

The House Special

Volume XIX, No. 8

December 1999

**MILLENNIUM
PARTY**

NEW YEAR'S EVE

-DECEMBER 31, 1999

**WEST PARTY ROOM
9:00 P.M. TILL.....**

See Flyer inside for complete details.

**Sponsored by
Skyline House Recreation Committee**

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Editor Nadyne McKelvey

Copy Due Date 20th of the Month

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.

Information for the House Special may be left at the Management Office, the Reception Desk, or sent by e-mail to nmckelvey@hotmail.com

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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The Front Desk asks that you check, on a regular basis, your resident box for any packages, HOUSE SPECIAL, notices of importance put there by Management or other information that you might not be expecting on a regular basis. It is important at any time, but during the Holiday Season it is vital for you to check often. Thank you for your cooperation.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

Toska Prather Co-Chair 379-7849

Joan Collins Co-Chair 998-0788

Good Neighbors for the Month of December are:

Toska Prather 379-7849

Glendis Taylor 998-7871

The Good Neighbors Committee is looking for additional members. Please call one of the Co-Chairs if you wish to join.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Tony DiSalvo Co-Chair

Tish Linsinbigler Co-Chair

The Committee met on November 10 and reviewed the Flea Market and the Millennium New Year's Eve Party on December 31. The Flea Market was a success for all those who participated. There were many good bargains to be had. You should have been there.

The Millennium party will replace the Annual Holiday Party for this year. We will rent a large screen TV and the event will be similar to our TGIF. See flyer insert in this Newsletter. If you are a new resident, you are requested to bring only your own liquid refreshment.

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 P.M., West Card Room, and plans will be finalized for the Millennium party. Come join us if you have any ideas that you would like to bring to our attention. Even if you don't, come join us. You are more than welcome.

COMING EVENTS

Recreation Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 P.M.

Millennium Party

December 31, 9:00 P.M., West Party Room

Post Holiday Party

Friday, January 7, 2000, 6:30 P.M., East Party Room.

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

Great minds discuss ideas;
Average minds discuss events;
Small minds discuss people.

Dear Neighbors,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Management, and our Skyline House staff, I want to thank you for your support during this year. I especially want to thank the chairpersons and members of all our committees for their efforts. The Physical Plant and Operations, Financial Management, Covenants, Fire, Safety & Security, Recreation, and Management and Personnel Policy Committees have done the lifting necessary to prepare matters for Board consideration and, to the attention of Management, items requiring action. Special thanks to the Good Neighbors. Their friendliness and generous contributions of time and effort on behalf of our residents makes Skyline House a better place to live.

On the eve of the due date for the Special Assessment, over half of the Unit Owners had made full payments or partial payments under the Extended Payment Plan. Thank you for attending to this important obligation in a timely manner. Unit Owners who have not made payment, please do so immediately.

In its November 30 Regular Meeting, the Board of Directors approved an annual budget for the year 2000 in excess of \$2.5 million. This necessitates an 8.83% increase in the General Assessment. Management, the Financial Management Committee and the Board of Directors agree that, while burdensome, this increase is necessary if the Association is to build up sufficient reserves to deal with future and near-term replacements of critical physical plant items.

Our fire alarm and sprinkler systems are now fully certified after lengthy repairs necessitated by improvements in the fire code and correction of defects which extend back to original construction. On a further safety note, you will notice reminders to S.....L.....O.....W.....D.....O.....W.....N in the garage. Please be watchful for pedestrians, especially small children as you drive through the garage.

All the best to you for safe, happy and peaceful holidays.

Sincerely yours,

Charley Roberts

President, SHUOA

NOTES FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

The Holiday Season is upon us. At this time I would like to review some of the issues that would allow for a smooth and expeditious way of addressing problems that have occurred in the past.

CHRISTMAS TREES...When bringing a Christmas tree to your home, use the **FREIGHT ELEVATOR ONLY**, not a passenger elevator. After the holidays, contact the front desk to schedule an appointment for a member of our housekeeping staff to remove and dispose of your tree accordingly. Management will be providing large plastic bags that will aid you in the disposal process. These bags will be available at the front desk. Please do not attempt to remove your tree by yourself. Dry pine needles create a lot of problems with the elevator door tracks and carpeting. Also do not attempt to put trees in the **TRASH CHUTES OR LEAVE THEM IN THE DISPOSAL ROOMS**. Let us do the work!

PACKAGES... As usual, we are expecting a tremendous amount of packages to be delivered during the upcoming Holiday Season. Your cooperation in assisting our front desk would be greatly appreciated. You can do this by:

- Checking for packages with more frequency. Especially if you anticipate receiving perishables or items that need refrigeration.
- Arrange with a friend to pick up your package if you are going to be away.

- Ask family and friends to include your **UNIT NUMBER** in your address.
- The front desk will attempt to notify you via the telephone in the event you have perishable items such as flowers and fruits.

PARKING...Please advise your guests not to park in our fire lanes, driveways, or loading docks. They will be **TOWED**. Make sure they are aware of the registration process for all vehicles parked in guest parking areas. Additional parking is available in the garage at Skyline Mall across the street after 6 p.m., on weekends and holidays. You may park along South George Mason Drive also.

SAFETY...Always be aware of your surroundings. Use extra care when utilizing the ATM machine, **ALWAYS** know where your purse is, and do not leave packages in plain view in your vehicle.

HOLIDAY HOURS...The Management Office will close for the Christmas Holiday on Friday, December 24 and will reopen on Monday, December 27. The office will close for the New Year Holiday on Friday, December 31, and reopen on Monday January 3, 2000.

ADDITIONAL BUILDING SERVICES...Need to borrow a luggage cart, or jumper cables? These items are available for your use. Just leave your driver's license as your deposit to ensure their prompt return for use by others.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Randy
Randy Lyon
General Manager

PHYSICAL PLANT & OPERATIONS

George Beams, Co-Chair, reporting

The Committee met on November 18. Ten of twenty-two voting members, two Board members and one visiting owner attended. As a quorum of twelve members were not present, no formal business was transacted.

It was suggested that voting members be limited to eight or ten. Owners would be able to attend and comment as various items on the agenda are presented. There also should be in place a method of removing voter members if they are absent more than three consecutive meetings without having been excused. If a quorum is not present, the purpose of the committee, to study and vote on projects, etc., is lost. For year 1999, there were four meetings where attendance of voting members was below twelve, the number currently considered a quorum.

For the past year, PPOC has been meeting after the monthly Financial Management Committee, reversing the procedure of previous years. PPOC's function is to review Management's Proposals, Contracts and other necessary projects to maintain the property of Skyline House. The Finance Committee then checks the cost involved and assures monies are available to cover the necessary costs. PPOC, therefore, should first approve or reject the feasibility of a project prior to Finance voting to approve or reject the expenditure of any monies. The results of both committee votes are then sent to the Board for final approval.

No meeting is scheduled in December. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 10, 2000. All are invited to attend.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Finance Committee met on November 16.

The major consideration of the FMC during this meeting was to examine how the Association can obtain a better return on our cash reserves. Skyline House by-laws restrict Association investments to those that are insured, such as Certificates of Deposit or T-Bills and, as a result, we are obtaining a minimum return on our investments.

During this month's meeting, we met with two representatives from Merrill Lynch, who presented a briefing on the services they can provide the Association, the management fees and rates of return that could be obtained on our current cash assets.

Other matters taken up included the selection of auditors for our 1999 audit and the status of the budget for next year. We asked the General Manager to obtain three bids for our consideration for the 1999 audit.

The budget sub-committee chair, Bill Miller, announced the final wrap-up of the budget is underway and called for a meeting by the Finance Committee on Monday, November 22, to approve the budget that will be presented at that time.

Because of the time consumed discussing and questioning the Merrill Lynch representatives, other items on the agenda were delayed until the next meeting, which will occur in January 2000. Items delayed until our next meeting included:

The review and evaluation of bids for the outsourcing of our accounting functions. Generally, the committee members who had reviewed the proposals, found them lacking and requested the General Manager to obtain bids from other firms; FMC accounting oversight functions; and review of financial statements.

Statements were not available for this meeting as the accounting office has focused most efforts on

cleaning up the reserve accounts and insuring transactions are correctly posted.

Betty

Betty Weber, Chair

SECURITY, FIRE & SAFETY (SF&S)

The SF&S committee met on November 9 with four Committee Members, two Board Members and the General Manager present. The Committee would welcome more participation from the members of the Association.

During the meeting the Committee discussed the parking situations; speeding problems in the garage and parking areas; individuals exiting the garage entrance door the wrong way; lighting problems on the D Level of the garage; security guards; signs regarding pedestrians and speeding, and use of speed bumps. Also, the fire alarm system certification process; cleaning of residents dryers and dryer vents; reminders for residents to have fire extinguishers and know how to use them; residents to have working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Safety information to be placed in the lobbies at various times for safety education; security cameras for the interior and exterior of the building, also came up for discussion. We touched on the suggestion of changing the verbiage of the use of guards/management representatives for parties in the party room.

The President of the Board, Mr. Roberts, who was present, indicated he would start mentioning more safety hints in his letters in the House Special.

The next meeting will be in January 2000. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Bob

Bob Busby, Chair

SKYLINE HOUSE and Y2K

Stated simply, the Y2K problem is that most computers will malfunction when dealing with dates after December 31, 1999. The reason for this is that some computer software only stores the last two digits of the year. So 1997 becomes 97; 2000 becomes 00; and so on. When computers "lose" the date, many strange things can happen which can lead to the corruption or loss of data or in the case of embedded computers, loss of functionality.

The Y2K problem will unpredictably effect computers used in business, government, military, communications, health care, utilities, transportation, banking and finance, farming and the food supply ... virtually any institution you can think of.

One of the most pernicious ideas about Y2K is that it is overwhelming. Since it first hit the public consciousness in 1998, Y2K has been compared to the largest projects in history, Vietnam, World War II and so on. Y2K is big, for sure, but not as big as the statistics would have you believe.

According to Gartner Group, between eight percent and ten percent of all Y2K problems will happen between December 1, 1999, and January 31, 2000. Another 10 percent will fall on organizations between February 1, 2000, and, oh, say 2005. No one knows for sure when Y2K problems will end definitively, nor even if 80 percent of Y2K problems have actually happened. Seventy-five percent may have occurred, maybe 90 percent of computer errors have passed. But, based on the low number of problems that have erupted into the public consciousness on critical dates past, it's a solid bet that much more than half the Y2K problem has passed already. Gartner, the subject of international criticism for stirring up panic around Y2K to drive more business its way, is not likely to substantially underestimate the severity of the problem.

The challenge of the Y2K problem has not been the elimination of problems; rather it's a matter of reducing the number of errors in any system or company or supply chain to a manageable level. Y2K has presented the greatest potential for a single, concentrated series of failures that could surpass an organization's ability to cope with interruptions.

Y2K problems have been happening sporadically since the early 1990s, though the going got really rough only in the last 18 months. According to consultants Cap Gemini and the Gartner Group, which have conducted separate surveys of IT professionals finding approximately the same incidence of Y2K problems, 80 percent to 85 percent of companies have experienced Y2K problems.

Assuming that five percent of Y2K problems happened before June 1998, then the typical month in late 1998 and throughout 1999 have presented 4.17 percent of the total Y2K problems expected. During this 63-day Hot Zone period, about 4.5 percent of all potential Y2K problems will strike.

None of these numbers are exact, nor can they be. What they are intended to demonstrate is that the chances of Y2K failures will not rise significantly this month and next. The nuisance problems, the vast majority of which are happening in total obscurity within companies and agencies that deal with errors without interfering with our lives, will continue. An apocalypse isn't in the cards.

So, as we roll into the last month of 1999 (still a year short of the new millennium, but apparently no one's counting), there's no substantial reason to panic, to withdraw money from banks or the market. You're free

to be afraid, if you must, but the numbers don't bear out fears of social or economic manner.

SKYLINE HOUSE has taken a number of steps to become Y2K compliant. These include software and hardware upgrades for our computer systems. Systems replaced recently, such as the Fire Alarm System, were purchased already compliant. All systems have been checked, and we do not expect any problems to occur, at any level. **REST ASSURED — THE WATER WILL FLOW; THE ELEVATORS WILL RUN, AND THE OTHER BUILDING SYSTEMS WILL FUNCTION IN THEIR USUAL MANNER.**

At SKYLINE HOUSE we are OK on Y2K.

For more information, see our Y2K page on our Website, Shuoa.org.

Greg
Greg Grimm

ABOUT THE LIBRARY:

With gratitude from me and on behalf of SKYLINE HOUSE, I wish to thank the following Volunteers for their continuing dedication to the Library. Without their commitment and enthusiasm, the Library could not exist:

Carol Cataldo	Nadyne McKelvey
Joan Collins	Toby Mullvain
Darryl Graham	Fran Price
Elcy Leshley	Mary and John Walsh
Betty Manton	Virginia Fissmer
Gabrielle Mallon	

We need several people to fill the places of original volunteers who have moved or have other Monday night commitments. An hour and a half on **ONLY ONE** Monday night a month is all the time required. You will be the first to see the New York Times Best Sellers and you will enjoy the lively exchange of ideas that always take place.

To join us please leave a note in my box, 1311W or phone after noon any day — 931-6093.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Barbara
Barbara Michelman

FROM THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Office wishes to thank Rose Bravo, Liza Ruiz, Fran Price, Helen Henderson and Betty McLaurin for the hours spent on preparing the budget information sent to all Unit Owners on December 1. **THANKS SO VERY, VERY MUCH.** Of course, without the expertise of Greg, I don't know what would have happened.

YOU ARE INVITED TO RUN FOR A SEAT ON THE SKYLINE HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A FEW REASONS TO RUN

**TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO SKYLINE HOUSE
TO HELP YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
TO HAVE SOME SAY IN WHAT HAPPENS HERE
TO BE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF EVERYTHING
TO BE AMONG THE FIRST TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING
TO BE WHERE THE ACTION IS**

THAT SOUNDS GOOD, BUT WHAT DOES A BOARD MEMBER DO?

**ATTENDS ONE REGULAR MEETING EACH MONTH (EXCEPT AUGUST)
(EXCUSED ABSENCES ARE ACCEPTABLE)
ATTENDS EVENING MEETING OF ABOUT TWO TO THREE HOURS
ATTENDS ABOUT EIGHT OR NINE EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF THE BOARD
(FOR BOARD MEMBERS ONLY)
PREPARES FOR THESE MEETINGS BY REVIEWING MATERIAL PROVIDED
KEEPS HIMSELF/HERSELF INFORMED OF ISSUES AFFECTING SKYLINE HOUSE
SERVES AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE BOARD AND ONE COMMITTEE
(REQUIRES ATTENDING ONE COMMITTEE MEETING EACH MONTH)**

OK! WHAT DO I DO NOW?

PICK UP AND COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FROM THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Application Forms will be available after January 4.

**There is a tremendous amount of paperwork , including mail-outs to all owners, xeroxing, etc.
Many volunteers are needed in the preparation of these, and many are needed to work on the night
of the election in late March.**

**If you can volunteer, please stop by the Management office and leave your name. It will be most
appreciated.**

LOOK!Vol 1 6/23/80 No. 1THE FIRST SKYLINE HOUSE NEWSLETTER

The fledgling Communications Subcommittee of the Skyline House Owner Involvement Committee is publishing this brief first issue of the Skyline House Newsletter both to bring co-owners up to date on the activities of the Owner Involvement Committee and to cry for help in ensuring that there are future issues. First, the news:

OWNER INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

THE FIRST MEETING was held June 10 in the Card Room with 30 enthusiastic co-owners attending. Jack Herzig (310W) acted as Chairperson. The purpose of the meeting was to form special interest subcommittees and begin to develop plans for future activities. Brief descriptions of the subcommittees formed and a list of their members follow:

COMMUNICATIONS - Responsible for notices to co-owners and periodic newsletters reporting co-owners' news and reporting news to co-owners. Members to date are: Anna Gilreath, 1515W; Diana Barnhart, 203W; Elizabeth Grant, 1408W; Jack Herzig, 310W; Allan Lund, 1701W; Richard Nelson, 1710W.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/WELCOMING - Combined subcommittees. Responsible for facilitating co-owner integration with the community, its leaders and resources. Also welcoming new co-owners to Skyline House. Members to date are: Maria Elena Pynn, 1302W; Christobel Bicksler, 301W; Maureen Lescroart, 1104W; Mary Walsh, 1202W; Vera Church, 807W.

RECREATION - Responsible for fun and games and hobbies and New Year's Eve parties. Members to date are: Bernice Kamisky, 716W; Betty Kellogg, 1608W; Jan Flynn, 909W; Pat Denny, 712W; Lon Ballard, 905W; Allan Lund, 1701W; Ellen Delman, 115W; Ruth Bassett, 704W; Mimi Frank, 1111W; Erma Leatherwood, 713W; Nina Brolin, 402W; Esther Sirkin, 1401W.

THE NEXT MEETING will be held July 15 at 8 p.m. in the Card Room. If you are interested in working on any of these subcommittees, please attend; bring your ideas and suggestions and willingness to participate. Contact any of the individuals named above for information about subcommittee planning activities in the meantime.

OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED AT THE JULY 15 MEETING. THE OWNER INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE NEEDS THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS: CHAIRPERSON, VICE CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY, AND TREASURER. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE POSITIONS, PLEASE PROVIDE JACK HERZIG, 310W, WITH A SHORT STATEMENT OF YOUR INTEREST AND QUALIFICATIONS.

SPECIAL NEWS ABOUT THE COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE. The subcommittee held its first planning session June 17, with Jack Herzig, Anna Gilreath, Allan Lund and Diana Barnhart attending. We agreed to commence preliminary inquiries into getting a newsletter going. Allan Lund met with Julie Verrier, Editor of the Skyline Plaza Skylines, June 20 for practical advice and tips. She indicated she would be willing to answer questions and provide further guidance in future. Allan and Anna Gilreath will be meeting with Vince Turner on June 27 to discuss some of the practical aspects of typing, duplicating and distributing a newsletter that is not self-supporting, i.e., what is management's role to be.

The subcommittee needs a chairperson, a newsletter editor (collector, reviewer and/or writer of newsletter entries) and production/circulation manager (in charge of printing/duplication and distribution). We also need many more volunteers to help whoever becomes editor and production/circulation manager. Without such help, this may be the last newsletter. Contact any of the subcommittee members for more information and to volunteer.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Come to the next meeting of the Owner Involvement Committee on July 15 and let us know

- What kinds of news, features, etc., you would like to see in the newsletter.
- What other formats you think the Communications Subcommittee should use to keep co-owners informed.
- What you can do to ensure Skyline House has a newsletter each month.
- What the newsletter should be named. Some suggestions are: On the House, House Calls, House Special, Rising Sun, House Spoken, House Key, House About, House Flyer, Household Word, Highrise Herald, The Center Fold, Skywriter, Skywards. Add a half dozen of your own and let us know.

JUNE 23, 1980

The Spirit of Christmas

By Michael L. Moore

The following was written at Christmas time in 1955 when Michael was a division manager at the Sears and Roebuck store on Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, DC. It was originally published in the Christmas issue of the Sears newspaper. It was recently discovered in 1999 in an old storage trunk.

Just what is the Christmas Spirit that we have at this time of the year? How does it manifest itself and in what way does it affect our personal way of life? Although we can't see it, touch it, or measure it, nevertheless it glows from deep within our hearts and radiates its intangible warmth in great circles. It is quite like a handful of pebbles scattered over the surface of a pond; temporarily rearranging the routine pattern of our habits into vivid, complex, excursions of happy expressionism.

When looking back on our childhood, we can realize the metamorphosis that takes place in our expression of the spirit of Christmas as we grow towards maturity. In the heart of a child, the first signs of the Christmas spirit appear as mental changes in the identity of people, places and things that have been common to the child the entire year. Suddenly, as if ordered by something supernatural, the blue neon sign over the delicatessen, the green posters on the bus and the fire box at the corner all seem to take on a special meaning of Christmas. Even the traffic lights, with their bright red and green signals mean more than just stop and go at Christmas time. They become the symbol of sweet surprise, of beautifully decorated pine trees, stockings that bulge with fruit and candies and the smell of warm tree lights illuminating acres of snow sprinkled trains, teddy bears, wind up cars and dolls that say "Mamma" while wetting their diapers. What an intense moment in our lives when we build the pulse of all our senses to such a point of expectation that we nearly explode with joy and race about the Christmas scene not knowing which glorious present to pick up first.

In the heart of the mature, the pulse is the same. the intensity of expectation is the same, but instead, the **explosion** now becomes an **implosion**; a bursting within which relies on the act of giving for its source of power rather than of receiving.

As adults, we often try to out maneuver our hearts. We tie ourselves up with strict rules and routine practices which dictate our every move. How practical we are. Yet, as the anniversary of the birth of the Christ Child draws nearer and nearer, even the strongest of regimented minds melts in the glow of the Christmas spirit and turns to the heart for guidance.

Certainly the spirit of Christmas has great force. If only we could harness this power as we have harnessed water, light and gas. However, the spirit of Christmas is not obtainable by simply throwing a switch or turning on a faucet. Only by turning on our hearts do we realize the full benefit of love, kindness and the spirit of giving.