



The

# House Special

VOLUME XVII

JULY 1997

NO. 6

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael L. Moore

First, something very interesting. As this Special is being distributed, we are celebrating the Fourth of July with lots of fireworks and fun activities. I say this is interesting because fireworks were displayed last year when Bill Clinton and I became presidents. Now, on the fourth of July, the fireworks have even more meaning. The fourth of July is my and my wife's wedding anniversary. Thanks again for all the fireworks.

In case any of our residents have been pressured by businesses to purchase direct satellite television antennas for our Association units ..... don't be duped by this offer. Although the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has published a rule allowing such antennas on Community Association property, **the rule specifically exempts common and limited common property.** Our By-Laws and House rules remain the governing documents as to how residents may use the common and limited common property. The installation of direct television service antennas on our balconies or windows outside of the unit is forbidden. In addition, the Satellite used for this service is located in the Southwestern sky. Even though our buildings are labeled "East" and "West", they are, in truth, aligned Northeast to Southwest. This means that, even if an antenna were placed inside a unit near a window, the only residents — who could receive the signal would be those on the West end of the West building and the top floors of the West end of the East building

(looking Southwest). More importantly, the satellite signal coming through a window would be degraded.

We are looking to the future. Your President and Management are working with a Satellite Broadcasting Service provider to determine the feasibility and cost of having one 24" satellite dish on the roof of our building complex to provide a "bulk" and inexpensive service to all units, using our existing in-house television system, which will not require any control box, and which can be received in any room of the unit where there is presently an outlet. There would be no extra charge for additional television sets. When a reasonable plan is received from the provider, it will be distributed to all unit owners for comment. Unit owners will be given the opportunity to vote on which plan they want, if any, and what channels they would like to receive, if any. **This is only in the conception stage and does not mean we will proceed with it.**

As you should know, the Skyline House Special was not published in June due to the much-deserved vacation of the editor, Law Henderson, and his wife Helen. So as not to be too long winded, I have chosen the most significant resolutions approved by the Board from both the April and May Board meetings and have listed them below:

### Board Meeting of April 23, 1997

1. Phase one of the landscaping plan at a cost of \$12,500.



# The House Special

**Editor:** Law Henderson

**Advertising:** Skyline House  
Business Office  
(703) 578-4855  
Fax (703) 998-5827

**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.

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**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

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<b>Director</b>	<b>Wayne Krumwiede</b>

2. Ad Hoc committee to study the In-Unit Maintenance program was established in lieu of the previously approved Commission.

### Board Meeting of May 28, 1997

1. Additional expenditures of \$18,000 to complete satisfactory installation of the new fire alarm system.

2. Purchase and installation of tinting material to reduce the direct sunlight coming through the six center windows above the main lobby entrance, not to exceed \$560.

3. The revised House rules, which the Covenants Committee had worked so long and so hard to produce, were approved with seven minor changes. These rules will be published and distributed in the near future.

4. An aluminum fence which matches the color and style of the existing fences on the front property to be installed along the Skyline House-Build America boundary on the West side of the main vehicle entrance to the property; not to exceed \$2700.

5. The fiberglass planters on the East end of the garage roof deck be removed whenever the East garage deck renovation project it is accomplished.

6. The hours of usage of the House exercise facility changed so that, Monday through Thursday, the exclusive hours for men only and/or women only, be extended from 12:00 noon to midnight; with the odd and even designations continuing.

7. The appendix to the Skyline House By-Laws was amended in accordance with Article VIII, section 3(g), to clarify windows maintenance responsibilities as they apply to the Association and to Unit Owners. In effect, the amendment assigns the maintenance and repair of all **exterior** windows, including exterior perimeter caulking and glazing of all unit windows, which the Board of Directors determines is necessary to

protect the common elements and to preserve the appearance, or value, of the Condominium. Maintenance, repair and replacement of the Interior windows is still the responsibility of the Unit owner.

As is customary (to permit vacations, etc.) the Board of Directors does not meet during one of the summer months. This year, the Board will not meet in August.

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## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (FMC)

**Bill Miller, Chair**

At the FMC regular meeting on June 16, 1997, the FMC 1998 Budget Subcommittee was appointed by the Chair. It will be staffed by Ed Bisgyer, Chair, George Beams, Darryl Graham, Fran Price and Lisa Ruiz. The subcommittee will review management's proposed 1998 budget and present its recommendations to the full FMC. At that time the full committee will make a line by line review of the proposed budget along with Management. The 1998 budget process will begin not later than September 1, 1997. FMC and Management's coordinated budget recommendation must be presented to the Board of Directors in significant time for the Board to meet the requirements of the Skyline House Unit Owners' Association By-laws.

The in-unit maintenance program remains in a favorable financial position. At the end of May 1997, the program continues to be under budget.

Virginia Poindexter, a guest at our May 1997 meeting, expressed her desire to become a member of FMC. Mrs. Poindexter will become a full voting member at our next meeting on July 21, 1997, to be held at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



*A three-legged dog walked into a bar in the Old West.*

*He sidled up to the bar and announced:  
 "I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."*

### JUST FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### Current Owner and Resident Status

Total Units:	559 (Includes 3 Association Units)	
Total Residents:	994	
Total Occupants Authorized:	1759	
Number of Resident Owner Units:	390	70%
Number of Non-Resident Owner Units:	139	25%
Number of Vacant Units:	28	5%

**...from the General Manager****In Progress...**

The window caulking work is proceeding well and on schedule. At this time **Brisk Waterproofing** has completed the west end of the east building and will begin work on the east end of the east building which is the final elevation. Despite some unfriendly weather at the outset, the project has proceeded smoothly with no problems.

As mentioned many times prior, this preventive maintenance item may help to reduce (or possibly eliminate) some of the water infiltration problems that some residents have been experiencing. If you are on the west or east ends of the buildings and still experience water problems, please put your concerns in writing to management so that additional scopes of repair may be planned.

The installation of our new fire alarm system continues. The speaker testing within the units occurred uneventfully taking just one day per building. The final stage of the project focuses primarily on the garage building. We anticipate completion and final testing around mid July.

Over the week or so, the woodwork in the sauna will be replaced. The approximate down time for the sauna is three to five days. We regret any inconvenience that this work may cause you.

**Parking Spaces and Vehicle Decals**

Soon, new decals will be issued to all residents who park in assigned garage and surface parking spaces. In order to obtain a new decal, you will be required to present the vehicle registration. All residents will be required to obtain new decals.

Concurrent with the decal reissue, we will be verifying the parking spaces that are assigned to your unit. With increasing frequency we are finding many parking spaces that have been allegedly transferred but never recorded with Fairfax County.

In order to complete a transfer, Skyline House governing documents require that an Amendment to the Declaration be executed. Without the Amendment, no transfer is valid or recognized by the county or the association. Should you find yourself in this situation, we will assist you in correcting the problem. Please know the assigned number of your spaces when you come down to obtain your decals.

**Rules and Regulations Revision**

The final draft of the rules and regulations was approved by the board at their meeting on May 28. All unit owners and current residents will be mailed a copy of the revised rules. Management wishes to commend the Covenants Committee under the leadership of David Kafka for their achievement. This was not an easy task. Another person (not on the covenants committee) who played a key role in the revision process is Edna de Jesus. Edna had the charming responsibility of preparing the revision drafts and keeping everything straight. Due to Edna's efforts, we were always able to work with current and accurate drafts. Many thanks Edna!

**Children & Windows...Not a Good Mix**

Ever since coming to Skyline House over four years ago, I have always had a concern about children playing around windows and on balconies. About 10 days ago we had a very close call when one of our children living in a first floor unit fell out of an open window one story down. By grace, this child hit a soft muddy area and came away with barely a scratch.

Parents and guardians must be ever vigilant when it comes to protecting their children especially around open windows and balconies. Even a screen in a window means absolutely nothing. There is no safety feature to these screens and they do not withstand great amounts of pressure. Anyone who witnesses a child near an open window or hanging about on a balcony

should immediately call the Front Desk and report. Just the other day we received a phone call from a lady who works over across the street in the Skyline offices; she called because she saw an unsupervised young child on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor hanging on a balcony rail. We responded quickly and located the unit and spoke with the mother.

Please, we all must encourage and foster safety within our community.

### Car Alarms

whoooooop, whoooooop, honk, honk, whoof, whoof....."No, the building is not on fire, its just that somebody walked past your car and sneezed." The car alarm is taking its toll on many residents' nerves. What began as a device to scare would be vandals away has become an offensive nightmare. If you have one of these wretched rascals on your vehicle, we ask that you do one of two things: desensitize it or dismantle it. Management has received numerous complaints about car alarms going off at all times of the day and night. I'm sure that many of you have personally been disturbed by such occurrences.

In the past six weeks we have had to tow two vehicles out of the garage because of malfunctioning or mis-programmed alarms. As a courtesy to your neighbor and to save \$100.00 for towing, please check your alarm and make sure that it won't sound with a cough.

### Abandoned Motorcycles

There are several dilapidated motorcycles that are parked on the A level of the East Garage Building. After much looking, we have been unable to locate the owners of these vehicles. If by July 31 we do not hear from the owners, we will make arrangements to have the motorcycles removed. Thanks for your help.

Dear Friends,

I recall the day when I first began to work here at Skyline House. I was delighted when Mr. Donald Perper, who was then Deputy General Manager, hired me at a time when I had just lost my job and my wife and I were about to have another baby. I really appreciated that. Since I began working here I enjoyed it because this place and you people have brought peace and stability to my personal and family life. Being one of the Housekeepers here at Skyline House opened the door which allowed me to meet more people and serve them better at the Front Desk.

I know, this process was not something easy for me..it was something new and exciting at the same time..but I struggled through to do the job right. I guess people might say that I made mistakes and I appreciated it when they pointed them out to me and made me notice them. I am very thankful to everybody. You gave me a chance to go on, to improve my English, and to be really aware of how to handle and take care of a place like this. Thank you all very much.

Now it is time for me to say "Goodbye".

Guillermo Soliz

### HOUSE CLEANING

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## RECREATION COMMITTEE

## Tony DiSalvo, Chair

The Committee met on June 11. A discussion was held as to what activities could be included in the future. It was agreed that a survey questionnaire would be included in the July newsletter (see back page) and it is hoped that you will take time to complete this survey. When completing, please remember to include activities in which you would participate.

There will be no committee meeting in July. The next meeting will be in August. Please join us.

The TGIF is scheduled for Friday, July 11, 6:30 p.m. in the West Party Room. The change from East to West is necessary due to air conditioning repairs taking place. You will notice the change to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of July as the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

If you are a new resident and have not yet attended this monthly gathering, make this your first and meet your neighbors. YOU are more than welcome, and to make it easier, you need NOT bring a plate of hors d'oeuvres, just your own liquid refreshments.

TGIF	Fri	Jul 11	WPR 6:30 pm
TGIF	Fri	Aug 1	WPR 6:30 pm
Rec Com	Wed	Aug 13	WCR 7:30 pm
Mtg			
TGIF	Fri	Sep 5	EPR 6:30 pm

## Quotes:

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face he gets mad at you? But when you take him out in the car he sticks his head out the window!

Steve Bluestone

Have you ever noticed.....Anybody going slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?

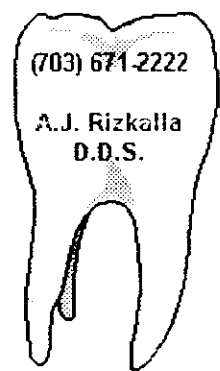
George Carlin

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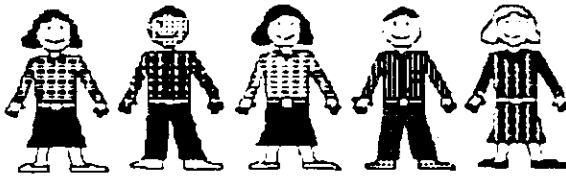
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## THE GOOD NEIGHBOR GROUP

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



### Skyline House Good Neighbors July 1997

Joan Collins 998-0788  
Bilen Eliot 671-7045

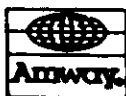
In July, a Good Neighbor picked up a prescription at the pharmacy for a resident. The next day, she called to ask if further assistance was needed. The resident thanked her and said she needed no additional help.

- Another resident called to say that a bandage between her shoulder blades had come off. She needed help because she could not reach that area. She was helped to get the bandage changed. The next day, she received similar assistance.

We can't help bragging that our Good Neighbor are an elite group of volunteers. If you are interested in joining us, just call Geraldine or Irene.

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## SECURITY, FIRE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

**Ann L. Mehrten, Chair**

The Security, Fire and Safety Committee convened May 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the West Card Room. There were 6 members/visitors present.

The committee reviewed incidents which occurred during the months of March and April.

The Fairfax County Fire Department has completed the installation of the new fire alarm system in the common areas and checked out the warning enunciators in the individual units.

Plans for a fence which will cover the area from the left side of the driveway to the Build America entrance are being discussed by various committees.

**NOTICE TO RESIDENTS:** Skyline House's Neighborhood Watch can provide you with an opportunity to meet your neighbors, get some exercise, and help keep our complex a safe place in which to live. If you are interested in learning more about the watch or security tips in general. Leave a note for Ann Mehrten in 1315E or call 820-8156.

**NOTICE OF MEETING CHANGE:** The next Security Committee meeting **had** been scheduled for Thursday, July 10. **This has been changed to Thursday, July 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the West Card Room.** All are welcome to attend.

### More Quotes:

The second day of a diet is always easier than the first.  
By the second day you're off it.

Jackie Gleason

I went into a McDonald's yesterday and said, "I'd like some fries." The girl at the counter said, "Would you like some fries with that?" Jay Leno

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

The recreation committee would appreciate your help on this survey to find out how we can make fun and exciting events for the Skyline House residents. Please look at the list below and pick your favorite ones and the ones that you would participate in. Number them from 1 (being the best) to 5. If you have other ideas, feel free to list them.

\_\_\_ Aerobics

\_\_\_ Bingo

\_\_\_ Day on the Dandy or the Spirit of Washington

\_\_\_ Covered Dish

\_\_\_ Movie Night

\_\_\_ International Dinner Night

\_\_\_ Flea Market

\_\_\_ Pool Party

\_\_\_ Game Night (Monopoly, Checkers, Cards, etc.)

\_\_\_ Book Exchange Night

\_\_\_ Holiday Parties (Halloween, etc.)

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this survey and leave it at the front desk for Tony DiSalvo, 502-E.

If you would like to attend or join the Recreation Committee, the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13th, at 7:30 pm in the West Card Room. Everyone is welcome.

Thank you for your help on this survey.

The Recreation Committee Members