



# *THE HOUSE SPECIAL*

Volume XXV, No. 12

[www.shuoa.org](http://www.shuoa.org)

December 2004



## **Board of Directors President, David Tilson**

### **Sophie Anderson:**

In November, we were all deeply moved and saddened when we heard of the tragic death of Mrs. Sophie Anderson, a longtime resident of Skyline House. Mrs. Anderson was killed when she was struck by a truck while she was crossing S. George Mason Drive at the crosswalk near the entrance to our property in front of the West building. A well-attended memorial service was held in the East party room during which many residents spoke of Mrs. Anderson's quiet, selfless service to this community and to many of its residents. She was an exceptional person and will be deeply missed.

This accident called attention once again to the need for improving the safety of that important crossing. Management is determined to have the Virginia Department of Transportation, which is responsible for the traffic light at that crossing, do a safety analysis of the crossing and to have the timing and characteristics of that light improved. Unfortunately, VDOT is a rather sluggish bureaucracy, so this process is certain to take some time before any results will be achieved.

### **Highlights of the December 1 Board Meeting:**

Both the Treasurer and the Chair of the Financial Management Committee reported that our finances remain in good condition. Their expectation is that we will have a budgetary surplus

at the end of this calendar year – which is also our fiscal year – of about \$64,000. Up to \$20,000 of these funds will be earmarked for purchase of a new public address system – which we need, but which was not budgeted in the 2004 or 2005 budgets. The balance will go either into working capital or the reserves for façade repairs.

The Board approved a contract with Panoramic Landscaping for \$32,000 to supply landscaping services in 2005. Panoramic, which has been our landscape contractor for the past five years, was the low bidder. Both the PPOC and the FMC recommended approval of this contract.

### **Need Candidates to Run for Election to the Board of Directors:**

We will have three vacancies on the Board of Directors to be filled at the annual meeting of the Skyline House Unit Owners Association on March 22, 2005. I hope we can recruit at least five qualified candidates who will be willing to serve if elected.

As members of a self-governing community, all unit owners must take governance seriously. The elected Board of Directors is responsible for selecting and overseeing Management, approving the budget (which means setting the condo fees), establishing rules and regulations that affect many aspects of life in this community, and approving contracts for the variety of services we need. In other words, the decisions of the Board ultimately affect the quality of life and, to some extent, the value of the property in our community.

<b><u>OFFICE DIRECTORS</u></b>			
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#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS/CO-CHAIRS**

##### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

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FINANCIAL MGT,	Wynfred Joshua	1414W	820-4471
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	and Chuck Ruby	1006W	578-0896
PHYS PLANT/OPS,	George Beams	710 E	578-9507
	and Kurt Bedenbaugh	1004 E	671-8930
RECREATION,	Tony DiSalvo	502 E	824-1958
SEC/FIRE & SAFETY,	Terry Sakellos	204 E	820-0455

#### **MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

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Darryl Hall, Deputy General Manager	<a href="mailto:darryl@shuoa.org">darryl@shuoa.org</a>
Greg Grimm, Chief Engineer	<a href="mailto:greg@shuoa.org">greg@shuoa.org</a>
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Louise Albin	<a href="mailto:lalbin2@metronets.com">lalbin2@metronets.com</a>
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#### **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. Committee reports must be submitted to the Editor by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month or NLT 3 days after mtg.

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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We have 556 units in Skyline House. Among the resident unit owners are many well-educated, highly qualified professionals and business people whose knowledge and experience are needed both on the Board and on the key committees on whom we all rely for good governance. Each year we need a few to volunteer for this important community service. If you feel you are qualified to serve, please obtain an application from the Management Office. Nominations will close in early February.

Happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year!



**General Manager  
Gusbey Silva**

#### **Restoration of North & South Façade:**

The façade repairs on the north wall, including the cleaning of all the windows and the demobilization of the remaining overhead protection, will be completed by Friday, December 3, 2004. The remaining work on the south wall will be completed by Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Cleaning of all windows and balconies and demobilization from the south wall will be completed by Friday, December 17, 2004.

#### **Restoration of North Façade Landscaping:**

The installation of the new landscaping design, previously approved by the Board of Directors for the left corner of the Lobby entrance, was completed during the first week of November.

The landscaper contracted by the façade repairs contractor will complete the restoration of the landscaping on the remaining area of the front side on Thursday and Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Restoration of the South Façade Landscaping:**

On Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Management in conjunction with the façade repairs contractor and the Association's Consultant Engineer will inspect the grounds located behind the West building to

assess the damages to the landscaping and to determine the best time for its restoration.

### **Replacement of Passenger Elevators – Carpet:**

The installation of the new carpet in all six passenger elevators was completed on Wednesday, November 24, 2004.

### **Cleaning of the Dryer and A/C Vents:**

As requested by the Board of Directors, Management searched for and found a company, Chute Master Indoor Environmental Services, who, at a very good discounted price, will clean your dryer and/or A/C vents. The discounted price is based on doing 10 units per day. Each resident will pay the company directly for the services rendered. Chute Master has reserved the week of December 13<sup>th</sup> to perform the first 50 units. If we have enough residents interested in their service, Management will schedule additional weeks to continue with the offered service in the beginning of 2005. A sign up sheet has been placed at the Front Desk so you may reserve the time for your unit vent cleaning at your convenience. Please refer to the notices posted in the mail lobby bulletin boards for more detailed information.

### **Cleaning of the Outside Dryer Vent:**

As approved by the Board of Directors, the dryer vents located outside of the buildings on tiers 05, 06 & 14 will be cleaned by a company contracted by the Association from Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday, December 10, 2004.

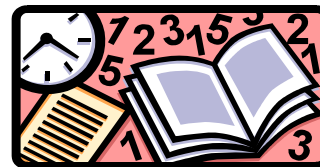
### **Skyline House Welcomes New Assistant Chief Engineer**



We are pleased to announce the new Skyline House Assistant Chief Engineer, Mr. Tettie Moore.

Tettie brings with him twenty years of experience in building maintenance, having served as a Chief Engineer at Holiday Inn in Greenbelt, Maryland for the last five years. In 2002, he earned the Chief Engineer of the Year award from the Maryland Hotel Trade Association.

Tettie holds a Universal Certification for Refrigerant Transition and Recovery, and he is also a Certified Pool Operator. He was born and raised in Washington, DC, and he is currently a resident of Skyline House. Tettie retired from the United States Army after 20 years of service. He has three girls, one of them pursuing a career with the United States Marine Corps, and nine grandchildren. Tettie loves fishing and flying model air planes.



**Editor  
Louise Albin**

### **SKYLINE HOUSE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MARCH 29, 2005**

Skyline House By Laws state that the notice of the annual election be published in the December issue of *The House Special*.

Three vacancies will be filled this year: Two, each for three years, and one for two years.

Nominations will open on January 3, 2005 and close at 6:00 p.m. February 8, 2005. Applications may be picked up at the front desk but must be returned to the Management Office on or before close of business February 8, 2005.

It takes many helping hands to conduct the election. In fact, it takes at least 50. We urge anyone who can possibly do so to give a few hours to help. We invite our new residents take an active

part in this election. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be at the front desk. You will be contacted to discuss your interest. Please give this your utmost attention.

We need to establish two committees: a Nominating Committee and an Election Committee. At least three unit owners are needed for each of these Committees.

The Nominating Committee is charged with recruiting candidates. The Election Committee must provide all unit owners with formal, legally sufficient, and timely notification of the Annual Election.

The Management Office staff supplies administrative support, preparing all forms and assisting each Committee.

Please consider running for office, joining a Committee, or just lending a helping hand.

***Sophie Mares Anderson  
1922-2004***

*Thanks to the Skyline House community for their support during the most difficult of times. Sophie's untimely death was a great shock that was softened by the outpouring of sympathy and help from her neighbors and friends at Skyline.*

*Carl Anderson Deeply Appreciates your  
Thoughtfulness.*

**THANK YOU SKYLINE**

*The little walker is gone... Sophie Anderson died on November 16<sup>th</sup> after being hit by a truck as she was crossing South George Mason Drive to begin one of her outdoor walks. She was a familiar*

*presence in the hallways of Skyline House, walking four times a day, usually alone but always willing to stop and talk. A committed resident of the condo, Sophie served on most of its committees during her 18 years here. Committee members will miss her, but we all will feel her absence in our now too empty hallways. Our sincere condolences to her son.*

*Jean and Bob Orben*

*To the friends of Sophie Anderson: During Sophie's memorial in the party room, I knew there was something I wanted to say about having known Sophie. It had to do with missing her in the hallway, but I could not quite articulate it even to myself. It finally jelled the next day. I want to share it now because some of you will probably have had a similar experience.*

*I realize now that I had slowly acquired the subconscious expectation of running into Sophie in the hallway sometime during the day, and that I had come to expect, and even rely on, the little sunshine that her greetings would bring. Over the years, Sophie and I bumped into each other quite often because we lived on the same floor, we both were always coming and going from our apartments, and we both walked a lot around Skyline House and the Skyline complex. Now all that is gone.*

*Consciously, I could bring myself to understand and accept the awful truth of what had happened right from the instant I saw the black ribbon on her door Wednesday morning. Consciously, I knew not to expect to see Sophie outside her door or around the building anymore.*

*What I am just now coming to understand, though, is that my subconscious expectations have not kept up with my conscious understanding. As I walk out my door at the end of the hall, my automatic expectation is still to see Sophie down the hall somewhere – at least every 2nd or 3<sup>rd</sup> time – or somewhere around the building or the grounds. Then my rational mind takes over and I know it isn't going to happen, not now, not today, not tomorrow, or ever again. And I am quietly devastated once again.*

*My subconscious must be retrained so it doesn't keep leaving me devastated. Then, in time, I'll not expect to see Sophie at her door or around the corner. The hallways, though, are lonelier and more impersonal for me now – as I suspect they have become for everyone who knew Sophie and her habits. Those random bursts of sunshine I had unwittingly come to expect from bumping into Sophie are gone for good. We are all so much poorer for it.*

*Best wishes for the Holiday Season to everyone. It certainly won't be quite as bright as it might have been, though, for Sophie's memory will, from time to time and for no apparent reason, pass across our minds and we will be sad again.*

*L. Stoddard, 1413E*

### **Seasons Greetings!!!**

Thank you for your support for the Thanksgiving food drive; as in the past, we had a tremendous turnout. We will keep the same families for the Christmas Holiday as well. In addition to providing the two families a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, we also will provide some gifts that they have wished for this year.

Listed below are some of the items that the families would like this Christmas Season. The first names are given because some people choose to purchase a gift, wrap it, and label it for the person they wish to receive it.

If you would like to make a monetary donation for the purchase of perishable items or gifts to be purchased, you can drop off a check or gift card to the Management and/or Accounting office.

**The collection box will be outside the Accounting Office Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

#### **Family 1:**

Tanya (Mom): Vacuum cleaner, bathroom rug set (blue or pink); kitchen towel sets, cooking utensils (large spoons, spatula, etc.), bed sheets (queen and twin size)

Wendell (Dad): No special request

Brianna – age 13 – ladies pants, size 11, and sweaters in medium or large

Charisse- Age 9 – Pants and Sweaters

Tania Age 7: Pants and Sweaters size 16-18 girls;

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Family 2:**

Brenda: CD player (portable w/ ear phones), vacuum cleaner, Purse (prefer Black);

Christina is a “Special needs” 22-year old: robe and pajamas – size ladies small, perfume set, CD case;

Marcus Age 9 – pants size 12 regular, socks size 6-8, school shoes (dark pair) Size 4 ½ children's, toys: Hot Wheels cars, white truck, train set.

Both families are in need of vacuum cleaners. If anyone has a used one that is in good condition and no longer needed in your household, I am sure they would be very happy to receive it into theirs.

If you wish, to donate food items we will follow the same list as we did for Thanksgiving listed below: If your last name begins with:

A-H: Canned Foods (vegetables, cranberry sauce, fruit, soup etc.);

I-O: Drinks (juice, tea bags, coffee, etc.);

P-Z: Boxed Items (cake mix, macaroni and cheese, sugar, etc.);

Also paper/plastic and condiment items are always needed.;

Thank you for your Support!!

*Submitted by*

*Tycia Haight, Accounting Office*

#### **The Alexandria Singers**

The Alexandria Singers will be performing again on Sunday, December 19, 2004, at 3:00 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 2004 Cambridge Road, Alexandria.

The Alexandria Singers have been performing American popular music for more than 25 years. Their repertoire of pop, rock, show tunes, blues, and jazz has distinguished them from other choral groups in the Washington metro area.

Under the direction of Roger Olive, the Singers have received much praise and recognition. Call (703) 941-7464 for tickets. Or send a written request with a self-addressed



stamped envelope to: The Alexandria Singers, P.O. Box 6151, Alexandria, VA 22306.



**Financial Management  
Committee**  
**Wynfred Joshua & Chuck Ruby**  
**Co-Chairmen**

The Financial Management Committee met on November 29, 2004.

- Total income for the month of October was \$276,111 with expenditures of \$209,872.
- Total income less expenditures amounted to \$66,240.
- The total Reserve Contributions were \$93,259 leaving a negative net income before taxes of \$27,020.

This negative figure reflects, among others, large expenditures for our program of in-unit maintenance, which is recovered by charges residents pay for the services. We also had major repair costs for the rolling doors. On the whole, however, our budget is on track and we expect to end the year with a surplus. At this point we have a net income of approximately \$64,000. In light of the major expenses we anticipate for the façade repairs, the FMC strongly recommended to the Board to make an additional contribution to the Reserves of up to \$50,000 to be used for façade repairs.

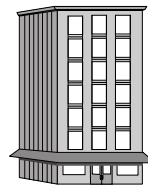
The FMC also recommended to the Board to award the 2005 landscaping contract to Panoramic Landscaping in the amount of \$31,988. This company has handled Skyline House landscaping for the last five years and generally has done a good job. The FMC urged, however, that Management instruct the contractor to trim the shrubs and bushes on our grounds more neatly to reflect a better groomed look. The FMC also suggested that Management work with the contractor to select better flowering summer annuals if locations permit.

The FMC discussed at great length Management's recommendation to replace the current public address (PA) system with a wireless

system provided by Cardinal Sound and Communications. The FMC noted that the PPOC had refused to endorse the proposed system inasmuch as no one had heard its performance; nor was it evident that the system would meet the Board's requirements. The General Manager explained that each component had been selected because it was the best one for our requirements. The FMC observed that it was difficult to compare Cardinal with other bidders because in contrast to other bidders, Cardinal did not list any prices for the components of the system but provided only a total figure. Furthermore, the Cardinal proposal neither mentioned any warranty, nor whether it would engineer and assemble the system.

Acutely aware of the need for a better PA system, the FMC decided to propose to the Board that an amount not to exceed \$20,000 be set aside from the 2004 net income for a PA system that would be recommended by the PPOC and the FMC. Acceptance of this recommendation meant that we would have the funds to acquire a suitable system in 2005 and probably would be able to submit a new recommendation for Board's consideration early in the year.

The FMC traditionally does not meet in the month of December. The next meeting of the FMC has been set for Monday, January 24, 2005, rather than the third Monday in January which is a holiday. We urge any resident interested to attend.



**Physical Plant  
And Operations Committee**  
**George Beams**  
**And Kurt Bedenbaugh**

The Committee met on Monday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The following subjects were discussed:

**2005 Landscaping Agreement Contract:**

The Management office solicited four (4) bids for the landscaping contract for Skyline House property. A motion was passed by the PPOC to recommend to the Board approving Panoramic Landscaping's bid price in the amount of \$31,988.00 for the 2005 Landscaping Contract.

### **Pool renovation and upgrade specification package:**

The draft specification package was prepared by Gardner Engineering to address the needed repairs to the swimming pools and associated concrete deck. This work scheduled to be performed during the late winter and completed in early spring in time for the opening of the regular pool season.

Kurt Bedenbaugh noted that the draft specifications prepared for the upgrade and restoration was well documented with an exception of the coating system that requires more research. Gardner and their consultant have agreed to review other options that will satisfy and meet the criteria of the Association. A motion was passed to recommend to the Board to accept the "draft" specification prepared by Gardner Engineering provided that the coating system that is chosen will meet the approval of the PPOC for satisfying and addressing the composition and method of application.

### **Property Inspection:**

The property inspection has been deferred until the January 2005 PPOC meeting to schedule the next inspection due to the availability of the members and during the up-coming holidays.

### **Installation of a Masonry Drainage Mat System:**

The Management was informed by Gardner Engineering during the course of construction under the on-going building façade repair project that the contractors have discovered the thickness of the cavity wall to be less than two inches. Gardner Engineering recommends the use of a masonry drainage mat material in the wall cavities throughout the remainder of the project. A motion was raised by the PPOC to recommend that the Board approve the use of the Masonry Drainage Mat in the amount of \$18,000.00 to address the immediate need and as recommended by Gardner Engineering for use throughout the remainder of the project.

### **New Public Address System:**

Management presented to the PPOC a proposal to replace the current Public Address (PA) System. The system will come equipped with a two way power speaker system, support speaker stand, line

cables, feedback reducer, matrix mixer, custom panel, eight wireless microphones, antenna distribution system, and cassette deck.

No action was taken until Management compares the sound system from other companies to sample and test the equipment for acceptance.

The next PPOC meeting will be on Thursday, January 13, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.

**Security, Fire and  
Safety Committee**  
**Terry G. Sakellos, Chairman**



### **Holiday Safety:**

As the time of year is upon us for decorating and celebrating, it is very important that we practice safety. As we decorate trees, light candles and become once again very busy with social activities, try to keep the following suggestions for safety in mind during this Holiday Season.

### **Christmas Trees:**

Keep the tree watered to keep it from drying out; do not place the tree near any heat source.

### **Christmas Lights:**

Check your string of lights for frayed or cracked wires; you should use only UL approved lighting. Never use lighted candles on or near a tree. Turn off all holiday lights when you retire or leave home and do not overload extension cords.

### **Candles:**

Never leave burning candles unattended.

### **Garage Safety:**

As both of our entrance and exit doors of the garage are once again working, please follow the proper flow of traffic. We have a one-way system in the garage. Drive with lights on and obey speed postings. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Street Safety:**

Please be very cautious when crossing the streets in this area. A very smart and safe practice is to use the crosswalk area of S. George Mason as well as crossing Route 7. When crossing at the

light and crosswalk area, utilize the button to change the light, this allow pedestrians more time for crossing. Not using the button allows a shorter time and the lights change for traffic to continue.

The Security, Fire & Safety Committee would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 12, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



### **Covenants Committee** **Joseph Livingston, Chairman**

It was with sadness that we convened our November meeting of the Covenants Committee. The passing of Mrs. Sophie Anderson, a dedicated member of the Committee, was a great loss not only to her family to whom we expressed our condolence at the celebration of her life on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, but a loss the Skyline House community will feel deeply.

At the meeting, we had some preliminary discussion of ways to get more use of the exercise room facilities. A cursory look at the data provided by Management of the use being made of the facilities, suggest considerable "down time." The Committee has requested additional data as well as an analysis of the data for its consideration at the January 2005 meeting. No action has been taken and none will be taken until after the Committee reviews the data and analysis. To have your views considered, please attend the January 19, 2005 meeting.

As previously announced, the election of Board members will be held in March 2005. In preparation for the election, a first notice appears in this issue of *The Skyline House Special*. Please note your calendar and give some consideration to becoming involved. You can make a difference. We welcome you to become a candidate. Procedures and deadlines will be posted in the near future.

Finally, to all the members of the Covenants Committee, please accept my thanks for your good work. Best wishes for the holidays and a Happy New Year to the Skyline House community.



### **Neighborhood Watch** **Judith York, Coordinator**

The year has gone by quickly and the festive season is upon us.

Please be extra careful with your handbag or wallet and be aware of "staged" events as pickpockets often work in pairs. Carry only as many credit cards as you need and make sure you have an up-to-date list of them at home.

Last but not least, lock all your packages in the trunk of your car so they do not tempt thieves. If you are driving long distances, have a mechanic check your car to prevent breakdowns and, if you are flying, don't be distracted when lining up at the airport counter; keep a close watch over your wallet, handbag and carry-on luggage. If you will be away from home for a while, let a friend or neighbor know how long you will be gone so they can pick up your newspapers, mail, and any packages that might be delivered (unless you have a separate arrangement with the delivery service).

The next Neighborhood Watch Coordinators' meeting is Dec 9, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Mason Governmental Center (6507 Columbia Pike).

This past year has shown the importance of the Neighborhood Watch Program by the decrease in the number of vandalism and graffiti incidents. Does anyone remember when we re-started the program again, when we received the March 15, 2001 memo from Skyline House Management detailing some of the incidents such as "vandalism of a vehicle on the East side of the parking lot, several areas being used as rest rooms, spitting on one of the mirrors, etc.?"

I thank all who have helped keep our community a decent and safe place to live. Please feel free to contact me on 703-671-2267 if you are willing to spend one hour a week walking the



grounds and buildings. You can choose your own schedule and change it whenever you like. We have lost several members over the past year and would welcome (and need) more volunteers. I take this opportunity to wish one and all a very pleasant and joyous upcoming festive season.



**The Chief Engineer  
Greg Grimm**

**Cleaning of Dyer Vents:**

The outside part of your dryer vent (above the balcony door) must be cleaned prior to any duct cleaning for your dryer by the contractor. If you live in tiers 5, 6, or 14 your dryer vents are out above your dining room window and are not accessible. These vents will be cleaned by our contractor during the next few days. All others should call the Management office to schedule the outdoor part of the vent (above the balcony door) to be cleaned by our staff, prior to the cleaning of the interior ducts.

**Water Leak Detector:**

We now have available in the office a leak detector that you can place on the floor of your hvac/water heater closet. This detector sounds a loud (95db) alarm when it senses water on the floor. It also gives a much softer signal when it needs a battery. The cost is \$17.24 each. This detector could save you a lot of money and headache if there is ever a leak.

**Christmas Tree Bags:**

Again, tree bags are available at the front desk free of charge. If you are going to have a cut tree, this will keep the needles off your floors/carpeting and off the common areas when you dispose of it.

**Heat Pumps:**

We have installed a large number of new heat pumps in units. If you have an original, remember you are running on borrowed time; we recommend replacement soon.

**Water Heaters:**

This past month we had two original water heaters rupture and leak down causing damage to several apartments. If you have an original water heater, please replace it as soon as possible. This is a big accident waiting to happen. (The original brand of water heaters used is State. In the West Building they were light blue/dark blue; in the East Building they were light gold/dark gold.) If your water heater is a State brand, it is the original, and they are no longer made.



**Recreation Committee  
Tony DiSalvo  
Chairman**

Please mark Saturday, December 11, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Party Room on your calendar for the Skyline House Annual Holiday

Party. As usual, this party is held on the second Saturday of December. This is a semi-dress-up night. The 50-50 raffle has returned. Just bring a few dollar bills with you when you come to the Annual Holiday Party. Residents always outdo themselves in preparing hors d'oeuvres for that evening.

The Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room to formalize plans for the Holiday Party.

A resident was kind enough to donate to the Recreation Committee a quantity of coke, sprite, and diet sprite, etc., and a quantity of juice drinks for our Annual Holiday Party.

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 Post Annual Holiday Party TGIF is scheduled for January 7, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the East Party Room.

A BIG THANK YOU to Fawaz Alami who has updated the Committee's Holiday and the Post Annual Holiday Party fliers.

Fawaz is Sandy's husband. Sandy is another great Skyline House volunteer who walks for the security patrol. Thanks to the both of them.

See you Saturday, December 11th.



### **Good Neighbors Committee Co-Chairs**

**Toska Prather 703-379-7849**  
**Ernest Loyola 703-671-0384**

### **Good Neighbors for December 2004:**

Ernest Loyola 703-671-0384  
Ofelia Leonor 703-645-2702

The Good Neighbors are available to assist all residents who are in need of temporary help due to illness or emergency. We always welcome new members to assist those in need. If you are

interested in serving your neighbors, call one of the co-chairs listed above and join us.

### **MASON DISTRICT NEWS:**

Ceremony to Celebrate Little River Turnpike/John Marr Drive Streetscape Improvements in Annandale – The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Annandale Central Business District Planning Committee (ACBDPC) celebrated the completion of the John Marr Drive and Little River Turnpike streetscape project at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. The Annandale Chamber of Commerce and invited state and local elected officials, including Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, Mason District Supervisor Penelope Gross, and Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova, were on hand for the celebration. This significant milestone in long-sought improvements for downtown Annandale took place in front of the Kmart at 4251 John Marr Drive.

With brick sidewalks, acorn lighting, landscaping, and underground utilities, central Annandale is beginning to reestablish a sense of place, a feeling of community. The important streetscape initiative is part of the Fairfax County Commercial Revitalization Program financed by citizen-supported bond referenda. The Virginia Department of Transportation joined with the county in making important safety and environmental improvements in storm-water runoff, driveway entrance repair, resurfacing, automobile and pedestrian movement, and traffic signalization. New bus shelters accompany attractive benches and trash receptacles. The project was completed on budget and on schedule.

Fire Safety and Your Tree: Following are a few tips from the Fairfax Fire & Rescue Department to ensure that the joy of your holiday season is not turned into sorrow by fire. Keep the tree base immersed in water; do not permit smoking near the tree; use only lights that are U.L. approved; use flame retardant decorations and paper; inspect lights for frayed or cracked wiring, broken plugs, and defective sockets; unplug lights at night and when leaving the home; remove the tree soon after the holidays-before the needles dry out.

# ***SPECIAL EVENTS AT SKYLINE HOUSE December 2004***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	7  Chanukah	8 RECREATION 7:00-8:00 P.M. WCR	9	10	11 HOLIDAY PARTY 7:00 P.M. WPR
12	16 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	21	22	23	24	25  Christmas Day
26 Kwanzaa Boxing day	27 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	

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