



The

# House Special

VOLUME XVII

OCTOBER 1997

NO. 8

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Michael L. Moore**

Well, I did not take my daughter to Stanford University, in California, this summer as another president did, but I did have a very nice (much needed) vacation in Europe. It is nice to be at home again and back in the saddle.

One of our most dedicated long time members of the Board of Directors has submitted her resignation from the Board due to "personal commitments". She is Dolores Littles. Dolores has served on the Board for a long 7 1/2 years and has been the driving force behind many of our most appreciated changes. The entire Board membership appreciates and thanks Dolores for her long dedicated service.

In accordance with our Skyline House By-Laws, the Board is required to appoint a temporary replacement for Dolores. We have selected Ms. Virginia Poindexter to fill this vacancy until the next election in March of 1998, at which time, the remainder of Ms. Littles' term must be filled though the election process. We welcome Virginia to the Board and thank her for volunteering to serve in this very important association activity.

On Wednesday, September 24th, we were able to finally acquire the proper stone on which to place the memorial plaque in honor of the late Donald Fenton, our first General Manager. That stone, with the plaque, is now in place by the fountain at the main entrance to Skyline House.

Mrs. Fenton, who has moved near Dale City, Virginia, has expressed her appreciation and has taken a photograph of the memorial.

During the Board of Directors meeting of May 28, 1997, Ms Barbara Michelman made a motion to (and I quote): *"publicly commend and thank Gerard Lagace and Bernard Wiener for the time, effort, and expertise they expended on behalf of this condominium in examining the possibility of converting our common elements to the use of gas. Their recommendations have saved us from making a serious and costly mistake and they deserve our recognition for their outstanding contribution to our well being"*. That motion was passed unanimously. Regretfully, it did not make it to the editor of our Skyline House Special publication. Therefore, I include it in this report so that all will be aware of this volunteer effort on the part of Messrs. Lagace and Wiener. Thank you very much.

At the Fourth Regular Meeting of the 17th Board of Directors on July 23, 1997, the following significant motions were made and accepted:

1. A contract for repairs to the East building roof was approved for the L.A. Restoration firm at a cost of \$6,800.00, not to exceed \$9,500.00. The contract must stipulate a one-year warranty on the work.

2. The scope of work for the replacement of the East party room condenser was approved.

3. The scope of work for the replacement of the underground fuel storage tanks which feed



The

# House Special

**Editor:** Law Henderson

**Advertising:** Skyline House  
Business Office  
(703) 578-4855  
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preceding issue date

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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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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<b>Director</b>	<b>Wayne Krumwiede</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Virginia Poindexter</b>

the emergency diesel generators was approved.

4. The installation of a soft drink vending machine in the employee lunchroom was approved.

5. Procedures for the periodic review of the House Rules and Regulations were accepted.

At the last Board meeting on September 24, 1997, the following significant motions were made and accepted:

1. A motion was approved to accept the Altus Corporation's bid to install two 5-ton air conditioning units on the upper roof above the East party room at a cost not to exceed \$8,500.

2. The bid by Bevard Tank Service to remove two existing underground diesel fuel storage tanks for our emergency electrical generators and install two new storage tanks above ground was approved at a cost not to exceed \$18,000.

3. The bid process for repairs to our parking garage, which had been developed and revised during many hours of work by our Physical Plant and Operations Committee (PPOC), was approved. This process included a requirement to submit bids to at least three firms for repairs to the post-tensioned cables and concrete deck in the garage using the project manual for garage repairs developed by the firm of Thomas Downey, Ltd.

4. A motion was approved to direct the Financial Management Committee (FMC) to establish an Ad hoc subcommittee charged with the responsibility to review the staff personnel leave policy.

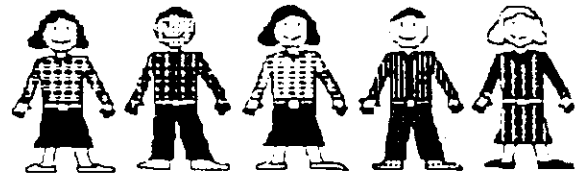
Mr. Howie McClennan reported that, one morning early this month, he opened his front door and found balloons tied to the doorknob to mark his 90th birthday. Happy 90th birthday Howie. We thank you for the many years you have voluntarily contributed to the well being of our condominium association and wish you many more productive years!

## THE GOOD NEIGHBOR GROUP

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

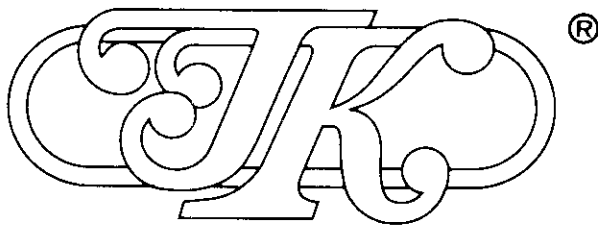
A Good Neighbor table was manned in the front lobby from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on September 16. We gave information to residents by answering questions and offering our Good Neighbor brochure.

The Good Neighbors gave assistance and sent some Get Well notes to residents during the month of September. If you need temporary help due to illness, disability or emergency, call one of the Good Neighbors of the Month.



### Skyline House Good Neighbors October 1997

Gwen Pettijean 820-4260  
 Nadine Tyhonoff 379-3955

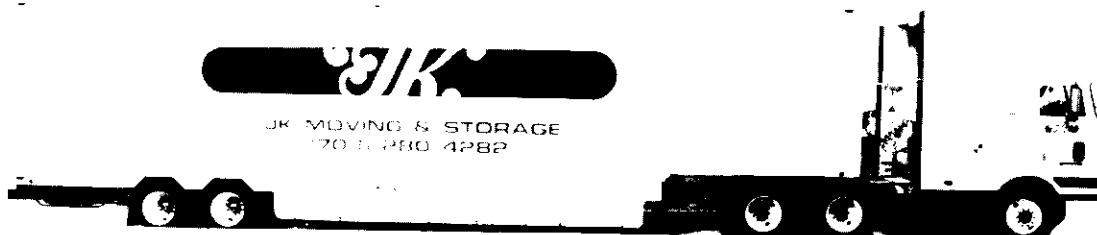


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## RECREATION COMMITTEE

## Tony DiSalvo, Chairman

The Committee met in August and September to review the survey forms published in the July newsletter.

The Committee would like to thank all those who took time to complete the survey form. Also, several notes and telephone calls were received. Unfortunately, only 32 forms were received. Surveys are strange things

One item that appeared on only eight forms was the Holiday Party. More people attend the Holiday Party than any other function with the exception of the Annual Meeting. Most people like the flea market and we will endeavor to have another flea market in the Spring. We are also trying to locate a certified aerobics instructor. Should anyone know of one, please leave a note for me at the front desk.

The book exchange received a lot of attention. What is envisioned is a permanent place in the building convenient to all, and available 24 hours

a day. A memorandum has been sent to this effect to the General Manager for consideration.

A flea market is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19 in the East Party Room. Full details will be in the November newsletter and it will also be posted on the bulletin boards.

For those who wonder why we have not had a TGIF in the East Building of late, please be advised that the air conditioning system is still under repair.

If you are a new resident and have not attended a monthly TGIF, make this 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 your own liquid refreshment.

There will be no committee meeting in October.

The October and November TGIFs are scheduled as follows:

TGIF	Fri	Oct 3	WPR 6:30 pm
TGIF	Fri	Nov 7	EPR 6:30 pm



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### Bumper Stickers:

*If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.*

*No one is listening until you make a mistake.*

*Two wrongs are only the beginning.*

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (FMC)

**Bill Miller, Chair**

At the September 15, 1997 FMC meeting, the committee members reviewed and approved two repair bids as recommended by Management.

One revised bid from Bevard Tank Service covered the extraction of two 250 gallon underground tanks, install two new 250 gallon tanks above ground and dispose of the remaining fuel in the tanks and also dispose of the two old tanks. This action is required to comply with federal and state laws and regulations. The work must be completed by the latter part of 1998.

The second revised bid from Altus Corporation covered the installation of a new condenser on the East Party Room roof. The present condenser has stopped operating and must be replaced to provide air conditioning to the party room.

Both revised service bids contain revisions to the original bids. These revisions were recommended by FMC and the Physical Plant and Operations Committee (PPOC). Funds are available in the Replacement Reserve Fund for both projects.

Ed Bisgyer, Chair of the FMC Budget Subcommittee, briefed the subcommittee members on the status of the proposed 1998 budget from Management. The 1998 budget review will begin during the month of September. The review will include updating the Replacement Reserve, Periodic Maintenance Reserve, Consultants Reserve, and Working Capital Fund.

The Budget Subcommittee will also be reviewing the PPOC Pool Subcommittee request to complete the third phase of the three year recommended pool furniture procurement and their request that additional tables, chairs and umbrellas be purchased to provide more shaded area at the pools. Two tables have been damaged and will also be considered for replacement.

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## COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

### Helen Drivas, Chair

The Community Relations Committee will serve as a link between Skyline House and the neighborhood community as well as the state and government agencies. However, it will take everyone of us working together; basically, those who are interested in our Skyline community, Baileys Crossroads, Mason District, and our state. We must acknowledge that what is going on in our neighborhood affects each and every one of us.

Rest assured that I am not apprehensive in accepting the responsibility of chairing this committee. I have had good work experience dealing with community-related issues in my work history — some 39½ years — and I thoroughly enjoyed the challenges which confronted me. I plan to work diligently to make my home and yours what we want it to be. I am pledging that I will do my utmost to be a contributor to our Skyline Community and I will keep you informed of issues which affect us all.

If you have any information, ideas and comments which will help this committee, please drop me a note at Unit 906 East with your name and phone number so that I may be able to get back to you if necessary. To the extent that anyone of you would like to offer your support by attending this committee's meetings, I would be most grateful.

For your immediate information, I have already met with Penny Gross, Mason District Supervisor, and I plan to arrange further meetings with other officials to update myself and then you on matters which may be of concern to us all.

I thank you in advance for your interest and support and look forward to hearing any ideas or concerns you may have so that I can address them. I am really quite excited about meeting those of you I have not met and about our making Skyline House a cohesive community together.

## NEWS FROM MASON DISTRICT

### Revitalization Efforts Underway

The revitalization efforts aimed at our "downtowns" are taking great strides forward in 1997. Mason District is home to two of Fairfax County's four revitalization areas, and Annandale and Baileys Crossroads/Seven Corners remain dynamic places to live and do business.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the County, our local revitalization group, Baileys Crossroads Revitalization Corporation (BGRC), and private businesses, we are beginning to see results now.

1. The County is successfully conducting a new blight abatement program to clear away dilapidated structures, and on September 1, a major tax abatement program went into effect, in which owners are provided a financial incentive to improve older residential and commercial structures.

2. In Annandale, the streetscape concept of the Annandale Planning Committee is rapidly coming to fruition. Recently, the American Legion Post on Daniels Avenue installed elements of the design, including a new brick sidewalk and acorn-style streetlights. In the very near future, two businesses in key downtown locations will install the streetscape: First Virginia Bank on Little River Turnpike, and First Union Bank on John Marr Drive. Meanwhile, the County will be using revitalization bond funds to install the streetscape in additional areas, and we are now in the design phase for locations along Columbia Pike, John Marr Drive, and Little River Turnpike.

3. The County will be installing a new streetscape in Baileys Crossroads, through the direction of BCRC to include increased lighting, pedestrian access, and landscaping. The project is planned to run along Columbia Pike from Lacy Boulevard all the way to the Arlington County line. The first step is a visible and welcome addition: four streetlights on the Route 7 bridge overpass.

The best way to take part in these exciting efforts is to attend the monthly meetings of our local revitalization groups here in the Mason District Governmental Center. The Annandale Planning Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. every second Tuesday (except August), and BCRC meets at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday (except December).

\*\*\*\*\*

### Mason Matters! On Channel 16

Watch Mason Matters! With Supervisor Gross, the television show to bring you news and information about our Mason District community every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m., and Friday and Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

## SECURITY, FIRE & SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Ann L. Merten, Chair

The Security, Fire & Safety Committee Meeting convened September 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the West Card Room. There were 5 members/visitors present.

There was a general report of the incidents taking place during July and August.

In July, we were fortunate (well, fortunate if you weren't one of those residents affected) that a small engine fire in the garage caused damage to only two cars. The Fairfax County Fire Inspector visited the scene immediately after the fire and reported it as accidental.

In August, the most serious event was a robbery that took place in our parking lot.

- The Fairfax County Police are investigating the robbery of a 39 year old Alexandria man employed as a taxi cab driver for Arlington Blue Top cab which occurred in the parking lot of 3711 South George Mason Drive about 4:45 p.m., August 15. You may find information on this at the front desk. (See Manager's item on Crime Watch Notices.)

On a happier note, our new fire alarm system is completely installed. As of this writing, we have not had a single malfunctioning alarm! We have also replaced a couple parts on the machine that reads the garage cards, so that it should not take less than four tries to enter the garage.

Residents with Skyline House parking stickers may park in the appropriate areas in the west and east loading docks for up to half an hour. Occasionally, several cars wish to use the limited space at the same time. "Latecomers" are parking behind other cards, without leaving them enough room to exit the loading dock. Traffic snarls. Please make sure when you are temporarily parking in the loading dock not to

block other cars. It will make your errands run more smoothly.

The next committee meeting will take place Thursday, November 13. All are welcome to attend.

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*He who hesitates is probably right.*

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**...from the General Manager**

**PROJECTS APPROVED**

At the September 1997 Board Meeting, several bids and one scope of work were approved. First, Altus Corporation was approved as the contractor to replace the east party room condenser at a cost of \$8500. This work shall be completed by the end of the first week in October.

Second, Bevard Tank Service was approved as the contractor to replace the diesel fuel storage tanks which provide the fuel for the emergency generators. The cost for this job is \$18000. Instead of underground, the tanks will be above ground and encased by tall shrubs. This work shall begin at the earliest possible time.

Third, the Board approved for bid the garage deck Scope of Work and Invitation to Bid prepared by the engineering firm of Thomas Downey, LTD. At this time the document has been sent out for bid as well as for final approval by the county. A start date has yet to be determined.

**PROJECTS COMPLETED**

The repairs to the east building upper roof was completed the week of September 22<sup>nd</sup> by LA Restoration. These repairs were done as a preventative maintenance measure and should enhance the remaining life on that roof by 4 - 7 years. During the recent rainfall following the repairs, we did not experience any leaks into the east 17<sup>th</sup> floor hallway.

There is a new fence along the west side of our main entrance at South George Mason Drive. The fence was approved by the Board in an effort to reduce the pedestrian traffic that was cutting through our lawn area next to Build America.

**CRIME WATCH NOTICES**

For your information on area crime, management is making available at the front desk all faxes

from the Fairfax County Police Department concerning local crimes and Neighborhood Watch happenings. Stop by and ask for it if you are interested.

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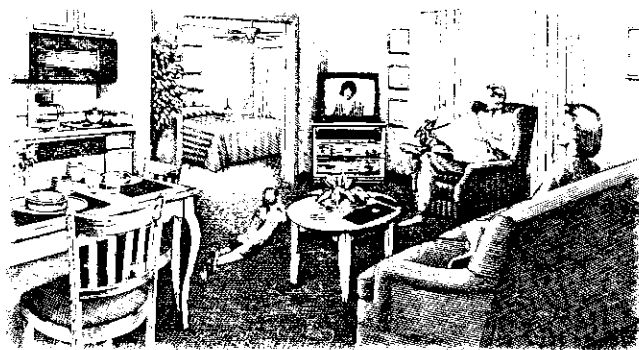


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Total Units:	559	(includes 3 association units)
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Total Occupants Authorized	1756	
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Number of Non-Resident Owner Units	138	25%
Number of Vacant Units:	28	5%

Thanks and appreciation to all of you  
for your prayers and well wishes  
on the occasion of my recent surgery.  
The spirit of good neighborliness is alive and well here at Skyline House.  
And thanks especially to my wife Helen  
without whose selflessness  
this Newsletter would not have been published.  
Law Henderson



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