

The



House Special

VOLUME XIII

NOVEMBER 1993

NO. 11

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Don Fenton, General Manager

o HOUSE CABLE UPDATE

The Agreement between Washington Cable and Skyline House providing bulk cable service is now in place. This Agreement provides up to 36 TV channels to each unit, maintenance of the various systems and methods of assuring the signal quality.

This service will be provided via Skyline House's existing cabling from three sources, Washington Cable's microwave antenna (19 or 20 including 2 or 3 premium channels), Skyline House's antenna system (9) and Washington Cable's UHF antennas (6). In addition a Bulletin Board channel will be available. Elsewhere in this newsletter there is a list of the proposed channels including, if any, the current house channel assignment and/or the current cable channel assignment. When available a complete list of the new assignments will be published.

Plans are now being prepared for the installation of the microwave receiving antenna on the East end of the East service elevator room. Currently Washington Cable is projecting December 1st to conduct a full test of the system. This date is a preliminary one subject to change. Management will post periodic updates of the schedule. During the installation we expect that the current channels will continue to be available. Most likely

the additional UHF channels will come on line next followed by the microwave system. Other than a few minor outages we do not expect any long term shutdown of the current House System.

Washington Cable has agreed to provide the maintenance of all three systems at no increase in cost as part of a cooperative venture. Skyline House's contribution is to receive, document, screen and investigate any complaints regarding service. For example if you have a problem on a channel or all channels you should contact the front desk. On duty personnel will be trained in compiling information from the resident that hopefully will result in better service and documentation of outages. Management plans to have a system monitor at the front desk in order to identify problems in a timely manner. A decision tree form is in development which will assist us in correcting these problems. Each unit will be provided this "tree" to assist them in determining and hopefully correcting problems without outside assistance. Skyline House will be the responsible party for notifying Washington Cable of problems. Calls from individual residents are not to be directed to Washington Cable. Washington Cable will be providing our engineering staff with specialized equipment for use in determining system problems. The intent is for Skyline House to eliminate small pesky problems in return for Washington's Cable expertise in periodic preventative maintenance and provide repairs to the Skyline House owned cabling, antennas, etc. Skyline House personnel will continue to provide assistance in television connection. Washington Cable has agreed to provide Skyline with a supply of antenna cabling



The House Special

Editor: Law Henderson

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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.

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for use between the set and the wall plate.

Washington Cable plans on providing "premium" channel service on at least two channels, Showtime & The Movie Channel, under a direct billing arrangement with individual units. They are investigating having HBO available in the future. Washington Cable will be issuing "premium" channel service information, including rates, shortly.

Finally, a combination Skyline House Bulletin Board & Channel Program Guide will be available to all residents. Management will have the capability to directly enter information to the bulletin board. We expect to provide a listing of upcoming events and special notices on a timely basis.

There will no doubt be many questions arise as this system is implemented. We expect to run into problems such as non-functional wall plates, improperly programmed television sets, incorrect installations, etc.

○ Neighborhood Watch

Last month I asked for volunteers to re-establish the Skyline House Neighborhood Watch. Well, 1, count them, 1 person volunteered. Now I know that a lot of us are walking the corridors, especially with the cold weather, why not help out. Remember the Holiday Season is arriving soon and as I have said before thieves holiday shop too, they just do it a little differently. We need the extra eyes so I'm running this plea once again. PLEASE VOLUNTEER.

Volunteers are entitled and encouraged to go through a Neighborhood Watch course offered by The Fairfax County Police. In addition you may participate in tours and other police programs. Neighborhood Watch does NOT POLICE, they OBSERVE and REPORT. UNDER NO CONDITIONS DO MEMBERS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CONFRONT OR DISCIPLINE ANYONE.

Volunteers patrol in pairs as a minimum. Other

great benefits are; meeting your neighbors; getting some great exercise; making our homes a little bit safer than they were before. If you are interested please contact me, Don Fenton, to sign up for **THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM.**

o **HANDICAP LIST**

Skyline House maintains a list of residents that could possibly require evacuation assistance in the event of an emergency such as fire, tornado, etc. This list is maintained at the front desk, the fire control room (for the Fire Department) and at all administrative offices. To be placed on this list please advise the office of the name, unit and reason for assistance {deafness, cardiac, etc.}.

o **POOL**

ch. Only a couple of verbal comments were received in response to the 1993 pool operation. They were complimentary in nature. Most people seemed pleased with the swim lane feature we installed this year based on a suggestion by Paul Miller. As previously mentioned management was pleased with the contract performance by NOVA in particular their response to solving problems. Those problems were minor and few in nature. Management will be refurbishing many of the deck chairs and is considering providing more shade in the form of umbrellas and possibly gazebos. Of course the replanting of the planters will be completed well prior to the 1994 pool season. One suggestion that will be discussed at the PPOC meeting is a proposal for enclosing and heating the pool Management will be making their recommendation to PPOC next week as to the 1994 pool contract. It still is not too late to make suggestions for next year, remember we are here to listen and to accomplish as much as possible to enhance the quality of life here at Skyline House. No matter how far out a suggestion may seem it has the potential to develop/mutate into an excellent idea.

pr. o **RECYCLING**

Thanks for the response to proper disposal of trash. A noticeable change in the use of the

recycling toters has resulted.

o **BALCONY RUGS**

The time of the year has arrived for the mandatory winter removal of balcony carpeting. We are expecting a freeze at any time. The problem is that any moisture held against the balcony deck by carpeting may not evaporate and if freezing occurs there is a greater chance of expanding any microscopic cracks in our balcony decks. Once again we will be offering winter storage of your carpeting, if required. Please contact the management office to make arrangements for pickup. Each carpet will be inspected and properly tagged with the unit identification. While storage of items is at the risk of the resident the Association will take reasonable precautions to minimize damage or loss.

o **TRAFFIC LIGHT UPDATE**

We have been informed by the installers of the traffic light at our main entrance that all equipment is in place. They have advised VDOT to make application to Virginia Power in order to activate the power. After power is established the lights must be placed in a blinking mode for a minimum of 72 hrs. Following the burn in period the lights will be timed and placed in service. Neither the installation company nor VDOT has given us a schedule for this procedure. It is our best bet that it will be sometime during the holidays before the lights are functioning. We have noticed that it is taking longer and longer for people exiting Skyline House to make left turns. As a consequence traffic is now backing up in our driveway. Since we have a small amount of space two or three cars waiting to make a left turn effectively cut off vehicles coming from the rear of 3713. When the light is functioning we expect further congestion to occur. Exiting drivers should consider making a right turn and perhaps a U-turn down by Skyline Plaza or utilizing Route 7 more often. We will be painting new traffic patterns in hopes of easing the burden, however, there is very little driveway space to utilize.

Current # Channel Hse Cable	Future Channel #	Station Identifier	Network Affiliation	FCC Ch. #	Originating City	Source
2	2	WMAR	NBC	2	Baltimore	S.H. Antenna
3	3	WETA	PBS	26	Washington	S.H. Antenna
4	4	WRC	NBC	4	Washington	S.H. Antenna
5	5	WTTG	FOX	5	Washington	S.H. Antenna
6	6	WDCA	IND	20	Washington	S.H. Antenna
7	7	WJLA	ABC	7	Washington	S.H. Antenna
9	9	WUSA	CBS	9	Washington	S.H. Antenna
11	11	WBAL	CBS	11	Baltimore	S.H. Antenna
13	13	WJZ	ABC	13	Baltimore	S.H. Antenna
		WMPT	PBS	22	Annapolis	W.Cable - UHF
	15	WHMM	PBS	32	Washington	W.Cable - UHF
		WBFF	FOX	45	Baltimore	W.Cable - UHF
	21	Univision	Spanish	48	Washington	W.Cable - UHF
	18	WFTY	IND	50	Washington	W.Cable - UHF
		WNVC	PBS	56	Fairfax	W.Cable - UHF
	25	CNN	Cable	80		W.Cable Microwave
		CNN-Headline	Cable			W.Cable Microwave
	31	CSPAN	Cable		Washington	W.Cable Microwave
		CSPAN-II	Cable		Washington	W.Cable Microwave
	17	CNBC	Cable			W.Cable Microwave
	23	ESPN	Cable	85		W.Cable Microwave
	27	USA	Cable	75		W.Cable Microwave
	16	WTBS	IND		Atlanta	W.Cable Microwave
	99	WGN	IND	15	Chicago	W.Cable Microwave
		WWOR	IND	9	New York	W.Cable Microwave
	14	Arts & Entertainment	Cable	70		W.Cable Microwave
	28	The Discovery Channel (TDC)	Cable	96	Maryland	W.Cable Microwave
		American Movie Classics (AMC)	Cable			W.Cable Microwave
		BRAVO	Cable			W.Cable Microwave
		Turner Network Television	Cable	109		W.Cable Microwave
		Black Entertainment TV	Cable			W.Cable Microwave
		MTV	Cable	112		W.Cable Microwave
		Bulletin Board	In-House		Skyline House	W. Cable
		Show Time	Premium *			W.Cable Microwave
		The Movie Channel	Premium *			W.Cable Microwave
		H.B.O.	Premium *			W.Cable Microwave

CURRENT & PROPOSED HOUSE CABLE TV SYSTEM

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Tony Di Salvo & Dave Harvey, Co-Chairs

○ The Committee met on October 13. Co-Chair Harvey was excused. A prospective member attended and provided us with some suggestions. As with most committees, we more than welcome new members.

○ Just a reminder for those new residents who have not attended the TGIF -- make the next TGIF your first and meet you neighbors. YOU are more than welcome and, to make it easier for you, you are requested NOT to bring *hors d'oeuvres*, just bring your own liquid refreshments.

○ Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 11 for the **Annual Holiday Party**. It is usually the most attended activity of the year. Additional details will appear in the December *House Special*.

cl. ○ We continue to ask residents (starting with
v the June newsletter) to give us suggestions for future activities by leaving a message for either of the co-chairs at the front desk. We hope to hear from you. Two residents have responded with

suggestions in October and we will endeavor to act on them.

○ Aerobics and water exercise classes were again suggested. One method would be to see if there are any certified instructors who live in *Skyline House* who would be interested in volunteering his/her services. Please let us know. Another, the Swim and Stay Fit Program sponsored by the Red Cross. These, however, will have to wait until the warm weather sets in.

○ The Atlantic City trip took place on Thursday, October 28 and we will have more details on this also next month.

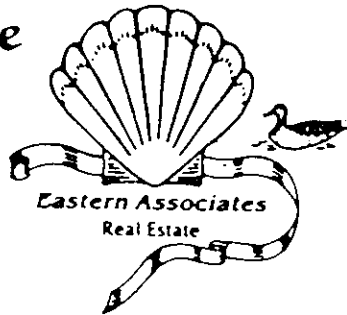
○ There will be no committee meeting in November.

○ TGIF will be held on Friday, November 5 at 6:30 in the East Party Room.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

TGIF	Fri. Nov. 5	EPR 6:30 pm
Rec Com Meeting	Wed. Dec. 8	WCR 7:30 pm
Annual Holiday Party	Sat. Dec. 11	WPR 7:00 pm

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SECURITY, FIRE & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Millie Foley, Chair

○ There was no committee meeting in October. Our next bi-monthly meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on November 10 in the West Card Room. All residents are invited to attend.

○ We would like to reiterate the required use of your headlights at all times when moving within the garage. One resident, when reminded of this assumed that it was required only at night. The use of headlights in the garage is for the safety of all, not only the operator of the vehicle.

ALEXANDRIA Singers

o On Wednesday evening, October 26, the *Alexandria Singers*, under the able musical direction of Roger Oliver, entertained Skyline House residents with a most outstanding performance. Attendance was in excess of one hundred residents. The singers presented a medley of songs from Gershwin, Rock & Roll, and Western songs among others and closed with a medley of seasonal Christmas carols. Their repertoire even included a couple of dance routines. Thanks from all the residents who attended. Those who did not certainly missed a wonderful evening.

o Thanks again to the *Alexandria Singers* and to Art Brill, singer and Skyline House resident, who was able again to bring this group to us. The Singers will have a December concert at the Masonic Temple in Alexandria, December 16, 17 and 18. We will have more details in the December Newsletter. The presentation was sponsored by the Skyline House Recreation Committee.



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THE GOOD NEIGHBOR GROUP



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

o The volunteer Good Neighbors for November are:

SKYLINE HOUSE GOOD NEIGHBORS

November 1993

Lytton Stoddard 578-1090
Lou Burkot 845-7724

o Again this month, our good volunteers offer their services as Good Neighbors. They will help Skyline House residents who need temporary help due to illness, disability or emergency. They will also talk by telephone to anyone who requests it.

o An INVITATION is extended to all Good Neighbor volunteers and other residents interested in the program, to attend a Good Neighbor Appreciation Party next month. This will be a potluck dinner on Saturday, December 11 in the East Party Room at 6:00 p.m. So, put it on your calendar and plan to have a dinner with your Good Neighbors.



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SEMINAR ON THE AGING

On Wednesday afternoon, October 26, at 2 o'clock, Ms. Sharon Lynn of the Fairfax County Agency on Aging presented a seminar on the subject to a group of Skyline House residents. Approximately 25 attended.

The seminar covered a number of the services provided by Fairfax County for senior citizens and included the following:

Social Services	Legal Services
Adult Day Care	Home Health Care
Other Support Services	Respite Care
Mental Health Services	Case Management
Housing	Ombudsman Services
Adult Protective Services	

The presentation was well received by the attendees who had the opportunity ask questions of a knowledgeable county representative and help themselves to the many informative brochures provided. After the seminar cookies and punch were provided by Management.

If you have any questions about the services provided you may call the Agency on Aging at (703) 324-5411.

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The following article appeared in an earlier issue of the *House Special*, and as the subject is as pertinent now as it was when first issued, we thought it worthwhile to repeat it.

THE MISLED AND THE MISINFORMED

By Gary A. Poliakoff*

Purchasers of common-interest real estate attracted to "care-free, maintenance-free" lifestyle promotions are often surprised to learn that, while co-ownership affords many advantages, care-free and maintenance-free living is not among them. Misunderstandings develop as a result of insufficient information or misinformation concerning the responsibilities and/or liabilities associated with co-ownership.

Co-ownership only works if the owners are fully informed about their rights and responsibilities. Co-owners must come to grips with the fact that:

1. They are owners and not tenants. It is they, and not someone else, who must concern themselves with the operation of their property.
2. They, not just the board, are responsible for the success or failure of their community.
3. They must share in the common expenses, regardless of how high those expenses may be, and must budget sufficient funds to provide for repair and replacement of all building components.
4. They must abide by the covenants and restrictions and reasonable rules and regulations for the common good of the community.
5. They must give up rights which they might otherwise enjoy in single-family detached housing.

Boards must be sensitive to the co-owners' need to know the basis of board decisions. Board members contribute to the causes of friction, inflaming an already volatile situation by:

- a) Showing a lack of sensitivity to factors which often presage the manner in which an owner will respond to particular circumstances.

- b) Failing to communicate with the membership concerning the rationale for board decisions.

- c) Failing to involve owners in the decision-making process through effective use of committees and open board meetings.

- d) Losing sight of the fact that the board owes a fiduciary duty.

Co-owners, on the other hand, must appreciate the fact that the co-ownership concept is dependent upon volunteers willing to give their time and energies to serve on the board. Board members must be treated as co-owners, not as hired help catering to an individual owner's personal needs.

* Reprinted from the Community Associations Institute News by kind permission of the author, Gary A. Poliakoff, managing partner of the law firm Becker, Poliakoff and Streetfeld.

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The startling thought of middle age
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**COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS AT
BORDERS BOOK SHOP**

by Tony Di Salvo

Borders' Own Penny University. For those who have not availed themselves of the activities at Borders, the espresso bar was once again transformed into a traditional 18th century coffeehouse as they discuss issues of the times. The first session took place in September and the discussion centered on 18th century England. Many of those present were at first timid in their discussion. It was decided to continue the discussion on the same subject at the next meeting scheduled for Monday, October 18th. About a dozen people participated and a number contributed on various subjects, i.e., women authors, fashions, Quakers in England, industrialization, and cooking. The discussion was monitored by Barbara Kemp, the espresso bar manager.

The next session is scheduled for Monday, November 15 at 11:00 a.m. and the topic will be 18th century France. Anyone interested may select a topic to research and present to the group. Sign up in the book at the espresso bar. Plan to attend even though you do not wish to research and participate at this time. You'll be surprised how much you could contribute to the discussion. Coffee was provided by the espresso bar manager.

Although these discussions have been taking place on Monday mornings, arrangements are being made for evening sessions.

The first coffeehouse was opened in England in 1652 and the coffeehouse was to become a new social rendezvous. "You have all manner of news there", a foreign visitor was to write.

Another activity taking place at the espresso bar

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is a recipe demonstration. How to braid bread for your upcoming holiday occasions, was the topic on October 25. Barbara Kemp demonstrated this unique technique. In September, Barbara demonstrated three chocolate mousses as well as white chocolate mousse. Samples were provided to all. I provided assistance. The program for December was not available at this writing.

Other Activities. A number of other programs are scheduled each month, i.e. new books discussion, panel discussions, children's programs, as well as musical programs. There is no charge for these activities. Pick up your Calendar of Events entitled "FootNote" at Borders.

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Many Thanks . .

Last month, I requested assistance in re-establishing a complete file of our *House Special* which had unfortunately been depleted at the time of our court action against the Smith Companies. The response has been overwhelming and with your help all issues have been recovered and bound to preclude a recurrence. Future needs for such will be supplied with the use of copies.

It would be difficult to identify all providers but the first to respond with a complete file was Julia LeBert-Francis. Many others responded with complete files or individual copies including one of our advertisers. Again, many thanks for your response.