

# SKYLines

The authorized monthly newsletter published by and for Skyline Plaza residents

## An Evening with Captain Lee

**O**n January 6, we welcomed Captain Gun M. Lee, Commander of the Mason District Station of the Fairfax County Police. Upwards of 80 residents came to the South Party Room to hear Captain Lee speak about the recent event at Skyline Plaza as well as other security matters that affect the neighborhood.

Captain Lee detailed the events of December 15, 2011, and provided valuable insight on the police's perspective, rationale, and response. He thanked the residents of Skyline Plaza for their patience during the eight-hour ordeal and apologized for the inconvenience. He was particularly grateful to Bob Bradford (Skyline Plaza Security Manager) for his assistance. He thanked the staff at Skyline Plaza



Photo by Al Brothers  
Captain Gun M. Lee

for their tremendous cooperation with the officers and for providing a layout of the building. He indicated that this event would have been made much more difficult were it not for the excellent relationship that Skyline Plaza has always maintained with the Police Department. He described the events of that day as follows:

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on the afternoon of December 15, 2011, 9-1-1 received a call from an individual with expertise in mental health services who indicated that a resident in the South Building at Skyline Plaza was showing signs and symptoms of wanting to harm himself or others, and that this individual had access to weapons.

Three officers were dispatched for what is termed a "welfare check." Typically on a welfare check, officers knock on someone's door and make sure they are okay, then report this back. In this case,

the resident refused to open the door and refused to cooperate; the situation quickly deteriorated. Attempts at negotiation took place over the next couple of hours, to no avail.

At approximately 6:00 p.m., the decision was to call in a "barricade situation" to dispatch. Fairfax County Police has a full set of protocols that are automatically activated in a barricade

situation. This might include dispatching a full team of officers to the scene, advance weapons and tactical units, hostage negotiators, canine units, medical services, robots, and the fire department. The goal is always to end the dangerous situation quickly and safely.

Northern Virginia Community College next door, with whom Fairfax Police was in contact, went on lockdown as a safety precaution.

As a precautionary measure, the decision was made to have residents currently in their units stay in place, and to keep other residents out of the South Building.

Medical staff provided valuable information on the resident's condition and indicated the resident may have trouble communicating properly with police due to medical issues. This insight was key in understanding what was going

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**and much more...**

**SKYLINE PLAZA CONDOMINIUM PROJECT, INC.**  
 3703 South George Mason Drive  
 Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3742  
<http://www.skylineplaza.org/>  
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 Al Brothers. Printing by J&J Printers.

**SKYLines**, the official newsletter of Skyline Plaza, is published monthly (except August and January) by the Communications Committee with the approval of the Board of Directors.

**SKYLines** is an open forum seeking to serve all residents; you are invited to express your opinions on subjects that interest or concern you about our condominium. All signed letters to the editor of 250 words or fewer will be considered for publication; names will be withheld if requested by the writer. Submissions must be placed in the **SKYLines** box at the front desk by the 12th of the month prior to publication date.

Questions about advertising should be directed to Betty Gilliam, 703-370-7371, or [communications@skylineplaza.org](mailto:communications@skylineplaza.org).

Extra copies of **SKYLines**, are usually available for residents in the management office.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

Skyline Plaza Management maintains an Emergency Disabled Resident List of persons who are physically unable to use the stairs during an emergency when the elevators may not be used. The Fire Department also refers to this list whenever necessary.

If you are physically unable to walk down the stairs, at any time for any reason, even if it is only a temporary condition, please give your name and unit number to personnel in the management office or at the front desk. We want to make sure that the Emergency Disabled Resident List is always up to date.



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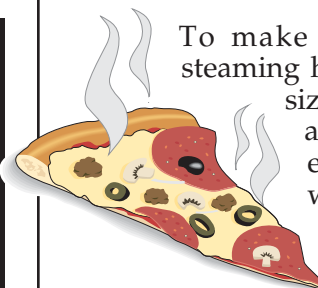
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To make sure you get your pizzas steaming hot and your mushi pork still sizzling, let the Front Desk know ahead of time when you are expecting a food delivery. That way the delivery person won't have to wait while the desk calls for verification, and the pepperoni won't cool off!

**Tip:** When you hang up from calling in your food order and the phone is still in your hand, immediately call the Front Desk to tell them you're expecting a food delivery.

## Emmett Jordan Passes



Emmett Jordan

It was with deep regret that we learned of the passing on Monday, January 23, of longtime Skyline Plaza resident **Emmett Jordan**. Emmett, who once served on the Skyline Plaza Board of Directors, was the husband of Anna Jordan and a good friend to many residents here in the condominium.

He was an active member of the Cathedral of St. Thomas More and also served as president of NARFE. Our condolences are extended to his wife and family and to his many friends at Skyline Plaza, where his presence will be greatly missed.

A wake was held on Sunday, January 29, at Murphy's Funeral Home of Arlington, and a funeral mass was held on Monday, January 30, at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More.

## A Message to Skyline Plaza Residents

The North and South commercial parking spaces are reserved for the exclusive use by their employees and customers. Skyline Plaza residents and their guests are reminded that this is strictly enforced by these businesses, 24 hours a day.



## An Evening with Captain Lee

*Continued from page 1*

on in the unit in question.

By 8:00 p.m., the resident was starting to make worrisome moves, continued to act irrational, and was pouring an unknown substance on the floor. The police was not sure whether this was a flammable liquid and there was the fear of a potential fire getting started. The fire department was called in and was on standby near the unit.

The disturbed resident has a relative living with him. This relative was located and brought in, and was very helpful in keeping this situation from escalating.

By 9:00 p.m., Captain Lee requested the North Party Room be opened to the South Building residents. Residents milling about the lobby were invited to find more comfortable seating there. He felt that if the standoff continued much longer, he may need to call the Red Cross for shelter assistance.

At approximately 10:00 p.m., the resident tried to escape and was captured and handcuffed, and taken to a medical facility for evaluation and treatment. He reportedly was there for a few days and has since been released. While his current location was not disclosed, this individual is no longer a resident at Skyline Plaza. His actions are potentially criminal, so he may face charges.

During the question-and-answer session that followed, Captain Lee indicated that while this was a very serious situation and that crimes *do* occur on occasion, the crime rate in Fairfax County is trending downward. Captain Lee attributes this to the great communication that exists between the police and residents of the county. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), for example, meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Mason District Station and is open to all residents of the Mason District. Captain Lee also encouraged all residents to get active with Neighborhood Watch.

*Patricia Buckley  
Chairman, Safety Committee*

## Don't Forget to Register Your Car

If you rent out your garage parking space, don't forget to tell your "tenant" that his or her car must be registered with the Management Office. If you yourself get a new car or license plates, you must also notify the Office. Failure to do so can result in your car's being towed, especially during this somewhat confusing time of garage repairs. To avoid any inconvenience and unnecessary expense, please make sure that all your vehicles and those of your tenants are registered.

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- The Washington Area has the best Real Estate Market in the Nation! Only 4.5% Unemployment!
- Prices are going up – circa 3% to 6-7% since many Corp. Companies are coming to Fairfax County!

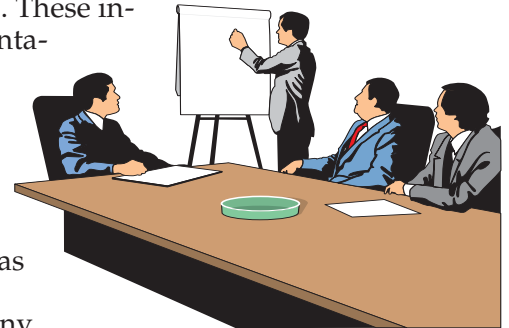
The Interest Rates are still low!! NOW is the time to buy!

# Announcements from the January 25 Board Meeting

The December 2011 Board meeting was cancelled due to lack of actionable items. At the January meeting, Board President Sima Jabbour made the following announcements:

- As we enter into the new year, a few of our projects are coming to fruition after a long year of planning, competitive bidding, and permitting. The mid-term garage repairs are underway and should be finished towards the end of 2012 — well ahead of the outlined schedule, due to increasing the scope of each phase and increased personnel.
- In mid-February, Donohoe Construction will begin staging for the renovations of the common areas starting with the B-1 and Penthouse levels. The project is estimated to last five months, at which time we will be enjoying our newly refurbished hallways, B-1 level bath houses, North Fitness Center, and Party and Card Rooms. We appreciate your patience while we see the increased interior construction and the work crews performing the drywall, paint and electrical work.
- Early in May, Eklund's (Interior Elevator Cab Designer) will be working on the renovation of the interior elevator cabs. New paneling, lighting and flooring will enhance the look of the eight passenger and two garage elevator cabs. They will proceed at about one cab completed per week.
- One of the other important upcoming projects we are undertaking this year is the development of emergency plans. This will include protocols for fire, weather-related disasters, and building evacuations.
- Our goal continues to be the preservation and improvement of our property, all the while following the 10-year plan to ensure that the projects are fully funded.
- Hi-Rise Windows is in the process of working with individual residents during Phase I of the window/balcony door replacement project, and the Board will be discussing the approval of Phase II this evening. Over 80 units took advantage of this opportunity during Phase I, with over 350 window and door openings replaced. Many favorable comments thus far include residents commenting about the quiet they now enjoy, the decrease in dust, and the ease of operation of the balcony door.

- Keep your eyes on the bulletin boards for some upcoming community presentations. These include a presentation by the Columbia Pike Transit Initiative. This is the light rail project that has been in the works for many years, now in the final planning stages. The Pike Transit Initiative Project Team has approached us about hosting an informational meeting so that the community can hear and learn about this local transportation project. They are doing this prior to public hearings.
- The annual Community Associations Institute (CAI) Conference & Expo is set for Saturday, March 10. Any Committee or Board member interested in attending should let Ron Bunt know by Wednesday, February 8.
- The management office will be sending out requests for information to all co-owners in order to update the unit files. Some work has already begun. Please help us in reviewing and updating your information as it is a requirement of our *House Rules*.



*Sima Jabbour*  
President, Board of Directors

## Stay Tuned...

The ACPA Committee will be sponsoring a **“Successful Balcony Gardening”** presentation in April. Last year’s presentation by Fehmi Midani of Potomac Springs Landscaping was very well received, and Mr. Medani will once again talk about ways to create a beautiful balcony garden. Watch this space and the bulletin boards for more details.

# Now You Know...

## Interior Renovations to Start Soon

Beginning shortly, our planned renovations of several common areas will begin. These areas include all B1 level rest rooms (bath houses), both Party and Card Rooms and penthouse level rest rooms and elevator lobbies, north fitness center and B1 North hallway, and the residential hallways in both north and south buildings. The permits have been issued and when the schedule is finalized it will be posted. Please note that during the party room, card room and penthouse area renovations, those rooms will not be available for rental. During all of the planning, everything is being taken into consideration to minimize the disruption of everyday life, with an emphasis on noise and traffic control as well as dust and construction debris removal. This is a large project, expected to take about four months to complete.

Also in the works is the refurbishment of the interiors of all of the passenger elevators. While this work is being done, one elevator in each tower will be out of service as the walls, ceiling and flooring are replaced. The two garage elevators will also be refurbished. This project is expected to begin in early May, and be completed by early to mid June. All projects have been planned and are fully funded through the replacement reserve fund.

And the garage repairs continue...



Photo by Ron Bunt

*A sample of the work being performed in the garage. This worker is "pouring" concrete into a patched area.*



Photo by Ron Bunt

*This patch is ready to have the concrete poured in. The lighter center area shows the form that creates the "waffle" inset you see on the ceilings.*

## Life Could Be Even Better – Taking Pride in Skyline Plaza

Once completed, our buildings – our home – will have a fresh, new look. Let's hope that a renewed sense of pride means that everyone will take care of our surroundings so that we all may enjoy their beauty for years to come. This means that there should be no drinking or eating in the common areas of the building — elevators & hallways especially. Just a few simple steps will make a big difference in our quality of life: If you are using a cart to transport something through the hallway, take care not to hit walls or doors. Make sure that all discarded trash is put completely down the trash chute, and no trash or large items are left in the hallway. That's what taking pride in your home means — **taking time to make sure your life and lifestyle does not adversely affect your neighbors.** Teach children to not run or yell in the hallways. Make sure they know how to safely put trash down the trash chute and not leave it in the trash room or hallway. Don't leave candy or food wrapping in the hallways. Use door knobs instead of the door surface. Pitch in — you'll be better off for it.



## Five New Stations Added to Our Master Antenna System

Five new international stations have been added recently to our MATV system. To receive these stations on your TV, it will be necessary to re-scan your television. The new channels will be added automatically when you successfully complete that process. The channels are as follows:

30.6	South African Broadcast Network
30.7	France 24
30.8	Nigerian TV Authority
30.9	VTV 4 Vietnamese
30.10	Euronews

**[Editor's Note:** On January 1, 2012, **Channel 4.3**, an NBC affiliate, went off the air. This channel, **Universal Sports**, is now being distributed exclusively to cable and satellite providers.]

*Ron Bunt  
Assistant Resident Manager*

## Thank You, Donors!

Our heartfelt appreciation to all those who donated so generously to the Skyline Plaza Employees' Holiday Fund. Despite the economic problems felt by many people these past few months, 215 owners and occupants of Skyline Plaza generously contributed donations in excess of \$14,000 to provide a monetary "Thank You" to our 39 Skyline Plaza wage employees. The total collections were pro-rated by their years of service at Skyline Plaza and given to the employees at the annual Holiday Party on December 16, 2011. Your expression of appreciation to our employees for their fine work during the past year helped to make their Holiday Season extra special.

Also, a big "thank you" goes to the Management Office Staff and the Board of Directors, who set up the holiday party on behalf of the Condominium owners, hosting a delicious multi-national luncheon for the employees.

May all of you have a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2012!

*Dan and Gail Carroll  
Unit 2315-N*

## The Skyline Plaza Staff...



*...thank you for your generous contributions to the Employee Holiday Fund!*

## Let's All Try to Keep Down the Noise

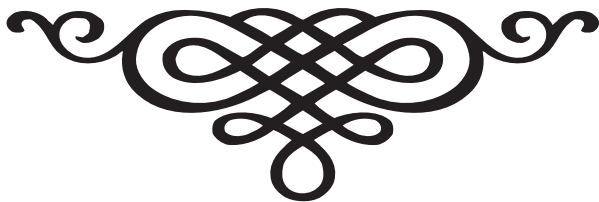
In an effort to minimize noise complaints from nearby residents, we are reminding everyone to respect their neighbors by keeping noise to a minimum, and to abide by the *House Rules and Regulations* regarding noise within our community.

There are several ways that we can assure that all residents can have "quiet enjoyment." They include, but are not limited to:

- Keep stereo, radio and TV volume at a level that does not disturb other residents;
- Do not use the trash chutes between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.; and
- Carpet at least 75% of your unit, less the kitchen and bathroom(s).

Our goal (and thus yours) is to maintain a peaceful and enjoyable community for all of our residents. Following these simple tips should help us achieve that goal. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Management Office at (703) 379-4844.

*Ron Bunt*  
Assistant General Manager



## Board Nominations to Open in March



The annual nominations period for candidates for the Skyline Plaza Board of Directors will open in early March. Now is the time to start thinking about potential candidates. You may nominate yourself or another Skyline Plaza owner for these very important positions. Full details will be in the March

SKYLines. The election will take place on Wednesday, June 13, 2012.

*Karen Leigh Campbell*  
Chairman, Election Committee

## Welcome to Our New Residents

*We* thank those of our new residents who furnished information about themselves for publication in the interest of promoting neighborliness and good fellowship in our community. Among our recent new residents are those listed below.

**Brandi Robinson** from California has moved into a one-bedroom in the South Building. She works in public health and loves animals, trying out new restaurants, traveling, and spending time with friends.

**Michael Ulan** of Virginia is living in a one-bedroom in the North Building. He is an economist who enjoys current events and reading.

**Mekdes Kidanemarian** is a sales specialist who shares a unit with his son **Siemon Dawit**, a student.

**Maryam Khodaparast** and his family have moved into a one bedroom in the North Building.

**Yiseon Yoo**, a student from Seoul, Korea, has moved into the South Building.

*Kathleen Pilugin*  
Communications Committee



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## An Hour a Month

By joining Neighborhood Watch and patrolling Skyline Plaza for just one hour a month, you can make a big difference in the community. I invite all residents of Skyline Plaza, renters and co-owners alike, to participate in helping make this the safest community possible.



### How does Neighborhood Watch work?

Neighborhood Watch volunteers undergo training that takes approximately one hour. After that, you choose a partner, select one hour each month that you can commit to patrolling sections of Skyline Plaza, and walk your route. It's that simple.

### Neighborhood Watch benefits the community

As a Neighborhood Watch volunteer, you help keep the community safe by observing and reporting. You might find a door that does not lock properly, a burned out light bulb, or you might witness suspicious activity or make other safety-related observations. The observations are then passed onto the appropriate person for further action.

### Neighborhood Watch benefits you

Our busy lives make it difficult to get enough exercise and to spend quality time with a friend. By patrolling the area, you and your friend can do both while contributing to the well-being of this community!

### How do I sign up?

Sign up for Neighborhood Watch at the front desk. We will contact you with training dates and more information.

Patricia Buckley  
Chairman, Safety Committee



## Valentine's Day Fudge

When I was about nine years old, I thought it would be a great idea to make my mother a Valentine's Day treat. I had my own children's cookbook and decided to make a batch of fudge and form it into the shape of a heart. It was a horrible mess, but the fudge sure tasted good and, as I recall, I ate most of it.

### Chocolate Fudge

*Mix in saucepan*

1 cup sugar  
1/3 cup cocoa

*Stir in*

1/4 cup butter  
1/4 cup milk  
1 tablespoon light corn syrup

*Bring to boiling. Boil 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.*

*Add immediately*

1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)

*Adding 1 cup at a time, stir in*

2 1/2 to 3 cups sifted confectioners' sugar

Turn in an ungreased square pan, 8 x 8 x 2 inches, and pat out with fingers. Cool. Cut into squares.

### Marshmallow fudge

Butter a square pan, 9 x 9 x 2

*Stir in saucepan*

2/3 cup evaporated milk  
1 2/3 cups sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt

*Cook over low heat until mixture boils. Boil 3 minutes, stirring constantly*

*Remove from heat*

*Add and stir until melted*

2 cups miniature marshmallows  
1 1/2 cups semisweet chocolate pieces

*Stir in*

1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 cup chopped nuts

Pour into prepared pan. Refrigerate until firm.

Cut into squares.



# Kitchen & Bath

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With the completion of our 1,000th project, we have relocated and expanded our design studio to within the Annandale Cardinal Bank Building, right off the lobby. An updated, larger designer showroom with free parking and easy accessibility offers the latest products and design trends with 11 kitchen and bath vignettes, all designed by a 20-year veteran of the design industry.

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- ✓ Cesarean Delivery
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  - ☐ Pap Smear
  - ☐ Colposcopy
  - ☐ Infertility work up and treatment
  - ☐ Contraception/ Birth control
  - ☐ Sexually transmitted diseases prevention and treatment
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  - ☐ Hysteroscopy
  - ☐ Laparoscopic surgeries

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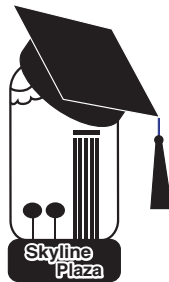
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# SKALE Events for February 2012

SKALE — The SKyline Academy for Learning Enjoyment — has, for the most part, returned to its regular schedule. SKALE activities are open to all members of the greater Skyline community.



The **Foreign Film Club** will meet again in February. The date for the February movie is *tentatively* scheduled for **February 17**. All members will be notified by e-mail or a notice in their boxes at the front desk. **NOTE:** If you are not a member and would like to join the Foreign Film Club, please leave a note in Al's box at the front desk (1714-N) with your name, unit number, e-mail address, and phone number. You will be notified each time a movie is scheduled. — *Usually* the third Friday of each month.

**February 13, Monday, 7:30 p.m., North Party Room**  
**Scrabble auf deutsch (German Scrabble).** Host: Al Brothers

**February 17, Friday, 7:00 p.m., North Party Room**  
**Foreign Film Club.** Host: Al Brothers  
*(This date may change. Members will be notified.)*

**February 20, Monday, 7:30 p.m., North Party Room**  
**German Conversation.** Host: Al Brothers  
*(Check with host to make sure session will be held.)*

**February 27, Monday, 7:30 p.m., North Party Room**  
**Scrabble auf deutsch (German Scrabble).** Host: Al Brothers

*Al Brothers*  
SKALE Coordinator

The deadline for advertisements in

## SKYLines

The authorized monthly newsletter published by and for Skyline Plaza residents

is the 15th of the month.

**No Jogging or Riding Bikes in the Garage!**

**SKYLINE PLAZA  
PROFESSIONAL SUITES**

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Hair Salon

**B2-SOUTH**

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Insurance Agency  
Day Spa

**NOTICE:** The Post Office on the B2-South level has closed and has been replaced by a new law office. A new Barber Shop/Hair Salon will be opening soon on the B1-North level.



**SPEED  
LIMIT**

# 5

**M.P.H.**

**Slow Down  
in the  
Garage!**

**Turn on your  
Headlights!**

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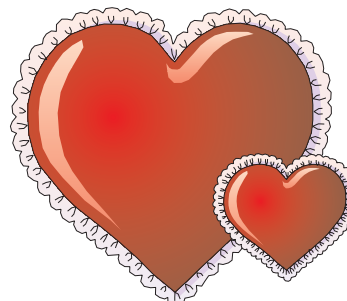


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