

The House Special



Volume 28 Issue 11

Skyline House

November 2008



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Norman Baker

The Board of Directors met October 22nd and approved two action items.

2009 Budget The Board had before it for consideration and approval next year's (2009) Budget as presented to the Board by the Financial Management Committee (FMC). The best news in the 2009 Budget is that, as recommended and subsequently approved by the Board, the Budget includes only a 2.0% increase in the condominium fees commencing January 1, 2009. In light of inflationary price increases in the cost of all goods and services that has resulted in, among other things, a 5.8% increase in 2009 social security benefits (the highest since 1982's 7.4%), it is next to amazing that all those involved in the effort to compile our Budget for next year were able to put forward a budget with just a 2% increase in our Association fees. Furthermore, the Budget also includes a responsible increase in Reserve contributions to enable us to continue to maintain and improve our aging buildings while avoiding future large special assessments.

Details of the 2% increase will be sent to each unit owner during the coming two months and copies of the budget will be available for review in the Management Office.

The FMC Chair, the Committee, its Subcommittees, our Treasurer and our Management worked long hours to put together a reasonable and well structured budget. I offer thanks to all involved from the Board and the Association for their dedicated stewardship of the Association's finances.

Revisions to Standing Rules and Regulations The Board also considered and approved Revisions (almost entirely editorial and clarifying) to the Association's Rules and Regulations, as recommended last July by the Covenants Committee, after a time-consuming, careful, review.

Reserves Fund Study Presentation

The evening of Thursday, October 9th was an important one for all owners and residents. That evening, there was a presentation by representatives of our Reserves Study firm, Mason and Mason. This updated analysis of our Reserves is required by law every five years.

Not only did the Mason and Mason Reserve Fund Update report note that the Board and Management have closely followed the 2004 Plan and consequently the common assets are in overall improving good condition but also, and, to some extent even more importantly, the report contained the highly out of the ordinary statement that our Management is, "...performing at

levels rarely observed in the community association industry." James and Nicki Mason elaborated in their verbal presentation, telling those in attendance that Gusbey Silva's work as our General Manager is so superior to the usual levels of work they regularly see that she had to be singled out and complimented on the outstanding job she does for all of us at Skyline House. Our Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm, was also praised for the solid job he has done on our mechanical equipment.

I must note one disappointment about this presentation on our reserve funds and funding plan, especially in light of questions I frequently receive about Skyline House finances and the condominium fees we all pay every month. The disappointment? Just 19 (that's right, only 19) interested owners attended the Mason and Mason Presentation and 10 of those are either members of the PPOC or the Board. Of the remaining 9 attendees, 6 are current active members of other Skyline House Committees. If you are an owner interested in how our finances are managed and how the Association prepares and budgets for long-term operations and maintenance expenses **and how the monthly condo fees are determined on an annual basis**, you need to begin consistently attending community meetings (especially those of the Finance and Physical Plant and Operations Committees as well as the monthly Board meetings). You will most certainly understand more of how your money is spent and why. After attending several of the meetings, you could even consider joining a committee and actively participating in the process of overseeing the operations and finances of our community.

March 2009 Board of Directors Election

As we are about to participate in the National Presidential election on November 4th 2008, it is not too soon to note the next election for members of the Skyline House Board of Directors is only five months away and our election machinery will soon begin to rev up. Notices will be prepared and disbursed, the nominating committee will convene, and the Covenants and Election Committees will implement annual election procedures. **In March 2009 there will be three open seats on the Board.** Please, consider running yourself. Even if you won't run, you can still help. If you know of any qualified residents, please ask them to help govern our community by running for one of the three seats.

The next, and last, 2008 Board meeting will be a combined November/December meeting to be held at 7:00 p. m. on Wednesday, December 3rd.

Attention Owners Who Rent/Lease Their Units To Others

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

A SPECIAL APPEAL TO ALL RESIDENTS

The Holiday season is almost upon us. We will be coming and going with arms full of goodies and gifts. Family and friends will be coming to visit. I appeal to all residents:

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.

West Lobby Door

Please, **DO NOT** hold or prop this door open as doing so will damage the mechanism and, more importantly, **doing so creates a severe breach of our security.** If you see this door being held open please try to close it and report it immediately. **No one should enter through this door without a key. Please help by referring all guests to the front lobby.**

This door is not for loading and unloading. Use the loading dock for such purposes.



MANAGEMENT

General Manager, Gusbey Silva

Main Lobby Roof - Perimeter Wall Repairs and Roof Replacement

Repairs to the perimeter east and south walls of the Main Lobby roof have been completed. The contractor is now working on the west and south walls. Completion of this project is estimated for Friday, November 7th. The contractor has already made the necessary arrangements to start the Main Lobby and Connector Corridor Roof Replacement on Monday, November 10th.

Cox Cable TV Agreement

East Building in-unit wiring was completed on Friday, October 3rd. Wiring in West Building units began on Monday, October 6th and was completed on Friday, October 17th. Several units in both buildings were not completed due to failure to provide access to Cox by the residents. All units not completed during the original schedule received a notice indicating that if the unit is not wired by Cox by October the 31st the unit will not receive Cable TV effective Saturday, November 1st. Installers are still working in some units as arranged at the Management Office.

Cox Cable TV transmission will begin the afternoon of Friday, October 31st to allow residents to hook their TVs to the Cox outlet and verify there is no problem with the new connection.

Management has worked with Cox to schedule three Open House sessions in the front lobby over the transition weekend (see details and times in separate announcement in this issue and also on the calendar in this issue). During these times Cox representatives will be available to assist residents with the transition to the new bulk programming and to answer questions residents may have. They will also have the rental boxes required to receive transmission of additional digital channels. Residents who want to rent a box on a monthly basis can do so during these times and also sign up for other services offered by Cox.

There will also be technicians at the Open House who will be able to go to units to resolve any problems that may arise with new connections, including additional wire needed for TVs that are located far away from the Cox outlet.



INFO FROM THE ENGINEER

Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm

Medicine Cabinet Mirrors

Mirrors on originally installed medicine cabinets continue to detach from cabinet doors. Over such a long period of time, the glue holding the mirror onto the cabinet door completely disintegrates. The mirror simply drops off the cabinet and shatters. The in-unit maintenance staff can replace the mirror on your cabinet for around \$30.00. Schedule an appointment in the Management Office for this or any other in-unit service.

Test Your Heater

Cold winter weather is right around the corner. Don't be surprised on the first bitter cold morning to learn your heater is not working properly. Test your heating unit sometime soon and make sure it is dispensing warm air. If not, the in-unit maintenance staff can be scheduled to service your system, or replace it if necessary, at a very reasonable cost.

Trash Disposal

We would like to remind residents that when you throw your trash down the chute in the buildings, it is required to be in a trash bag, which must be sealed or tied at the top. This keeps all trash in the bag on its way down to the dumpster. If the bag is not sealed or tied the updraft from the roof fans will allow all the trash in the bag to go to the roof fan, stop up the screen, and cause an odor in the hallways. It will also allow your personal information to be accessed very easily if there is any in the bag. It can also cause loose trash to blow in to someone's face on the floor above if they should happen to open the trash chute door to dispose of their trash.

A Message To Residents From Deputy General Manager Tycia Haight

I will be organizing the food drive again this year for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays to assist some less fortunate families in the Fairfax County area referred to me by ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action). A food collection box will be outside the Accounting office beginning in early November. Deliveries will be made to families prior to Thanksgiving.

The December food drive will start in early December with those food deliveries made to the families the week before Christmas.

If you would like to make a donation to assist in purchasing perishable items, only "gift cards" to local grocery stores will be accepted. If you would like to donate a "gift card", please drop it off in the Accounting Office lockbox in an envelope marked "Attention: Tycia Haight".

The best way to collect is to divide items into groups by the first letter of your last name.

If you would like to make a donation, please work from the list below.

If your last name begins with:

A-H Canned Foods (Vegetables, Cranberry Sauce, Fruit, Soup etc)

I-O Drinks (Juice, Tea Bags, Coffee, etc)

P-Z Boxed Items (Cake Mix, Mac and Cheese, Sugar etc)

Also paper/plastic and condiment items are always needed.

Thank you for helping those who, without this assistance, might not otherwise have a holiday dinner.

From the Editor About the Cox Cable TV Transition Weekend Open House

Your Board of Directors and Cox have entered into an agreement to allow you to receive Cox Basic Expanded TV programming at no direct cost to you. Basic Expanded programming includes Cox channels through #102. The contract is effective November 1, 2008. Service (if you do not already receive Cox) will be available in your unit the afternoon of October 31, 2008.

If your unit was wired for Cox during the recent wiring project, all you will need to do to receive the Basic Expanded channels on your TVs is to simply unhook the wire that running from your TV to your current TV wall outlet and attach it to the Cox wall outlet (you might need to reprogram your TV to receive all the new channels). Current Cox subscribers need do nothing -- your November invoice will be adjusted to reflect the savings for those channels paid for by the Association under the agreement) In addition to the Basic Expanded channels provided at no direct cost to you, the entire array of Cox services is now available to everyone including:

- Over 60 channels of International television programming
- Over 40 High Definition (HD) channels
- Premium channels such as *HBO* and *Starz*
- Access to Cox OnDEMAND and Cox HD OnDEMAND
- Access to digital sports packages (NBA, NHL, MLB, and NCAA football/basketball)
- Cox local and long-distance telephone packages and international calling packages
- Cox award-winning High-Speed Internet

Cox will have representatives and technicians in the Skyline House Lobby at the following times to answer questions and assist you in the transition to your new bulk TV package:

- **Friday, October 31st -- 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, November 1st -- 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, November 2nd -- 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

To receive more than just the Cox Basic Expanded TV programming you will need to have a digital converter box for each desired location at a monthly fee of between \$4.50 and \$5.90, depending on the box. Boxes will be available from Cox in the front lobby on the above dates. Cox will also have pre-cut coaxial cables, for connecting your TV to the cable outlets, if you aren't already a Cox subscriber. Technicians will also be on hand to assist, if needed. Make sure you have cleared the area in front of any cable outlets you wish to use.



COVENANTS

Chair, Joe Livingston

At its October meeting, the Board approved the recommended revision of the Association's Rules and Regulations. There were some further modifications of language to enhance clarity and avoid ambiguities. The members will be notified when the revised edition of the Rules and Regulations will be available for distribution. A vote of thanks goes to the members of the Covenants Committee for their work on this project.

The Committee was informed by Management that the TV Satellite Dish placement problem is being addressed and that the resident response has been mostly favorable. Unfortunately, 100% compliance, our goal, has not yet been achieved. As a result, further administrative efforts will be necessary to achieve full compliance. To that end, all residents are again reminded that the provisions of Rule 22B of the Association's Rules and Regulations requires that TV Satellite Dishes not be placed or installed beyond the confines of a unit. Residents are urged to insure that no part of the dish or antenna extend beyond the balcony railing line.

Finally, as always, unit owners/residents are invited to attend Covenants Committee meetings. **The Comm. will next meet in the W. Card Room at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2008.**



PHYSICAL PLANT & OPERATIONS

Chair, Al Lambert

Greetings! On October 9th, the Physical Plant and Operations Committee (PPOC) hosted a resident forum on the 2009 Reserve Fund Plan with a presentation by the firm of Mason & Mason. Thereafter the monthly meeting was held to review landscaping upkeep specifications to send to prospective contractors on the maintenance, improvement and restoration of our grounds.

For the Reserve Fund, you might recall the Virginia Condominium Law requires an Association to conduct an update to the Reserve Plan every five years. With the initial Reserve Plan being developed in 2003 the requirement existed to conduct an update by inspecting common area assets (elevators, roofs, swimming pool, etc.) relating to deterioration, maintenance status, and confirming the remaining useful component life. The study permits us to plan well in advance for these inevitable upkeep expenses by spreading out the contributions for replacement evenly over time. Before discussing findings of the Reserve Funding Plan 2009 it is noteworthy I inform you this prestigious independent firm acknowledged at the beginning of the presentation the Association is one of a few in the metropolitan area that has successfully implemented a past reserve plan resulting in a well preserved building which will keep the quality of life and intrinsic value of our home. This outcome was attributed to the leadership of our General Manager (Ms. Gusbey Silva) and Chief Engineer (Mr. Greg Grimm) who along with dedicated, responsible oversight from the Board of Directors resulted in a positive and upbeat projection on sustaining and improving our home and quality of life in it. Although the outcome of the report was positive and adjustments to the Reserve Fund Plan will be incorporated in the 2009 budget there was a single issue identified for resolution. The domestic water pipes have a predictable life expectancy of about 40 – 60 years and are not currently included in the Reserve Funding Plan. The few repairs that have been accomplished in the past were accounted for in operational expenses. Since the age of our buildings is approximately 30 years and because replacing this type of piping involves tremendous expense, a consensus evolved that the Association should consider conducting testing to determine the condition of existing pipes. Typically, this involves a combination of ultra-sound testing and removing a section of pipe to be forwarded to a laboratory for analysis on extent of wear and deterioration. The culprit causing pipe failure is primarily associated with the chemicals in the water causing corrosion leading to leakage and failure. After discussion on domestic water lines the presentation was concluded and Mason & Mason departed the premises. As a reminder, the entire plan is in electronic format and available to residents upon request.

The PPOC meeting convened thereafter and initially welcomed two new members (Ms. Linda Williams and Mr. Gary Akin). Resident participation is not only good news for the committee but for all owners. I hope others will consider participation because everyone's input has value and helps ensure recommendations to the Board on projects are well scrutinized and address the long term best interests of our living environment and our home.

The single item of new business was to review a statement of work (SOW) that will be used to solicit bids from prospective contractors on the maintenance, restoration and improvement of the condominium landscape. The intent is to establish a long-term relationship with a contractor predicated on satisfactory performance. In that regard, the contract base year duration will be for 12 months with the option to renew the contract annually for four additional 12-month periods. The SOW includes restoration of areas that have deteriorated and visual improvement of the landscape appearance by closer attention to location and type of plantings. Maintenance specificity included criteria for lawn care, edging, plant trimming and pruning of trees and bushes. Cultivation and mulching of shrubs, hedging, flower beds and tree care were addressed with appropriate performance criteria. Additionally, the newly renovated octagon (circle) was separately addressed with guidance on flower beds and types of flowers taking into account the calendar seasons. The task of the committee was vastly simplified by the Ad Hoc Landscaping Committee (volunteers) devoting time and effort to create a document which served as the basis for PPOC to make administrative changes. A volunteer contribution such as the aforementioned to a project provides self-satisfaction by making this a better home for themselves and others.

As always, I welcome your feedback on the article or any other issue pertaining to PPOC. This is your home! Thank You!

The PPOC will next meet in the W. Card Room at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Chair, Wynfred Joshua

The Financial Management Committee (FMC) met on October 20, 2008. Total income for the month of September was \$305,514 with expenditures of \$194,015. Total income less expenditures amounted to \$111,499. The monthly Reserve Contribution was \$100,789, leaving a net income before taxes of \$10,709. Net income after taxes was \$7,293.

Review of the financial statements indicated that our year-to-date water bills were roughly \$16,000 more than budgeted reflecting greater use during the summer and dry weather months than in the fall and winter season. The much lower than expected expenditures for landscaping were the result of late bills received in October for work performed in September.

As of the end of September our reserves were about \$1,305,000 plus roughly \$269,000 available in Working Capital. As indicated in the Mason and Mason analysis of the Reserve Fund Plan, we expect the reserves to grow steadily in the coming years. The Mason and Mason report which explains our accounting method is available to all residents in the Management Office.

The key item under old business for our committee was the Board's adoption of the 2009 budget. Our thanks go to the Finance Committee members, our Treasurer, and other Board members who devoted so much time to reviewing the budget proposals. We also commend General Manager Silva who prepared the budget and painstakingly negotiated upcoming insurance rates and reworked the figures until we arrived at a very modest increase of 2% in next year's condo fee.

We are still awaiting responses to the request to bid on the gallery/lobby renovations. The Ad Hoc Decoration Committee has been working very hard on identifying companies that are eligible to perform the renovation. At this point we expect the project to be undertaken early next year. The report of the Ad Hoc Decoration Committee provides more details.

There was no new business to discuss.

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, November 17, 2008.

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 visitors and volunteers. Any questions call Tony at 703-824-1958.



RECREATION

Chair, Betty Turner

The First Friday TGIF socials are continuing on a monthly basis. Attendance remains consistently in the 20s. Our next TGIF will be Friday, November 7th in the East Party Room. All adult residents are invited to attend.

Yoga class attendance dropped off dramatically over the last couple months. Therefore, Thursday, October 30th, will be the last class this year. Instructor Sudanthi will be out of the country until March, 2009. We will survey then to see if there is interest in resuming classes.

The Children's Halloween Party will be held on Friday, October 31st, in the West Party Room. Initially there were 5 parents who agreed to help with the event. However, before the first meeting 3 of them had dropped out. As of now there are only 2 parents willing to take an active part in this event; yet they have registered more than 40 children to attend. Fortunately, there are some adult residents who are willing to help. However, the Recreation Committee feels the parents should take a more active role and has decided that the Committee will NOT sponsor this event in the future. Signs have been posted requesting donations of candy, toys, etc. for use at the party. Donations can be left in the basket at the front desk. To date there are very few donations.

The Committee will host a Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 27th. Turkey, coffee/tea, and paper products will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. There will be a \$5/person charge to attend. A signup sheet will be placed at the Front Desk by mid-November.

The Annual Holiday Party will be on Saturday, December 13th in the West Party Room. This will be a potluck event with residents bringing food to share.

Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and are open to all residents. Your ideas and involvement are very much needed.

The RC will next meet in the W. Card Room at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2008.



SECURITY, FIRE AND SAFETY

Chair, Robert De Mayo

This Security, Fire and Safety Committee (SFSC) met on October 15th.

The Management Office Incident Report included:

a. On September 14th it was reported by the Security Guard that a resident was speeding in the garage; the resident was contacted and denied speeding but agreed to pay more attention to speed limit in the future.

b. We have had a few complaints of cigarettes being thrown off balconies in the East and West buildings and landing on balconies beneath them which, of course, is a continuing fire hazard - even to the cigarette throwers since fire usually goes "up"! Whenever this is reported, memos are placed under the doors of the tiers that have made the report and an investigation conducted. (Editors note - a recent dangerous fire on Skyline PLAZA balconies appears to have been started by a cigarette discarded from another balcony.)

c. On September 23rd, a Skyline House Covenants hearing was held regarding a unit owner who had continued to violate our *No Parking* or *No Standing in Fire Lane* (i.e., the lobby circle) restrictions, as well as another violation of this resident and the residents' guests who utilized the pool during the time the pool was closed on/about 6:30 a.m. 15 August 2008. The panel rendered a decision to impose two \$50.00 fines, one for each violation.

d. On September 28th, the garage entrance door failed to operate properly. The engineer was dispatched but was unable to put the entrance door back in service. The exit door was then set up for two-way traffic and a security guard was posted at the door from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Security Force Update: One of the Security Guards on the night shift was relieved for inadequate performance; this represents about the third night shift replacement officer this year. Several other guards have assumed his vacated shifts. Security Officer Crosby continues to

perform in an excellent manner and his professional performance continues to receive well-deserved recognition.

Other Business/Discussion:

a. Mr. Lambert observed that the garage entrance door seems to malfunction more often than the garage exit door, despite having the same amount of usage (i.e., same number of cars in and out) and wondered as to the cause. Ms Haight stated that it just seemed to be normal “wear and tear” and had no specific reason for one being more inoperative than the other. However, she did indicate that the garage entrance door is more susceptible to being shaken by the wind due to both its placement and construction which could be contributing to its maintenance issues.

b. Mr. De Mayo reported a hole in a brass ground floor drain grate which posed a tripping – while-stepping-on-it safety hazard. It is located approximately eight feet inside the garage entrance on the driveway upslope. It was subsequently located by House Maintenance and a replacement plate has been ordered.

c. Ms Ruiz raised the issue of perhaps gaining two or more street parking spaces by eliminating one or reconfiguring/combining the two Metro Bus Stops near the Front Lobby on S. Geo Mason Drive. Each is for a different numbered Metro bus; both are used by Fairfax County and private School Buses. Mr. De Mayo offered to find out more facts from Metro on the rationale for two bus stops. Personal observations and viewpoints were offered on this issue by both committee members and attending residents (i.e., the need to keep street traffic unblocked by too many buses at one stop; the need for buses to maneuver en route to Leesburg Pike to turn left, etc.).

d. Mr. Lambert offered his personal observation that while on Neighborhood Watch patrols that our ground-level utility and storage rooms (i.e., S-level) in both buildings do not have designated “room numbers” marked or stenciled on them. He observed that when “first-responders” arrive in a real emergency such as a fire, there is no clear way to designate a specific room number with that emergency issue. This concern will be followed up by the Management Office.

Your SF&SC reminds all to check your bulletin boards for the latest **CRIME WATCH** bulletins and other safety and security information.

The SF&SC will next meet at 7:00 p.m. in the W. Card Room Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Coordinator, Judith York

In the past month, there have been several incidents in our area. During the last weekend of September, Fairfax County police officers conducted Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) patrols throughout the Mason District to apprehend intoxicated drivers. Between 11:30 p.m. and 3 a.m., approximately 35 drivers were stopped. Of these, three arrests were made for DWI, two criminal arrests were made and 21 summonses were issued for miscellaneous traffic offenses.

On October 16th, three men from Arlington were arrested in the Bailey Crossroads area for shooting from a vehicle at the general public. At 3544 South Jefferson Street they were seen brandishing a firearm. Locations where people were injured included the intersection of Columbia Pike and Leesburg Pike and near the intersection of Columbia Pike and Carlin Springs Road. They were driving a black 2005 Mercury Mountaineer. All three have been charged with carrying a concealed weapon, two were charged with discharging a pneumatic gun and one suspect was additionally charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

During the latter part of October, Fairfax County Police hosted three “Safe Community Forums: Your Chance to Speak Up” which provided the attendees with an opportunity to give feedback on the services and programs delivered by the Fairfax County Police Department.

The first forum was on October 16th at West Springfield High School, the second on October 22nd at Lynbrook Elementary School in Springfield and the third was on October 23rd at Fair Oaks Church in Fairfax. If you did not attend any of these forums but would like to let our local community officers have your comments, please phone Officer Courtney Thibault on 703-256-8035, extension 2256, or e-mail her on courtney.thibault@fairfaxcounty.gov.

As you know, with the tightening budget in Fairfax County, our police officers will be stretched even further than they are now. An important program where you can volunteer and help your community is called APO or the Auxiliary Police Officer Program, which celebrates 25 years of service this year. APO volunteers are not armchair warriors – they assist officers at weekly sobriety checkpoints, support community training programs like SAFE (Sexual Assault Free and Empowered), conduct home security surveys, and take fingerprints at community events. Auxiliary officers are provided training, uniforms and all necessary equipment. They are expected to perform an average of 24 hours of volunteer service each month. Applicants must be in good health, without a criminal record or history of drug use and not be an applicant for police officer in any jurisdiction. If you are interested in the APO program, please phone 703-280-0701 or e-mail auxiliarypolice@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The next neighborhood watch coordinators' meeting at the Mason District Police Station will be held on Tuesday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m. followed by Neighborhood Watch training at 7:00 p.m. and then the CAC (Citizens' Advisory Council) around 7:30 p.m. At last month's meetings, several topics were discussed including: (a) police urge victims of crimes to report a crime through 911 (tendency is for adults to wait several hours, or for teenagers to call their parents); (b) a thorough rundown was given on robbery incidents in the local area and on current investigations; and (c) please consider taking food on Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 27) between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to the officers who will miss their traditional family meal because they will be on duty at Mason District Police Station.

At the October CAC meeting, attendees completed a police services survey, which gives feedback from the public on our police force. Notes from the surveys will be used at community events and outings to obtain comments from different audiences. CAC has a representative on the Police Chiefs' Council. Each month CAC gives a certificate of the month to an outstanding officer as recognition of exceptional service to the community through apprehension of an individual committing a crime. A new President and Vice-President were elected at the last CAC meeting. Funds from the local Lions, Rotary Clubs, etc. are used to support officers going through difficult times or in need, based on unique circumstances and contributions would be greatly appreciated from anyone wishing to help these individuals.

If you are not able to donate approximately 24 hours a month to the Auxiliary Police Officer Program, you may be interested in giving an hour to the CAC. Meetings are held once a month at the Mason District Police Station, on the first Tuesday of each month in the early evening. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these three programs, the APO, the CAC, or our Neighborhood Watch Program here at Skyline House where you can help your community by walking once a week through the buildings and grounds (or just the buildings) for an hour. Thank you. Judith York (eboracum@verizon.net or home phone 703-671-2267).



Ad Hoc Decoration Committee

Co-chairs, Alina Gonzalez and Maria Elena Schacknies

The AD Hoc Decoration Committee (AHDC) Co-Chairs met with Management on Friday, October 1st to open and review the bids received. Unfortunately, only one bid was received, one contractor declined to participate because of their current workload, two did not bother to respond and one did not address the scope of work included in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

The full Committee met on Monday, October 6th to review and discuss the proposal submitted by Signet Construction. After a thorough review it was decided to revise the RFP and remove the section dealing with the duct work and replacement of the HVAC units. Management and the Chief Engineer believed, and the Committee agreed, that the cost involved in including this work was not warranted. When the new window boxes are built, they will have easy access to the HVAC units; in addition these units are only 6 years old and could easily be replaced when needed at a low cost.

Because we need more than one proposal the revised RFP has been sent to six new Contractors and their replies are due December 1, 2008.

The Ad Hoc Decoration Committee will next meet to review and discuss the bids received on Thursday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the West Party Room. As always, all residents are invited to participate.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Skyline House Resident and In-House Library Founder Barbara Michelman

How do you say good bye to a strong minded woman with a heart of gold and a penchant for books and politics? Short answer - you don't. Barbara Michelman, resident in the west building for over 15 years, died October 10, 2008. Some long time "Skyline Housers" may remember her as a former board member, while others will recall her as that smiling, perfectly coiffed, white haired lady (in mid-calf length skirt and sturdy shoes) always pushing a shopping cart full of books. Newer residents may have noticed her name on the wall plaque outside the Skyline House Library, which she founded. Good friends will tell you she was opinionated, feisty, argumentative, a political junkie/night owl, the rock who was always "there" - and much loved. If Barbara was your friend, you needed no other. Your world turned upright when she'd say, "Oh, hello dear." Barbara enjoyed a good joke, had a wonderful laugh and a twinkle in her eye. And hard candies. She always carried hard candies (usually butterscotch) to reward those who assisted her or others who simply looked like they needed a treat. But if you got on Barbara's "wrong" side - you had to watch out. She didn't suffer fools. But she did love helping others and feeling needed. In recent years, building "her" library and encouraging others to read became her passion. She found special joy and delight with the young children who visited the library.

How do you say goodbye? You don't. Barbara will always be with us. But you know what she would really like? For you to visit "her" library. And when you do, if you look carefully, bet you'll see Barbara standing there, book in hand, asking: "how can I help you?"

NOVEMBER 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.

ALINA GONZALES 703-379-5391

JUDITH YORK 703-671-2267

Good Neighbor News

After years of service to our community as a Good Neighbor and Group Co-Coordinator Mr. Ernest Loyola has found it necessary to step down from the later position. Over the years, Skyline House residents have had the good fortune to be able to turn to a Good Neighbor when necessary not just as a result of those special volunteers, but also as a result of all of the efforts of Ernest and his co-coordinator, Toska Prather to keep the volunteer group strong and active.

Good Luck Ernest and Thank You for your service.

Long-time Good Neighbor and West Building resident Virginia Fissmer has volunteered to help out as Good Neighbor Group Co-Coordinator for the remainder of 2008. Thank You Virginia..

A Plea for More Good Neighbor Volunteers

The Good Neighbor Group currently consists of about 15 volunteers, down from an all time high of about 30. Please, if you would like to help out, the demand on your time will be minimal but the assistance you might be able to provide to a resident in need will be incredibly appreciated. Please contact Toska Prather at 703-379-7849 or t_prather@verizon.net or Virginia Fissmer at 703-379-2901 to learn more about being a Good Neighbor volunteer or to join the group.



SKYLINE HOUSE CALENDAR

November 2008

(WWW.SHUOA.ORG)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Note: Nov/Dec Board Mtg. will be held Wed. Dec.3rd					31 COX TV Open House Front Lobby 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	1 COX TV Open House Front Lobby 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
2 COX TV Open House Front Lobby 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	3 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	4	5	6	7 TGIF 6:30 p.m. East Party Room	8
9	10 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	11 Recreation Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	12 Security, Fire & Safety Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	13 Physical Plant & Ops. Comm. 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	14	15
16	17 Financial Mgt. Committee 7:00 pm W. Card Room Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	18	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	26 Note: Nov/Dec Board Mtg. will be held Wed. Dec.3rd	27	28	29
30						
GOOD NEIGHBORS: JUDITH YORK (703-671-2267) AND ALINA GONZALES (703-379-5391)						

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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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