



THE HOUSE SPECIAL

Volume XXI, No.9

www.shuoa.org

September 2001



**Board of Directors
President, David Tilson**

No meeting was held in August, therefore no report is submitted for this report. The next meeting will be on September 20th.



**General Manager
Gusbey Silva**

Common Area Locks and Garage Door Transmitter Re-Coding:

All common area locks will be changed on September 5, 2001. Notices are posted advising residents to pick up their new Medeco keys at the Management Office beginning August 21st. Residents must bring to the Management Office your current outside door keys to be replaced with the number of keys allotted to your unit. Also, bring your garage entrance door transmitter to be recoded. After the 5th of September all old Medeco keys and your garage transmitter, if not recoded, will no longer work. On Tuesday, September 4, 2001, the Management Office will be open until 7:00 p.m. for your convenience.

Seal Coating of the Balconies:

Seal coating of the East and West buildings is completed. Notices were posted requesting residents to do a final check of their balconies and to bring any concerns to Management's attention. Commercial Roofing addressed all concerns received at the Management Office.

Please remember that after the rain the concrete will no longer absorb the remaining water on your balcony surface due to the seal coating. Allow 24 hours for the water to dry.

Commercial Roofing has removed all their equipment from Skyline House; however, there is a two-year material and workmanship warranty. Please do not hesitate to inform Management of any concerns you may have in the future about the seal coating.

Window Washing:

The washing of all unit windows will be scheduled for late September. Notices will be posted informing you of the date selected for the washing of each building and the dates the Housekeeping staff will be available to remove window screens for the residents that need assistance with this project.

Pool Season:

Pool Season ends on Monday, September 3, 2001. Overall, we had a very good season. Our new pool management company, Sunset Pools, provided us with very good service. The complaints received from our residents this pool season were minimal compared to previous seasons.

OFFICE DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT, David Tilson 805 W 998-7254
dtilson@metronets.com

VICE PRESIDENT, Budd Coutts 1607 E 931-3165
bcoutts@metronets.com

SECRETARY, Linda Council 1716 E 998-7519
lcouncil@hq.adedodea.edu

TREASURER, Carol Cataldo 307 E 820-5969
Cataldo2@ix.netcom.com (W) 549-0124

DIRECTOR, Gary Akin 1713 E 931-0918
garos@msn.com (W) 681-6486

DIRECTOR, David Mayrose 1406 E 845- 0234
dmayrose@erols.com

DIRECTOR, James Looime 1414 E 820-6241
jimbelle@erols.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS/CO-CHAIRS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

COVENANTS, David Kafka 210 W 820-0195

FINANCIAL MGT, Betty Weber 102 E 820-3582

PHYS PLANT/OPS, George Beams 710 E 578-9507
and Kurt Bedenbauh 1004 E 671-8930

RECREATION, Tony DiSalvo 502 E 824-1958

SEC, FIRE & SAFETY, Bob Busby 102W 931-7322

MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Gusbey Silva, General Manager: gusbev@shuoa.org

Darryl Hall, Deputy General Manager: darryl@shuoa.org

Greg Grimm, Chief Engineer: gregg@shuoa.org

Tycia Haight, Bookkeeper: tycia@shuoa.org

Tania Saib, Resident Services Coordinator: tania@shuoa.org

Nina Launchengco, Admin. Assistant: nina@shuoa.org

CHIEF WEB DEVELOPER

Mohammad Ibrahim: tchanics@aol.com

EDITOR

Louise Albin lalbin@metronets.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE HOUSE SPECIAL welcomes brief comments from its readers. Limit your letters to 250 words or less and include your name and unit number. The Association Board reserves the right to refuse incorrect or improper statements.

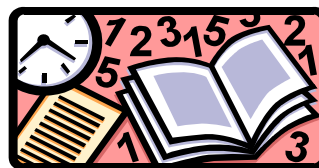
Information for **THE HOUSE SPECIAL** may be sent by e-mail to the Editor, dropped off at the Management office or the reception desk.

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Maintenance of Common Areas:

We encourage our residents to help Management by reporting any common area maintenance issues you may find while walking through the buildings. If by accident you drop any liquid substance on any of our floor surfaces (i.e., carpet, tile, concrete), please notify the Receptionist immediately so we can take care of it before it creates a stain. We have a housekeeping employee on duty Wednesday to Friday until 8:00 p.m. and on Saturdays until 6:00 p.m. At any other time, please use the Common Area Maintenance Log located at the Reception Desk.



EDITOR
Louise Albin

The following article is submitted by Peg Gooding of Skyline Plaza and reprinted with permission of *SKYLines*. *Thanks to our Plaza neighbors for allowing us to use their news article.*

Spotlight Shines on NOVA's Schlesinger Center

The long-awaited opening of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the Alexandria Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College will soon be a reality.

We are now delighted to report that on September 22, 2001, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will kick off its 2001-2002 season in the 1,000-seat concert hall with *Fanfare and Flourish*. The Arlington Symphony's season opens on September 29th with a concert featuring internationally renowned violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. Tickets are required for all performances by the Alexandria and Arlington Symphonies. However, there will be several free concerts, including the NOVA Band and Chorus combined concert (October 13th); NOVA Holiday Concert (December 1st), and the Mt. Vernon Orchestra & NOVA Chorus combined concert (December 2nd). The general public is invited, and there are no reserved seats.

The formal dedication of the Schlesinger Center will take place on October 19, 2001. It is by invitation only and will include local dignitaries, members of the Schlesinger family and supporters of the arts throughout Northern Virginia.

The center is named for the late wife of Dr. James R. Schlesinger, former U.S. Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Energy. Mrs. Schlesinger was a violinist and board member of the Arlington Symphony until her death in 1995. Dr. Schlesinger donated \$1 million to the center in his wife's memory. Local corporations, foundations, and individual donors generously contributed additional funds toward completion of the center.

For more information on the Schlesinger Center, including the availability for rental of other spaces in the center for recitals, lectures, seminars, dinners, etc., please contact Dr. Leslie White, managing director, at lwhite@nv.cc.va.us or 703-845-6229. To learn more about the concert series for the Alexandria Symphony, call 703-548-0885 or log onto its website at www.alexsym.org. The Arlington Symphony can be reached at 703-528-1817 or www.arlingtonsymphony.org.

If location is everything, this is definitely true for Skyline community residents who can reach the center by walking, driving, or biking. The center is less than one-quarter mile from South George Mason Drive. For those who choose to drive, more than five hundred metered parking spaces will be available in the new four-level garage on Beauregard Street.

Do visit this first-class performing arts center often and enjoy the exciting and innovative programs planned for its first season!

County Needs More Paid Poll Workers:

Fairfax County is facing a serious shortage of paid election officers to staff its 217 polling places during the November 6 general election.

Election officials hire 2,500 county residents each general election to serve as officers who answer voters' questions, set up equipment, check registration and direct people in and out of the booths.

They are paid \$100 for a workday that usually begins at 5 a.m. and ends when all votes are tallied, up to 15 hours. A two-hour training class is held in mid-October. For more information on how to apply, call 703-324-4735.

A lot of changes have taken place for Bailey's Cross Roads and other areas of Virginia; such as redistricting and delegates – watch for public notices.

See page 10 for more detailed important information.



Covenants Committee David Kafka

No meeting was held in August; therefore, no report. The next meeting will be on September 19th at 7:30 p.m. The Covenants Hearing will be held on September 25th at 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will be in the West Card Room.



Financial Management Committee Betty Weber, Chair

The Finance Committee met on August 21, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.

No issues were raised by the Subcommittees. Management reported that work on the balconies is complete. A second draft for \$83,776 was approved for payment. A remaining balance of \$87,000 is still to be paid on balcony seal coating.

The elevator door work has been inspected and approved. The remaining \$23,000 owed will be paid as soon as the Association is billed.

Management also brought to the Committee's attention that the 2002 annual budget needs to include funds for waterproofing of plaza planters and repairs to the exterior of the garage wall to be

completed next year. Repairs for these two items are estimated to cost \$240,000.

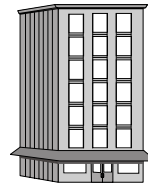
Budget and Reserves Subcommittees were formed to begin work on next years budget. The Subcommittees will begin meeting in early September to develop the budget.

A comparison of income over expenses through July 31, 2001 shows a year-to-date net income of nearly \$126,000. Our General Manager is to be commended for her excellent management of Association resources.

Account	2001 YTD Actual	2001 YTD Budget*
Total Income	1,808,717	1,751,773
Total Expense	1,682,814	1,751,773
Net Income (Loss)	125,903	0
Replacement Reserve Fund		
Beginning Balance	556,236	556,236
Contributions	447,612	377,915
Expenditures	188,541	188,541
Ending Balance Repl Reserve	815,307	745,610
Periodic Maintenance Fund		
Beginning Balance	130,252	130,252
Contributions	211,812	211,812
Expenditures	184,660	184,660
Ending Balance Periodic Maint.	157,404	157,404
Working Capital Fund		
Beginning Balance	89,608	89,608
Contributions	-	-
Expenditures	-	-
Ending Balance Working Capital Fund	89,608	89,608
Consultant Fund		
Beginning Balance	18,850	18,850
Contributions	10,153	10,153
Expenditures	32,939	32,939
Ending Balance Consultant Fund	(3,936)	(3,936)
Contingency Fund		
Beginning Balance	25,827	25,827
Contributions	-	-
Expenditures	25,827	-
Ending Balance Contingency Fund	-	25,827
Special Assessm't Fund		
Beginning Balance	10,987	10,987
Contributions	27,080	27,080
Expenditures	-	-
Ending Balance Special Assess Fund	38,067	38,067
Total Reserves		
Beginning Balance	831,760	831,760
Contributions	696,657	626,960
Expenditures	431,967	406,140
Ending Balance Total Reserves	1,096,450	1,052,580

* Represents average monthly budget (annual budget divided by twelve).

The next FMC meeting will be held on September 18, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



Physical Plant And Operations Committee George Beams And Kurt Bedenbaugh

The Committee met on August 9, 2001. The following subjects were discussed:

Elevator Doors Rehab: Millar reported it had corrected all of the items on the Lerch Bates deficiency list. Our Engineer, Greg Grimm, will double-check the list before Management releases the funds.

Passenger Elevator Modernization Project: Lerch Bates, with our Board's approval, has drafted specifications for the project and a meeting will be held on August 15, 2001, with our consultants. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for the following week. After the pre-bid meeting, the final bids are due in three to four weeks.

Seal Coating of Balconies and Patios: The West building work has been completed, and all resident complaints have been addressed. Work on the East building should be completed by August 10, 2001, and residents have been asked to bring their concerns to Management's attention by August 13, 2001. The contract has been approved, for \$328,000. Commercial Roofing estimates that all repairs will be completed and their equipment removed by Friday, August 17, 2001. The work is under warranty.

Waterproofing of Planters on Garage Roof: Our consultant, Jeff James, has inspected the garage walls and the waterproofing of three planters; we will receive his report by next week. In order to prevent damage to the garage, it will be necessary to waterproof some planters this year to avoid winter damage, which can be paid for with the credit from the balcony work. Some of the work can be postponed until next year. Commercial Roofing has given an estimate of \$94,000, without new plants.

Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) was budgeted for the job.

Property Inspection: The next property inspection will be postponed until September, because of the number of residents away at this time of year.

Other Items: Our lawyer has told us that we have no claim for the work done by Brothers Paving on the entry to the garage and the area by the East freight doors; the company was given no specifications, just verbal instructions, which they fulfilled. Another company has suggested that we need three drains in the area, not the single French drain the company installed. We will now seek prices for the work on both the East and West sides of the building, and Kurt Bedenbaugh has volunteered to write the specifications.

Arabic Language TV Channels: Washington Cable did not receive request from 100 customers for the two Arabic language channels that residents requested. The interested Arabic speakers have suggested that the cable company increase the price for each subscriber in order to meet their goal. Washington Cable is proposing that it install HBO and one Arabic language station. A decision will be made in September.

We are successfully using Birdie Barriers to cut down on the amount of bird droppings found on residents' cars and windows. Thirteen of the gadgets are installed in our short trees, and a suggestion was made that we rent a machine to lift an engineer so that barriers can be installed in our 50 feet tall trees. The suggestion was made that Management write to residents know for feeding the birds, explaining the problem that that creates for others.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2001 at 7: 00 p.m. in the West Card Room



Security, Fire And Safety Committee Robert Busby

There was no Security, Fire and Safety Committee meeting in August. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

www.co.fairfax.va.us/police/police5.htm#Tag14.

The objective of the Neighborhood Watch program is to organize entire communities where residents are trained to be alert to potential crimes in their neighborhood. With this help, the Police Department can provide a fast response and the trained personnel to investigate any reported incident or suspicion of an incident. Neighborhood Watch, in tandem with the Police Department, has been a significant factor in bringing about a substantial reduction in crime in Fairfax County. For more information, contact the police district station serving your community. (See **Police** for a list of these stations and their telephone numbers.)



Recreation Committee Tony DiSalvo Chairman

The Recreation Committee met on Wednesday, August 8th. One member and three visitors were present.

Several questions were raised and were referred to their respective committees. We held a short discussion regarding taking a bus trip to Atlantic City. No action was taken.

There will be no committee meeting in September.

If you are a resident and have not attended the monthly TGIF, make this your first and meet your neighbors. To make it easier, you are requested

NOT to bring a plate of hors d'oeuvres, just your own liquid refreshment.

The next TGIF is scheduled for Friday, September 7th, at 6:30 p.m., East Party Room.

COMING EVENTS:

TGIF, Friday, October 12th, at 6:30 p.m. West Party Room



Good Neighbor Committee Co-Chairs

Toska Prather 703-379-7849
Virginia Wallace 703-671-7648

Good Neighbors for September 2001

Geraldine Naveau 703-931-4643
Charles Roberts 703-998-6080

The Good Neighbors are available to assist all residents who are in need of temporary help due to illness or an emergency. Please call on them if a need arises. We need new members. If anyone wishes to join the Good Neighbors, please call one of the Co-Chairs and join us. It is a rewarding experience to be able to help a neighbor.



The Chief Engineer Greg Grimm

Smoke Alarm Facts:

How effective are smoke alarms?

Residential fire deaths have decreased steadily as the number of homes with smoke alarms increased. Reports from the National Fire Protection Association show that people have nearly a 50 percent better chance of surviving a fire if their home has the recommended number of smoke alarms.

When do I need to replace my smoke alarm?

Smoke alarms that are 10 years old are near the end of their service life and should be replaced.

Some people think that their smoke alarm sits idle until smoke is present. But it is working every minute, constantly monitoring the air 24 hours a day. For example, an [ionization smoke alarm](#) goes through 3.5 million monitoring cycles in 10 years. In a [photoelectric smoke alarm](#), a light operates 24 hours a day to check for smoke particles in the air.

Just like any electrical appliance, the components of smoke alarms wear out over time. When a smoke alarm reaches 10 years of use, the potential of failing to detect a fire increases substantially. Replacing them after 10 years reduces the likelihood of failure.

My smoke alarms are wired into my electrical system. Do I need to replace them as often as battery-operated alarms?

Yes. Both the hard-wired and battery-operated alarms are equally affected by age.

How many smoke alarms should I have?

All but the smallest home or apartment needs more than one. The exact number depends on two things, the number of levels in the home and the number of bedrooms. The following recommendations are based on a standard published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 72), which contains a chapter on household fire alarms.

For new homes, the standard requires a smoke alarm in each bedroom, one outside the bedroom area that is close enough to be heard through closed doors, and a minimum of one on each level of the home. The objective of having a smoke alarm outside the bedroom area is to alert sleeping occupants of a fire that starts outside of the bedrooms. For this reason, if the bedrooms in a home are located in different areas, then each area should have its own smoke alarm. If a home is large, it is better to use more than one on each level. The closer the smoke alarm is to the fire source the faster it will work, so extra units give you more safety.

The requirements for existing homes are not as stringent. In existing homes, the NFPA only requires a smoke alarm outside the bedroom area and one on each level of the home. However, it also recommends that homeowners install additional smoke alarms, and we recommend that existing homes be equipped with at least the same number of

smoke alarms that are required in new homes. It makes sense to install a smoke alarm in each bedroom. A good number of fires start in bedrooms, and the closer the smoke alarm is to the fire, the faster it will alert you. These recommendations are located in Appendix A of the standard.

If you have an old “Honeywell” smoke detector, it should be replaced as soon as possible, please call Tania in the management office to schedule installation of a replacement detector.



Covenants Committee **David Kafka**

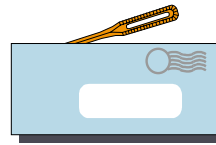
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Community Relations Committee **Jim Loome**

When we organized the current Board of Directors, one member was designated as liaison to each standing committee. I was assigned to Community Relations Committee, which did not exist, but that I was to organize.

I tried. I really tried. But I give up!!! We advertised for interest and five people signed up. When contacted, only three agreed to serve. We met on July 30th and had a good exchange of ideas, but we were overwhelmed by the potential enormity of our mission (our own neighborhood, the Skylines neighborhoods; the Skyline City and BuildAmerica communities; and the Fairfax County/Mason District community).

We decided on a Chairperson, a meeting date and, an area of concentration. Our next meeting was scheduled for August 20th but only one person attended. The other two did not show. The outcome is that we still don't have a Community Relations Committee. Sorry.



Letters To The Editor

Neighborhood Watch Group

Thanks to those of you who have signed up for the Neighborhood Watch Group. More than 20 people have volunteered. The actions of Skyline House residents can help eliminate future vandalism.

We are two people from a small group who have met with Judith York to initiate this new program. She will meet with Management and the new security company to discuss the responsibilities of the security guards and how their work can be best coordinated with the Neighborhood Watch.

Soon after that meeting, Judith will schedule a session for all those who signed up. At that session, we'll have a chance to give our opinions and decide how the Neighborhood Watch effort should operate, what building areas will be covered, what hours are preferred, and what identification the members will wear, etc.

We're off to a good start!

Submitted by Dorothy Ferrell & Kenneth Johnson



Mohammed Ibrahim **Chief Web Developer**

There is no article this month from the Skyline House Web Developer. Look forward next month for a new article.



Ad hoc Decorating Committee
Jean Orben, Chair
Carroll Thompson & Louise Albin

We are very pleased with the final design that Mrs. Joan Clarke, our designer, presented to the Committee on August 23rd. She will present her display to the Board at its September meeting, at which time the Board will vote on the final design.

From Fairfax County's Weekly Agenda, August 9, 2001:

Computer Recycling: Fairfax County Web Site offers Computer Recycling Resources.

As a service to Fairfax County residents and businesses, Fairfax County's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services has made available on its Web site a list of organizations that accept donations of used computers and software. Whether you are a resident who has just upgraded to a new computer and need to dispose of an old one, or you own a business that is switching out its old equipment for newer models, there is a company listed that will take your used equipment.

The Web site lists charitable organizations that refurbish the equipment that will be freely given or distributed at minimal cost to schools and communities across the country. Local schools, such as Chantilly High School, are listed that take PCs to help students learn the fundamentals of information technology. The Web site also includes information on businesses that resell computer equipment or parts. Some organizations accept only 486s or better; while others take computer equipment regardless of the make, age, or condition.

So recycle your old computer, and share it with someone who can put it to good use. For more specific information about where to donate your computer, visit the Web site at www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/dpwes/recycling/mat-comp.htm.

"The Greatest Generation"

Some things we all take for granted. Then, every once in a while, something or someone comes along and stirs reality within. The following was written early in 2000 by Captain Stephen R. Ellison, M.D., USA, a young military doctor.

I am a doctor specializing in Emergency Medicine in the Emergency Departments of the only two military Level One-trauma centers. They are both in San Antonio, TX and they care for civilian emergencies as well as military personnel. San Antonio has the largest military retiree population in the world living here because of the location of these two large military medical centers, Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base and Brooke Army Medical Center at Ft. Sam Houston Army Base in Texas.

As a military doctor in training for my specialty, I work long hours and the pay is less than glamorous. One tends to become jaded by the long hours, lack of sleep, food, family contact and the endless parade of human suffering passing before you. The arrival of another ambulance does not mean more pay, only more work. Most often, it is a victim from a motor vehicle crash. Often, it is a person of dubious character who has been shot or stabbed. With our large military retiree population, it is often a nursing home patient. Even with my enlisted service and minimal combat experience in Panama, prior to medical school, I have caught myself groaning when the ambulance brought in yet another sick, elderly person from one of the local retirement centers that cater to military retirees.

I had not stopped to think of what citizens of this age group represented. I saw "Saving Private Ryan." I was touched deeply. Not so much by the carnage in the first 30 minutes, but by the sacrifices of so many. I was touched most by the scene of the elderly survivor at the graveside asking his wife if he'd been a good man. I realized that I had seen these same men and women coming through my Emergency Department and had not realized what magnificent sacrifices they had made. The things they did for me and every one else who has lived on this planet since the end of that conflict are priceless.

Situation permitting, I now try to ask my patients about their experiences. They would never bring up the subject without the inquiry. I have been privileged to encounter an amazing array of experiences, recounted in the brief minutes allowed in an Emergency Dept. These experiences have revealed the incredible individuals I have had the honor of serving in a medical capacity, many on their last admission to the hospital.

There was a frail, elderly woman who reassured my young enlisted medic trying to start an IV line in her arm. She remained calm and poised, despite her illness and the multiple needle-sticks into her fragile veins. She was what we call a "hard stick." As the medic made another attempt, I noticed a number tattooed across her forearm. I touched it with one finger and looked into her eyes. She simply said "Auschwitz." Many of later generations would have loudly and openly berated the young medic in his many attempts. How different was the response from this person who'd seen unspeakable suffering.

Also, there was this long retired Colonel, who as a young officer had parachuted from his burning plane over a Pacific Island held by the Japanese. Now an octogenarian, his head cut in a fall at home where he lived alone. His CT scan and suturing had been delayed until after midnight by the usual parade of high priority ambulance patients. Still spry for his age, he asked to use the phone to call a taxi to take him home, then he realized an ambulance had brought him without his wallet.

He asked if he could use the phone to make a long distance call to his daughter who lived 7 miles away. With great pride we told him that he could not, as he'd done enough for his country and the least we could do was get him a taxi home, even if we had to pay for it ourselves. My only regret was that my shift wouldn't end for several hours, and I couldn't drive him myself.

I was there the night MSgt. Roy Benavidez came through the Emergency Dept. for the last time. He was very sick. I was not the doctor taking care of him, but I walked to his bedside and took his hand. I said nothing. He was so sick, he didn't know I was there. I'd read his Congressional Medal

of Honor citation and wanted to shake his hand. He died a few days later.

The gentleman who served with Merrill's Marauders, the survivor of the Baatan Death March, the survivor of Omaha Beach, the 101 year old World War I veteran, the former POW held in frozen North Korea, the former Special Forces medic (now with non-operable liver cancer), the former Viet Nam Corps Commander. I remember these citizens. I may still groan when yet another ambulance comes in, but now I am much more aware of what an honor it is to serve these particular men and women. I am angered at the cut backs, implemented and proposed, that will continue to decay their meager retirement benefits.

I see the President and Congress who would turn their back on these individuals who have sacrificed so much to protect our liberty. I see later generations that seem to be totally engrossed in abusing these same liberties, won with such sacrifice. It has become my personal endeavor to make the nurses and young enlisted medics aware of these amazing individuals when I encounter them in our Emergency Dept. Their response to these particular citizens has made me think that perhaps all is not lost in the next generation.

My experiences have solidified my belief that we are losing an incredible generation, and this nation knows not what it is losing. Our uncaring government and ungrateful civilian populace should all take note. We should all remember that we must "Earn this."



Nina Lauchengco

Nina joins us with 5 years experience as a professional Administrative Assistant. After graduating from Chantilly High School in Chantilly, Virginia, she earned a certificate in Travel Marketing at Northern Virginia Community College. She also successfully completed an internship with Ultimate Travel Advisors as an Administrative Coordinator. Nina worked as a Sales/Administrative Assistant in construction and is currently continuing her education, to earn a degree in the field of Business Administration.

Born in Manila, Philippines, Nina came to the United States with her family in 1994. After residing briefly in Florida, she has returned to Virginia to reside permanently.

Please stop by the Management Office and welcome Nina to our House.



Bill Albritton, Jr.

Bill brings with him 18 years of residential and commercial building engineering experience. He has worked with companies such as Leggum and Norman, Polinger, Shannon & Luchs, and at Gallaudet University. Upon the completion of high school, Bill entered the field of engineering where he studied at Bell Vocational School in Washington, DC, and at the National Association of Power Engineers (N.A.P.E.).

Bill possesses several licenses in the field of engineering to include a chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) certification and a Boilers License (LBP).

Bill and his wife of 10 years are both native Washingtonians. They have three children and two grandchildren.

Please help us welcome Bill as our new on-call, live-in, Assistant Engineer.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT SKYLINE HOUSE September 2001

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Labor Day  LIBRARY CLOSED	4	5	6	7 TGIF 6:30 P.M. ECR	8
9	10 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	11	12 SECURITY 7:00 P.M. WCR	13 PPOC 7:00 P.M. WCR	14	15
16	17 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	18 FIN MGT 7:00 P.M. WCR	19 COV MTG 7:30 P.M. WCR	20 BOARD 7:00 P.M. WCR	21	22
23	24 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	25 COV HEARING 7:00 P.M. WCR	26	27	28	29
30						

**Skyline House Unit Owners' Association, Inc.,
3711 South George Mason Drive
Falls Church VA 22041-3711**