

The House Special



Volume 32 Issues 8 & 9

Skyline House

August/September 2012



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Maria Elena Schacknies

I was curious about my condo fee, so I did some research. This is what I discovered:

In 2002 I paid a monthly condo fee of \$516.98 for my unit in Tier 2. In 2012, I am paying \$680.09. According to the Consumer Price Index, an official measure of inflation issued by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, my 2002 fee of \$516.89 would be \$659.45 in 2012 dollars. So, after correcting for inflation, I am paying only \$20.64 more per month than I did 10 years ago. That's a remarkably small increase when you consider all that has happened at Skyline House since 2002. First, we have a Reserve Fund of almost \$2 million, much more than we had then. We need more Reserves now because, as the buildings age, maintenance, replacement, and repair costs increase. And we have kept up with these increased costs. Second, we have remedied numerous aspects of poor construction by the developer. Finally, building maintenance is excellent, and we face the future from a position of financial strength. We've accomplished all this, yet my inflation-adjusted condo fee has increased over the last 10 years by only around \$20 dollars per month. That's great value.

At the July Board meeting, I read aloud the text of two safety items on (1) parental supervision for young children in the common areas, and (2) driving in the garage. This text appears in full the August/September newsletter and will be posted on the bulletin boards.

On August 1, we are having our third gathering on the By-Laws as we continue to work on the Volunteer Handbook, especially the Frequently Asked Questions section. We want to make sure that we provide as much information as possible before it's time to vote. We will have two more meetings on the By-Laws, if needed. We expect to complete the educational process by the end of this year. By early next year we will inform the mortgage holders of the forthcoming vote on the By-Laws. The vote will take place at the same time as the Annual Meeting in March of next year.

The Board approved raising the following fees effective January 1, 2013. We invite owners to make repairs during this calendar year, before the rates go up.

- 1) Increase the late payment fee from five dollars (\$5.00) to fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for payments of rent for (a) storage bins, (b) the three automobile parking spaces held by the Association, and (c) motorcycle parking spaces;
- 2) Increase the fee for processing Resale Request Forms from twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to fifty dollars (\$50.00);
- 3) Increase the fees for lock-out service, i.e., providing an authorized person the reserve key held by the Association for emergency entrance to a unit,
 - a. from ten dollars (\$10.00) to fifty dollars (\$50.00) on weekdays between 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., and,
 - b. from ten dollars (\$10.00) to fifty dollars (\$50.00) from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and holidays, and,
 - c. from twenty dollars (\$20.00) to seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. seven days a week;
- 4) Increase the fee for Swimming Pool Guest Passes from one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per person on weekdays and two dollars (\$2.00) per person on weekends to five dollars (\$5.00) any day of the week
- 5) Increase the fee for disposal of bulk trash, defined here as any object or material disposal of which in the trash chutes is prohibited or which is too large to fit in the trash chutes, from twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to fifty dollars (\$50.00) per item or container;
- 6) Increase the Move-In fee to two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for a move into any Unit; and
- 7) Increase the In-Unit Maintenance labor fee from sixty dollars (\$60.00) per hour to eighty dollars (\$80.00) per hour, with a minimum charge of one-quarter hour, or twenty dollars (\$20.00).

At the June 27 meeting of the Board of Directors, Charles Roberts, Treasurer, introduced a resolution to the effect that any deficit in our Operating Fund that might develop this year should be addressed by borrowing from the Replacement Reserves and repaying any such loan in 2013. The resolution was seconded and referred to the FMC for its review and recommendation. The FMC considered and amended the resolution at its last meeting. As directed by the Committee, our Treasurer introduced the amended resolution at the July Board meeting. The resolution, as passed by the Board, also includes payment of interest to the Reserve Fund on any monies borrowed, at the same rate the Association receives on its investments. It remains to be seen whether we will have a deficit, but we must think ahead and be prepared.

There are no Committees or Board Meeting during the month of August, except for the Financial Management Committee's (FMC) 2013 Operations Budget Sub-Committee and the FMC 2013 Reserve Budget Sub-Committee, which must work with Management on the preparation of the 2013 Operations and Reserves Budgets. The next Board meeting takes place on September 26, 2012. Hope to see you there!



MANAGEMENT

General Manager, Michelle Brown Slaughter

Balcony Railing Project: East Building

Concrete Protection and Restoration (CPR) has completed all railing and tile work on the East Building. All balconies were released, the swing stages were dismantled, and parking spaces were released as of July 31. We received many compliments on the success of this final phase. Each owner or resident should have received a copy of the *Balcony Care & Maintenance Guidelines* on how to care for your new balcony railings and floors. Eleven units will receive invoices from the Association for the actual cost for the contractor's repainting and glue removal work, which was not included in the original scope of work.

Balcony Panel Project: East Building

Hi-Rise Windows has completed work on the South-George-Mason-Drive side of the West Building. The contractor will begin to mobilize during the week of July 16 for installation of the East Building balcony panels, and electrical-outlet and door-vent covers. **Panel installations for the East Building will begin the week of July 24 on Tiers 5 and 14, weather permitting.** Measurements are in progress for the North side of the East Building. If residents have a satellite dish at either end of their balcony railing, it must be removed immediately! It can be placed at the middle of the railings but not at the ends because it will obstruct the contractor's access from the swing stage to the balcony. Notices were posted on July 16 and sent to each unit in both tiers.

Garage Repairs Proposal

Whitlock, Dalrymple, Poston & Associates (WDP) completed the garage concrete repair assessment and the initial bid proposal package with the scope of work. The package was reviewed by Management and the Physical Plant and Operations Committee (PPOC). Management conducted a walk-through of the garage with WDP and Gary Akin, Co-Chair of the PPOC, on July 6. As a result, the scope of work is currently being revised, with additional information to be included in the bid package. WDP hopes to bid the package out before the end of August, and to see the repairs completed between September and November at the latest, weather permitting.

Elevator Repair Project

Avery Elevator completed repairs on car #5 in the West Building garage. It was the first of the two hydraulic garage elevators to be placed in service. Repairs are in progress on Car #6, which is currently inoperable and will be out of service through August. (During the storm we temporarily lost elevator service in the West Building, but staff was able to quickly restore it.)

Facade Window Leaks

Three proposals were received, from JR Walls, CPR, and Eastern Waterproofing. Management reviewed all three bids and recommended to the PPOC that Eastern Waterproofing revise their proposal to include a water test, to be conducted first. It would be a separate cost. We also recommended that Smislova, Kehnemui & Associates (SK&A) review the results of the water test, and develop a scope of work based on its review. The work would be performed by Eastern Waterproofing, but SK&A would oversee the repairs as our consulting engineer. Management recommends that the Financial Management Committee accept and approve the PPOC recommendation for Board review and approval.

Pool Deck repairs

As requested by the PPOC, Management is conferring with SK&A to request water tests of the pool deck, prior to moving forward with a full contract for the pool deck repairs. It was recommended that Eastern Waterproofing conduct the water tests, since they will already be on site conducting water tests on the 13 units with window leaks.

Bridge Repairs

The PPOC also asked Management to confer with SK&A to request water tests of the East Bridge before contracting for bridge repairs. It was recommended that Eastern Waterproofing conduct the water tests, since, as indicated above, they will already be on site conducting other water tests.

Storm Damages on June 29

Tree damage: Several tree branches were damaged during the storm. Our Maintenance Staff did a fantastic job of removing broken limbs and branches. They saved the Association money by performing the work in-house. The cost of removing the large tree near Build America will be almost \$1,000.

Pool damage: In order to open the pool the lifeguards and our staff members Betty and Lovato worked feverishly to remove four damaged pool deck tables, four damaged umbrellas, and other debris.

Attorney Fees for Collections from Unit Owners

\$1,963 was paid to Segan, Mason, and Mason (SMM) for routine delinquency collections, which included three judicial foreclosures and action relative to other delinquent units.

Attorney Fees for Regular Legal Services

\$675 was paid to SMM for general legal services that included advice rendered to the Board regarding the Association's By-Laws and Covenants issues.

Collections Update

A total of \$29,744 in delinquent payments for six units is 60 days or more past due. Three units are pending Judicial Foreclosures with balances of (1) \$3,016.56, (2) \$12,181.94, and (3) \$8,495.70. The total delinquent balance for the units in foreclosure is \$23,694.20. The delinquent balance of the remaining three units is \$6,049.80.

Management Reminders

Child Safety

Children are precious. Their safety is extremely important. Parents must *not* allow small children to use the elevators or to wander the halls and other common areas by themselves. In the absence of parental supervision, children are at risk of getting lost, being trapped in the elevators, or being injured.

Car Safety in the Garage

While driving in the garage please:

- (1) **Turn your headlights on AND**
- (2) **Observe the five mph posted speed limit**

These simple practices significantly reduce the risk of accidents and of serious injury to fellow residents, especially children and the elderly. Failure to turn car lights on and drive slowly also puts property at risk. Drivers pulling out of their parking places have limited visibility and may not see cars that are speeding or don't have their lights on.

Pool Safety during a storm

Sunset Pool will close the pool in the following circumstances:

1. Temperatures of 69 degrees or less with cloudy conditions
2. Rainfall that creates turbulence in the water
3. Lightning strikes, which will result in immediately pool closure lasting for one hour after the last visual sighting of lightning
4. Foreign objects in the pool: Upon finding feces in the pool, it will be closed immediately, and clean-up procedures will be initiated. The pool will remain closed until it has been completely filtered and disinfected.
5. Mechanical failure
6. Phone trouble
7. Serious accidents

Balcony Violations

The Management Office has received several complaints that trash, bottles, toys, food etc. have been thrown off balconies onto the landscape, pool and sundeck areas. Recently, someone threw large rocks from the Penthouse Sundeck roof which damaged 6 cars. **Fairfax County Police are investigating this crime.** This is not only against the House Rules and Regulations; it is also troublesome and dangerous. Rule 15 C states:

Nothing shall be thrown from windows, sundecks, balconies or patios. Be advised that this is a criminal act under Fairfax County Law.

If you witnessed any of these events and/or have any information that can be provided to the Fairfax County Police for investigation, please contact the Management Office at (703) 578-4855.



INFO FROM THE ENGINEER

Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm

Garbage Disposal Do's and Don'ts

DO:

- Do keep your garbage disposal clean. Pour a little dish soap inside and let the garbage disposal run for a minute or so with some cold water after washing dishes.
- Do run your garbage disposal regularly. Frequent use prevents rust and corrosion, assures that all parts stay moving and prevents obstructions from accumulating.
- Do grind food waste w/ a strong flow of cold water. Why cold water? It will cause any grease or oils that may get into the unit to solidify, so that they can be chopped up before reaching the trap.
- Do grind certain hard materials such as small chicken and fish bones, egg shells, small fruit pits, etc. A scouring action is created by these particles inside the grind chamber that cleans the garbage disposal's walls.
- Do grind peelings from citrus fruits such as lemons or oranges to freshen up drain smells.
- Do cut large items into smaller pieces. Put them into the garbage disposal one at a time instead of trying to shove a large amount in at once.

DON'T:

- The most important rule of thumb: **Don't Put Anything In The Garbage Disposal That Is Not Biodegradable Food.** A garbage disposal is not a trash can; it's for food scraps only. Non-food items can damage both blades and the motor. When in doubt, throw it out!
- Don't grind glass, plastic, metal or even paper; anything combustible; cigarette butts, fibrous material like corn husks, celery stalks, onion skins, and artichokes, large animal bones (beef, pork etc.).
- Don't pour grease, oil or fat into your garbage disposal or drain. Grease will slowly accumulate and impede your garbage disposal's grinding ability as well as clog drains. Don't use hot water when grinding food waste. Don't turn off the motor or water until grinding is completed. Let water run 15 seconds.
- Don't put too many potato peels down the garbage disposal. The starches in the potatoes will turn into a thick paste and may cause blades to stick; don't put expandable foods into your garbage disposal. Foods like pasta and rice expand when you add water in a pot; they do the same thing once inside your pipes or garbage disposal and are the cause of many jams and clogs. Avoid putting coffee grounds in the drain as they can clog the drains.
- Don't put large amounts of food down the garbage disposal. Feed food into the garbage disposal a little at a time with the cold water running; this will help the food scraps flow down freely through the drain pipes and plumbing. Don't use harsh chemicals like bleach or drain cleaners as they can damage blades and pipes. Borax is a natural sink cleaner and sanitizer and effectively works on odor, mold and mildew.



PHYSICAL PLANT & OPERATIONS

Co-Chairs, Gary Akin & Al Lambert

The Physical Plant and Operations Committee (PPOC) met on July 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. The following items were discussed and/or recommended for further action:

Window Leaks Repair Proposal

Gary Akin gave an overview of this project and the Committee's objective. The Committee discussed the project at length and concluded with the following action. **A motion was made to accept the Eastern Waterproofing proposal to repair thirteen (13) window leaks and to use Smislova, Kehnemui & Associates as project consultants to recommend and monitor repairs.** This motion was seconded and passed. Therefore, the recommendation was referred to the Financial Management Committee (FMC) for its evaluation/recommendation and to the Board of Directors for approval.

Swimming Pool Deck and Garage Bridge Water Testing Proposal

Michelle Brown Slaughter, our General Manager, gave an overview of the leaks and repairs involving the swimming pool deck and the garage bridge. Al Lambert suggested that once the analysis of the water test is received, repairs should not be initiated until spring of next year due to the many projects already taking place. Management agreed and explained to the Committee that the bridge has had leaks since the building was first built, and that the leaks in the garage have been dealt with by putting up catch-pans to prevent drips on cars. **A motion was made to conduct the water testing in 2012 and to proceed with repairs next year.** The motion was seconded and passed. Therefore, subject to Board approval, the water test for the pool deck and garage bridge will be performed in 2012 with repairs beginning and ending in 2013.

Garage Repairs Proposal

Ms. Slaughter explained that she had reviewed the recommended items with a representative from Whitlock, Dalrymple, Poston & Associates. The Committee discussed at length the many items involving the garage repairs. **A motion was made to recommend that Dr. Poston be retained as the consultant engineer to develop project specifications and administer quality control oversight on all repairs. The Committee further recommended that Dr. Poston be required to conduct an end-of-work warranty inspection not later than 30 days before the contractor's warranty expires.** The motion was seconded and passed. Therefore, upon receipt of the final proposal from Management, PPOC will review it for completeness and provide a recommendation out of the Committee to the FMC for its evaluation/recommendation and to the Board of Directors for their approval.

Monthly Walk-Around

The last PPOC walk-around was conducted on Thursday, June 26, at 7:00 p.m. beginning in the lobby. The group visited the Contractor and Association Storage Rooms, Paint Rooms, Women's and Men's Locker Rooms, Engineer's Office, Break Room, and the West Building Freight Elevator Move-In-Out Room.

Howard Haymes suggested doing a walk-around to show the landscaping work accomplished by the Garden Club. The PPOC agreed to inspect the grounds during the next walk-around in August. (A walk-around was also scheduled for Thursday, July 26, at 7 p.m.)

Items Being Thrown From Balconies

Mr. Haymes informed the Committee on the items consistently found by the Garden Club being thrown over the balconies, especially by children. He suggested that Management post a notice on the bulletin boards informing parents of these occurrences and advising them to closely watch children when they are on the balcony.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Charles K. Roberts

I attended the July 23 meeting of the Financial Management Committee (FMC). Acting Chairperson June Baker presented her report for the Committee.

The FMC discussed a number of changes in fees for certain services and penalties for late payments, the setting of which is within the purview of the Board of Directors. As the Board Liaison to the FMC, during New Business I will move that these proposed changes be adopted.

At the June 27 meeting of the Board of Directors, I introduced a resolution that the Association defray any deficit in the current business year Operating Fund by borrowing from the Replacement Reserves and repaying monies so borrowed in Business Year 2013, which begins January 1. The resolution was seconded and referred to the FMC for its review and recommendation. The FMC considered the resolution at this week's meeting, amended it, and directed me as Board Liaison to introduce the amended resolution under Old Business. While there is no certainty that the Association will end the year in a deficit, this resolution provides in a timely manner (considering that Business Year 2013 budgets are now being drafted) a simple, clear method for addressing an operating fund deficit, should one occur.

Financial results through the month of June show improvement, continuing the favorable results noted in May. As of June 30, actual net income after taxes year-to-date stood at \$45,956.33 versus a budgeted figure of 45,614.54, a positive variance of \$341.79. This favorable condition is due in significant measure to the diligent efforts of General Manager Michelle Brown Slaughter and her staff. It must be noted, however, that uncertainties remain in utility costs, and legal expenses and bad debt significantly exceed Business Year 2012 budget figures. Additionally, in response to a question in the FMC meeting, the General Manager estimated total property damage as a result of the derecho to be significant, though less than the \$10,000 deductible figure in the Association's insurance policy.

As of June 30, the balance for all reserves stood at \$1,997,141 following further partial payments for façade, balcony, elevator and garage work. Association reserves remain sufficient for current needs and on course to satisfy long-term requirements.

Through June 30, total delinquencies in payment of the Regular Assessment, or condo fee, increased by \$75.00 to \$29,744 owed by six Unit Owners. The number of Unit Owners 10 days or more delinquent in paying the July installment of the condo fee declined by four to 19 from June's figure of 23, approaching the low of 16 in May. Three foreclosure actions have been brought by the Association, and I have scheduled time off from work to attend these court proceedings.

The number of renter-occupied units remains at the June level of 132, 24 percent of Association units.

The Association's finances remain in good condition. The Association persists in its efforts to collect all monies due.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Chair, Wynfred Joshua

In Wynfred Joshua's absence, Acting Chair June Baker reported for the Financial Management Committee (FMC), which met on Monday, July 23, 2012. For the month of June, total income was \$341,598 with expenditures of \$208,995. Total income less expenditures amounted to \$132,603. The monthly Reserve contribution was \$116,214, leaving a net income before taxes of approximately \$16,389. Expenditures for the month of June indicate the usual overrun for legal fees, but, in general, our income vs. expenditures for the year shows a positive variance.

Renter-occupied apartments remained at 132 units or 24%. The remaining 424 apartments or 76% were Owner-occupied with a few vacancies because Owners did not wish to sell or rent their units at this time.

Following discussion of possible fee increases last month, we asked the Covenants Committee to review the proposed increases, which they did at their last meeting. During this month's meeting, we reviewed proposed fees, discussed them at length, made changes, and prepared a recommended list that our Treasurer, Charles Roberts, proposed to the Board of Directors for consideration at its July 25 meeting.

General Manager Michelle Brown Slaughter briefed the FMC on the current status of the proposal from Eastern Waterproofing to repair the window leaks in affected units, and Gary Akin, Co-Chair of the PPOC, provided input to help us understand the process and proposed work. The FMC recommended that the Board of Directors accept the Eastern Waterproofing proposal of \$33,556, with the understanding that modification to the contract, additional work, and revised costs may be needed to effectively correct the outstanding problems. The FMC recommended that we include a requirement for a five-year warranty for parts along with a one-year warranty for labor.

The FMC also discussed the resolution presented at the June Board of Directors meeting by Mr. Roberts that was tabled regarding possible actions to take at the end of 2012 to defray unexpected results on the income or expense sides of the operating budget ledger. After considerable discussion, the Committee made a slight revision to the original resolution, and presented it to the Board of Directors.

The FMC will not meet as a committee of the whole in August, but two sub-committees are completely staffed to work on and review the Operating and the Replacement Reserves Budgets for 2013.

The next FMC meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, September 24. As usual, members of the Skyline House Community are welcome to attend.



COVENANTS

Chair, Elayne Haymes

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Under New Business the Committee discussed the new fees proposed by the FMC. Wynfred Joshua was present to explain the rationale for bringing this information to the Covenants Committee for review. She noted that since the Covenants Committee is responsible for the Rules and Regulations that are associated with fees for various Skyline House services, she wanted the Committee's input. The Committee supported all of the fee increases, stating that the fees had not been changed for a long time and costs had gone up. Under New Business, the Committee also reviewed and made no changes to Rule 3, Leasing-Resales. It was noted by Tycia Haight of the Management Office that procedures for leasing/resales are being followed.

The Committee reviewed an e-mail that a resident sent to the Chairperson in regard to the decision to change Rule 1, Section E, related to not leaving unit doors ajar for longer than usual in-and-out-unit-door traffic. The Committee decided the wording was clear and the resident's concern about leaving unit doors open to bring in baby carriages or move furniture in or out of the unit did not warrant any changes. The Chairperson will explain the Committee's decision to the resident in an e-mail. The Committee also decided to hold over its decision on review of Rule 2 (Occupancy) until further information was obtained. However, Rule 2, Section B, on Visitors Parking for 60 days during the year was discussed by Tycia Haight. She explained how complicated it was to follow guest parking usage and was hoping new software might be found to track all the information needed by staff to ensure visitor parking is being used properly. She was suggesting that a

30-day rather than the 60-day limit be used as it would cut down on the pressure to find guest spots and make it easier for staff to monitor guest parking. This change will be discussed at the September meeting.

The Committee also decided to abandon the 6:30-7p.m. pre-meeting discussion time. Members noted it was difficult to arrive at 6:30 p.m., and it was felt that resident participation, reviews of each rule and other business, could be conducted during the meeting time. Rule 4 (Assessment) and possibly Rule 5 (Access to Building) will be reviewed at our next meeting.



Skyline House Library

Donations to the Skyline House Library are welcome. However, given space constraints, we cannot accept books published before 2002. Children's books, in good condition, would be greatly appreciated. Please direct any questions to Carol Cataldo at cataldo2@ix.netcom.com.



GARDEN CLUB

Chair, Howard Haymes

On behalf of the Garden Club and our wider Skyline House Community, I would like to commend our hearty maintenance staff for their efforts in removing the recent storm damage debris. A good deal of money was saved by not "outsourcing" the cleanup. Their efforts, it should be noted, were undertaken on some very hot, uncomfortable days. **Again, a "tip of the hat" to our staff.**

- The Garden Club continues to build up our poor soils in the flower and new shrub beds with free mulch brought to our site from county supplies.
- A sixty-foot patch of ivy was added to augment the edges of the contractor's plantings near the Build America fence.
- Eight replacement shrubs were added in the "river rock" area at the side of the West Building.
- More replacement shrubs in the postal area were planted.
- A second Garden Club sign was installed in the East Building flower bed.
- Supplies of soil bags were purchased.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Chair, Janice L. Hill

At its meeting on Thursday, July 19, the Community Relations Committee (CRC) began preliminary planning for its Fall 2012 programs. Planned activities to support Skyline include:

- Invite Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross to provide an update on Fairfax County initiatives and programs
- Invite Senator Dick Saslaw to provide a preview of the upcoming 2013 Virginia State General Assembly

- Conduct a voter registration educational campaign to provide general information about the upcoming elections, such as how to register to vote, where to vote, deadlines, absentee ballot information, etc.
- Research state and local government boards and commissions that are of importance to the Skyline House Community. (Advisory and policy boards and commissions serve as formal liaisons between government agencies and the public in order to ensure that agencies understand and respond to public concerns. The boards and commissions provide recommendations to the governing bodies. Opportunities to affect change and shape government operations occur via these groups.)

At the July meeting the CRC voted to recommend to the Board of Directors that Skyline House join the Mason District Council of Community Associations and the Fairfax Federation of Homeowner and Civic Associations. The Board of Directors approved this recommendation at the July 25 meeting. Future newsletter articles will provide information on our activities and liaison with these groups.

Update on the Columbia Pike Transit Initiative (Streetcar Project): The Arlington County Board voted 4-0 at its July 23 meeting to accept the streetcar alternative. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is slated to vote on July 31 on the alternative. Passage would allow the project to move forward to seek Federal funding that could cover 30 percent of the estimated \$250 million construction costs.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month; our next meeting is September 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. We invite you to join us!! We are interested in your thoughts and areas on which you would like the CRC to focus. If you have any questions or feedback to share, please e-mail communityrelations.shuoa@gmail.com.



RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chair, Sharon Milton

Eight people attended the initial meeting of the revived Recreation Committee on July 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. Our plans were discussed in an open forum session. Items discussed included, but were not limited to:

- The dual nature of the makeup of our committee: members in full, and volunteers who will help with individual events. This is very important because well run events will need support from volunteers, as well as members. Please e-mail me (segmilton@yahoo.com) with your ideas, availability and suggestions for other prospective members or volunteers.
- A game night for board games (dominoes, Parcheesi, checkers, etc.) and card games
- The revival of TGIF
- An excursion to a casino, concert, or theater
- Hospitality and mentoring program for newcomers
- Acquainting residents with Fairfax County Parks and Recreation events
- A bicycle education and safety program
- Raffle tickets as a fundraiser to keep the Committee self- sustaining

It was strongly suggested that a casino excursion be investigated. I have contacted Live Casino and Hollywood Casino to see what incentives they might offer for a group of 45-50 people. If you are interested, please let me know.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. This is a Tuesday, but it was settled that our regular meeting will be on the first Monday of alternating months, unless there is a holiday.

I have the sincere feeling that this committee can become a vital part of our community, if we want it to be.

RECREATION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The newly reestablished Recreation Committee needs your help. In addition to full members, without whom the Committee can't function, we need volunteers who can, from time to time, work on specific events. If you fit in either category, please contact Sharon Milton, the Committee Chair, at segmilton@yahoo.com.

Here is a *formal* statement of the functions of the Recreation Committee:

1. Conduct periodic informal parties for the purpose of bringing residents together.
2. Take responsibility for gatherings for a specific purpose, such as holiday feasts, honoring volunteers, recognizing a special event, theme dinners, etc.
3. Sponsor a variety of outside activities for the entertainment and amusement of residents (e.g., theater parties, sightseeing trips, excursions, etc.)
4. Assist committees of the Association, when requested, in conducting get-togethers to stimulate participation on those committees and in the activities of Skyline House.
5. Plan for, or assist in, any activity which will enhance the volunteer involvement of residents.

An *informal* mission statement might be: To have fun while helping your neighbors to have fun.

Cox Cable Information

Effective on or after August 21, 2012 in Cox Fairfax, the following will change:

DIGITAL CHANNELS

WGN will move from digital channel 31 to digital channel 98 and from analog 43 to analog 98.

Also, both the analog and SD versions of the following channels will change channel number within their current service level:

Spike TV from 53 to 61, MTV from 62 to 63, Bravo from 100 to 62, ABC Family from 101 to 89 and MASN from 102 to 53.

HD CHANNELS

WGN will move from HD 1031 to HD 1098, Spike TV from HD 1053 to HD 1061, MTV from HD 1062 to HD 1063, Bravo from HD 1100 to HD 1062, ABC Family from HD 1101 to HD 1089 and MASN from HD 1102 to HD 1053.

Consumer-owned devices equipped with a Cable CARD may require an advanced TV set top receiver or Tuning Adapter in order to receive all programming options offered by Cox Advanced TV.

MAGAZINES KINDLY REQUESTED

Thank you very much to the Skyline residents who have been faithfully donating their magazines via the collection box located at the Front Desk. Your contributions are routinely distributed to Alexandria Hospital and other medical facilities such as Chemotherapy and Dialysis Units and Cardiology and Specialized Medicine waiting rooms. Your donated magazines provide much needed distraction for patients awaiting or going through difficult medical procedures and help to break up some very long hours for family members and friends accompanying and visiting those patients.

Please remember to donate your current (please no old/outdated) magazines to the Front Desk. If you have any questions regarding this much appreciated program, please call Marilyn Baker at 703-671-6759.

EYEGLOSS DONATIONS



If you are no longer using a pair of eyeglasses or an eyeglass case, please donate it. These items can be left at the Front Desk, from which the Lions Club periodically picks them up for distribution to the needy.

George Ferguson from the Lions Club sent the following grateful acknowledgment to the Management Office on July 15: "I picked up 13 pairs of eyeglasses and four empty cases from the lobby today. Thanks again on behalf of the Bailey's Crossroads Host Lions Club." These donations are clearly appreciated.

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.

AUGUST

ELAYNE HAYMES 703-347-7918

GWEN PETIJEAN 703-820-4260

SEPTEMBER

LOUISE ALBIN 703-379-1645

NILDA VIQUEIRA 703-379-4239

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



SKYLINE HOUSE CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2012

(WWW.SHUOA.ORG)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 LIBRARY CLOSED	4 Recreation Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	5	6	7	8
9	10 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	11	12 Security, Safety & Neighborhood Watch Comm. 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	13 Physical Plant and Operations Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	14	15
16	17 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	18	19 Covenants Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	20 Community Relations Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	21	22
23	24 Financial Management Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	25	26 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	27	28	29
30						
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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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