



The

House Special

VOLUME XVI

MARCH 1996

NO. 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gordon Frank, President

Good Health

Since my last column at least three of our residents have been hospitalized. Audrey Williams, Wayne Krumwiede, and Mike Moore have been released and seem to be doing well. To each of them, I wish renewed good health. Audrey, Wayne (and Grace, his wife) Krumwiede, and Mike have all worked hard for our association. I thank them all for their past efforts and hope that with the return of their good health they will continue to participate.

Community Items

On February 5 several Skyline House residents attended a program at Skyline Plaza that was sponsored by the Plaza Community Relations Committee. There were to be four presentations; three of the four were there to present a program to a party room packed with people. (An impending birth by the Charles Smith company representative caused that presentation to be postponed.) The Plaza Community Relations Committee had generously invited all of its Skyline neighbors to attend its program. Those who did, heard descriptions of the new "postal store" concept at the new post office, heard Homewood Suites representative describe their new facility on Leesburg Pike next to the Hampton Inn, and listened to Pettibon's management describing their hopes for a family restaurant with a "signature" meal of ribs.

Several residents who had already tried Pettibon's shared their experiences. The Skyline Plaza Community Relations Committee, chaired by George Ferguson, meets about three times a year. To this observer, George and his committee are doing an excellent job.

On February 10, a previously postponed Seven Corners/Baileys Crossroad Revitalization Bus Tour and Meeting was scheduled at the Lincolnia Senior Center. The meeting was for those citizens interested in public sector commercial revitalization who wish to provide citizen input. To my knowledge Skyline House did not have a representative present.

The Fairfax County Department of Consumer Affairs scheduled a program on "Governing Your Community Association", on February 13. Although I was originally scheduled to attend, I could not due to an unscheduled one-day visit by an out-of-town family member. However, Barbara Michelman and George Beams did attend. Their report can be found elsewhere.

Several members of the Board are scheduled to attend a March 2, 1996 Community Association Institute one-day program for officers and interested association members. Hopefully, one or more of those who attend will prepare a news item describing the program for the next issue of the *House Special*.

Penny Gross, our Mason District County Supervisor, will host a VDOT seminar on Saturday, March 9, 1996 at the Thomas Jefferson High School Auditorium. I plan to attend. Those



The

House Special

MARCH 1996

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
Alexandria, VA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Director
Director
Director

Gordon Frank
Dolores Littles
George Beams
Helen Henderson
Richard Noonan
Barbara Michelman
Gabrielle Mallon

of you interested in the traffic, traffic lights, snow removal, and other transportation related items should plan to attend also.

My January column contained three (of 17) items which a Community Relations Committee might sponsor. They were: (1) a town meeting to explain in-unit appliance and heater/air conditioning maintenance, insurance and security matters, (2) a "mixer" to welcome new residents and invite them to participate in our committees, and (3) work with Skyline Plaza Community Relations Committee and others on matters affecting the Baileys Crossroads area. We need a committee to take on these tasks. I hope that some of you will come forward and work with Dick Noonan 203E, our Board Liaison to the currently defunct Community Relations Committee, and help him to revitalize it.

Snow "Removal"

In an attempt to be good neighbors during the "Bizzard of 1996", the Skyline House staff cleared not only the paths and driveways on our property but also the sidewalks along S. George Mason Drive. Two days after everything had been cleared so that pedestrians did not have to walk in the roadway on S. George Mason Drive (a VERY dangerous practice considering the speeds of motorists around here), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) pushed the snow from the roadway across the sidewalk and onto our property! Pedestrians were forced back onto the roadway. Also, VDOT left chemically laden snow and ice across some of our shrubbery beds and lawn and tore up significant stretches of the grass strip between the sidewalk and the roadway. I personally spoke to the VDOT employee who was supervising the equipment operations and telephoned everyone I could think of. Eventually, VDOT stopped what they were doing. I noted with some annoyance that they did not push any snow on Smith property on the other side of S. George Mason.

All of our local elected officials responded well. Delegate Bob Hull returned my call from Richmond. State Senator Jane Woods wrote and

asked me to contact her in Richmond if there is snow problem. Penny Gross, our Supervisor, who could do little personally (snow removal is a state responsibility) had her staff work with me to identify people and telephone numbers to call.

Although it is not likely that we will have another "100 years blizzard" during my remaining tenure as a Board member, nevertheless, I have asked Bob Hull for information on how we might go about having S. George Mason declared a "snow emergency route". That declaration would require owners to remove their cars and make it easier for the VDOT to plow during storms. (This task could be another possible assignment for a revitalized Community Relations committee.) The Smith Company allows parking in their garage on weekends and evenings without charge. For owners this would provide a safe haven for their cars and eliminate the burdensome chore of digging cars out of snowplow generated snow banks.

Garage

The two winter storms created some mild havoc in our garage. The excessive amount of water has found its way through some non-structural cracks and dripped on cars. In some areas, the fluorescent lights, normally inadequate anyway during cold weather, have become inoperative due to short circuits when the wiring became wet. When the weather warms, we will have the cracks caulked to stop the water dripped on the cars and we will rewire the lights and continue to replace the fluorescent lights with the new mercury vapor type. (The mercury vapor lamps do not seem to dim in cold weather.) I apologize for the inconvenience but we are planning to correct these problems as soon as the weather allows.

Personnel

Many of you were aware of the dedication that our staff displayed during the winter storms. I have two short additional stories.

During the blizzard I was out on my balcony

watching Gerardo Carranza using the snow blower to clear the walkways. A few minutes later there was a knock on my door. Gerardo was at my door telling me that the snow blower had a flat tire which he had fixed. He wanted to know if he could borrow my bicycle tire pump so that he could re-inflate the tire. Of course, I loaned it to him. He returned it and went back to clearing the walkways. But, to this day, I have no idea how Gerardo knew that I had a bicycle tire pump!

Recently, one of the doors leading to the fire emergency stairway would not open. A resident reported it. This safety hazard required prompt attention from the maintenance staff and received it. The next morning, Edna deJesus, our maintenance administrator, personally tested the door to make sure it was operating properly. That sort of dedication is why our maintenance system works so well. Thank you Edna!

To continue to work well, the maintenance staff needs your help too. If you see anything requiring maintenance attention, please record it in the Maintenance Log. Once an item is recorded, it WILL enter our maintenance work order and tracking system. The Log is always at the front desk. If you wait for the opportunity to speak to a staff member about a maintenance problem instead of recording it in the Log, you or the employee may delay recording the item into the work order system or even forget about it! You will do everyone a favor by using the Log rather than depending upon memory!

Fitness Center

We have recently refurbished our fitness center. The center is located on the pool level above the lobby. If you are not familiar with it, you may wish to obtain the key at the front desk and try it out. Anyone can use it from early morning until noon every day. The center is reserved for males only on even calendar days from noon until 8 PM, and females only on odd days from noon until 8 PM. After 8PM, it is available to anyone. The fitness center is equipped with a universal weight machine, an exercise bike, and a treadmill; it has a sauna, steam room, showers and lockers.

Would you like more than what we presently have? To help management and the Board of Directors evaluate this area, we ask that you take a few moments to visit the facility and then complete the enclosed survey. Please participate in this study so that your needs and concerns may be addressed.

Security

On a recent Saturday evening, someone tried to force his way into a unit while the resident was at home. The intruder claimed to be a Skyline House employee. We know of no employee answering the intruder's description. In order to maintain the best possible security here, please: (1) do not hold open any door to allow a stranger into the building (this is particularly true at the West Building mail lobby door), (2) do not let anyone claiming to be a Skyline House employee into your unit if you do not recognize him or her (employees should be wearing a uniform with a picture badge clearly visible), (3) call the front desk on the inside telephone **IMMEDIATELY** if you have any question concerning someone who claims to be an employee seeking access to your unit, (4) always answer your door with the chain fastened (it's a good idea to keep the chain fastened whenever you are home), (5) arrange to have a security guard accompany you to and from the garage if you are uncomfortable walking by yourself late at night, and (6) if you report any security problem (such as unauthorized distribution of advertising circulars door-to-door) make sure that your report has been recorded by the front desk personnel or our guard service. If you fail to follow this advice you decrease your security and that of your family and your neighbors.

Responsibilities of Management

During my working career in the Department of Defense, I had the good fortune to work for John Betti. Prior to his short stay in federal service, Mr. Betti was an Executive Vice-President of the Ford Motor Company. He taught his staff (including this occasionally attentive member) the notion that management had two responsibilities.

First, was maintaining the day-to-day operation. Second, and often overlooked, was the idea that management had the responsibility to improve continuously every single activity. Mr. Betti termed it "business as usual during continuing renovations." I subscribe to that notion. I ask you to make sure that anything you think can improve the quality of life here be brought to the attention of management and your Board of Directors. Everything we do needs to be done better and at lower cost. Need I say more?

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Bill Miller, Chair

The Association's 1995 audit was completed in the first part of February 1996. A draft copy of the audit was reviewed by the FMC Chair, committee member Ed Bisgyer, the Association President, the Association Treasurer, the General Manager, the Association Accountant along with our Auditor, Mr. Howard Goldklang. The final copy will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

The FMC has purged our financial files to eliminate documents no longer needed and consolidated where practical. The files have been renumbered and an index prepared. The files will now be more accessible for review and research.

The following subjects will be part of the agenda for our next meeting on March 21, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room:

- Management's procurement policy;
- Five-year budget forecast;
- Swimming pool project status;
- FMC report at the Association's annual meeting;
- An initial look at the 1997 budget process.

**MEET
THE
CANDIDATES**

7:30 PM

Monday, March 18, 1996

👉 WEST PARTY ROOM

WINE & CHEESE

NEED YOUR PROXY NOTARIZED ?

BRING IT ALONG !

General Manager's Corner

Elections

The Annual Meeting and Election grow ever so near. On Tuesday, March 26th at 7:30PM, the ownership of Skyline House has the **opportunity and duty** to participate in the election process for the Board of Directors. This year there are two Board members whose respective terms expire. They are Dolores Littles (1113W), Vice-President who is completing a three-year term; and Gabrielle Mallon (1213W), Director who is completing the remaining year of a three-year term due to the resignation of Sam Blumberg who moved away from Skyline House.

On Monday, March 18th at 7:30PM you are cordially invited to attend the **Meet the Candidates Night**. This is a great opportunity to acquaint yourselves with the candidates in an open question/answer forum. Please make plans to attend this very important function. This year's candidates are **Dolores Littles** (1113W), **Gabrielle Mallon** (1213W), and **Michael Moore** (1213E). We are grateful to these three individuals for their willingness to serve our community. Short biographies of the candidates are included in this issue.

Following is the remaining 1996 Election Schedule:

Unit Owner Mailout:

Friday March 1, 1996

Meet the Candidates Night

Monday March 18, 1996 -7:30 PM WPR

Annual Meeting & Election

Tuesday March 26, 1996

7:15 PM in the Main Lobby

Committees

There is still plenty of room for **you** to serve on any number of committees. If you would like to become part of the governing process at Skyline House, you are encouraged to attend the committee meetings and see what is going on in your community. There is something foreveryone. Most of the committees meet once every other

month. To learn more on how you might serve your community, please contact me or anyone of the individuals listed below. Thanks for your help!!!

COVENANTS

Jack Herzig 310W 820-6605

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Bill Miller 1214W 820-9525

LANDSCAPING

Laurie Lakey 103E 931-0280

PHYSICAL PLANT & OPERATIONS

Bob Lowry 705E 671-3575

RECREATION

Tony DiSalvo 502E 824-1958

SECURITY/FIRE SAFETY

Ann Mehrten 1315E 820-8156

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Dick Noonan 203E 820-5178

(Board Liason) no chair at this time

Deputy General Manager

It gives me great pleasure to announce the hiring of **Jerry Stone** as the new Deputy General Manager of Skyline House. Jerry brings to us a unique background that includes many years of personnel and hospital facilities administration as well as a recent career in the hotel industry. His hands on style and interactive approach will serve him well as he tackles the day to day opportunities and challenges. Jerry will begin work with us next week.

I know that you will join me in welcoming Jerry and his wife Jean as they settle into Skyline House over the next several weeks.

Birds, Birds & More Birds

Spring is coming and so are the birds. We seem to have lots of birds around here at Skyline House particularly behind the West Building where they enjoy nesting in the large Bradford Pear trees. As a result of this nesting many automobiles are subject to incessant "air attacks" leaving an appearance which is less than pleasing. Management plans to engage in some additional pruning and tree removal to help alleviate this problem. One area in which our residents can help is by **not** feeding the birds.

Hard to believe but birds know where to look for food and remember a source once its found. If we don't feed them there is a good chance that they will roost in our trees to a lesser extent.

Are you interested in automatic deductions from your checking account for monthly condo fee payments? For more information contact Kathleen Bailey in the Accounting Office at (703) 998-0718 M-F.

**SA-8 LAUNDRY
DETERGENT**
Low Sudsing!
Bio-Degradable!

AMVOX (202) 310-2818



CHARLEY ROBERTS

Authorized Distributor, A.D.A. No. 800247

5119A Leesburg Pike, Box 260
FAX (703) 845-0174 Falls Church, VA 22041

SPECIAL THANKS

To the fantastic group of neighbors here at Skyline House who responded with prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, and transportation durig the period of my hospitalization for bypass surgery and subsequent recovery. Again, many, many thanks.....Wayne Krumwiede.

Grand Opening Special

5119-B Leesburg Pike, Virginia

In Skyline Mall

M. Mariam Caskin, DDS

(703)998-4244

Saturday appointments available

Advanced Technologies Available:

Comprehensive Examinations • Oral Cancer Screenings • Intraoral Camera • Cosmetic Dentistry • Tooth Whitening • Bonding and Veneers • Crowns, Bridges, and Implants • Full and Partial Dentures • Root Canal Therapy • Extractions • Wisdom Teeth • Surgical and Nonsurgical Gum Care • Pediatric Dentistry • Nitrous Oxide, Conscious and Intravenous Sedation • Athletic Mouthguards • Nightguards.

Affordable and Convenient:

Emergencies seen immediately • Early morning and late afternoon hours • Flexible payment plans • Delta Dental and Blue Cross provider • Most insurance accepted • VISA, MasterCard, and American Express accepted.

Membership: American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, Academy of General Dentistry, American Dental Association, American Association of Hospital Dentists, Northern Virginia Dental Association, Virginia Dental Association, Board Member of the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Mariam Caskin is fluent in English, French,

Arabic, Italian, and Spanish.

New Patient Dental Special

\$44.00

(reg. \$118.00)

- State-of-the-Art Facility
- Consultation with Doctor
- Cavity Detecting X-Rays
- Cleaning and Exam

Offer good for every member
of your family through 3/96
with this coupon only!





ST. PATRICK'S DAY COVERED DISH PARTY

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1996
IN THE WEST PARTY ROOM**

Cocktails: 6:30 PM - Dinner: 7:00 PM

Cocktails: Bring your own beverage. Ice and glasses will be furnished.

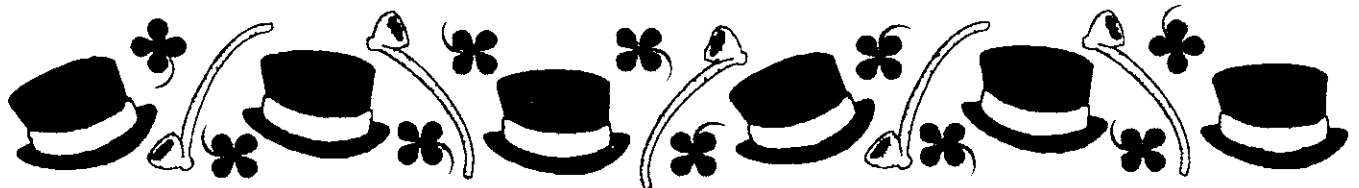
Dinner: Bring either a main entree, or TWO of the following:
salad (but NOT a green salad)
vegetable
dessert

COUPLES please bring enough food for EIGHT people.
SINGLES please bring enough food for FOUR people.

IF YOU ARE BRINGING GUEST(S), PLEASE BRING
SUFFICIENT FOOD ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER.
Rolls, coffee and tea will be provided.

There is no charge, but please sign up at the Front Desk. Come join your friends in the West Party Room.

Presented by THE SKYLINE HOUSE RECREATION COMMITTEE.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY HOT LINE

Virginians are invited to voice their opinions on legislative issues during the 1996 General Assembly session. The toll-free number is **1-800-889-0229**. The number will receive calls between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on each legislative work day.

Viewpoint operators will request callers to provide their name and address, their geographic location or legislative district, the legislator they would like to receive their message, and the issue they will address.

Operators will provide telephone numbers to callers seeking information or wanting to speak to a legislator.

Angelic Cleaning Services



Gloria Lopez
(703) 204-3190

Complete house • Townhouses
Apartment cleaning • Windows
Also moves in/out

References
Artistic touch
I'm also a photographer

Personalized
Guaranteed

SCHWARTZ TAILORING CO.

- Custom Made Suits and Shirts
- Restyling Fur/Leather
- Expert Alterations
- Reweaving



5122 Leesburg Pike
Alexandria, VA 22302

Ph. 931-0458

241-2322

R.P. MILLS

241-2322

Since 1969

PLUMBING • APPLIANCES • ELECTRICAL

FREE ESTIMATE — NO SERVICE CHARGE

— Service On —

Refrigerators	Washers	Toilets
Ranges (Gas & Electric)	Dryers	Valves
Dishwashers	Faucets	Wall Plugs
Disposals	Switches	Lights

— We Install —

Dishwashers — Disposals — Ranges (Gas & Electric)
Master Plumber, Gas Fitter & Electrician

***If we can't repair it,
you don't pay***

241-2322

241-2322

DID YOU KNOW?

Virginia's DMV uses a point system to rate drivers. You receive **demerit points** for unsafe driving and **safe driving points** for good driving.

Demerit Points are assigned when you commit a traffic violation. Different violations carry different point assignments, depending on the seriousness of the offense. For example, you will receive three demerit points if you make an improper U-turn. However, you will receive six demerit points if you speed 20 miles per hour or more above the posted speed limit. Demerit points remain valid two years from the date you commit an offense.

Safe Driving Points are assigned for each full calendar year that you hold a valid driver's license and drive without any violations or suspensions. You may also earn safe driving points by attending a driver improvement clinic. You can accumulate a total of five safe driving points and you may use these safe driving points to offset demerit points. Consider the following:

For five years Molly Buttercup followed all the safe driving rules and always obeyed the speed limit. She accumulated a safe driving point each year, for a total of five points. But, one day Molly ran a red light. DMV assigned four demerit points to her driving record. However, since she had earned five safe driving points, she ended up with one safe driving point left on her record.

DEMERIT POINTS CAN ADD UP

Each time you commit a traffic offense, DMV adds additional demerit points to your record. This can add up to big trouble for some drivers.

If you accumulate eight demerit points in 12 months (or 12 points in 24 months), you will receive an advisory letter that cautions you about the consequences of violating the law.

If you accumulate 12 demerit points in 12 months (or 18 points in 24 months), you will be required to attend a driver improvement clinic within 90 days. You will also be placed on a six-month probation. If you don't complete clinic within 90 days, your driving privilege will be suspended until you complete the clinic.

If you accumulate 18 demerit points in 12 months (or 24 points in 24 months), you will lose your driving privilege for 90 days. Additionally, you must complete

a driver improvement clinic before your privilege will be restored. Once your privilege is restored, you will be placed on a six-month probation.

If you are convicted of a traffic offense while you are on probation, your driving privilege will be suspended. The suspension period depends on the number of demerit points assigned for the violation.

3 point violation = 45 day suspension
4 point violation = 60 day suspension
6 point violation = 90 day suspension

Once you complete the suspension period, you will be placed on probation for another six months.

If you are convicted of a traffic offense while you are on probation for the first time, you may request DMV to grant you a restricted driver's license. If you violate a second or subsequent probation, DMV will grant you a restricted license only if the probationary period during which the violation occurred was immediately preceded by a control period¹. If the violation occurs during a probation which was not preceded by a control period, DMV will not grant restricted driving privileges.

Restricted driving privileges granted by DMV allow you to drive only

- to and from your place of employment.
You may travel during employment hours only if driving is a required part of your job;
- to and from school if you are a student; or,
- for medical treatment.

When you attend a driver improvement clinic you'll learn defensive driving techniques that can help you avoid and prevent crashes. These eight-hour classroom sessions are offered at sites around the state and cost \$75.00 if you are assigned to attend by DMV.

If DMV requires you to attend a clinic, you must complete the entire eight-hour course. If you fail to complete the course, DMV will suspend your driver's license. When you successfully complete the clinic, you will be awarded five safe driving points.

¹A control period is an 18-month time period during which your driving record is monitored. If you receive demerit points for a violation during the control period, you will be placed on six months probation. Once you successfully complete the control period, you will exit the driver improvement program.

- SEMINAR - GOVERNING YOUR COMMUNITY

A seminar was held under the auspices of the Fairfax County Department of Consumer affairs on Thursday, February 13 at the County Government Center. Two members of the Board of Directors, Barbara Michelman and George Beams, attended.

The program consisted of the following:

- a. Legal Foundation presented by David Mercer and Lucia Anne Trigiani;
- b. Administration by Patricia Moore; and
- c. Civic Overview by John T. Fee.

Mr. Mercer and Ms. Trigiani are associated with the firm of Mays & Valentine and specialize in real estate law. They stressed the condominium governing documents (Declaration and Bylaws).

The bylaws are the Association's "charter, containing rules for the structure of the condominium. The Virginia Condominium Act is the law that authorizes the formation of a condominium and provides a framework for association operations. The speakers emphasized the use of the bylaws as the governing documents.

Ms. Moore discussed administration. She emphasized the diversity of board members, each having different perspectives. Many will have different goals and objectives. As the governing board of the condominium, members should review the bylaws when questions or disputes arise.

Mr. Fee, President of Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Association, gave an overview of the relationship between regional governments and others.

SKYLINE HOUSE ZIP CODES 22041-XXXX

The following is a listing of the Zip Codes assigned to Skyline House and although many people are averse to using all nine digits it does assist in the prompt delivery of the mail. This is especially important now that Christmas approaches. Please advise your correspondents and perhaps in that way speed up delivery.

East Building 3709 South George Mason Drive

Units	Zip Code
101-110	22041-3751
114-316	-3700
401-505	-3752
506-610	-3753
611-715	-3754
716-911	-3755
912-1107	-3756
1108-1212	-3746
1213-1401	-3747
1402-1506	-3748
1507-1709	-3749
1710-1716	-3750
T1-T16	-3751

West Building 3713 South George Mason Drive

Units	Zip Code
101-202	22041-3729
203-405	-3730
406-510	-3731
511-615	-3732
616-804	-3733
805-916	-3734
1002-1112	-3735
1113-1301	-3736
1302-1406	-3737
1407-1511	-3738
1512-1716	-3739
T2-T16	-3729
C1W	-3768
C2W	-3767