2020 Election For Board of Directors

The 2020 Skyline Plaza Board of Directors starts with YOU!

The annual search for Skyline Plaza owners to help govern our community begins SOON with YOU!

Get informed! Get inspired!
Get involved! Nominate! Accept! Vote!

(Words in *italics* are a compilation of comments addressed to your Skyline Plaza Election Committee.)

Voting Options

Voting for the Skyline Plaza Board of Directors is a right of ownership. It’s my option. Sometimes I do and sometimes I don’t. It doesn’t really matter. Right?

**YES and NO!** It is true: voting is the right of each and every co-owner here at Skyline Plaza Condominium. But it is more than that. It is a RESPONSIBILITY, a DUTY. Don’t think of it as optional, do it. It matters. Each vote counts. Each voter should be heard. So, “stand up and be counted.”

Sending a Message

I don’t like the Board’s decisions, so why should I support them? If I don’t vote, they’ll get the message.

If you don’t vote the only message you send is that you are not willing to do your duty, to fulfill the promise you made when you agreed to be governed by our covenants and by-laws. Your failure to vote does not deny the Board your endorsement; it denies your community the ideal to self-govern. If you don’t agree with the current Board’s results, run yourself and represent like-minded co-owners. You may not always achieve your objectives on the Board, but you will have an opportunity to be heard and with diligence and persuasion, change things. Please, get this message —

Get informed! Get inspired!
Get involved! VOTE!
YOU can be the start of something great!
What You Can Do Right Now To Prepare for the June Board of Directors Election

Regardless of whether or not you nominate a candidate, there are some important things you can do ahead of elections to ensure things run smoothly for you.

- Check to make sure the address you have on file in the KPA management office is up-to-date. This is the address to which your materials will be sent and the one candidates may use to mail materials to you. Last year we had many election materials returned because addresses were out of date. Please note that simply informing Skyline Plaza management office does not ensure that KPA’s records will be updated. This is your responsibility.

- If you need to have a power of attorney for this election, take care of that now, and be sure a copy is in your file in our management office.

By attending to these matters early in the year, you can focus on nominating and considering the candidates to be ready to vote the second Wednesday in June. If you think there is any chance you may wish to vote early by using the ballots mailed to you in early May, **PLEASE, KEEP THAT LARGE WHITE ENVELOPE** (mailed to you in early May). and its contents. It holds very important papers, including your ballot and proxy. Do not throw it out. Put it where you can find it when you have decided for whom you want to vote. **THANK YOU!**

New Department Phone Numbers

Front Desk: 703-379-2010

Maintenance / Cynthia: 703-778-4355

Mgmt Office / Steven & Touria: 703-379-4843
2020 Board Elections - Call for Nominations

Nominations Open from Monday, March 2 through Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Yes, it’s that time of the year again. This year we will have four (4) vacancies to fill—three (3) seats of current Board members whose terms are expiring and one (1) to fill the unexpired term of a member who resigned.

- Do you know someone who would be a good Board Member? **Nominate him or her!**
- Interested in a Board position for yourself? **Nominate yourself!**

Nomination forms will be at the Front Desk during the nomination period, March 2-11. Just ask for a nomination form from the Front Desk staff. Complete the form and have it placed in the Election Committee box behind the Front Desk.

**A short form is included in this edition of SKYLines. Cut it out, fill it out and direct the front desk staff to place it in the Election Committee Box behind them.** If using the SKYLines version, please add your contact information (in case we need to clarify your writing).

You can always leave a note for the Election Committee requesting information on any election procedure, and we will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also contact the Election Committee at skylineplazaelection@gmail.com; be sure to leave your contact information for us.

**Nominees** should have the **ability, experience, and willingness to devote the time to represent you.** Each nominee must be a Skyline Plaza unit owner (name on deed) in good standing (no outstanding condo fees or other debts due to the Council of Co-Owners). The Board will make important decisions that affect our safety, comfort, condo fees, investment in our homes, and the appearance of our buildings and grounds. Nominate yourself or another owner.

A brochure with full details will be available at the front desk. Fill out the back page and have it put in the Election Committee Box behind the front desk.

Can’t wait? Fill out the boxed paragraph at the end of this article, cut it out and turn it in at the Election Committee Box at the front desk along with your contact information. Please clearly print information.

Employee Holiday Fund

**Thank You Donors!**

My heartfelt appreciation goes out to those of you who so generously donated to the Skyline Plaza Employees’ Christmas Fund this year. The owners and occupants of Skyline Plaza gave in excess of $14,000 to provide a monetary “Thank You” to the individuals who work so hard for our benefit. The total collections were prorated by years of service and presented to the hourly employees at the annual luncheon on December 13 and over the following days to the Front Desk and Security hourly staff.

Your expression of appreciation for their fine work during the past year helped to make this season extra special.

A big thank you goes to Touria Baskali for her invaluable help with the fundraising effort this year. Thank you also goes to Elizabeth Rudolph and Juan Cooper for organizing the food and entertainment for the holiday party.

*Patricia Buckley*
*Fund Manager*
As we begin the new year, we want to take this opportunity to remind all owners of a few things. Please take the time to check off the following items for your condominium unit.

**Balconies:** Please remember to not clutter your balcony. This can be an eyesore for your surrounding neighbors. Only normal patio furniture is to be kept on your balcony. No signs, decorations, or lights are to hang on the outside of the balcony rails.

**Pigeons:** We have found a substance that works to keep the pigeons from landing on your balcony and rails. You may make a work order for this in Building Link. It is a sticky substance that the pigeons do not like, and it keeps them from coming back. It is not harmful to the pigeons, just annoys them because it is sticky to their feet. The cost for this is $40. It may take more than one application.

**Windows:** Please make sure all exterior window blinds and curtains are hung in a neat manner and be of a solid neutral or light color when viewed from the outside. No other color should be exposed to the exterior. No posters, newspapers, aluminum foil, films, pictures, or signs are allowed in the windows. Please comply with this ASAP.

**Assessments:** Please make sure you are paying the new assessment amount for 2020 to KPA each month.

**Keys:** Make sure you have your unit key on file with management for emergencies.

**Trash:** Please make sure you are not leaving any trash outside the trash rooms. Please break down all boxes before dumping them. No construction pieces or furniture should go down the trash chutes. Please take the items to the loading dock trash dumpster. Do not leave anything in the hallways.

**Building Link:** Is your BL account up to date? Are all residents listed? If you need extra assistance during emergencies, please make sure you are on the list in the management office.

**Storage:** Please do not store anything outside of your cage. Any items left outside the cages will be disposed of.

**Garage:** Please do not store any items in your parking space. No strollers, boxes, liquids, or carts are allowed.

**Unit Doors:** Please make sure your door is in compliance with the Bylaws. All door hardware must be an antique bronze finish and be in conformity with the other hardware in the community. Samples of these are in the management office.

**Airbnb or short-term rentals:** These are not allowed. The Bylaws state that no unit shall be rented for transient or hotel purposes or, in any event, for any period less than six months. No portion of any unit shall be leased for any period.

**Updates:**

**Swimming Pool:** For a quick recap, the pool construction was halted due to the contractor not following the contract. Wrong material was going to be used and this had to be corrected. The past months have been spent with the engineers and contractors going back and forth verifying their materials and quantities. It is hoped that construction will begin again February 3. If this is the case, it is projected to be complete by the end of April.

**Electrical Main Switch Gear:** This equipment still needs to be replaced. Dominion has noted we need two consecutive nights of 39 degrees or above, in order to shut off power. This time of year, we may have this scenario, but doing it on forecasts does not give much notice to residents. With this said, we are looking to do this in April.

The flu season is in full force and is expected to be a bad one. Be sure to protect yourself and your family. Don’t forget to get your flu shot! Here are a few places where you can get a flu shot nearby...

**Rite Aid** — 6053 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA

**Giant Pharmacy** — 3480 S Jefferson Street, Falls Church, VA

**Target – Falls Church** — 5115 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA
2020 Presidential Primary - Are You Ready To Vote?

At Skyline Plaza, we are lucky to vote right here in the lobby. Here is some information you need to be able to cast your vote in the upcoming Democratic primary. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3.

In-Person Absentee Voting

Fairfax County voters can vote absentee at Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Rooms 2/3. Other satellite absentee voting locations will be open for absentee voting starting on Saturday, Feb. 22.

Below are the absentee voting locations. Click on each for voting hours.

An acceptable form of photo identification is required for in-person voting, including absentee. Residents can obtain a free voter photo ID at the Fairfax County Office of Elections during normal business hours or upcoming photo ID events.

Absentee Voting By Mail

If you’re requesting an absentee ballot by mail, the deadline to apply online, by mail, by fax, or by email is by 5 p.m. seven days before Election Day. The quickest way to submit an application is online at vote.elections.virginia.gov.

You also can print and complete the absentee ballot application online or pick up an application at county governmental centers or Fairfax County library branches. Return the completed application by email to absenteeballot@fairfaxcounty.gov, mail to the Office of Elections at Box 10161, Fairfax, VA 22038, or fax to the Office of Elections at 703-324-3725.

Voters will be sent their absentee ballots within three business days of the application being accepted. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. on Election Day, March 3.

Voter Registration, Candidates and Election Day Voting

The voter registration deadline is 5 p.m. in person or by mail and 11:59 p.m. online on Feb. 10. Check your registration status or register at vote.elections.virginia.gov. You can also register to vote at the Fairfax County Office of Elections during regular business hours.

In Virginia, voters are not registered by party, so any registered voter can vote in the Democratic presidential primary.

An acceptable form of photo identification is required to cast a ballot on Election Day. If you don’t have an acceptable photo ID at your polling place, you can cast a provisional ballot and be given further instructions to ensure your vote counts.

You can register to vote online at: https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation

Announcements from Board President Ibrahim Hussein

I hope everyone had safe and joyful Holidays and wish all of you a happy and peaceful 2020.

The November Board Meeting was canceled due to a lack of quorum.

Board Vacancy

Some of you may already know that Secretary Romano regretfully resigned her position as a Board Member due to competing commitments. Director Romano believes immensely in giving back to the community and she has been incredibly generous doing so. Her contributions have been greatly appreciated. We are grateful for her volunteerism. On behalf of the Board, please join me in wishing Carol success with her endeavors. It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve with Carol and an honor to call her a friend.

Pool Completion Date

We have positive updates regarding the Pool project. We have received from the contractor a revised proposal and a schedule that are fair and reasonable. The Contractor agreed to complete the project using the original material with an additional cost contributed only as a result of new county regulations. The proposed completion date is April 30, 2020. The Board will discuss and vote appropriately.

Surplus

More good news is that the unaudited end of year financial report shows that we have a substantial amount of surplus for 2019.
Recipe from Skyline Plaza Potluck

Tuna Ball (Pate) Submitted by Diane Perry

Ingredients

- 8 oz cream cheese (softened)
- 2 tbsp chili sauce
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley (I use dried)
- 1 tsp minced onion (I use dried)
- 14 oz tuna in water
- Chopped pecans
- Tabasco sauce (recipe calls for this, but I don't use it because I don't like spicy food.)

Directions

- Blend softened cream cheese with chili sauce, parsley, and onion.
- Add tuna and mix well.
- Refrigerate until malleable and roll into a ball.
- Roll in chopped pecans.
- Refrigerate at least overnight and add more pecans if needed.

This is a very large recipe, meant for a large crowd. For our Pot Luck, I halved the recipe, but used a little more chili sauce for taste.

If you have a recipe to share, please send it to newsletter@skylineplaza.org.
Apply to Join the Board

Are you interested in serving your community? Do you want to have a voice in the decisions made by the Board? Since Carol Romano has resigned due to work commitments, the Board is looking for applicants to fill this position until the next Election and Annual Meeting in June 2020. It is your chance to take part in governing our community and it only takes a few hours to attend the Board meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

The replacement must be an owner of a unit at Skyline Plaza in good standing (no delinquencies over 30 days).

If you are interested, please submit your Letter of Intent no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, February 17, 2020.

The letter must include:

- Your full name
- Unit number

The letter may include:

- Any relevant background information or experience you wish to provide
- Why you would like to join the Skyline Plaza Board of Directors

Letters of Intent can be emailed to: gm@skylineplaza.org or dropped off to the Management Office.

Please contact the General Manager directly at gm@skylineplaza.org or 703-379-4843 if you have questions.

Join a Committee

Skyline Plaza is your community! As part of keeping it a great place to live, we need your involvement. We are lucky to have great volunteers who work on committees but we need more help.

These committees do everything including reviewing and proposing policies, ensuring our physical plant stays up-to-date, monitoring our finances, keeping the community informed, assuring we all stay safe in our homes, providing recreational activities, orienting new residents, overseeing our election process and reviewing rule infractions. Committees generally meet one night a month so the time commitment is not big. You will make new friends and learn more about your community. Check the bulletin boards and BuildingLink for meeting dates and attend to learn more.

Committees that make a difference

- Policies and Procedures
- Architectural Control & Physical Appearance
- Finance
- Communications
- Recreation
- Safety
- Welcoming
- Election
- Covenants *Meetings not open to public
Fairfax County provides real estate tax relief to citizens who are either 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled, and meet the income and asset eligibility requirements. Qualified taxpayers may also be eligible for tax relief for renters.

Returning applicants must file between January 1 and April 1. Some exceptions may be available if applications are filed late due to a hardship which prevented the application from being filed on time. Detailed requests for hardship waivers must be submitted in writing to the Department of Tax Administration.

For an application, call 703-222-8234; Español 703-324-3855, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday, request by e-mail, or download the tax relief application from this website. Those with hearing impairments may call TTY 711.

### Qualifications for Real Estate Tax Relief

At least 65 years of age, or permanently and totally disabled. Applicants who turn 65 or become permanently and totally disabled during the year of application may also qualify for tax relief on a prorated basis. If the dwelling is jointly owned by an applicant and spouse, either the applicant or the spouse must be at least 65 years of age or older, or permanently and totally disabled.

The total combined income may not exceed $72,000. The following income limitations and percentage of relief apply:

- Gross income $52,000 or less, 100% relief.
- Gross income $52,001 to $62,000, 50% relief.
- Gross income $62,001 to $72,000, 25% relief.

For each relative (other than spouse) residing in the dwelling, the first $6,500 of income may be excluded. There is no deduction for a relative who has no income. Applicants who are permanently and totally disabled may exclude the first $7,500 of income.

### Tax Relief Workshops Nearby

**Mason District**

March 19 and 20, 9 am to 12 pm

No appointment necessary

Mason District Government Center
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

**Lee District**

March 5 and 10, 10 am to 1 pm

No appointment necessary

Franconia Governmental Center
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria

For more information and other Tax Relief Workshop locations, see the Fairfax County website at: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief/tax-relief-seniors-people-with-disabilities

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**COURTNEY WATKINS**

**TAX ASSOCIATE**

Broaddale Shopping Center
356 W Broad St
Falls Church, VA 22046
Office: 703.241.9854
Fax: 703.241.0638
courtney.watkins@tax.hrblock.com
Disposal of Recyclables, Trash, and Discarded Items

Trash of any kind does not belong in corridors, on the floor of the trash chute rooms or any other place except the proper disposal areas. Leaving unwanted items or other trash in common areas only serves to diminish other residents’ enjoyment of their home and to lessen the value of our building. It may also lead to the invasion of mice and other pests.

- Deposit rinsed recyclables in appropriate bins in the B-2 loading dock or in the garage.
- Place newspapers, magazines, and telephone books in designated bins in the B-2 loading dock or in the garage.
- Place tied garbage bags and trash in the trash chutes, NOT on the floor of the trash rooms or in the corridors.
- Do not place toxic wastes such as automobile fluids, paint, and paint thinner in the chutes.
- Adults must ensure that garbage and trash are disposed of in a proper manner, e.g., if children take out the trash, they must be tall enough to open the trash chute door and toss the bag into the chute.
- Take boxes, crates, and other items too large for the trash chute to the B-2 freight elevator lobby near the loading dock.
- Do not discard appliances, furniture, construction debris, or similar items in the common areas. The resident is responsible for disposing of these products. If the delivery person cannot dispose of these items, call the management office for assistance.

The staff works hard to keep the public areas neat and tidy. They are constantly picking up bits of debris and paper litter and have to remove discarded furniture and construction items from hallways. A gentle reminder to residents: PLEASE HELP US KEEP THE BUILDING TIDY.

House Rule of the Month

Occupancy Limitations

The bylaws limit the maximum number of people permitted to live in a unit as follows:

- 3-bedroom unit 4 persons
- 2-bedroom-and-den unit 4 persons
- 2-bedroom unit 3 persons
- 1-bedroom-and-den unit 3 persons
- 1-bedroom unit 2 persons
- Efficiency unit 2 persons

Anyone who resides, lodges, or stays at Skyline Plaza Condominium for more than 60 days in any 365-day period is considered to be a resident. If the presence of such person causes a unit to be over-occupied, the person may be considered as a “guest” only if approved, in writing, by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis.

Board Meeting Minutes

There was no meeting in December. The next meeting minutes will be published after the January meeting.

Board Meeting Schedule

Following is the schedule of Board meetings for the upcoming year. Meetings are normally scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of the month.

February 26, 2020
April 22, 2020
June 10, 2020 **
March 25, 2020
May 27, 2020
June 17, 2020 ***

*(Personnel Budget Approval)
** (Annual Meeting)
*** (Organizational Meeting)

Schedule is subject to change. Additional information will be provided on the bulletin boards.
Skyline Plaza Activities

Skyline has become a very active community lately. Hopefully, you have participated in some or will be planning to attend the upcoming events. These activities all help to make our community a home as we get to know our neighbors better. The first event of 2020 was the well-attended potluck supper. Residents enjoyed a tasty experience in the North Party Room as we got to taste dishes from around the world prepared by our neighbors. We also got to chat with old friends and meet many new friends. If you missed this fun event, check the bulletin boards for other upcoming chances to mingle with your neighbors.
Thirty-six years ago, Alfred “Al” Brothers came to the DC area to work for the government. Thirty-two years ago, he bought his apartment in Skyline Plaza at the end of the North Building overlooking DC and the monuments. He still loves the view. He worked in computers just as desktop publishing began. It was part of his job and also a hobby. The result was an easier to produce (literally no more cutting and pasting on a light table) and a more readable format for all kinds of publications, including newsletters.

At the time, Skyline Plaza’s newsletter was cut and pasted the old-fashioned way. Al happened to show the right person how it could look a whole lot better. And that began the Al Brothers era as publisher and eventually chair of the Communications Committee, the “production center” of SKYLines, the authorized monthly newsletter.

The late George Staten, a former editor of SKYLines, was one of the people who saw Al’s sample publication, which also happened to be in German. Staten’s wife was German and a group of residents started gathering together around their interest in foreign languages. Later Al led language classes and played Scrabble in German. He says he’s been interested in languages and linguistics all of his life. Al’s great-grandparents spoke German around the house in Boston all of the time. He took Latin, but says at first he didn’t do that well. Still, he stuck with it and soon languages clicked for him. “My mind sees languages differently,” he says. “They just make sense to me.”

Back in the day – the mid 90s – Skyline Plaza had a Community Relations Committee, headed by George Ferguson. Communications and community relations worked together on a number of projects, one of which was called SKyline Academy of Learning Enjoyment (SKALE).

The academy offered a “series of talks and discussions on a wide range of subjects of interest to residents” and was quite the thing. Over a period of nine months, 1,300 residents attended 44 events. Some events were travelogues by residents; some were social extensions of English as Second Language (ESL) classes. Children and adults danced a conga line in costume, of course, and enjoyed a fabulous buffet. And a German conversation class led by Al discussed a Washington sex scandal using the appropriate German words. At a Valentine’s party, Al taught his largest class ever to say “I love you” in 14 different languages.

From 1999 to 2004, Al hosted more than 50 foreign-language, subtitled films for Skyline residents as the SKALE program.

For years now, Al’s been saying he wanted to quit the newsletter. To retire. Well, he’s finally done it to the dismay of the members of his committee and his many friends in Skyline Plaza. No more designing nameplates and picking attractive, readable typefaces. No more writing columns on the history of Skyline Plaza, called Echoes of Skyline, or articles on computers. He’ll continue to teach French at NOVA’s Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI) and has been asked to add a German class, as well. By the way, he’s not a morning person.

Barbara K Kincaid

Note: Carol Romano, former board member, was elected chair of the Communications Committee on January 13.

Windshield Wipers and Head Lights

You have heard “wipers on … lights on”. Do you know why that is true? The Code of Virginia section 46.2-1030 requires you to turn on your headlights if you are using your windshield wipers. That same law requires you to turn on your head lights when there is low visibility. Even if you can see well, you are required to turn on your lights so other drivers can see you.

Excerpt from the Code

Every vehicle in operation on a highway in the Commonwealth shall display lighted headlights and illuminating devices as required by this article (i) from sunset to sunrise; (ii) during any other time when, because of rain, smoke, fog, snow, sleet, insufficient light, or other unfavorable atmospheric conditions, visibility is reduced to a degree whereby persons or vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet; and (iii) whenever windshield wipers are in use as a result of fog, rain, sleet, or snow. The provisions of this subsection, however, shall not apply to instances when windshield wipers are used intermittently in misting rain, sleet, or snow.

Submitted by Rhonda Weiner
www.YourSkylineConnection.com
I am a true Skyline expert versed in all available floor plans!!....

Skyline’s Highest Rated and most qualified Broker!!!....

At "Skyline Connection", affiliated w/ RE/MAX Allegiance, I am a Realtor Broker. “My listings and clients get the priority service that they deserve!” PLUS I sell my listings FASTER than my competitors! Contact me T-O-D-A-Y and let me share how I can execute for YOU!“

ELENA (703-625-7888) Top 3% among all REMAX Agents - Please, visit my website: www.YourSkylineConnection.com to read over my 288+ success stories from your Neighbors.

I have used the services of TSG for many of my Settlement needs!

Crystal Jalali—The Settlement Group.
Office: (703)584-0450 Cell: (571)233-3996
E-mail Crystal@settlementgroup.com