

## *March 2009 Newsletter*

### **Charles Houston Recreation Center**

The Charles Houston Recreation Center, dedicated on February 21, is a welcome addition to our neighborhood. The \$15.3 million state-of-the-art facility at 901 Wythe Street provides a wide variety of classes and amenities such as a gymnasium/basketball court, dance/yoga studio, fitness room, boxing room, game room, computer lab, commercial kitchen, outdoor swimming pool, seniors' room, preschool activity room, arts and crafts room, several multi-purpose rooms and a meeting room.

Sheila Whiting, Director of the Charles Houston Recreation Center, formerly served as Deputy Director of the Mount Vernon Avenue Recreation Center, where she met several of our residents. Ms. Whiting looks forward to seeing these old friends at her conveniently located new venue and has asked for our suggestions and feedback.

The Charles Houston Recreation Center's hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. For additional information, please call 703-838-4814.

### **Letter of Appreciation from Chief of Police**

The Association has received a letter of appreciation, dated February 3, 2009, from Alexandria Chief of Police David P. Baker. The Chief's letter is reported here for the information of all owners and residents:

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your generous support of the members of the Alexandria Police Department during the Presidential Inauguration on January 20, 2009. Your extremely gracious donation of the meeting room with food and snacks provided some of our officers living outside the Beltway a very attractive opportunity and location to rest before returning for their next shift. Captain Eddie Reyes, one of my patrol sector commanders, visited this site and highly commended the benefits you provided.

We value the cooperation we enjoy with the residents we serve and the Community organizations we have partnered with. We were very honored with the hospitality you provided during the extended hours our officers worked on Inauguration Day.

Sergeant John Gregg, the liaison between Colecroft Station Condominiums and the Police Department, gives me nothing but positive feedback about the relationship between your association and the Department. If I can ever be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me."

## **Super Bowl Party**

The Association would like to thank Carlo Pascarella and Steve Jarreau for co-hosting a splendid Super Bowl Party attended by many residents on February 1. Carlo provided the impetus and the free food and Steve rented the Meeting Room, organized a television set and served as master of ceremonies for the event. Carlo's pasta offerings, meatballs, sausages and salads were delicious. Steve was a gracious and welcoming host throughout a most exciting evening.

The Super Bowl was exceptional this year and great to enjoy as a community. The Pittsburgh Steelers dominated the game in the first quarter and partway into the second, posting an impressive lead of 10-0. The Arizona Cardinals rallied magnificently, though the half-time score of 17-7 does not reflect their defensive command of the field. The Cardinals steadily pressured the Steelers in the third quarter. The score of 20-14 at third-quarter conclusion presaged Arizona's eventual lead of 23-20 in mid-fourth-quarter. Whereupon the Steelers regained their early initiative and won the Super Bowl in the last 35 seconds of the game, 27-23.

Again, our thanks go to Carlo and Steve for their community-spirited generosity and hard work!

## **Staff Update**

Our longtime housekeeper, Nely Medina Lopez, has retired to El Salvador with her husband to be close to their grown children and new grandchild. At her farewell luncheon, Nely expressed appreciation for the friendliness and kindness shown to her over the years by our residents. Nely's housekeeping duties have been assumed by her brother, our groundskeeper Oscar Medina, who is very familiar with the work as he has served as Nely's back-up for some years.

## **Miscellaneous Housekeeping**

- Moves or deliveries of large items such as furniture, appliances, countertops, carpeting and other flooring should be scheduled with the Site Office (tel: 703-684-9064 or email: [colcroftstation@verizon.net](mailto:colcroftstation@verizon.net)) at least two business days prior to the planned move or delivery. Such moves may be scheduled to take place between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday, or between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the first or last Saturday of the month. The Site Office will thereupon schedule elevator padding and lock-down. (Over and above the \$200 refundable security deposit and \$100 non-refundable move-in fee charged on weekdays, there is an additional charge of \$100 to defray the cost of up to four hours of staff presence on-site for Saturday moves.) Other deliveries may be made between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday through Saturday. Absolutely no moves or deliveries are allowed on Sundays or legal holidays. Residents are responsible for removing related debris from Common Element spaces and for vacuuming elevator floors and lobby carpeting at the conclusion of their move or delivery.
- Projects such as bathroom or kitchen remodeling and flooring installations are permitted Monday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. only. Please clean and vacuum lobby carpeting and respect your neighbors' entitlement to tidiness, peace and quiet in the evening and on Sunday.
- Use or storage of barbecue grills or other outdoor cooking equipment on balconies and patios is prohibited for fire safety reasons. The Association has placed barbecue grills for residents' use in the grassy area behind the Plaza Pavilion.