

# *The House Special*



*Volume 32 Issue 10*

*Skyline House*

*October 2012*



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President, Maria Elena Schacknies**

On October 9<sup>th</sup> we are having our third By-Laws training session in the West Party Room at 7 p.m. This time the invitation is extended through the bulletin boards, the newsletter, and word of mouth, unlike the first two sessions, for which personal invitations were sent. Why is it important to come together and discuss the five proposals to update the By-laws? Because the questions and concerns raised by Unit Owners help identify the need to clarify the explanations of the proposals. New concerns may be expressed that should be addressed in justifications. The nature of a proposal may be made clearer through the addition of a simple example suggested by an Owner. The meetings also serve to recruit volunteer proposal “explainers” who will help out later on. Furthermore, they provide a valuable opportunity for the Board of Directors to demonstrate that we are listening by improving our descriptions and justifications for proposed By-Law changes in direct response to people’s questions and concerns. Clarifications stemming from these meetings can also be included in Questions and Answers for use by volunteers who are asked by Owners for help in understanding proposals.

Beyond these practical considerations, free, open, and orderly discussion promotes understanding and a sense of community. Good ideas--and we believe that all of the proposals fit this description--always benefit from positive group discussions. I know that some Owners will vote in favor of all five proposals, and also that others are not comfortable with them. Everyone will make his or her own final decision. It is our responsibility to ensure, to the extent possible, that they make *informed* decisions *and* that they implement their decisions by actually voting. We must use every means at our disposal, including public meetings, written materials, and one-on-one discussions between volunteers and Unit Owners to achieve this outcome.

I am inviting all of those who participated in previous sessions to come to this session to help those who have not had the opportunity to be involved. We need your questions regarding each of the five proposals. Everyone, please come prepared to ask questions!

By the end of September, the Board must, in compliance with recent State legislation, implement a new Complaint Procedure. This procedure does **not** replace the methods that we already have in place to resolve problems at Skyline House. Currently, residents enter some types of complaints in the Maintenance Log at the Front Desk, which Management frequently reviews and acts on. Residents bring most complaints directly to the Management Office, where they are routinely addressed and resolved. Failing resolution at that level, significant issues are raised to the Board of Directors, which discusses them in open meetings. Residents also have the opportunity to address the Board directly at its monthly meetings. The Board may decide to seek advice of legal counsel depending on the nature of the complaint or issue. And Skyline House has a history of working toward resolution of complex issues that affect many residents through public meetings and open discussion.

In contrast to the above mechanisms for complaint and issue resolution, the newly mandated process **applies only to** “a matter regarding the action, inaction, or decision by the governing board, managing agent, or association **inconsistent with applicable laws and regulations.**”

The Board of Directors duly adopted the complaint resolution at the 26 September 2012 meeting. The Management Office has the Handbook from the Common Interest Community Board, and the following SHUOA forms: a) Complaint Form, b) Acknowledgement of Receipt of Association Complaint, c) Notice of Consideration of Association Complaint, and d) Notice of Final Determination of Association Complaint, including the Skyline House Unit Owners’ Association Complaint Process.

The Board of Directors, in keeping with its fiduciary responsibility, declined appeals from five Unit Owners of balcony repairs invoices they received. Balconies are common property, and residents must abide by the rules and regulations on the care of common property.

The Board approved a resolution that provides the option to file Federal income tax returns in whichever of two ways proves most advantageous for the Skyline House Unit Owners’ Association.



## TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer, Charles K. Roberts

As Board Liaison I attended the September 24th meeting of the Financial Management Committee (FMC) chaired by FMC member and former Association Treasurer Wayne Krumwiede in the absence of Chairperson Dr. Wynfred Joshua. I also participated in the August 15<sup>th</sup> and August 29<sup>th</sup> subcommittee meetings on the 2013 Operating and Reserve Budgets, respectively.

The FMC voted to recommend adoption of the Operating and Reserve Budgets drafted by the General Manager and reviewed and amended by the subcommittees. Together they call for an increase in revenue of \$113,349 through a three- percent increase in Association dues, or the “condo fee.”

The Association received income of \$325,970 dollars in August through the sale of U.S. Treasury instruments. Included in this figure is interest totaling \$18,772. Taxes on this income are attributable to tax

year 2012 and must be paid in 2013. Subtracting this income from the year-to-date total reveals an operating fund surplus of nearly \$50,000 at a point in the business year where a year-to-date deficit of \$24,309 had been projected.

Sale of assets aside, at the end of August the Association's net income after taxes was just under \$75,000, better than budgeted. Barring unforeseen adverse events, it appears likely that the Association will end the 2012 business year in the black for the first time in several years.

As of August 31st, the total balance of all reserve funds had improved to \$2,076,268.

Through August 31st total delinquencies in payment of the Regular Assessments--the condo fee--increased to \$42,279 from the June levels of \$37,749. This sum was owed by 21 Unit Owners. Six of these owners were in debt to the Association for \$30,750 due to failure to pay the Regular Assessment and accumulated penalties.

I attended two judicial proceedings on actions brought by the Association. The preparation and courtroom performance of our attorneys are impressive. One judicial foreclosure action resulted in payment of all amounts due, the second such favorable outcome from this process. Additionally, I have been authorized to consult with the Association's attorney on the merits of filing Small Claims Court actions to collect amounts due to the Association for both the condo fee and covenants violations. I also will inquire concerning the risks and benefits of posting in the common areas the names and amounts owed by those in arrears, and I will report the results of those consultations at next month's Board of Directors meeting.

The number of renter-occupied units remains at the June level of 24 percent of Association units.

The Association's financial condition is improving. The Association persists in efforts to collect all monies due.



## **MANAGEMENT**

**General Manager, Michelle Brown Slaughter**

### **CPR Balcony Railing Project--East Building**

Concrete Protection and Restoration (CPR) completed all balcony railing and tile work on the East building as of 3 July 2012. Of the total \$20,433 that the Association invoiced to 11 unit owners for paint and glue removal work not included in the original scope of work, \$4,304, was received from three owners. Two paid in full, and one made a partial payment. A balance of \$16,129 remains due from the eight other Owners.

### **Balcony Panel Project--East Building: Hi-Rise Windows**

Work was completed on the South George Mason Drive side of the East building. Hi-Rise Windows has installed balcony panels in the East Building and has completed all tiers except tier 7. Management has received many compliments on their work! Weather permitting, tier 7 is scheduled to be completed by or before October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Garage Repairs Proposal by WDP: Garage Repairs**

As of August, Whitlock, Dalrymple, Poston & Associates (WDP) completed the draft bid proposal package and the scope of work. Revisions were made and submitted by Management to WDP. The revised proposal is under review. Once approved by PPOC, it will present its recommendation to the Board for action. With the Board's approval, the Request for Proposal (RFP) package will be advertised for bid.

### **Elevator Repair Project**

Avery Elevator completed repairs on garage elevator car #6 before the end of September. Elevator inspections were scheduled for the week of September 15. Once work has been completed on the West garage elevators, Avery will begin work on the East garage elevators. Work is expected to be completed by or before the Thanksgiving holiday (toward the end of November). Renovation to the interior walls and floors will also begin on the West garage elevators by the end of September or first of October. Notices will continue to be posted as soon as the contractor lets us know when the elevators will be out of service.

### **Facade Window Leaks**

Management met with Eastern Waterproofing to review the repair process for the 12 window leaks. Eastern anticipates needing approximately five days to conduct the water tests, starting with the bottom-level units and working up from there. As water tests are completed, Eastern will make immediate repairs to areas that can be easily fixed at that time. Two swing rigs will be staged, one at the end of each building. Smislova, Kehnemui & Associates (SK&A) will consult with Management and oversee Eastern on any repairs that are beyond their ability to complete immediately. SK&A will provide their formal proposal for their consultant fees.

### **Pool Deck Repairs**

Eastern Waterproofing does not recommend water testing the pool deck, but will provide a proposal. Management will provide the proposal to the Physical Plant and Operating Committee (PPOC) and the Financial Management Committee (FMC) as soon as it is received. The repair work is not scheduled to be performed until 2013.

### **Bridge Repairs**

Eastern Waterproofing will provide a proposal to water-test the East Bridge. Management will provide the proposal to the PPOC and FMC as soon as it is received.

### **Attorney Fees: Unit Owners Collections:**

\$5442 was paid to our attorney in July, and \$6470 in August, for routine delinquency collections which included judicial foreclosures and four other delinquent units. One of the three judicial foreclosure units paid in August.

### **Attorney Fees: Regular Services:**

\$1300 was paid to our attorney in July, and \$1050 in August, for general legal services, including advice to the Board regarding the Association's Covenant and By-Laws issues.

### **Collections update:**

\$32,389 (August) for six delinquent units is 60 days past due. Collection is being handled by the Association's Attorney. Two of the three foreclosure units are pending Judicial Foreclosures with balances as listed below for July and August. One of the three foreclosure units paid in August and now has a credit balance of \$797. At the end of August, the total delinquent balance for the two judicial foreclosure units was \$23,199. The delinquent balance of the remaining 4 units was \$9,190.

	<b><u>Judicial Foreclosures</u></b>	<b><u>Other Delinquencies</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>July</b>	\$25,440	\$10,410	\$35,850
<b>August</b>	\$23,199	\$9,190	\$32,389

### **Complaint Resolution Process**

All Virginia Community Associations are required by State law to implement a new complaint resolution process. As indicated in the President's Report, his process does not replace the current mechanisms in place at Skyline House for the resolution of complaints. It is not for ordinary, routine issues. Rather, it applies only to complaints that concern "a matter regarding the action, inaction, or decision by the governing board, managing agent, or association **inconsistent with applicable laws and regulations.**" This new procedure applies not to routine, ordinary complaints, but only to situations in which a complainant claims that an action has been taken that is inconsistent with applicable federal, state, or local laws or regulations, or Association by-laws or regulations.

The Board of Directors received the Association Complaint Procedure resolution draft to be adopted by the Association, as required by the Common Interest Community Ombudsman Regulations. This is a requirement under Virginia Code that each association shall have a written process for resolving Association complaints regarding matters specified above. The complaint procedure will provide the Association with specific guidelines on how to receive such complaints, information required from the complainants, acknowledgement, meeting date, final determination notices, and record keeping guidelines.

### **Office and Front Desk Staff:**

In an effort to better serve our owners and residents, Management is in the process of cross training our office and front desk staff. Please do not be alarmed if you see new faces in the office or at the front desk.

### **Balcony Door Painting--East Building:**

Management will start the painting of exterior balcony doors and frames in the East Building by mid-October, weather permitting. Watch the bulletin boards for further details.



### **Message to Residents with Children**

Please be mindful when walking with your children outdoors, especially in the front circle driveway and parking lots.

**Please make sure to ALWAYS hold their hands for safety.**

Thank you for continuing to make your home a safe one!

## Parking Violations

Management is purchasing parking violation stickers for vehicles that violate the guest parking and/or loading dock parking rules. The stickers will be posted on the driver side windshield and will be very difficult to remove. Please advise your family and guests to follow the rules and time-limits when they park in these areas. Be forewarned!

**WARNING**

YOU ARE ILLEGALLY PARKED FOR ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS AND ARE SUBJECT TO BEING TOWED OR BOOTED AT YOUR EXPENSE

- ☐ Parked in a HANDICAPPED space
- ☐ No valid PARKING PERMIT
- ☐ Parked in a NO PARKING zone
- ☐ Parked in a FIRE LANE
- ☐ Blocking entrance to building or driveway (fire department regulation)
- ☐ Unauthorized parking in a RESERVED PARKING AREA
- ☐ Blocking access to trash receptacles or dumpster
- ☐ Improperly parked
- ☐ Vehicle not in acceptable condition
- ☐ Other

**KENSINGTON TRACE**  
Telephone: (123) 456-7890  
Web: www.xyzpropertiesite.com

**Issued**  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

**This Vehicle Will Be Towed On**  
Day \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_

**Towed By** \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Towed \_\_\_\_\_



## INFO FROM THE ENGINEER

Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm

### Heating Season Is Almost Here

Heating Season is just around the corner. If you haven't checked to make sure that your heat pump is working in heat mode, now is the time to make sure it is in working order. Please test your unit in heat mode to avoid your heat not operating when you need it on that first night you feel a cold chill. If your heat doesn't operate, call the office now and schedule an appointment to have it serviced.

### G E Dishwasher Recall

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the General Electric Company (GE) have announced a voluntary recall of 1.3 million Hotpoint®, GE® and GE Profile™, GE Eterna™ and GE Adora™ plastic tub dishwashers, manufactured between March 2006 through July 2006, and November 2006 through April 2008. These dishwashers are plastic tub dishwashers with front controls. They were sold in black, white, bisque, stainless steel and CleanSteel™ exterior colors and finishes. You can submit your model and serial number below or call the GE Hotline to determine if your dishwasher is included in the recall. You can check your model at [http://www.geappliances.com/products/recall/dishwasher\\_2012](http://www.geappliances.com/products/recall/dishwasher_2012).





# PHYSICAL PLANT & OPERATIONS

Co-Chairs, Gary Akin & Al Lambert

The Physical Plant and Operations Committee (PPOC) met on 13 September 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. The following items were discussed and/or recommended for further action.

## **Procurement Policy:**

The Committee reviewed the revised Procurement Policy and Procedure, and after discussions came to an end, it was decided to include narrative on change orders and set a timeframe for a project to be completed. The revised Procurement Policy and Procedure was modified accordingly with a recommendation out of the Committee to the Financial Management Committee for their evaluation/recommendation. Once work on the revised proposal has been completed at the committee level, it will be submitted to the Board for approval.

## **West Building Front Door:**

Mr. Akin reported that the Committee will put together a position paper to identify what action it is considering with regard to the West Building front door. An excited discussion followed. Mrs. Haught explained that she was the PPOC Board liaison at the time this issue was previously discussed. She suggested that the Committee write a white paper instead of a position paper. The Committee discussed writing a white paper which would contain the pros and cons of closing the West Building front door entrance. Mr. Williams asked if there was a consensus within the Committee that the issue should be discussed at all. He added that the PPOC had already considered this issue about five years ago and received negative feedback from the community. Mrs. Haught indicated that more information previously discussed by the Committee regarding this topic can be found in the Association's archives. She suggested that residents who have feedback to give regarding this issue could also e-mail it directly to the Chairman at [gary.L.akin@yahoo.com](mailto:gary.L.akin@yahoo.com) to be added to the white paper. In conclusion, the Committee and guests debated the pros and cons of this item at length. Mr. Akin said the Committee will write the white paper with the pros and cons (to include summaries obtained from the Association archives and feedback received from residents), publish it for residents to review, and discuss it at the November meeting instead of the October meeting as originally planned.

## **Proposal to Turn Off Non-Emergency Penthouse Lights After 11 p.m.:**

Mr. Akin deferred discussion of this item to the October meeting.

## **Guest Parking Violations:**

Mr. Michael Hanson reported that guest parking spaces continue to be used by residents so that contractors coming to perform work in units cannot find spaces to park. Mrs. Slaughter explained that the Association does not have a courtesy officer during the morning and early afternoon hours to police the guest parking. She added that Management relies on reports from residents who witness these violations. Mrs. Slaughter reported that to discourage these violations, Management is in the process of buying bright, large violation stickers that will be posted on the driver's side of the vehicles in violation. She explained that these violation stickers are very hard to remove and would require a lot of effort from the offenders. She also reported that Management will paint parking space lines at the East loading dock as was done at the West loading dock.

## **Monthly Walk-Around:**

Mr. Akin advised that the next walk-around will be held on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will walk the East Building, all rooms in the S and G levels.



# **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

## **O. Wayne Krumwiede reporting for Chair, Wynfred Joshua**

The Financial Management Committee (FMC) met on September 24, 2012. (There was no meeting of the full Committee in August). Total income for the month of August was \$656,260 (\$307,198 of which was from the sale of U.S. Treasury bonds and additional interest of \$18,772). Total expenses were \$249,525. Total income less expenses was \$406,735. The monthly reserve contribution was \$116,214, leaving a net income before taxes of \$290,521. As a result of the sale, 2012 will not end with a deficit. Taxes on the sale of the bonds estimated to be about \$120,000 will be paid with the 2012 tax filing; any excess of funds at the end of 2012 will be transferred to the working capital fund to restore much needed funding in 2013.

Delinquency reports were reviewed as usual. Ten units were 10-30 days delinquent for \$6,025. There was improvement in the 30-60 day category with only two delinquent owners (down from three in June), reducing the amount from \$2,180 to \$644. However, six units have been delinquent for more than 60 days, and collection was referred to our attorney. In August, \$32,389 was owed. Three units are in foreclosure, one of which paid back what was owed through September. The other two are pending judicial foreclosure and owe \$23,199 as of the end of August. The remaining four units have a delinquent balance of \$9,190.

The 2013 Operating and Reserve Budgets were discussed at length. Motions were made to approve both budgets and to send them to the Board of Directors for final approval. During the budget process, subcommittees were formed, and every item in both budgets was reviewed at several meetings held this past August and early September. Our General Manager, Michelle Brown Slaughter, prepared the budgets, including extensive narratives for each item for the Committee's review and discussion.

A 3-percent increase in the condo fee was recommended based on several factors. The major part of the increase was due to the increases in payroll, payroll taxes and benefits including increases in administrative costs. The past few years we have been faced with deficits. Bad debts and legal fees exceeded the amounts provided in previous budgets.



# **SECURITY, SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

## **Chair, Robert J. "Bob" De Mayo**

The Security, Safety & Neighborhood Watch Committee (SS&NWC) met on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. Our distinguished guest at this meeting was Ms. Patricia Buckley, the Chairperson of the Skyline Plaza Safety Committee. The SS&NWC also welcomed a new committee member, Mr. Mike Hanson. And two new Neighborhood Watch (NW) members were added this month.

The main topic of this meeting was the availability of "security incident notification" to residents. What information can and should be made public? A discussion involving the audience, Committee members, and the Management Office representative ensued on the perceived shortfalls by the Management Office in notifying owners and residents that a major security incident has occurred. Some residents are concerned about the lack of a policy requiring such information to be shared with residents. They argue that not



knowing about such incidents puts them at physical risk, that for reasons of personal safety they have a “need to know.” They also believe that, as owners, they have a “right to know” the details about such incidents. The Board of Directors recently recognized that the Management Office *does not* have a set policy in place on this subject, and one will be drafted for approval jointly by the Management Office and the SS&NWC. All of these entities recognize that not all information about a major security incident/crime will be revealed and publicized to residents because the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) puts limits/bounds on what information can be made public if a police investigation of the facts surrounding the incident has been initiated. The recent theft of a motorcycle in August from our parking garage was offered up as an example since the FCPD investigation is continuing.

The 4 September 2012 meeting of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) at the FCPD Mason District Headquarters was attended by Mr. De Mayo, representing Skyline House, and Ms. Buckley, representing Skyline Plaza. FCPD reported the installation in some vehicles of both front- and rear-facing video cameras to capture the police in action. This is both for crime evidentiary purposes and to provide a video record of police interaction with citizens. The Commander, Capt. Gun Lee, mentioned that a domestic-violence self-defense class will be held locally, made possible by short-term funding from Fairfax County, thanks to Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross. Also, The Rotary Club, in concert with a Mason District Station Open House on October 13<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., will be raffling off a 1966 Ford Mustang. Tickets are \$25 each. You don’t have to be present to win, but Capt. Gun Lee stated that it’s a great opportunity to visit your local police station!

Chairperson De Mayo presented each member and guest with a copy of the new SS&NWC Charter, which was recently approved by the Board of Directors. For the understanding and benefit of our Plaza guest, he read and described each major function of the Committee charter and emphasized the tangible responsibilities and deliverables levied by each Committee duty. Of specific interest is revitalizing Committee contact with the Fire Marshall and promulgating tips on fire safety to residents. For Plaza/Skyline coordination and edification, Mr. De Mayo provided to Ms. Buckley a list of our SS&NWC members with contact information, as well as a copy of our Neighborhood Watch Patrol Report.

The Management Office reported the following significant incidents: The July 4 tossing of an empty beer keg (from an unidentified balcony) into our West Parking lot is still under police investigation. Similarly, the July 21<sup>st</sup> rock-throwing incident from our West Building roof is still being investigated by the FCPD. In August, two teen-aged males were noted acting suspiciously on the West Sun Deck and were approached by the Chief Engineer. They refused to identify themselves; the Chief Engineer escorted down the elevator and then ejected them from the premises. They prevented him from taking their picture. Also in August, Housekeeping Staff discovered that someone had stacked iron patio lounge chairs high against the fencing gate on the West Sundeck as if to build a ramp to gain access to the secured part of the roof. The chairs subsequently have been removed and stored. The Neighborhood Watch has placed this area on the no-notice patrol list for more frequent surveillance.

The Chairman opined that, while we have surveillance cameras trained on the Penthouse and other areas, they are used primarily for after-the-incident follow-up rather than for constant monitoring and immediate preventative intervention. Some incidents have been detected while in progress, but this is the exception, not the rule. He noted that this results from insufficient security manpower--even during the daytime--to monitor the cameras, a budgetary issue. The SS&NWC will discuss this matter further; it was suggested by our webmaster, Mike Hanson, that motion alarming be used as a preventative intrusion method.

Meantime, Security and Housekeeping staffs--in addition to the NW patrols--are keeping a watchful eye on the penthouse levels in both buildings. The Management Office is considering locking out elevator access

to both East and West Penthouse Levels to prevent further incidents. All residents are cautioned to “be on the lookout” (i.e., BOLO) for potential trespassers and anyone **not using a key fob for entry**. Residents are urged **NOT** to permit anyone access to our building whom you do not personally recognize as belonging here, regardless of any excuse they might offer for not having their fob. Close the door behind you when you enter and move on.

According to our House Rule #5, residents without fobs are to proceed to the Front Desk, prove that they live here with ID, or be recognized by the Front Desk & Security staff, and then sign in (stating the reason that they forgot their fob). Remember, the fobs are the same as a key to your house. *Would you grant access to your house to someone you don't know?* So, refer all strangers to the Front Desk; they'll sort it out! Rule #5 is on the agenda of the Covenants Committee to review for adequacy.

The Management Office reported that two motorcycles were stolen from our garage in August. On one, the LOW-JACK device alerted the owner/resident. Surveillance cameras were polled, and a suspicious vehicle that tailgated into the parking garage behind another vehicle was noted; the pictures were turned over to the police for further investigation. The FCPD stated that this is happening all over the county.

In August, staff discovered three bike locks cut open and laying on the floor of the Bike Room. All bike owners were notified to check their bikes and come forward if any were stolen; none have come forward, so no police report has been filed.

The purposes of the new NW patrol checklist were explained. They are primarily: (1) to facilitate coverage by a NW patrol of any area that has caused a problem or incident in past years, and (2) to simplify patrol paperwork through a checklist format. Any resident can request a copy of this checklist for review from the Front Desk, and residents' suggestions for improving it are most welcome.

Last month, the Management Office published on our bulletin boards a police report with photo of a “groper” caught on camera at the TARGET store. This month, a NW summary of the significant 7.1%

decrease in Fairfax County Crime Statistics was advertised. Also, it was reported at the CAC that a Police Officer impersonator was finally caught in the Bailey Crossroads area. He had been victimizing elderly citizen drivers for many months.

Finally, the SS&NWC Chairman attended Skyline Plaza's sister committee meeting at 7:30 PM on 25 September as invited by Ms Buckley who attended our meeting this month. Mutual items of interest were discussed. A member of the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) briefed the Plaza committee on what they do as volunteers in a declared emergency in the county and described how they are organized. Our SS&NWC Chairman then asked the County CERT to provide a briefing at the Skyline House SS&NWC meeting in October; scheduling will be arranged and notices posted.



## COVENANTS

Chair, Elayne Haymes

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The Minutes of the 18 July 2012 meeting were accepted with correction. The Incident Reports were reviewed; all of them had been satisfactorily resolved. Under New Business the Committee discussed Rule #4, Assessments. This rule applies to the

procedures for collecting the monthly condo fees. It is recommended to the Board of Directors that no change be made to this rule.

Under Old Business the yearly overnight guest parking limit was addressed. This was brought up at the July meeting by Tycia Haight of the Management Office in regard to changing the annual 60-day limit for guest overnight parking to 30 overnights. After considerable debate the Committee is recommending this change to the Board. The Committee thought that halving the number of overnights a guest could park in a year would, at a minimum, double the number of guests who would have the opportunity to park, given the pressure on the limited number of guest parking spots available. The yearly guest overnight parking limit is not addressed in Rule #18 Parking/Vehicular Responsibilities. It should be included in Rule #18 C as 1a or 2.

Rule # 5 Access to Building and Rule #6 Reception Desk Services will be discussed at the next meeting in November.



## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

**Chair, Janice L. Hill**

The Community Relations Committee (CRC) met on Thursday, September 20, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room with six members attending. Copies of the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were provided.

At the July meeting, the members voted to invite Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross to a fall CRC meeting. Supervisor Gross accepted our invitation and will join the CRC at our November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. A "Save the Date" announcement is included in this newsletter and will be posted on bulletin boards and on the website ([www.shuoa.org](http://www.shuoa.org)).

Next was a lively discussion about upcoming activities for the Committee. In addition to continuing to provide Skyline House with information on state and local government activities, the members decided to focus on volunteering and community service projects. See the notice included in this newsletter requesting your ideas, suggestions and feedback.

The activities/service projects we discussed include:

- Blood drive
- Volunteer projects with area school (requesting feedback for student residents)
- Voter Information
- Partnering with neighbors and other Skyline House Committees
- Beautification/Cleanup

At the July Board meeting, the CRC request to join two community organizations was approved. We will provide you with an update on these contacts later this fall.

Also included in this newsletter is a handout with useful voter registration information, such as registration and absentee deadlines for the November election, the location of our polling place, an update on the new voter identification rules and other helpful information. This handout is also included on our website.

The next meeting of the CRC will be held on Thursday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room. We look forward to seeing you!

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

### **We need your participation and ideas!**

The Skyline House Community Relations Committee (CRC) is seeking your ideas for community service projects/activities. There are so many different reasons to volunteer your time, and everyone seems to have their own reasons for volunteering.

Some people want to

- make a difference
- have fun
- learn or use a new skill

There is no right or wrong reason for volunteering; it is just important that you volunteer.

All residents of Skyline House can be involved in service activities. Seniors, children, teens and everyone in between can get out and do something to help someone else.

Children/Teens – Do you need community service credit for school? If yes, consider partnering with the CRC on a project.

If you are interested or have any ideas, thoughts or suggestions, e-mail

[communityrelations.shuoa@gmail.com](mailto:communityrelations.shuoa@gmail.com) with your ideas, and we will contact you. Remember, we meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (October 18 and November 15) in the West Card Room. We encourage you to join us.

### **MAGAZINES KINDLY REQUESTED**

Thank you very much to the Skyline residents who have been faithfully donating their magazines via the collection box located at the Front Desk. Your contributions are routinely distributed to Alexandria Hospital and other medical facilities such as Chemotherapy and Dialysis Units and Cardiology and Specialized Medicine waiting rooms. Your donated magazines provide much needed distraction for patients awaiting or going through difficult medical procedures and help to break up some very long hours for family members and friends accompanying and visiting those patients.

Please remember to donate your current (please no old/outdated) magazines to the Front Desk. If you have any questions regarding this much appreciated program, please call Marilyn Baker at 703-671-6759.



## GARDEN CLUB

Chair, Howard Haymes

The Club continues to build up soil in the new planting beds with mulch from the outside; it's free to us. We have destroyed the kudzu vines on the Build America fence and trimmed the forsythia bushes against the NOVA fence. New installations include a forty-foot ivy "test plot" near the parking area in front of Build America and a (potentially) large maple tree at the curve in the road behind the West Building. And a dozen dead shrubs have been replaced. The remaining \$300 in the Club's budget will be used for some modest fall color plantings.



## RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chair, Sharon Milton

The November meeting of the Recreation Committee will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> in the West Card Room.

We are looking for input on the possibility of a Halloween Party for Children and adults.

Contact Sharon Milton at: [segmilton@yahoo.com](mailto:segmilton@yahoo.com) or drop a note off at the desk for me at 613 W by **no later than October 10<sup>th</sup>**.

TGIF starts up on October 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Party Room. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Front Desk. Bring a snack to share and something to drink. This first event is just an evening of socializing for adults.

### Disposing of Furniture??

Management pays a special trash removal company to pick up and dispose of large items/furniture unwanted by residents. **The resident is charged \$25 per item.** Listed below are organizations that offer **FREE** furniture donation pickups:

**ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action)** is a volunteer organization serving neighbors in dire need of furniture. Please call 703-256-9513 to schedule ACCA to pick up your donated furniture. They will also give you a tax deductible receipt. Items most needed are: mattresses/box springs (single, double, or queen size) sofas (not sleeper types), kitchen/dining room tables, and chairs, chests of drawers/dressers, coffee tables, end tables, and microwaves. Items must be in clean, good condition. Website: [www.accacares.org](http://www.accacares.org) or e-mail [ddmld@verizon.net](mailto:ddmld@verizon.net). **ACCA picks up on Saturdays, by appointment only.**

**Salvation Army** 703-642-9270

The Salvation Army picks up **weekdays** by appointment only. When you call you must select the appropriate option for furniture pickup.

## RECREATION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The newly reestablished Recreation Committee needs your help. In addition to full members, without whom the Committee can't function, we need volunteers who can, from time to time, work on specific events. If you fit in either category, please contact Sharon Milton, the Committee Chair, at [segmilton@yahoo.com](mailto:segmilton@yahoo.com).

Here is a *formal* statement of the functions of the Recreation Committee:

1. Conduct periodic informal parties for the purpose of bringing residents together.
2. Take responsibility for gatherings for a specific purpose, such as holiday feasts, honoring volunteers, recognizing a special event, theme dinners, etc.
3. Sponsor a variety of outside activities for the entertainment and amusement of residents (e.g., theater parties, sightseeing trips, excursions, etc.)
4. Assist committees of the Association, when requested, in conducting get-togethers to stimulate participation on those committees and in the activities of Skyline House.
5. Plan for, or assist in, any activity which will enhance the volunteer involvement of residents.

An *informal* mission statement might be: To have fun while helping your neighbors to have fun.

## 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.**

**OCTOBER**

**ALINA GONZALEZ 703-379-5391**

**MARILYN SILVER 703-256-0775**

Good Neighbors welcomes new members to assist those in need. If you are interested in serving your neighbors, call Coordinator Toska Prather or Virginia Fissmer. Their contact information is listed in the newsletter directory.



# SAVE THE DATE

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross to chat with the  
Skyline House Community Relations Committee

Thursday, November 15, 2012

7:00 p.m.

West Card Room

Please join us!

## Voting in Virginia

<b>October 1</b>	New Voter ID cards issued to registered voters. Call Fairfax County Office of Elections Immediately, 703-222-0776, if you are registered and did not receive a new card.
<b>October 15</b>	Deadline for voter registration for November election
<b>November 3</b>	Last day to vote absentee in-person for November election
<b>November 6</b>	General Election
<b>Polling Place</b>	Goodwin House (near Giant; same side of street as Giant) 3440 South Jefferson Street Falls Church, VA 22041

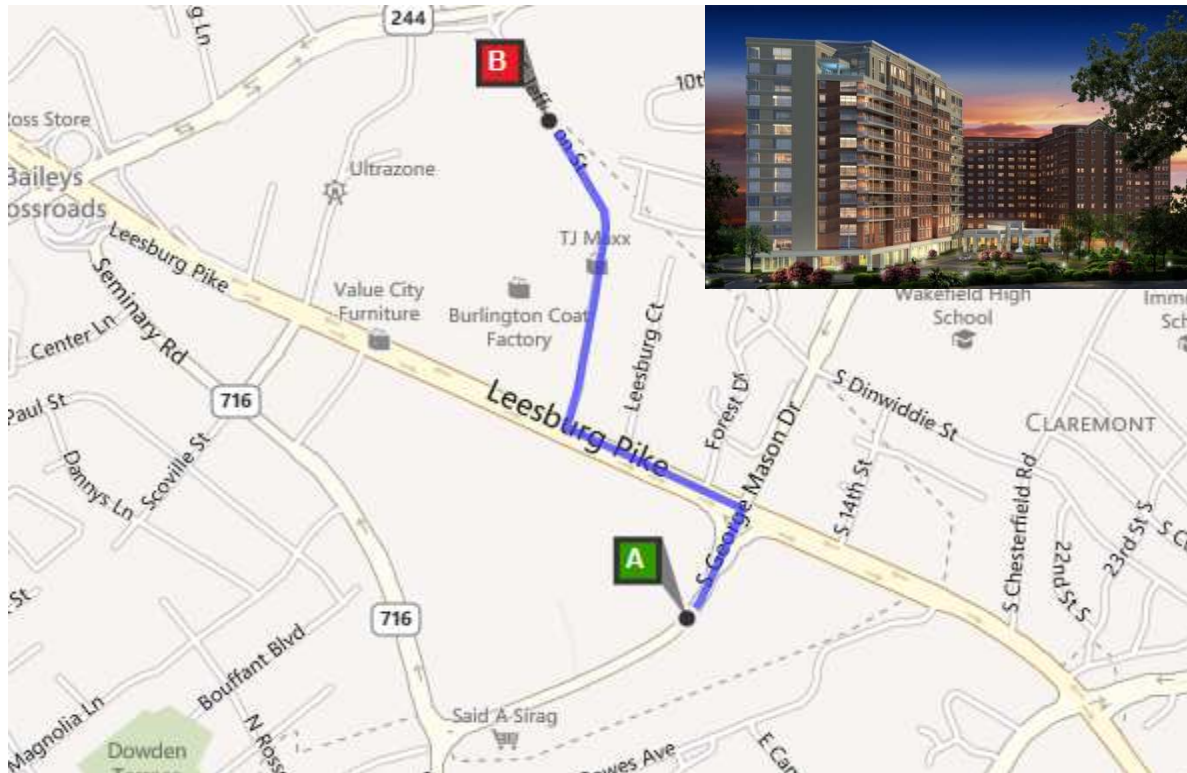
### VOTERS MAY USE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF ID TO VOTE:

- ✓ Virginia voter identification card
- ✓ Valid Virginia driver's license
- ✓ Military ID
- ✓ Any Federal, Virginia state or local government-issued ID card
- ✓ Valid student ID issued by any higher education institution in Virginia
- ✓ Valid employer-issued photo ID card
- ✓ Concealed handgun permit
- ✓ Current utility bill
- ✓ Current bank statement
- ✓ Current government check or paycheck showing the voter's name and address
- ✓ Social security card (may not satisfy special federal ID requirements)

## A FEW FACTS ABOUT VOTING RIGHTS:

1790	Only white male property owners 21 and older can vote.
1850	Property ownership and tax requirements have been dropped. Most adult white males can vote.
1870	15 <sup>th</sup> Amendment gives former male slaves the right to vote and protects the rights of voters, regardless of race.
1920	The 19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment gives women the right to vote.
1961	The 23 <sup>rd</sup> Amendment gives DC residents the right to vote in Presidential elections.
1971	The 26 <sup>th</sup> Amendment lowers the minimum voting age to 18

## Directions:



Start	3711 S George Mason Dr, Falls Church, VA 22041 Depart S George Mason Dr toward VA-7 E / Leesburg Pike
0.1 miles	Turn left onto VA-7 W / Leesburg Pike
0.2 miles	Turn right onto S Jefferson St
0.4 miles	Arrive at 3440 S Jefferson St, Falls Church, VA 22041
End	3440 S Jefferson St, Falls Church, VA 22041
	Total distance 0.3 miles, 3 minutes travel time

**Courtesy of your Skyline House Community Relations Committee**



# SKYLINE HOUSE CALENDAR

## OCTOBER 2012

([WWW.SHUOA.ORG](http://WWW.SHUOA.ORG))



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <b>Recreation Committee</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>W. Card Room</b> <b>Library Open</b> <b>7:00 – 8:00 p.m.</b> <b>East Penthouse</b>	2	3	4	5	6
7	<b>8</b> <b>Library Open</b> <b>7:00 – 8:00 p.m.</b> <b>East Penthouse</b>	<b>9</b> <b>By-Laws Meeting</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>W. Party Room</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Security, Safety &amp; Neighborhood Watch Comm.</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>W. Card Room</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Physical Plant and Operations Committee</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>W. Card Room</b>	<b>12</b> <b>TGIF</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>W. Party Room</b>	13
14	<b>15</b> <b>Library Open</b> <b>7:00 – 8:00 p.m.</b> <b>East Penthouse</b>	16	17	<b>18</b> <b>Community Relations Committee</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>W. Card Room</b>	19	20
21	<b>22</b> <b>Financial Management Committee</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>W. Card Room</b> <b>Library Open</b> <b>7:00 – 8:00 p.m.</b> <b>East Penthouse</b>	23	<b>24</b> <b>Board Meeting</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>W. Card Room</b>	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
<b>GOOD NEIGHBORS: Alina Gonzalez (703) 379-5391 Marilyn Silver (703) 256-0775</b>						

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pres., Maria Elena Schacknies 1302W 820-2239 [mariaelena.shuoa@gmail.com](mailto:mariaelena.shuoa@gmail.com)

Vice President, Robert De Mayo 1213E 575-4464 [rdemayo@shuoa.org](mailto:rdemayo@shuoa.org)

Treasurer, Charles Roberts 914E 998-6080 [cxroberts@shuoa.org](mailto:cxroberts@shuoa.org)

Secretary, Barbara Thode 404E 888-3569 [bthode@shuoa.org](mailto:bthode@shuoa.org)

Director, Norman Baker 1114W 671-6759 [nbaker@shuoa.org](mailto:nbaker@shuoa.org)

Director, Michael Cusato 906E 257-6234 [mcusato@shuoa.org](mailto:mcusato@shuoa.org)

Director, Karen Johnson 1511W 379-0322 [kjohnson@shuoa.org](mailto:kjohnson@shuoa.org)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Financial Management Wynfred Joshua 1414W 820-4471 [diawin@metronets.com](mailto:diawin@metronets.com)

Physical Plant/Operations Gary Akin 705E 989-8979 [gary\\_1\\_akin@yahoo.com](mailto:gary_1_akin@yahoo.com)

Co-Chair Al Lambert 709W 931-7314 [myongal@verizon.net](mailto:myongal@verizon.net)

Covenants Elayne Haymes 902W 347-7918 [haymes.elayne1@gmail.com](mailto:haymes.elayne1@gmail.com)

Community Relations Janice L. Hill 511W 415-1537 [janicelh21@gmail.com](mailto:janicelh21@gmail.com)

Security, Safety, & Neighborhood Watch Robert De Mayo 1213E 575-4464 [rdemayo@shuoa.org](mailto:rdemayo@shuoa.org)

Recreation Sharon Milton 613W 347-9618 [segmilton@yahoo.com](mailto:segmilton@yahoo.com)

### MANAGEMENT OFFICE (Central # 703-578-4855)

G M, Michelle Brown Slaughter [michelle@shuoa.org](mailto:michelle@shuoa.org)

Deputy General Manager, Tycia Haight [tycia@shuoa.org](mailto:tycia@shuoa.org)

Chief Engineer, Greg Grimm [greg@shuoa.org](mailto:greg@shuoa.org)

Accountant, Huajun “Lucy” Bei [lucy@shuoa.org](mailto:lucy@shuoa.org)

Resident Services Coord., Noemi Najera [noemi@shuoa.org](mailto:noemi@shuoa.org)

Web Developer, Mike Hanson [mike@hansonprogrammer.net](mailto:mike@hansonprogrammer.net)

### GARDEN CLUB

Howard Haymes 902W 347-7918 [hankeel@gmail.com](mailto:hankeel@gmail.com)

### GOOD NEIGHBORS COORDINATORS

Toska Prather 1003W 379-7849 [t\\_pra@verizon.net](mailto:t_pra@verizon.net)

Virginia Fissmer 601W 379-2901

### EDITOR Phil Cohen

THE HOUSE SPECIAL is published by

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

The House Special is printed by Dan Daniels Pioneer Press