of June 21. After the last malfunction, the door had to remain open and our Security Officer on duty (Sunday evening/night) relinquished his normal patrols to monitor the unsecured garage entry until daylight hours. During this time, the Officer checked all vehicles for a Skyline House decal prior to allowing them access. The door was repaired the next day.

Monthly Security Company Update:

(a) Security Officers have been requested by Management to increase patrols of the swimming pool area during this season. Also, patrols to the loading dock areas have been increased since officers have had to make significantly more calls to remind residents of their over-extended parking time and/or initiate towing requests for those that continue to abuse the 30 minute limit. We have also had contact with a few contractors that assumed

that the loading docks are areas for them to park their vehicles all day; it's not! Management has been required to contact certain unit owners to remind them that the loading dock areas are only for the contractors to unload their supplies/materials; they must then park and register the vehicle in guest parking like any other visitor.

(b) The temporary golf cart being used by security was replaced by the repaired standard cart which operates with the flashing yellow light. Residents should see this cart parked in the lobby circle area only during quick trips the officer must make for calls to the front desk; it will be parked in the garage during normal security foot patrols.

Other Matters:

(a) Mr. De Mayo continues to pressure our County Traffic Enforcement supervisor on the unsightly long-term storage of cars in front of our condominium. County parking laws state that all vehicles on county or state roads must adhere to two important regulations: vehicles must possess/display a current license tag with dates and VIN clearly visible and vehicles may only be parked in the same spot for a maximum of ten (10) days. They then must be moved or be found in violation and ticketed/fined. If not moved four (4) days after being ticketed they will be towed (\$110 est. fine plus towing fees).

(b) A committee member raised an observation and concern that our METRO bus stop is too large for what is needed and cuts back on personal vehicle parking availability. Mr. De Mayo will raise this issue to Traffic Enforcement for more facts on this concern.

(c) Discussion of possible replacement of ramps (at C and D levels) garage West Building entrances (continued from April 9th & June 11th meetings): After our initial discussions and follow-on visual inspections of the ramps in question, Mr. De Mayo, as previously pledged, sought the opinion of other residents and also consulted with other SF&SC members, the PPOC Chairman, Board members, Management, and our legal consultant, to gather facts and clarify the issues. The facts on these areas are: they are reasonably-raised concrete portico entrances; they are pitched on a very small, walkable, downward grade (est. 2-3 degrees downward pitch from 0 degree ground level); they are well-lighted and well-marked including bright yellow safety piping along the edges; they have sufficient and clearly-designated (in writing) "shopping cart only" ramps leading from the forward edge of the raised concrete porticos towards (but well-back from) the garage roadways; the step-up height of the raised entrance platform appears manageable for a reasonably fit person or small child; the shopping cart ramps are of reasonable pitch/grade, width, and placement to permit the intended use. No accidents, injuries, or resident missteps due to inherent or lingering "safety" issues have been reported at this location. Bottom line: the SF&SC determined that no abiding security nor safety concern/issue exists – even to small children or to senior citizens - with either the C or D level raised concrete porticos/platforms or their designated shopping cart ramps.

Determination of these C and D level entrances and ramps, as potentially, "handicapped unfriendly", or any evaluation for the engineering/construction of wider "shopping cart" ramps as a resident preference, or longer and extended ramps for either wheelchair use, or a longer and more graduated inclined ramp (i.e., extending out or into the roadway) for residents with limited walking abilities, is also outside the purview of the SF&SC and potentially can be examined in another committee venue (e.g., PPOC). As part of our fact-finding, the views of our legal consultant are offered: "The Fair Housing Act requires the Association to offer reasonable accommodation to people with a disability, when they request such an accommodation". As part our SF&SC fact-finding, we verified that accommodations for handicapped persons to embark/disembark vehicles and enter/exit Skyline House premises have been provided (e.g., A-level entrance); they are just not at the two locations under discussion.

7. Check for the latest **CRIME WATCH** bulletins posted in our lobbies to be informed of what Fairfax County Law Enforcement officers are doing for you.

The SF&SC will next meet at 7:00 p.m. September 10, 2008 in the W. Card Room.



RECREATION

Chair, Betty Turner

The Recreation Committee (RC) met on Tuesday, July 8th, as scheduled.

The July 4th TGIF social event was excellent. Lynn Klubek and Charley Roberts hosted and provided, "The U.S. Constitution and Fascinating Facts about It" books for every attendee. More than 25 residents attended. There was a great variety of foods and it was all more elaborate than usual. Cindy Judy will host the August 1st TGIF in the West Party Room. We remain in need of a volunteer host/hostess for the October 3rd TGIF.

During June, the committee served refreshments in the mailbox lobby areas on three consecutive Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. Residents seemed to enjoy the effort but the committee does not have enough members to do this on a regular basis. Therefore, we will can only offer this activity when we have more members to assist with the service.

We will wait until fall to begin special events for the ladies. We have some interest in crafts and movie outings. We have commitments for at least two new members in the fall.

There was an excellent response to the yoga questionnaire. After much discussion, it was determined that an informative meeting would be held and those who attend would assist in determining the specifics for the class. Sudha, the instructor, will present information about yoga and answer questions. We plan to begin the actual classes soon thereafter.

Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and are open to all residents.

The RC will next meet at 7:00 p.m. September 9, 2008 in the W. Card Room.



Ad Hoc Decoration Committee

Co-chairs, Alina Gonzalez and Maria Elena Schacknies

The Ad Hoc Decoration Committee (AHDC) met 3 times since the June Board meeting.

Members Heide Fechtman, Virginia Fissmer, Alina Gonzalez. Goldy Kamali, Bryan Stukes and Maria Elena Schacknies participated in the June 26th meeting. Also in attendance were residents Norman and Marilyn Baker, Nilda Viqueira and Ernest Loyola. Carpet samples submitted by vendors were reviewed. Members were also informed of on-site visits made by two general contractors and their project managers.

At the July 2nd meeting, members Heide Fechtman, Virginia Fissmer, Alina Gonzalez, Cheryl Robertson and Maria Elena Schacknies were present. Also attending were residents Winifred Joshua, Hanna Jones, Betty MacLaurin and Ernest Loyola. The focus was development of a request for proposal (RFP) for interested and selected Contractors.

The committee met again on July 16th. Members Virginia Fissmer, Evelyn Haight, Alina Gonzalez and Maria Elena Schacknies were present. residents Betty MacLaurin and Ernest Loyola also attended. At this meeting, another contractor was added to the list. The goal is to have at least five contractors, and committee members agreed to continue interviewing potential candidates. The committee also agreed to begin drafting the Scope of Work of the RFP to include: (1) replacing the carpet in the galleries and elevators, (2) replacing the window boxes along the corridors and upgrading of the duct work under those boxes, including replacing the HVAC system, (3) resurfacing the mailbox area paneled walls and the opposite wall containing the glass enclosed bulletin boards, and repositioning/replacing the wide bulletin board, (4) upgrading the mail-sorting counter containing the mail recycling bin, (5) changing the color of the wooden sections of the columns in the lobby and at the beginning of the East and West Galleries and repairing those damaged, and (6) upgrading the "art work" to match the new carpet design.

The next Ad Hoc Decoration Committee meeting will be Wednesday, August, 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the West Party Room. As always, all residents are invited to participate.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

The following article, written by resident Evelyn Haught, is reprinted with permission from the July 24, 2008 Washington Times newspaper. The article is about the 'Lincoln At The Crossroads Alliance' founded by resident and Board Vice-President Maria Elena Schacknies to highlight the historic significance of the Baileys Crossroads neighborhood.

Baileys Crossroads Review Helps Build Army

Evelyn Haught Special To The Washington Times

Walk along Leesburg Pike in the Baileys Crossroads corridor of Falls Church.

It's impossible to squelch hunger pangs as the smoky aroma of Salvadoran rotisserie chicken wafts around you. Moments later, in the hookah cafes, hear Middle Eastern and Ethiopian taxi drivers animatedly condemn rising gasoline prices. Next, at the Culmore shopping strip, young Latino men compete to offer their daily labor.

Farther down Route 7, the Skyline condo and office towers present a more familiar scene: government workers, embassy staff and active and retired military personnel absorbed by work, traffic and busy lives.

Now, mentally transport yourself to the autumn of 1861. Baileys Crossroads was a rural outpost recently abandoned by Confederates. Their unsettling proximity to the nation's capital - just eight miles away - irked President Abraham Lincoln, especially following the surprising rout of Union forces at Bull Run on July 21.

The Union Army's ineptness became even more apparent in late September, when Federal forces moved gingerly to take Munson's Hill at Baileys Crossroads after the Rebels' departure. Instead of the powerful artillery they assumed the Confederates had left behind, they found "Quaker cannons" - logs painted black to intimidate Gen. George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac, which the young general had commanded since late July.

Nevertheless, on Nov. 1, 1861, Lincoln gave 34-year-old McClellan an additional command: general-in-chief of all Union armies.

At the start of the Civil War, Union forces consisted largely of militiamen under the command of their states' governors, who could recall them at will. Even before Manassas, Lincoln had sought thousands of army volunteers and sailors to build an enlarged and more stable regular military force. He thought the brilliant organizer McClellan could meet this challenge.

Thus armed with the president's support, the general wasted no time. Immediately after the defeat at Bull Run, he immersed himself in forming new recruits into a viable, well-trained army. By the autumn of 1861, the army had grown to about 160,000 troops, at least three times as many men as the enemy put forth at Manassas.

From late summer through fall, McClellan furiously planned and subjected his men to long days of drills in the hope of never repeating the chaotic and embarrassing retreat from Bull Run.

McClellan settled on a flamboyant way to "rehearse" his new troops, motivate other young men to enlist and inspire more support from Congress and Union citizens - a Grand Review.

The New York Times reported that, on Nov. 20, 1861, "the largest body of troops ever before reviewed on this Continent" - 70,000 strong - strode down Leesburg Pike in Bailey's 'Cross Roads.'"

More than 20 generals led seven divisions, including seven regiments of cavalry, 90 regiments of infantry and 20 batteries of artillery numbering 120 pieces. The Times described "a semi-circle of about four miles" when all divisions were finally in place. Abraham Lincoln reviewed the troops on horseback for many hours, beginning at about 1:30 p.m. on that cold, windy afternoon. McClellan and members of the Cabinet accompanied him.

By all accounts, 20,000 to 30,000 civilians cheered from the sidelines. Among them was Boston writer Julia Ward Howe, who had accompanied her abolitionist husband to Washington. The event so stirred her that, in the evening at Willard's Hotel, she penned new lyrics to the song "John Brown's Body." It became "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

The Grand Review of Nov. 20, 1861, was a shining moment for the Union Army and gave hope to a worried nation. Today, nearly 147 years later, some Baileys Crossroads residents have established the Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance to highlight the neighborhood's historic significance.

Maria Elena Schacknies, the alliance's founder, is engaged in organizing a 150th anniversary re-enactment of the "Grand Review," which would take place in 2011 at Baileys Crossroads on Leesburg Pike.

She hopes other re-enactments will follow every five years. Plans are also under way to erect along the corridor a sculpture, a prominent work of public art, of President Lincoln and other officials who stood with him at the Grand Review.

"The alliance aims to remember Abraham Lincoln's presence in this Northern Virginia neighborhood and what it symbolized to inspire a concept of what it means to be an American," Ms. Schacknies said.

"In our culturally diverse region, our alliance believes focusing on this Civil War event can encourage assimilation among naturalized Americans and inspire citizenship in others. Most of all, we hope these efforts will promote educational activities and generate community cohesiveness in the Baileys Crossroads area through the commemoration of a shared historical legacy that played a highly visible role in saving our country."

Learn more about the Grand Review and how the Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance plans to commemorate it by visiting <http://www.baileyscrossroads.org/news/lincoln.php>. The alliance welcomes new volunteers interested in planning and participating in the 2011 re-enactment and related events. The alliance's volunteer office can be contacted at 3713 S. George Mason Drive, Suite 1302, Falls Church, VA 22041; telephone 703/820-1904.

Evelyn Haught is a retired writer who lives in the Baileys Crossroads neighborhood of Falls Church.

AUGUST 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.

VIRGINIA FISSMER 703-379-2901

ERNEST LOYOLA 703-671-0384

Do You Remember Skyline House Owner Wendy Ryan?

Submitted By Evelyn Haught

Charming, vivacious Wendy Ryan lived in 204W for a number of years while working as a communications director. Two years ago, using her own funds and with some limited corporate financial support, she went to Cape Town, South Africa, to work as a missionary with women and men living with HIV and AIDS. There, she established the nonprofit Evangeline Ministries with the Living Hope HIV and Aids Community Center Trust. As she observed the people who came to the center, she realized most were unemployed and idle because they were mostly unskilled or because their HIV status barred them from even the most menial jobs. Many also battled for their health. She set about purchasing sewing machines and teaching the women to sew.

Today, thanks to Wendy's efforts, they produce beautiful, stylish handbags using native fabrics featuring distinctive African designs. Anyone can purchase these reasonably priced bags, soon to be sold by a European company. Profits return to the center to continue the educational programs.

Today, besides sewing, Evangeline Ministries offers business and computer classes, free, to those who live with HIV and AIDS and to other poor people who wish to improve their lives.

Learn more about Wendy and Evangeline Ministries by visiting her website, www.evangelineminstriesonline.org, where you can also send her an e-mail greeting from Skyline House, to which she someday plans to return. Her beautiful smile graces the home page.



SKYLINE HOUSE CALENDAR

August 2008

(WWW.SHUOA.ORG)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 TGIF 6:30 p.m. West Party Room	2
3	4 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	5 National Night Out Check the Bulletin Boards for Information	6 Ad Hoc Decoration Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Party Room	7	8	9
10	11 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	26	27	28	29	30
31	Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse					
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THE HOUSE SPECIAL is published by: Skyline House Unit Owners' Association, Inc.,

3711 South George Mason Drive, Falls Church, Va. 22041-3711 The House Special is printed by Dan Daniels Pioneer Press

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Falls Church VA 22041-3711**