



The House Special

VOLUME XVI

JUNE 1996

NO. 6

General Manager's Corner

STAFF PROMOTION

In April 1995 Skyline House hired Schubert Magno as the In-Unit Technician. Over the past year Schubert has demonstrated consistently his strong work ethic, a desire to excel and a commitment to provide quality service to our residents. In addition to his routine responsibilities, Schubert worked closely with our Chief Building Engineer Greg Grimm to become more familiar with the physical plant and many other essential building operation functions. (Thank you Greg for doing such a great job in training.)

When the position of Assistant Building Engineer became vacant by the departure of Ismail Muhammad, Management elected to promote Schubert Magno to Assistant Engineer. We are very proud of Schubert's accomplishments and look forward to working with him in his new role. Schubert resides in T14W with his wife and two children.

CONGRATULATIONS, SCHUBERT!

IT'S SWIMMING POOL TIME????

Yes, here at Skyline House and across the nation the swimming pool season is officially underway. Unfortunately, no one has been in the water yet. Because of the unseasonably cool and wet weather we had over the Memorial Day weekend, our sun-loving pool enthusiasts were forced to

seek other avenues of holiday fun.

Despite the rain, most of our new pool furniture (except chaise lounges) arrived in time for the weekend. Management and the Pool Committee ask that you place a towel over the furniture before sitting or lying down in order to extend the life of our new chairs and chaise lounges. The manufacturer of the furniture has told us that body oils and lotions cause early fading and deterioration of the vinyl straps.

Two new rules have been added to the Pool Rules and Regulations. First, the use of towels on chairs and chaise lounges; second, no smoking within the pool fence area. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in making the swimming pool an enjoyable experience for everyone.

**POOL PASSES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE
FRONT DESK!**

NEW LANDSCAPING COMPANY

Skyline House has changed its landscaping provider from McFall & Berry to Frontier Landscaping. Frontier has been in the business for over twenty years and comes to us with excellent references. Management and the Landscaping Committee have been very impressed with their service and level of detail. Although slightly delayed, we had the best Spring clean-up ever. All of the beds have been well mulched and edged. Frontier will also be handling the major plantings

(continued on page 3)



The House Special

Editor: Law Henderson

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

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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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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER...

Paul and Helois Miller will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 16. In addition to their anniversary, Helois is celebrating her 80th birthday. Congratulations to you both.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE.....

The **House Special** will not be published next month, July 1996. The calendar for July is included herein and the Good Neighbors for the month of July can be found in the current Good Neighbors column.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE GROWING OLD

Lord, Thou knowest I am growing old. Keep me from becoming talkative and possessed with the idea that I must express myself on every subject.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everyone's affairs.

Keep me from the recital of endless detail. Give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my aches and pains. They are increasing with the years and my love to speak of them grows sweeter as time goes by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong. Make me thoughtful but not nosey; helpful but not bossy.

I wish to thank **Sophie Anderson** for her help on numerous occasions in the distribution of the **House Special** and the mailing of billings to the advertisers and copies of the newsletter to absentee owners.

Continued from page 11 for the Association this year. We look forward to a long relationship with them. A special thank you to Laurie Lakey and the Landscaping Committee for their team-work and commitment in making Skyline House a more beautiful place to live.

VIRGINIA POWER

We are happy to report that work has been completed in replacing the worn power cables in front of the West Building. Virginia Power completed the project on schedule with minimal disruption to our residents. With this installation the forty-eight cables were sleeved through PVC conduit which provides a shield and protects the cables from weather and other elements. Additionally, should a failure occur, the faulty cable can be safely and accurately isolated in a more timely manner. Our thanks to Virginia Power and their efforts. They did a super job!

TRAFFIC SNARLS AND ENFORCEMENT

Over the past several months the level of traffic congestion has dramatically increased around the hexagon in front of the lobby building. Parking on the hexagon is permitted only in the (2) 10 minute spaces as indicated at the designated curbs. Parking or Standing anywhere else within the hexagon area is not permitted due to **Fairfax County Fire Lane restrictions**. The reason for this rule was made clear to me on two separate occasions during the month of May in which fire & emergency vehicles were summoned to Skyline House. Upon arriving here the fire trucks were unable to negotiate the hexagon due to vehicles being illegally parked in the fire lane. Management was advised by the Fairfax County Fire Dept. that fire lanes were to be kept clear at all times.

The (2) 10 minute parking spaces on the hexagon were established as a "courtesy" quick stop parking area for residents & guests who may need to run in and out of the building. As we evaluate the parking and congestion issues out

front, Management has determined that one of the causes for people parking in the fire lanes is the failure of others to observe the "10 minute rule."

As a courtesy to your fellow residents and arriving guests, Management is asking everyone to be respectful of the "10 minute rule" so that others may enjoy the same benefits. Over the next thirty days we will be increasing our monitoring and enforcement policies in the hexagon area and guest parking. Thank you for your help.

SOUND TRAVELS.....

About a year ago I was standing out on a balcony up in the East Building overlooking the pool area. It was a nice sunny day and there were several people enjoying the water and sundeck. As I looked around, I identified some familiar faces and to my surprise I could hear their conversations. I was approximately seven stories above them and yet I could hear what was being said!

My point is that noises travel up the sides of these buildings in a magnified fashion. For example, people who blow car horns day or night may attract the attention of a particular resident, but more importantly, they disturb many others. If you are expecting visitors and cannot greet them yourself, kindly ask them to advise you of their arrival via the house phone in the lobby. Your sleeping neighbors will thank you.

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 Monday-Friday

**YOUR
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
IS OFFERING A PRESENTATION
ON
HOME HEALTH CARE
THURSDAY, JUNE 13
7:00 P.M. - WEST PARTY ROOM**

**PRESENTER: MS. PEG TERRY
HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES
OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA**

A question and answer period will follow. Please join us for what promises to be a very interesting, as well as important, topic. WATCH FOR FLYERS!!!

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Tony DiSalvo, Chair

The committee did not meet in May nor will there be a meeting in June. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 10 in the East Card Room at 7:30 p.m.

A full bus departed for Atlantic City on Thursday, May 30. There is no information concerning big winners but that will be further reported in the next issue.

If you are a new resident and have not yet attended the monthly TGIF, make the next one your first and meet your neighbors. YOU are more than welcome, and to make it easier, you are requested NOT to bring a plate of *hors d'oeuvres*, just bring your own liquid refreshment.

We have been getting one or two new faces at the monthly TGIF, but still miss others who have not recently attended for whatever reason. Please come back -- we miss you.

The next TGIF is scheduled for Friday, June 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Party Room. Please join us.

TGIF	Fri	Jun 7	WPR	6:30 PM
Rec Com	Wed	Jul 10	ECR	7:30PM
TGIF	Fri	Jul 12	EPR	6:30PM
TGIF	Fri	Aug 2	WPR	6:30PM

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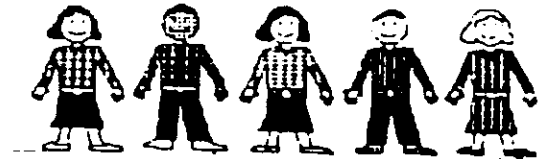
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THE GOOD NEIGHBOR GROUP

Co-chairs Irene Walgamot 998-1715
Geraldine Naveau 931-4643



Skyline House Good Neighbors
June 1996

Stephaney Keyser 671-8545
Anne Preston 931-7679

Skyline House Good Neighbors
July 1996

Joan Collins 998-0788
Virginia Wallace 671-7648

There will be a Good Neighbors table in the Main Lobby on Wednesday, June 5. Several Good Neighbors will be available starting at 5 o'clock to discuss the program and to sign up volunteers. Some of them are leaving, mainly because of relocating.

Call a Good Neighbor of the Month if you are in need of temporary help because of illness, emergency or disability. We provide home-bound residents such services as errands for groceries, medicines, dry cleaning, newspapers and mail. Some have been given transportation to the doctor or hospital.

If you know of a resident who would enjoy a Get Well message, please let us know.



FAIRFAX COUNTY

Penelope A. "Penny" Gross
Mason District Supervisor
6507 Columbia Pike
Annandale, Virginia 22003

V I R G I N I A

Telephone: 703/256-7717

Fax: 703/354-8419

May 2, 1996

Mr. Gordon Frank, President
Skyline House
3713 S. George Mason Drive
#1111-W
Falls Church, VA 22041

Dear Mr. Frank:

As part of my commitment to hold town meetings on a regular basis throughout Mason District, I am hosting my second Mason District Town Meeting on Monday, June 24 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the Bailey's Crossroads Community Center, 5920 Summers Lane in Bailey's Crossroads, and I hope you can attend.

Residents are invited to discuss their concerns and problems with Fairfax County Police, Zoning Enforcement, and other government agencies. I envision a constructive discussion and exchange of ideas as we look for solutions to our community's needs.

Enclosed please also find information regarding the recently adopted Fairfax County FY '97 budget. I would appreciate it if you could include it in your next civic association newsletter, along with the announcement of the town meeting.

Thank you for your assistance in spreading the word about the Mason District Town Meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Penelope A. Gross
Mason District Supervisor

TO ALL CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

STATEMENT OF MASON DISTRICT SUPERVISOR PENNY GROSS ON FAIRFAX COUNTY'S FY '97 BUDGET

The Fairfax County FY '97 budget approved by the Board on April 29, which I supported, includes a real estate tax rate increase of 7-cents. This year's budget deliberations began with the County Executive recommending a whopping, 17-cent (15 percent) increase to address a projected revenue shortfall of \$138 million. I opposed the County Executive's recommendation from the outset, insisting that more be done to reduce spending before considering any additional revenues. This approach paid off. The approved budget moderates the rate increase substantially; includes \$6 million more in spending cuts than recommended by the County Executive; decreases the amount County government spends on non-school programs by \$42 million; reduces County staff by 477; and reduces the requested school transfer payment by \$21 million. Importantly, during this year's process no program was off limits to cuts: Recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children will have their County-funded supplement eliminated; four communities will see their mini-libraries closed; County overtime pay will be cut. Even the police and fire and rescue functions are cut, without impacting these important services to county residents.

The magnitude of the 1997 deficit is aggravated by the failure of past Boards to address the structural nature of the deficit. That we had a structural deficit was obvious in 1992 when the growth in County revenues plummeted from 12 percent to negative 0.93. Prudent, long term solutions take time. If changes in the way the County does business had been put into place then, they would be generating savings to taxpayers today, reducing both the current deficit and our reliance on revenues. Now, with three new members, this Board is acting expeditiously to get real changes in place. For example, by the time the Fiscal 1998 budget takes effect, the County's contributory agencies will be competing for their money, instead of getting automatic grants, and changes in the way the County compensates employees will be accruing savings. (As Personnel Committee chairman, I am leading this effort.) From my perspective, the Fiscal 1997 budget is an overdue first step toward a responsible plan balancing County revenues and services.

DRAINING WATER HEATERS

Frequently, the question arises, especially from new home owners, concerning the draining of water heaters. The following appeared in the Washington Post in answer to that question and although the information may exceed our needs here in Skyline House it may be useful in the long run.

Many of the newer self-cleaning water heaters are designed to keep sediment from forming in the tank through water circulation. Check with the manufacturer of your unit. The subject is confusing because many manufacturers vary their recommendations, even on units not promoted as "self-cleaning".

The composition of your water supply should be a factor in deciding how frequently you should drain a water heater. In areas where there is a high mineral content, every three months would be appropriate. If the water supply is fairly free of minerals, once or twice a year would suffice.

Use a bucket placed under the drain valve, located at the base of the tank. Open the valve and allow the water to drain until it runs clear. This only takes a few minutes.

Should you want to empty the tank, which is not necessary to remove the sediment at the bottom, the procedure is different. First, shut off the water, electricity and gas. Shut the cold water supply valve. Use a garden hose attached to the drain valve. Run it outdoors or into a drain or sink that's on a lower level.

Before you open the valve, open a hot-water faucet nearby and let it run dry. Then open the valve and drain the tank. When refilling the tank, open the cold-water valve and refill the tank until the water flows from an open hot-water faucet before turning the heater back on. Never operate a water heater when it is empty.

Draining a water heater has nothing to do with prolonging its life. Over a period of time, sediment becomes deposited on the floor of the

tank. This sediment reduces the efficiency of the heater by insulating the water from the heating element. This causes the unit to use more energy than it otherwise would take to heat the water.

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THE ELECTRIC FACELIFT

Through the years we have been told that skin wrinkling and sagging are the result of weather, sunlight's ultra violet rays, soap, etc. To some extent all these contribute to the variable signs of aging. Now research has shown that, with age, the muscle fibers become less effective in supporting the skin. The face sags, eyes become puffy, and a "double chin" begins to appear.

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This computerized muscle reprogramming system uses a soothing, mild electrical current to lift facial muscles, tighten the skin and improve the complexion. Often remarkable results can be seen in the first treatment. An initial series of two treatments per week for six weeks is recommended. This will tighten the facial muscles and put them back where they used to be. Additional benefits include a younger and healthier appearance, a reduction in excess fluid, a sparkle to the eyes as toxins are eliminated, and a healthy glow to the skin. Most clients return once a month to keep the muscle tissue and skin firm and healthy.



(703) 998-0003
998-0004

Skyline Court Townhouses
3608 Forest Drive Alexandria, Virginia 22302

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Bill Miller, Chair

The FMC is reviewing our committee charter for possible changes and/or additions. The present charter was approved by the Board of Directors at their April 1991 Board meeting. Several changes were recommended and approved by the committee.

The Budget Subcommittee was reactivated to review management's proposed 1997 budget and make recommendations to the full committee. The subcommittee will commence preparatory work in August and begin actual review the first part of September.

Work on the reserve funds and five year estimated budget will begin the first part of June between FMC, PPOC and Management.

The present procurement policy approved by the Board in 1988 while under Charles E. Smith management was reviewed at our May meeting.

The review included changes recommended by management. This is an FMC/PPOC joint project.

As many residents might have already observed, the new swimming pool furniture is now in place. This pool improvement was the result of action by the PPOC Swimming Pool Subcommittee. Additional funding will be included in the 1997 budget for additional furniture as approved by the Board of Directors. Most of the pool furniture was or is overdue for replacement. The FMC highly recommends that all swimming pool users read and understand the pool regulations. Some of these regulations are based on Fairfax County regulations for community swimming pools, a category which includes our pool.

An information and recommended course of action package in regard to the water infiltration of the west and east ends of our two towers will

be provided by management for review by both FMC and PPOC in time for the July meetings.

The FMC concurred with the recommendation of the PPOC and Management on the bids selected for garage structure testing and curb staining.

The next meeting of the FMC will be held on July 18, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Richard Noonan

On May 9th at 7:30 pm, Community Relations sponsored a presentation by Merrifield Nursery. Mr. Steve Gable brought a large variety of plants for all of us to see and learn what we should grow and plant for the summer on our patios.

The presentation was enjoyed by all twenty-two residents who attended. From the positive responses I have received, residents are asking for us to put that on again in the near future.

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SECURITY, FIRE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Ann L. Mehrten, Chair

The Security, Fire and Safety Committee convened at 7:30 p.m., May 9 in the West Party Room. There were ten members/visitors present.

The committee reviewed incidents reported during March and April.

The motion was made and unanimously passed to concur with the PPOC recommendation that an additional stair rail be added to the steps leading from the lobby entrance down to the bus stop on S. George Mason Drive. (Presently there is a rail only on one side of the steps.) Other topics included the security ramifications of the 10 minute parking spaces, unit overoccupancy, and the rule for moving in-and-out and within the Skyline complex.

The next meeting will in the West Card Room at 7:30 p.m. July 11. All are welcome to attend.

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COVENANTS COMMITTEE

Jack Herzig, Chair

At the May meeting a discussion took place about the latest Hearing Committee case. Mr. Howie McClennan, chairman of that body, described the events leading up to the hearing and the fact that neither the renter nor the owner of the unit where violations of the Skyline rules were being violated appeared at the hearing. It was clear that our rules are not being adhered to and so a substantial assessment is being levied.

The case is significant unto itself but it also serves as a reminder that **owners** are responsible for the actions of their renters. If assessments are levied for violations of our rules, it is the **owner** who will be held at fault by our condominium. In those instances where rental agents are authorized to handle the details of a rental contract, the **owner** is still the ultimate responsible party.

The complex matter began of bringing current Skyline House rules and regulations which were last published in July, 1992. Led by the Vice-chair H. David Kafka, who has been assisted by Mrs. Anna Malitzke in a preliminary review of the record, some detailed discussion by all members of the committee followed. While there is still some analysis and wording to be accomplished, significant progress has been made.

During this discussion, several issues became clear and will be receiving the attention of Management with support of the Covenants Committee. Among them in just one subject area are:

(1) The operators of those vehicles "abandoned" in the clearly-marked "No Parking" zones around the outside perimeter of the fountain area. It is not acceptable that operators leave their cars for "just a minute" that turns out to be some greater time. They are not only being selfish about a scarce resource (parking space) but present a real danger by blocking access to

our buildings by fire and emergency vehicles. Management plans a rapid "crackdown" on such violations;

(2) Those residents who abuse their right to park for an hour in "guest" parking spots by exceeding the time limit. (It has been reported that some residents park in guest parking in the very early morning and then leave by seven or eight a.m. even though they have parking spaces in our garage.); and

(3) Those persons who exceed the 10 minute time limitation in those few spaces adjacent to the fountain.

In short, we cannot take the chance that, for the sake of convenience, we risk a real tragedy by blocking fire apparatus or emergency medical care to our residence.

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