

# The House Special



Volume 28 Issue 5

Skyline House

May 2008



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Norman Baker

### **ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION** **READ THIS IF YOU PARK IN THE GARAGE**

To clean, strip and seal the elevated garage decks, all vehicles must be removed from the East & West A, B and C (**NOT D**) levels of the garage by 5 p.m. Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> through 7 p.m. Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Offsite parking will be available in the Skyline Office garage. **Your car must display a Skyline House registration decal to park there.** Sealing cannot be applied around or under vehicles. Vehicles must be removed. **IF NOT REMOVED, YOUR VEHICLE WILL BE TOWED AT YOUR RISK/EXPENSE.**

**For more information, see the Management report in this issue and pay close, regular attention to the mail-lobby bulletin boards for routine updates. You must vigilantly check these boards as there will be updates.** If you know someone who might not be aware of this project please contact them. Also, if you rent a space to someone please make sure they know about this project and its requirements.

### **First meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors.**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors' first meeting was April 30, 2008. I am pleased to work with such a well-rounded and experienced group of individuals and, I am thrilled, as you should be, these long-term residents and seasoned Association members (a former Board Vice-President, two former Board Presidents and three Directors entering their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of uninterrupted service) are willing to give so much of themselves and their time to serve the Association. Without doubt, our community will benefit from their dedicated service.

At its meeting, the Board approved two contracts. One, to Primary Integration (a No. Virginia technology, engineering and energy services company) to replace our almost 20 year old Energy Management System. The other, a 5- year, fixed-price, contract with Cox Communications for extensive, upgraded TV broadcast services to all units. For more information on these contracts (their costs and what they provide) see the Management and Physical Plant and Financial Management Committee reports in this issue.



# MANAGEMENT

General Manager, Gusbey Silva

## Garage Repairs and Sealing Project Requiring Vehicle Dislocation

### **\*\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL RESIDENTS\*\*\***

This project started on April 8, 2008, with the concrete repairs and wheel stop replacements needed throughout the entire garage, followed with the replacement of the damaged sections of the expansion joints on the elevated decks.

The last phase of this project is the application of the Seal Coating. The preparation, sealer application and cure time will require three days. All cars parked in the area being treated must be removed from the garage during this time.

To avoid any damage from water and debris generated from the power washing and shot blasting to cars parked below the levels being treated, this entire phase has been rescheduled for all at once over the Memorial Day weekend in order to secure parking for 450 spaces that need to be vacated from the Garage A, B & C (NOT D) levels.

The Board Vice-President assisted in securing alternate parking in the Skyline Office garage across the street. **Your car must display a Skyline House registration decal to park there.** This arrangement avoids the issue (and high cost) of the transportation needed to/from our usual alternate parking at NVCC. The Office garage parking will be more convenient as residents will be able to walk to/from any time over the long weekend.

Notices will be posted soon with all the details pertaining to parking at the Skyline Office Buildings. All cars must be removed from the A, B & C levels of the garage not later than 5 p.m. Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and cannot be returned to the Skyline House garage before 7 p.m. Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Any car remaining in the Skyline House garage after 5 p.m. Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> will be towed by Skyline House at the owner's risk/expense. Any car left at the Skyline Office Building garage after 6 a. m. on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> will be towed by their Management, at the owner's risk/expense.

The contractor will begin power washing all areas located between the wheel stops and the garage deck edges the evening of Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, immediately after all cars are removed from the garage.

### **2008 Pool Season**

The pool will open on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Pool passes will be available for pick up at the Front Desk starting Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that any unit with a past-due amount over 30 days will not be issued pool passes until all amounts due are paid in full.

We ask residents to not allow children to play with the furniture in the sun deck area, which is the area adjacent to the pool outside the pool fence. Last year we experienced several incidents of kids stacking the chairs and jumping back and forth from the chairs to the deck. Any resident who observes these types of incidents should immediately notify Management or the Front Desk and Security will be sent to correct the situation.

Also, House rules prohibit the use of wheeled vehicles such as bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, etc in any of the common areas, including the sun decks and picnic areas. Please be considerate of your neighbors when playing or congregating on the sun decks and in the picnic areas since the noise will disrupt residents in units facing these areas.

### **Cable TV Upgrade Project**

Due to the fact that not every unit was originally wired by Cox, the majority of the units were inspected to find out if Cox wires were inside a unit. This information was needed to determine how many units would need wiring. Cox confirmed, in writing, that they would allow the use of their wires by an alternative cable TV provider, saving the Association about \$140,000 from the Reserve Funds.

We received proposals from Cox, Dish Network and Washington Cable for bulk programming. Direct TV Bulk programming was not included in this project due to the

fact that they do not offer any Arabic Channels. The satellite channels currently being provided by Washington Cable are included in all programming proposals received.

Cox Communications proposal eliminates the need of wiring installation and/or the installation of a new head-end system. This represents additional savings of about \$70,000 from the Reserve Funds which can be used at a later date when technology improvements provide us with better options to install our own system.

The Cox proposal includes their Expanded Basic Service with 102 channels. Also included are the Digital Discovery tier with 19 channels, the Digital International tier with 16 channels (2 Arabic with the possibility of 5 more added later), Showtime with 7 premium channels Free Digital on Demand, Digital Music with 48 channels and Digital Pay-Per-View with 40 channels. All Digital channels require a converter. To receive the Digital channels residents will need to lease a converter and remote for a monthly fee of \$4.50 plus tax per TV set. Any resident who does not want to lease the converter will still receive the 102 channels in the Expanded Basic Service. Residents using a converter will have an individual account with Cox and will be able to order additional services.

The new service will begin November 1, 2008. Additional information will be posted in coming months. Prior to this date Cox will visit units to install any additional wiring needed for the system. Management will notify residents at least two weeks in advance.

### **Balcony Floors Power Washing and Window Washing**

Power washing of the East balcony floors was completed the last two weeks of March.. Power washing of the West balcony floors was completed the first two weeks of April.

The cleaning of the East and West Building windows was completed by the end of April. This year the contractor agreed to wash all balcony windows, at no extra charge, to remove any dirt that might have been caused by the power washing of the balcony floors. The contractor made this offer due to the fact that the window washing was scheduled immediately after the balcony power washing was completed.

**DON'T FORGET**  
**Standard Batteries and Fluorescent Light Bulbs**  
**can now be brought to the front desk for safe and**  
**environmentally friendly disposal/recycling.**



## **INFO FROM THE ENGINEER**

**Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm**

### **HVAC\* Unit Maintenance**

Spring is here and if you haven't had your HVAC unit serviced, now is the time. Having the HVAC unit serviced will keep it running as efficiently as possible. Most residents have started using their HVAC units this season, and we have already had several units with clogged drains that are leaking. These leaks can cause damage to your unit and your neighbors' units on the floors below you. When we service HVAC units, we put a packet into the drain pan that helps prevent your drain from getting clogged up. This packet is designed to last one cooling season. Also, as an added measure, if you haven't purchased a leak detector for your utility closet floor, now would be a good time. These units emit a loud beeping sound when they come into contact with water, letting you know that there's a problem in your closet that needs your immediate attention. And as usual, open that closet and check often and change your filter as needed, as many service calls for either no heat or no air conditioning are related to dirty filters.

\* The HVAC system, or heat pump, is the unit in your utility closet, next to your water heater, that produces your heat and air conditioning.

# **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

## **MAGAZINES FOR ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL**

Please bring your magazines to the front desk and resident Tony DiSalvo will make sure they are delivered to Alexandria Hospital volunteers to make available in the Hospital's waiting areas. Please do not hold the magazines for long periods of time before donating as they become outdated. Your magazines really are much appreciated by the Hospital. Any questions call Tony at 703-824-1958.

## **FARMERS MARKET RETURNS TO MASON DISTRICT PARK**

The Farmer's Market returns Thursdays, beginning May 1, from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. The Market offers vine-ripe produce, fresh baked goods, herb plants, and much more for your summer enjoyment.

## **PARTICIPATE IN, OR DONATE YOUR GOODS TO, THE JUNE 2008 LINCOLNIA SENIOR CENTER FLEA MARKET**

Whether it's a donation, a purchase, or to volunteer, the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss Street in Alexandria, welcomes community participation for its rummage sale on Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (rain date, Saturday, June 14). Donations accepted include: clothing (no shoes or undergarments), jewelry, dishes, small appliances, toys, puzzles, craft items, books (no text, old, or musty books please), linens, etc. Donations of baked items and plants will be accepted closer to June 7. For more information about acceptable donations, call the Lincolnia Center at 703-914-0223.



## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**Chair, Wynfred Joshua**

The Financial Management Committee (FMC) met on April 21, 2008. Total income for the month of March was \$300,435 with expenditures of \$168,047. Total income less expenditures amounted to \$132,387. The monthly Reserve Contribution was \$100,789, leaving a net income before taxes of \$31,598. Responding to a question regarding charges for the removal of furniture or other large items, the General Manager noted that the basic charge was \$25.00 per item. Residents who fail to notify Management of discarded items left in the disposal room on the ground floor can usually be identified on the camera tape and subsequently fined.

The FMC supported, with one abstention, the PPOC recommendation to the Board to accept the Cox proposal for upgrading and expanding our TV reception. The contract proposes a flat monthly fee of \$8,340 for the next 5 years. The fee with Washington Cable is \$6,930 per month with annual increases of 5%. Cox service will be available to all units. The services will provide analog access to 102 basic channels, including key local channels, plus 19 digital discovery tier channels, 16 digital international tier channels, and 7 Showtime channels. See the PPOC report for further specific data.

The FMC noted that the subscription price, which comes to an average of \$15 per month per unit, will be charged to our operating budget. The FMC recommended the \$210,988 for the Master Antenna System remain in the reserves and not allocated for another use.

The FMC voted unanimously to recommend to the Board to award a contract for \$110,810 to Primary Integration to replace our current Energy Management System. Reserve Funds have been budgeted for this expense this year. The FMC noted that the company that initially installed our system in 1991 is no longer in business. Primary Integration would use our existing wiring which is still in good shape and which would save us some \$50,000. There will be a one year warrantee.

The FMC devoted some time to discussing a Washington Post article in the Saturday, April 19, 2008 Real Estate Section regarding Fannie Mae's tightening of conditions for

condo mortgages. Much of the article was unclear and open to different interpretations. It could refer to new condo projects or mature buildings such as ours. According to the article, loan officers had to be sure that at least 10% of a condo's operating budget is reserved for "capital expenditures and deferred maintenance." Our most recent audit indicates 12% of our 2007 assessment was allocated to such an account. That is in addition to our Reserves for Replacement. The article also referred to the owner/rental ratio. Skyline House has had rental occupancy of some 17% to 19% in recent years, which is low compared to the 30% at which prospective mortgage holders encounter great difficulty acquiring a loan. The article also listed delinquencies as a factor considered when extending a loan. The industry recommends a maximum level of 5% of annual assessments. As of the end of 2007 we were at less than 1%, which is excellent.

While on the whole Skyline House enjoys a healthy financial situation, we do have a concern about over-occupancy. According to our bylaws, the total number of authorized occupants is 1,731, but we have at present 2,417 or an over-occupancy rate of 39.6%. Over occupancy affects all unit owners. The assessment tier is based on square footage of the unit just as occupancy is, as defined by the bylaws. When units are over-occupied it is the Association as a collective that pays the increased cost. We urge the Board to look into this issue and seek a method to resolve over-occupancy.

Our meetings are generally held at 7:00 PM on the third Monday of the month. I strongly urge you to join us. It is here where you can influence what happens to your condo fee. We would welcome your comments and questions.

**The FMC will next meet in the W. Card Room at 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 19, 2008.**



## **PHYSICAL PLANT & OPERATIONS**

**Acting Chair, Al Lambert**

The PPOC met on April 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. The two agenda items were replacement of the Energy Management System and Cable TV Upgrades.

The term Energy Management System refers to a computer system designed for the automated control and monitoring of the heating, ventilation and lighting needs of our buildings. The current system was installed in 1991 by a company (Barrington Systems) no longer in existence and budgeted for replacement this year due to the unavailability of replacement parts, aging technology (MSDOS operating system) and to include, for supplemental energy cost savings, additional areas not covered by the 1991 system such as the penthouse billiards rooms, library, west card room and both Party Rooms. Our Chief Engineer (Mr. Greg Grimm) provided a summary analysis of three contract proposals and recommended the company Primary Integration. After a question and answer period the committee voted to recommend to the Board that Primary Integration be awarded the contract for replacement of the Energy Management System at a cost of \$110,810.00. The breakout of the cost is \$78,255.00 to replace the existing system and \$32,555.00 to include the aforementioned areas not covered under the existing system.

The second agenda item was to review options for the continuation of receiving cable channels as part of the services provided and paid for by the condominium assessments. The committee members and visitors conducted a detailed discussion around three topics. One concern was to try to ensure the adequacy of TV channels in meeting the needs of our diverse Skyline House population. The replacement system should permit residents to have additional TV drops in various locations within the unit. And to maintain operation of existing TV drops that were installed when the buildings were constructed. I believe the committee members and participants fairly addressed all the aforementioned goals. Here is the recommendation made to the Board for approval:

Accept Cox Communications' proposal to supply, for 5 years at a fixed rate of \$8,340 per month (an average of \$15.00 per month per unit) the following services:

Wire each unit not currently wired with Cox cables, with two outlets, at no charge. Owners may add more outlets during the initial installation for \$10 per outlet. After initial installation, this charge will increase to \$19.99.

Expanded Basic Cable Service – 102 channels

Showtime (usually premium service) – 7 Channels  
ART – 1 Channel  
Digital Discovery Tier – 19 Channels  
Digital International Tier – 16 Channels (2 Arabic with possibly 5 more added later)  
Digital Music – 48 Channels  
Digital Pay-Per-View 40 Channels  
Digital on Demand Programming.

Everyone receives the 102 Expanded Basic Service channels. Those who lease a converter box at a \$4.50 + tax per month, per TV receive the additional digital channels.

Residents will also be offered special rates for services such as Internet and Telephone.

The Association will maintain the original TV drops in operational condition by the purchase of a High Definition (HD) converter (\$3,500.00) to provide continued TV reception of the local channels beginning with implementation of HD in February 2009.

The scheduled implementation is November, 2008 after completion of wiring and notification to Washington Cable for discontinuance of service.

I wish to thank all participants for what was a protracted, multifaceted agenda item to achieve an outcome which I believe will dramatically increase and provide superior TV channel selection addressing the desires of all our residents.

On approval of the motion to recommend to the Board the aforementioned the PPOC committee was adjourned. Everyone is a stake holder in these projects and silence or absence is implied consent. This is your home! Thank You.

**The PPOC will next meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 8, 2008 in the W. Card Room.**

**REMINDER --- SKYLINE HOUSE RULES AND REGULATIONS ---REMINDER**

**RULE 13 Noise Disturbances (IN-UNIT CARPETING REQUIREMENTS)**

**B.** In order to reduce noise transference, all Unit Owners/Residents are required to install and maintain carpeting or rugs covering seventy-five percent (75 %) of the walking and living areas of each unit (except kitchen and bathrooms).

**SKYLINE HOUSE CONDOMINIUM DECLARATION**

This DECLARATION is made in Fairfax County, Commonwealth of Virginia, on the ninth day of November, 1979, by /Sixth Skyline House Corp., a Virginia Corporation pursuant to the provisions of the Condominium Act of the Code of Virginia (1950).

**ARTICLE XI Architectural Control Section 2. Carpets.**

In order to eliminate any noise caused or occasioned by walking on the floors in any Unit, the Unit Owner shall install all necessary carpeting or rugs which will eliminate all such noise. The Board of Directors shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to determine what size and quality of carpeting is necessary to comply with this provision, and may require that carpeting be installed prior to allowing occupant to move in.



## COVENANTS

**Chair, Joe Livingston**

The Covenants Committee (CC) met in March, just prior to the Association's annual meeting. At the time, the Committee was reviewing the rules and regulations of the association. The review is ongoing and at its completion, recommendations will be made to the Board of Directors of any changes deemed warranted.

Before the Board takes any action on the recommendations, there will be a comment period, during which Unit Owners will have an opportunity to comment on the recommendations before the Board's consideration.

The Committee has been requested to consider and recommend to the Board, if appropriate, an amendment or addition to the Association's rules and regulations to

address the continued presence in the garage of an apparently neglected vehicle, with an accumulation of dust, a broken windshield, flat tires, and not displaying or showing any other indication of current vehicle registration.

The Committee will consider proposed language at the May meeting. It is anticipated that a recommendation to the Board will follow.

The Election Committee conducted a most successful, error free, election for members to the Board for 2008. The Committee will meet shortly to critique the election and decide whether to recommend any changes in the current procedures or practices. Their recommendations, if any, will be presented to the Board.

Again, through the Co-Chairs, Helen Weiner and Sonya Livingston, we wish to thank all the members of the Election Committee for conducting another successful election, free of error and in record time.

**The CC will meet Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.**



## **SECURITY, FIRE AND SAFETY**

**Chair, Robert De Mayo**

The Security, Fire & Safety Committee (SF&SC) met Wednesday, April 9, 2008 with five members present. Chairman's remarks reflected that this was estimated to be the 833<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the SF&SC; anyone with a better historical context, please let us know.

The *February and March Management Incident Report* from Deputy Manager Haight included: (1) a resident placing flyers at East unit doors— resident was notified of Rule 5A and advised further flyer placements would be referred to a Covenants hearing; (2) a report of in-house graffiti— using our security video, the teen perpetrator (a visiting friend of a resident teen) was located, police contacted, parents notified, a bill for cleaning repairs submitted to the host resident, and the perpetrator was banned from Skyline House; (3) On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the garage door failed for mechanical reasons - a guard was posted from 7:30 p.m. Sunday until 7 a.m. Monday when it was repaired; (4) the issue of a “junk vehicle” (i.e., mechanically inoperable, outdated tags/inspection, flat tires and a broken windshield) in our garage was discussed at length and referred to the Board.

### Old/New Business Discussions:

Mr. De Mayo passed on to Ms Haight a solicitation flyer from a local realty company that was recently placed at each doorway on his floor and others in the East building; he noted that some were on doorknobs, on the floor, and laying on the hallway carpet creating a mess. Ms Haight stated she would take follow-up action.

Ms. Haight indicated our new security company (CES) has been very diligent in responding to needs/requests. Although there has been some turnover, they have maintained a lead security guard who conducts training of new recruits. A committee member opined that the guards are spending too much time behind the Front Desk instead of “out & about” on their patrols. Ms. Haight stated the guards should only be there to write their reports, facilitate a break for the Front Desk Representative, or as requested/directed. She said she appreciated this kind of observation and feedback; she assured that this aspect of security guard performance will remain closely monitored.

Ms. Haight reported that security cameras were installed in both bike rooms along with our access control system at the doors. Only those residents who register their bikes with new decals will have their key fob enabled for the bike room. These measures should help to address vandalism in those rooms. She further indicated that she is exploring options for quality upgrades to our entire camera monitoring system which will involve “activation upon detecting motion and recording to DVR” versus the current constant surveillance system. She will keep the committee informed of progress.

A resident, later joined by several others, raised a specific, perceived safety concern on both the curb height of, and the sloping of, concrete ramps leading to the pedestrian entryways from the parking garage to the West Building on garage levels C and D. The resident who raised the issue stated that she had sent letters to our Management Office,

specifically raising safety hazard concerns on these platforms, since she became a resident in 1994. She reported that she had accidentally tripped on the platform (due to curb height); that the platforms appeared to be handicapped unfriendly, especially regarding narrowness of the concrete ramps to accommodate walking up from the roadway to the entry door, unlike on Levels A and B. A copy of her most recent letter to the Management Office was provided; Ms. Haight indicated that the General Manager Gusbey Silva was aware of the resident concern and was preparing a reply.

Much lively discussion ensued which shed some educational insight on this issue: committee member Lambert (also acting Chair of PPOC) stated that PPOC discussion on a “safety railing” for those entryways took place but was later viewed as not an acceptable fix since it would severely inhibit the use of the adjacent resident parking spaces; The attending Board liaison reminded all that this issue had been discussed previously by the SF&SC and the tangential, thorny issue of the ADA code (i.e., American Disability Act) had been raised; an attending and knowledgeable Board member on the ADA, educated all present on the complex issue of proposing any code-compliant construction and its ramifications throughout the garage and both buildings; swapping garage parking spaces (i.e., C and D with A and B levels), as consensual agreements, to accommodate handicapped needs was discussed as an option for residents to pursue independently with Management Office assistance; Mr. De Mayo reminded all that the purview of this committee was security and safety – and construction or capital improvements were those of the PPOC and FMC. He pledged to discuss this particular safety concern further with Management and report back findings at our next meeting. He thanked the resident(s) who raised this “safety” issue for her conscientious efforts and active community involvement. After the formal meeting, just about everyone who attended showed up at the C garage level area to view the raised platform in question; even more lively discussion followed. Much insight was received that evening which will be used to scope the issue further with Management.

A committee member raised a long-standing SF&SC concern on the safety need for a designated pedestrian walkway running the length of the front of the West Building from the West entrance lobby/door area to the street entrance on S. George Mason. Mr. De Mayo stated that he had discussed this issue with the Board President, this past summer, and some points covered were: owners of the garden condos would object to a sidewalk essentially in their front yard; loss of landscaping and beautification at the front of the West building; costs of re-plumbing the current underground lawn sprinkler system, re-siting existing landscaping, and constructing the slab or concrete walkways. An option proposed this past summer by committee member was hash-marking a 3’ wide pedestrian walkway adjacent to the curbing. Board liaison stated that to her knowledge at a recent meeting of the PPOC, no pedestrian vs. car accident/incident has been reported happening in that area for 30 years; therefore, it must be viewed in terms of how high a safety priority it remains. However, all acknowledged that one serious accident to a resident/guest is one too many. A Board member pointed out that handicapped residents and guests have a sidewalk option to street access via the bus stop walkway to the north of the Main Lobby. Mr. De Mayo pledged to explore this issue further and report back at the next meeting.

**The SF&SC will meet in the W. Card Room at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, 2008.**



## **Ad Hoc Decorating Committee**

**Co-chairs, Alina Gonzalez and Maria Elena Schacknies**

The Ad Hoc Decoration Committee (AHDC) met on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. Those present were Heide Fechtman, Virginia Fissmer, Betty McLaurin, Phil Cohen, Alina Gonzalez and Maria Elena Schacknies. Resident Ernest Loyola was also in attendance and has consistently attended our meetings as a show of support and interest. Phil Cohen presented the inventory of the East Gallery that he painstakingly produced. Previously, Virginia Fissmer and Alina Gonzalez produced an equally valuable inventory of the West Gallery. These inventories are critical for ensuring a decoration decision-making process that will lead to a request for proposals from potential general contractors.

Alina Gonzalez presented a report from a committee member about her meeting with Antonio Palacios, our Head Painter, concerning alternatives for updating the wood boxes in the main galleries, and the paneling in the East and West mailbox areas. Antonio stated that wood was not his area of expertise, but agreed to give the committee his thoughts.

He pointed out that some of the boxes were in various degrees of disrepair and would need more than a cosmetic updating. He didn't rule out as an alternative the ability to sand and refinish the boxes and the mailbox paneling (with paint or stain). They also discussed resurfacing the existing boxes and he thought it was a good alternative to investigate. In both instances, he recommended that the committee consult with a general contractor specializing in this type of work. We would like to thank Antonio for his input.

Committee members presented the names of 7 potential general contractors for consideration; further research and evaluation will be done at our next meeting.

The committee extended an invitation to Betty McLaurin, our Housekeeping Supervisor, to attend and share with us her extensive knowledge of Skyline House and she gracefully accepted. As a longtime staff member, we look forward to her valuable contributions.

Maria Elena on behalf of two owners/Board members, expressed one's desire to see the various bulletin boards consolidated and, if possible, made more appealing to the eye and another's caution to be cognizant of the limited budget available for decoration. It is for this reason that the committee will work hard to ensure that the request for proposal for potential contractors is very specific and precise.

We invite all interested owners to attend our meetings and share their thoughts and ideas. **The AHDC will next meet on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 in the West Card Room.**

## **GOOD NEIGHBORS**

**Good Neighbors assist residents in need of temporary help due to illness or emergency. Services provided are typically short term and in the local area. For example, picking up mail or prescriptions or making small grocery purchases.**

**Anyone experiencing a medical emergency should call 911 immediately.**

### **MAY GOOD NEIGHBORS**

**HANNA JONES 703-379-1473**

**CHARLES ROBERTS 703-998-6080**

Good Neighbors always welcomes new members to assist those in need. If you are interested in serving, please call Toska Prather or Ernest Loyola. Their contact information is listed in the newsletter directory.



## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

**Coordinator, Judith York**

The next Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) meeting at the Mason District Police Station will be Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. There will be no neighborhood watch coordinators' meeting or training session. If you would like to attend the May 6<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting, please feel free to go (it is open to the public) and ask questions on security, what kind of crime is prevalent in our area, etc. Police officers at these meetings give out a lot of information and are always interested in the concerns of Fairfax County residents.

April 24<sup>th</sup> was "Gang Awareness and Prevention Information" night. Speakers were the General Counsel of El Salvador, the No. Va. Regional Gang Task Force Coordinator, The Fairfax County Police Dept. Gang Unit, and the Annandale High School (AHS) Safety and Security Team. The presentation took place at Annandale High School and proved to be an interesting and informative talk followed by a question and answers session.

At the April neighborhood watch meeting, a County Health official talked about "disease carrying insects." The distributed leaflet is in the Watch folder at the front desk and covers topics such as West Nile Virus/Mosquitoes, Lyme Disease/Ticks, and Repellents.

It is short but full of useful information. If you have questions, you may contact the Health Dept. at 703-246-2300 (TTY 703-591-6435) or [fightthebite@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:fightthebite@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Local crimes recently reported include a home invasion in the Falls Church area (Brandy Court) – a male victim was treated for non-life threatening injuries; a bank robbery (Alliance Bank) in the 7000 block of Little River Tpk. by two armed men – no physical injuries; and a 22-year old Falls Church man was robbed in the Wilston area by two men, one of whom was armed with a knife – his wallet was taken and he sustained minor injuries. Feel free to check the Watch folder at the front desk for current information.

On June 3, there will be a 6:30 p.m. neighborhood watch coordinators' meeting, a 7:00 p.m. training session and a 7:30 p.m. CAC meeting. Officers try to keep each meeting to a half-hour. There will be no meetings in July and August.

With the warmer weather, outside exercise becomes more pleasant. I encourage residents to patrol our buildings and grounds. The blossoms, shrubs and flowers look so pretty this time of year and the constant maintenance and updating of the buildings surely makes our home one of the most attractive around. Be observant and feel free to write in the log at the front desk if you see anything in need of correction or repair.

If you are interested in our Neighborhood Watch Program and can spare an hour a week, call me (703-671-2267). I will tell you about our program and get you started. Thank you.



## RECREATION

Chair, Betty Turner

**The 2008 Memorial Day & Pool Opening Picnic Has Been CANCELLED Due To The Garage Repair Project That Will Be Ongoing Over That Weekend.**

The Recreation Committee (RC) met on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, as scheduled.

There are about 25-30 residents who regularly attend the TGIF socials. Our committee is too small to continue to conduct this activity on a monthly basis without help. Please consider taking on the host/hostess responsibility on a one-time basis. One non-committee couple, Charley Roberts and Lynn Klubek, has already agreed to host the July 4<sup>th</sup> TGIF event. The monthly social is in danger of being cancelled unless more people agree to host it. The responsibilities are minimal. Arrive early to unlock the door and make the coffee. It is most often a potluck so people bring their own food. You are also responsible for making sure things are cleaned up and the room is locked at the close. For more information contact any committee member or me, Betty Turner at 703 820-1411.

The Teen Party was attended by only 9 residents. They were mostly the younger teens (13, 14 years). They seemed more interested in having a place to “hang out” than having an actual party. We are considering just how we might be able to accommodate such activities. There were no actual parent chaperons but several parents did phone during the party to see that their teens were there and everything was going okay. Future events will require some parents to be present. We did not find a security guard's presence necessary.

The Wine Tasting event was very well attended and future events are being planned.

Approximately 25 residents took part in the ladies only social, Thursday evening, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Many ideas were discussed for future activities. At least three ladies volunteered to take charge of a specific activity about which more information will be provided later.

We have had a couple residents indicate an interest in being a part of our committee. We look forward to welcoming them and also encourage everyone else to consider making the Recreation Committee a part of their lives. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and are open to all residents.

**The RC will next meet in the W. Card Room at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, 2008.**



# SKYLINE HOUSE CALENDAR

## MAY 2008

(WWW.SHUOA.ORG)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	6	7 Ad Hoc Decorating Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	8 Physical Plant & Operations Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	9	10
11	12 Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	13 Recreation Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	14 Security, Fire & Safety Comm. 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	15	16	17
18	19 Financial Mgt. Committee 7:00 pm W. Card Room  Library Open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. East Penthouse	20	21  Covenants Committee 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	22	23 Garage Sealing A, B, & C level vehicles must be removed by 5:00 p.m. until Monday 5/26, after 7:00 p.m.	24 Garage Sealing No vehicles in A, B, & C levels.
25 Garage Sealing No vehicles in A, B, & C levels.	26 Garage Sealing No vehicles in A, B, & C levels until 7:00 p.m.  Library Closed	27	28  BOARD MEETING 7:00 p.m. W. Card Room	29	30	31
<b>GOOD NEIGHBORS: HANNA JONES (703-379-1473) AND CHARLES ROBERTS (703-998-6080)</b>						

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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 inappropriate statements. Information for THE HOUSE SPECIAL may be sent by e-mail to the Editor, dropped off at the Management office or the front desk attention EDITOR.

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