



The

House Special

VOLUME XIII

SEPTEMBER 1993

NO. 9

TOWN MEETING ON CABLE TV OPTIONS

Monday, September 13 at 7:30 P.M.

Every unit owner should have received the mailing describing the options for Cable TV that are being considered by the Board of Directors. There will be an open Town Meeting on Monday, September 13, to give all owners an opportunity to ask questions, make comments and express their views. The mailing you received included an extensive review of the three alternate options, and an Option Preference Form to be completed and returned (one form from each unit).

The Board of Directors, at its meeting on Wednesday, September 22, will decide on which option to select. The Board will be guided by the preferences expressed by the owners, as well as the discussion at the Town Meeting on September 13. Since the options affect your pocket books and/or your TV viewing pleasure, be sure to attend the Town Meeting. Then, return your Option Preference Form no later than September 20 (if you have not already done so) to the Management Office.

Time permitting, the second topic at this Town Meeting will touch on areas discussed by the Board at its retreat on July 29 and 30. (See the item entitled "Board Retreat" on page 3 of the August newsletter.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Tilson

Having been out of town most of the month of August, and with no Board meeting scheduled during the month, my report is very brief.

I have just two things to discuss:
- the interim results of the survey of

unit owners soliciting their preferences on TV cable service options, and, the next Town Meeting, which will take place on September 13 at 7:30pm in the West Party Room.

TV Cable Survey

About half of the 552 residential unit owners have responded to the

(Continued on page 3)



The

House Special

Editor: Law Henderson

Advertising: Skyline House
Business Office
(703) 578-4855

Copy Due Date: 20th of the month
preceding issue date

Published: Monthly

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: *The House Special* welcomes brief comments from its readers. Please limit your letters to 250 words and include your name and Unit Number. The Association Board reserves the right to refuse incorrect or improper statements.

ADVERTISING: A rate card, showing the costs and sizes, is available from the Business Office. If there are services and/or tradespeople with whom you have dealt, let the Business Office, 578-4855, know so that we may pursue them as advertisers. The appearance of advertisements in *the House Special* does not constitute endorsement by the Association.

PUBLISHED BY: SKYLINE HOUSE UNIT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., 3711 South George Mason Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041-3713, (703) 578-4855.

PRINTED BY: Curry Printing and Copy Center
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Mr. Ray Schanamann's letter, in the August issue, against purchasing cable service from Washington Cable missed the point. He questioned how many of our residents subscribe to Washington Cable and presented this as though only a few **care to** subscribe compared to the estimated less than 40% who subscribe to Media General. Mr. Schanamann fails to understand that **everyone** in Skyline House can watch Washington Cable without paying for it because it is transmitted over the same common element antenna system as our master antenna system (MATV). As a result, only those who do not know that this service is not intended to be free (or a part of the common element) are subscribing to Washington Cable for the 9 (only) channels available from the Galaxy #5 satellite. At present, this amounts to only 18 subscribers. I estimate that up to 60% of our residents are watching Washington Cable and would be very upset if it is taken away, because they prefer it to Media General.

The current offer by Washington Cable to provide 24 of the most popular non-premium ("Full Basic") channels for an average cost of only \$6.00 per month per unit with no limit on the number of TV sets in the unit, is extremely reasonable considering the cost of subscribing to Media General's "Full Basic" service at over \$30.00 per month for only one TV set.

Also, if Mr. Schanamann is a Media General subscriber, he will (himself) be upset when the new cable law becomes effective and he discovers that Media General's cost for the basic channels he enjoys will go up...not down.

Michael L. Moore, Unit 1213E
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Cable TV

Resident's Report from page 1)

survey. About 70% of those who have responded have voted in favor of our contracting with Washington Cable to supply service to all units in Skyline House through the house antenna wiring system. The monthly charges for this service would become part of the Skyline House operating budget and would be included in the regular condo fee paid by each unit owner. There will be an opportunity for any unit owners who wish to discuss this matter to do so at the Town Meeting on September 13. The final date for submission of the survey responses is September 20. The Board will formally act on this matter at its regular meeting on September 22. If any unit owner interested in this issue has mislaid the report of the ad hoc Committee and the survey form, please contact the management office to obtain another copy.

Town Meetings

The Board plans to hold regular Town Meetings in September, December, and June, with the Annual Meeting, which is held in March, serving as the fourth quarterly Town Meeting. The Board has two main items for the agenda of the September meeting: the cable TV issues that were the subject of the survey of unit owners, and the issue of strengthening our governance capabilities, an issue that the Board explored at some length at a retreat it held in July. We would welcome suggestions of other topics

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that unit owners would like to have discussed at these meetings. Please drop me a note. I am in unit 805W. If there are more items suggested than can be accommodated at one meeting, our first item of business will be adoption of the agenda. If time does not permit discussion of all the items suggested, we will agree on a future date when they will be discussed, either at a Board meeting or another Town Meeting.

Please plan to attend the September 13 Town Meeting. Refreshments will be served. As unit owners, it is important that your views and ideas on all matters pertaining to life in our condominium be heard. The Board is interested in hearing from everyone who has an opinion on matters of general interest to management and to other unit owners.



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IntroducingDon Perper

(Ed. Note: Our Deputy General Manager came aboard in March. We asked him to provide a bit of his background and work philosophy for us.)

I am a native Washingtonian of 36 years and reside in Germantown, MD with my wife Terri and three year-old daughter Emily Ann. Terri and I serve as the Directors of Music at Oak Chapel United Methodist Church in Silver Spring, MD and have been involved in church music for many years. With undergraduate degrees in Zoology and Applied Music from the George Washington University and a Master's Degree in Applied Music, I followed in my family's footsteps and began working in the hotel industry. I have been affiliated with Holiday Inn, Hilton, Hyatt Regency, Sheraton, Woodfin Suites, Doubletree and Marriott Courtyards during the past 14 years.

Working in the service industry has been challenging and satisfying. I have especially enjoyed the opportunities to work directly with people. Throughout my associations I have always striven to be considerate of others, to treat people with respect and not to expect anything in return that I was not willing to give. Striving to establish open lines of communication has always been a priority. In addition, maintaining an "open door" policy has continued to be an important part of my management style.

I encourage you to share your suggestions or concerns regarding our condominium community with me at any time, I value your feedback.

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But many hands make light work,
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THE GOOD NEIGHBOR GROUP



Co-Chairs: Irene Wolgamot 998-1715
Geraldine Naveau, 931-4643

o The volunteer Good Neighbors for September are:

SKYLINE HOUSE GOOD NEIGHBORS

September 1993

Gwen Petitjean 820-4260
George Saab 931-2910

o You are again reminded that the *Good Neighbors* volunteer program provides temporary help to *Skyline House* residents who need it due to illness, disability or emergency.

o So far, assistance to home-bound residents has taken the form of errands for groceries, medicines, dry cleaning, and newspapers as well as transportation to a doctor's office. The *Good Neighbors* will also make friendly telephone calls to residents, if requested.

POSITION WANTED:

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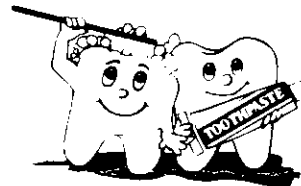
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NEWSLETTER REVIEW BOARD

As part of a program to improve communication and information to residents, an ad hoc Newsletter Review Board has been created. The ad hoc group will look for ways to improve the design, layout and content of the monthly House Special. This temporary review board will work closely with the newsletter editor, Law Henderson, to assist with ideas and procedures to broaden the interest in this publication. The newsletter is meant to be the main means of providing information to the residents of Skyline House. Judging from the evidence we need to do better.

The Board of Directors is asking for volunteers who have some familiarity with any of the following: content, features, writing, production, design and layout, etc. Can you help? Please call or write to **Ed Bisgyer**, Chair of the ad hoc committee, unit 408-W, 820-5944.

SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

| | | |
|---|---------|-----|
| September 8 - Recreation Committee | 7:30 pm | ECR |
| September 8 - Security, Fire & Safety Comm. | 7:30 pm | WCR |
| September 9 - Physical Plant & Operations | 8:00 pm | WCR |
| September 15 - Covenants Committee | 7:30 pm | ECR |
| September 16 - Financial Management Committee | 7:00 pm | ECR |
| September 22 - Board of Directors | 7:30 pm | ECR |

ECR = East Card Room

WCR = West Card Room

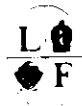


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RECREATION COMMITTEE

**Tony DiSalvo & Dave Harvey,
Co-Chairs**

0 The Committee met on August 11. As with all committees, we more than welcome new members.

0 The French Night Dinner was a big success and all who attended had a great meal and a good time. There were several new faces. This was not a dinner catered by an outside party as was the Chinese Dinner. Tony thanks his wife, Nancy, who assisted before the dinner, and Mimi Frank and Nancy for their assistance in the kitchen getting the dinner served. Also, Carroll Thompson for being our well-dressed waiter for the evening. Thanks to those who helped clean up the party room and those who helped clean up in the kitchen. But most of all, thanks to all the Skyline House residents who participated.

0 We are asking residents again to give us suggestions for future activities, by leaving a message for the co-chairs at the front desk. We

hope to hear from you. (No messages received as of this writing, although this request was first printed in June.) Don't you have ideas for interesting activities or events?

0 Just a reminder for those new residents who have not yet attended the monthly TGIF: Make the next TGIF your first and meet your neighbors. YOU are very welcome and, to make it easier for you, don't bring a plate of hors d'oeuvres. Just bring your own liquid refreshment. We had a good crowd on August 6, the night we were rained out at poolside. We had a few new faces, as well as some who had been absent for some time.

0 For those who remember the Alexandria Singers (a Skyline House resident is a member of the Singers), who performed here a couple of years ago, they have agreed to return to Skyline House

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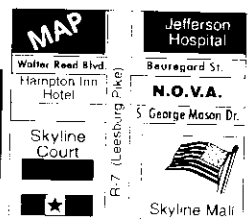
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for another of their wonderful performances. If you did not hear their June program, "A Lovely Way to Spend an Evening" at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, you certainly missed some wonderful entertainment. We are working on a suitable date for the end of October or early November. More specifics as the date becomes firm.

0 No firm date for Atlantic City in October but we still plan to go.

0 The next meeting of the Recreation Committee will be September 8, 7:30 p.m., West Card Room. Please join us.

0 The next TGIF is scheduled for Friday, September 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the East Party Room.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

TGIF Fri., Sept. 3 6:30p.m. East Party Room

Committee Meeting Wed., Sept. 8 7:30p.m. West Card Room

TGIF Fri., Oct. 1 6:30p.m. West Party Room

Atlantic City, October. Date to be announced.

Alexandria Singers, Autumn. Date to be announced.

Security, Fire & Safety Committee

Chair - Vacant

The Committee did not meet in July or August. Our Meeting for September has been changed. It is scheduled for 7:30 pm Wednesday, September 8, in the West Card Room (WCR). All residents are invited to attend any of our meetings.

(Ed. note: the calendar insert reflects this change.)

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MANAGEMENT REPORT

o The swimming pool is scheduled to close on Labor Day. Because of the current hot weather and a forecast of the same, we plan on keeping the pool open at least one more weekend (the weekend days only). Depending on **user reaction** and the next long term September forecast we may keep the pool open for an additional 2 more weekends. Let us know what you think. Pool usage has been almost double that of the past few years.

o Once again construction activity is rearing its ugly backhoe in and around the electric vault across from the West Lobby entrance. Last week Virginia Power was successful in temporarily transferring the power lines from the defective switch to the transformer. Currently their subcontractor, Danella Construction, is in the process of removing the defective switch, building a new support pad and installing a new switch. At that point Virginia Power personnel will switch back the power connections from the transformer to the switch. For those of us who can't seem to remember when this all started - it was December of '92. During this period Virginia Power has replaced the entire underground line from the Seminary Rd. station transformer to the switch in front of the West building. This action should result in a better solution of area power problems.

o The concrete supports for the traffic light standards have been poured. We expect the poles to be erected in the near future. Landscaping for this area is now planned for spring of 94. Remaining are: 1. hanging, testing and timing of the traffic lights; 2. lengthening of the median strips; 3. installation of the vehicle sensor loops. Don't look for the lights for some time.

o Management is receiving more and more complaints of people using

storage bins that are **NOT** assigned to their unit. If this occurs the contents may be disposed of without notice. Only in rare cases do we find a clue to the owner. If so, we will try to contact them; otherwise into the trash. Recently we discovered a set of unused Mercedes Benz wheels. If anyone wishes to place a claim they should contact Don Perper or me, and be prepared to give a list of the other items stored with the wheels. Hint ... Hint ... They were found in the West Building. Reminder, any items left outside of a storage bin, that includes the top, may be disposed of without notice.

o TIP: For those of us on the school / sunny side of the building... keep your blinds and drapes closed during the day ... you should experience a reduction in cooling costs along with a cooler unit when you return home...


o Another Tip: HOW TO SAVE MONEY. Have a Skyline House vehicle sticker on your automobile. It can save you up to \$65.00. One of our requirements is that all vehicles at Skyline House display a House sticker. It is apparent that less than full compliance now exists. The advantage to having a House sticker is that if you have inadvertently parked your vehicle in the wrong area we can readily identify it and merely ask you to move the vehicle ... not having a sticker will probably result in a sizable towing charge. Skyline House now has **FORMAL DAYTIME SECURITY**. Parking, moving in/out and deliveries are being monitored closely.

o Still another tip ... Don't forget to periodically check your condensate drain for proper drainage. Also, check the bottom of your hot water heater for signs of rust. We are finding more and more failing heaters. The 10 year

guarantees must be up.

FREIGHT ELEVATOR SCHEDULING:
You should schedule your use of the elevator as soon as you know when you are moving, having a large delivery, etc. We are experiencing more traffic with more conflicts. The priority system (1=highest) is as follows. A delivery's highest priority is 2. The first move-in / out will be scheduled as 1. Thereafter we will schedule as many as can be accommodated that day. The use of the elevators for moves, etc. is **RESTRICTED TO MONDAY - SATURDAY, FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM.** No matter if your truck arrives late: **THE MOVE STOPS AT 8 PM.** The roll-up door will be closed at that time. The reason is that the noise and confusion of moving is disturbing to other residents. Other condominiums do not allow moves after five (5) PM, and in, some cases only MONDAY thru FRIDAY. On the day of your use you will be able to sign out a key to lock out the elevator (this lock also cancels the floor call button light which tells your neighbors that they can't use the elevator). **THIS CAUSES THE ELEVATOR TO REMAIN OPEN ON THE FLOOR TO WHICH YOU TAKE IT.----- DO NOT LEAVE THE LOCKOUT KEY IN THE LOCK; USE IT TO TURN TO THE LOCK POSITION THEN REMOVE IT. IF YOU DO NOT RETURN THE KEY, FOR EXAMPLE, IF IT IS STOLEN, A \$25.00 CHARGE WILL BE LEVIED. SO SIGN UP FOR THE ELEVATOR AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE.**

o A few days ago we had another washing machine hose failure that resulted in the flooding of two units, one corridor and a storage room. Be sure you know where the water shutoff valve is located in your unit. You have shutoff valves for hot and cold water at the washing machine hoses. In many units there is insufficient room to reach them so you should also be aware that there is a **master** water shutoff valve in your utility {heat pump & hot water} closet. Part of the service of the Free - In-Unit Special Water Inspection is the marking of this valve. Included in the cost of changing of the washing machine hoses is the repacking, if necessary, of the shutoff valves at the end of these hoses. Some residents turn these valves off whenever they are not using the washing machine, as a precaution. Of course, when you are away from your unit for any length of time, vacation, etc., you definitely should turn off the washing machine valves. We have available in the management office a list of suggested safety tips to follow when you are away, written by Margaret Gassler.



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