



The

House Special

VOLUME XVIII

FEBRUARY 1998

NO. 2

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael L. Moore

Time flies. Some of us can tell how fast time flies by watching our weekly pill boxes go empty (one day at a time) Sunday through Saturday. Accordingly, the annual election of new members to our Board of Directors is closing in on us very fast. Nominations for election to the board closes at midnight on February 13, 1998. Following that, on Monday, March 23, 1998, we will have a "Meet the Candidates" night. Then on Tuesday, March 31, 1998 the election will take place. In order to maintain our reputation as a luxury condominium, our unit owners simply must participate in our governing process. I urge our unit owners to become active in our governance; whether it be on the Board of Directors or on a committee. We have an abundance of Middle Eastern, Asian, African and Far East families here at Skyline House who are not represented on the board or any committee. We need their input. The only special requirement is that one can speak English. I ask these owners to **please** join their neighbors in governing our mutual residence.

Guess what? There is so much going on in our County of Fairfax that is of great interest to all of us. You will find it very rewarding to become a member of our Community Relations Committee. Why don't you give Ms. Helen Drivas, the Chairperson of the Community Relations Committee a call and become a member. Please call her at 671-6229 and join the activities of this interesting committee.

It is very noticeable that most of our residents who drive in our garage observe both the speed limit and the traffic signs. However, there are still those who speed and who take over the garage lanes aggressively and hurriedly ignore the signs and push their way to their parking spaces. Those drivers should be aware that, if they are in a hurry and break the rules, they could be **delayed severely** by having an accident and end up being fined for violations of our garage traffic signs; forcing them and/or their insurance company to pay the repair bills. **Haste always makes waste!**

During the Board of Directors Meeting on January 28, the following significant motions were introduced and passed:

1. Allowing management to enter into a pool maintenance contract with Atlantic Pools for a second year;
2. A contract for performing the work required on the fuel storage tanks was awarded to Omega. The work could begin as early as February and should not take more than 3-4 days;
3. After much research, Management will replace the almost defunct Toshiba copier. This will be the purchase of a Xerox copier as opposed to leasing. The money for the purchase is in our replacement reserves and the yearly maintenance contract will be paid out of the working capital;
4. The Board approved the use of the East Card Room as a lending library whereby residents could gather socially to read, exchange books, etc. The tentative plan is to have the Library open one night a week and possibly Sunday afternoon during the winter months.
5. The Board approved the appointment of James Moyers as hearing Sub-committee Chairperson.

Editor: **Law Henderson**

Advertising: **Skyline House
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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

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| Treasurer | Kevin Fahey |
| Secretary | Charles Roberts |
| Director | Barbara Michelman |
| Director | Wayne Krumwiede |
| Director | Virginia Poindexter |

Letters to the Editor

Recently, **Bill Miller**, Chair of the Finance Management Committee, informed the committee members that he is stepping down as chairman. Bill has been chair for a number of years as well as having been involved with the committee since its inception at the beginning of the 1980's. Having served with Bill for many years, both as a committee member and during my term as Treasurer of the Board, I know of his contribution to our condominium. Quite frankly, I believe that Bill is the best committee chairman that we have had serving our interests. He is knowledgeable, dedicated and experienced. His direction of the committee, relations with the Board and the Physical Plant and Operations Committee and, especially, his tireless efforts on the review and reassessment of the entire replacement and periodic reserve funds necessary for the physical well being of our Association deserve our highest acclamation.

Happily, Bill says the he will remain a member of the Finance Committee. His experience will be a valuable contribution to the committee's considerations and to his successor.

Sincerely,
Edgar M. Bisgyer
408W

Editor:

I would like to express my thanks to Mary Walsh and her husband, John, for favors which I feel are way beyond the Good Neighbors expectations.

After a painful accident which kept me in the hospital emergency room for over four hours, I was sent home and instructed to see a surgeon two days later. I had no way to get to the doctor because my injury kept me from driving, so I called Mary Walsh from the Good Neighbors Lis. She did not know me, but agreed immediately to

(Continued on page 3)

Continued from page 2) take me to the doctor. Mary's husband, John, came with her, drove us to the doctor's office, and remained with us for a rather lengthy stay which included X-Rays and the fitting of a walking cast.

That was just the beginning of their helpfulness. On the way home, they drove me to two places to pick up items that I needed. I cannot begin to thank the Walshes enough, and I am delighted with our Good Neighbor program which brought me together with them.

If I can provide anything to report the effectiveness and helpfulness of our Good Neighbor service, please let me know.

Sincerely,
 Juanita Mayer
 713W 931-1713

SECURITY, FIRE & SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Anne Mehrten, Chair

The Security, Fire and Safety Committee convened on January 9, at 7:30 pm in the West Card Room. There were seven members/visitors present.

The committee reviewed incidents which occurred during the months of November and December.

Topics for discussion included the speed of the garage doors, garage lighting, accessibility of local crime reports and suggestions for fine-tuning some of our security procedures.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 13, at 7:30 pm in the West Card Room. All are welcome to attend.



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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (FMC)

Darryl Graham, Chair

The committee members approved three Management recommendations submitted to the committee for approval.

1. Approval of Omega Petroleum Services Division to replace the two fuel oil storage tanks as required by Federal and State requirements. This replacement must be completed by the latter part of 1998. Sufficient funds are available in the replacement reserves to cover the cost of this contract.

2. Approved the replacement of the present copy machine with a ZEROX type 5855C copier. Sufficient reserve funds have been programmed for 1998 to cover the cost of this replacement.

3. Approved the establishment of a Library in the East Card Room. The committee approved the project based on a cost not to exceed \$500.00. Shelving will be purchased to hold the books, and new light bulbs presently on hand, will replace the present bulbs to provide more light. This will be a volunteer program with no additional cost to the Association. The East Card Room will be available for other uses, as it is at the present time.

The committee also approved Management's proposal to renew the present swimming pool Contract with Atlantic Pool Service. The committee recommended the hours of operation be reduced one hour, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays, subject to an appropriate reduction in contract costs as recommended by Unit Owner Joan Collins. Funds to cover the cost of this contract have been included in the Association's 1998 budget.

The final action of the committee members at the January 19, 1998 meeting was selecting Mr. Darryl Graham as the new Committee Chair. Mr

Graham will replace Bill Miller, the present Chair, who is withdrawing as Chairperson but will remain a member of the committee.



Born Before 1945 ?

If you were born before 1945, consider yourself a survivor! Take a minute to consider all the changes that you have seen during your lifetime.

You were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen food, Xerox, contact lenses, frisbees and the pill. There was no radar. Credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens were not known. You were before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners and drip-dry clothes, long before man walked on the moon.

You got married first and then lived together. Closets were for clothes, not "coming out of" Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer jeans were scheming women named Jean or Jeanne and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins. Fast food was what you ate during lent and outer space was the back of the movie theater. "Made in Japan" meant junk and "making out" was how you did on an exam. Pizza, McDonalds, and instant coffee were unknowns.

Before 1945 one never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing earrings. You were the last generation to think you needed a husband to have a baby. Time-sharing meant togetherness, not computers or condominiums; a chip meant a piece of wood; hardware was hardware and software wasn't in the dictionary.

This article was reprinted from the Winter 1998, publication of the Bolling Field AFB Retiree Activities Office's newsletter "Still Serving" and was contributed by Mike Moore.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Tony DiSalvo, Chair

The committee did not meet in January. The next meeting will be February 11, 1998 in the West Card Room.

Thanks to all those who attended the Post Holiday Party. They all had a great time.

Italian night is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the East party Room. The menu will be creamy potato soup, chicken breast with mozzarella cheese, vegetables, dessert, bread, coffee, etc., at \$14.00 per person. SKY-LINE RESIDENTS ONLY. Reservation forms will be available at the Front Desk.

If you are a new resident and have not attended the monthly TGIF, make this 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 refreshments.

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|--------|-----|---------|
| TGIF | Fri | Feb 6 | WPR | 6:30 PM |
| RecCom | | | | |
| Mtg | Wed | Feb 11 | WCR | 7:30 PM |
| Italian Night | Wed | Feb 18 | EPR | 6:30 PM |

Below are notices written in English and collected in various countries, to facilitate foreign visitors.

In a Tokyo hotel:

It is forbidden to steal towels, please. If you are not a person to do such a thing is please not to read notis.

In an Austrian hotel catering to skiers:

Not to perambulate the corridors during the hours of repose in boots of ascension.

From the Soviet weekly:

There will be a Moscow Exhibition of the Arts by 150,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years.

LOST 'I'

2 LARGE CHINA PLATTERS

2 LARGE RACKS TO HOLD PLATTERS

11. HAVE YOU SEEN THESE ITEMS

PLEASE CALL 820-2485

LENDING LIBRARY

As indicated in the President's column, the East Card Room has been approved for use as a Lending Library. The opening date has not yet been determined as several things must be worked out beforehand. Bookcases have been provided for and will be installed.....however,....one problem must be resolved. We need books, books and more books, the heart of the concept. If you have books that you have read and are sitting around taking up space, please feel free to donate them in order to get this program moving. We will accept hard backs or paper backs. Turn them in at the front desk where a box will be provided.

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A MANAGEMENT MOMENT**GARAGE DECK REPAIRS -
PROGRESS UPDATE**

Work on the garage is proceeding very well. At this reading our contractor SPS is continuing work in the West Garage on the south side from the "A" level downwards. In addition to the numerous concrete repairs, there have also been some repairs made to the post tension cables within the decks themselves.

Again, there is no way to say this nicely. **This work is noisy and dusty.** No work will begin before 8AM Monday through Friday and will end by 5PM. Management will contact residents regarding relocating their vehicles at least 48 hours prior to any work being done in an area.

In order to better control guest parking, management is issuing special parking permits to those residents authorized to have their vehicles in guest parking. The Board and Management appreciate your continued cooperation during this rather trying time. If we all work together we should come out with minimal battle scars.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us here in the Management Office. Thank you!

SAFETY IN YOUR BATHROOMS

Did you know that when the buildings were constructed that the mirrored medicine cabinets installed in the bathrooms of your units were attached to the wall with adhesive? It's true! Over the years the adhesiveness has deteriorated and some of the cabinets have come close to falling off the walls. This is extremely hazardous as broken glass could cause serious injury. Please check your cabinet to ensure that it is securely attached to the wall. If indeed it is loose, please contact the In-Unit Office to schedule an appointment.

1998 ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

Nominations for the Board opened Friday January 2nd. Nomination forms may be picked up at the Front Desk. Please complete the Nomination Form carefully and be sure to include a brief biography and a recent size black & white passport size photograph.

We very much need your participation as we have **3** Board positions to fill this year. If you are thinking about running for the Board of Directors, please call the Administrative Office at 578-4855 for additional information.

The following shows the current Board members and their respective terms:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Elected</u> | <u>Expires</u> |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Fahey, K. | March 1997 | 1998* |
| Henderson, H. | March 1995 | 1998* |
| Krumwiede, W. | March 1997 | 2000 |
| Michelman, B. | March 1997 | 2000 |
| Moore, M. | March 1996 | 1999 |
| Poindexter, V. (appointed to resignation of Dolores Littles) | October 1997 | 1998* |
| Roberts, C. | March 1997 | 2000 |

(* vacancy needs to filled due to term expiration or resignation)

At the 1998 Annual Election, the membership must elect 3 individuals to fill:

2 - 3 year terms
1 - 1 year term

For a listing of the election related dates, please see the calendar insert in this issue. We will be needing some volunteers to assist with the election process. If you are willing to help with the mailing and/or on election night please let us know here in the office and you will be contacted by a Skyline House election official.

Thank you in advance for your support and assistance!!

NEW DECALS MUST BE DISPLAYED BY FEBRUARY 27TH

All residents must obtain new decals for their vehicles by February 27th. After this date, vehicles found without the new decals will be ticketed and those parked in guest parking (without authorization due to garage repairs) will be subject to towing.

Thank you to all who have obtained their decals. If you haven't done so, please get your decals from the front desk as soon as possible. Don't forget to bring your vehicle registration with you when you request your new decal. Thank you.

LIGHTS OUT???

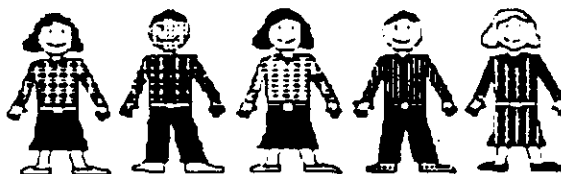
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS INDICATED WHEN YOU CALL EITHER FREIGHT ELEVATOR AND THE LITTLE LIGHT ABOVE THE CALL BUTTON OR KEY SWITCH IS NOT LIT? No it doesn't mean the bulb is burned out. It means that the elevator is turned off and is not available for use. Most times it is because the elevator is being used for a MOVE-IN or MOVE-OUT. These elevators are available for exclusive use Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Other times it may be due to a malfunction and we are awaiting repair service to correct the problem. If you find the light out please use the main passenger elevators.

NEWSPAPERS. There have been several inquiries as to **HOW LONG ARE NEWSPAPERS LEFT TO ACCUMULATE IN FRONT OF UNITS?** Well we all know that the reason we don't allow messages, etc, to be left on doors is that it may GIVE a signal to a potential thief that no one is home thereby issuing a personal invitation for a break in. Leaving newspapers in front of your unit door sends the same information. Skyline House current policy, of long standing, is a maximum of 4 days of newspapers will be allowed to accumulate in front of unit entrances. After that the housekeeping staff will remove and dispose of them without notice. If you

are planning to go away we suggest that you advise your newspaper to interrupt or stop deliveries. Since they don't always respond promptly, another backup is to ask a neighbor to pick up your papers while you are gone. Conversely if you see your neighbors papers mounting up and they aren't away, please let us know.

THE GOOD NEIGHBOR GROUP

**Co-Chairs: Joan Collins 998-0788
Toska Prather 379-7849**



Skyline House Good Neighbors February 1998

**Cesi Gloukoff 671-8393
Serge Gloukoff**

The Good Neighbors are available for temporary help. Please call if you need us for such things as picking up prescriptions, buying groceries, newspapers. We have also taken residents to the doctor if that was necessary. (See Letter to the Editor on page 2).

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UNIT OWNER DATA BASES FRIEND OR FOE

BY DON PERPER, CMCA

Starting in 1992, Skyline House began to develop a working database of unit owners and residents. Under the leadership of former General Manager, Don Fenton, the staff went through each unit folder and traced back from the current owner to the original owner. By the time the project was complete, Skyline House had every owner, occupant, automobile, and parking decal number listed on hard disk. The benefits were tremendous. At the touch of a button, the association had the capability to sort, view, edit and print the history of any unit. The information was not really fancy; it consisted of names, addresses, telephone numbers, legal descriptions, square footage and the like. As new owners and residents came into Skyline House, their information was entered into the database.

With the passage of time, the database continued to evolve and more bells and whistles were added until the system started to develop a life of its own. What began as just a simple way to look up and extract information, was now becoming the information lifeline of the association.

Almost everything one would care to know about a particular unit was available within the database. Security key numbers, garage card codes, tracking of annual assessments by unit, and unit occupancy limitations were now all part of this growing network. At one point we asked ourselves if we were accumulating too much information, and were we utilizing our personnel resources efficiently through time consuming data entry. After a careful review, our conclusion was that the information that we were obtaining was providing useful information to our board, the committees, and the front desk staff, (especially while trying to collect on delinquent accounts). Thus, no changes were made in the gathering of information.

Currently, we utilize our database for annual elections, mass mailings, the tracking of covenants violations, as well as association-wide special projects. In addition, through the programming efforts of our Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm, our in-unit maintenance program ties directly into the unit owner and resident database making our in-unit scheduling virtually effortless.

Skyline House is currently using the software program (ALPHA FOUR) which is a very efficient DOS type database. There are plans to convert to a more flexible windows database program in the coming year. When thinking about database software for an association, have a clear vision in mind as to the use of the information, and potential impact it may have on your association. For Skyline House, the residents have welcomed the computer age and have enjoyed the benefits of faster and more efficient service from their association. (Reprinted with permission.)

Zeke and Zeb decided to build a Bungee Jumping tower in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico to see if it would make them some money. After they got it set they noticed that the crowds gathered around but nobody was buying tickets.

Zeke said to Zeb, "Maybe you should demonstrate it to them so they get the idea." After Zeb was strapped on he jumped and fell almost to the ground before springing back.

As he came back up Zeke noticed that his cloths were torn and wondered what that was all about.

Zeb went down again and this time when he came back up Zeke noticed that he was bleeding. Zeke thought, "Wow, what's going on here."

Zeb went down a third time and this time when he came back up Zeke noticed that he had blood, contusions and cuts all over his body.

Zeke pulled Zeb in and said, "Zeb, what happened?"

Zeb groaned, "I don't know, but what's a pinata??"

REVISED

1998 Election Calendar of Events

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 01/02/98 Friday | Nominations Formally Opened |
| 02/13/98 Friday | Nominations Close (midnight) |
| 03/06/98 Friday | Unit Owner Election Mailing (9:30 am WPR) |
| 03/23/98 Monday | Meet the Candidates Night (7:30 pm WPR) |
| 03/31/98 Tuesday | Election (7:15 pm Main Lobby) |