



# The *House Special*

December 1985

Issue 11

Volume V

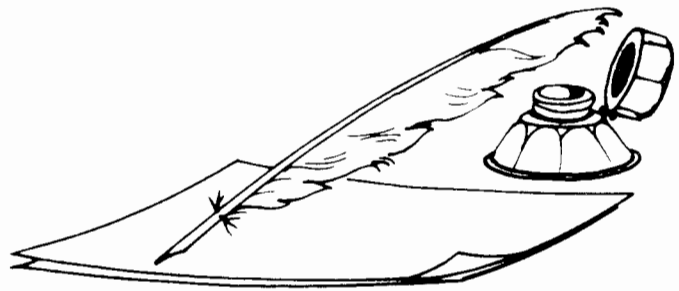


This brings a wish  
that even when  
the holidays are past  
The happiness  
they bring your way  
will last  
and last  
and last!

Happy Holidays!



# From the Board



Wynfred Joshua, Vice President

President of the Board Ed Stolarun reported his correspondence with the Developer this past month. He had notified the Developer that the gallery windows and ceilings of the East and West Pent-houses continued to leak and required repairs. He had authorized the Developer to waterproof the cracks in the garage slaps, but cautioned the Developer that this should not be construed as solving the broader problem of the garage. Finally, he had provided the Developer a summary of all outstanding warranty items and urged completion of the repairs as soon as possible. No response had as yet been received.

The Board's first action involved the 1986 Budget which the Board had extensively discussed on a line-by-line basis in early November. The operating budget of \$1,252,184 for 1986 was accepted. Part of the budget will be financed by interest income. The result is an increase in condo fees for next year of approximately 1.7%. The budget rise partly reflects an increase of about 100% in insurance premiums -- a development that prevails throughout the country. Indeed, several insurance companies are no longer prepared to provide all-risk coverage for condominiums. Our insurance will continue to provide all risk.

The report of the Security and Fire Safety Committee was discussed. Chairman Les Boykin elaborated on the Committee's recommendations on how to handle "Open House" apartment sales at Skyline House. His report carried the endorsement of the Covenants Committee. The Board unanimously accepted the regulations that for all Open House apartment sales: (1) the Unit Owner or his representative or real estate agent be present at each Open House; (2) visitors to view the Unit be signed in at the front desk and escorted by the Owner or his representative; and (3) such visitors be escorted back to the lobby desk and checked out before leaving. After discussing the various security implications of Open Houses, the Board asked Les Boykin to have his Committee review the question of visitors' access to Skyline House in general.

Treasurer Joe Strahs presented the monthly financial report. Although he concluded that Skyline House remained in a healthy financial condition, he also noted that for the first time we have four Owners who are more than two months in arrears with their condo fees. Each delinquent Owner's case has been turned over to our attorney for action; with respect to one delinquent Owner, the attorney is proceeding with a law suit.

[BOARD NOTES continued]

Mr. Strahs reported that Chairman Lew Cardwell of the Financial Management and Administration Committee had resigned for personal reasons. At this point the Committee was not functioning. The Treasurer urged that a volunteer step forward to assume the Chairmanship. Meanwhile the Board approved to extend the contract with our auditor Goldklang for auditing the 1985 finances.

Property Manager Clint Hall announced that he had been able to arrange for Skyline House residents and their guests to park in the garage and facilities across the street during the evening Monday thru Thursday from 6 p.m. until 7 a.m. the next morning. On weekends parking is permitted from 6 p.m. Friday thru 7 a.m. Monday. No parking permit is required, but no responsibility is accepted for theft and/or vandalism. The Board welcomed this arrangement, particularly in view of the coming holidays.

At the same time, the Board reiterated the rules for parking in visitor spaces on Skyline House property. All visitor cars require a valid permit from the lobby desk clerk. Skyline House residents can park their cars, provided they have a valid Skyline House sticker, in visitor parking spaces for no more than one hour. The Board instructed the Resident Manager to enforce these regulations strictly and have cars towed that violated these rules.

The Board subsequently accepted the Developer's proposal for landscaping around the pedestrian overpass.

The Property Manager asked the Board to consider at the next Board meeting his proposal for having Unit Owners pay the monthly condominium fee directly to the bank instead of the Management Office. Coupons and pre-addressed envelopes would be made available. Implementation of his proposal would save Skyline House Association roughly \$7,000 per year, whereas it would cost the individual Unit Owner only twelve 22¢ postage stamps.

As a final note, the Board regretted to learn that our Assistant Resident Manager, Shirley Sabey, plans to resign. She will be joining her family in Florida. Good luck, Shirley.



A N A P P R E C I A T I O N  
\* \* \* \* \*

WAS it fun? Of course.  
Was IT enjoyable? No question.  
Was it TASTY? Scrumptious.  
WHAT WAS IT? Bread making demonstrated.  
Hands in the dough experience.  
(House Special Oct. 85, p.6)  
RESULTS - Five satisfied students ready to  
continue practicing their new art  
in breads -white, brown, french -  
in rolls - fancy, sweet - and  
even pizza.

O U R T H A N K S to the Recreation Committee for  
sponsoring this imaginative idea and to Master Baker  
Tony DiSalvo. You did a great job, Tony.

Ken Grant

# # # # #

# Let us help you with your Condo Sales, Purchases, & Property Management.....



--- Irene Hedrick ---

--- Beatriz Carroll ---

--- Munira Kazma ---

## MBI Real Estate, Inc. 931-4114

WE ARE LOCATED NEARBY AT 5881 LEESBURG PIKE, SUITE 101, FALLS CHURCH, VA

# Committee Communiqués

COMMUNITY NOTES  
DECEMBER, 1985

## INTERNATIONAL CLUB

This committee is hosting the December program of the International Club here at Skyline House on December 20th in the East Party Room at 8:00p.m.; it is entitled "Nordic Night". Plans are that there will be dancers in their native costumes along with Henry and Mildred Hanson who will give a description of Christmas in Scandinavia. Mr. Hanson is a retired Foreign Service Officer, now a professor at Northern Virginia Community College. Mrs. Hanson is a Swedish language teacher. Karen Felker, a resident in the East Building, is in charge of the program; she hopes, also, to be able to present the traditional "Lucia Procession"....when Lucia and her attendants enter the room bearing the steaming Swedish glugg to accompany the Christmas cookies made by ladies of the Skyline House community. Since we are welcoming residents of the other buildings of Skyline City, it would be hospitable.....in the holiday tradition..... for a good turn-out from our own buildings.

## CONVALESCENT LOAN CLOSET

The Fairfax County Senior Services Division administers a loan closet for residents who are sixty years or older. Canes, crutches, walkers and wheelchairs are loaned free of charge for periods of up to sixty days. The Loan Closet is supplied solely through donations of equipment from area residents. To donate or borrow equipment, call: 691-2266 Monday through Friday, 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m.

## AREA DEVELOPMENT

You may--or may not-- be thrilled to learn that yet another office building is to be erected next to the church on the corner of Route 7 and South George Mason Drive. At this rate there may well be one office for every ten Mason District citizens....since that makes the third office building presently to rise within one block. It may not be exactly a Tysons III but developers must feel that particular corner, in particular; Mason District, in general has an attraction for more private enterprise.....just so all those business people don't start coming to work...one in a car!

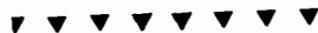
## SKYLINE PRECINCT

The statistics from the latest election show a certain lack of interest by our residents. Here we have a voting place right across the street.....our very own. Yet it would seem that our voters felt this year it was not important to vote....when EVERY election is one in which we all should take interest. Here are the sad facts of the matter:

In the Skyline Precinct there are 2,567 registered voters. In this past election only 48.6% voted. This is slightly better than the Fairfax County figure of 44.8% but not as good as the percentage for Mason District which was 49.9%, the highest in the County. Somewhere out there in our district there are citizens who have a better record than we do!

#### HOLIDAY FUND

I am sure that elsewhere in this newsletter there is mention of the Employees' Holiday Fund Drive. I just wanted to add a word on behalf of the Community Relations Committee. It is very possible that once a year is the only time most of us pause to give thought to those who work for us in this condominium. There always seems to be time to complain...but, rarely, time enough to say "thank you". No matter what one's religion, this is the season for thinking of others. So, please give a thought.....and a contribution..... to this effort.



SKYLINE INTERNATIONAL CLUB

AND

SKYLINE HOUSE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESENT

#### A NORDIC NIGHT

ON: DECEMBER 20th AT 8:00p.m.

IN: SKYLINE HOUSE EAST PARTY ROOM

SEE: THE NORDIC FOLKDANCERS IN  
COLORFUL NATIVE COSTUMES

HEAR: HENRY AND MILDRED HANSON DESCRIBE  
CHRISTMAS IN SCANDINAVIA

WELCOME: LUCIA AND HER ATTENDANTS

ENJOY REFRESHMENTS: SWEDISH GLÖGG AND  
LUSSELBRÖD



## MASON DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Last summer Fairfax County Supervisor, Tom Davis, circulated a questionnaire to all residents in Mason District. He received responses from almost 1,700 households, including 150 from Skyline City residents. Below are the results of this interesting survey with those for Skyline City shown in script. To conserve space 'no opinion' percentages have not been reproduced.

### SKYLINE %

1. Each year Fairfax County vehicle owners are required to: (a) file a personal property return, (b) purchase a County vehicle license, and (c) pay personal property tax on each vehicle. Which of these statements best describes your experience in meeting these requirements?

- 56% 62% a. I have experienced no difficulty and feel the present system is working well.  
29 24% b. I have not encountered any serious problems personally, but feel the system needs to be improved.  
11 12% c. My experience with the current system has been unsatisfactory, and I feel that significant changes are needed.

2. In 1984 Fairfax County began prorating personal property taxes. Under the previous system, tax was due only if the vehicle was owned on January 1 of the tax year. Therefore, no tax was owed for the year in which the vehicle was acquired, but a full year's tax was owed for the year in which the vehicle was sold. Under the new system, tax liability begins in the month of acquisition and ends with the month of disposal, being prorated over those months the vehicle is owned. Which statement best reflects your opinion of this change?

- 67% 58% a. I strongly support the change, because it is fairer to prorate the tax over the exact number of months the vehicle is actually owned.  
10 17% b. I believe there may be merit to the idea of proration in theory, but am concerned about the additional costs of implementing a more complicated system.  
18 20% c. I oppose proration, because it makes an already complicated system even worse and results in much higher taxes on new car buyers in the year of purchase.

3. Fairfax County currently levies a personal property tax of \$4.80 per \$100 of assessed value on motor vehicles. Which of these statements best expresses your opinion of the personal property tax in general?

- 5% 8% a. I support the personal property tax and would favor increasing the rate to enable the County to further reduce real estate taxes.  
21 26% b. I support the personal property tax at the \$4.80 rate and feel the current balance between real estate and vehicle taxes is about right.  
37 39% c. I think the personal property tax is justified, but with the price of cars so high today, there should be a reduction in the rate.  
32 23% d. I oppose the personal property tax and would prefer to raise other taxes and repeal the personal property tax.

4. At which level of government do you feel you receive the greatest value for the tax dollars you pay?

- 28% 1% a. Federal government  
5 11% b. State government  
31 43% c. Local government

5. Are you now, or do you intend to become, a subscriber to the Fairfax County cable television system?

16 2 43% a. Yes, currently a subscriber  
14 14% b. Yes, intend to become a subscriber  
42 29% c. No, do not intend to subscribe

6. The Virginia Department of Highways has the responsibility for building and maintaining all primary and secondary roads in Fairfax County. Because of concern that the state was failing to meet the needs of Fairfax County residents, the Board of Supervisors proposed bond issues for road improvements, which were approved by the voters in 1981 and 1982. Additional road bond proposals are expected to be submitted to the voters over the next several years. Which of these statements best reflects your opinion of the County's Road Bond program?

152 13% a. Strongly support, because our transportation needs are the County's biggest problem and deserve the highest priority for funding.  
55 43% b. Support reluctantly, but only because the state is never going to allocate adequate funds for Fairfax County roads, so we have no choice but to supplement it ourselves.  
4 8% c. Oppose, because the bond funds allocated for roads would come at the expense of other needed County services, such as public safety, schools, libraries, parks, and public works.  
21 31% d. Strongly oppose, because highways should be paid for only from gasoline taxes or tolls and not from County real estate and personal property taxes.

7. Because of declining school enrollments in recent years, the Fairfax County School Board has closed a number of County schools, including Jefferson and Fort Hunt High Schools. How do you feel about this policy?

542 56% a. School closings are usually justified, even when communities are opposed to them, because larger schools cost less per pupil and can offer a wider range of courses and activities.  
8 11% b. School closings are justified, but only if the affected communities agree to them.  
5 6% c. School closings are usually not justified, because they cause too much disruption to the students involved and produce minimal net cost savings.  
9 12% d. School closings are not justified, because neighborhood schools are an asset to the entire community and worth paying more to retain.

8. Do you have any school-age children in your family, and, if so, do they attend public or non-public schools?

32 14% a. Yes, in public schools  
0 5% b. Yes, in non-public schools  
0 1% c. Yes, in both public and non-public schools  
97 80% d. No

9. The Fairfax County School Board is currently appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Do you feel the Fairfax County School Board should be:

40% 53% a. Elected 34 30% b. Appointed 26 17% c. No opinion

10. The "Weekly Agenda" is a County publication which is available to all County residents without charge. It describes actions by the Board of Supervisors and reports on other news and information about our County government. Do you currently receive the "Weekly Agenda?"

342 37% a. Yes 66 63% b. No

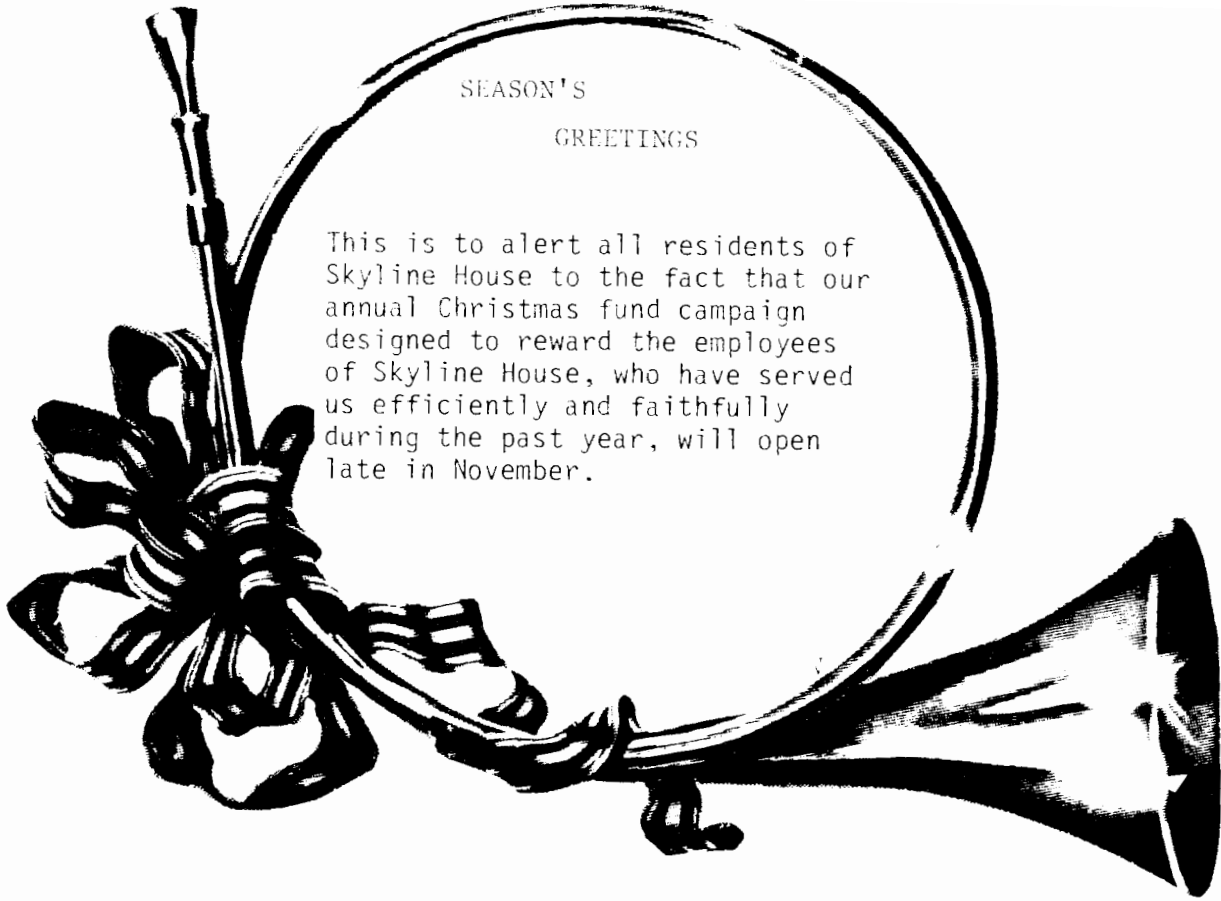


# DECEMBER 1985

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	BRIDGE 7:30 p.m. ECR	COMMUNITY RELATIONS 7:30 p.m. ECR			T.G.I.F. 6:30 p.m. WPR	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	BRIDGE 7:30 p.m. ECR		RECREATION COMMITTEE 7:30 p.m. WCR	PHYSICAL PLANT 8:00 p.m.		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	BRIDGE 7:30 p.m. ECR	BOARD OF DIRECTORS 7:30 p.m. WPR			INTERNATIONAL CLUB EPR	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	BRIDGE 7:30 p.m. ECR	SECURITY 8:00 p.m. WCR	Christmas			
29	30	31				
	BRIDGE 7:30 p.m. ECR					

SEASON'S  
GREETINGS

This is to alert all residents of Skyline House to the fact that our annual Christmas fund campaign designed to reward the employees of Skyline House, who have served us efficiently and faithfully during the past year, will open late in November.



# The Italian STORE

**A GOURMET DELICATESSEN**

Fresh Pasta • Homemade Mozzarella  
Cannoli • Italian Entree's  
"Philadelphia Style Italian Subs  
& Sandwiches"

Italian Coldcuts & Fresh Sausage • Rum Cake  
Groceries • Ices  
One of the Area's Largest Selections of Italian Wines

Party Platters • Caterers • Gnocchi • Lasagna • Tortellini • Cavatelli

As Seen in  
"THE WASHINGTONIAN"



Visit Our New Store at  
7 Corners Shopping Center  
(lower level next to Garfinkels)

**241-9193**

6201 Arlington Boulevard  
Falls Church, Virginia

Open Daily & Sundays

Lyon Village Shopping Center

**528-6266**

3123 Lee Highway  
Arlington, Virginia





## RECREATION COMMITTEE

"Come join the fun!"

The Recreation Committee has been extremely active during the past several months and the results of these activities are as follows:

**MEXICAN DINNER.** It was an excellent dinner and over 90 people attended. A good time was had by all. The Hostesses, Maria Boykin and Elsa Paez, thank all those who helped and those who attended the dinner. We hope they have the courage and stamina to do it again next year.

**POT LUCK POSH.** The pot luck dinner attracted close to 60 people. The food was excellent. No date set for the next pot luck posh. Bernice and Milt Kaminsky thank all those who assisted.

**FLEA MARKET.** The turn out was fair. We hope all who participated were successful. The Committee will try for a better location for next year's Flea Market. Gladys Manrique thanks those who had tables and provided cakes and cookies for sale.

**BREAD BAKING CLASS.** The participants all enjoyed the classes. No plans for a future class.

### COMING EVENTS

December 6	Holiday T.G.I.F., West Party Room
January 3	T.G.I.F., East Party Room
January 24	Wine & Cheese Party, West Party Room
February 7	T.G.I.F., East Party Room
February ?	Italian Nite, East Party Room (date not firm)

Do you participate in the activities of the Skyline House? Do you have anything to offer? Join us at the next Recreation Committee meeting on December 12, East Party Room, 7:30 p.m.

## SECURITY & FIRE/SAFETY COMMITTEE

Les Boykin

Last year on December 3rd we experienced three burglaries in our complex; in each instance deadbolts were not in place. We started our Watch program the next day informally and formalized the program with a police briefing ten days later. If you have been inactive on the Watch but have an armband, we invite you to put it on and **enjoy a few December strolls** thru the quiet luxury of our ornate corridors, especially in the daytime weekday hours. You will burn calories and feel better! Or, if it's not too cold, try the scenic beauty of our garage. Your co-residents will feel more secure just seeing you out there shivering. Then, why not top it all off with a sauna or steam bath to relieve the kinks (providing it's your gender day in those facilities). Visibility of patrollers is our technique for deterring burglaries as well as garage thefts and vandalism.

Between the middle of October and the middle of November, we had 28 patrols for about 22 hours of coverage. That is fairly good and we thank Frances Galliher, Jerry Schumaker, Herbert Jung, Helen & Ross McAskill, **Arlene Burbank** (particularly) Elizabeth Grant, Wilma McDonald & Pat Fredette for their time contributed to the Association.

The Mason District Police now have their computer system in operation with 19 Neighborhood Watches tied into it and room for more. If any responsible resident with his own PC and modem is interested in acting for Skyline House in this system, please contact me.

The Committee's recommendations on procedures for controlling strangers entering our buildings in response to "Open House" ads were approved by the Board of Directors at the November meeting.

At our November meeting, the Committee reviewed our **traffic-pattern-in-the garage-system**. A brief paper explaining the system is to be submitted for the Board's consideration of an all-Unit distribution so that we'll all be "singing off the same music sheet" in the garage.

We are looking into the possibility of inviting County Auxiliary Police to survey our garage and parking area for lack of county stickers and other violations. As you know, any large-scale failure to pay required fees and taxes tends to shift an additional burden on those who do pay. More importantly, the Police might be able to do spot ticketing of **fire lane violators**, as well as ticketing for **reckless driving** in the garage, although the County Police cannot enforce our rules and regulations.

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.

'CALL COPS' SCHEDULE  
Dial 691-COPS

December 1985

Sun., 1st	Crime Solvers Crime of the Week
Mon., 2nd	Current Police News Item
Tue., 3rd	If Your License Plates Are Lost or Stolen
Wed., 4th	How to Obtain a Police Report
Thu., 5th	What To Do If Your Car Is Stolen
Fri., 6th	If You Receive A Traffic Summons
Sat., 7th	
Sun., 8th	Crime Solvers Crime of the Week
Mon., 9th	Kerosene Heater Safety
Tue., 10th	How Burglar-Proof Is Your Home?
Wed., 11th	Buying or Selling Your Car in Virginia
Thu., 12th	Regulations Governing B-B Guns
Fri., 13th	Motorists Can Avoid Violent Confrontations
Sat., 14th	
Sun., 15th	Crime Solvers Crime of the Week
Mon., 16th	Current Police News Item
Tue., 17th	Posting Property Against Trespassing
Wed., 18th	Who Answers When You Call the Police Dept.?
Thu., 19th	The Difference Between Robbery, Burglary and Larceny
Fri., 20th	If a Raccoon or Skunk Comes To Call
Sat., 21st	
Sun., 22nd	Crime Solvers Crime of the Week
Mon., 23rd	The Police Explorers Program
Tue., 24th	Woodstove Safety
Wed., 25th	" "
Thu., 26th	Make Sure Your Car Doesn't Block Traffic
Fri., 27th	Don't Litter
Sat., 28th	
Sun., 29th	Crime Solvers Crime of the Week
Mon., 30th	Safety Tips For Driving in Snow
Tue., 31st	Police Cannot Settle Civil Disputes

The CALL COPS tape is changed at 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday to the next day's tape. A new tape is also put on each Monday morning at 8:00 a.m.

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Are you using a records safe to protect your valuables, or a money safe to protect papers? Trying to use the wrong safe to protect your property can be a very costly mistake. A safe with only a U.L. description as a fire safe offers no protection against forced entry. A U.L. rated burglary or money safe will not protect your important papers from burning in a major fire. **Recommended:** a good tool rated safe (TL60) to which you should add a fire protective records box.

# From Management



## PACKAGES

This time of year the front desk has an abundance of packages from the Post Office and UPS. Please check your box at the front desk frequently for packages.

## DOORMAN

Please do not ask the doorman to take luggage or packages to your unit. He may assist you getting the hand truck from the front desk so that you may take your luggage or heavy packages to your unit. However, the doorman must remain at the door to help with security and traffic flow as well as opening doors. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

## PARTY ROOM

For those of you using the Party Rooms, the management will provide additional tables and chairs at a nominal rental fee. We find that rental companies scratch our corridor walls, elevators and floors and wrinkle the carpets when delivering furniture. We feel that less damage to the building will occur by providing tables and chairs from in-house.

When having a party please be sure to give an alphabetical guest list to the front desk on the day of the party, and advise your guests to obtain a parking permit when they arrive.

During this busy season, it is very important that all residents remember that guest parking is for our guests only.

## DISPOSAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS OR DECORATIONS

Please do not throw any of the above items in the trash rooms, halls, stairwells or grounds.

Since all these items are combustible, special care must be exercised in their disposal.

Please call the front desk to arrange for disposal of these items. Porters will be available December 26, 27 and 30 and January 2 and 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and on Saturday December 28 and January 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to remove your live decorations. There must be someone at home in order for the building personnel to enter your unit.

If you choose to dispose of your own tree or other Christmas decorations, *please use the service elevator and take them to the dumpster behind the west building, near the loading dock.*

Thank you for your cooperation.