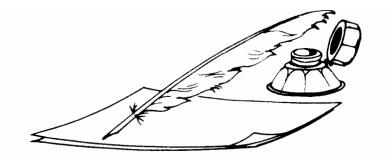


# The House Special

Volume V January 1985 Issue 1



# From the Board



WYNFRED JOSHUA, Vice President

Because of the holiday season and because there were already several extra meetings for the Board, the usual December session of the Board of Directors was cancelled. The Board called a special session on the 18th of December to gauge the opinion of the co-owners on the projected pedestrian overpass. Some thirty co-owners attended this session.

It may be recalled that the original plan of the Developer for the Skyline complex called for an overpass on Skyline House grounds at the east end of the East building extending across George Mason Drive. The issue was raised some nine months ago when the Board first learned that the Developer was contemplating abandoning the plans to build this overpass.

More recently, late last November, representatives of Skyline House and Skyline Plaza met with Fairfax County Board officials to discuss the issue again. Both Associations were asked to give the Board of Supervisors their opinion before the Board made a decision on whether the Developer should be required to build the overpass.

On December 18th the Board convened a special session to meet with House owners. Pleas for and against the overpass project were voiced. The vast majority of owners in attendance were clearly in favor of construction of the overpass. As a result, the Board of Directors affirmed to advise the County Board that Skyline House, placing the safety of its residents before other considerations, requests that the overpass be built.

THE NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, January 15.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board, to wish all owners and residents a very happy New Year.

> Wynfred Joshua Vice President

#### EMPLOYEES' HOLIDAY FUND

Two hundred twenty-two residents (compared to 226 last year) responded to the 1984 Holiday Fund campaign. The total amount collected was \$5,752 (compared to \$5,601 last year). This made it possible to present each of the 25 members of our staff with an expression of our appreciation for

his or her efforts toward the wellbeing of Skyline House. Any contributor who so desires may inquire as to the breakdown of funds by contacting Jerry Schumaker (820-8898).

We wish to thank each person who contributed to this fund.

Joe Strahs and Jerry Schumaker





# ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SKYLINE HOUSE - 1985

ON MARCH 26, 1985, AN ELECTION WILL BE HELD TO ELECT THREE UNIT OWNERS FOR THREE YEAR TERMS AND ONE UNIT OWNER TO COMPLETE A ONE YEAR TERM EXPIRING IN MARCH, 1986, AS MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SKYLINE HOUSE UNIT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE IS ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT DESK.

IF YOU PLAN ON RUNNING FOR THE BOARD, OR IF YOU KNOW SOME-ONE WHO IS INTERESTED, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE APPLICATIONS ARE SUBMITTED PROMPTLY.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE NOMINATION PROCESS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ROSS MACASKILL 206E 820-3787
W. HOWARD MCCLENNAN 414W 379-4223

IMPORTANT: PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU SUBMIT A BLACK AND WHITE PASSPORT PHOTO WITH YOUR APPLICATION.





## Committee Communiqués

#### COMMUNITY NOTES

#### TALK ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Are you already receiving Social Security benefits . . . or about to? Do you wonder what is happening to the money you are paying into the program? What is the future for Social Security?

These are only sample questions which can be asked of Lizabeth Smith, Field Representative of the Social Security Office of Northern Virginia. She has kindly consented to come to Skyline House on January 17, 7:30 p.m., East Party Room, to meet with residents who have an interest in "The Problems of Social Security Programs and Medicare". She has generously offered to stay as long as is necessary to answer individual questions and concerns.

#### GOOD NEWS

On looking back over the past year, the Skyline House community has reason to be pleased about certain steps which have been taken to maintain -- nay, improve -- our home:

Thanks to Les Boykin and the Fire and Safety Committe, an informal Resident Watch has been instituted.

The Board of Directors has taken a unanimous firm stand against the Developer's efforts to have the pedestrian overpass for South George Mason Drive deleted from the development plan.

Bill Miller, his Committee and the Management Agent came up with a budget for 1985 which requires a smaller increase in condominium fees than in 1984.

Howie McClennan and members of the Covenants Committee labored long to recodify the House Rules and Regulations.

Ed Berman and his volunteer guides have been busy showing newcomers around our buildings.

These are only some of the benefits reaped for Skyline House this year.

Do not think that these steps to improve the quality of our environment and solicitude for our pocketbooks were effected by the wave of some magic wand. A handful of your neighbors and a responsive Management have worked hard to maintain the high standard of living we all wish to enjoy. Were you one of them?

#### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

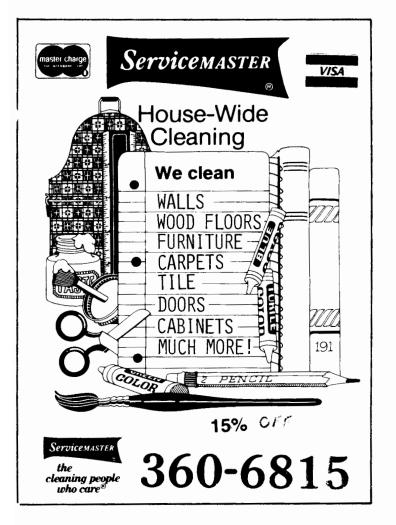
If it is the time of year for "stock-taking", of being nostalgic about the past twelve months, it is traditionally even more the moment for resolving to do better in the twelve to come: more work, less play, for example . . . more raw vegetables, fewer shakes and fries . . . more productive reading, less Laverne and Shirley . . and, above all, more letters to the family!

[continued on next page]



Tucked in there between whatever resolutions will be determinedly made for self-improvement in 1985, could there not be room for one which might go something this this: This year I will try to make a contribution to the Skyline House Community (particularly if it is slightly inconvenient), to give of my time, my expertise, my neighborliness . . . and not leave it all to the other guy!

THE NEXT MEETING of the Community Relations Committee will be held on February 5th at 7:30 p.m. in the East Card Room. We welcome visitors to our deliberations.







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#### SECURITY & FIRE/SAFETY COMMITTEE

Les Boykin

1984 IS THE 5th YEAR STRAIGHT in which we have not experienced any crimes against residents themselves, in contrast to crimes against property. Violence in other apartment buildings serves as a stark reminder of how fortunate we are especially in a community as large and varied as ours.

Statistically, December is the month for increased burglaries, and, sure enough, we experienced three forced entries in the West building. Even though all three units had Medeco cylinders, the deadbolts were not thrown — that's like having your helmet hanging on the handle bars when you go flying off a motor scooter. Folks, throw those bolts, please, every time you go out and even when you're in! And, in any event, we strongly suggest you insure jewelry and other valuables for their full value.

The Resident Watch commenced formally on December 13th with a briefing of over 40 persons by our popular Mason District Crime Prevention Officer, Larry Clark. To date, our volunteers have discovered the following:

- -- Two resident doors open.
- -- Security doors not closing.
- -- Loading dock door and security double doors open in West building with no one around. Milton Kaminsky, who observed this, closed them.
- -- Electrical cord was connected to a machine outside the West lobby

coor. The machine was unmanned for an extended period of time, leaving the security door through which it passed unsecure. Bob Sherrer unplugged the machine and locked the door.

-- Foreign resident let a stranger in the West lobby door, but Jim Littles not only advised her that this action was verboten, but caught the stranger on the elevator and escorted him to the Front Desk where he could register and be properly admitted as he was a genuine guest.

-- A lady's shoulder bag was found in one of the elevators. It was carried to the Front Desk. Though it did not explode, we probably should not touch such items. If unidentifiable by neighbors or the Manager's Office, it is advisable to call the police. We will discuss this situation with the police and inform our Watch volunteers of their advice.

We have ordered identification armbands and expect to be able to distribute them to all volunteers by the middle of January. Those volunteers who already have armbands should wear them around the building even when not on patrol: "visibility deterrence" is the name of the game.

The positive attitude of the volunteers is appreciated by the entire Association. Board member Bob Lowry has indicated he will join the Watch.

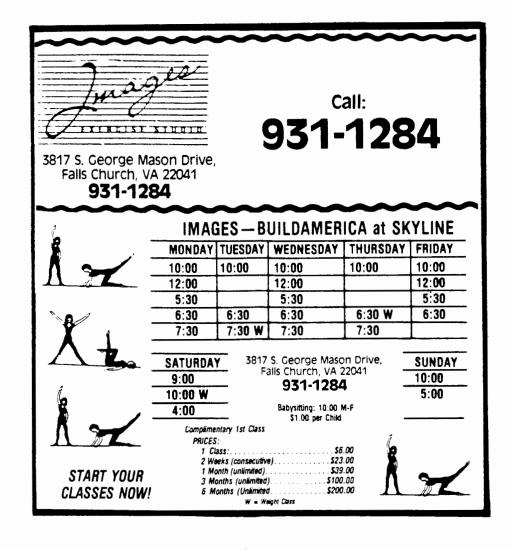
Finally, we wist to commend Wilna McDonald for her complete tours of the West building on

several occasions. Her pedometer read 1.1 miles. She plans to do the same in the East building soon to see if it's the same size.

During the December meeting with the police, residents discussed the advisability of having name plates on unit doors. Officer Clark suggested they be limited to last names, which they are. Following the meeting a former Board member related personal knowledge of burglars using the technique of taking down names from apartment doors and then using public telephone directories to

locate the numbers and thereby able safely to probe occupancy patterns before attempting burglaries. At least one Skyline House resident has cleverly resolved this vulnerability (which could apply to obscene calls as well as burglaries) by using only her initials.

Each resident has the choice of no name or initials on your door in lieu of your last name if you so desire. Simply advise the Resident Manager.



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|----|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|----|
|    |                     |  | Covenants<br>Cmte<br>WCR 7:30 PM  |  |                              |    |
|    |                     |  | Slimnastics<br>EPR 6:30 PM        | Security Cmte ECR 8:00 PM  |                              |    |
| 26 | 25                  | 24   | 23                                | 22   | 21                           | 20 |
| 19 | \(\sigma_{\sigma}\) | Community Relations Cmte presents speaker Social Security & Medicine | 16<br>Slimnastics<br>EPR 6:30 PM  | Board of Directors Meeting WPR 7:30 PM Martin Luther King's Birthday | 4                            | Ç  |
|    |                     | Physical<br>Plant<br>Cmte<br>WCR 8:00 PM                             | Slimnastics<br>EPR 6:30 PM        |  | lulian Calendar<br>Christmas |    |
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### Letter to the Editor

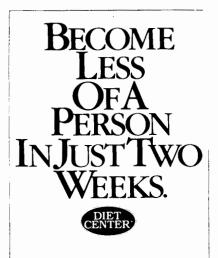
SUBJECT: Illegal Parking

First, let me say that I do not enjoy having someone's car towed away for parking in my reserved space. However, it's mine, bought and paid for, for use by my quests and me.

On Saturday, 8 December 1984, a car was illegally parked in my space for an entire night (after permitting it to remain there for hours). In frustration I had it towed away. As a result I have received some angry hate mail (unsigned) from a resident in this building, using profanity towards me. I would like to respond.

It is not my responsibility to insure that someone else's guest has parked in a proper space; it is the responsibility of the resident being visited. The parking areas are clearly marked as to use, and there is no excuse for violations.

Everyone should remind quests of the parking rules.



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Serioss from Skyline Man) Self ( Forest Drive, Alexandria, Va. 22302

Skyline Coart Townnouses 998-0455

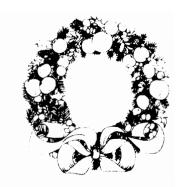


BRIDGE CLASSES

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# From Management



#### MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESIDENTS

In the December issue of the House Special we offered some maintenance tips and we have a couple more that may be of assistance to you.

Mechanical Closet - (Air handler and hot water heater closet) Do not use this closet as a storage room. The air handler unit needs to have air circulating around it in order to produce heat and air conditioning. Never store any flammable items such as paint or cleaning fluids in this closet. Change the air filter often to keep the air circulating properly thru the air handler for more efficient heating and cooling.

Bathroom Fans - If you find your bathroom fans are covered with dust, follow this cleaning procedure: Remove two screws from the corner (one top and one bottom) and remove cover. The fan is plugged in at the top; unplug the fan. To clear, use a crevice tool from your vacuum cleaner and also an old toothbrush will help to loosen the dirt. Lubricate the fan motor with light oil such as sewing machine oil or 3 in 1 oil. Plug fan back into socket, replace the filter (which are available in the management office for \$2.75 each) and replace cover and screws.

#### GUEST PARKING

Please remind your guests that only the <u>unnumbered</u> spaces are to be used by visitors at Skyline House. These spaces are well marked by signs on posts placed approximately every four to five guest parking spaces. The spaces with numbers are owned by resident owners of Skyline House and are for their private and personal use. They may have violators towed from their spaces. Management does not have the authority to tow from individually owned spaces. Guest parking and fire lane violators may be towed by management. Please remind your guests that they need a permit to park in guest parking in order to avoid being towed. We again remind all of you that parking by residents in the guest parking spaces is limited to one hour. Residents may not use guest parking to park their second vehicle for extended periods of time. Residents that persist in this unauthorized use of guest parking will be towed.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF THE RESIDENTS AT SKYLINE HOUSE FROM ALL THE EMPLOYEES AT SKYLINE HOUSE.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you who contributed to the Employees Holiday Fund. The gift of money was most appreciated by all of us. We would like to extend a special thank you to Jerry Schumaker, 1614W, for collecting and distributing the money. His time and energy helped to make our Christmas one to remember.

CF'