

Malibu East Dialogue

September 2000

Your Communication and Information Resource

MECA elections September 26

Annual meeting

The Annual Meeting of voting members of Malibu East Condominium is scheduled for Sep. 26 at 7:30 pm in the Windjammer Room. Eight unit owners will be elected to serve as members of the Board of Directors. The six nominees receiving the highest total of votes will be elected as directors for a term of two years, and the next two nominees receiving the highest total of votes will be elected as directors for one year.

Meet the Candidates Night

Sep. 6 — 7:30 pm
Windjammer Room

These seven directors' terms are expiring:

Larry Creter	Marcel Molins
Ila Chaiken	Judy Walker
Allan Eckhardt	Scott Young
Stuart Meshboun	

The eighth board opening is due to the resignation of Bill Davis, who left MECA.

The following directors have one year remaining on their terms:

Jared Cloud	Richard Strauss
Martina Molins	Thomas Vaughan

These are the candidates for director:

Larry Creter	Marcel Molins
Ila Chaiken	Judy Walker
Allan Eckhardt	Scott Young
Stuart Meshboun	Sandy Chaet

Annual meeting
Sep. 26 — 7:30 pm
Windjammer Room

Street improvements

Recently, single lanes of Sheridan Road were closed in the 6100 North block of Sheridan Road from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm for curb and gutter work under the federal Model Blocks program. The sidewalks on the west side of the street were replaced first, and pedestrians were asked to walk on the east side of the street.

The street improvement program is for the 6100 N. Sheridan block only. It includes gutters, curbs, sidewalks, driveways and parkways. The 6151 N. Sheridan parkway will be sodded by the city and maintained by the El Lago C.A. staff. The parkway between Tiara and 6121 will be paved by the city. Parkways are the property of the City of Chicago and are not to be used for parking. A paved parkway is not additional parking for a building.

We have requested a quick traffic study on the possibility of removing the two driveways in front of Vencorp Hospital and replacing them with a loading zone for cabs on the parkway. The circular drive has been used illegally for parking and U-turns and is a public safety hazard.

ard. When Vencorp blocked the way with flower pots, drivers started abusing the sidewalk. Elimination of the circular drive should solve this problem. In conjunction with this plan, the hospital will also add landscaping along and inside its parking lot.

The same procedures will be done on the east side of Sheridan. Driveways will only be repaved if city permits are on file and permit fees have been paid.

The Glenlake project has been separated from the Sheridan project because different sources of funding are being used. Glenlake will be repaired with city funds later in the summer.

All these projects are being done with the assistance of the 48th Ward Service Office, Mary Ann Smith, Alderman. The staff person for the project is Ernie Constantino, who can be reached at 784-5277.

Information from ASCO, the Association of Sheridan Road Condo/Co-op Owners

Kenneth Rice

Kenneth A. Rice, 39, beloved husband of Linda; loving stepfather of Jim; loving son of Chester and Barbara; loving brother of Laura, Richard and the late William; fond uncle to many nieces and nephews, and friend to many. Visitation was July 31st at Drake & Son Funeral Home, 5303 N. Western Ave., Chicago. Private interment was Aug. 1.

From the Chicago Tribune death notices

Editors note:

"Kenny" was employed by Malibu East for many years and was known for his warm and pleasing disposition as well as his love for the game of golf.

Our condolences to the family and friends of
Kenneth Rice,
Former
MECA
Employee

MECA board meeting notes

by Elaine Winans



MECA board meeting Tuesday, Aug. 22

Attendance:

9 board members, 2 management representatives and 9 residents

Absent: Judy Walker, Scott Young

OPEN FORUM 1

Resident comments and questions:

- 1) When is the board going to invest in redecorating the hallways?
The corridors need work and we will begin work on a decorating scheme and schedule.
- 2) The Dialogue has not received any letters from board candidates. Our owners need to know the candidate's position on issues.
The board members currently have a heavy workload.
- 3) Has the south side balcony/ exterior work not been done at all?
Yes, at both the east and west ends, but we still need to do several columns and three balconies (E, G and J tiers). We hope to do two columns this fall.
- 4) Will there be restrictions on balcony use?
Yes, the same as was on the east side, no use of balconies from 9 am to 5 pm during construction hours. We envision this work to be completed during the fall of this year and the spring of 2001.
- 5) Can we air-condition the elevators and hallways?
This issue has been examined repeatedly over the years and has been determined to be prohibitively expensive.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- 1) **Financial statement**
Balance on hand, cash and reserves — \$2,826,437.
Past-due accounts receivable from unit owners totaled \$14,222 as of Aug. 22.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Rules and Regulations**

The chairman and the Garage Committee chairman are working on a final revision. We still hope to have it ready for the annual owners meeting.

- 2) **Floor Representatives**

At the Aug. 21 meeting, 20 people signed up to be floor representatives. Wes Shriver has been selected as chairman and has sent letters of appreciation to those who volunteered. A training guide will be given out at the next meeting, which will be held in a couple of weeks.

Please keep in mind that the meeting notes are not the official record of the MECA Board of Directors meetings. The official minutes are generally approved at the following meeting and may be viewed or copied in the management office.

- 3) **Garage**

Our income is acceptable, but we

NOTICE

Traffic cones have been placed in the west driveway during peak traffic hours to direct traffic to the Glenlake exit.

need to address some personnel problems.

- 4) **Social**

Several of our residents enjoyed a "Friends of the River" boat trip Aug. 17.

- 5) **Commercial Property**

We have four tenants on a month-to-month basis. The Legal Committee is still working on a standard lease. In progress are studies concerning making the Captain's Walk handicapped accessible and other improvements.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Items requiring board action

- 1) **Ratification of action during executive session**

A contract to try to have the 1999 RE taxes reduced for the Commercial Unit was approved.

- 2) **2001 budget preparation meeting dates**

The Budget and Finance Committees will meet Sep. 5 and 12 at 7 pm in the Community Room. All board members are invited to observe but not vote at these meetings. This is a closed committee meeting. The owners will have the opportunity to comment on the 2001 budget when it will be discussed at the Oct. board meeting.

- 3) **Pool closing date**

The official closing date is Labor Day, Monday, Sep. 4 (see management report, page 6).

- 4) **Purchase of unit 15F**

The Association now owns unit 15F.

- 5) **Unit keys in office**

There have been a few instances where unit owners who have been locked out of their units could not access duplicate keys that were stored in a locked box in the management office. Having duplicate keys in the office has never been intended to substitute for the residents' responsibility of providing a neighbor with an emergency set of keys. Although some residents would like to have evening and weekend access to the keys in the office, it has been determined that the liability incurred would be onerous. No one on the board has a key to the office. Additionally, the keys are coded and are kept in a locked box in a separately locked room at the rear of the management office. Condominiums that provide key service 24 hours a day have security personnel on duty 24 hours a day, which we don't have. There is also a misunderstanding that our

head janitor has access to the keys. He does not, only the association manager has a key. Several owners stated that in a "real" emergency, the police, after confirming residency, will break open the door. The doorman's station has the telephone numbers of local locksmiths.

Items not requiring board action

1) **Exterior & balcony repairs**

We are almost done with sandblasting on the A tier and when done, east side residents will be able to leave their air conditioners on. We are just beginning the breakout process on the B tier. We are confident that the east side will be done this year. We also plan to keep the pool open next year as much as we have this year.

2) **Unit sales**

15D \$179,000

3) **Garage report**

Claims

Approved:	0
Denied:	1
Total:	1

Waiting lists

Single self-park:	65
Tandem self-park:	11
Second car:	13

Monthly parkers

Valet:	320
Tandem:	80
Single:	139
Preferred:	4
Engineer:	NC
Motorcycle:	4
Total:	547

New monthlies:	4
Cancellations:	5

4) **Atrium parking update**

We've implemented the cone barrier at the west entrance during morning high-traffic hours. We have not had any complaints, and no one had ridden over them.

The meeting ended at 9:15 pm and went into executive session.

Letter to the editor

From Barbara Wine

I absentmindedly locked myself out of my unit Saturday and I paid the price, literally and figuratively.

I assumed the staff would go into the office and get my spare key. I knew Saturday was not a great day to get into the office, but I never thought it would be impossible on "off-hour" or weekends. My understanding is one key for the office is kept by our head janitor, Lou Colletti, and as it stands now, it's available weekdays from 9 to 5 p.m. Lou does not give the key out to anyone else when it's off hours or weekends. We have a security officer, but he doesn't have "the" key, nor do our doormen or even our security officer!

My alternatives were to sit in the lobby until Lou arrived home at 8:30, move in with a neighbor or call a locksmith. Locksmiths are very difficult to get on weekends and they are super busy and charge more. When I finally got one, he could not pick my lock and had to drill it open, and I had to pay more, buy a new cylinder and keys. I estimate my bills will total \$139.

This didn't have to happen. My key was in my own building, but because of shortsighted and non-caring procedures and the breaking of the pledge to provide tenants with safety and security, I paid the price. So can you.

Malibu East is home to hundreds of people where things do happen, and not always on Monday through Friday, from 9 to 5! Not only do people lock themselves out, but also access could be medically vital, or some poor mother has locked herself out while taking out the trash and her children are left alone, or some poor soul leaves the water running!

This policy needs to be addressed and improved immediately. I shall go to the next board meeting and work ardently to make those changes for me, and for you. I hope you will either join me or drop a note to a board member and/or to Sudler Management Company, 875 N. Michigan Ave. attn: Dean, requesting that a more comprehensive policy be put into effect.

Thank you,
Barbara Wine

Board response on page 6.

We need old Dialogues

We are trying to establish a library of past copies of the Dialogue. If you have any copies from 1989 or prior, please leave them at the management office or the lobby desk for the Dialogue editor. If you would like your copies back, we will make Xerox copies and return them to you.



Reverse mortgages

The Dialogue requests that a qualified person write a 500 or more word article on "reverse mortgages." The editor can supply some information and leads.



Community Calendar

by Rose Wandel



BERGER PARK CULTURAL CENTER

Live at 6205

Friday music concerts

In the park, weather permitting, bring a lawn chair. In the mansion if it rains.

Sep. 7 & 29, 7 pm

Fall programs

Preschool, Arts & Crafts, Ballet, Theater, Jewelry, Pottery, Writing, Jazz, Aerobics, Bridge, 6205 N. Sheridan Rd. 312-742-7871

Treekeepers course

Sponsored by Openlands. Appreciation and care for trees in city. Includes tree identification, soils, basic tree physiology, insects and diseases.

\$65 — scholarships available.

Sep. 9 through Oct. 21

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

312-427-4256, ext. 232 to register

Ballet lessons

Russian style for children 4 to 15 years old. Classes start Mon., Sep. 11, 4-6 pm.

\$49 for eight-week session.

Registration Sep. 9, 2-4 pm at

Berger Park.

Call Miss Vera at 773-275-9807 for information.

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Home tour

Sep. 17, noon to 5 pm

Tour of five historic homes. Begins

at St. Gertrude Church, 6200 N. Glenwood.

\$12 at door, \$10 advance registration send to Marion Lettner, 5733 Magnolia, 60660 5358 N. Ashland Ave. 773-907-1872

EDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

CAPS 24th Dist. Beat #33SD

Come meet our beat police.

Wednesday, Sep. 6, 7 p.m.

(1st Wed. of every month)

1210 W. Elmdale

312-744-0718

FARMER'S MARKETS

Fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers

Edgewater

Saturdays, 7 am to 2 pm

Broadway Armory parking lot

Broadway & Thorndale

Loyola/Rogers Park

Sundays, 7 am – 2 pm

Sep. 20, 24; Oct. 8, 22

6450 N. Sheridan Rd.

NORTH LAKESIDE

CULTURAL CENTER

Exhibit opening

Inner Visions of an Artist

Jazz by Willie Carter

Sep. 1, 7-9 pm

Exhibit through Oct.

Jazz Friday

Outdoor concert

Sep. 15, 7 pm

Flutist

Lloyd-Ford

\$5, \$3 – seniors/members

Sep. 17, 3 pm

“Arsenic and Old Lace”

Opens Sep. 22, 8 pm

Performances Fridays, Saturdays,

Sundays through Oct. 29, no show

Sep. 24.

\$12 adults, \$10 students/seniors

6219 N. Sheridan Rd.

773-743-4477

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM CENTER

Carl Milles art exhibit

Protégé of Rodin, 45 pieces of important small-scale sculpture works.

Tue./Fri. – 10 am – 4 pm

Sat./Sun. – 10 am – 3 pm

5211 N. Clark St.

773-728-8111

Ongoing THEATER/SHOWINGS CENTER THEATRE

“Polling Place”

A comedy revealing vote fraud, election shenanigans and “dubiously” registered voters.

Through Sep. 10 – \$18

Fri./Sat. 8 pm, Sun. 3 & 7 pm

847-475-1207 for information

1346 W. Devon

773-508-5422 for theater

EVENTS—OFFERINGS—NOTICES

Spirit of International Friendship festival

Sep. 16, 2-8 pm

Sep. 17 11 am-8 pm

Warren Park

6601 N. Western Ave.

773-743-6022

Misericordia Family Festival

Music, entertainment, flea market, food, games, raffles, auction, free parking.

Sunday, Sep. 10, 11-6 pm

Advance tickets, \$5 adults,

\$3 children/seniors.

At door, \$7 and \$4

6300 N. Ridge Ave.

773-272-2766, 973-6300

Free blood pressure screenings

Mon. through Fri.

9 am to 12 noon

Edgewater Medical Center

5700 N. Ashland Ave.

773-878-6000

Adult wellness programs

Senior programs, gentle tai chi, yoga, exercise, lunch.

Transportation within boundary

areas: Devon, Fullerton, Lake

Michigan, Western Ave.

9 am to 3 pm

White Crane Wellness Center

1355 W. Foster Ave.

773-271-9001

Cambodian tutors needed

Cambodian Assn. Of Ill. needs tutors for youth and literacy programs.

773-878-7090 Susan Prentice

MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Dialogue Committee meeting

Wednesday, Sep. 20
 7:30 pm — Community Room
**Thursday Afternoon
 Social meeting**
 Thursday, Sep. 21 (3rd Thu. of the month)
 2:00 pm — Community Room
**MECA board meeting and
 Annual owners meeting**
 Tuesday, Sep. 26
 7:30 pm — Windjammer Room

Leave event and meeting notices at the desk for the Dialogue.

Malibu East resident wins Webcam award

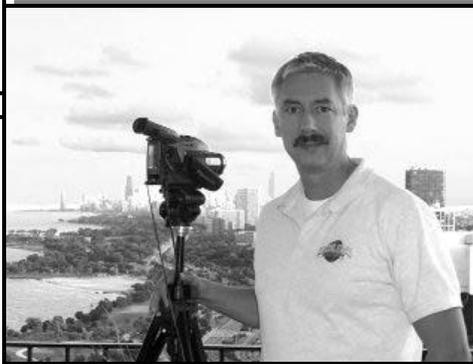
By Norm Cratty

Malibu East resident Mike Podpolucki's Webcam site, Chicago's Lakefront Live (www.mykpod.com/chicago.shtml), was recently awarded a Top Cam site by ali! Webcam's Top Cam organization. Chicago's Lakefront Live, also listed in a number of search engine and Web cam directories, features live video feeds of our lakefront taken from his south-facing, upper floor balcony. His site has been particularly interesting to former Chicagoans now living in other cities throughout the United States and Europe. Former Chicagoans are typically the ones who respond with words of encouragement.

In addition, the site has been mentioned on WGN Radio, has been featured on several other Chicago media outlets and is regularly a topic of discussion on www.KTEQ.org's Wednesday afternoon show with Roberta Hilliger, South Dakota.



This is a view from MECA resident Mike Podpolucki's (pictured below) balcony, a view he enjoys sharing with others. He tries to send live images from 7 to 9 am and 5 to 7 pm.



Below is a serene view of Chicago's lakefront in the summer. This picture was taken looking south from Podpolucki's balcony.



Below is the same view taken in the winter.



Always question the status quo

- ◆ Start with a cage containing five monkeys.
- ◆ Hang a banana in the cage and put a set of stairs under it.

Before long, a monkey will go to the stairs and start to climb toward the banana. As soon as he touches the stairs, spray all the monkeys with cold water.



After a while, another monkey makes an attempt with the same result — all the monkeys are sprayed with cold water. Pretty soon, when any monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will try to prevent it.

- ◆ Now turn off the cold water.
- ◆ Remove one monkey from the cage and replace it with a new one.

The new monkey sees the banana and wants to climb the stairs. To his horror, all of the other monkeys attack him. After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs, he will be assaulted.

- ◆ Next, remove another of the original five monkeys and replace it with a new one.

The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm.

- ◆ Again, replace a third original monkey with a new one.

The new one makes it to the stairs and is attacked as well. Two of the four monkeys that beat him have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs, or why they are participating in the beating of the newest monkey.

After replacing the fourth and fifth original monkeys, all the monkeys that have been sprayed with cold water have been replaced. Nevertheless, no monkey ever again approaches the stairs.

Why not?

Because that's the way it's always been around here.

Submitted by Scott Young



What's happening around the building

by Vito Senese
MECA Association Manager



As summer comes to a close and fall approaches, the building staff is putting the finishing touches to several projects. The balcony-railing project was a success, thanks to the cooperation of all the residents. Recently, your staff has completed painting loading dock, Community Room, and the commercial mall. The staff will also continue to maintain

our residents is our objective and we thank you for your cooperation and consideration during the project.

The pool will remain open officially through Labor Day, Monday, Sep. 4. We will not have any lifeguards after Labor Day and all residents using the pool after that date shall use extreme caution when using the pool and should

SPECIAL NOTICE

The pool will remain open officially through Labor Day, Monday, Sep. 4. We will not have any lifeguards after Labor Day, and all residents using the pool after that date shall use extreme caution when using the pool and should not swim alone. We will keep the pool open as long as weather and construction demands allow.

the pool area and keep it free from construction debris.

The Board of Directors has been working on several different issues, including but not limited to future plans for the commercial mall, the annual meeting, the remainder of the exterior construction and painting project, the 1999 audit, the purchase of unit 15F and the 2001 budget.

The exterior construction project is progressing and the sandblasting phase on the south end is complete. There are four stages working on two different phases of construction. The crews on the south end of the building are beginning the concrete framing and pouring phase while the crews on the north end of the building are in the breakout phase of the project. All residents are very strongly encouraged to refrain from going out on their balconies until all the work is completed. Even though we understand you may be inconvenienced during this project, the safety of

not swim alone. We will keep the pool open as long as weather and construction demands allow.

The annual meeting of the Malibu East Condominium is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2000. The notice and annual meeting package was mailed Friday, August 25, 2000.



Headline: River cruise shows off city

By Debbie and Neil Warner

It was quite a sight to see our city rising majestically around us from a boat on the Chicago River. On Aug. 17 a group of eight residents of Malibu East joined others to tour the south branch of the river.

We began our river cruise with a Middle Eastern buffet outside the Quincy Grill on the river side of the building at 200 S. Wacker. We boarded our river taxi-turned-cruise boat and proceeded north to Wolf Point, giving us an opportunity to view such magnificent buildings as the Merchandise Mart and 333 W. Wacker Drive, a curving green glass wedge that was built to reflect the skyline around it and mirror the curve in the river that corresponds to the curve of the building.

From there we turned around and cruised south past the Opera House, Sears Tower, some undeveloped land and an immaculate new park along the river in Chinatown. As we approached one low-lying railroad bridge near Chinatown, the entire span rose vertically until we could easily pass beneath it. Our guide enthusiastically remarked that seeing this bridge being raised was rather uncommon.

Throughout the hour-long cruise we learned a number of facts about Chicago history from the tour guide and some amusing sidelights as well.

The cruise was conducted by Friends of the Chicago River, an organization whose mission is to foster the vitality of the Chicago River for the human, plant and animal communities within its watershed. The group conducts similar cruises each Thursday evening, alternating trips on the south and north branches. You can contact Friends of the Chicago River at 312-939-0490, or check out its Web site at www.chicagoriver.org.

Our thanks to the MECA Social Committee for organizing this enjoyable and informative event.

Response to Ms. Wine's letter to the editor

Dear Ms. Wine:

The availability of duplicate keys from the MECA office was discussed at this month's open Board of Directors meeting. In response to your letter, the Board of Directors affirmed the policy in effect at MECA.

MECA boards have taken the position that each owner's condominium is considered a separate entity. Our building was designed with each unit being a self-contained living space with its own hot water heater, water shutoff, and heating and air conditioning capabilities. This is in contrast to rental buildings where most elements are centrally located and shared. Unlike a rental apartment building, the control of keys is left to each resident, as would be the case for a single-family home. Many of our residents entrust duplicate keys to neighbors, family or friends. However, as many of these people work during the day, MECA instituted a waiver form and housing of duplicate keys in the office. These are accessible only by the manager during normal business hours. About half of our residents have taken advantage of this service, for which access is limited to business hours. Due to the responsibility and the liability the Association assumes, releasing residents' keys has been limited to the building manager. Unauthorized relatives, estranged spouses, impostors, etc., could attempt to gain access, which could result in a significant monetary loss to the Association. Placing that authority with the building manager during office hours helps avoid such mistakes.

During non-business hours, our doormen can refer locked-out residents to independent locksmiths; this ultimately worked for you. In true emergencies, MECA staff is always instructed to use 911. Most owners would consider a broken back door to be a small price to pay in life-threatening situations. Even duplicate keys take time to retrieve. In truly dangerous situations, the fastest entry possible should always be used.

Our building's policies are constantly being reexamined and refined. As always, the board would be pleased to consider changes to any of these policies. Any duplicate key policy changes should acknowledge Association liability attendant with access to residents' keys and appreciate that MECA's Management is also entitled to off-hours.

We are sorry for your unfortunate experience, and hope you understand the thought process that has led the board to institute the current policy.

Sincerely,

Your hot water heater

By Jack Winans, Editor

If you are a new resident, you're probably wondering why your hot water heater is situated behind a flimsy door in the hallway. Unfortunately, hot water heaters deteriorate with age and eventually fail and may allow gallons of water to flow downward with disastrous results to other residents' parquet floors, ceilings and carpets. The location of the heater and the "flimsy" door allow our maintenance people to turn off the water in an emergency even if you are not home.

You are responsible for damage caused by your hot water heater, and the possibility of this legal liability is one of the reasons that homeowner's insurance is highly recommended. You should also do some preventive maintenance and check your hot water heater to make sure that its plumbing and installation is in accordance with MECA policy. If you are installing a new hot water heater, make sure that your plumber is licensed by the City of Chicago and has a copy of this information, which is available in the management office.



ASCO NEWS

By Sandy Chaet

Alderman Mary Ann Smith attended the August meeting to discuss and update us on issues we have been working on. Letters and petitions are still being sent to the CTA president about running the 147 bus on Sunday. He is evaluating the issue and may restore some service.

The Sheridan Road traffic study is in the 6th month of an 18 month study. Much input has been given that identifies trouble spots and on ideas to get the traffic moving better. There will be an open meeting in the next few months for more input. One area that is being greatly discussed is the Hollywood/Sheridan intersection. Concerns are about pedestrian safety as well as traffic flow.

A plan to put in a new bike-walking path was also discussed. This path would have a turnaround area by Hollywood to encourage the bikes to turn around and head back downtown. Lighting and landscaping was also discussed. Previous to this, there was an open meeting a few months ago to show and discuss the plan with the community. After this meeting, revisions were made.

On other issues, the space between El Lago and Tiara is still under study. Alderman Smith showed Mayor Daley the space on one of his tours of the area. ASCO will be meeting with the new police commander in the area to discuss bike-traffic safety. There is a fenced dog park by Lawrence and Marine that is working very well.

ASCO is the association of Sheridan condo-coop owners.

Elevator complaints

The Dialogue has received additional comments and complaints from residents in response to current elevator articles.

- Loud conversations over loud and oppressive music are rude.
- We need "elevator music," not the present Teutonic marches.



A trip downtown on the number 151 bus

By Rose Wandel

Some days you can't win, and today was one of those days. I had all intentions of making two stops on this trip but ended up finally able to complete one.



I boarded the No. 151 approximately 10:00 and got seated in the "senior" seat. We continued south until we had to stop to pick up passengers, first at Hollywood. An elderly gentleman got on, cane in hand, and very visibly having difficulty in balancing himself until he could find his fare card. He inserted it in the slot — the driver waited. The card was not valid, so he tried another, which was OK. He made his way across the aisle from me and was seated. He commented to another passenger that he has trouble with his eyesight, but he needed to go to Madison & State streets. Next stops for pickups brought on one or two more passengers with canes. They all found seats before the driver started up again so that they were able to maneuver without falling.

We got to Foster and Sheridan and a woman in a wheelchair was going to get on. It was obvious that she would need to "sit" in the designated area next to me. This lady was on the corpulent side and got herself on the bus. I raised the row of seats so she could get in. She did, and with a "good" push back, was able to engage the wheelchair locks. She then checked herself, "gloves off, seat belt locked, we can go." She had not paid her fare and was trying to find

someone to take her bus pass to the fare box. The lady behind her touched her lightly on the shoulder and offered to do it. "Don't touch me! I don't want anyone touching my body." (The fare did not get paid, and she was trying to find someone else to do it.) I suggested she could pay the fare when she got off the bus. "Don't tell me how to live my life! I can live my life myself." Me? I ignored her the balance of the trip.

As we continued on, the bus took on some passengers young, mostly older people (a lot with canes), and some children. The driver was trying to be patient and waiting as they got seated if he saw they were a little infirm.

We made it up to Sheridan and the Outer Drive area. Out-of-towners got on with their bags and placed them on the platform for that purpose. They were going to the Union Station for their return trip home and decided to stand by the platform to "watch" their bags. People got off, and a few more got on through the Lincoln Park area. By this time there was standing room only and as people have a habit of doing, they stand close to the front door. This makes for congestion and difficulty for those wanting to get off and for more to get on. The out-of-town couple finally saw two seats across the aisle they could take and still keep an eye on their bags.

Next stop — Michigan and Chicago Ave. A young woman with a collapsible buggy holding a small child. The driver said, "You'll have to collapse the buggy as it will not fit on the bus." She said, "I'll close it when I get on with my child." He again told her she would have to close it first, and so she took the youngster out of the buggy and put her on the bus, collapsed the buggy and got on. The little one was going toward the back (we found out she was only 3 years old) and would have fallen with

the bus in movement, so a couple of us told her to wait for her mother. She did. The lady in the wheelchair offered advice that someone take her on their lap. No one offered. By this time the mother was set and was doing a magnificent job holding her youngster by the hand, and balancing the buggy with the other.

When we continued south, it again became busy at each stop, so the man from the out-of-town couple got up to "watch" his luggage and remained there. His wife was busy talking to the three-year-old and her mother. They found out that today was the little one's ninth birthday, so the wheelchair lady suggested we all sing "Happy Birthday" (no takers). Now the old gentleman who could hardly see decided to find out if he should be getting off the bus. The driver told him that he did not stop at Madison & State — he stopped at Adams Street before turning west. The man was confused and again said he needed Madison & State. Another young woman tried to explain to him that he could go to Adams & State and then transfer to another bus to go to Madison & State (2 blocks). By this time, others got into the act and started giving him bus numbers to take — including the #56 Milwaukee Ave. bus. He had stood up during this discussion about his situation, and someone finally made him understand that he should sit down to wait for the stop.

I fortunately had to get off at Washington Street, so I wonder if these people ever got to their destination without problems. This ride took one and a half hours. I arrived at Washington & Michigan at 11:30 am. I'm glad I did not have a special appointment time to reach. Next time I will wait for the No. 147 — less hassle, fewer rider problems.

Building amenities

by Norm Cratty

What contributed to your decision of moving into Malibu East? Yes, it does have great views and the building has a lot to offer. We'll take a little walking tour.



Let's start at the outside. One of the main pluses about living here is the luxury of a traffic signal at our intersection. We can exit south on Sheridan easier than most other building inhabitants can. How many people have you seen, frustrated, trying to exit out onto Sheridan in heavy traffic?

Then, there's indoor parking. It's a most welcome luxury. Just think, you don't have to scrape ice or blow snow off your car before driving out into the elements of nature.

Notice the grounds and landscaping? The plantings and their maintenance are all part of the building beautification.

Notice our reception area and doorman's station. Flowers on the table and plants are a nice touch. The visibility of the doorman is extremely important for people concerned about security issues, and it's nice to have someone greet you and open the door for you.

You check the mail and notice you've got a slip from the Receiving Room letting you know there's a package for you. How great it is to have a Receiving Room to accept packages in our absence, and we don't have to stay home all day to wait for delivery.

When you get off the elevator on your respective floor, it's nice to see well-kept hallways, well lighted and unit directions marked properly. Next to the elevator is a convenient rubbish chute for your trash, and down the hall next to the freight elevator is a bulk room for empty cartons and recyclables.

Home at last! Then — ring-ring, ring-ring, the special double ring lets you know the doorman or the Receiving Room has a message for you. Such a luxury!

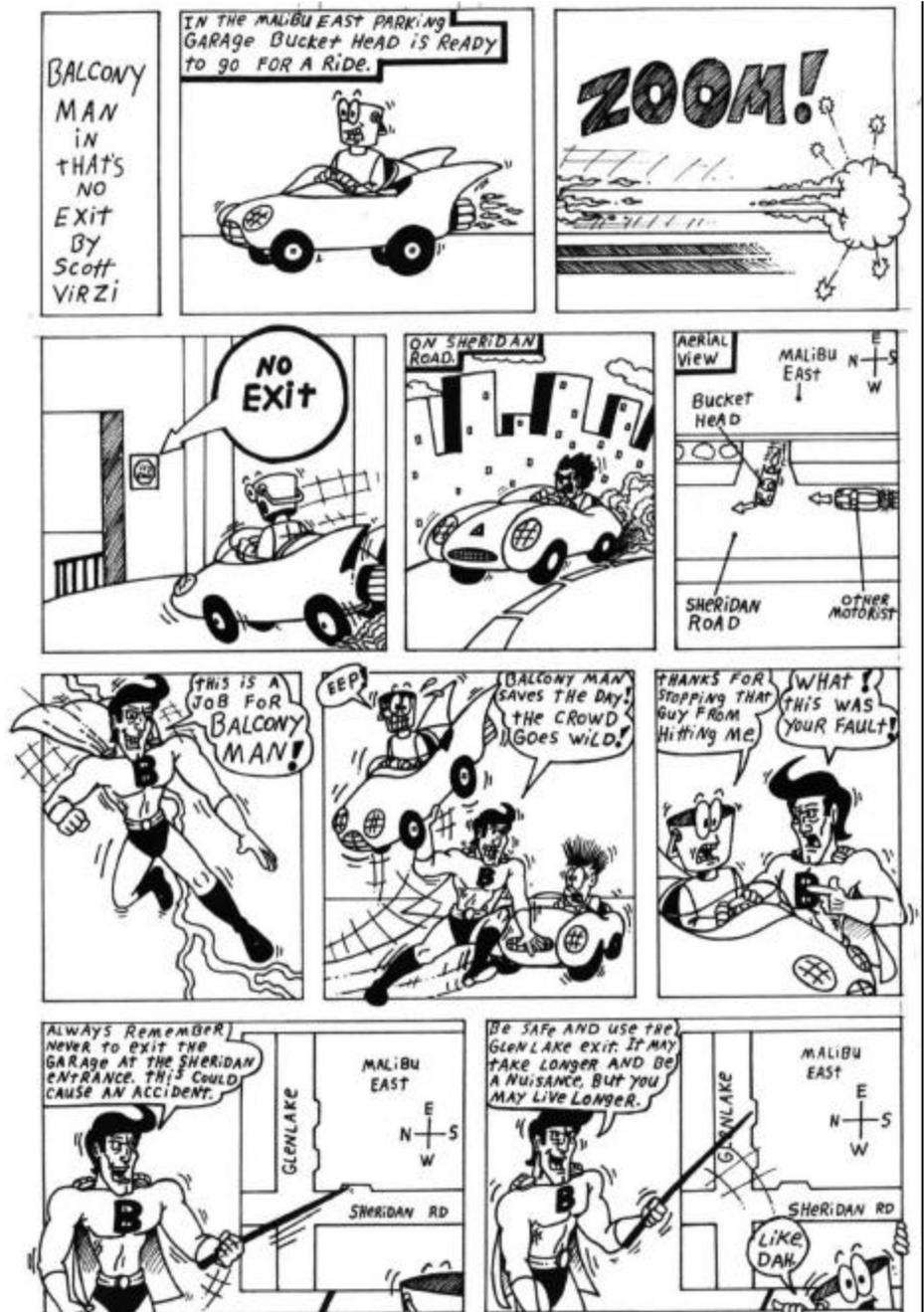
'Town Crier' announcement

We welcome all new residents to our building, including:



If you have information concerning talented or famous MECA residents, please contact the Dialogue.

Balcony Man by Scott Virzi

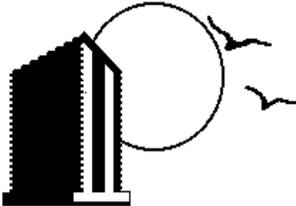


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THREE BEDROOM	\$125

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Or jlesanche@aol.com**



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The Malibu East Condominium Association **Dialogue** is published by resident volunteers to promote communication among owners, residents, Board of Directors, management and staff of the Malibu East Condominium, 6033 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60660.

Articles and opinions by the MECA **Dialogue** staff and contributors are presented as their personal views and do not necessarily represent the views of the association or its Board of Directors and management.

Letters to the MECA **Dialogue** Committee are encouraged. Please be as brief as possible. The MECA **Dialogue** staff reserves the right to edit letters to fit available space and to print only those with constructive content. Letters to the committee may be left at the management office.



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