



# The *House Special*

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Vol. IV

October 1984

Issue 10

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# Committee Communiqués

## COMMUNITY NOTES

NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION TOURS familiarize new Skyline House residents with important facilities, regulations and services of our buildings, as well as the day-to-day activities of the Condominium Association. The volunteer guide answers questions concerning our community, thus making the newcomer's transitional period easier.

We desperately need residents who are bilingual to share their talent as interpreters and/or guides so that new residents who are non-English speaking may share this information.

This important duty would require a minimal amount of time. You are all busy people, but as the old adage says, a busy person can always find time to do one more task.

If you speak any language in addition to English, please leave your name with the business office.

CARING IS SHARING.

PROGRAM IDEAS? In the past few months interesting and informative programs have been sponsored by the Community Relations Committee. We wish to represent the views of all residents. Therefore, if you have a subject of general interest that you wish considered for presentation, please send your suggestions and comments to Ed Berman, 1706E.

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE!

If you wish to vote in the November 6 election, voter registration will terminate on Saturday, October 6.

You may register at any Fairfax County public library:

Wed., Oct. 3 3pm-9pm

Thurs., Oct 4 7pm-9pm

Fri., Oct. 5 3pm-9pm

Sat., Oct. 6 9am-5pm

You may also register at DMV, Baileys Crossroads, on Thursday, October 4, from 10am to 6pm, and at Giant Food Stores on Saturday, October 6, from 10am to 4pm.

HELPFUL HINTS -- TIMELY TOPICS.

For timely and informative tips, call 691-COPS (691-2677). This message, which is changed daily, is sponsored by the Fairfax County Police Department.

Watch the Bulletin Boards for COMING ATTRACTIONS.

*What's Up . . .*

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT &  
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

*Bill Miller, Chairman*



The beginning of October will commence the formal preparation, review and approval of the Fiscal Year 1985 Budget for the Association. As of October 1, 1984, the Management Agent will have forwarded the proposed budget to the Financial Management and Administration Committee for review and recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval.

All Committee members, along with the Association Treasurer, will review the proposed budget and prepare questions and recommendations prior to the Committee's budget review meeting to be held October 18th in the East Card Room at 7:30 p.m. Clint Hall, the Management Property Agent, at that time will present the proposed budget to the Committee, along with year-to-date expenditures by account number and the projected expenditures for the full year of 1984. He will present Management's justifications for the proposed budget figures and answer questions from the members. Positions in conflict will be worked out at that time, if possible.

After presentation by the Property Manager, and time permitting, the Committee members will begin an item-by-item review of the proposed budget. Prior to adjournment, a time and place will be set to complete the review and draft the Committee's recommended budget. The recommended budget will be forwarded to the Property Manager for management's comments and recommendations with final committee approval to be taken at the committee meeting the first Tuesday in November. The recommended budget will then be forwarded to the Board of Directors for their review and approval at a special Board meeting during November as determined by the Board of Directors.

At the October 18 meeting, no other business will be considered by the Committee other than the proposed budget, except for the approval of the Committee's Sept. 4 meeting minutes. The October 2nd meeting has been cancelled.

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N O T I C E: Advertisements appearing in this Newsletter do not constitute endorsement nor reflect approval thereof by Skyline House Condominium Association or its Board of Directors.



## SECURITY & FIRE/SAFETY COMMITTEE

Jerry Schumaker and  
Les Boykin

### THE GOOD NEWS

The national and Fairfax County crime figures continue to show declines for serious crime which includes murder, rape, robbery, burglary, grand larceny and other felonies. This is despite a general increase in auto thefts.

### THE BAD NEWS

The patrol area of the Mason District of Fairfax County, which includes Skyline House, has recorded an increase of 17% in calls to report criminal or suspicious activities in the first half of 1984. The vast majority of these calls pertain to non-commercial larcenies, especially from vehicles. Although it sounds bad, the police consider it favorable in that it shows much greater citizen awareness in reporting incidents and suspicious activity and helps the police. We have requested the County Crime Analyst to do a breakdown of the crime in our patrol area for later publication since from our residents' standpoint, the county figures and even the Mason District figures may be less significant than those relating to the immediate area.

### 4th ANNUAL REPORT

The following is the report to residents in regard to incidents occurring from September 15, 1983 to September 15, 1984 and reflects a continuing low level of serious criminal

activity in our buildings, as you may judge for yourselves. Incidents reported include:

#### Garage

- Moped stolen
- Car door jimmied open (noted by guard; police responded)
- Radiator hose slashed 5 times by knife or screwdriver
- 4 cars with flat tires (1 with nails in it; 1 with coathanger piece in it)
- Resident Manager's car scraped on side for about 3 feet
- License plates stolen

#### Within Building

- Fire alarm pulled in East building
- Security guard commended by resident for finding keys (in apt. door)
- Attempt to start fire in stairwell of West building, resulting in stained floors (2)
- Ad leaflets distributed on several floors of East building
- Fire extinguisher sprayed on carpet in West building
- Cigarette burn in East gallery carpet
- Morning paper stolen twice from West unit
- Man ignored challenge by front desk and barged in; had to be escorted back to desk by Resident Manager
- Domestic violence in West building; parties restrained by guards; radio damaged in scuffle

[continued on next page]

- \* Smoking fires in West building caused smoke to be detected and reported (2).
- \* Fire in skillet of grease in East building did extensive damage to stove and cabinets; extinguished by Assistant Engineer
- \* Burglary of West building unit: old Batomax and watch taken; no force used in entry; standard lock on door.
- \* Paintings offered for sale door-to-door by 2 neatly dressed young men who claimed to live in 413W; escorted out of building

#### Outside Building

- \* Broken front grill and jammed hood in attempt to pry open hood on vehicle of employee in West outside parking
- \* Noisy gang of teenagers at garage entrance and front of building; same gang returned following evening and intimidated residents; police notified and responded
- \* Plaza resident mugged about 10pm after alighting from bus; purse containing \$90 and credit cards stolen
- \* Car door lock broken in East outside parking; nothing taken
- \* 2 cars behind West building ransacked (1 belongs to guard); police responded
- \* Car in outside West space found with broken lock and ignition; glove compartment emptied; wheels locked so not stolen; police responded
- \* Car stolen from West guest parking in back during period when guard was immobilized at garage entrance while key card post was being repaired

# # #

We have occasional flaws in our multi-culture community that are frustrating at times. However, all in all, we have been very fortunate in our low level of serious crime. Please continue to report suspicious activities promptly.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The article on "The Board of Directors Reviews Smith Management Contract" in the September 1984 issue of The House Special contains two statements to which I take exception.

I object to the assertion that "... a change in management would result in a change in our condo [sic] staff ...". The members of the staff of Skyline House are employees of the Association. They do not work for the Management Contractor. Part of the support that we get from a Management Contractor is the provision of personnel management services for our employees. The nature of those employees is independent of what firm has the Management Contract. By implying otherwise, the Vice President of the Board creates the impression that the first loyalty of our staff is, and should be, to others rather than to us. The remark also gives our staff legitimate cause for concern about the long-term job security. From now on, whenever the Association considers alternative contractual arrangements, they will be worrying whether or not their jobs are in jeopardy.

I question the basis for the claim that "... most Skyline House owners are basically quite satisfied with the Smith Company and its services." I know of no scientific survey that supports what would appear to be a personal opinion of the Vice President of the Board. For my part, I know of many people who have been actively involved in the management of the affairs of the Association and who are dissatisfied. There is anecdotal evidence for both views. The fact is that there are owners of all shades of opinion on this matter and therein lies the crux of the problem with this statement in the context in which it is made. It denies those with different standards any expectation of improvement in contractor performance. It also relieves the contractor of any incentive or responsibility to improve performance.

Sincerely,

Brian Le Bert-Francis, 102W



### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Audited Financial Statements for December 31, 1983 and December 31, 1982 are now available and may be picked up at the front desk or in the Management Office.

### FILTERS

Time to change heat pump filters. Your heating system will run more efficiently if you change the filter regularly. The filters are available in the Management Office for \$1.00 each (Sizes 16 x 20 and 20 x 20).

### TRASH DISPOSAL

Please place all trash in the chute which is located in the Disposal Room of each floor. Do Not leave any trash on the floor of the Disposal Room. If an item is too large for the chute, please use the service elevator and leave the trash on the loading dock level. Do not leave trash in the service elevator. All garbage should be well wrapped before placing it in the trash chute in order to help control odors.

Please help keep our Disposal Rooms clean. Our porters clean the rooms on each floor every morning, therefore, trash left after that will remain until the following day.

Your cooperation is anticipated and appreciated.



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