

# The House Special



Volume 28 Issue 9

Skyline House

September 2008



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Norman Baker

The Board of Directors did not meet in August. The Board will next convene September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Consider this month's newsletter a "Campaign" issue. The Campaign is to recruit more of **YOU**, the owners of our Association, to attend Committee and Board meetings and, after attending just three consecutive Committee meetings, to volunteer to join a Committee.

You are an owner -- do you care about protecting and increasing the value of **YOUR** property?

You are an owner -- do you care about the appearance and maintenance of **YOUR** property?

You are an owner -- do you care how **YOUR** condo fee is spent or how much it will increase?

You are an owner -- do you care if the reserves are adequate to avoid "special" assessments?

You are an owner -- do you care about the rules and regulations of the Association, how they are enforced, if they adequately address current problems or if they are too lax or too stringent?

You are an owner -- do you care how safe and secure you are in and around your home?

You are an owner -- do you care about the social/neighborly quality of life in Skyline House?

**If you answered yes to any of the above questions then ask yourself the following:**

Am I routinely attending Committee and Board meetings? **If not, YOU SHOULD BE!**

Am I serving as a member of an Association Committee? **If not, YOU SHOULD BE!**

All aspects of the operation of **YOUR** Home/Association are overseen by just one-half of one percent of all 500+ owners and most of them have been serving loyally for many years.

**It is time for YOU to get involved. No more excuses. This is YOUR home. Its operations are funded by YOUR condo fees. YOU need to be playing a significant role in ensuring it is governed and overseen well. Your participation is far more important than you realize.**



# MANAGEMENT

## General Manager, Gusbey Silva

### **Bird Feeders**

We have received complaints from several units regarding pigeons on their balcony. We encourage residents who have bird feeders on their balconies to remove them. Bird feeders attract pigeons that then leave their waste over your neighbors' balcony floors, railings and furniture.

### **Cox Cable TV Agreement**

The agreement for Cable TV with Cox Communications will be in effect on 11/1/08. Cox began the installation of the wiring needed in all residential corridors in the East Building on Monday, August 18, 2008 and will continue with the West Building, with an estimated completion date of mid-September. It takes approximately one day to complete the wiring needed in each hallway. Existing Cox customers may experience service disruptions during the day while Cox is wiring their floor. If you experience an outage please contact the Management Office so that we can notify the technicians to ensure that your service is properly restored before they leave that day.

The installation of the wiring needed inside the units has been postponed until all other wiring is completed and is estimated to start by the middle of September. Notices will be posted at least two weeks in advance. Please remember that any additional rooms other than the first two locations included in the agreement will be wired by Cox at your request for the low cost of \$10 per additional location as long as this is completed the same day Cox is performing the wiring of the units located on your floor.

Residents who currently receive the Cable TV services provided by Cox do not need to be rewired. However, if you are already receiving Cox Cable you can also request the wiring of additional rooms in your unit for the same low rate as long as this is completed the same day Cox is performing the wiring of the units located on your floor.

### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW ACCOUNTANT**

Mr. Hasan Mehmud enthusiastically joined the Skyline House staff August 18, 2008 in the Accounting Office. He replaces Terezinha Shaw who is leaving to join her husband in the Real Estate business. Hasan recently moved from New York to Sterling, Virginia. He has over 15 years of experience in Finance and Accounting with various multinational companies, most of them in New York. He received his B.S. in Accounting and Finance from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Hasan wants to learn more about Real Estate and Property Management and related computer software to enhance his long term career goals. Please drop by the Accounting Office and wish Terezinha farewell and good luck and also welcome Hasan to our "House".



## **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.

## **AUTOMOBILE OIL LEAKS**

Not only are oil leaks on our property unsightly, the oil eventually makes its way onto other parking spaces, onto the roadway, and into our buildings. It also deteriorates the concrete. If your car is leaking oil you are urged to have your car repaired at once and contact Management to have your space cleaned. If you are routinely witnessing ongoing leakage in a parking space, please report it to Management as soon as possible.

## **Guest Parking**

Please, for the sake of our guests, reduce or better yet, cease your personal use of guest parking spaces. Ask yourself before parking in a guest space, "do I really need to take up this space even though it is for only a brief amount of time?" Promise yourself, if you forget to remove your car in the allowed amount of time, you will be understanding when you find your vehicle has been towed at your expense.



## **INFO FROM THE ENGINEER**

**Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm**

### **WATER DETECTORS**

Residents who have placed water detectors on the floor of their utility closets have been reporting the detectors alarming, when there is no water present. The water detector does this to indicate that it's time for a new battery. Remember to replace your battery in the water detector once a year to prevent the device from alarming when it needs a new battery. If you have installed an extra battery operated smoke detector this unit also alarms when it needs a new battery.

### **HEAT PUMP**

The biggest problem we find when residents report their units not cooling is still because the filter has not been changed. If your unit fails to operate, check your filter, and if it's dirty replace it, then reset your unit and call if it fails to operate with the clean filter.

# “HOUSE” HINTS

## UNIT WATER SHUT OFF VALVE

Every unit in Skyline House has a shut off valve that cuts off all domestic water to the unit (hot and cold water). This valve is located in the utility closet, above the water heater tank, usually close to the back wall. This valve is the bigger valve in the closet. If any resident has a problem locating this valve, please contact the office and they will arrange for someone to come by and show you the exact location. This valve turns off all water located inside your unit, except the Fire Sprinkler System, which can only be turned off by the building engineers or the fire department, and is not located in any unit.

## PEST CONTROL

The Association contracts for weekly pest control service for all common areas and also, on a first come first serve basis, for up to eight individual units. The service is performed every Thursday. If you are experiencing a problem in your unit with ants, spiders, etc. you may sign up for this service at the front desk. **There is no cost to you.**



## PHYSICAL PLANT & OPERATIONS

Acting Chair, Al Lambert

Greetings! Not having a Physical Plant and Operation Committee (PPOC) meeting in August provides an opportunity to reflect on projects that have come before the committee during the current year. In addition it is an opportunity to tell you about an unused and possibly oblivious perk or benefit available to all residents.

Let's recall some projects addressed since the beginning of the year. The first eight months of the year has included renovation of the circle in front of the lobby with lighting, replacing the concrete driveway with pavers (bricks), selection of a new Cable TV provider that will give residents access to more than two hundred audio and video channels, and recommendation of a firm to perform a condition assessment to update our Reserve Fund Plan. On a smaller scale yet equally important has been inspection, sealing, and painting of the garage and a recommendation to award a contract for a new Energy Management System to conserve energy and reduce the utility expenditures.

During this timeframe new members joined the committee while other residents participated during one or more of the aforementioned projects by sharing their expertise and knowledge. The willingness to volunteer assistance or provide input during each project has added substantive value in formulating a recommendation to the Board. There have been volunteers who assisted in the design and landscaping of the circle and currently a small group are working on a project to replace the carpeting and window boxes in the main corridor of the building along with another group to improve landscaping around the buildings. One can gather that all these projects have a lasting impact on the living conditions within the Association and the investment value in your home. Opportunities for participation are ongoing along with a chance to learn from others while sharing personal thoughts and concerns. Your opinion is sought by the PPOC one evening a month (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.) when the projects are reviewed to develop a recommended course of action.

Now, do you recall I was interested in telling you about a perk available to all residents? How many are aware of an area that I will call a "Park" on our grounds? Yes, we have a small designated area with benches and tables within an area that is encompassed with plants and flowers. The area is tranquil, relatively quiet with a view allowing one to see a few miles into the horizon. It is appropriate for a reading area or simply peace and quiet for relaxation. The Spring and Fall seasons with moderate weather would seem to be an ideal time for a walk or possibly in the morning to view the sunrise. Often I encounter residents walking the residential corridors for what appears to be exercise or rehabilitation from an illness, injury or just a casual stroll. Some

residents tell me they just want out of their Unit for a breath of fresh air. I wonder why they don't include the park during their excursion. Yes, the committee is also responsible for the oversight and upkeep of our quaint Park. However, the Park gets none of our attention because of non-use and lacks meaning and life without visitors to provide feedback to the committee on improvements.

Hence, I conclude this monthly report by noting that all the amenities we enjoy, ranging from a clean, safe and upscale condominium to our small Park is largely the result of residents participating in governance via being a committee member or periodically visiting a committee meeting to provide feedback. This is your Home! Thank You!

p.s. Access to the Park is via the Mezzanine Level by going outside to the swimming pool deck area and walking around the perimeter fence. Enjoy!

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



## **SECURITY, FIRE AND SAFETY**

**Chair, Robert De Mayo**

### **VIEW FROM THE CHAIRPERSON**

I'm in my second year as chairperson of this very small, very focused but dynamic committee and have been invited by the Board Chairperson to write a few lines to you, my fellow owners and residents of Skyline House. To be brief, I have two things to say to you: one, if you have any deep beliefs about assuring both the physical safety and personal security of Skyline House, please find the time to join the Security, Fire, and Safety Committee (SF&SC) – we need your input, perspectives, observations and pragmatism; two, if you are not inclined to join us, then please attend our monthly meeting (two hours/month, at most) and share with us your views or concerns or observations on security and safety at Skyline House. I promise you will be heard (open microphone) in a respectful and unhurried manner; after all, this is your house and home as well as mine. That's what being "good neighbors" is all about – respect for each others views.

I still get questions from folks I meet around our community: "What does the SF&SC do?" A succinct answer is that both the assured physical safety and personal security of all owners and residents of Skyline House is the main goal and objective of this committee. The SF&SC provides information to our Skyline House community regarding security, fire and safety rules of the House, as well as providing an open forum for residents and owners to air current concerns and pertinent issues. It executes these actions at regularly scheduled monthly meetings, through the Skyline House newsletter, and by occasional bulletin board postings. The SF&SC also maintains liaison contact with our Mason District Community Police Officer, Fairfax County, and passes on relevant information to both owners and residents. The SF&SC also makes recommendations to the Board on things-to-do to improve our overall security and safety. Sometimes, we have to investigate issues brought up by residents and owners to gather all the pertinent facts, conduct an analysis and evaluation, and prepare findings or a final report for the record, or for the Board.

If you have never attended a SF&SC meeting, "come on down!" I always try to maintain decorum, stay on point, and hear all points of view. If you take your valuable time to attend, you deserve to be heard. A typical meeting agenda will include *Opening Remarks* by the Chairperson or committee members on security, fire or safety events and concerns, or general newsworthy items brought up by owners, residents, news media, neighborhood watchers, etc.. It is followed by the *Security Incident Report* recounted by our Management Office which recaps significant events that have transpired since our last meeting. *Old Business* follows which is usually final discussion on issues or committee "findings" on past agenda items. *New Business* follows and any attending resident or owner may raise an issue before the committee; open discussion usually follows. All I ask is that new business items be submitted in a simple memo or note either before or after the scheduled meeting, just to get it on the record.

During the past year or two, the SF&SC has addressed many interesting and varied issues: we have been the community conscience to check our own smoke alarms - a good number were found inoperative (some models not hooked up to power, others with dead batteries, etc); we

have had a hand in hiring our new security force and continue to monitor their performance closely; we had a major role in educating residents about the planned change from building security keys to our new electronic key fobs/electronic door openers; we were responsive to resident personal safety concerns on the dark area of the METROBUS stop – overhanging tree branches were significantly trimmed back, new brighter security lights added, other replaced; National Night Out events hosted by our Neighborhood Watch (NW) supported by showing up and lending a hand; West Lobby entrance door issues fully aired and discussed at several meetings; traffic enforcement signage on our property discussed, recommendations made; safety vs. handicap concerns at specific garage entrances discussed, investigated, recommendations made; and, finally, a close collaboration with our NW activities and their objectives has been assured. Again, join us please; attend our meetings, join our committee, help us be better neighbors to each other.

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

### **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 ask all drivers to please SLOW DOWN while driving in the garage and around the property. If a child darts out from between 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!!



## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

**Coordinator, Judith York**

Neighborhood Watch encourages residents to interact with each other through our program, which encourages observation of Skyline House buildings and grounds to strengthen neighborhood safety and security. We still need volunteers for our Neighborhood Watch Group. Please sign up to become a volunteer by email to Judith York on [eboracum@verizon.net](mailto:eboracum@verizon.net) or leave a note for me at the front desk (Apt. 514W). We ask volunteers to give one hour a week (from 7pm to midnight) and to specify which day they prefer. There is a large binder at the desk, which contains the latest information from the Mason District Police Station – please take time to read this folder – our staff members and security guards are also urged to read through this binder so they are aware of the latest crime developments in our area.

We work with the Security, Fire & Safety Committee and encourage everyone to attend their monthly meetings. Bob de Mayo is the Chairman and he can be contacted on 703-574-4464 or by e-mail on [jusbob2u@verizon.net](mailto:jusbob2u@verizon.net).

Officer Courtney Thibault is our local community officer and she is assigned to the Mason District Police Station. Officer Thibault can be reached on 703-256-8035 (extension 2256) or by e-mail on [courtney.thibault@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:courtney.thibault@fairfaxcounty.gov). She has information on our area crime rate and can answer questions that concern the community here. Feel free to contact Mrs. Judith York if you would like to become a neighborhood watch volunteer or if you have any questions.

## **NOTES FROM AUGUST 20, 2008 SKYLINE SQUARE MEETING ON BUILD AMERICA SHOPPING CENTER NUISANCE COMPLAINTS**

(I am grateful to Mrs. Patricia Scharf for taking notes at this meeting. Until new information is released, residents should contact our local community police officer, Courtney Thibault (at above noted phone and email address) to inform her of any difficulties experienced with the Build America shopping center.)

The meeting, arranged and hosted by Skyline Square security and neighborhood watch committee members, was called to discuss ongoing problems residents of Skyline condominiums (especially Skyline Square) have with noise, traffic, and other nuisances emanating from the Build America shopping center. Invited guests included Supervisor Penny Gross (Fairfax County Board of Supervisors), Lieutenant Richard Perez (Mason District Police Station), residents of Skyline Square and two residents each from Skyline House, Plaza and Towers.

Some of the problems raised and discussed included: parking every which way and obstructing access to stores, loud noises, fights, young girls (teenagers) fighting and screaming late at night, boom boxes in the early morning (3:30 a.m.), cars racing up our street with loud mufflers, panhandlers asking for money, drinking and loitering at the back of the shops, sexual contact in cars, back-up horns disturbing the peace. The police are called and do respond but once they leave, the problems start up again.

Meeting residents suggested the following: amended zoning laws, meters for parking, more frequent police presence (officers walking), "no loitering" signs placed throughout the shopping center, changing the overhead orange signage lights as they tend to make the complex look like a "bar" type atmosphere at night and, encouraging store owners to be clearer in telling the loiterers to leave their area of business.

Supervisor Gross said the area is a triangle of Alexandria, Arlington and Falls Church (Fairfax County) which makes it a more complicated issue for officials from these three jurisdictions to come up with solutions for the difficulties that nearby residents are experiencing. She said three restaurants will be closed down and that the Health Department is aware of the situation. For example, rats are a problem when food is not correctly contained and littering becomes a constant source for rodents – and mars the appearance of the complex. In this case, the Fire Marshall could also be involved because of the fire hazard and safety concerns.

Lieutenant Perez told the meeting that in roughly three weeks there will be an increased policing of the complex, including undercover police. At present there are 10 officers patrolling the area and the Department is trying to find more officers for the night shift. They will check ID cards and make sure the store owners keep to the time of closing, as well as obtaining their cooperation in making sure no under-age customers are buying liquor. The officers will also issue parking tickets where appropriate. Lieutenant Perez said that some of the problems have been taken care of but it will take a while to address and correct other issues.

Some of the residents felt that there should be an agreement where every new business owner--and the actual owners of the individual units--is made aware of the rules and that signs are posted in each establishment. Skyline residents could also help by making it clear to shop owners that they are not happy with the present situation and unless it improved, they will begin to shop elsewhere (one person's car was damaged while she was shopping in the complex).

Supervisor Gross said she has, and will be, talking to her Board and that she will be getting back at a later date with more information on what is decided. She was very knowledgeable on county rulings and the area in which we live. She was also in agreement that the problems of the complex must be addressed and will work with the residents and the police department to clean up the area. There was general agreement that no one wanted to put our police officers in harm's way but that we have to clamp down now in order to not let the situation deteriorate further.



# COVENANTS

**Chair, Joe Livingston**

The Covenants Committee has the responsibility to formulate and maintain the Rules and Regulations established by the Board of Directors for the day-to-day operations of Skyline House and to monitor compliance by unit owners and residents. The Committee reviews and, when necessary, recommends revisions to the Board for the House Rules and Regulations, associated penalties, and administrative practices. The Committee establishes procedures for the enforcement of the House Rules and Regulations, and establishes hearing procedures and conducts hearings to levy assessments and/or institute sanctions when deemed necessary. The Committee also handles all matters pertaining to the nominations, balloting, tabulation of votes, and certification of voting outcomes for annual Board of Directors elections.

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

## Resident Vehicle Registration

Rule 18 E. 6. Of the Rules and Regulations states “All vehicles...parked in the garage or outside spaces on a regular basis, shall display the Skyline House registration decal issued by the Association.” **If you park inside or outside on Skyline House property, register your car with the Association and display the sticker on your vehicle window as instructed or risk having your vehicle towed at your own expense.**



# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

**Chair, Wynfred Joshua**

The Financial Management Committee (FMC) acts as the interface group between Management and the Board in cooperation with the Board’s Treasurer. The FMC works with Management to develop the Annual Budget (funded almost entirely by YOUR condo fees) for Board consideration and approval. The FMC reviews changes in contract terms, procurements, and other ongoing services consumed by Skyline House. The FMC also monitors budget expenses, on a monthly basis, for about 100 individual budget items. The Committee also works closely with the Physical Plant and Operations Committee, since that Committee’s purview is to oversee projects on which much of the Skyline House budget is spent.

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

**The FMC will next meet in the W. Card Room at 7:00 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, 2008.**

### **Recent sales find Skyline House units maintaining good value in a tough market.**

3/14/08 2 BR, Den, 2.5 Baths \$300,000	4/11/08 3 BR, Den 2.5 Baths \$295,000
5/23/08 1 BR, 1 Bath \$215,000	5/30/08 1 BR, Den 1.5 Baths \$238,000
5/30/08 1 BR, 1 Bath \$205,000	6/17/08 2 BR, Den 2.5 Baths \$320,000
6/25/08 3 BR, 2.5 Baths \$235,000	6/27/08 2 BR, Den 2.5 Baths \$325,000
6/30/08 2 BR, Den, 2.5 Baths \$282,000	7/24/08 2 BR, Den 2.5 Baths \$283,000
7/31/08 2 BR, Den, 2.5 Baths \$295,000	8/21/08 3 BR, 2.5 Baths \$271,900
8/22/08 3 BR, 2.5 Baths \$305,000	





# RECREATION

**Chair, Betty Turner**

The Recreation Committee (RC) plans and implements activities which engender and enhance fellowship and socialization among those of us living at Skyline House. This includes periodic informal parties, holiday feasts, theme events, and special dinners. They also sponsor a variety of outside events, including theater parties, sightseeing trips and other excursions.

The Committee plans for or assists in any activity which will enhance the voluntary involvement of any and all residents in these community activities.

During 2007 Evelyn Haught and Betty Turner put together a "Welcome to Skyline" packet for new residents to be used by Management as part of the move in orientation. This information packet includes information about our building's features insert called "Did You Know...?" including a map as well as community information called, "Where Do I Find...?" This information has already been updated and is ever changing. Hopefully this packet of information will encourage new residents to become more involved with the Skyline House community.

The first Friday night of each month is a social time for all adult residents. Each person brings a dish to share and enjoys spending time getting to know their neighbors and catching up on the activities of individual lives. These events are FREE to attend and are held in the Penthouse Party Rooms alternating between the East and West buildings.

We began the last couple years with a Super Bowl party in the West Party Room. It is potluck and we have a trivia game and pass around a trophy for the winner. We had hoped to have a larger TV by now so that more sporting events and movies could be watched as a group. The teens and children have requested movies as their main source of recreation.

The Memorial Day/Pool Opening Picnic of 2007 was the most attended activity since I have been involved with the Recreation Committee. More than 160 residents participated. The committee furnished and cooked hamburgers and hotdogs and residents provided side dishes. There were five banquet tables filled with a great assortment of food. Unfortunately this year the event was cancelled due to the garage resealing project taking place on that weekend.

There is an annual children's Halloween party held in the West Party Room. This event is in need of parents to become involved to provide their children an exciting time.

The committee cooked a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner last year for those residents who did not travel to be with family. This event was well attended and many have suggested that we make it an annual event.

A Holiday Party is held each year the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday night of December in the West Party Room. This is a potluck and attended by more residents than perhaps any other event all year.

Wine Tasting parties have been held about every other month. They have been well attended and seem to bring together a more varied age group than the monthly TGIF socials. There is a charge for the Wine Tasting depending on the specific event, usually in the range of \$10 per person. A similar event is being planned for November.

Yoga classes began in July 2008 and are currently being held on Thursdays at 6:30 PM in the West Party Room. There is a \$5 charge for the class payable at the door. The instructor is East Building resident, Sudha Sudanthi, who studied yoga at Sivananda Yoga Ashram in Kerala, Vethathiri Maharishi's Ashram in Aliyar, and Vipassana Meditation Center in Chennai. Seventeen residents attended the first class.

Many activities have been identified: i.e., a Book Review Club, Bingo, Movie Night, Game Night, Sewing and Craft classes, Bridge and/or other card games, etc. All of these activities would be fun and enjoyable for the residents. However, our current four person committee simply cannot sponsor more activities. Therefore, we encourage you to consider becoming active with the Recreation Committee and perhaps leading a special interest group activity or just helping out with the events.

**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 on Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Members Heide Fechtman, Virginia Fissmer, Alina Gonzalez. Cheryl Robertson and Maria Elena Schacknies participated. Also in attendance were Norman and Marilyn Baker, Ernest and Charlene Loyola, Betty MacLaurin and Nilda Viqueira. At this meeting, carpet samples submitted by vendors were reviewed. Members were also informed that a total of five vendors and their project managers had come in for on-site visits, thus completing our goal of interviewing five prospective bidders.

A draft of the Scope of Work of the Request for Proposal was distributed to the Committee members and guests for their review, discussion and comments.

The following Committee members: Heide Fechtman, Virginia Fissmer, Evelyn Haught, and the Co-Chairs each wrote a section of the Scope of Work; our Chief Engineer Greg Grimm contributed the section on the mechanical work. Our special thanks and gratitude to Committee member Cheryl Robertson who did a fantastic job of editing and putting together the necessary clauses to complete the RFP.

Five Requests for Proposals, together with a CD of the galleries and first floor corridors floor plans, were mailed Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Proposals will be received from invited bidders until 5:00 p.m., local time, October 1, 2008 by Gusbey Silva. Bids received after this time will not be considered.

**The next Ad Hoc Decoration Committee meeting, to review and discuss the bids received, will be Monday, October, 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the West Party Room.**

**As always, all residents are invited to participate.**

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

**Mason District Park Festival** - The 29th Annual Mason District Park Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. (Beltway Exit 6, Little River Turnpike/Route 236 east 2 miles, left at John Marr Drive, and right onto Columbia Pike, and right into park entrance just before Sleepy Hollow Road.) Enjoy a fun-filled day of activities that include children's rides, live entertainment, and food vendors! This year's event will focus on the environment, in partnership with Cox Communications and the Discovery Channel. Rain date is Sunday, September 28, same hours. For info call 703-256-7717.

### **SEPTEMBER 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.**

**BELEN ELLIOT 703-671-7045**

**DAVID TILSON 703-998-7254**

### **MAGAZINES FOR ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL**

This is just a reminder to bring your magazines to the front desk so Tony DiSalvo can deliver them to Alexandria Hospital. Please do not hold the magazines for long periods of time before doing so as they become outdated. The magazines are much appreciated by the Hospital volunteers. Any questions call Tony at 703-824-1958.



# SKYLINE HOUSE CALENDAR

## September 2008

(WWW.SHUOA.ORG)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  Library Closed	2	3	4	5  TGIF 6:30 p.m. East Party Room	6
7	8  Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	9  Recreation Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	10  Security, Fire & Safety Comm. 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	11  Physical Plant & Ops. Comm. 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	12	13
14	15  Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	16	17  Covenants Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	18	19	20
21	22  Financial Mgt. Committee 7:00 pm W. Card Room Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	23	24  BOARD MEETING 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	25	26	27
28	29  Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	30				
<b>GOOD NEIGHBORS: DAVID TILSON (703-998-7254) AND BELEN ELLIOT (703-671-7045)</b>						

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Norman Baker 915W 671-6759 nbaker@fjc.gov  
 Vice President, Maria Elena Schacknies 1302W 820-2239 cultura@att.net  
 Treasurer, Julie Campbell 1005W 933-6010 juliecampbell48@hotmail.com  
 Secretary, Charles Roberts, 914E 998-6080 charley.roberts@prodigy.net  
 Director, Budd Coutts, 1607E 931-3165 bcoutts@metronets.com  
 Director, John Warner 806W 933-1678 johnkemanai@yahoo.com  
 Director, Toska Prather, 1003W 379-7849 t\_jpra@verizon.net

### MANAGEMENT OFFICE (Central # 703-578-4855)

General Manager, Gusbey Silva gusbey@shuoa.org  
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